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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGERS, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 6TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

GIBBS.—At 15-B Bluff, Yokohama, on December 31st, 1911, to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. J. GIBBS, a Son.

MARRIAGE.

PATON—SCRANTON.—On December 28th, at the British Consulate-General, Seoul, by Henry Bonar, Esquire, H.B.M. Consul-General, and afterwards by the Right Reverend Bishop Mark Napier Trollope, D.D., at the Church of the Advent, GEORGE PEARSON PATON, of H.B.M.'s Consular Service, to KATHARINE ARMS SCRANTON, third daughter of William B. Scranton, M.D., of Seoul.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The Tokyo newspapers do not distinguish themselves on this occasion by the excellence of their New Year numbers. Their pictorial efforts are decidedly inferior and their extra pages are devoted for the most part to advertisements.

The usual levees were held at the Imperial Court in Tokyo on the 1st instant from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The last to have the honour of audience were the members of the

Foreign Corps Diplomatique. There was no Imperial speech. That ceremonial will take place as usual on the 4th instant.

THE death is announced in Tokyo, after a rather protracted illness from cancer of the stomach, of Vice-Admiral Ichiji, the sad event taking place at his residence in Mita on the 3rd instant. The late officer was a Satsuma-man and joined the navy as sub-lieutenant in 1883 gradually rising to his present rank. He commanded the *Mikasa* during the Russo-Japanese war.

REAR-ADMIRAL TONAMI has been ordered to proceed to China.

A SYDNEY telegram states that Sam McVea beat Sam Langford in a boxing match, on points.

IN the Toronto tramcar accident Captain Deacon, R.N., of Plymouth, was seriously injured and Mrs. Deacon was killed.

A REGIMENT at Braga in Portugal mutinied on the 24th ult. The Colonel was shot at and wounded. Thirty-nine men were arrested.

ON the 28th ult. a sudden collapse occurred in a railway tunnel near Mizusawa on the Yubari Line. Six workmen were killed.

THE *Daily Express* states that their Majesties the King and Queen will, during 1912, pay a series of State visits to European capitals.

THE Rt. Rev. Alfred Willis, D.D., Archdeacon of Kavirando, has accepted the Bishopric of Uganda. He is returning to Uganda in a few weeks' time.

THE vault of Alexander, father of King Peter I. of Serbia, which is in a cemetery at Vienna, has been broken into and the skull of the corpse stolen.

TWENTY-EIGHT headmasters of primary schools in various prefectures have been raised to *sonin* rank. Mr. Takebayashi Usoburo of this prefecture is among the number.

PRINCE FUSHIMI, JR., who has just returned from Siam, repaired on Friday morning last to the Palace and submitted to the Throne a report of the Coronation of the King of Siam.

DR. HOZUMI, Dr. Hoshino, and Mr. Inokuma have been commanded to lecture on the English, Chinese, and Japanese classics respectively in the Imperial presence at the new year.

MR. T. GIBSON BOWLES has been returned as Conservative member for Ford. He says that in face of the present crisis Conservative differences sink into insignificance. He advises all his friends to support the Conservatives.

ACCORDING to a moderate estimate it is predicted that the sugar crop in the United States will amount to 1,825,000 tons, which is in excess of the record of 1910 by 25,000 tons. Other estimates of the crop are as high as 1,875,000 tons.

ON Tuesday a gale was experienced in this district due to a low atmospheric pressure passing along the southern coast of the main island, while a high pressure area extended towards North China from Chosen. At one time the wind attained a velocity of 19 metres per second. At 6 a.m. on Wednesday the thermometer registered

0.3 degrees below freezing point. The atmospheric pressure was 764 m.m. at 8 a.m., which was some 14 m.m. higher than that at 11 a.m. the preceding day.

It is reported that in the event of the resignation of Mr. Nakamura, President of the South Manchuria Railway Company, Mr. Sugita Tenichi will be appointed as his successor.

A BRITISH Cement Combine has been formed with a capital of £3,500,000. It has an agreement with the Associated Cement Company. The capital of both will amount to £12,000,000 and they will control five-sixths of the British output.

AT Kansas, Gotch, of America, defeated Alec Munro, of England, in the match for the world's wrestling championship under catch-as-catch-can rules. Gotch secured straight falls, the first in twelve minutes and the second in eight minutes five seconds, each with the half Nelson-crotch hold.

DURING a recent gale H.M.S. *London*, a battleship of the Atlantic Fleet, which was carrying out speed trials off Ushant, was swept by the sea. Two men were drowned, and Commander Spencer D. Forbes was injured. Afterwards two men were seriously injured by the bursting of a steam pipe.

THE English papers comment upon the re-issue of the Papal Decree excommunicating private individuals who, without obtaining permission of the ecclesiastical authorities, summon any ecclesiastic before a criminal or civil tribunal as defendant or witness. It is stated that the Irish Law Officers are considering the Decree, which is regarded as denying justice to Roman Catholics.

THE number of passengers who arrived at and left Shimbashi Station on the 1st and 2nd instant were as follows:—

	JANUARY 1.		1912.		1911.	
			Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Passengers left	9,879	5,059				
Passengers arrived	9,273	4,720				
Receipts of fares	Yen 6,440	5,375				
JANUARY 2.						
Passengers left	6,976	5,334				
Passengers arrived	6,194	4,949				
Receipts of fares	Yen 6,459	5,684				

AN hotel manager in San Francisco has notified his Chinese servants that the cutting off of their queues will be followed by dismissal. "I pay for the queues," he says, "and must have them." He is compelled to insist on this condition owing to the complaints of his patrons, who demand the appropriate local colour when they are served by Chinese waiters. The problem is likely to be solved by the compromise of cutting off the queues and then attaching them to the caps of the servants in such a way as to satisfy American aestheticism without offending Chinese patriotism.

A REGULAR general meeting of the Yokohama Electric Wire Company was held on Wednesday afternoon last, when the following accounts were adopted:—

Profit for the present term and balance brought forward from the previous term..	Yen. 103,216
Legal reserve	9,980
Redemption fund.....	25,000
Allowance for retired members	998
Bonuses	9,970
Dividend (12 per cent. per annum)	53,250
Balance carried forward to next term	4,018

A proposal for increasing the capital from 1,200,000 yen to 2,500,000 yen was also passed.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Friday, December 29.

Definite news has now reached Tokyo in the sense that the future polity of China is to be determined by a popular assembly. A meeting of the Imperial Family and of the Ministers of the Crown took place on the 27th instant and again on the 28th, and despatches that had passed between Peking and Shanghai were submitted for consideration. The former Prince Regent seems to have taken the lead in openly recognizing that the sentiment of the nation must be interpreted as favouring the abdication of the Dynasty and the Empress Dowager endorsed that view. Prince Ching and three other Imperial Princes offered strenuous opposition, but they were overborne, and on the 28th instant, immediately after the rising of the council, an Imperial Rescript was published over the Empress Dowager's name. It announced, in effect, that her Majesty, speaking in her own name and in that of the child-Emperor, emphatically disavowed all disposition to go contrary to the will of the nation, and declared that the question of the State polity must be determined by a synod of national deputies, whose decision the Court pledged itself to observe. The Rescript seems to have been couched in the plainest terms, the only sentimental appeal contained being a reference to the fact that the Emperor is still a child and the Empress Dowager a woman, so that neither of these could be suspected of any inclination to oppose the will of the nation. The document concluded by observing that a question of such importance could not be entrusted to the decision of one section of the people only, and that measures must be taken to organize a method of electing delegates who would represent the sentiment of the nation at large. The Cabinet was instructed to take the necessary steps.

In accordance with the above Decree instructions were immediately conveyed to the representatives of the Central Government at Shanghai, who were asked to communicate the facts to the insurgent leaders and to combine with the latter in devising a method of procedure.

There is some confusion in the accounts emanating from Peking, but it appears to be due to a clashing of dates. Thus some authorities declare that Yuan is immovable in his advocacy of a monarchical form of government and in his insistence that full provision must be made for the Imperial Family. But in the face of the Decree of the 28th instant, it is evident that Yuan's voice has lost all potency, and indeed nothing can be less probable than that he should maintain such a position in the face of the Court's virtual surrender.

The question now is what kind of procedure will be adopted for the purposes of the referendum. It is obviously in the interests of the Insurgents that the greatest possible expedition should be observed in selecting representatives of the popular will. Every day's delay will probably see a melting away of the forces of the Insurgents and a strengthening of the Central Government's military position. In view of these conditions it has been proposed that instead of proceeding to a general election, the members of the Provincial Assemblies and the Viceroy should be regarded as *ex officio* delegates of the nation and should meet at Nanking as

soon as possible to determine the momentous question. This course has been strongly urged upon the Cabinet in Peking, and certain foreign Representatives are said to have been asked to employ their influence in obtaining approval of the above plan. But even if this comparatively rapid method be adopted, it is plain that quite a long interval must be allowed for the members of the Provincial Assemblies to repair to Nanking. This difficulty, however, would have to be encountered in any circumstances, and it thus becomes evident that several weeks must still elapse before the will of the nation can be pronounced.

It is said that the finally-determining factor in Yuan's case was the receipt of a message from Tang Shao-i on the 27th instant, asking that he, Tang, should be relieved of his duties as Delegate, since he found himself quite incompetent to make any headway against the Insurgent leaders. A few hours after the receipt of this application, Yuan is reported to have admitted that the situation had eluded his grasp; that his unceasing efforts in the cause of the Monarchy had failed, and that nothing remained now except to resign.

As to the attitude of the foreign Powers rumour is busy fabricating stories. The telegrams say that Yuan applied to England and America for assistance, but they replied that a monarchical form of government might not be essential in China's case. France being similarly approached by Sun Yat-sen, promised her unequivocal assistance to the new republic. There is also a ridiculous rumour about the Japanese Representative, Mr. Ijuin, to the effect that when informed by Yuan Shih-kai of a republic being unsuitable, he left the room in a state of wrath. To those that know Mr. Ijuin this silly canard will present itself in a just light. A much more probable story is the latest telegram to the Tokyo press. It says that the six Powers have formally announced their resolve not to meddle in matters relating to the polity of China, and to be desirous simply of seeing peace and order restored.

It will be evident from the translations published elsewhere in these columns that a resolute attempt is made in certain quarters to censure the action taken by the Japanese Foreign Office in connexion with the China question. We need scarcely warn our readers against accepting as worthy of credence any of the theories underlying this attack. The critics have not taken the trouble to get their facts correct, and the only impression their writings convey is that had they themselves possessed the direction of affairs, Japan would have forfeited the confidence of the world by committing herself to some very suggestive course.

Very much more worthy of attention are the opinions expressed by certain Tokyo journals, notably the *Kokumin Shimbun*, as to the immense difficulties that China will encounter in attempting to shape any republican suit of garments to fit her special conditions. Months will be needed even to obtain an expression of popular opinion about the question of polity, and when that is decided, as it probably will be, in a sense favourable to a republican form of government, the immensely arduous task will have to be undertaken of finding a suitable personnel to give effect to the new system and of breathing a spirit of unity into the vastly diverse elements of the Chinese nation.

Japan may be involuntarily brought into

closer contact with this question than is now contemplated. The fate of the outlying sections of China, namely, Manchuria, Mongolia and so forth, will have to be decided, and the decision will probably take a form more or less independent of the Empire proper. Japan's interests in Manchuria may then become involved in a manner that will make a large demand upon her diplomatic ability.

Saturday, December 30.

It must have been a very affecting scene in the Council-chamber of the Peking Palace on the 28th ultimo, when the Empress Dowager practically announced the abolition of the Manchu Dynasty. Her Majesty is said to have wept bitter tears and to have frankly stated that the responsibility for the calamity rested on her head. She does not appear to have made any appeal from the fatal judgment evidently hanging over the Imperial Family, but she confined herself to soliciting the best efforts of the Ministry to restore peace and tranquillity to the country.

In the best informed circles it appears to be taken for granted that the convention of a national assembly is a mere form. At least three months would be required to make preparations, and it would be quite impossible to extend the truce to such a period. Neither the Insurgents nor the Imperialists have money to keep their troops in the field for so long a time, especially in the dead of winter. Therefore there will be no national assembly. Even Tang Shao-i himself recognizes this aspect of the situation. Mr. Wu and the latter's colleagues are understood to insist that they themselves constitute a sufficiently responsible vehicle for expressing the will of the nation, and Mr. Tang Shao-i failed altogether to substantiate his plea that the outlying portions of the Empire, as well as the Metropolitan Province and Shantung, are not represented either at Shanghai or at Nanking. This argument was treated lightly, as it deserved to be, and the Insurgent leaders let it be plainly seen that the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from Hankow and Han-yang would be regarded as crucial tests of the Government's sincerity. It results, therefore, that the convention of a national assembly is a mere pretence in order to save the face of the Imperial Family, and that the problem will be solved by the issue of another Decree from the Throne, entrusting to the Insurgent leaders now assembled at Wuchang, Nanking and Shanghai, the duty of deciding finally on the future polity of China. Thus, in effect, the abdication will go down in the pages of history as a voluntary act on the part of the Manchu rulers, and the dignity of the Throne will be partially preserved. Such may be said to be practically the view taken by Japanese onlookers. One Tokyo journal speaks of the Dynasty as being in the throes of death and describes this device of a pretended national assembly as the last measure taken by the physicians to prolong the vitality of the moribund body. The world will doubtless see, in the course of a few days, a Decree ordering the withdrawal of all the Imperial troops from the front as a token of the Throne's good faith.

It appears that at the meeting on the 28th ultimo Yuan stated quite frankly that the choice lay between two alternatives: one that the Manchu Princes should contribute

money sufficient for the purposes of a campaign, in which case he was prepared to continue the contest; the other, that the final decision should be left to a national assembly. He tendered his own resignation by way of imparting force to his views. But of course the resignation was not accepted. If this be true, Yuan has dealt to the Imperialists the worst blow they have yet suffered. He has made it officially clear that the Manchu Princes are unwilling to risk even a part of their fortunes on an attempt to support the Dynasty. This is one of the facts upon which historians will inevitably base their verdict.

There is one disquieting feature of the situation, namely that several of the most important Princes of the Blood and statesmen of the Empire did not attend the Palace council on the 28th ultimo. The absentees included the ex-Prince-Regent, as well as Prince Ching, Prince Chun, Prince Tsai hsun, Prince Tsai-tao, Prince Hsu, Prince Pu-lun, Prince Tsai-tse, Prince Yu-lan and Prince Kung. Mr. Na Tung was also absent, having made his escape to Dairen. This analysis of those attending the council is given by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. If it be correct, it signifies that practically all the important Princes remained from taking any part in the affair.

The decree of the 28th ultimo appears to have been issued under the pressure of something like a menace from Tang Shao-i. He is said to have addressed to Yuan a telegram that every hour's delay increased the difficulty of the situation, and that unless the Throne adopted a decided attitude forthwith in the nature of yielding, the truce would cease to be effective. This message is alleged to have greatly influenced the action taken in the capital.

There is no concealing the fact that a responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Insurgent leaders. They have called for a referendum, and they have virtually proclaimed that they themselves suffice to discharge the duties of national referees. If the country as a whole bows to this assumption of competence, well and good. But if not, the blame will rest, not with the Peking statesmen, or with the Manchu Princes, but with the republican agitators. Very few onlookers will be disposed to believe that anything like partition of the country will take place, but on the other hand all must apprehend the dangers of the situation.

Prince Ching is quoted as complaining bitterly of the refusal of foreign capitalists to assist China in her hour of need. Had they provided funds, it would have been possible for the Government to continue the struggle with every hope of emerging successful, but by refusing to lend money they placed the Government in an impossible position. Prince Ching is reported to have uttered this criticism with some bitterness. And indeed we can well appreciate the fact. It must appear more than strange to the Chinese that whereas this struggle was precipitated in the first instance by the efforts of foreign capitalists to lend money to China, the disastrous result was entailed by the refusal of the same capitalists to lend anything.

It is said that Mr. Cheng, Viceroy of Pehchili, and Mr. Chao, Viceroy of Manchuria, have followed Yuan Shi-kai's lead and tendered their resignations. We imagine that their example will be followed by not a few of the great satraps.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from Shanghai, saying that on the 29th ultimo, namely, the day after the issue of the Imperial Decree in Peking, a conference was held by the delegates in Shanghai and three resolutions were adopted. The first was that the question of polity should be left to the decision of a national assembly, and that both sides should faithfully abide by the result. The second was, that, pending this decision, the Manchu Government should not raise any foreign loan. And the third, that, in order to avoid collisions, the Imperial troops in the provinces of Shansi, Shensi, Hupeh, Anhui and Kiangsu should, between the 1st instant and the 5th proximo, withdraw to a distance of 100 Chinese *li* (33 miles) from the positions now occupied by them, leaving to the police the duty of maintaining order in the vacated regions, while the Insurgent troops, though remaining in their positions, should on no account assume the offensive. Within six days from the expiration of this period an extensive movement of military evacuation should be commenced in accordance with detailed rules enacted to that end.

On the 29th ultimo an important meeting was convened in Nanking. It consisted of seventeen representatives, that is to say one each for seventeen provinces. The object was to nominate a President for the new Republic, and the result was that sixteen votes were cast for Sun Yat-sen and one for Field-Marshal Hwang.

Sunday, December 31.

Already talk is heard of the peace in China proving abortive. It is apprehended that during the long interval which must elapse before the final settlement is reached, fresh complications will certainly arise. Of course the Imperialists are not willing to accept the terms of the Insurgents in their entirety. A Cabinet Council has been held in Peking at which Yuan and his fellow-thinkers are reported to have advocated an attempt to establish the military situation in the Yangtze Valley. They naturally object to the provision that whereas the Insurgent troops shall retain their positions the Government's forces shall retire to a distance of 100 *li*. It is probable, however, that Peking will yield.

It is said that Premier Yuan has memorialized the Throne setting forth the crippled state of the finances and urging that the example of historical Sovereigns should be set by quietly descending from the Throne. At the same time his Excellency has advised the Manchu Princes to accept the abdication peacefully. It will be seen that this rumour is in direct contrast to the bellicose attitude attributed above to Yuan.

Meanwhile the newly organized troops in Peking are reported to have sent an instruction to the Governor of Jehol requiring him to repair the Palace there for the reception of the Imperial Family. It is observable that the so-called newly-organized troops, by which term are understood the corps forming the modern army, have in almost every case taken the lead in creating disturbances. The Manchus have been comparatively quiet.

On the 29th ultimo Yuan is reported to have explained to a foreign representative who visited him that the situation would immediately have been solved in a pacific sense if he had agreed to become President of the new Republic. But it was impossible for him thus to secure his own safety at the cost of abandoning to their fate the Empress

Dowager and the child-Emperor. That consideration had induced him to propose the referendum.

There are various contradictory rumours about an extension of the armistice, about the withdrawal of the Government troops and about the composition of the proposed National Assembly. As to the last point the incredible fact is alleged that the Peking Cabinet proposes to instruct the local satraps to select representatives and to arrange for their assembly in Nanking within five days. That is almost farical. It is evident that ten times five days, or even twice that length of time would not suffice to organize and bring together at Nanking a really representative national assembly.

It goes without saying that rumour is busily fabricating stories about a Manchu plot to assassinate every leading man who has shown himself hostile to the maintenance of the Monarchy. The only tangible evidence in support of such a story is that Na Tung and Hsu Shih-chang have made their escapes to Dairen or Kiaochow.

Monday, January 1.

It appears to have been practically decided that each of the Home Provinces of China shall send three delegates to the National Assembly which is to determine the policy of the country. Manchuria, for the purposes of this arrangement will be placed on the same footing as the Home Provinces and will therefore send nine delegates in all. Mongolia and Thibet will send six each, these countries being divided for the purpose into northern and southern districts. Three-fourths of all the delegates will constitute a quorum, but it will be lawful for one delegate from a province to represent his two colleagues as well as himself. Eight districts will be regarded as outside the jurisdiction of the Insurgents and will consequently be instructed by the Central Government. These districts are Honan, Pehchihli, the Three Eastern Provinces, Kansu, Turkestan and Shantung. It would thus appear that fourteen provinces are recognized as having espoused the cause of the insurrection. We further learn that instructions are to be sent to Mongolia and Thibet from both Peking and Nanking simultaneously, from which fact it may be inferred that those two regions are divided in their allegiance. There is as yet nothing publicly known about the registration of voters, the method of voting or the time for the election.

As to the stipulated withdrawal of the Government troops to a distance of 100 *li* from their present positions, it seems to have been originally contemplated that five days would suffice for the operation, and that they might be reckoned as commencing from the night of the 30th of December. But the Commander-in-Chief of the Government forces has objected that it would be impossible to transport the sick and wounded to such a distance in such a short time, and some law will doubtless be granted.

Of course it is evident that the control of the situation will remain in the hands of the Insurgents at the outset. The election of Mr. Sun to be President of the first Chinese Republic is an evidence that the leaders of the insurrection contemplate taking the law into their own hands. In fact there is very little probability that the proposed arrangements for consulting the will of the nation will work smoothly.

The Insurgent leaders are evidently very

desirous of cultivating friendly relations with the Japanese. We have already related the entertainment given by Mr. Hu on the 25th ultimo, when the principal guests were Mr. Inukai Ki, Professor Terao and other distinguished Japanese. We now learn that on the 30th ultimo, Mr. Sun Yat-sen gave a similar party, and in addressing his guests, dwelt upon the immense difficulties of the task being accomplished, and said that not China alone but also the lovers of liberty and progress throughout the world looked to Japan to assist the movement. Mr. Inukai made a somewhat guarded reply. He let it be seen that he personally sympathised with the insurgents, but he confined himself actually to congratulating Mr. Sun on his election to the post of Chief Magistrate, and to conveying a sense of the honour done to the Japanese by inviting them to this banquet.

Tuesday, January 2.

It is now stated that the time fixed for the withdrawal of the Imperial troops in Shansi and Shensi is three days, and that fixed for evacuating the scene of fighting in the Yangtze Valley is five days. These are incredibly short periods. If truly stated, they indicate that the Insurgents are carrying things with a high hand.

It appears that General Chang, the *Bombastes furiosus* of Nanking, has not yet made his way to Peking, but is still in Honan at the head of a body of troops who are pillaging, burning, murdering and generally behaving with extreme lawlessness. Premier Yuan has sent telegraphic instructions to Tang Shao-i desiring that this matter should be investigated with a view to checking the outrages and bringing their authors to justice. It would really seem as though this gallant General Chang was somewhat demented.

Shanghai telegraphs that Wu Ting-fang has proposed that the much-talked of National Assembly shall meet in Shanghai on the 8th instant, and that a quorum shall be held to consist of two-thirds of those attending. To this proposal Mr. Tang Shao-i is reported to have given his consent, and a telegram has been sent to Yuan Shih-kai in that sense. This is scarcely to be believed. Such procedure would reduce the so-called National Assembly to something like a farce. At all events it cannot be Yuan Shih-kai's object that things should be thus precipitated.

Another telegram, which reads like a reply to the above though it is not explicitly so designated, represents Yuan as pointing out that anything hasty in constituting or convening the National Assembly would discredit it in the eyes of the people and would probably provoke violent protests from the army. Yuan adds that the Assembly must be held in Peking with all due deliberation and decorum. With reference to this subject the *Chuo's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that this question of locality amounts in reality to a vote of confidence in Yuan Shih-kai. If the Insurgents agree to the convention of the Assembly in Peking, it may be taken as a sign that they are prepared to elect Yuan to the Presidency. On the other hand, this action on Yuan's part is said to be generally construed as preparatory to his resignation. He wants to show that the demands of the Insurgents will not be conceded at every point, and he hopes thereby to recover something of the prestige which he has

undoubtedly lost. The Insurgents will inevitably refuse to acquiesce in the choice of Peking for the place of assembly, and Yuan will then resign, thereafter retiring quietly to his home in Honan.

At the meeting of Imperial Princes in Peking on the 31st ultimo Princes Tsai-tse and Tsai-tao are said to have commented in angry terms on Yuan Shih-kai's choice of Tang Shao-i as Delegate to confer with the Insurgent leaders at Shanghai. Tang's predilection for a republic was well known, and Yuan must have been prepared for Tang's telegram, which amounted to a declaration of resignation unless the Insurgents' demands were granted. In reporting this practical ultimatum to the Cabinet and the Court, Yuan accompanied it with his own resignation, and thus the circle of coercion was completed. The two Princes were disposed to inveigh very strongly against such manoeuvres, but the Prince Regent quieted them by taking the whole blame upon his own shoulders, and pointing out that no help now offered. Indeed the Prince Regent is said to be consumed with anxiety lest something untoward should befall his son, the Emperor. The Political atmosphere of Peking is said to be charged with electricity, and it is feared that the early days of the year will now witness some serious recrudescence of trouble.

With regard to the terms proposed by the Insurgent leaders the *Asahi Shimbun's* Shanghai correspondent telegraphs that Yuan is at length beginning to show a strong front. He has refused, as is very natural, the demand for the withdrawal of the troops within five days; he has required that the condition as to not borrowing any foreign money shall apply to the Insurgents as well as to the Imperialists, and he has declared that no terms of peace can be validly signed without the consent of the Cabinet.

It will have been observed that for some time back nothing has been heard of the Senate. That body seemed to have disappeared from the arena. But it has now emerged from its seclusion and passed some very significant resolutions. One is that the machinery for convening a national assembly must be fabricated by the Cabinet, and that the place of meeting must of necessity be Peking. Another is that Tang Shao-i did not sufficiently discuss the question of a monarchical polity, and that his too precipitate acceptance of a republic was very blame-worthy. The third is that there cannot be any withdrawal of troops during the continuance of the armistice. And the fourth is that the property of the Court shall be hypothecated, and funds shall thus be obtained to meet pressing necessities. The meeting at which these resolutions were passed was held on the 31st ultimo and they indicate clearly that the Senate has adopted Imperialist views for the moment, at all events.

Meanwhile the Imperialist troops appear to be growing impatient. In the sequel of a meeting held by their generals a memorial has been addressed to Peking complaining that the insurgents were guilty of bad faith in the matter of the armistice. They utilized the truce by moving their forces into good positions and pushing forward their lines so as to be able to open an attack advantageously at any moment. If the Imperialist forces attempted to withdraw in the face of a foe so disposed, disaster must result. The memorial therefore insisted that not a day

shall be lost in arriving at some final understanding.

Another telegram represents twelve or thirteen of the principal Imperialist generals as having addressed to Peking a strong protest against the introduction of a republican form of government. They declared themselves prepared to fight for the monarchy, and they called upon the Imperial Princes to show themselves in earnest by providing funds to carry on the struggle.

Wednesday, January 3.

It cannot be denied that Yuan Shih-kai makes out a very strong case in the objections he formulates to the demands of the Insurgents. The latter prescribed terms consistent only with the idea of complete victory, whereas the Imperialists are by no means conquered, and cannot therefore be expected to surrender everything at the bidding of their opponents. There must be some give and take. The Premier justly points out that the condition as to not borrowing money should apply to the Insurgents as well as to the Imperialists, and that at any rate the raising of a small sum to meet immediate needs is not open to objection. His Excellency is also on solid ground when he points out that if the Imperialists are to retire to a distance of 100 li, the Insurgents should be required to take a corresponding step. The object of retirement is to prevent collisions pending the completion of a settlement. But in several cases the troops of the two sides are already separated by that, or even a greater, interval. Besides it would be contrary to the interests of peace and good order to insist upon the complete military evacuation of districts where it is impossible to distinguish between bandits and Insurgents. To withdraw troops from such places would be to inaugurate a reign of mob-law. Then again there are places not within range of telegraph; as for instance Anhui. In such places to withdraw the troops within five days is impossible. Then, as to the place of meeting of the proposed National Assembly. Yuan's arguments on that point are very strong, as is his contention about the manner of electing the Assembly. For numerous reasons the capital of the country is the only suitable place for such an assembly, and it is even more palpable that the men now at Shanghai and Nanking cannot be regarded as national representatives in any reasonable sense of the term. Yuan will have the support of all fair-minded men when he insists that a really representative system of election must be organized, so that the nation shall be perfectly satisfied to entrust its interests to its own nominees. Finally Yuan Shih-kai has a right on his side when he claims that no agreement between the Insurgents and the Imperialists can be considered valid unless it bears the signature of the Prime Minister. After all is said and done the Imperialist Government must be regarded as remaining in power until either abdication or dethronement has been formally effected, and so long as it is in power all mandates must have its sanction. It will be inevitably said, however, that Yuan is playing for time, and that he recognizes the inability of the Insurgents to postpone a final settlement for any considerable interval.

There appears to be some confusion between the demands formulated by the Insurgent troops—or the People's Army as they now call themselves—and those formulated by the delegates at Shanghai. The

Insurgents are said to have addressed direct to Peking the following proposals:—First, that a republican form of government should be recognized. Secondly, that the present Emperor shall leave Peking and make Jehol his place of residence. Thirdly, that all the members of the Imperial Family shall have the same title of "Prince" and shall have estates given to them. Fourthly, that the present Emperor shall have the highest grade of rank and shall be munificently treated in the matter of sustenance. Fifthly, that restriction shall be imposed on the number of soldiers maintained by a Prince, but on this point the telegraphic summary is somewhat vague. And sixthly, that all the Manchu corps shall be disbanded.

The movement on the part of the Senate in opposition to the establishment of a republican polity seems to be gaining force. That body has adopted a resolution condemning the idea of a republic, and calling for the condign punishment of its advocates. But it has to be noted that the members of the Senate now in Peking are for the most part Government nominees, and such action on their part can not be regarded seriously.

It is said that there is a sum of between three hundred thousand and four hundred thousand *taels* lying in the foreign banks to the credit of the Princes of the Blood, and that the generals on the Imperialist side have memorialized for the compulsory disbursement of this money to meet current expenses. The same generals have entered a strong protest against the formation of a republic. This memorial is reported to have been presented to the Throne by Yuan on the morning of the 2nd instant. It may be here mentioned that the issue of the so called Patriotic Bonds is expected to prove abortive in Mukden as it has done in Peking.

These is a confident rumour that on the 1st instant Mr. Tang Shao-i sent in his resignation on the ground of incompetence to arrive at an understanding with the Insurgents. The eleven members of the staff are reported to have followed his example.

It appears not impossible that the offensive movements undertaken by the Insurgents on the 31st ultimo were not a deliberate breach of the truce but are rather to be regarded as the result of miscalculation. These movements commenced at 1 a.m. on the 31st, whereas the armistice should have held good until 8 o'clock a.m. on that day. Doubtless we shall have some definite information upon this point in the course of a few hours.

The six foreign Powers who are interesting themselves actively in China's affairs are reported to have decided in favour of an application for the unlimited extension of the armistice. As to the request of the Insurgents that the latter shall be regarded as a belligerent State; the Consuls of these Powers are alleged to have replied that the decision of the Home Governments must be awaited.

Mr. Sun Yat-sen has publicly declared an oath that he will labour for the overthrow of the Manchu Government and for the establishment of the Middle Flowery Country; that he will make the interests of his people his unique aim, and that so soon as a republic is firmly established he will retire from the position of President.

On the 31st ultimo a Council of State consisting of thirty members was elected at Nanking, and it decided that the name of

the year-period should be changed to Ta-Chung-Hwa Min-kwo.

The first President of the Chinese Republic arrived at Nanking on the opening day of the New Year and was received with sovereign rites. Royal salutes were fired; a guard of honour some thousands strong escorted him to his *Yamen* amid loud cheers, and in every respect the greatest honour was paid to him. It was a wonderful change from the position of a proscribed wanderer which he had held up to that moment.

THE JAPANESE PRESS ON THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Tokyo journals discuss in a decidedly alarmist strain the state of affairs now existing in China. They do not give to Yuan Shih-kai much credit for sincerity. They point out that he has committed the Throne to a virtually impossible course. He has brought about the issue of a Decree entrusting a most momentous decision to a national assembly which has no existence, and which cannot be called into existence within a time sufficiently brief to permit of practically consulting it. Months must elapse before such an assembly can be organized, and what is to happen in the meanwhile? How are law and order to be preserved by a Government which has confessed its own loss of mandate? Evidently these difficulties are too patent to have escaped the observation of Yuan and his fellow statesmen. It must be their intention to claim the status of national representatives for the Insurgent leaders now assembled at Shanghai and Nanking, supplementing them by telegraphic nominees from States not yet represented. Never was the fate of a great country delegated to such an inchoate body of men. One of the provisions essential to the convening of a national assembly is the creation of electorates, which measure requires preliminary registration of the people. No such registration has yet been undertaken. It was to have preceded the elections for the first national assembly, as contemplated prior to the outbreak of the insurrection. Obviously there is no time for anything of the kind now, and thus Yuan and his colleagues have incurred the responsibility of entrusting a great national issue to a body of men by no means representing national opinion. Is there any probability that such procedure will be crowned with success? There are two ways of looking at Yuan's conduct. One is that he has been playing a game throughout, and that when he sent Tang Shao-i as Delegate to the Shanghai conference, he deliberately selected a man who might be trusted to work in the interests of a republic. Thus the Prime Minister gradually contrived a situation from which there was no exit other than the abolition of Imperialism. But that estimate attributes almost superhuman foresight to Yuan. The more probable hypothesis is that he expected to be able to uphold a monarchical polity, and that, finding his expectations disappointed, he adroitly fitted his feet to the altered groove. Whichever view be taken, Yuan emerges a most blameworthy statesman in the eyes of patriotic Japanese. These ask also how the dictates of loyalty can be supposed to have been obeyed in this matter. There has been practically no one to champion the Throne in

its hour of tribulation, and although the Chinese have never been remarkable for loyalty to a Sovereign, it may well be doubted whether they have ever previously shown themselves so lacking in that quality. It is at least to be hoped that the treatment of the Imperial Princes and of the Sovereign's family in the matter of allowances will constitute some palliation of such a page of history.

THE PLACE OF ASSEMBLY.

The question is now beginning to be asked, what place will be chosen for convening the proposed National Assembly. Premier Yuan is represented as desiring to have it held in Peking or Tientsin, and his motive in making this choice is that he wishes to have the conference within easy range of his own machinations for nomination to the Presidency. But the Insurgents, on their side, will certainly insist upon Shanghai or Nanking. Japanese journals seem to take it for granted that Yuan will manoeuvre in every possible way to get himself nominated Chief Magistrate in the new State, but it must in justice be confessed that Yuan has not hitherto betrayed any special ambition in that direction. Neither can we perceive that the choice of locality could have much influence on the outcome of the election. It is the fashion to speak ill of Yuan at present. Japanese journals are disposed to denounce him as a Mr. Facing-both-ways, but they scarcely make sufficient allowance, it appears to us, for the immense difficulties of the situation in which he found himself. The *Chuo Shinbun's* Peking correspondent echoes the suspicion already formulated more than once that Yuan's scheme of a national assembly is mainly dictated by a desire to gain breathing time. Several weeks, if not months, will be needed before the assembly can be convened and consulted, and Yuan's idea is to utilize that interval for the purposes of his own interests and those of his present colleagues. Nothing is less likely than that this resourceful politician will submit to complete effacement. The stage is occupied at present by Yuan and Sun.

AT THE LAST MOMENT.

There is beginning to be talk of the organization of a band of patriots who will be willing to risk their lives in a supreme effort for the rehabilitation of the Manchu Dynasty. The promoters of this movement are believed to have been holding meetings in the Lama Temple, Yung-lo, where three hundred Lamaist priests have constituted themselves into a body, nominally for the protection of the Imperial Family, but really for the purpose of inciting their fellow-religionists to strike a blow for the dynasty. The names of several distinguished men are mentioned as leaders of this scheme, and among them is included the former Minister of War, General Yin. It is alleged that a force of some 50,000 men can be assembled for the purposes of this movement, and that Yuan Shih-kai would be one of the first victims as would also be Prince Ching. The Lamaists owe so much to the Manchu Dynasty that they would probably join hands heartily with the supporters of the latter, and thus the political situation in China may still be very far from solution.

A FRACAS IN PEKING.

Saturday, December 30.

On the afternoon of the 30th instant, five Japanese soldiers of the Peking garrison, who were visiting the market in the Chinese city outside the wall, got into some trouble with a large number—100 is the rough statement—of the troops under Yuan Shih-kai's command. The Japanese were of course overborne by the greatly superior number of their assailants and some of them seem to have been badly hurt. A company of their comrades arrived speedily upon the scene, but the Chinese had already effected their escape. In the evening, profuse apologies and expressions of regret were conveyed by Yuan, and it is said that the affair was amicably settled.

Monday, January 1.

Yuan Shih-kai seems to be much distressed by the incident which occurred in the Chinese quarter of Peking on the 30th ultimo, when a party of five Japanese soldiers were set upon by 100 Chinese, and one of the former was severely wounded. The Prime Minister is said to have adopted every possible means of removing the impression that anti foreign feeling dictated this collision. He has tendered ample apologies and compensation, and has directed that the offenders shall be severely punished. The affair, however, does not appear to have caused any commotion in Peking or to have been construed in a suspicious spirit.

Tuesday, January 2.

Another outrage has been committed in Peking against Japanese soldiers. The first occurred in the Chinese quarter of the city on the 30th ultimo, when a small number of Japanese soldiers were attacked by something like a hundred Chinese soldiers and one of the assailed was severely injured. Premier Yuan at once took steps to obviate any unpleasant consequences. Apologies were tendered and accepted, and stringent orders were issued to avert any recurrence of such incidents. But on the evening of the day following, as five Japanese were passing the barracks of the Third Division, a number of Chinese soldiers ran out with drawn swords and dangerously wounded one of the Japanese. The others seem to have effected their escape, so that the assault cannot have been of a very determined character. Considerable anxiety is said to have been caused in Peking, however. These repeated assaults are thought to indicate a revival of the Boxer spirit.

THE OUTLYING REGIONS.

It is evidently apprehended, as already suggested in these columns, that the outlying regions of the Chinese Empire may prove a source of embarrassment upon this historic occasion. Manchuria, Mongolia and Tibet have thus far shown no disposition to join hands with the Insurgents, and the strong probability is that their delegates will vote against inclusion in the projected Republic. What course will be pursued in that event? Will these outlying regions be coerced into acquiescence, and if so, to whom will the mandate of coercion be given? These are precisely the places where England, Russia and Japan have paramount interests, and the three Powers will claim a voice in any settlement. We have here the elements of future trouble.

THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE AND CHINA.

Our readers will have observed that there has been a strong disposition in certain Japanese political quarters to censure the action of the Government with regard to the crisis in China. It has been declared by some critics that so long as Marquis Komura lived he constituted a sort of buffer between the military and the civil parties in the State, but that on his death the military men obtained the ascendancy. They utilized their influence on the present occasion by inducing the Foreign Office to intervene in the Chinese crisis; from which attitude it ultimately became necessary to retire owing to England's unwillingness to coöperate. Thus Japan was placed in a false position, and condemned to suffer the humiliation of having taken ground which she was not prepared to maintain. That, in brief, is what these critics have been saying, and they do not hesitate to declare that Viscount Uchida's first appearance upon the international stage has not been a success. But the truth is, as pointed out by more than one vernacular journal, that Japan never intervened at all, in the concrete sense of the term. She did indeed tender friendly advice as to the desirability of restoring peace and order as quickly as possible in the interests of foreign trade and commerce. But she did not for a moment formulate this advice with any insistence. Asked whether she approved of a monarchical form of government for China, she replied, as an abstract point, that she did consider that polity best adapted to China's needs. But this was a mere expression of opinion not intended to carry any responsibility whatever. If Yuan Shih-kai magnified Japan's action for his own purposes, and represented her as attempting to coerce, whereas in reality she did nothing but counsel, that is Yuan's own look out. As for the celebrated Cabinet meeting held in Tokyo on the 24th ultimo, what happened there was that the Government's abstention from anything like intervention received absolute approval and the maintenance of strict neutrality was endorsed.

A SIGNIFICANT UTTERANCE.

On the evening of the arrival of Dr. Sun in Shanghai, that is to say the 25th of December, Mr. Hu, Manager of Foreign Affairs under Field Marshal Li, invited a large party to dinner in Shanghai and among the guests were several distinguished Japanese publicists, as Mr. Inukai Ki, Professors Terao and Soyejima, and several officers of the Japanese Army and Navy, as well as leading officials of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. In the course of the banquet Mr. Hu is reported to have risen and stated that whereas China and Japan should work with joined hands in controlling Far Eastern affairs, China, by her inefficient and corrupt government, was disqualified for taking her proper share of the work. The consequence was that Japan alone occupied the stage. The party in whose behalf he addressed his friends that evening was discredited by being termed "Insurgents," but in reality its members were working uniquely for the good of their country, and to enable her to qualify for the great part which she ought to act in the Far East. In such a policy the "Insurgents"

should be able to count on Japan's warm support, and he confidently trusted that that support would not be withheld.

Mr. Inukai Ki, responding on behalf of the Japanese guests, entirely agreed with their host that in the solution of Far Eastern problems China and Japan ought to have the final voice. There were some countries which seemed disposed to dispute such an arrangement, but their suspicions might safely be ignored. Japan and China should devote themselves uniquely and sincerely to promoting the peace of the Far East, and those that doubted the integrity of the two neighbouring Powers might be disregarded.

The banquet seems to have been a great success. It broke out at one moment into vehement cheering for China and Japan. Of course it was not a public occasion but merely a private entertainment.

THE TOKYO TRAMS.

The service of electric trams in Tokyo was not fully resumed until the morning of the 2nd instant. A partial restoration was attempted on the 1st, but as connexions could not be established, the cars were not utilized. Some disturbances occurred as was more or less inevitable. The trouble was finally settled by the chivalrous conduct of four of the ex-Directors, namely, Messrs. Toshimitsu, Ando, Inouye and Kawada. The share allotted to these four is said to have amounted to 196,000 yen, which would certainly not have been excessive considering the services rendered by them since the commencement of this business in Tokyo. Mr. Kawada, however, is not a man who would consent to pocket so much as a cent of money bearing a doubtful character, and so far as we can see, these four sacrificed themselves to the public cause. The curious point is that the loss entailed by cessation of the service fell entirely upon the Municipality and not at all upon those against whom it was directed, namely, the officials of the defunct Company. The inconvenience to which the citizens of Tokyo were subjected can scarcely be exaggerated, and, as might have been expected, the *jinrikisha* drawers seized the occasion to levy exorbitant charges. The direct loss suffered by the Municipality was over 200,000 yen.

It may be noted here that whereas in the days prior to the opening of the electric trams, there were 40,000 *rikishas* plying in Tokyo, there are now only 8,000, and these work almost entirely in suburbs which have not yet been reached by cars.

ABDICATION OR DETHRONEMENT.

It is said that a division of opinion exists in Peking as to whether the Emperor would not be better advised if he resigned the Throne without waiting for the mandate of the so-called National Assembly. The idea is that by taking this step voluntarily his Majesty will establish a claim upon the gratitude of the nation, and might thus count on generous treatment, that is to say, on a handsome retiring allowance and on permission to use the title of Imperial Prince. But the speculative element in such a course does not appeal strongly to all the Court's advisers, and there is much hesitation. Meanwhile news comes that his Majesty abdicated voluntarily on the 1st instant.

THE CHINESE PRINCES.

The conduct of the Chinese Princes at this crisis provokes much surprise and censure in Japan. It may almost be stated that absolutely no response was made by these Princes to the application for funds to support the struggle. Prince Ching alone responded worthily. One other Prince, Tsai tse, offered 5,000 taels, but as the money took the form of notes issued by a bank no longer solvent, the Prince's action assumed the aspect of sarcasm. It is further alleged that these Princes do not consider themselves directly concerned in the question of the Monarchy. They deem that problem as having interest for the Imperial House only and as not being at all vital to the welfare of the Princes themselves. These very nonchalant views excite much criticism in Tokyo, and may probably be regarded as illustrating the mood of a considerable section of the Chinese nation towards the same problem.

According to the *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent, the remarkable reluctance of the Imperial Princes to subscribe any money for the so-called "Patriotic Fund" has evoked much hostile criticism. It is pointed out that these Princes amassed their fortunes by the favour of the Government, which, in its hour of extreme peril, they will not raise a finger to defend, and it is asked whether in these circumstances they should be tamely suffered to transport themselves and their belongings to some foreign domicile. It does not appear to strike their detractors that these Princes may have appreciated the futility of armed resistance to the anti dynastic movement, and may have believed that they were choosing the only humane and sensible course when they refused to assist the continuance of a hopeless struggle with all its bloodshed and suffering. They are credited solely with selfish motives, and as such charges always find ready credence in this world of ours, it will not be surprising to learn that these Princes have become the victims of some violent demonstration.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE SUN.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen's nomination to the Presidency of the first Chinese Republic seems to have been a very impressive ceremony. It commenced at 11 p.m. on the 1st instant, and was not concluded until 2 a.m. on the 2nd. The newly elected Chief Magistrate read aloud a declaration of policy in response to the reading of a document appointing him to the Presidency in the name of all the delegates there assembled. After the President's declaration a panegyric was pronounced on the career by the officer commanding his troops, and thereafter, at 2 a.m., a salute of twenty-one guns was fired. We have already published the gist of Dr. Sun's declaration. He professed himself an ardent supporter of a republican form of government, and he undertook to lay down the reins of power as soon as the organization of the finances, the administration and the army had been brought into harmony.

At 10 a.m. on the same day General Li was installed as Vice-President, and thereafter President Sun nominated his Cabinet as follows:—

Prime Minister and Acting	Hwang-Hsing
Minister of War	Chen Kin-tao
Minister of Finance	Cheng Te-chuan
Minister of Communication	Hwang Chung-ying
Minister of the Navy	Wu Ting-fang
Minister of Justice	Wang Chung-hui
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Tsai Yuan-pei
Minister of Education	
Minister of Agriculture and	
Commerce	Chang-chien
Minister of Home Affairs...	Sung Chiao-jen
Chief of Staff	Hsu Shoo-chien

The only noteworthy point about this Cabinet is that Mr. Wu Ting-fang, whom every one expected to see nominated Minister of Foreign Affairs, is given the portfolio of Justice. No satisfactory explanation is yet offered.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW REPUBLIC.

Shanghai is quoted as thinking that Yuan will not be the President of the new Republic. From the point of view of the Imperial court the calling back of Yuan to power has had a disastrous effect upon the fortunes of the Throne. A very different and much more vertebrate policy would probably have been adopted had not Yuan been summoned to Peking. The republicans, also, must regard him as having worked in their cause, since the final declaration in favour of abolishing the Monarchy came from him. Thus there are various reasons in favour of his selection as the first President. But Yuan cannot with any decency accept that position. Whatever his ultimate attitude may have been, he originally figured as a stalwart defender of the Monarchy, and to become leader of a republic would be altogether too sharp a *volte-face*. Thus the probabilities point in the direction of Sun Yat sen. Certainly Sun has established his reputation as an organizer and an untiring advocate. He may prove equal to the task now contemplated for him. But no one will venture to express a strong conviction as to this point.

SUN AND YUAN.

The selection of Dr. Sun as President of the new Republic seems to be widely welcomed. Of course the Nanking conclave have no authority to enforce their choice in this matter, but they have at all events given an unequivocally clear demonstration of the direction in which their sentiments point. The Field Marshal's Office in Nanking is said to have been converted into the President's office, and delegates have been sent from Nanking to Shanghai to escort Dr. Sun to the former place with all due formalities. We notice, however, that the appointment is described as temporary. Sun's mandate is to hold good for six months only, by which time his nominators doubtless expect that machinery for prolonging his term will be in due operation. But all this relegates Yuan to a secondary place and is not at all likely to meet with that statesman's acquiescence. In fact, if Yuan has really been fighting throughout for his own hand, he may possibly strike out some new path in preference to tamely stepping down to make room for Dr. Sun. There is already talk of something of the sort, and seeds of discord are said to find busy sowers in Canton, which city has always been a hot bed of conspiracy.

THE OUTLYING SECTIONS OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

It is becoming daily more evident that the outlying sections of the Chinese Empire will not sit with folded hands while Peking is arranging for the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu and the substitution of a republican form of government. Already telegrams have been received from Kulon presaging disturbance there; in Thibet the followers of the Dalai Lama are preparing again to take the field; in Ili Prince Tuan is proposing to make his son, Pu-Chun, local sovereign, and in Mongolia a struggle for independence is beginning to be imminent. Over all these States China's Imperial hold has never been very firm, and that they would shake off their allegiance at the first opportunity has often been predicted. It is evident that in these various movements we may detect the germs of conditions tolerably certain to necessitate foreign intervention sooner or later. It is there that the proximate danger of the new situation presents itself.

THE CHINESE THRONE.

A Peking dispatch dated the 28th instant, received by the *Nichi Nichi* reports that on the day before, Yuan Shih-kai and other Ministers of State presented to the Throne a joint memorial reporting that the nation desired to overthrow the Throne and that there was no prospect of relieving the situation. They therefore submitted the memorial to the decision of the Empress-Dowager. At the same time Shih Hsu and Hsu Shih-chang, the guardians of the Emperor, repaired to the Palace and submitted to the Empress-Dowager a similar report. Accordingly the Empress-Dowager convened a meeting of the Imperial Council, at which H. H. Princes Ching, Tsai Hsun, Yu Lang, Su and Tsai Tse attended. None of the Princes and Ministers of the Crown had the courage to reject the revolutionists' demand and stand by the Throne. It has therefore been decided to abdicate the Throne, and thus the revolutionists have gained their point without waiting for the convocation of a national assembly.

THE TIMES.

Collating the experiences of the principal store-keepers of Tokyo in connexion with the New Year festivities, the *Nippon* alleges that a new trend of public disposition is plainly discernible. Stated briefly, the fact is that purchases of articles of luxury were largely reduced. The presents habitually given to mark the season were limited to comparatively unexpensive articles, and everything in the nature of a curiosity or an extravagance was eschewed. Our contemporary is distinctly of opinion that this economical and utilitarian inclination is not to be attributed to straitened resources. On the contrary, there is every evidence of returning prosperity. But an economical mood has replaced the feeling of expansion that followed the war, and everything in the shape of needless expense is avoided. Our Tokyo contemporary is inclined to attribute this in some degree to the Cabinet's manipulation of the national finances, and insists that although certain tradesmen may have been disappointed, the nation is on the whole to be congratulated.

JAPAN AND THE CHINA
INSURRECTION.

REVIEW OF JAPAN'S DIPLOMATIC ACTION.

Reviewing Japan's diplomacy *vis-à-vis* China, the *Tokyo Asahi* writes that at the outset the Japanese Government did not attach much importance to the disturbance and thought it would quickly be suppressed by the Imperialists. Even after the revolutionists attained great influence the Government remained inactive. When Yuan Shih kai responded to the call of the Peking Government, Minister Ijuin put forward to the Government a suggestion of the advisability of assisting Yuan in the settlement of the situation. Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, rejected the proposal, which led to a conflict of views between Minister Ijuin and Viscount Uchida. The result was the dispatch to Peking of Councillor Matsui to establish an understanding between the two diplomats.

Prince Yamagata's followers viewed the adoption by China of a republican government with disapproval and advocated the necessity of foreign interference. Politicians holding these views commenced an active movement, as the revolutionists began to make their influence felt in all directions, to cause Japan to take the initiative in the settlement of the trouble, and vehemently attacked the Foreign Office for its inactivity. Viscount Uchida thought it possible to effect a compromise between the belligerents on the basis of a Constitutional monarchy, and acting on this conviction submitted to the Cabinet Council a proposition for mediation. The proposition was agreed to by the Cabinet Council and the disposition of the Government was notified to Yuan Shih kai through Minister Ijuin. The Government, of course, did not insinuate armed interference, but the proposal of mediation in favour of a constitutional monarchy amounted to this and it may have been interpreted by Yuan in that sense. This was about November 20th last.

Having recognized the necessity of British cooperation in the attempted interference with the domestic affairs of China, Viscount Uchida, a few days before the fall of Hanyang, put forward to the British Government a proposal for joint interference to terminate the Chinese disturbance on the basis of a constitutional monarchy. The proposal was rejected on the ground that the national policy of Great Britain did not admit of interference with the political affairs of a foreign country and also that, in view of attempts being made by the belligerents themselves to arrive at a peaceful settlement, it was advisable to quietly watch the further development of the situation.

Viscount Uchida was fully conscious of the impossibility of interference single handed, and after the receipt of this unfavourable reply from the British Government, he sounded the feelings of the United States, Russia, Germany and France on the proposed interference. Some of them replied in the negative, while other received the proposal in silence. The attempt thus ended in failure.

In the meantime Great Britain had been steadily attempting to bridge over the gulf between the Imperialists and revolutionists, until a peace conference was arranged. The British Government was conscious of the disadvantage of leaving Japan out in the cold and in view of the proposal

previously made by Japan a joint interference invited her to take part in the mediation.

The Japanese Government, having an inclination to interfere, but not venturing to put the inclination into practice, readily responded to the invitation. Whether Viscount Uchida really misunderstood, or whether he feigned to misunderstand, the British proposal, cannot be decided, but he evidently took it as an answer to Japan's proposal for interference previously made. Accordingly his Excellency entered into *pourparlers* with the British Government as to the details of the intervention, much to the embarrassment of the latter, which at once perceived that the Japanese Government was labouring under a misapprehension. The British Government thereupon gave Japan clearly to understand that its proposal was entirely separate from Japan's proposal, being nothing more or less than a friendly mediation to smooth over the difficulties that lay in the path of the peace negotiations, and that it was not contemplated to enter into details of the terms of peace. Viscount Uchida was rather nonplussed at the answer, but in view of the good feeling shown by the British Government, decided to take joint action in the mediation. It would seem, nevertheless, that the Japanese Government felt convinced that Yuan Shih-kai meant to insist on the constitutional monarchy to which he stood pledged, and thought that friendly mediation alone was insufficient to bring the peace negotiations to a successful conclusion. Even after the intended mediation had been notified to the belligerents, the Kasumigaseki authorities expressed pessimistic views on the final issue of the conference and insinuated determined interference after the failure of the negotiations.

Yuan Shih-kai has repeatedly announced that he will not oppose a republican form of Government if the nation decided in its favour, but it was rather difficult to accept this without the explicit consent of Great Britain and Japan. In making this assertion Yuan may have relied upon the assurance of support given him by the Japanese Minister. Subsequent developments of the situation made peace impossible unless a republican government was accepted, and Japan was thus placed in a dilemma, being powerless to do anything single-handed. Yuan at once perceived the unreliability of Japan's assurances and showed a disposition to accept the republican government. The British Government published a prompt denial of Yuan's statement that Great Britain and Japan oppose a republican form of government, and explicitly declared that the British Government is indifferent to the form of government China may adopt. The Japanese Government could not publish a similar denial for obvious reasons and has been compelled to go back to the non-interference policy it adopted at an early stage of the Chinese trouble, and to leave things to take their natural course.

The *Chuo Shinbun* quotes a Foreign Office authority as saying that it is needless to state that Japan's China policy is based on the integrity of China and the maintenance of the principles underlying the Anglo-Japanese alliance. The Government has unreservedly adhered to this policy, but speculation is rife in some quarters, where the Government is represented to be favouring either the Peking Government or the revolutionists. This is entirely

erroneous, and betrays ignorance of the established China policy of the Government. It is recognized by all the Powers that the integrity of China is conducive to the happiness of the Chinese nation and a guarantee of peace in the Far East. It is also generally admitted by all Powers that the republican form of government is not suited to the national conditions of China, which would be best developed under a monarchy. This is admitted even by the United States, which stands on republican principles. The Japanese Government framed its China policy in consonance with the spirit of the Anglo-Japanese alliance and this policy was once more confirmed by the Genro council held on the 24th instant. Although the future form of government in China was not touched upon at the Council, the Japanese Government is desirous that China should enforce a good administration under a monarchical government, which Japan considers best suited to China, and the Government may therefore urge on the revolutionists the adoption of this form of government. The latest intelligence has it that Yuan Shih-kai is inclined to accept a republican government, but it remains to be seen whether he will abandon the monarchy and come to terms with the revolutionists. Even if Yuan could find a way for a compromise, it is rather doubtful whether he could satisfactorily maintain the integrity and unity of all the provinces. The Government will, therefore, make efforts to bring the spirit of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance into practical operation, to the benefit of China. The means of attaining this end may differ according to circumstances, but the Japanese Government will never deviate from the fundamental principles underlying its established policy *vis-à-vis* China.

COUNT HIGASHIKUZE.

Count Higashikuze, Vice-President of the Privy Council, is reported to be critically ill with cancer of the tongue. On the 30th ultimo the end seemed to be imminent, but happily the crisis was tided over. The Count is unable either to speak or to swallow, and his only way of communicating with his entourage is by writing. It is said that he has expressed his desire to live over the new year, since he would then have reached the age of eighty. Count Higashikuze was a well-known figure at the time of the Restoration. He was one of the seven noblemen who took refuge in Choshu at the time of the Kyoto disturbance.

At 1.30 a.m. on the 1st instant, Count Higashikuze expired at his residence in Shibuya. He had just completed his 80th year according to Japanese reckoning. The Count served as a member of the Privy Council for many years, becoming its Vice-President in 1891. He was a staunch supporter of Imperial administration in the days preceding the Restoration, and after the abolition of the *Shogunate*, he received the office of *Sangi* followed by that of Chief of the Colonization Board. The deceased nobleman was a veritable type of the old Kyoto aristocracy. He was not less distinguished as a poet than as a politician. The death will not be made public until the 4th instant and the funeral service will be held at the temple Zōjō-ji on the 7th.

YUAN SHIH-KAI AND THE TERMS OF PEACE.

MESSAGE TO TANG SHAO-I.

A Peking dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* reports that Yuan Shih kai despatched to Tang Shao-i a telegraphic reply under date of the 31st December to the effect that the credentials delegating to him the power of representing the Government at the peace conference had been given him in order to enable him to discuss the terms of peace fully. The credentials had been recognized by the revolutionists, but any agreement must not be considered formal until the sanction of the Government has been obtained to it.

"Your telegraphic memorial," continues Yuan, "makes a reference to the impropriety of the Government raising a loan, but does not the same remark apply to the revolutionists? If the warlike operations be suspended, is it not permissible to raise jointly a small loan and to use the proceeds for the maintenance of local peace? The Imperial troops have not yet suffered repeated reverses as you represent, and the martial spirit runs high in the ranks. It is impossible to withdraw the Imperial army if the revolutionists retain their positions. Besides, a great impediment lies in Hupoh province and telegraphic communication is suspended in Anhui province, so that it is impracticable to withdraw the army within five days as suggested. Moreover rioters are rampant in those provinces and have no claim to the rank of revolutionists. Since the withdrawal of the Imperial army has already been agreed upon with the revolutionists, however, the Government will do its best to conform to the agreement, but I am constrained to make this declaration. If the Imperial force in Shansi, Shensi, Hupoh, Anhui, and Kiangsu provinces be withdrawn 100 Chinese *li*, the revolutionary force must also withdraw the same distance. The two armies encamped within 100 *li* from one another should mutually withdraw (the revolutionists will probably not consent to the withdrawal), while those stationed at a distance of over 100 *li* from one another need not withdraw any further, as there is little possibility of their immediate conflict. An arrangement should be made to hold the local authorities responsible for the preservation of peace in the districts evacuated by the troops. There are no districts in Honan and Shantung provinces under the occupation of the revolutionists. The period of the withdrawal should date from the time of the arrival of the order. In view of the comparatively large number of the Imperial forces stationed in Hanyang and Hankow, it is impossible to affect the withdrawal within five days, so that the matter should be left to the discretion of the commander. The clauses relating to the withdrawal of the troops and the protection of the evacuated districts shall be separately arranged within five days. The enactment of an election Law and the convocation in Peking of the National Assembly are also equally important. A monarchy or republic has for its object the promotion of the interests and happiness of the State and people, to ensure everlasting peace. The form of government must be chosen and decided in conformity with the wishes of the nation. It is, therefore, advisable that the members of the National Assembly should be elected in

accordance with the universal suffrage law in vogue in foreign countries and the form of government decided by a national assembly in which all the nation is represented instead of by a meeting of a small number of representatives. A hasty decision by a minority amounts to despotism, which the people of the various provinces and other dependencies cannot possibly recognize, and will thus give cause for the resuscitation of the disturbances, defeating the very end which the peace conference has in view. This is the reason why great circumspection is needed in planning the Election Law. The Government does not intend to take advantage of the necessary delay to complete warlike preparations, but on the contrary is determined to faithfully observe the agreement for the withdrawal of the troops within five days. The reason why the national assembly must be convened in Peking is threefold: Firstly, Peking has long been the seat of the central government and the organization of a perfect revolutionary government is yet incomplete. Secondly, Peking is more accessible to the members elected by various provinces, and besides, the delegates of Mongolia, Tibet and other frontier dependencies would refuse to travel so far as Shanghai. Thirdly, the Ministers of the various foreign Powers reside in Peking, and they will watch the progress of the debate and see that the course decided upon by the Assembly is followed. It is hoped that you will adhere to the wishes of the Government as here outlined."

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S POLICY.

Peking telegraphs that the revolutionists show a strong front in the peace conference, and as their claims are unacceptable to the Peking Government, Yuan Shih-kai has changed his attitude and accepted the resignation of Tang Shao-i, declaring that he will conduct the negotiations himself.

In regard to this telegram a certain diplomat is quoted by the *Fiji Shimpō* as saying that when the circumstances in Peking are taken into consideration, there is reason to believe that Yuan has been compelled to take this course. The peace conference in Shanghai now turns on the question of the organization of a national assembly. The revolutionists insist on the speedy convocation of the assembly to determine the form of government China shall adopt in future. The right of voting has been settled but all the other details are undecided, so that it is impossible to define the limits of the election and the qualifications required for candidates and to complete the procedure before the 8th instant on which date the revolutionists insist that the assembly should be convened. If the revolutionists have their own way there is no alternative but to form the assembly from the representatives of the various provinces now in Shanghai, or to elect the members by nomination, or some other convenient means. The Peking Government could not possibly agree to such a procedure. At the outset Yuan Shih-kai proposed to convene the national assembly by framing an election law which would necessarily involve some months' delay, in order to secure the due representation of the people in the various provinces. The revolutionists showed no disposition to agree to that arrangement, and Yuan was forced to yield.

An Imperial Edict was thus issued on December 28th directing the Government to speedily devise means of election. The revolutionists were still dissatisfied and insisted on an immediate convocation of the Assembly for January 8th. The acceptance of the proposal meant submission to the revolutionists, as it is not difficult to foresee the result of the debate in an assembly so composed. Yuan must have been greatly disappointed as to the progress of the peace conference and he has now accepted the resignation tendered by Tang Shao-i, which practically means the severance of the negotiations. He would seem to have made up his mind to decide the issue at the point of the bayonet. The train of circumstances has no doubt driven Yuan to alter his attitude, but it is equally certain that he has no confidence in his final success. He is not such an ambitious statesman as to expand his own influence or aspire to the first presidency of the Chinese Republic at the expense of the present dynasty. His policy has been marked by makeshifts from the start. He once believed that the establishment of a constitutional monarchy would save the situation and also that the abrogation of the regency would pacify the feelings of the revolutionists, and he finally made endeavours to bring the peace negotiations to a successful conclusion by the proposal for the convocation of a national assembly.

All these steps have, nevertheless, ended in failure. He would extricate himself from the difficult position by resigning, but inasmuch as his resignation would probably not be accepted by the Peking Government he finds himself in a dilemma. He may therefore have been driven to decide to continue the war as the only course now left open for him to pursue.

THE PRESS AND THE TRAM CAR STRIKE.

The tone of the Tokyo press is decidedly alarmist with reference to the strike which has just been brought to an end. These journals argue that the victory won by the employees of the tram-cars is likely to create an appetite for similar lawless acts in other directions. The strikers did not pause to consider that the effects of their conduct would be felt by the citizens of Tokyo at large, and that they could only reach the directors of the extinct Company by injuring thousands of innocent people. That is indeed an alarming phase of the affair. Our own information goes to show that the strike would never have taken place had it not been fomented by a little band of agitators, probably the same men who were ultimately responsible for the Portsmouth riots of 1905 and for similar subsequent occurrences. These men rode upon the cars hither and thither during the strike, and menaced the motor-men and the guards with all manners of pains and penalties unless they took part in the movement. What would have been the consequences had not four of the Directors sacrificed the greater part of their private property on the altar of municipal interests, it is difficult to conjecture. We have to remember, besides, that all the former employees of the company may be said to have been continued in their offices, with the exception of the Directors and other high officials. Therefore the employees were not really entitled to any special consideration.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

According to the latest investigations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce the turnover of Japan's foreign trade up to the middle of December totalled 929,605,000 yen, of which the exports amount to 431,515,000 yen against imports aggregating 498,090,000 yen, the excess of imports thus amounting to 66,575,000 yen in round figures. As compared with last year's trade, this shows a decrease of 13,377,000 yen in exports and an increase of 50,354,000 yen in imports, the total volume of trade showing an increase of 36,977,000 yen. The turnover of trade in the last ten days of December last year amounts to 29,626,000 yen, of which 13,274,000 yen stands for exports and 16,352,000 yen for imports. Working on this basis it may safely be conjectured that trade during the last ten days of this month will total some 20,000,000 yen, that is 10,000,000 yen each for imports and exports. When this sum is added, the total volume of trade this year will reach a total of 949,000,000 yen, of which 441,000,000 yen represents exports and 508,000,000 yen imports. The comparison is shown in tabular form below:—

	Up to Dec. 20th, 1911. Yen.	Increase or decrease. Yen.
Exports	431,515,000	— 13,377,000
Imports	498,090,000	+ 50,354,000
Total	929,605,000	+ 36,977,000
Excess of imports	66,575,000	— 63,731,000

The figures for the country's trade during 1911 are more favourable than was at one time expected. It had been anticipated that imports would exceed exports by at least 90 millions, but the figure ultimately did not reach more than 66½ millions. The total bulk of the trade amounted to 960½ millions in round numbers, and thus fell short of the much-desired 1,000 millions by only 1½ millions. It is easy to recall the days when the total trade did not exceed 34 million yen, and when pessimistic foreign onlookers predicted that Japan would never do a business exceeding one yen per head of her population. One publicist who made himself specially conspicuous by uttering this prediction is still in our midst.

Of course if the trade of Korea be included the thousand-million mark is past. We then get a total of 1,018 millions.

The figures of Japan's foreign trade during the eleven days ending the 31st ultimo were as follows:—

	Yen
Exports	15,407,000
Imports	15,420,000
Excess of Imports	13,000

The returns from January 1st to December 31st are:—

	Compared with 1910. Yen.	Yen.
Exports	447,044,000	— 11,251,000
Imports	513,573,000	+ 49,428,000
Excess of Imports	66,529,000	

EX-CHINESE MINISTER IN JAPAN.

Sheng Huan-luai, formerly Minister of Posts and Telegraphs of China, arrived at Kobe with his family on the 3rd instant. He stated to an interviewer, according to the *Jiji Shimpō*, that after his dismissal he proceeded to Kiaochow and after a brief sojourn went to Tsintao to recuperate his

health. The climate there not agreeing with him, he left for Dairen, where he consulted Dr. Kasahara, who advised him to proceed to either Honolulu or Japan. He knew the climate of Honolulu would not agree with him so decided to come over to Japan. It seemed that his departure for German territory had given cause for some misunderstanding, but circumstances forced him to take refuge in Kiaochow. He was not disposed to talk over the present situation in China, but he remarked that it is doubtful whether the peace conference in Shanghai will succeed, seeing that both sides assume an unyielding attitude. The revolutionists show a strong front, so it seems probable that the republican government will ultimately prevail. Even presuming that a republican government comes into existence, it is likely that internal troubles will continue, as the revolutionists are split up into many factions who may ultimately enter on a struggle for supremacy, each being backed by armed force. There is no guarantee against the resurrection of a monarchical government.

Sheng and his family afterwards left for Shioya where they are expected to stay for a few months. Sheng is suffering from consumption and will consult Dr. Kitazato.

CHOSEN YUSEN KAISHA.

APPLICATION FILED FOR CHARTER.

The organization of the Chosen Yusen Kaisha (Chosen Mail Steamship Company) which is now in course of formation by an organizing committee, with Baron Kondo as president, is said to be making steady progress, so much so that all the shares have already been subscribed for by the promoters and supporters. Formal application is to be filed with the Governor-General of Chosen early next year for official permission to bring the company into existence. Mr. Harada, a director of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, who is nominated as President of the new Company, is quoted as saying that the Company is to be formed by the amalgamation of the Fusan Steamship Company, the Yoshida Steamship Co. and the Mokpo Shipping Gomei Kaisha, with an aggregate capital of three million yen. The formation of the Company is on the initiative of the Governor-General's office and it will have no competitor. The steamships now owned by the three companies named number seventeen and they will form a part of the Company's property on an appraisal by appraisers appointed by the Chosen Government. The Company will run a service along the coast of the peninsula from Tumen river on the north to Chinnampo on the south. The government subsidy will be included in the Chosen budget for next fiscal year.

THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.

It was expected that Mr. Malevitch would return to Tokyo and resume his Ambassadorial duties in March next. But the *Asahi Shimbun* alleges that he will probably succeed Mr. Sazanoff as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sazanoff going to Rome. In that event Russia will probably be represented at the Court of Japan by Mr. Kosakoff, who served for several years in Japan as Secretary of Legation.

STRIKE ON THE TOKYO TRAMWAYS.

CARS IDLE ON BUSIEST DAY OF YEAR.

The tramcar drivers and conductors in Tokyo struck work on the 31st ult. to the great annoyance of the public. A rumour of a probable strike was circulated on the 30th ult., when an agitation was raised for the ventilation of grievances connected with the division of the bonus declared by the defunct Tokyo Railway Company, but it was not until about seven o'clock that the drivers and guards belonging to the Mita Station (including Daimon) left their posts. Traffic on the Shinagawa-Uyeno-Asakusa section was stopped and over thirty or forty cars remained idle on the track at various places along the route.

Six or seven hundred strikers assembled at Mita and were quickly joined by their confreres belonging to other stations, until the strike became almost general. The day being the busiest day in the year, the citizens experienced the greatest inconvenience.

The cause of the strike is dissatisfaction with the alleged unfair division of the bonus. It is stated in this context that the liquidators decided to divide 600,000 yen amongst the employes of the Tokyo Railway Company in bonuses. The bonus was paid them on the 30th ult., the amount being fixed in proportion to the amount of salaries they receive and the length of their service. Superintendents and above are said to have received handsome bonuses, while the drivers and guards were almost left out in the cold.

THE JAPANESE TROOPS IN CHOSEN.

The Second Division now stationed in Chosen, whose term of commission expires in March next, will be relieved by the Eighth (Hirosaki) Division. An informal order is said to have been already issued to Lieut.-General Yamane, commander of the Eighth Division, to hold it in readiness. The Headquarters of the Division will be established at Seoul, with the headquarters of the 4th and 16th brigades at Pyongyang and Ranan respectively. The infantry regiments will be stationed at Pyongyang, Seoul, Ranan and Kanko, with a cavalry regiment in Seoul, an artillery regiment in Ranan and a pioneer battalion in Hoinai. The transportation of the troops will commence towards the middle of March next and be completed in the early part of April.

THE FOREIGN POWERS AND CHINA.

The *Chuo Shimbun* has a telegram from Peking which seems to partake of the nature of a fabrication. It is to the effect the whereas the six Powers made every possible effort to restore peace in China, they find the Insurgents determined to carry on the conflict, and they have therefore abandoned all further attempts to prevent fighting. The telegram does not say how this momentous decision has been reached, but it must be confessed that the very radical and uncompromising nature of the demands formulated by the Insurgents have tended of late to create suspicion that they are not sincere in their desire for peace.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY COMPANY.

With reference to the division of bonuses among the directors and other parties concerned resolved upon at the recent general meeting of shareholders of the Tokyo Railway Company, as reported in a previous issue, the *Tokyo Asahi* publishes a rather incredible story as to the liquidators having decided to allot 250,000 yen out of the 400,000 yen to Baron Senge and three other managing directors, and 120,000 yen out of the balance to the municipal councillors and others who supported the municipalization of the electric tramway business, the remaining 30,000 yen going to the ordinary directors of the company. The special committee and directors raised an objection to the arrangement at the meeting of the liquidators held on December 29th last, and the division of the 400,000 yen was therefore left undecided to the great embarrassment of the liquidators, inasmuch as the portion allotted to Baron Senge had already been paid without the sanction of the committee. Our contemporary predicts criminal proceedings if the special committee decide to enforce their view. It is also reported that the liquidators have informally decided to allot 20,000 yen to Mr. Morikubo, a leader of the Getsuyokai in the Municipal Council, in consideration of the support given by him to the municipalization.

A NEWSPAPER STORY.

The *China Press* is telegraphically reported to have quoted the Japanese Consul in Shanghai as alleging that the six Powers, America, England, Germany, France, Russia and Japan have notified China that they regard the Insurgents as belligerents, and that they consider the action of the Peking Government in opening a council at Shanghai as constructively acknowledging the belligerent rights of the Insurgents. Therefore the Consul cannot undertake to interfere with any transactions into which individual Japanese may enter with either of the combatants. Such transactions would, however, be at the risk of those concerned. With organized measures of assistance or resistance the Consul would be empowered to interfere, but of individual action he would take no notice.

The above version of the Consul's remarks is explicitly denied by the *Shanghai Mercury*. Indeed denial was hardly necessary.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Tokyo Asahi* wires that Dr. Sun Yat-sen has been interviewed by a foreign correspondent to whom he stated that he did not remember the names of the Japanese accompanying him, but they are neither military nor naval men. As Englishmen and Americans were included it was not surprising that Japanese should be present in his company. His confidential secretary was a Mr. Ike, a Japanese. Japan had a strong sympathy with the cause he advocated.

Asked whether he had any special connection with the Japanese Government, Dr. Sun replied that the Chinese were now organizing a new government and would

maintain the most cordial relations with the various Powers.

When asked whether he was nominated as candidate for the first presidency of the Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun said that it was a question which he would rather not answer.

The correspondent adds that Dr. Sun Sun refused to give his interviewer the names of the Japanese travelling with him.

THE TRAINING FLEET.

Rear Admiral Kato, commanding the training fleet, wires to the Admiralty from the port of Suwa in the Fiji Islands, under date of December 27th, that the repairs of the training ships *Soya* and *Aso* having been completed, the fleet is leaving for Auckland, New Zealand.

According to an official dispatch reaching the Admiralty the training squadron *Aso* and *Soya* arrived safely at Auckland on the 2nd instant.

THE "JAPAN ADVERTISER."

It is stated that from the beginning of this month the editorship of the *Japan Advertiser* will be assumed by Mr. C. R. Hargrove, who, until quite recently, was acting correspondent of *The London Times* in Washington. Mr. Hargrove is said to have a great knowledge of American affairs, and to be well versed also in British and European politics.

ON AND OFF THE STREET CAR.

[FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.]

A fine car service now connects the two extreme ends of the city of Seoul. The laying of it has cost no end of surgical operation,—tearing up of the former tracks; ripping out of old bridges, levelling off, straightening, ballasting, overhauling and resetting, till now two lines with heavy rails, level with the street, run direct as projectile shots right across the city. Fine cement bridges, lowered and widened, take the place of the hump-backed arches that used to span the canals and gutters.

One day the writer saw a hard-faced, sun-tanned Japanese handling a gang of Korean coolies, who were putting the finishing touches to the line. He had the divided foot gear on and the general make up of a Japanese coolie gang-master. Occasion came to tap him on the sleeve and ask a question which he answered at once in good Korean.

"You are a Japanese, how do you speak Korean?"

"Speak my own language?" was the answer "I'm a Korean, no Japanese about me."

"Then where did you learn to lay steel roadways so well?" I asked.

"Oh I learned it years ago, and not a cent of money have I saved out of it either. 'Taint any use to learn when you can't save."

"You are wrong," I replied. "How many Japanese were employed in the laying of those cement bridges?"

"None at all," was the answer. "Koreans, every man of them." Thus it comes that in the wake of the Japanese who knows how, Koreans are learning and a great company of useful men are under process of development in Seoul.

On these double tracks the unimpeded cars spin by, carrying increasing numbers of passengers. The fuss and hum of an electric car were such in the early days that the devout grandmother of the home made her prayers to the god of sparks and fire, and bowed low to the wires and pole; but to-day old customs are

receding, and the same grandma who used to pray, prays no more, but rides the car complacently and makes a heap of inward grumbings if the word "No powa" passes.

The law of hard reason and mathematical calculation comes in to appropriate the preserves that were given up to the telegraph god and other quaint oddities that flourished for a day.

The question now is, not how to propitiate the god that controls the wire and the pole, but how to get safely on and off the creature. Altogether the nature of the concern is a mystery. A law governs the steel car and track that is quite outside the realm of old Korean understanding. For example, all the bells may ring, conductor and motorman pumping volumes of discord and uproar from the hidden sources underneath, and the hum and noise may be at the highest pitch, but the countryman walking leisurely between the rails just ahead is oblivious. Only when the bump of the catcher against his pantaloons, and the warwhoop of the driver break in on his meditations does he give the leap of his life, and wake up to the fact that the 20th century is upon him. Only this morning did the writer behold a close shave that brought the cold chills over him.

Still the question of all questions that concerns the street car is the getting off. By what law under heaven does *terra firma* play crack-the-whip with you and send you and your goods and chattels to the four winds at once?

It was a mild day with a layer of soft mud over the landscape, including every road and by-way. The car, however, rode clear of it and swung along at its accustomed pace. A loud voiced female, young and rather good looking, but a little blasé, wearing a spotless suit of woman's gear bedecked with ermine and no end of fluff and finery, got aboard. She was a modern dancing-girl going somewhere, when suddenly she changed her mind, had one or two high words with the serving woman who accompanied her, and strode to the rear of the car in a business-like way. The conductor, who was busy apparently making out the report of his runs, gave her a side glance and a warning "Look out." She doubtless felt that her agile personality, accustomed to the light fantastic toe, was not in the realm of comprehension that pertained to a clod-hopper of a conductor, and so she suddenly pulled her skirts together and gave a bound into the blue azure. The car going at the rate of fifteen miles an hour left her spinning and ricocheting all over the place till at last with one rebound of astounding velocity she flattened out on the miry surface. But she was on to her feet again like the mountain roe, though hopelessly bemired as to appearance. Meanwhile the car had stopped and the conductor shouted, "Mademoiselle, I told you to look out." "What do you mean by look-out, you son of an unwashed idiot. . . ." Her words faded into the distance, for the two bells rang and away went the car, the conductor mumbling to himself words of offended indignation. That suit of spotless ermine was the cost of her special lesson in street car riding. She doubtless rides to-day but no more leaps off the stage in that way.

It is an every day occurrence, this jump from the whirling car. The conductor boys are the soul of kindness, and take all manner of care, "Grandpa keep in your head or you'll crack that post and have to pay damages." "Wait now, mother, wait till it stops." "Don't be anxious. Sit still, I'll get you off."

Koreans when taught are a very agile people and very quick of foot. Those who learn to get on and off, like post-office men and telegram carriers, are experts who never fail. The law that governs getting on and off the street car is being learned. It appropriates large tracts of space in the understanding that were formerly given up to Confucian dignity and the law of the *Yang* and *Yin*.

More lines are to be laid and soon Seoul will be able to hurry you off to all points of the compass by a rapid, well-cushioned, well-lighted, commodious car.

SPECTATOR.

JAPAN'S "NEW RELIGION."

(The Japan Daily Mail, December 30.)

PROFESSOR CHAMBERLAIN has contributed to *The Literary Guide* an interesting and remarkable article. He there insists that the religion called *Shintō*, in so far as its doctrines of *Mikado*-worship and Japan-worship are concerned, is a new creed manufactured for the special needs of modern Japan. He even fixes the exact date of its manufacture. We quote his words in full, since anything emanating from such an authority deserves the closest respect:—

Mikado-worship and Japan-worship—for that is the new Japanese religion—is, of course, no spontaneous y generated phenomenon. Every manufacture presupposes a material out of which it is made, every present a past on which it rests. But the twentieth-century Japanese religion of loyalty and patriotism is quite new, for in it pre-existing ideas have been sifted, altered, freshly compounded, turned to new uses, and have found a new centre of gravity. Not only is it new, it is not yet completed; it is still in process of being consciously or semi-consciously put together by the official class, in order to serve the interests of that class, and, incidentally, the interests of the nation at large. Down to the year 1888, the line of cleavage between governors and governed was obscured by the joyful ardour with which all classes alike devoted themselves to the acquisition of European, not to say American, ideas. Everything foreign was then hailed as perfect—everything old and national was condemned. Sentiment grew democratic in so far (perhaps it was not very far) as American democratic ideals were understood. Love of country seemed likely to yield to a humble bowing-down before foreign models. Officialdom not unnaturally took fright at this abdication of national individualism. Evidently something must be done to turn the tide. Accordingly, patriotic sentiment was appealed to through the throne, whose hoary antiquity had ever been a source of pride to Japanese literati, who loved to dwell on the contrast between Japan's unique line of absolute monarchs and the short-lived dynasties of China. *Shintō*, a primitive nature cult, which had fallen into discredit, was taken out of its cupboard and dusted. The common people, it is true, continued to place their affections on Buddhism, the popular festivals were Buddhist, Buddhist also the temples where they buried their dead. The governing class determined to change all this. They insisted on the *Shintō* doctrine that the *Mikado* descends in direct succession from the native Goddess of the Sun, and that He himself is a living God on earth who justly claims the absolute fealty of his subjects. Such things as laws and constitutions are but free gifts on His part, not in any sense popular rights. Of course, the ministers and officials, high and low, who carry on His government, are to be regarded not as public servants, but rather as executors of supreme—one might say supernatural—authority. *Shintō*, because connected with the Imperial Family, is to be alone honoured.

We pass over the charge that the Japanese official class, through whose instrumentality this new religion has been manufactured, are working to serve their own interests primarily and the interests of the nation at large incidentally. That is a very cruel saying and we fail altogether to recognize its justice. Let us rather turn to the pages of "Things Japanese" and see whether Professor CHAMBERLAIN's ideas six years ago were identical with those he expresses to-day in the columns of *The Literary Guide*. Under the heading of *Shintō* we find the following:—

The third period in the history of *Shintō* began about the year 1700, and continues down to the present day. It has been termed the period of the "revival of pure *Shintō*." During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, under the peaceful government of the Tokugawa dynasty of *Shōguns*, the literati of Japan turned their eyes backward on their country's past. Old manuscripts were disinterred,

old histories and old poems were put into print, the old language was studied and imitated. Soon the movement became religious and political,—above all, patriotic, not to say chauvinistic. The *Shūgunate* was frowned on, because it had supplanted the autocracy of the heaven-descended *Mikados*. Buddhism and Confucianism were sneered at, because of their foreign origin. *Shintō* gained by all this. The great scholars Mabuchi (1697-1769), Motoori (1731-1801), and Hirata (1776-1843), devoted themselves to a religious propaganda,—if that can be called a religion which sets out from the principle that the only two things needful are to follow one's natural impulses and to obey the *Mikado*. This order of ideas triumphed for a moment in the revolution of 1868. Buddhism was disestablished and disendowed, and *Shintō* was installed as the only State religion, the Council for Spiritual Affairs being given equal rank with the Council of State, which latter controlled things temporal. At the same time thousands of temples, formerly Buddhist or *Ryōbu-Shintō*, were, as the phrase went, "purified," that is, stripped of their Buddhist ornaments, and handed over to *Shintō* keeping. But as *Shintō* had no root in itself, being a thing too empty and jejune to influence the hearts of men,—Buddhism soon rallied. The Council for Spiritual Affairs was reduced to the rank of a department, the department to a bureau, the bureau to a sub-bureau. The whole thing is now a mere shadow, though *Shintō* is still in so far the official cult that certain temples are maintained out of public moneys, and that the attendance of certain officials is required from time to time at ceremonies of a semi-religious, semi-courtly nature.

Had Professor CHAMBERLAIN obeyed the dictates of accuracy with his usual faithfulness, he might have carried his retrospect a good deal further. He might have spoken of the great general and *literateur* KITABATAKE CHIKAFUSA, who, at the beginning of the 14th century, revived the *Shintō* doctrine of the *Mikado's* divine descent, and insisted on the imperative duty of loyalty to the Sovereign on the part of every unit of the nation. But passing by that sin of omission, we are astonished to find that a revival, which history, as quoted by Professor CHAMBERLAIN himself, shows to have begun about the year 1700, should be carried forward to the year 1888, a date twenty-one years subsequent to the *Meiji* Restoration and seven years after the official promise of a Constitution. These things are difficult to reconcile. Moreover it will be observed that whereas in "Things Japanese" Professor CHAMBERLAIN speaks of *Shintō* as having no root in itself; as being a thing too empty and jejune to influence the hearts of men, and as being now a mere shadow; in the pages of *The Literary Guide* he tells the story of an ardent national cult; of Imperialism, *Shintō* and national glory officially installed in the popular mind, and of *Shintō* being put into the forefront of education. These things, too, are difficult to reconcile.

"BUSHIDO."

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 1.)

ON the subject of *Bushidō* Professor CHAMBERLAIN in his recent article in *The Literary Guide* committed himself to the following very radical utterance:—

As for *Bushidō*, so modern a thing is it that neither Kämpfer, Siebold, Satow, nor Rein—all men knowing their Japan by heart—ever once allude to it in their voluminous writings. The cause of their silence is not far to seek: *Bushidō* was unknown until a decade or two ago! The very word appears in no dictionary, native or foreign, before the year 1900. Chivalrous individuals of course existed in Japan, as

in all countries at every period; but *Bushidō*, as an institution or a code of rules, has never existed. The accounts given of it have been fabricated out of whole cloth, chiefly for foreign consumption.

Professor CHAMBERLAIN is not the first to make the above statement or something similar. Yet by no one speaking with such widely acknowledged authority has a verdict so sweeping been pronounced. Nevertheless it will not for a moment bear the light of history. In the *Kojiki*—of which book Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is the distinguished translator—two families of hereditary warriors are mentioned, the *Mononobe* and the *Otomo*. The ideographs used in writing *bushi* (warrior) take the sound of "mononofu" in Yamato language, and *mononofu* is identical with *MONONOBE*. From time immemorial, from the day, in fact, when the grandson of the "Sun Goddess" descended on Japan, these families discharged military duties at the Yamato Court, and among the forefathers of the *Otomo* sept—military guards, as their name indicates—there was one, *YAKAMOCHI*, who, according to some authorities, selected the components of the celebrated anthology, the *Myriad Leaves* (*Manyō shū*). To this man, *YAKAMOCHI*, who seems from the records to have been great in literary arts as well as in military, two verselets are ascribed, with which Professor CHAMBERLAIN is doubtless familiar. Both breathe the spirit of pure and earnest loyalty to the Throne and one of them has been freely, though not inaccurately, translated:—

If at sea he serves
To the waves his corpse;
If on shore he serves,
To the moor his bones,
Must he gladly fling
For the Sovereign's sake.

Need we say that no measure of literal reality is here claimed for the legend of the "Sun Goddess" or for any part of the mythology to which it belongs. All that may be claimed—and indisputably claimed—is that in the days (8th century A.D.) when the *Kojiki*, and in the days (9th century) when the *Myriad Leaves* were compiled, there existed a profound sense of loyalty to the Throne; loyalty carried even to the grave. Thenceforth the pages of history teem with examples of self-sacrifice on the altar of fealty to a liege lord. By the Kamakura *Bakufu* this creed was perpetually inculcated, and the Fifty-one *Shikimoku* of Hōjō YASUTOKI were inspired by the same sentiment. It is true literally that the exact term *Bushidō* is not found in any extant volume. But *Shidō* is found and the difference between *Bushidō* and *Shidō* is merely one of the individual and the class to which he belongs. In fact, the two are identical. We cannot assume that a scholar of Professor CHAMBERLAIN's wide research is unacquainted with YAMAGA SOKŌ who flourished in the middle of the seventeenth century (1622-1685). A firm believer in Confucianism and an ardent student of military science, he preached the cult of the warrior class, and

was the first to embody that philosophy in a written treatise. His books, *Shidō* (Way of the Warrior) and *Bukyō Shōgaku* (Military Primer), contain minute instructions as to the conduct and the morale of a *samurai*. He fell into official disfavour by rejecting the Chutz interpretation, then in vogue, of the Chinese Classics, and was banished to Akō to be kept in custody by ASANO NAGANORI, who treated him with courtesy and respect. In return for this favour SOKŌ devoted his energy during nineteen years to the education of the Akō *samurai*, and the forty-seven *rōnin* were the direct outcome of his teaching. In the face of these facts, and of many others that might easily be cited, it is surely astounding to be told that "*Bushidō* was unknown in Japan until a decade or two ago" and that "the accounts given of it have been fabricated out of whole cloth, chiefly for foreign consumption." To us it seems just to declare that the "fabrication" is attributable entirely to those who have no greater warrant than their own imperfect research for denying the very existence of a Japanese cult which has been preached and practised for the last ten centuries at least.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 5.)

IT appears that a perturbed correspondent completely mistook the situation in Peking, and in a fit of nervousness wired the alarming news that YUAN SHIH-KAI's guards had revolted and that he had fled to the Japanese Legation for protection. Nothing of the kind has happened. The only explanation of the canard is that about 1000 men of the Twentieth Division of troops stationed at Lanchow have again assumed a bellicose mien. This is the corps which, under the command of General CHANG, distinguished itself at the outset of the trouble by advocating a monarchical polity and threatening to march to the relief of Peking. All sorts of alarmist rumours filled the air at that time, and Tientsin was thrown into a state almost of panic. Subsequently General CHANG proved to be a man of straw, and the last that the public heard of him was that he had become a refugee in Shantung. It now seems that his successor, General WU, conceived a similar idea as to playing a prominent part in the drama. But on this occasion, the Lanchow troops figured as advocates of a republic and threatened to march on Peking within three days' time. The Imperial Government immediately despatched a high official to pacify these interferers, and this official was soon able to report that the threat of movement against Peking need not be seriously regarded, as it had no practical meaning other than a demonstration in support of a republic. Nevertheless for a moment the capital was much concerned

and a hurried exodus of timorous citizens seems to have taken place. It is to this incident that the rumour about YUAN SHIH-KAI's guards and his taking refuge in the Japanese Legation must be referred. The facts of the situation are diametrically different according to news received this morning (4th instant), though it must be confessed that none of the reports emanating from Peking or Shanghai at present can be implicitly credited. YUAN is now said to have assumed a fighting attitude. The great defect in the Imperialist position has been remedied. Funds have been procured for carrying on the campaign. The EMPRESS DOWAGER set the example by contributing some three million *taels*, and the Imperial Princes followed suit so that a sum of about six million *taels* was immediately pledged, and it is thought likely that the total will reach ten millions. This will amply suffice to meet the requirement of the army for five months, and that interval should prove sufficient to settle the conflict definitely one way or the other. In these circumstances Mr. TANG SHAO-I's resignation has been accepted, and the conference will be carried on direct between WU TING-FANG and YUAN SHIH-KAI. It will be remembered that YUAN also resigned, his principal reason apparently being the reluctance shown by the Imperial Family to furnish funds for the assertion of its own rights and privileges. In the altered circumstances of the moment YUAN's resignation has of course been refused. It does not necessarily follow that fighting will be at once resumed. But undoubtedly the position of the Court has been greatly strengthened and the Emperor's alleged resignation is a myth. YUAN now seems to reckon on the very probable contingency that the Insurgents will soon fall into the condition of a house divided against itself, which would mean a fatal weakening of their cause. Meanwhile the arrangements as to armistice and the withdrawal of the troops from immediate contact are to be carried out, it is said, although we have as yet no information as to the exact period for which the truce has been prolonged. The 5th, however, is confidently alleged to have been made the terminal point, and hostilities will then be resumed unless some powerful pacific factor should have been created in the interval. It will be observed that a telegram sent by Reuter speaks of the Imperial forces as having evacuated Hanyang taking their artillery with them, and as having promised not to reoccupy the vacated positions. But this is diametrically contradicted by news coming directly from the scene of the Hankow operations. According to that intelligence the Imperialist generals flatly refused to withdraw from their positions at Hanyang and at Hankow, and it was owing to their refusal that Peking suddenly stiffened its back. The exact facts are here difficult

to ascertain, but we are disposed to think that if there has been any withdrawal on the part of the Imperialists, its dimensions are insignificant. Altogether the position has undergone a marked change, and the newly-operative factor has been a provision of funds. YUAN SHIH-KAI acted wisely when he publicly attached so much importance to the attitude of the Imperial Family in this matter.

Meanwhile it appears that Tang Shao-i is to be made the scape goat. The Insurgent leaders have been officially informed from Peking that Tang was not authorized to conclude any agreement without previous reference to the Cabinet in the capital, and that he not only transgressed this limitation of his power, but also agreed to terms which could not possibly be carried out. Therefore his resignation is accepted, and pending the appointment of a competent successor, WU TING-FANG is requested to conduct the negotiations direct with YUAN by telegraph. It is quite characteristic of the Chinese to repudiate their representative at the eleventh hour, but in this case TANG does not seem to have discharged very zealously the duties assigned to him. Probably from the outset his inclinations pointed in the direction of a republic. Mr. WU TING-FANG, however, is not disposed to admit the legitimacy of Peking's action. He is stated to have invited a number of newspaper correspondents to his house in Shanghai, and to have informed them that the Peking Government's attempt to evade the obligations undertaken by its duly-appointed plenipotentiary could not be admitted for a moment. Mr. WU had therefore informed Peking that if the negotiations were to continue, Premier YUAN must himself proceed to Shanghai in the capacity of plenipotentiary. This, of course, it would be out of the question for YUAN to do, and it is not impossible that the negotiations will here reach a deadlock. Thus on the one hand, causes of indefinite delay are treated, and, on the other, truces of the briefest possible duration are being agreed to. Of course history will never acquit YUAN SHIH-KAI on the charge of selecting a plenipotentiary whose republican tendencies were never for an instant in doubt.

Altogether we seem to be on the verge of a renewal of hostilities, and it is said that the staff of the Imperialist forces at Hankow have memorialized Peking to appoint General FENG KUO-CHANG to be Commander-in-Chief of the army in the field. It was under the direction of this General FENG that Hanyang was captured.

A terrible coal mine explosion occurred at the Okinoyama colliery in Choshu on Tuesday morning last. Nine miners out of 18 working in the shaft were burnt to death, while eight others were rescued. One is still missing. The flames were subdued immediately after.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

EMPEROR'S ABDICATION.

YUAN SHIH-KAI AND THE MONARCHY.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, December 29.

Dr. Morrison, telegraphing from Peking, says that Yuan Shih-kai maintains that a monarchy is better suited to the spirit of the Chinese than a republic, and declares that he will not accept the presidency if offered by the national convention.

Nevertheless Dr. Morrison has reason to believe that he would accept the offer if desired by the Manchus. The British attitude towards both sides is generally approved as impartial.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

RIVER COMMUNICATION AT HANKOW.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, December 29.

The depth of water near Hankow now measures 21 1/2 feet and the water is falling at the rate of three inches a day.

CHEFOO QUIET.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "SUDZUYA."

Chefoo, December 28.

The extremists in Chefoo have left for Weihaiwei, Shanghai, Dairen and other places under pressure brought to bear upon them by the Military Government, the majority leaving for Dairen on the 28th instant. There remain only six or seven in the town. The recent disturbances in the town have thus come to an end.

THE JAPANESE TROOPS.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "MOGAMI."

Shanghai, December 28.

The transport *Miyoshino Maru*, carrying the Central China detachment of the Eighth Division, arrived at Shanghai early this morning. The troops were transhipped to the *Nanyo Maru*, which left for Wufu this morning, escorted by the destroyer *Shikunami*.

THE TROUBLE IN THIBET.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hankow, December 27.

Disturbances have broken out in various places in Thibet but the actual conditions are unascertainable owing to the interruption of telegraphic communication. The Dalai Lama is believed to be at the bottom of the insurrection.

THE RUSSIAN BOUNDARY.

Peking, December 28.

The Russo-Chinese boundary delimitation commissioners, now at Tsitsihar, have signed an agreement. According to the arrangement Russia has waived her claim and recognized Manjuli station as lying within Chinese territory, the boundary line being fixed at Bakadab(?), which lies to the north-east of Manjuli. It has also been agreed to mark the boundary on lines drawn from one island to another in the centre of the Aigun and Amur rivers, Russia claiming the eastern part and China the western part of the line for their respective territories. It is noteworthy that, in spite of the present situation in China, Russia has conceded to China's demands in the delimitation of the boundary.

MANCHUS AND MONGOLIANS.

Peking, December 28.

A fierce conflict has occurred between the

Manchus and Mongolians at Maimaicheng. In response to the appeal of the local inhabitants Russia has dispatched a detachment for their protection.

PROPOSAL FOR PARTITION.

Peking, December 28.

Tsai Lan-hung, who was exiled at the time of the Boxer trouble, has risen in open revolt at Hsinking, and supports Puchun, the son of Prince Tuan, who lost the position of successor to the Throne in 1901. He has put forward to the revolutionists in South China a proposal for the partition of China into two parts, giving the southern part to the revolutionists, while he himself takes the northern part.

THE IMPERIALISTS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, December 27.

Since the fall of Hanyang, the Imperialists have been committing excesses. Great indignation has been aroused amongst the public. Plunder is also being committed with impunity. The town now presents a more pitiable scene than that witnessed when it was put to the flames.

SZCHUAN TOWNS GO OVER.

Hankow, December 28.

A despatch from Ichang reports that the town of Chungking has declared its independence and elected Chang Chi-ju as magistrate. Many towns in the southern part of Szchuan province have also declared their independence.

JAPANESE IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, December 28.

Viceroy Chao has issued to the local authorities an instruction to keep Japanese travellers under close surveillance.

ANOTHER NOTE FROM THE POWERS.

A Peking despatch to the *Chuvu* reports that Japan, Great Britain, Germany, the United States, Russia, and France have again unofficially notified the Peking Government and Wu Ting-fang that they would not interfere in the negotiations but leave China to choose whatever form of government she please. In the event, however, of the disturbances being unduly protracted, so as to injure the interests of the various Powers concerned, they would be compelled to increase the number of their guards in China for self protection.

THE EMPEROR'S ABDICATION.

It has now been unofficially decided in the Council before the Throne that the Emperor will abdicate but official announcement is reserved until after the matter has been submitted to an extraordinary session of the national assembly to be convened in Shanghai, when the present dynasty, which has ruled China for over two centuries, will come to an end.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

REVOLUTIONARY GAINS.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, December 28.

Putting the reports in the Peking papers together, it seems that Kansu province declared its independence on October 25th (Chinese calendar), and Ningbo, Lianchow, Lanchow and other towns have fallen into the hands of the revolutionists. Viceroy Changkung of Shen kan province has been taken prisoner.

APPEAL TO THE POWERS.

Peking, December 29.

Yuan Shih-kai has appealed to Great

Britain and Japan for support for the monarchical government, but the two countries have refused to interfere beyond the limit of friendly advice. Yuan will thus be unable to reject the demands of the revolutionists. The political tables are about to be turned, and great consternation prevails amongst the Manchus.

CANTONESE SOLDIERS.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, December 28.

About three thousand Cantonese soldiers arrived here this morning by the *Kiangli* and too other steamers. The soldiers are to be transhipped to steamers on the Yangtze service and proceed to Hupeh province. Hsu Shao-chau, the commander of the United army, left for Shanghai yesterday.

A FURTHER ARMISTICE.

Shanghai, December 30.

At the peace conference the extension of the armistice for a further five days has been agreed upon. The Imperial troops will withdraw from Hanyang and other places in Shansi, Hupeh, Anhui and Kiangsu. The future form of government it to be decided by a National Assembly to be convened in Shanghai.

A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, December 29.

The following is the gist of an Imperial Edict issued to-day:—

"Tang Shao-i, peace commissioner, telegraphs the Government that Wu Ting-fang insists that the popular wishes are in favour of a republican government. Since the outbreak of the Wuchang insurrection the Emperor has accepted the nineteen articles of the constitution through the recommendation of the Senate and taken as oath before the ancestral shrine, in the hope of terminating the war and restoring peace and happiness to the nation. It does not behove a section of the people or the Government to arbitrarily decide on the form of government; the matter is a question to be decided by a national assembly. The proposal has been submitted to a council of the Ministers of State and Imperial Princes, who approved it. A telegraphic instruction was accordingly dispatched to Tang Shao-i to transmit the decision to the representatives of the revolutionists. The Cabinet will speedily draft the Election Law, and take steps to convene the national assembly, and also to terminate the war on consultation with Wu Ting-fang. The present Emperor is still of tender age and it is unthinkable that his Majesty would bring calamity on his people and place the country in peril. The national assembly should be guided by the principles of the happiness and prosperity of the nation. We exhort the patriotic nation to co-operate for that end in a fair and impartial manner.

THE EMPEROR'S ABDICATION.

Shanghai, December 29.

According to reliable information Yuan Shih-kai sounded the feelings of the Governments of Great Britain, Japan and other Powers, in regard to Tang Shao-i's telegraphic advice to accept the republican government, when he found that the attitude of the various Powers, excepting Great Britain and Japan, was dubious and also that Great Britain had changed her former attitude and that Japan showed a disposition to act in concert with Great Britain. The Emperor will, therefore, retire to Mukden or

Jehol, where he is to be accorded the treatment due to a noble, assigning the sovereign power into the hands of a republican government. A section of the Manchus in Peking and the Imperial Princes greatly resent Yuan Shih-kai's change of attitude and are said to be bent on revenge. Their plot will probably not succeed, and the peace negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion in a few days, on the terms desired by the revolutionists. A report has it that Yuan Shih-kai has the intention of resigning to extricate himself from his difficult position.

SITUATION AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, December 28.

Teng Cheng-pa, Commander of the 16th Hupoh brigade, who some months ago proceeded to Szechuan, is expected to arrive at Wuchang in a few days with the head of Tuan Fang to join the revolutionists with the troops under his command. The Imperial soldiers at Hanyang and Hankow who are throwing in their lot with the Wuchang insurgents are daily increasing. Li Yuan-hung declares that he will open fire on the northern army on January 1st, when the period of armistice expires.

FOREIGNERS IN DANGER.

Peking, December 29.

The Shantung rebels are fast assuming large proportions. Inasmuch as they threaten to endanger the safety of the foreign residents the German consul has sent to Deputy Viceroy Sun a note demanding that the Government should hold itself responsible for an indemnity should the rioters endanger the lives and property of foreigners. The note has presumably been issued in view of the rumour which imputes the retirement of the Prince Regent to the instigation of the Germans.

IMPERIAL PRINCES.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Peking, December 29.

Princes Tsai Chun and Tsai Tao have disappeared from Peking. They have probably gone to their villas outside the city.

FEELING IN SHANTUNG.

Peking, December 29.

Despite the annulment of the declaration of independence the town of Chefoo continues to be under military government. The citizens are closely watching the progress of the peace negotiations. In the event of the negotiations tending to failure, the Shantung people will rise in arms to assist the revolutionary cause.

ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

Peking, December 29.

The Corps Diplomatique in Peking has sent to the Peace Conference at Shanghai a telegraphic message, expressing a desire that the peace commissioners should show the utmost discretion in their *pourparlers* in order to arrive at a pacific settlement of the situation and thus to uphold the honour of the peace commissioners on both sides.

OPPOSITION TO YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Shanghai, December 29.

Chu Hung-chi, who was deprived by Yuan Shih-kai of his Privy Councillorship, has arrived here from Hunan and started a movement with Tsen Chun-hsun, in opposition to Yuan Shih-kai.

MURDER OF RUSSIAN MERCHANT.

Changchun, December 30.

A few days ago a Russian merchant, while travelling between Kilin and Changchun, was murdered by bandits. The diplomatic official at Kirin sent to the Japan-

ese authorities a note expressing a desire that a number of guards should be attached to the mail carriage on the Kilin Changchun section to ensure the safety of the mail matter. The Japanese authorities have decided to place guards on the trains from January 1st.

STEAMER FIRED ON.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, December 29.

On the 26th ult. a Japan-China Steamship Company's steam-launch was fired on by the revolutionists while navigating the river below Tsingkanpu, when a Chinese sailor was wounded. The launch was afterward searched. The matter will be taken up by the Japanese Consul.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL ARIYOSHI.

Shanghai, December 29.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has been elected by the conference in Nanking as provisional president by a majority of seventeen out of 18 votes cast. Tang Shao-i corroborates the intelligence.

REFUGEES FROM CHENG TU.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, December 29.

The following telegram has been received from Consul-General Matsumura in Hankow:—"According to a Chungking dispatch the Imperialists and revolutionists collided at Chengtu on December 8th. The soldiers plundered the town with impunity and anarchy prevailed. The Japanese residents were ordered to withdraw and left under the guidance of Acting-Consul Miura, on the 14th of December. They were joined by a party of foreign refugees on the way and arrived at Luchow on the 23rd, thence proceeding to Chungking, where they arrived on the 25th. One of the Japanese refugees was robbed by the mob but received no bodily injuries.

THE REFUGEES FROM HSIAN.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, December 30.

The following notice was issued to Consul-General Matsumura at Hankow on the 29th:—"According to an Englishman who arrived at Peking, leaving Hsian-fu on Nov. 30th, the Japanese residents in Hsian were to leave there on the 3rd instant in company with a party of English missionaries. The revolutionary government had agreed to lend forty soldiers as an escort for the party. The refugees, who number about 200, have passed Langkuchoi by this time, on their way to Peking. The party was expected to reach Lunhokan in Hupoh province on the 22nd instant.

IMPERIAL ARMY TO WITHDRAW.

FROM CONSUL GENERAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, December 30.

The Peking Government issued to-day to the Imperial army at the front telegraphic instructions to withdraw 100 Chinese *li* from the first line, leaving small detachments in the area evacuated. According to the arrangement the revolutionists will refrain from trespassing on the evacuated zone. General Tuan issued a notification that the district to which the troops are to be withdrawn shall first be fixed and then the withdrawal will be executed in obedience to the instructions.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Shanghai, December 30.

The fourth meeting of the Peace Confer-

ence was held to-day, when matters relating to the opening of the national assembly were discussed. It was decided to elect three representatives from each province, as well as Mongolia and Thibet. When the date and place of convocation has been fixed the Peking Government is to issue to Chihli, Honan, Kansu, Hsinking, Mongolia and Thibet a telegraphic order for the dispatch of their representatives, while all the other provinces will be called upon by the revolutionary government to send delegates. The assembly is to be opened on the arrival of at least three-fourths of the representatives. Each delegate is to have one vote, except representatives of provinces, who will have three votes.

YUAN RAISES A LOAN.

EMPRESS-DOWAGER DECIDES ON ABDICATION.

FIGHTING RENEWED AT HANKOW.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

Peking, January 1.

Four thousand revolutionists attacked Hankow yesterday evening and fighting is now proceeding.

The Imperialists are delighted at the opportunity to avoid the result of the Conference, which it is considered would undoubtedly mean a victory for the republicans.

IMPERIAL FINANCES.

Peking, January 3.

Yuan Shih-kai has obtained three million *taels* from the Empress Dowager.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

OPINION OF "THE TIMES."

London, January 2.

The *Times* deplores the renewed fighting in China and points out that the Chinese themselves must settle their own form of government.

The foreigners' only duty is to see if it is stable and pacific.

It is doubtful whether the revolutionists' declarations as to the popular feeling are altogether right, because the tradition of the whole of Asia is monarchical.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, December 30.

Over eighty Mongolian princes in Peking met on December 24th, when they decided to support a constitutional monarchy and at the same time sent to the Cabinet a note intimating that the whole of Mongolia will secede from China if the Government accepts a republican form of government. The Princes have formed a united Mongolian association and issued a declaration of the unification of the whole of Mongolia under the Lama.

"OTOWA" AT CHEFOO.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL AIBA.

Chefoo, December 30.

The warship *Otowa* is to arrive at Chefoo on the 2nd proximo to relieve the *Sudzuya*, but as the present condition of the town no longer necessitates the maintenance of a marine brigade, the blue-jackets now landed will be withdrawn and the *Otowa* will remain in harbour to prepare for emergencies.

THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "MOGAMI."

Shanghai, January 1.

According to a report received the forma-

tion of the provisional government will be made public in Nanking to-day. The members of the Ministry will be as under:—

President..... Dr. Sun Yat-sen.
Vice-President Li Yuan-hung.
Prime Minister and Minister of War Hwang Hsing.
Minister of Finance Chang Chen.
Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Ting-fang.

JAPANESE TROOPS AT HANKOW.

FROM REAR ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 1.

The warship *Tatsuta* arrived at Hankow to-day escorting the transport *Nanyo Maru*. The troops were landed in the afternoon. The Imperialists have not yet commenced to withdraw as the revolutionists do not strictly observe the terms of the armistice.

QUEUE CUTTING AT NANKING.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, December 27.

Since December 29th the revolutionary government has been enforcing the queue-cutting ordinance. Pedestrians are stopped on the street and their queues cut by the police. The action is attributed to the radicals. The order is being enforced in the name of the Nanking branch of the Chinese socialists.

RIOTOUS SOLDIERS AT SUCHOW.

FROM THE ACTING JAPANESE CONSUL.

Suchow, January 1.

Rowdiness now reigns in the town. Many soldiers are committing excesses to ventilate their grievance in regard to the inadequate supply of rations. On the night of the 30th of December some thirty or forty soldiers attacked and plundered the private houses inside the town walls and then proceeded to the rice dealers' stores, demanding rice and cereals. They also destroyed the money exchanges. On the same day many soldiers assembled on the streets outside the town to enforce the queue-cutting order. They stopped and cut off the queue of the chief of police. The riotous soldiers were arrested and taken to the police station. On the following morning, some thirty soldiers proceeded to the police station to take back their comrades and broke into the jail and set a number of prisoners at liberty.

SOLDIERS REVOLT AT PEKING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* reports that the Empress Dowager on the 2nd instant decided to abdicate the Throne. Yuan Shih kai has issued to Tang Shiao-i a telegraphic instruction to conduct the negotiations to suit convenience. The strong instruction issued on the previous day is now considered to be merely formal.

On the 2nd instant the soldiers under Yuan Shih-kai rose in revolt and Yuan applied to the Japanese Legation for protection.

OBSERVANCE OF THE ARMISTICE.

BREACKDOWN OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

Hankow, January 3.

The Imperialists have evacuated Hanyang and, taking their batteries, have entrained northwards to Liyuansheng. They have promised not to occupy any positions that have previously been abandoned by them.

The armistice is now being observed and

the previous outbursts of fighting during the past few days are not considered serious.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

A WARLIKE FEELING.

Peking, January 2.

The Imperial army in Hankow has raised an objection to the withdrawal for 100 Chinese li as agreed upon at the Shanghai conference and has sent to Peking a telegraphic memorial refusing to obey the order. Tan Chi jui, Feng Kuo-chang, Chang Hsun and other military men strongly advocate a constitutional monarchy, and have jointly memorialized the Throne that they would sacrifice their lives to the cause of the state if the members of the Imperial family would supply the war necessities. This memorial has favourably stimulated the Manchu Princes and a warlike feeling is gradually gaining ground in Peking.

YUAN AND THE FINANCIAL STRESS.

Peking, January 2.

Yuan Shih-kai tendered his resignation on the ground that he is incapable of discharging his official duties under the present financial circumstances. The Empress Dowager expressed a desire that he should remain in office and issued an order for him to use the Imperial purse and also to raise money on the jewels and other property of the Imperial Household to meet urgent needs.

AN ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Nanking, January 3.

The conference in Nanking of the representatives of the various provinces has decided to organize an advisory council with representatives for each province. The conference is now dissolved.

A REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, January 3.

The revolutionists have decided to place on the market the first instalment of 1,000,000 taels' worth of national bonds out of the contemplated 5,000,000 taels war loan. According to the prospectus issued by the magistrate on December 27th last the bonds are to be of 5 taels face value, bearing 7 per cent. interest. The unredeemed period is two years and the taxes form the security. The bonds are redeemable in the third and fourth year after issue, and are to be floated by the Kiangsu Bank. The issue of the bonds has not yet taken place. The magistrate raised 200,000 taels in the city, 90,000 taels of which was contributed by wealthy citizens and the balance subscribed by citizens who pay more than 5 taels rent, the amount of their subscription being fixed at three times the amount of the rent. The subscription was compulsory. The loan is redeemable in three months. The issue and management of the business was entrusted to the local Chamber of Commerce.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

Nanking, January 2.

Li Tien-tsai left here for Wuchang to-day with about one regiment of reinforcements. The reinforcements will land at Hwangchow. The remaining troops will start in a week's time, on the completion of their organization.

A FIGHT WITH BANDITS.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL OCHIAI.

Mukden, January 3.

Mr. Hoji, the acting consul in Hsinmintue, reports that a band of mounted bandits

made their appearance in the vicinity of that town on December 29th. The Government troops succeeded in suppressing them, killing one and taking another prisoner. All the rest fled.

THE JAPANESE TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, January 2.

The Central China detachment of the 18th Division arrived safely at Hankow on New Year's day.

SUN YAT-SEN AS PRESIDENT.

Nanking, January 2.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Nanking at 6.30 p.m. on New Year's day and at 11 o'clock the same evening he was installed in the presidency, the ceremony taking place in the magistracy. The president took an oath to overthrow the despotic government and establish a republican government for the promotion of the happiness of the people, and declared that he would relinquish the presidency so soon as the unity of the State had been secured under a republican government. The organization of the new government is to be made public on the 3rd instant.

NEWS FROM CHUNGKING.

FROM CONSUL GENERAL MATSUBARA.

Hankow, January 2.

A wireless telegraph message from the warship *Toba* reports that according to news from the Japanese Consul at Chungking, dated December 9th, addressed to the Japanese Consulate in Shanghai, the disturbance which occurred in Chengtu on December 8th originated in an internal conflict in the ranks of the flying guards. Many houses were burnt down, and Changting and Hsuehchow fell into the hands of the revolutionists. The military government in Chungking, who murdered Tuan Fang and his brother in Tzchow, is now arriving at Ichang.

SUN YAT-SEN AT NANKING.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, January 1.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Hsiakwan by special train at 5 o'clock this afternoon, accompanied by Messrs. Suyenaga Yamada and three other Japanese. The railway station was guarded by 4,000 soldiers and twenty-one guns were fired from the Shitsz-shan batteries as a salute. Dr. Sun was welcomed by Hsu, commander of the united army, representatives of the various provinces and a number of Japanese residents. Dr. Sun subsequently entered the city by train. Hwang Hsing was not present in the party.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM HONOLULU.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL.

Honolulu, December 31.

The news of the election of Dr. Sun Yat-sen having reached here, the Chinese residents held a jubilation, each house flying a revolutionary flag, while crackers were fired. The Americans who educated Dr. Sun when he was young have sent him a congratulatory telegram.

AMERICAN OPINION.

FROM MR. HAGIWARA, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

Washington, December 31.

Washington correspondence to last Saturday's issue of the *New York Tribune* states that although the Washington Government

will not give official recognition to the Chinese Republic until the powerlessness of the Imperialists has been clearly proved, the Department of State may enter into negotiations with the republican government within the limits necessary for the protection of the lives and property of American residents in China. The Department may also give adequate assistance for the restoration of peace.

The Washington correspondent to the *New York Herald* says that the Department of State views the Chinese situation as critical and thinks that the time will come sooner or later when Japan and Russia will show their sincerity or otherwise by entering into an agreement with the various foreign Powers. The election of Dr. Sun to the presidency and the convocation of a national assembly are of comparatively little importance as compared with the more important questions that call for the attention of the American Government. Russia will presumably endeavour to implant her influence in Mongolia with utter indifference to the feelings of the various Powers and thus furnish to Japan the pretext for similar action in Manchuria. The Department of State maintains strict neutrality to both the Imperialists and revolutionists, but views the revolutionists' radical action in the establishment of a republican Government with no small concern.

The *New York Times* thinks it advisable for China to preserve the present monarchy and then to carry out all needed reforms, and expresses regret that the destructive power of the revolutionist should ultimately influence the general situation because of a lack of sincerity and courage on the part of the Manchus. The *New York Sun* argues that Dr. Sun and his confidantes, who have no experience in politics, can hardly hope to succeed in the grand work of preservation of territorial integrity and peaceful reform of the administration.

THE ARMISTICE.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 3.
General Tuan's protest against the revolutionists' warlike action has been transmitted to Li Yuan-hung through the British Consul in Hankow. Li Yuan-hung tendered an apology and dismissed two colonels for breach of martial orders. Tuan demanded the extension for a fortnight of the period of withdrawal of the troops. Li consented to the demand and the withdrawal of the Imperial army has been commenced since Tuesday morning last.

NEWS FROM CHINGWANTAO.

Chingwangtao, January 3.
According to the report of the commander of the warship *Tokiva* at Chingwangtao, about 1,000 Imperial troops in Lanchow joined the revolutionists and destroyed the railway track. The postal service to Chingwangtao is consequently interrupted. The railway line is now being inspected by the garrison at Chingwangtao.

WARLIKE MOVEMENT.

Peking, January 3.
Yuan Chi-jui, Feng Kuo-chang and other army officers advocate a constitutional monarchy and consequently the troops in the north tend to oppose the republican Government.

The officers of the 40th Brigade stationed near Chinwangtao view the situation with disfavour and are trying to oppose the move-

ment by joining hands with the Shanghai revolutionists.

The railway traffic to and from Chinwangtao has been suspended since this morning.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Shanghai, January 3.

Yuan Shih-kai has demanded that Wu Ting-fang shift the peace negotiations to Peking, but the latter persists in conducting them in Shanghai. A suggestion is being advanced to shift the negotiations to Tsingtao and Dairen. Tang Shao-i and his party have been relieved of their commissions, but they will not return to Peking.

THE ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

A Peking dispatch, dated the 3rd instant, reaching the *Nichi Nichi* gives what purports to be the gist of the Election Law framed by Yuan Shih-kai's Cabinet, which is as under:

1. The National Assembly shall be convened at Peking.
2. Each prefecture shall be represented by one member.
3. Each association and each group of families shall elect one member.
4. The chief local authority in the province and frontier district shall superintend the election.
5. Over two-thirds of the members shall form a quorum.
6. Males of more than twenty-five years of age who have resided in an electorate more than one year shall have a vote and be eligible for election.

7. (Uncertain).

8. The single vote system shall be adopted for voting.

9. Candidates who have obtained the largest number of votes shall be elected, and passports be given to successful candidates to travel to Peking. The Law of the Houses shall be separately framed.

Persons who have been deprived of civil rights or punished by more than one year's imprisonment, or adjudged incompetent or bankrupt, as well as priests, religious, teachers, titled nobilities, soldiers on active service or those summoned to service in connection with the present disturbance, and government officials shall not be entitled to vote nor be eligible for election.

TREATMENT OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSE.

According to Tang Shao-i's dispatch the revolutionists are disposed to accord to the Imperial House similar treatment to that accorded to foreign sovereigns: The Emperor shall retire to the Ihai garden, and the civil list shall be fixed by the national assembly. The ancestral shrines shall be held in respect and the Emperor's property shall be protected. With regard to the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Thibetans, the revolutionists will treat them on an equal footing and a method of livelihood be provided for the eight Banners men. The soldiers shall be paid their regular salaries, and the princes and other nobilities shall retain their hereditary titles and their private property shall be protected. These conditions of treatment of the Imperial House show considerable concessions on the part of the revolutionists.

FATE OF HANKOW.

News is to hand that Fukau has been

occupied by the revolutionists and the fall of Hankow and Hanyang is imminent.

YUAN'S ULTIMATUM.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo Shimbun* reports that it is expected that Yuan Shih-kai will issue to the revolutionists an ultimatum, if their reply to the proposal of convening the national assembly in Peking be not forthcoming by the 6th instant, to the effect that there is no longer any need to continue the peace negotiations, and that the revolutionists must remember that the blame for a breach of the peace rests with them.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Japan Year Book.

We congratulate the enterprising authors of the "Japan Year Book" not only on the very timely publication of their useful volume but also upon its increased accuracy and usefulness. The edition of 1912 was in the hands of the public on the last day of 1911, which is quite a feat of compilation. Moreover, so far as we can judge, from a necessarily somewhat cursory examination, the contents are well up to date. Changes in the staffs of Embassies and Legations which took place during 1911 are duly recorded, and the latest statistics are given as to important public events. Excepted from the latter category are the returns of the foreign trade. These are not carried to a later period than the close of 1910, though even as we write (January 1st) the figures for 1911 are to hand. Indeed we are not sure that it might not have been wiser to defer publication for ten days or a fortnight in order to permit the inclusion of this important branch of statistics. The index, we observe with satisfaction, is much improved. The imperfection of this most useful adjunct must have interfered greatly with the popularity of previous issues. Indeed it cannot yet be said that all reason for criticism has been removed even in this last edition, but certainly there is great improvement. The spelling of foreign names is not always accurate, but that is perhaps too much to expect. We notice also that the name of the late Marquis Komura appears among the still-living publicists in the Who's Who section—an egregious error. Nevertheless these are merely the flaws in the jewel. The book has been brought to a degree of excellence that makes it more than ever essential to everyone interested in Japan professionally or personally. Finally we note that the publishers have now a printing-press of their own, and they have thus been enabled to substitute whole-page lines for the double-column arrangement adopted in previous issues—a great improvement. The Maruzen Kabushiki Kaisha and the Methodist Publishing House are the Tokyo agents, and Messrs. Kelly & Walsh are the agents for Yokohama, Shanghai and Singapore.

The Story of Korea, by J. H. LONGFORD.
Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin, Adelphi Terrace, London.

MR. LONGFORD has chosen his title well, for the work he has presented to the reading public has all the interest of a story. Yet it deals with historical facts—that is to say, so far historical as any narrative about Korea can be. For Korea's records carry us back more than three thousand years, and have therefore greater antiquity than the narrative of Japan, even if we accept the

Jimmu Tenno chronology. Mr. Longford has also chosen his time wisely, for the Korean problem which occupied the attention of the nations during several years and was responsible for two sanguinary wars, has just found a radical solution in the annexation of the Peninsula by Japan. What Mr. Longford foresees in the sequel of that annexation is described in the following words:—

Few people in England know Korea otherwise than as a geographical expression. Fewer still realize the great addition which its incorporation in the dominions of the Emperor of Japan will make to the military and commercial resources of his Empire. Its magnificent harbours will provide new bases, and its coast population, which produced brave and skillful sailors in the Middle Ages, will afford abundant recruits for his fleet. Its peasants will furnish a large contingent to his armies, which scientific training, discipline, and good treatment, the writer, judging from his own experience in Japan, believes, will convert, ere another generation has passed away, into soldiers not less fearless or efficient than are now the Japanese themselves. Its abundant natural resources favoured by a good climate, by rainfall and sunshine that are both abundant, and by entire exemption from the disasters of floods and earthquakes that are the terrors of Japan, only require intelligent, honest and scientific development to convert their potentialities into realities of industrial and commercial wealth. All this will be given by Japanese administrators, who will bring to Korea the methods which they have already so successfully exploited in their own country as to raise it, within half a century, from impotence and indigence, into the position of one of the great military and commercial powers of the world.

Mr. Longford had a long and varied experience in the Far East and has made a good use of his opportunities. His volume, coming by way of supplement to his excellent and attractive work, "The Story of Old Japan," places him in the first rank of authors who have taken the Orient for theme, and students will mark the year 1911 as having enriched their libraries with the valuable products of his labour as well as those of Mr. J. H. Gubbins. Mr. Longford does not attempt to speak conclusively about the origin of the Korean people, but justly notes, however, that their lineage and characteristics show them to be closely allied to the Japanese, and he is inclined to construe the evidence as indicating that the two great over-sea immigrations to Japan which occurred in primordial ages had an ultimate common origin in Central Asia, whence one reached Japan by a southern route and the other came *via* Korea, peopling the latter place in transit. But he does not devote more than a few pages to the discussion of this branch of his subject, recognizing doubtless that sufficient materials for solving the problem are not available. Indeed no feature of his work commends itself more than the judgment he shows in allotting his space, so that topics of special interest and importance receive proportionately full treatment. Thus already on the 34th page we make the acquaintance of the *Yang-ban*, and find his origin and singular code of ethics set forth exhaustively. The disappearance of this parasite under Japanese administration, as he must undoubtedly disappear, will be an unmixed blessing for Korea. The *Yang-ban* was one factor of a very strange social system at the head of which stood the King:—

The King's person was always sacred. No subject was ever permitted to mention his name in his life-time, no male subject permitted to touch him, none even to approach him except in the attitude of the most reverential humility. If, by accident, he touched any one, the place where he did so became sacred and had to be distinguished by a red ribbon for ever afterwards. His countenance was never engraved on the coins of the realm, where it

could be soiled by the touch of vulgar hands. His portrait could only be painted after his death. No one could appear in his presence in mourning garb, none wear spectacles before him. Above all nothing made of iron could ever touch him, and kings have died in consequence, when their lives might have been saved by the timely application of the lance which no surgeon dared to use on them. When he died the whole nation went into mourning for three years, the prescribed time of mourning for a father, for the king was the father of all his people. For the first five months of this period a strict prohibition was laid on marriages, public or private entertainments, the slaughter of animals, the execution of criminals, and clothes made of unbleached hemp were alone allowed to be worn.

The prerogatives of the King were on a par with the semi-divinity in which he was hedged. He was always absolute both in name and reality. The law was what he willed it to be. Over all his subjects, from the princes of his own line down to the humblest peasant, he had the power of life and death. Their property, as well as their lives, was at his disposal. His duty was to watch over the public weal, to secure the observance of the laws, and to protect the people against tyranny or extortion on the part of the officials. When the King was strong and capable, as some were, his duty was performed so far as was within the capacity and judgment of one human being who was necessarily dependent on others for the carrying out of his commands; but when his upbringing in a servile and corrupt Court had its natural result in developing the worst vice of human frailty, weak and vicious himself, and surrounded and influenced only by the palace-women and avaricious eunuchs, he often gave way to unrestrained debauchery and became as incapable as he was unwilling to discharge efficiently the duties of his royal office. Then the contending factions of the Court had full scope for the exercise of their talents for intrigue, for high office was given, not to the able and upright, but to the sycophant and panderer who most successfully ministered to his master's worst vices.

In fact the social and administrative systems of Korea as photographed on Mr. Longford's pages, were about as bad as they could possibly have been, and one is disposed to marvel that Japan has been able to accomplish so much in the Peninsula despite such radical defects and hereditary viciousness. There remain to the Koreans, however, many fine qualities which inspire strong hope for the future lying before them, and this fact is fully recognized by Mr. Longford as it has been by other competent observers also. Readers of the "Story of Korea" need have no apprehension of being obliged to wade through long chapters of ancient history. It is with the living present that the author sets himself to deal, the past being drawn upon only for essential contributions. In speaking thus highly of Mr. Longford's volume we do not desire to be construed as entirely endorsing his dicta. There is always some room for criticism. But we do mean to say that a flood of bright and wholesome light has been thrown by Mr. Longford on a little understood subject.

Official Report of the Japan-British Exhibition of 1910.

This is a quarto volume containing 551 pages. It treats every section of the "Great White City" in detail, and nearly every second page shows a beautiful illustration of either the buildings or their contents. In fact as a souvenir volume it possesses many charms, and it should constitute a complete answer to the pessimists who spoke so ill of the "Great White City" while it was open. Photographs are given of all the principal persons engaged in the enterprise, and among them we observe portraits of Sir Archibald Douglas and Dr. E. Divers, old residents whose names will be familiar to all our readers. Those that can afford to procure a copy of this splendid volume are fortunate; but as it an Official

Report it will not be accessible, we presume, to the general public.

Mr. Giles' Dictionary.

FASCICULE five of the great Chinese-English Dictionary, upon whose second edition Professor Herbert A. Giles of the University of Cambridge has long been engaged, is now before the public. It takes us as far as the ideograph *tung*, so that not much more remains to be achieved. We have often spoken of the attractive features of this really notable publication. It will surely be the last word on the subject it discusses—the last word not alone in point of erudition but also in the matter of typography and arrangement. Messrs. Kelly and Walsh in the East, and Mr. Bernard Quaritch in the West are to be congratulated heartily on the enterprise they have shown in connexion with this lexicon.

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

CURRENT THOUGHT IN JAPAN.

Mr. Murai Tomoyoshi's *Jidai Shiso*, which was published in September last, is a history of the development of religious thought in modern times. Mr. Murai is of opinion that the religious ideas which are most widely held in civilised countries to-day are permeated with the spirit of the age. The sundry transformations which religion has undergone in the course of centuries were all brought about by external circumstances and the progress of thought. In the Preface to the *Jidai Shiso* Mr. Murai predicts that his book will not be perused with pleasure by narrow-minded, religious sectarians, whether Buddhist or Christian. These he neither hopes to benefit nor to enlighten. This book is addressed in the Japanese public as a whole and its earnest tone and scholarly character are calculated to attract the attention of a large number of serious-minded people. Mr. Murai's own mind is strongly tinged with mysticism, to which so many Japanese religionists seem to incline at the present time.

In various parts of the book Mr. Murai expresses his own personal convictions in a very outspoken manner, but he also devotes a special chapter to a confession of his own creed, which is entitled, *Ware wa nani kyō no shinja naru ya?* Some passages in that chapter we propose to epitomize here in order to show the standpoint from which Mr. Murai views the spirit of the age:

Christians accuse me of having left their ranks. They say that, though I quote the Bible, I have given up the essential doctrines of Christianity. Non-Christians are equally dissatisfied with my position. They affirm that though opposing many Christian doctrines, I am still tarred with the Christian brush. Now to me it appears that in the New Testament there are at any rate three different kinds of belief. (1) The Christianity of the Acts of the Apostles consists almost exclusively in a belief in Christ's resurrection and second coming, as proclaimed by St. Peter and other Apostles. This teaching suited the Jewish nation and it was evolved from Jewish minds. But it is a belief that the majority of modern thinkers regard as superstition. (*Kon-nichi no warera wa kakaru moiehin-teki Kirisuto-kyō wo shinuru koto wa dekinai*). The fact that thousands of people in Western lands collect money and send missionaries abroad to propagate this superstition does not alter its character. That this teaching represents the essence of Christianity or is worthy of being called Christian I do not believe. (2) Next came the teaching of St. Paul. St. Paul was the most rationalistic of the Apostles. This was no doubt the result of his education. The atonement theory was evolved from his mind. So the proclamation of the heinousness of man's sins and the efficiency of Christ's suffering as the

means of appeasing the anger of the revengeful God of the Old Testament; constituted the Pauline Gospel message. Christ, however, had never preached the doctrine of atonement as elaborated by St. Paul, for Matt. xx, 28 manifestly bears no such meaning as St. Paul put upon it. If to accept the Pauline doctrine is needed to entitle one to become a Christian, then I am no Christian. (3) Later than the Pauline teaching came the Christianity that is expounded in the fourth Gospel by a writer called John. That this John was the Apostle John has never been conclusively proved and is regarded by the majority of first-class critics as most improbable. The writer of the Fourth Gospel was evidently an idealist who had studied Greek philosophy and whose object it was to give to Christianity a philosophic character. But the belief expressed savours of superstition as much as the Pauline and Petrine teaching. Hence the present age rejects it. I have no faith in the doctrines of Peter, Paul or John; but I believe in what Christ himself taught. The Christianity of the Churches is doomed, but the Christianity taught by Christ himself will always survive.

Mr. Murai's book is divided into 28 chapters, with the supplement, covering 225 pages. The "thought of the age" which is discussed is principally religious, ethical or philosophic thought. Mr. Murai does not agree with the opinion that the religious sense in the Japanese mind is very weak. History, he thinks, disproves that theory. But the present age is an irreligious age, he considers. The introduction of Western civilisation here has made the Japanese people more worldly than they were before, though as far as profession goes the Japanese are as religious as other nations, for there are very few that do not profess to believe in one of the existing creeds. (*Nihonjin chū senzen mushikkyōja to iu mono kiyomete shōai de aru*). But the spirit of the present age in Japan as in the West is anything but religious. Into the causes of this and the remedy for it, Mr. Murai goes very minutely, but we have no space to discuss his very interesting treatise further. It ranges over a comprehensive area and displays wide reading and deep reflection. It is intensely progressive in spirit. The pith of the first chapter on the various stages of thought through which the Japanese have passed was given by us in a former Summary, having appeared as an article in one of the religious magazines. The book may be regarded as the presentation of a plea for the establishment of a rational religion founded on the teaching of the world's greatest moralists and philosophers and in close sympathy with the new spirit of the twentieth century. The work sells at 1 yen to see a copy at the Hokubunkan. It has been excellently printed by the Sanseidō and is handsomely bound.

THE STUDY OF ETHICS BY DR. NAKAJIMA RIKI'Ō

To the special number recently published by the *Kyōiku Gakujutsukai*, which has already been noticed in these columns, Dr. Nakajima contributed an article entitled *Rinri kenkyū no Go Homen* (The Study of Ethics from Five Standpoints). Dr. Nakajima has devoted his whole life to this subject and is regarded as an authority thereon by Japanese scholars. The article before us covers no less than 23 pages of the Magazine, so that anything like a full epitome of its contents can not be attempted here. But we will quote enough to show what is the ethical position of this student of the world's ethics. Dr. Nakajima sets out by calling attention to the fact that there is no agreement among scholars in defining ethics. Definitions that hold good at one time are rendered useless by the advance of knowledge and definitions that suit the ethics of one country are not applicable to those of another. But in modern times the scientific study of ethics demands that the subject be regarded from five distinct points of view, namely the psychological, the sociological, the biological, the economic and the philosophical.

I. *The Psychological Standpoint.*—The perception of the qualities called goodness and badness in actions evidently depends on the working of certain mental powers which man possesses and

which the lower animals do not possess. If any importance is to be attached to the verdicts which men pass on human actions, some knowledge of the mental processes by which they reach those verdicts is necessary. Hence the need of a close study of the human mind, that is, of the intellectual, the emotional and the volitional faculties. But the views of psychologists are constantly changing owing to the progress of science and these changes have all along affected ethics. It is true to say that psychology and ethics are inter-dependent. The knowledge acquired by moralists is frequently of great use to the psychologist and vice versa. But there is no finality with either study. Theories are constantly undergoing modification as the result of the discoveries made by keen-eyed explorers in this field of inquiry.

II. *The Sociological Standpoint.*—It must be plain to every one who has given much attention to this subject that the greater part of what is called morality is connected with man as a social being, as a member of society and as a citizen. The ancient Greeks understood this and wrote much thereon. In Europe for some centuries the morality taught was too exclusively individualistic, but in modern times the extensive study of sociology has shown that among all powerful nations the recognition of the duties owed to the State, to society and to kin has always been very pronounced. And morality as discussed to day is principally occupied in determining what precisely those duties are.

III. *The Biological Standpoint.*—In ancient times both among Buddhists and Christians the body was always despised and represented as the one great source of sin or immorality. For ages the soul was supposed to be quite independent of the body, to have a different origin and a different destiny. But the study of biology in the last century revealed the fact that man and ordinary animals all have one origin and that man is nothing more than a highly developed animal. The animal instincts are always very strong in him and one of the things that morality has to decide is how these instincts may be lawfully gratified. Religions that teach the suppression or annihilation of desire are now generally denounced as founded on a mistaken view of human nature. Modern morality teaches that increased attention to bodily health and physical development is as obligatory on men and women as mental culture. The care of the soul to the neglect of the body, which was so earnestly preached in days gone by, is now condemned by enlightened public opinion. . . . While morals owe much to biology, they can never be entirely subjected to it. Though it is true that we are animals and that our instincts in many respects do not differ from those of ordinary brutes, yet we have at the same time instincts and aspirations which they do not possess, and it is with the gratification of these that morality is concerned.

IV. *The Economic Point of View.*—There is perhaps nothing that so vitally affects morals as the economic conditions subject to which men live and die. Take the changes which have occurred in this country within the past ten years as a case in point. The difficulty of obtaining a living nowadays is so great that the moral maxims that were formerly observed, the relationships that meant so much to our forefathers, no longer count for anything in the struggle for existence. Men that formerly could have married early are now obliged to marry late. Young men and young women crowd together in large cities and drift into vicious habits. To the necessity of making money all things moral have had to bow. So that it has often come to this that the amount of virtue people have had has depended largely on the means of living they have possessed. The development of industry in this country has entirely destroyed the feelings of mutual obligation to each other that existed between employer and employee in old Japan. In our big factories there are to-day hundreds of mechanics who have never even seen their employers. . . . There are those who

contend that there can be no such thing as morality while people want the necessities of life (*ishoku tarite hajimete dōoku ga okoru no de aru*). But this is an extreme view to take, since people can not get rid of their obligation to do what is right because they are poor. And more than this, honesty proves to be the best policy in most cases. If it is true to say that some people are dishonest because they are poor, it is equally true to affirm that a still larger number of people have found a means of subsistence principally owing to their integrity. So that if economy affects morality, morality affects economy to an equal if not a greater extent. They assist each other and work together. In recent years nothing has so seriously affected morality as existing economic conditions and this all enlightened moralists must recognize. The entirely new environment calls for new rules of life, for new standards of action, and it is for the moralist to say what these ought to be.

V. *The Philosophical Standpoint.*—Ethical science is based on a special view of man's nature. He is regarded as a moral being because he possesses faculties for distinguishing between actions that are beneficial either to himself or to others and actions that are the reverse. But whence comes this view of human nature? From philosophy, that is, from reflection on those deeper questions that a close observation of mental phenomena has suggested. Now modern philosophy is mostly based on modern science, and in that modern science is intensely materialistic it does not satisfy moralists as much as did the idealism of the first half of the nineteenth century. When the student of ethics turns to modern philosophy and seeks to find in it a solution of the deeper problems of human life, he is doomed to disappointment. To me it seems, says Dr. Nakajima, that the modern materialistic explanation of man's moral nature degrades man to the level of a high-class animal. According to this theory morality is nothing more than hedonism (*Rinri wa teshu no kuwaikakuete ni hoka naranu*). This conclusion I find it impossible to endorse. Of course it is conceivable that further inquiry on the part of scientists may result in their giving us some more convincing explanation of our complex nature than we now possess, but as things are to-day, it seems wisest to reserve judgment.

The science of ethics has undergone great expansion in recent years owing to the large number of entirely new moral questions which have sprung out of new relationships, new economic conditions and closer international intercourse. The casuistical problems that call for solution from time to time are very numerous. Many of the old moral rules are no longer applicable, and so men's ethical creed, like their religious creed, is constantly altering and becoming more enlightened.

ARE SERMONS AT FUNERALS DESIRABLE?

Not as a rule, is the answer given to this question by Dr. Motoda Sakunoshin in the *Kirisutokyo Shūhō* (Episcopalian). Dr. Motoda is a Protestant Episcopalian and he has much to say in favour of the Church of England method of conducting funerals. He is of opinion that sermons about the dead, though defensible in a few instances, in the majority of cases are not called for, as deceased persons are usually very ordinary people in whom the world takes no interest when they are alive. The practice of making it a rule to say something in public about persons who have recently died, followed by non-conformists, constantly leads to comments on the lives of the deceased that are not true or are manifestly of a formal character. Writing on this subject, Dr. Motoda says:—There are those who defend the preaching at funerals by saying it is done for the sake of the relatives of the deceased and others who attend the funeral. But how many are there whose lives make suitable texts for the sermons delivered on these occasions? Would relatives be comforted by hearing that the deceased persons were very ordinary people or that their conduct aroused God's anger. (*Sono shōgai heibon aruwa heibon ika no mono narishi naran*

ni wa, ikani subeki? Kitarubeki Kami no ikari wo nobete izoku wo kaikas subeki ka? If this be not done, then is the doctrine of universal salvation to be preached? Or is a sermon on some general religious topic to be delivered? To me it seems that preaching at funerals is out of place, and certainly in the majority of cases the friends of the deceased persons have no desire to listen to sermons on such occasions. It does not seem quite proper for clergymen to make use of the attendance of friends of the deceased at a funeral ceremony as an opportunity for proclaiming the doctrines in which they believe. Funerals and weddings are attended by numbers of people who never attend any other church ceremony because they entirely disbelieve in the doctrines taught in the church, and to inflict a sermon on such people, as nonconformists habitually do, is quite improper. "A funeral service is a funeral service, and not an ordinary service where preaching takes place."

CHRISTIANITY IN KOREA.

A Korean pastor writing in the *Agos Kyōkai Goppō* furnishes the following information respecting the progress of Christian work in Korea. The Koreans are at present very eager for knowledge of every kind and, largely owing to the state of poverty in which so many of them are, greatly desire spiritual comfort. Korean Christianity is neither rationalistic nor philosophical, but purely experimental. The Koreans find consolation in the doctrines preached to them by the missionaries and by Korean pastors. The building of churches has been proceeding at a rapid pace. The Methodists have erected five big churches in Seoul, each of which seats over 2,000 persons; the Presbyterians, three. Besides these there are numbers of smaller buildings and preaching places. As the pecuniary resources of the Koreans are very limited, most of these churches have been put up with American money, but there are buildings that have been erected by Koreans only. When the Koreans are asked to subscribe for the erection of a church, they display an extraordinary amount of self-denial and are ready to sacrifice almost anything rather than not be able to send in donations. Though women think more highly of wedding gifts and ornaments than anything else, there have been many instances of their selling these in order to subscribe to a church building fund. In travelling by rail from Seoul to Fusan, one sees scores of churches, big and small, dotted about on the hillsides and on the plains. Most of these have been put up by Koreans without any foreign aid. And not only do the Koreans put up their own churches, they pay the salaries of their pastors and provide all the money that is required for carrying on Christian work. The Christians are almost all poverty-stricken people (*Koto ni Kirinutokyoiki wa binbōnin no yorai de aru*), but so great is their devotion to the cause of Christianity that they manage to find sufficient money to carry out any undertaking that the various congregations have commenced. When Christians have no ready money at their disposal, they give rice or other farm produce. . . . The great obstacles to the development of the Korean mind are a certain melancholiness of temperament, envy and hatred. If they indulge in these feelings under Japanese rule, the Koreans can never become a great nation. If Christianity eradicates their anti-Japanese spirit and renders Koreans active workers in good causes, it will prove to be the salvation of the nation.

THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS JAPANESE SHRINES.

Mr. R. Motoda, writing in the *Kirinutokyo Shinbō* (Christian Weekly News), expresses considerable doubt as to whether all shrines are to be regarded as belonging to the Shintoists. Much interest, he says, is attached to this question from a Christian standpoint, because in his mind there is no uncertainty as to Shintō being a religion. He pronounces it to be as much Japan's national religion as Protestant Episcopalianism is England's State religion. The 13 Shintō Sects are recognized by the State as religious sects. The priests attached to them are enrolled as religious

teachers and enjoy special privileges as such. The services held in their temples are religious services. So that to say that Shintoism is a mere cult and that its rites and ceremonies have no religious signification is erroneous. Shintō means "the way of the gods" and it is a religion and nothing else, and this fact is recognized by the Government and the nation. (*Shintoism ga Shintō (神道) no imi naru ijo wa, kore junzen taru shikyo ni shite, Seifu no jinmin no tomoni kaku mitome oreri*). But are all the places of worship known as *sha* or *jinja* to be regarded as Shintoist? There are some fourteen different kinds of shrines dotted about in various parts of the country. Our Government has not yet made it clear what rank these shrines hold. But even if they are declared to be Shintō places of worship, seeing that our Constitution grants us religious liberty, we are no more under an obligation to take part in the worship carried on there than are English Jews, Mohammedans and Buddhists compelled to attend church in England because England has a State religion. If these shrines were declared to be separate from Shintoism and to be only places where mere ordinary respect for ancestors is encouraged, the attitude of Christians to *jinja* would be different from what it is now (*Seifu ga Jinja ni kwan suru iko (意向) ikan ni yette, gojin Kirinto-to mo mata Jinja ni tai suru taido wo sadamesarubekarasu*).

AN EVOLUTIONIST IN WHOSE MIND EVOLUTION HAS CEASED.

Our readers will remember that a few months ago we reproduced from the *Shin Nihon* certain remarks of Dr. Katō Hiroyuki on what he deems to be the tendency of Christian teaching in this country. In an article entitled *Waga kokutai wo ikan sen?* by a number of quotations from Christian writers he endeavoured to show that Christianity and the Japanese Constitution (*kokutai*) are antagonistic to each other. On behalf of Roman Catholic Christians, the December *Koe* traverses Dr. Katō's arguments with the acumen and common sense invariably shown in past years by the editor of that first-class Christian organ. The *Koe* says that it is not prepared to defend many of the extreme opinions expressed by Protestant writers such as those cited by Dr. Katō, but in the present instance Dr. Katō has certainly altogether misinterpreted the meaning of the remarks he has been quoting. The views on the position occupied by the State and the obligations of citizens towards it, which he attributes to Mr. Tokutomi Rokwa, for example, are not held by this writer, nor are the words used by him in the speech quoted capable of bearing the interpretation Dr. Katō puts on them when the context is considered. Dr. Katō's story about the Christian school teacher the *Koe* regards as quite unreliable as told by Dr. Katō. It is very unlikely, says the *Koe*, that a teacher so lacking in common sense as this man would be employed in any Japanese school. If he acted as represented, then he should have been dismissed from the school forthwith. (*Kayōna kyōshi ga hatachite yo ni aru mono de arō? Yoshi ata to shite mo, kayōna furonri no toi wa hashita naraba yoroshiku soro wa gakkō gwaai ni hōchiku subeki mono de arō*). The data on which Dr. Katō bases his attack on Christianity are insufficient data. The remarks he quotes are not fair representations of the views held by the majority of Christians. The inferences he draws, then, are logically defective. There are numerous ways of finding out what Christianity does really teach respecting the authority wielded by Governments, but these were not followed by Dr. Katō. The image that he knocked down he himself had set up. The dangers that he sees are imaginary dangers. He discovered a mare's nest, that's all.

COMPULSORY WORSHIP IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The December *Koe* publishes a note on the above subject which contains the following statements. Information has reached us to the effect that the authorities intend to order Primary School teachers to march the pupils to shrines on festival days and to see that they worship the gods or spirits associated with these sacred edifices.

But can this take place without committing a breach of the religious neutrality which has been the policy hitherto adopted by all State Schools? Would this be compatible with the religious liberty granted by the Constitution? Would it not constitute an anti-Christian movement? And would it not be interpreted as an evidence that Christians are regarded by the State as lacking in patriotism? If the practice referred to were confined to a few schools, it might perhaps be traced to the personal opinions of school directors, but if it becomes general, as report says it will, then the Department of Education must be considered responsible for the change. People are naturally asking what policy the new Government is going to adopt in this matter. In view of the action of the late Government in the direction of curtailing religious liberty in various ways, a public declaration of policy from the Saionji Government is earnestly looked for. They might well warn school teachers against action that would constitute a violation of the religious liberty law and thus restore things to their old footing.

RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND MORAL CULTURE.

Some light is thrown on the attitude of the authorities to religion by an article that appeared in the November number of the *Sekai no Nihon* written by the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Tokonami Takejiro. He says that he is strongly of opinion that the mere teaching of morality in schools, regarded as a means of moral culture, is quite insufficient. He then goes on to observe that it is highly important to develop self-reliance and self-respect in the pupils' minds and he thinks that these virtues depend on belief in a god or divinity of some kind. Here are the very words he uses in reference to this:—"Whence comes the power of self-confidence? It seems to me that self-trust is a mental quality that can never be very strong unless the belief in some spiritual Power is strong, whether it be Heaven, God or a Divinity.* If a man is going to defy public opinion and go his own way, he must have something greater than his own personality to rely on. What is called public spirit has its root in self-confidence and self-respect. He who does not respect himself can never respect others. The development of self-reliance then is vastly important to the country and for this religious belief is necessary."

HAS WESTERN CIVILISATION UPROOTED RELIGIOUS FAITH IN JAPAN?

The editor of the *Kirinutokyo Sekai* had this question put to him by Professor Cairns of Aberdeen University. He has sent, he tells us in a recent number of the paper, a lengthy answer to this query to Professor Cairns, the gist of which is given in the Dec. 7th number of the *Kirinutokyo Sekai*. Western civilisation has no doubt greatly undermined religious faith in this country in some particulars, says the *Kirinutokyo Sekai*. It has swept away a great many superstitions, but there are abundant proofs to-day among Buddhists, Shintoists and Christians that religious faith is as strong in this country as it has ever been, if not stronger. The old notion that Christianity alone comes from God and all other creeds were invented by the Devil is no longer held by enlightened people. Taking the term "religi-ous faith" to include the beliefs of Buddhists and Shintoists as well as those of Christians, it is true to say that in Japan Western learning has wrought no more mischief here than it has in Europe and America. Forms have changed; ceremonies to which formerly much importance was attached are no longer performed, but the indestructible elements of religion have not been affected by these things. Christianity is still the religion of Europe and America,

* *Shikaraba sunawachi hōno fūjin no chikara wa doko de yashinawareru no ka? Omou ni, mukai no Ten nari. Kami nari. Hotoke nari to iu mono wo sonshim suru tokoro no nensyo ga tsuyoku naranakereba, misukara shinjuru to iu koto mo shitegatte tsuyoku narana.*

† Mr. Tokonami is not the only high official who holds that religion is necessary as a means of moral culture and this accounts for the action of the authorities in enforcing worship at shrines, &c.—(WRITER OF UHMARY).

despite all the opposition it has encountered, and here in Japan it might become equally prosperous were it not for the narrow-minded suspicion with which it is regarded. The hostility felt towards Christians to day is astonishing. (*Shōen no waga kuni Kirisutokyo to ga enzen Nihon seishin-kai no iteki-koku taru kwan wo tō shi teitō aru wa* [that a few Christians should be regarded as just like a hostile country, as they now are] *ibani mo fushigi naru genshō to iwasaru wo mai*). In adopting Western civilisation while rejecting Christianity our country is guilty of an inconsistency for which it will have to pay dearly. "We believe that the fate of this country will eventually depend on whether it accepts or rejects Christianity."

"JAPAN'S DISTANT GOAL"—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Two articles bearing the above title have recently appeared in the *Kirisutokyo Sekai* written by Mr. Watase Tsunekichi. Mr. Watase says that the words *Nihon no sentō wa mada nakanaka ryōon de aru* (Japan has a long future ahead of her) are in everybody's mouth nowadays, but the question which it is pertinent to ask is, what do people mean by this remark? Looking at our present condition, continues Mr. Watase, we can not but be impressed by the backwardness that reveals itself everywhere: in politics, in commerce, in industry, in education, in religion. In none of these things are we any way near the most advanced Western countries. If by uttering the above phrase people mean that though the leeway that has to be made up is great, in the course of time Japan will prove herself equal to the task, then it represents a very proper state of mind, but I am very much afraid that in nine cases out of ten this reference to the long future that the country has before it is an excuse for present dawdling. In the case of individuals long lives are only valuable when some great object has to be fulfilled, some fine ideal to be realised. It is not otherwise with nations. What is Japan's national ideal at present? Has she one? Though I am a Japanese, I am puzzled by these questions. I shall be told that of the expansion of armaments, the extension of railways, the construction of harbours, the development of industry and commerce and the improvement of her educational system are the ideals that Japan sets before her, but surely these are not the final objects she has in view. Looking back over the history of the nation, we find that at all periods we have been propelled by the desire to reach moral ideals. Though we have no system of morals that can be said to have been created *de novo* in this country, in no land have great moral teachers received a warmer welcome than they have here. To Shaka and Christ, to Confucius and Socrates, to Spinoza and Kant, to Hegel and Wundt we have listened in turn, always with attentive ears. Connected with our material progress and as a contributor to it, there must ever be set before us certain definite moral ideals. If these be kept in view our political world will be regenerated, our traders will escape the foreign censure now passed on them, our international relations will be characterized by cordiality and good feeling. If the nation has high ideals, then her prolonged existence will prove a blessing to the rest of the world. But however distant our goal may be, it is absolutely essential that we should know what it is and where it is. Without this knowledge progress in the right direction is impossible.

CALENDARS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's calendar for 1912 is certainly a very fine example of chromo-lithography. The lights and shadows are so admirably rendered that one seems to be in actual contact with the objects depicted. Such artistic productions must be very

* *Waga Nihon ga tsui ni Kirisutokyo wo uketaru ka, hata mata kore wo kyōsetsu suru ka ni yotte, kōkai no kōhai somō ga sadamaru to shinjuru mono de aru.*—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

costly, but doubtless they will repay the expense incurred.

The calendar of the Mikimoto pearl store is, as usual, attractive and striking. It takes the shape of an oyster shell showing iridescence of great beauty and eloquently suggestive. The almanac itself takes the shape of a monster pearl growing within the shell.

THE RAW SILK TRADE.

According to the investigations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce the turnover of the raw silk trade up to the middle of December last amounted to 117,423,637 yen, showing an increase by 784,418 yen over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The cause of the increase is mainly attributed to the gradual decrease of production in Italy and France, coupled with the marked development of the weaving industry in the United States, which called forth an increased demand for the Japanese product.

THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

STEAMERS TO BERTH AT NEW CUSTOMS QUAY.

We are informed by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha that arrangements have been completed for berthing their San Francisco—Hongkong Line steamers, consisting of the S.S. *Tenyo Maru*, *Chiyo Maru*, *Shinyo Maru* and *Nippon Maru* at the New Customs Quay.

Beginning with the New Year the S.S. *Tenyo Maru* sailing from here January 9th to San Francisco, *via* Honolulu, will be the first of the steamers make use of the new arrangement. For many years the Toyo Steamers have been berthing within the inner harbour by anchoring at one of the numerous buoys. This necessitated disembarking passengers and cargo by launches and lighters and proved a great inconvenience to both the public and the company.

For a long time the Japanese Line has been trying to do away with this trouble, and after careful investigation on the part of the Company's officials it was learned that, at an additional cost their steamers could be berthed at the New Piers, and being desirous to improve their service it was decided to inaugurate the plan.

Without doubt the new arrangement will be a popular one with both the shippers and passengers, as the new Customs Piers are easily accessible and the facilities are good for dispatching and loading cargo quickly.

A TOURIST PARTY.

A large tourist party, comprising 499 Americans, 60 Germans, 10 Spanish, 2 Belgians, 2 Frenchmen, 5 Swedes, 2 Russians, 4 Austrians, 2 Italians, 8 Canadians, and 2 Englishmen, arrived at Nagasaki on Monday from Hongkong by the steamer *Cleveland*. The party was expected to leave for Kobe on Wednesday afternoon.

The party was welcomed by the Mayor and other officials. The local branch of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha was used for the official reception during the sojourn of the party in the city. The tourists were afterwards taken round Nagasaki by the students of the Higher Commercial School, who volunteered to act as guides. A lantern procession was held on Tuesday evening in honour of the visitors.

This is the first time that such a large tourist party of a cosmopolitan nature has visited this country and a reception is being arranged in the various cities included in the schedule of their tour.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

JAPAN 2. SHANGHAI.

Telegrams from Shanghai to Yokohama on Wednesday brought the melancholy news that Japan had gone under in the first game, Shanghai beating Japan by five goals to one. Details of the contest are not yet to hand, but it is evident that our men were outclassed by their opponents down south. It is to be hoped that Japan will have better luck in the following games, although it must be remembered that the Shanghai men are continually in practice; whereas ours are not.

CORRESPONDENCE.

KARUIZAWA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In answer to the enclosed circular letter from the people of Karuizawa I will say I don't think I need this opportunity to complain. But as a summer resident there for the last fifteen years I think I should say what I have thought often that we were not getting what our increased taxation should secure to us. For a time I did not understand the situation and yet I do not see why the Ken government should allow Kusukake to absorb so much of the taxation fund when it contributed nothing to the conditions that justified the taxes, *i.e.* nothing to the comfort or convenience of the summer residents of Karuizawa. The roads and sanitary conditions have been complained of until many have yielded to the seeming inevitable and are bearing as best they can the intolerable situation. Garbage has been thrown near the houses often and left there such a stench that it had to be removed by the residents. I live near the village and have found the people clever and polite. The authorities according to the enclosed letter have not been able financially to do what should have been done. If this statement is correct it would not be out of the way to refuse to pay the taxes until the end of the season, and then pay the balance after having paid for necessary sanitary expenses, and the up-keep of roads. But this no resident desires to do. He wants to respect the proper authority and help the village to improve its condition.

G. W. VAN HORN.

Osaka.

SECRET PALACE OF ART IN NEW YORK.

The announcement was made on December 15, that the unique collection of art treasures and souvenirs, to the value of over £100,000, stored at the celebrated "house of mystery," 660, Park Avenue, New York, a mansion presented nine years ago to his beautiful and accomplished ward, Miss Emily Grigsby, by the late Mr. C. T. Yerkes, is about to be sold at public auction.

On the 16th, the auctioneers invited the newspaper representatives to a private view of the wonderful treasures contained in the Yerkes mansion, and at the same time a statement was issued that Miss Grigsby, who is staying in Canada, intends to leave America for ever and take up permanent residence in London.

The visitors were led through rooms of dazzling beauty, the ceilings and walls of which were covered with allegorical paintings by eminent artists and gorgeous tapestries and priceless china. In the dining-room was a tankard used by Oliver Cromwell. The bedroom was decorated regardless of cost. It was dominated by a marble group representing "The Temptation of a Vestal Virgin by Cupid," standing on an ancient Persian rug interwoven with the love messages of Hafiz.

Every one of the thirteen rooms was crowded with jewels, pictures, and rare objects of art. One thing only in the house is not for sale. This is a portrait in a heavy frame of a piquant, quizzical woman with blue eyes and radiant hair, smiling at her possessions. This is Miss Grigsby, done in oils by Kopay, the Hungarian artist. Miss Grigsby is determined, her friends say, to keep nothing to remind her of New York.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

THE INDIAN TROOPS IN PERSIA.

London, December 28.

The Indian Sowars who were attacked on the 27th inst. numbered a hundred.

They lost two killed and seven wounded, while two are missing.

They are now holding a position at Kazerun.

A force of 150 Sowars, commanded by Colonel Douglas, is hurrying to reinforce them.

Mr. Smart, the British Consul at Shiraz, whom the Sowars were escorting, was left behind when the escort retreated and is reported to be lying wounded at a caravan-serai eight miles from Kazerun.

THE KING'S HUNTING TRIP.

London, December 28.

King George has shot thirty tigers and thirteen rhinoceros in Nepal.

FRANCE AND SPAIN.

London, December 29.

There is much bad blood making between France and Spain by the wholesale accusations, wherein General Rugue, the Minister of War, participated, that France is stirring up the Riffians and supplying them with arms.

The Premier's organ condemns these charges, but they augur badly for the Franco-Spanish negotiations.

FIGHTING ROUND MELILLA.

London, December 29.

The fighting round Melilla was very heavy. The Riffians were decimated and General Ros wounded.

The operations continue.

A large Spanish force assumed the offensive on the 27th inst. and drove the Riffians along the Keit river, inflicting great punishment.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY.

London, December 29.

Baron Achrenthal, addressing the Committee of the Hungarian Delegation, said that to enable Austria-Hungary to safeguard her interests and support the influence of the Allies for general peace, an increase in her effective army by 30,000 men was required.

THE AUSTRIAN BUDGET.

London, December 29.

The Austro-Hungarian Committee has adopted the provisional budget and passed a vote of confidence in Count Achrenthal.

THE FIGHTING AT BENGHAZI.

London, December 29.

It is asserted the Turks lost 500 men in the fighting at Benghazi on the 25th inst., these including some of their leaders.

THE FIGHTING AT MELILLA.

London, December 29.

The Spaniards had two killed and 70 wounded in the fighting at Melilla on the 28th inst.

BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

Mr. Smart, the British Consul, has been taken to Kazerun.

The Persian Foreign Minister has expressed the Government's regret to the

British Minister and has promised the assailants shall be exemplarily punished.

The Persian Government is most apprehensive of a British punitive expedition.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN PERSIA.

London, December 30.

There are now 4,000 Russian troops at Tabriz.

ITALIAN REVERSE AT DERNA.

London, December 30.

An Italian column was advancing up the Derna river on the 26th inst. to protect the engineers, who are repairing the aqueduct which supplies the town with water, when they came in contact with a large force of Turks who were armed with many quick-firers.

The Italians foiled a turning movement and after a sharp fight retired to their entrenchments.

The Italian casualties were three killed and 77 wounded.

EGYPTIAN NEUTRALITY.

London, December 31.

The *Suffolk* has been ordered to proceed to Egypt under sealed orders.

She goes to preserve neutrality in Egypt.

THE P. & O. S. N. CO.

London, December 31.

The deferred stock of the Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co. has risen 29 points in the last fortnight.

It is believed that negotiations are pending or are concluded with competitors in the Australian trade, and also to increase the traffic to South Africa and Australia.

It is rumoured likewise that the P. & O. will work in harmony with the Royal Mail Co. up to all points where the lines converge.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

London, December 31.

Their Majesties have received a remarkably fervid welcome at Calcutta.

BRITISH TEA IMPORT.

London, January 1.

Duty was paid in 1911 on 296,000,000 lbs. of tea,—the highest amount on record, exceeding the total for 1910 by nine million pounds.

The average wholesale price was 91 pence, the highest for a decade.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA.

London, January 1.

A telegram from Urga states that the head of the Buddhist priesthood has taken over the government of Mongolia as autocratic ruler.

THE EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.

London, January 1.

The Emperor Francis Joseph, who was suffering from catarrh, has now completely recovered.

RESIGNATION OF TURKISH CABINET.

London, January 1.

The Turkish Cabinet has resigned owing to obstruction by the Opposition preventing the Chamber from discussing the modification of the Constitution proposed by the Grand Vizier.

Later.

Said Pasha has been reappointed Grand Vizier and is endeavouring to reconstitute the Cabinet.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

London, January 1.

The New Year honours include an honorary K.C.M.G. for the Sultan of Selangor, a

C.M.G. for the Hon. Tan Jiak Kim, a member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements, and a knighthood for Mr. John Anderson, unofficial representative on the Legislative Council.

Altogether the honours include three peerages, ten baronetcies and twenty-seven knightships, the moiety being notables at home.

The honorary Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath is conferred on General Nogi.

Mr. Valentine Chirol, Director of the Foreign Department of *The Times*, receives a knighthood.

BRITISH REVENUE RETURNS.

January 1.

The revenue for the quarter ending the 31st ult. was £40,888,863, an increase of £1,872,226.

LANDSLIP ON THE ENGLISH COAST.

London, January 1.

A great landslip has occurred at the historic white cliffs between Dover and Folkestone.

The sound made by the landslip was heard for miles, and the debris fell for a quarter of a mile into the sea, causing a tidal wave.

Vessels at Folkestone broke from their moorings and momentarily there was much alarm.

"ORION" COMMISSIONED.

London, January 3.

The battleship *Orion* has been commissioned at Portsmouth.

THE KING AND QUEEN AT CALCUTTA.

London, January 3.

Their Majesties attended a Grand Parade of the troops at Calcutta to commemorate the assumption of the title "Empress of India" by Queen Victoria.

Their Majesties received an ovation from enormous crowds.

ESCAPE OF POLITICAL PRISONER.

London, January 3.

It is announced that the French Minister of War, before he received Lux ascertained that he was not guilty of espionage and was not on parole.

Indeed Lux was guarded by sentinels with ball cartridge.

He forced two doors, filed bars and climbed a high wall and ditch, finally escaping on a motor-car.

He says there was no complicity among the Germans and the Englishmen, but that they made a rope from string, fastening it with newspapers. They also received books wherein were concealed files and money.

THE TRADE STRUGGLE IN LANCASHIRE.

London, January 3.

The North-east Lancashire Manufacturers' Association has agreed to meet Sir George Askwith to-morrow to discuss the present situation, but has decided to announce their fixed determination to adhere to their present position.

THE TURKISH MINISTRY.

London, January 3.

The new Turkish Ministry at Constantinople has been practically reconstituted on the lines of the Committee of the Union of Progress.

THE TRANS-PERSIAN RAILWAY.

London, January 3.

Reuter's Agency learns that a meeting

will shortly be held in Paris by representatives of the British, French and Russian banks to arrange for the raising of a loan of £100,000 sterling for preliminary expenses in connexion with the Trans-Persian railway and to obtain the necessary concession from Persia, after definitely determining the alignment of the railway and making the final survey. Russia has definitely promised to support the scheme.

The Indian Government stipulates for a break in the gauge wherever the railway reaches the limit of the British spheres of influence.

Russia also agrees not to support any proposal for the construction of a railway near the Perso-Afghan frontier unless the proposals have the assent of Britain and assure the equality of all trading interests.

BRITISH CONSOLS.

London, January 4.

Consols are quoted at 77½ and have hardened on the announcement that three millions sterling will be allotted to the sinking fund of 1911-12.

HOME RULE.

London, January 4.

The Unionists of Ulster have issued a manifesto stating that a provisional government will be constituted in Ulster in the event of Home Rule being established, and the most extreme measures will be resorted to in the defence of Ulster loyalists.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Tokyo Asahi Shimbun.")

COPPER.

London, December 30.

Copper is quoted at 63—63¾. The tone is very firm.

THE MOROCCO NEGOTIATIONS.

London, December 30.

The French public has been painfully impressed by the disclosures in the Senate of the Committee who are investigating the Morocco negotiations.

The Committee reported that it was felt impossible to reconcile the Premier's public declarations with the evidence relating to the cession of Congo territory.

Telegrams were produced showing that the French Ambassador received instructions from the Foreign Minister unknown to the Cabinet and the Premier.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 1.

On the Stock Exchange Chinese bonds are higher.

Japanese stocks have been favourably affected by the budget statement.

London, January 3.

Japanese are specially firm owing to the report that the Government is determined to maintain the sinking fund.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

London, January 1.

Their Majesties received the most enthusiastic welcome from the populace, both when steaming down the Hooghly and when driving through Calcutta.

London, January 3.

The Imperial visit to Calcutta is taking a brilliant and impressive course.

Great crowds gather and cheer their Majesties at every function.

Unquestionably their Majesties daily

deepen the impression they created on their first entry.

GERMAN PRESS ON FOREIGN SITUATION.

London, January 2.

The German Press in its New Year articles views the foreign outlook gloomily. There is a strong anti British current.

Many of the papers openly declare that Great Britain is preparing for war.

GENERAL NOGI'S BRITISH DECORATION.

London, January 1.

The award of the honorable Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath to General Nogi is received with widespread approval.

THREATENED FLOODS IN FRANCE

London, January 2.

The big rivers of France are still rising and the alarm is increasing.

THE GAEKWAR OF BARODA.

London, January 2.

Letters from Delhi show that the Gaekwar's behaviour at the Durbar was deliberately discourteous and his attitude towards Baron Hardinge, the Viceroy, one of studied insolence.

The ruling chiefs were indignant.

BRITISH TROOPS IN PERSIA.

London, January 3.

A further landing of British troops in Bushire is not apparently contemplated.

The alarmist reports as to conditions in the south are thought to be exaggerated.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 3.

Although the Government declares that Socialism must be finally defeated at the elections, it is apparently unable to advise electors which of the other parties they ought to support.

EGYPT AND THE WAR.

London, January 4.

The Egyptian Government is stringently enforcing its neutrality in the war between Italy and Turkey.

Posts have been established along the entire coast of Sollum and Alexandra, and the western land frontier is being carefully watched.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.)

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE TREATY.

FROM MR. ADACHI, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

Paris, December 29.

The Franco-Japanese new Treaty of Commerce and Navigation passed the House of Deputies on the 27th instant.

FRANCO-JAPANESE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

(RECEIVED AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.)

Paris, December 27.

The Franco-Japanese Commercial Treaty came up before the House of Deputies for discussion on the 27th ult. A section of the members opposed the conventional tariff and a controversy was also raised regarding industrial property rights, landownership and perpetual leases. Some of the speakers referred sceptically to the credit of the Japanese Government, as well as the morality of Japanese merchants. Arguments were also advanced as to the propriety or otherwise of the participation of Indo-China in the treaty, reference being also made to the question of the annexation of Chosen by Japan. The

Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Colonial Affairs and Commerce, as well as the Customs Commissioners, spoke in support of the treaty in explaining it.

The Minister of Commerce said that the new treaty would draw closer the friendly relations existing between the two countries and also pointed out the Franco-Japanese Convention in connection with the Chinese disturbance and argued on the necessity of adjusting the trade relations with Japan, to further the friendly relations between the two countries.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also dwelt on the historical friendly relations of the two countries and drew attention to the special value of such friendly relations in the present situation. After making adequate answers to the points raised, the Minister demanded the Chamber's approval of the new treaty.

The treaty was eventually passed by the Chamber.

THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN.

Berlin, December 29.

Mr. Sugimura, the new Ambassador, has been received in audience by the Kaiser on the presentation of his credentials.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE JAPAN HERALD.)

RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

Berlin, December 28.

The Russian Government announces that it will despatch a punitive expedition against the insurgents at Tabriz, Rescht and Enzeli, consisting of two brigades.

The German Government has made an official communication to the Sublime Porte that it will maintain strict neutrality in the Russo-Persian conflict and that this policy would also be the best for Turkey. Contrary Press reports stating that Turkey had been advised by Germany to send troops to Urmiah are not based on facts.

SIBERIAN MAILS.

Siberian Mails with dates up to December 14th ex-Yokohama arrived at Berlin on December 28th.

GERMANY AND CHINA.

The *Koelnische Zeitung*, in a special article, demands from General Hwang of the revolutionary army at Wuchang, that he should give the names of the German officers who were stated to have fought on the side of the Imperialists. The German Government has made absolutely reliable and through inquiries which resulted in the statement that neither active nor inactive German officers had taken part in the fighting at Hankow.

All reports according to which Germany was accused of having assisted the Imperialists against the Revolutionaries are semi-officially stated to be pure inventions and anti-German machinations. The fact is especially emphasized that Germany was strictly neutral and that it was also in her own interest, if the hostilities should be concluded in the near future.

Much sympathy is shown in Germany, which is herself a progressive country in all her government institutions and which should be a model to China in many respects, in favour of the introduction of a modern government in China.

TRADE OF GERMANY.

The annual report of the Chamber of Commerce at Hamburg emphasizes the satisfactory state of affairs in Germany and

the improvement in shipping and commerce. The peaceful solution of the Morocco question is especially recognised.

A GRIM TRAGEDY.

Fifty persons succumbed and 100 others are lying in a critical condition in the asylum for homeless people at Berlin owing to having been poisoned by the eating of bad fish.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

Berlin, December 29.

M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, officially denies that Russian troops have been sent to Mongolia and Turkestan. M. Korostowetz, the Russian Minister to Peking, now on furlough in Russia, being interviewed stated that an absolutely homogeneous attitude of all Powers is necessary in China.

The reports that the foundation of either a republic or a constitutional monarchy in China will be decided upon in the near future, are received very calmly at Berlin. Berlin politicians state that the choice of the future kind of Government in China must be absolutely left to the decision of the Chinese statesmen and that the Powers must continue to maintain strict neutrality.

THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Hungarian Chamber, stated that Italy had declared herself for the strict maintenance of the *status quo* in the Balkans and that she desired an early conclusion of the war against Turkey. With reference to Germany, he added, that Power had from the very first declared herself firmly resolved to conduct Morocco negotiations with France without assistance or interference of any other third party and that she had fully succeeded. The Austro-Hungarian Government had fully approved of the German policy.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Berlin, December 30.

The election of Dr. Sun Yat-sen as President of the republic of China is favourably commented upon by the German Press, which recognises the great abilities of his personality. It further expresses the hope that the negotiations now being held at Shanghai will result in the conclusion of peace favourable to both parties and that an agreement between Yuan Shi-kai and Dr. Sun Yat-sen may be reached.

CHINESE BONDS IN DEMAND.

The quotations of Chinese loan bonds on the Berlin Exchange are rising owing to the favourable reports from China.

POSITION OF MONGOLIA.

Berlin, January 2.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency reports from Uliassutai that the Mongolians in that city have proclaimed their autonomy and have requested the mediation of the Russian Consul to enforce the departure of the Chinese Military Governor.

Berlin, December 30.

The Russian Press reports that the Chief Priest of the Buddhists at Harbin is supporting the institution of an autonomous Government in Mongolia.

THE TURKO ITALIAN WAR.

It is reported from Paris that a conference has been held between the Italian Premier

and the French Ambassador at Rome on frontier questions between Tripoli and Tunis.

It is denied at Constantinople that Italian Banks were to be boycotted in that City.

Berlin, January 2.

A manifestation in favour of the continuance of the war against Turkey has been made in the Italian Parliament, in which the unanimous will of the people was expressed to the Government.

TURKISH CABINET RESIGNS.

Berlin, December 31.

The Turkish Cabinet has resigned owing to the strong opposition of certain parties against the right claimed by the Sultan to adjourn the Chamber. It is probable that a new Cabinet under the presidency of Said Pasha, the present Grand Vizier, will be formed.

Berlin, January 1.

Said Pasha, the former Grand Vizier has been reappointed in the same position and entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet. The Grand Kadi Nessib-Effendi of Egypt has been appointed Sheikh ul-Islam.

THE MOROCCO NEGOTIATIONS.

Berlin, December 31.

The German Government expects that the French Government will make some official declaration as to the statement made in the French Senate, according to which the German Minister for Foreign Affairs was said to have demanded the session of Mogador besides the Congo territory to Germany.

A NEW YEAR WISH.

President Faillères of France, on the occasion of the New Year reception of the foreign representatives, expressed the wish of a further development of international arbitration courts.

THE NEW BUDGET.

The new Prussian Budget for 1912 shows a deficit of 19 million Mark.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

Berlin, January 2.

On the occasion of the New Year celebrations at Berlin the Kaiser held the usual meeting with all the commanding Generals of the German Army.

The Chancellor, on the same occasion, exchanged very cordial telegrams of congratulation with the Prime Ministers of the other two Powers of the Triple Alliance, expressing to them also the best wishes of the Kaiser, which were responded to by the other monarchs.

AUSTRIAN POLITICS.

Berlin, December 30.

Count Aehrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, after his explanation on foreign politics in the Hungarian Chamber, received a unanimous vote of confidence; and also a vote of confidence by the Austrian Chamber with a great majority of votes.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

The new Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Sugimura, has been received by the Kaiser in audience.

SIBERIAN MAILS.

Siberian Mails with dates up to December 17th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on December 31st.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN.

Berlin, January 3.

Mr. Sugimura, the new Japanese Am-

bassador to Berlin, has paid a visit of introduction to the German Chancellor.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has exchanged very cordial congratulatory telegrams on New Year's Day with the German Chancellor.

FAMOUS POET DEAD.

Felix Dahn, the famous German poet, born on Feb. 9th, 1834, at Hamburg, is dead at Breslau.

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES.

European Exchanges are very firm.

THE MOROCCO NEGOTIATIONS.

The French Government, according to the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, has expressed to the German Government its full agreement with the latter's statement to the effect that Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, did not during the whole course of the Morocco negotiations, demand the session of Mogador to Germany.

ATTITUDE OF SOUTH MONGOLIA.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency reports from Kalgan that the South-Mongolian Princes have decided to support the Peking Government against the revolutionaries, but that in the event of the institution of a republic they will declare their independence.

SLUMP IN TRADE AT HARBIN.

The Chinese Customs at Harbin reports that the foreign trade passing through the town from September 1st to December 1st amounted to only 140 million taels, which proves to be a decrease in imports of about 37 per cent. and in exports of 34 per cent.

THE P. & O. COMPANY.

AN ANXIOUS BUT SATISFACTORY YEAR.

The 71st ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on the 12th ult. at the offices, Leadenhall street, London, E.C., Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Chairman said the year had been an extremely anxious one in many ways, but the result was fairly satisfactory. They paid the same dividend and bonus as for a considerable number of years; they carried to depreciation reserve £559,542, and they carried forward £67,615. After referring to the retirement through ill-health of Mr. G. F. Johnson from the post of secretary and the appointment of Mr. F. J. Abbott to succeed him, the Chairman went on to say that passenger traffic receipts amounted to £1,294,421, an increase of £47,000. It was the largest amount ever earned under this head. Some benefit had been derived from the Coronation, the company having carried to and from this country some of the Indian Princes who attended the ceremony. Additional traffic had been obtained through the serious disorganisation of the Siberian Railway by the plague in the north of China. That peril was now past, and the competition of the railway again went on apace. The company had no means of competing with the speed of the railway, but he trusted they might have means of competing with it in point of economy and comfort. (Hear, hear.) Apart from their mail service, they had established a service of intermediate steamers at economical passenger rates, which were proving highly popular. The freight account amounted to £1,721,666, which was a few thousand pounds short of the previous year. A good many cargo vessels having been sold, there had been two or three voyages less than in the previous year, while there had been

exceedingly poor trade between Bombay and China, on which line upwards of £24,000 of traffic had been lost during the year. More particularly the decline of freight was owing to the great strikes in the middle of the summer.

THE EASTERN TRADE.

On the whole the Eastern trade had been extremely good. The only exception was that homeward traffic from China and Japan had been considerably less than last year, owing, he thought, to the fact that the export of the soya bean, which was so prominent two years ago, had, for the time being, ceased from lack of demand on this side. Taking an all-round view of the trade of the Far East at the present moment—excepting China, on account of the anarchy which prevailed and which he trusted would not long prevail in that part of the world—he considered that the general prospects of shipping were at the present moment highly satisfactory. The purchase of the Blue Anchor Line had turned out most favourably. In that line only one class of passenger was carried, *viz* the Cape to Australia. The last vessel dispatched in that service took over 1,000 emigrant passengers. Emigration to Australia had suddenly increased and was now very pressing, and the number which in all probability would go to Australia during the current year would be about 60,000, or four times as many as three years ago.

STRAITS SHIPPING LEGISLATION.

Referring to the recent Shipping Bill in the Straits Settlements, the speaker remarked that it was a most unhappy attempt to bring about a war against the shipping interest contrary to the law of England, and contrary, also, to a report of the Royal Commission which had been studying for two years the question of shipping conferences. Well, the incident was now closed, and it only remained for them to forget and to forgive with all the amiability which was the characteristic of the British shipowner. Continuing, he pointed out that the expenditure had been £20,000 less than in the previous year owing to the smaller mileage. The general tendency was for expenses to rise rapidly. In the last three years the navigation expenditure alone had risen by £219,000, more than one-half of which was due to coal, in connection with both higher prices and the speed and size of the newer mail steamers. They were likely to have higher prices for coal in the coming year. They burned Australian, Japanese, Indian, and even Chinese coal for the sake of cheapness, but they required 500,000 tons of English coal also, for which higher prices would have to be paid. They had some small stocks which stood at a low figure, and some fairly cheap contracts, and therefore they would not be altogether at the mercy of the advanced and advancing prices. A great compliment had been paid to the company, by the selection of the steamer *Medina* to convey their Majesties to India—a compliment to which the company was fairly entitled. No ship had ever left these shores after so great an amount of preparation. He wished they could express the same gratification regarding the steamer *Malaja*, which had been sent out in connection with the Durbar, but they had suffered some disappointment, although a fair number of passengers travelled by the vessel.

THE COST OF RECENT STRIKES.

By the strikes they had fourteen steamers held up, and three steamers were dispatched in ballast. The immediate loss in August was £35,000, and every mechanic and labourer in connection with the strike had obtained an advance in wages, it was obvious that shipowners must look forward to a rise in expenditure of no mean order. He would draw even more particular attention to the fact that this strike represented a new departure. For the first time labour had combined in a sort of federation, and at one moment there were 30,000 men idle in the Port of London. The shipowners were perfectly helpless, and the Shipping Federation did not even appear on the scene in London until the strike was virtually over. The aim and purpose of the labour leaders was

to form a sort of confederation and obtain power to paralyse the business of the country, unless their demands were immediately complied with—an attitude depending upon intimidation on one side and fear on the other. He did not know whether combination of that kind came within the law of conspiracy, but if such disturbances ever again occurred it would be a grave question for the Government to know how to maintain the law and order which should prevail in every civilised community. (Hear, hear.)

THE COMPANY'S POSITION.

He might once again refer to the excellent position of the company's capital account. They had a fleet of over 400,000 tons standing in their books net, after allowing for cash reserves, at between £3 and £4 per ton, all the vessels being in the best possible order, of the highest possible quality, and all capable of performing efficiently the services for which they were intended. On the first occasion on which he addressed the shareholders the circumstances of the company were peculiar and mortifying. Their exotic overland trade had been annihilated by the opening of the Suez Canal. They then had 120,000 tons of noble ships, all of them unfit for the Suez Canal trade, and standing in their books at a cost of £3,000,000, for they had no reserve in those days in the ordinary sense of the word. Their dividends had been reduced until they had become almost invisible, and, in fact, there would have been no dividend if proper amounts had been charged in the accounts for depreciation. They were also in a very impecunious position. Petitions, moreover, were sent from Liverpool and London to the Government to prevent the company from running their mail steamers through the Suez Canal. In fact, there was a serious conspiracy to unsettle the board and wreck the company. At the present time, happily, they had fourfold the tonnage which they had at the time referred to, and it was based on an extremely moderate capital. They performed an arduous mail contract with little more than half the subsidy received at the period in question, their regular dividends were not to be despised, and their resources were such that they never borrowed from bankers, but were ready to lend to the latter whenever they required such assistance. The proprietors, however, ought never to forget that theirs was always a fighting trade, and they had no monopoly of any kind. Still, if they estimated the future by the past, he thought they might feel confident that the work of their old company would be as successful in the distant future as it had been for many years. (Cheers.)

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and dividends declared for the half year to Sept. 30th of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock and 6½ per cent. with a bonus of 3 per cent. on the deferred stock, payable on the 19th ult. The two retiring directors, Lord Burghclere and Mr. Herbert Brooks, were also unanimously re-elected, and a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

KOREAN PRINCE KIDNAPPED.

STRANGE STORY FROM SHANGHAI.

Last week one of the most startling of the many occurrences which have recently agitated Shanghai was enacted in the Native City. It consisted in the virtual kidnapping of a member of the old Korean royal family, his detention in the city as prisoner, and his release only after his captors believed they had in their possession the means to secure a considerable sum of money. The plot, for it seems to have been nothing less, to secure an enormous sum of money, failed, but what happened points to a considerable danger of lawlessness, affecting, as it did in this instance, a resident of the foreign quarters of Shanghai.

The member of the ancient Korean royal house who was the victim of this unfortunate experience, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, was Prince Min, who for several years past has been a resident in

Shanghai, having left his native country long before it was taken over by Japan. For the past few years Prince Min has resided in the Hotel des Colonies with his son, and has devoted most of his time to the collection of curios. On the 26th he dined in the hotel with Mr. T. Kikuchi, a Japanese lawyer, and thereafter they proceeded to the Native City with the intention of purchasing curios.

Whilst in the city on their quest the two were approached by a Chinese who said that he had some very fine specimens which he wished to sell them. He was dressed in Chinese clothes, but wore no queue, and his tale was that his family were refugees from Hankow, and that they had jadestone and Chinese brasses to dispose of. The two followed him, and after proceeding some distance were taken to a Chinese house. Entering, they expected to find the curios of which they were in search, but on the ground floor were only a few blackwood chairs and tables. Here there were several Chinese, but nothing of a suspicious nature happened. Their guide then escorted them upstairs, but here again only the same class of furniture met their eyes, and they began to inquire for the curios. Then the Chinese gave them to understand that there were none, and that they were prisoners.

AN EXTRAVAGANT DEMAND.

Within a very short time they explained to Prince Min that he had been led thither in order that they might obtain money from him, and they emphasized their statement by producing revolvers. They then went on to state that the sum they required was two and a half million taels, and although the Prince assured them that he did not possess any such sum, they insisted upon their demand. He showed them that except a few rings and his watch he had nothing in his possession which they could convert into cash, neither had he a cheque book to enable him to write a cheque for such an exorbitant amount.

Evidently his captors had their plans carefully laid, for they produced a document purporting to come from the deposed King of Korea, which bore upon it a facsimile of the King's seal. The effect of this document was that the King had great sympathy with the revolutionaries, and he called upon Prince Min to deliver to them the amount named before. Prince Min had little hesitation in putting the document down as a forgery, and he again assured them that he had not this sum in his keeping.

KEPT PRISONER.

Having failed in their first attempt to extort money from their unfortunate captive, the Chinese proceeded to hold him prisoner. It was dark by this time, and now Mr. Kikuchi, who had been detained with his companion, was forcibly ejected, and it is understood was warned not to make any report of the occurrence to the authorities when he returned to the Concession or Settlement. He was taken out of the house about six o'clock, and it is understood that the following day he reported the matter to the Japanese Consulate.

In the meantime the Chinese made preparations for Prince Min to spend the night in the house. Food was provided, likewise samshu, and there was also a bed. Towards one o'clock in the morning Prince Min was allowed to retire to rest, if such it could be called, for the bed was dirty, and even had it been of the most comfortable, he could hardly, in these circumstances, kept a prisoner and threatened with his life, have been expected to sleep. He spent a sleepless night, and next morning his captors again approached him to hand over the money they wanted.

THE PRINCE'S CAPTORS.

In the course of their conversations with him, the Chinese stated that they were revolutionaries, and that the money was wanted for the cause. They said that what they did was done by order of the Governor Tong. Prince Min had, however, no means of gauging the truth or otherwise of their statements.

Ultimately, towards half past one o'clock on Thursday afternoon, when the Chinese had

searched his clothes and found in his pocket book the receipt of his deposit account with his bankers, Prince Min agreed to endorse this. In doing so he was aware that even upon this signature the bankers would refuse to pay the money or to transfer it to another account. His signing of this seemed to satisfy the men, for they then agreed to allow him to go, making the proviso, however, that he could not do so until after dark. About half-past six o'clock in the evening he was allowed to leave, and he returned to the Hotel des Colonies.

Steps have since been taken to safeguard the Prince's bank account, and the matter has been placed in the hands of the Japanese authorities who are making an investigation. Prince Min is in his usual spirits, and seems none the worse for his exciting adventure.

COURT ROMANCE.

Another Austrian Archduke has retired from Court life for the sake of a woman of humble birth.

The Archduke Henry Ferdinand, son of the late Grand Duke of Tuscany and brother of the ex-Princess Louise of Saxony, who will be thirty-four next February, has always been noted for his artistic talent. Although a captain of Dragoons, he has shown little interest in a military career, and always had disputes with his brother officers.

Without asking for leave of absence the Archduke recently went to Munich to follow a course of studies in painting and modelling. While visiting a studio there he met a woman of inferior birth but great beauty, with whom he immediately fell in love.

Family influence has been brought to bear on the Archduke, and he has promised to abandon for the present the idea of marriage. The Emperor Francis Joseph has granted him indefinite leave of absence from his regiment and permission to pursue his art studies at Munich.

RINGWORM WITH LOSS OF HAIR CURED

Almost Impossible to Describe State Head Was In. Raw from Using Unsuitable Ointments. Thought Hair Would Never Grow Again.

Used Cuticura Remedies. Hair Now Thick and Full of New Growth.

"I feel it my duty to let you know that Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Resolvent completely cured my little girl of ringworm. Her head had been troubled with this terrible disease for over twelve months, during which time I tried many remedies without result. In fact, some were so powerful that they even burned her head and made it worse. I also consulted a skin hospital. It is almost impossible to describe the state her head was in, for it was a mass of the eruption. There was one place as large as a four-shilling piece without hair and it remained like that for a year. I quite thought her hair would never grow again. Having heard a great deal about Cuticura Ointment, I got a tin of it and also a tablet of Cuticura Soap. After using the two for a week I saw an improvement, so I also bought a bottle of Cuticura Resolvent. After using the three for about three months her scalp was completely cured. I had had to cut her hair in great patches before I used the Cuticura Remedies, but after a short treatment with them, the hair began to grow, now it is thick and full of new growth. I only wish I had tried them at first, as they would have saved the child a lot of suffering, for her head was raw through using unsuitable ointments." (Signed) Mrs. T. Ward, 157, Markby Rd., Winslow Green, Birmingham, England, May 21, 1910.



Cuticura Remedies are sold throughout the world. Depots: London, 27, Charterhouse Sq.; Calcutta, B. K. Paul & Co. Africa, Lennan, Ltd.; Cape Town, etc.; U. S. A., Foster Drug & Chem. Co., Sole Props., Boston. Post-free, Cuticura Book on the best care and treatment of skin and scalp.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, January 6.

The market of Raw Cotton is quiet. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, a little business has been done, and prices remain firm. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the market is very quiet.

RAW COTTON. PER PICUL.

American Middling	34.00 to 35.00
Indian Broach	30.00 to 31.00
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	29.50 to 31.50

COTTON YARN. PER BALE.

Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/2-44 in.	—
Common to Good	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in.	4.4
in. Ordinary to Good	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches	7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.	—
30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 lb 24-25 yards.	—
32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches G.-od to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union	—
54 to 56 inches	—
Cloths—Army Cloth	—
Cloths—All others	—
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs	0.90 to 1.00

METALS.

Prices on the home side are firm, and the market is dull.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	PER PICUL. Y. 4.10 to 4.20
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	4.95 to 5.10
Sheet Iron	6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel	6.50 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.20 to 10.40
Flat	11.20 to 11.30
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.50 to 6.55
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	8.50 to 8.55
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.30

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester	Y. 3.91
Victory	3.65
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	—
Nurneo	2.70 to 2.85
Bokuyetsu	3.05 to 3.60
Hippon	3.00 to 3.64
Ogura	2.85 to 3.37
Todai	3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

Brown Manila	PER PICUL. Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.50
White Java	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Gold Drop	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	"	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.90
Red Seal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	"	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	"	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	"	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—
Rising Sun..... 6 *kwamme* 2.80
Takasago..... 6 " 2.75
Fuji..... 6 " 2.85
Pine..... 6 " 2.80

WHEAT.

White Walla Walla, 100 <i>hsh</i>	4.95
Red " "	4.90
Blue Stem	5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On December 28th stocks were: Filatures 29,847 bales, Re-reels, 3,969 bales; Kakeda, 654 bales.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	950
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	—
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	900
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	865
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	895
Filature—No. 1-1 1/2, 13-15den	850
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	880
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	840
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	870
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	855
Re-reels—No. 2	840
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	880
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	850
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	840
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

January.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
1st	—	—	—
2nd	—	—	—
3rd	—	—	—
4th	—	—	—

WASTE SILK.

Market continues active at unchanged prices. On December 4th stocks were:—Noshi, 2,700 piculs; Kibiso, 6,800 piculs; Sundries, 1,500 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	100 to 115
Rereel—Fair	—
Rereel—Best	—
Rereel—Good	—
Rereel—Medium	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat active. Kanazawa:—There has been a general advance in prices for all qualities. Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 <i>me</i> .	6 1/2 <i>me</i> .	7 <i>me</i> .	7 1/2 <i>me</i> .	8 <i>me</i> .
22 1/2"	8.30	8.10	8.00	7.80	7.70
27"	8.15	8.00	8.00	7.85	7.75
36"	8.15	7.95	7.90	7.85	7.75

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4 1/2 <i>me</i> .	4 3/4 <i>me</i> .	5 <i>me</i> .	5 1/2 <i>me</i> .
22 1/2"	7.90	7.90	7.95	7.05
27"	7.75	7.79	7.70	7.60
36"	7.65	7.65	7.65	7.07

Inches.	KAWAMATA.		4. me. 4 1/2 me.	
	3 me. 3 1/2 me.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.40	7.70	8.60	9.40
23"	7.40	8.30	9.50	10.00
27"	8.50	10.20	11.10	11.80
30"	12.00	13.40	15.30	16.30

According to a London telegram of January 4th the quotation was £64 2 6.

Refined per 100 kin	...	Yen	43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	...	...	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	...	...	47.00—50.00
Old	...	...	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm		bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	...	475.021
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	...	134.989
Delivery.	Closing Price.	
December	...	18.35
January	...	18.38
February	...	18.63
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)	
January	...	18.23
February	...	18.11
March	...	18.27
January	...	18.19
February	...	18.21
March	...	18.29

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

(Tokyo.)		per koku.
Superior	...	Yen 17.80
Medium	...	16.80
Common	...	15.30
Average	...	16.63

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.		Yen.
Delivery.	...	
January	...	136.50
February	...	135.80
March	...	135.35

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till December 15th, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

CHOICEST		nominal.
Choice	...	—
Finest	...	—
Fine	...	—
Good Medium	...	—
Medium	...	—
Good Common	...	—
Common	...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Jan. 4.
Since the Holidays London silver has advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ @ $\frac{1}{2}$ and China sterling quotations about the same causing local rates on China rule accordingly easier but for other rates there is no alteration.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2 @ 1/4
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credit 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	357
— Private 4 months' sight	362
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207 1/2 @ 8
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 92 1/2
— Private to days' sight	do 90 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	81 1/2
— Private to days' sight	81 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	25 1/4 @ 1/8

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,503, E. Beetham, 29th Dec.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S Shimidzu, 29th Dec.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 29th Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,368, R. Swain, 29th Dec.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushibiki, 29th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 29th Dec.,—Middlesbro, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 30th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 30th Dec.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 30th Dec.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Teenkai, British steamer, 3,016, A. Davis, 31st Dec.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

New Orleans, U.S. cruiser, 3,437, Capt. William G. Miller, 30th Dec.,—Shanghai.

Persia, Austrian steamer, 3,842, Clunack, 31st Dec.,—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, S. Kawashima, 31st Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Umi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 31st Dec.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 30th Dec.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 1st Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hirano Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,282, H. Frazar, 1st Jan.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Noya, British steamer, 4,180, G. Philipps, 1st Jan.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 3,296, G. E. Warner, 1st Jan.,—Vladivostok, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798, B. Kon, 2nd Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rygia, Norwegian steamer, 2,492, E. Meyer, 2nd Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Takeshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,657, T. Kuwabara, 3rd Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeboshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clark, 4th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Satsuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,319, K. Saikawa, 4th Jan.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,140, H. Yada, 4th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,011, Buch, 4th Jan.,—Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Daito Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246, Y. Kawazumi, 4th Jan.,—Dairen, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 29th Dec.,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 29th Dec.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Nanchang, British steamer, 1,044, R. Robertson, 29th Dec.,—Uraga Dock, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, K. Asakawa, 29th Dec.,—Dairen via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, H. Hino-kuma, 29th Dec.,—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Dortmund, German steamer, 3,228, Boldt, 29th Dec.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 30th Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prins Ludwig, German steamer, 5,704, F. V. Binzer, 30th Dec.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Benlarig, British steamer, 2,110, A. Wallace, 30th Dec.,—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Carnegie & Co.

Shinshiku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 31st Dec.,—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 31st Dec.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushibiki, 31st Dec.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 1st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 2nd Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 2nd Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 3,296, G. E. Warner, 3rd Jan.,—Amsterdam, Hull, London, Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798, B. Kon, 3rd Jan.,—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, R. Takeda, 3rd Jan.,—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimidzu, 3rd Jan.,—Kulung, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shiokubi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, A. Yamashita, 3rd Jan.,—Tokuyama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

New Orleans, U.S. cruiser, 3,437, Capt. William G. Miller, 4th Jan.,—Honolulu.

Teenkai, British steamer, 3,016, A. Davis, 4th Jan.,—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Atholl, British steamer, 3,031, S. L. Saxby, 4th Jan.,—New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,448, K. Kuruzumi, 4th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takeshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,657, T. Kuwabara, 4th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Persia, Austrian steamer, 3,842, Clunack, 4th Jan.,—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, S. Kawashima, 4th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rygia, Norwegian steamer, 2,492, E. Meyer, 4th Jan.,—Seattle and Portland (Ore.) via Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Empress of India* from Vancouver, B.C.:—Mr. M. W. Cuthbertson, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Dart, Mr. F. W. Dillon, Mr. F. C. Gay, Mr. J. Hair, Mr. W. J. Hamilton, Mr. T. L. Hunting, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. A. W. Playfair, Mrs. S. E. Smalley, Miss F. W. Squire, Mrs. F. Tullock and Mr. and Mrs. Watson in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kumano Maru* from Melbourne and Sydney via ports:—Rev. W. T. Grey and Mr. Nagata in cabin; Mr. Y. Ishikawa in second class; 2 Japanese in intermediate; 11 Japanese, 2 Chinese and 2 Indian in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. W. H. Babbitt, Mr. G. B. Cronwell in cabin; Mr. C. A. Fodd in second class; 3 Japanese and 2 Chinese in intermediate; 13 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Lieut. Colonel T. Masuda, Mr. K. Miura, Mrs. K. Miura, Mr. E. Reid, Mr. M. Hansen, Mr. T. G. Penfold, Mrs. Penfold, 3 children and amah in cabin; Mr. T. Masuda, Mr. K. Saito, Mr. Y. Takatsu and 1 Chinese in second class; 4 Japanese and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Betts and Mr. Betts in cabin; Mr. U. Okamoto, Mrs. Dubois and 1 Chinese in second class; 11 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hirano Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mrs. S. Wilson and child, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. C. H. Abby, Mr. G. A. Harris, Mr. Saito, Mr. K. Takashima and son and Mr. T. Yoshida in cabin; Mr. F. Perieto, Mr. A. Lopez, Miss E. M. Frecker, Mr. M. Macaire, Mr. E. Guerileau, Mr. K. Horie, Mr. K. Nishiwaki, Mr. K. Ishikawa, Mr. K. Hasegawa, Mr. Y. Okuyama and Mr. K. Sasaki in second class; 1 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai:—Mr. W. H. Marks and native servant and H. H. Mallett A.B. in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer *Syria* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—

	Waste Silk.	London.	M'chester.	France.	Trieste.
Cornes & Co.....	70	4	—	—	—
Siber, Hegner & Co....	—	—	10	—	—
Bavler & Co.....	—	—	89	—	—
Total	70	4	99	—	—

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—

	Raw Silk.	South New York.	M'chester.
P. Douville.....	40	—	—
L. Motlet & Barmont	20	—	—
Sieber & Co.....	15	—	—
China & Japan Trading Co., Ltd.	—	10†	—
Jewett & Bent	30	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.....	20	—	—
F. Strahler & Co.....	80	—	—
Japan Villa Stearns & Co.	65	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	111	—	—
Kito Gomei Kaisha.....	78	20	—
Total	639	30	—

† Spring Valley.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Nippon Maru* for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 2nd inst.:—

	TEA.	S. F.	N. Y.	Chicago.	Montreal.	New Or.	Los Ang.	O. City.	Total.
Shanghai ..	40	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Kobe ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Yokohama ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H'kong. 104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104
Total. 144	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	184

	SILK.	Spring Valley.	South New York.	Total.
Shanghai ..	55	—	—	55
Hongkong ..	200	—	—	200
Yokohama ..	659	10	20	689
Total	914	10	20	944

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America.....	P. M.....	Siberia 1	F. Jan. 5
Vancouver...B. L.....	Luceric	Sa. Jan. 6	
Hongkong...O. S. S.....	Chicago Maru	Su. Jan. 7	
Hongkong...C. P. R.....	Monteagle	Su. Jan. 7	
Hongkong...T. K. K.....	Tenyo Maru	Su. Jan. 7	
Europe.....N. D. L.....	Fuelow	M. Jan. 8	
Europe.....M. M.....	Tonkin	Tu. Jan. 9	
Seattle.....N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru	W. Jan. 10	
Tacoma.....O. S. S.....	Panama Maru	W. Jan. 10	
Hongkong...P. M.....	Persia	Su. Jan. 14	
Hongkong...N. Y. K.....	Tamba Maru	M. Jan. 15	
Hongkong...B. L.....	Suveric	M. Jan. 23	
Vancouver...C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Jan. 24	
America.....T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Jan. 27	

1 Left Honolulu on the 25th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong...P. M.....	Siberia	Sa. Jan. 6	
Europe.....M. M.....	Caledonian	Sa. Jan. 6	
Australia...N. Y. K.....	Kumano Maru	Sa. Jan. 6	
Tacoma.....B. L.....	Titan	Sa. Jan. 6	
Hongkong...B. L.....	Luceric	Su. Jan. 7	
Vancouver...C. P. R.....	Monteagle	Su. Jan. 7	
Shanghai...N. Y. K.....	Chikusan Maru	Sa. Jan. 7	
Tacoma.....O. S. S.....	Chicago Maru	Tu. Jan. 9	
America.....T. K. K.....	Tenyo Maru	Tu. Jan. 9	
Shanghai...P. O.....	Oriental	Th. Jan. 11	
Hongkong...N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru	F. Jan. 12	
Hongkong...O. S. S.....	Panama Maru	F. Jan. 13	
Europe.....N. D. L.....	Buelow	Sa. Jan. 13	
America.....P. M.....	Persia	Tu. Jan. 16	
Europe.....N. Y. K.....	Hirano Maru	W. Jan. 17	
Seattle.....N. Y. K.....	Tamba Maru	W. Jan. 17	
Seattle.....B. L.....	Suveric	Tu. Jan. 23	
Hongkong...C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Jan. 24	
Hongkong...T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	M. Jan. 29	

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Sept. 9th, 1911. S. 1y.



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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGERS, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA, SATURDAY, JAN. 13TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

COOKE.—At Sendai, Japan, on Jan. 6, 1912, to the Rev. and Mrs. ALLAN WORTHINGTON COOKE, a Son.

DEATH.

PATTON.—At her residence, No. 142 Bluff, Yokohama, on Sunday, January 7th, 1912, from heart-failure, Mrs. EMILY SOPHIA PATTON, widow of the late HORATIO PATTON and daughter of the late Arthur Todd Holroyd, for many years Master-in-Equity of Sydney, New South Wales, in her 81st year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

We learn that a branch of the Russo-Asiatic Bank has now been opened at Dalny.

A Blue-book has been issued (Cd. 5993) containing the laws relating to marriage in force in

certain foreign countries. The list of countries includes Japan.

An Agency of the Chartered Bank was opened on the 11th ult. at Volo, Philippine Islands.

Six thousand persons have subscribed for a statue of the late Florence Nightingale in London.

The Russian Council of Ministers has prohibited the Salvation Army from working in Russia.

A new silent military aeroplane has made several flights at Aldershot at the rate of sixty miles an hour.

It is announced that the New Zealand Shipping Co. has amalgamated with the Federal Steam Navigation Co.

KING GEORGE has instituted a medal for meritorious service for those who save life by means of the rocket apparatus.

The U.S. cruiser *New Orleans*, which has been lying at this port, left on her homeward voyage on Thursday afternoon last.

The Sydney University has created three new Chairs of political economy and commerce, of botany and of applied chemistry.

Five children died from burns caused by a fire which broke out during a Christmas entertainment at a picture palace in Chesterfield.

MR. SHIMADA SANBURO, who has been lecturing in the United States, returned to Yokohama on the 5th inst. by the steamer *Siberia*.

The deaths are announced of Captain the Hon. Sir Seymour Fortescue, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., and Sir Francis Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G.

The proprietors of the White Star Line have ordered in Belfast a 47,000 ton steamer, 802½ ft. long and 93 ft. in beam, the cost of which will be £1,500,000.

BRITISH Consols on the 4th inst. stood at 77. The price hardened by ½ on the announcement that £3,000,000 will be allotted to the sinking fund of 1911-1912.

MR. KAWAKAMI CHIKAHARA of Kyoto, who has been recommended as Mayor of that city in succession to Mr. Saigo Kikujiro, received official sanction to his appointment on the 6th instant.

The flotation of a public loan of ¥1,200,000 yen for the enlargement of the Yokohama Gas Works has been sanctioned by the Department concerned. The loan is to be redeemed in fifteen years.

MR. ALFRED UNGER, formerly of Yokohama, has been awarded a set of gold cups by the Bureau of Decorations on account of his having donated a large number of plants to various preliminary schools in the city.

At 4.08 a.m. on the 9th inst. a slight earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, and it was followed by another slight shock at 6.22 a.m. The latter lasted one minute and twenty-four seconds, the oscillations being in a northerly and southerly direction.

On the morning of the 4th instant, earth tremors occurred at Ogimura, Suzu-gun, Noto province, which were repeated several times until Monday morning. The ground opened at many places in the village, and a Buddhist temple there was partially destroyed. The loss sustained is esti-

mated at some 10,000 yen. The inmates of four houses which were in danger took refuge for a while in other buildings.

THE Equitable Life Assurance Society's Building at New York has been destroyed by fire. The loss sustained is estimated at \$75,000,000.

THE British railway companies ushered in the New Year by increases to the extent of 2½ to 10 per cent. in excursion, week-end and season ticket fares, in order to meet the cost of their concessions to their employees.

The vernacular papers predict that Mr. A. M. Townsend, who is now on his way to Japan from Shanghai, will be decorated by H.M. the Emperor with the Third Class Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of the meritorious service rendered by him in financial matters. The investiture will take place on his arrival in Tokyo.

THE cold season this year began on the 27th instant, when the average temperature was 4 degrees Cent. A gale was experienced in this district on the same day, the wind at 7 a.m. attaining a velocity of 17.1 metres per second. The barometer registered 757.3 mm. at two o'clock in the afternoon.

SNOW has been falling in various parts of the Hokkaido since last Sunday, and railway traffic between Hakodate and Otaru, Sapporo and Asahigawa, and Fukuoka and Rumoye, is interrupted. A train which left Hakodate at 5 a.m. on Monday, could not proceed any farther than Kuratsunai, being entirely buried in the snow.

Messrs. SOMMERBY sold on the 18th ult. Japanese colour prints, the property of Mr. F. Foxwell, Professor of Economics at the Imperial University of Tokyo, 1896-99, a total of £381 7s. 6d. being realised. The two principal lots were:—Utamaro, a triptych, picking persimmon, a fine design in good condition, £92 (Wilson); and Yehi, a triptych with a flower party, £31 (Harvey).

THE eleventh anniversary of the death of the late Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi was celebrated on Wednesday afternoon at the Keio Gijuku, Tokyo. Over two hundred well-known persons in political and business circles, as well as a large number of men of learning, were present. Mr. Fukuzawa Sutejiro thanked the guests on behalf of the family, and there were speeches eulogizing the distinguished services rendered by the late scholar.

THE death took place at Shanghai on the 28th ult. of Mr. Alexander McLeod, a very old and popular resident. Mr. McLeod went to Shanghai in 1872 as partner in the firm of Messrs Gibb, Livingston & Co. He was one of the founders of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., and was connected with many other companies. He also took a prominent place in the social life of the port, being virtually the founder of the Country Club. Mr. McLeod, who leaves a widow, was born in 1844.

UNUSUAL interest has been excited in Austria by the news of the edict permitting the Chinamen to cut off their pig-tails, as Austria's natural hair industry is one of the greatest in the world. Many millions of hair-nets are exported from Great Britain alone every year, to say nothing of large quantities of wigs and other headgear. It is thought that the foreign hair markets, especially in America and Germany, and to a lesser degree, in Italy and England, will be flooded with stocks of Chinese hair, causing a stagnation which may continue for some years.

responsible quarters that no such sales were made to the Imperialists, yet the stories continue in circulation as lustily as ever, and are now beginning to beget corollaries like the one mentioned above.

Wu Ting-fang is reported to have invited the Chinese residents of San Francisco to contribute two million *taels* to the war-chest of the Insurgents, and his agents are busily canvassing for the support of that project.

The Lanchow affair is evidently at an end. Over three hundred of the mutineers have been taken prisoners; railway communication with the capital has been re-opened and the officer sent from Peking to quell the disturbance reports the complete restoration of tranquillity. Nothing more, therefore, will be heard of the wild project attributed to the Insurgent leaders; that is to say, the despatch of three thousand men by sea to cooperate with the Lanchow mutineers.

Tuesday, January 9.

The recently formed Loyalist Party in Peking is said to be stirring itself very actively. Its leaders evidently regard the rupture of the negotiations at Shanghai as a most fortunate incident of which they are endeavouring to take every advantage with the object of restoring the prestige of the Manchu Dynasty. They are said to have subsidised two newspapers in Peking; to be interviewing the members of the Senate and to be urging the Imperial Princes and others to put up funds for the Imperial cause. This movement certainly indicates that the spirit of almost abject submission which marked the demeanour of the Imperialists *vis-à-vis* the Insurgents at the outset should not be regarded as a conclusive indication of the state of public feeling. Nevertheless the publication of the nineteen articles of the Constitution represents a concession which nothing can obliterate, and it would be practically impossible for any political party, however industrious and able its leaders, to place the Manchu Dynasty upon the pedestal it occupied only a few months ago.

Meanwhile the general situation becomes more and more perplexing. The controversy which took place over the wires between Yuan and Wu seems to have come practically to an end, its futility having been recognized. But, whereas the next step might be expected to be a resolute advance of the Government troops against Wuchang, and a corresponding essay on the part of the Insurgents to recover Hanyang, nothing of the kind appears to be occurring. On the contrary, the Imperialist forces are withdrawing steadily from their positions at Hanyang and Hankow, and there is no sign of a forward movement on the part of the Insurgents. Some accounts say that this movement of withdrawal has proceeded to the extent of leaving Hanyang to be guarded by police constables only. Yet the capture of this place by the Insurgents at the outset, and its subsequent recovery by the Imperialists were regarded as cardinal operations. The only conclusion we can come to, is that some other plan of campaign has been adopted by the Imperialists. It may be that they have determined to strike at Nanking, making that the decisive movement of the war. But this is mere conjecture. One account alleges that in deference to the suggestions of the British Consul, it has been decided to regard Hanyang and Hangkow as purely commercial emporia, and to abstain hereafter from making either of those places a scene of combat. In

fact, a précis is published of an order said to have been issued from Peking citing an agreement between Yuan and General Li to the effect that the above two places shall be evacuated by the Imperialists, who will withdraw to a distance of a hundred *li*, the Insurgents, on their side, pledging themselves to pass entirely to the south of the river and not to cross it again for belligerent purposes throughout the continuance of the armistice. The Imperialists' part of this arrangement is said to have been completed on the 6th instant, which fact contrasts strangely with the original plea that five days could not possibly suffice for the withdrawal of the Imperial army to a distance of a hundred *li*. We cannot speak with any certainty even as to the period of armistice. Some authorities name five days and others, fifteen. In fact everything is uncertain except that there seems to be no desire on either side to renew the combat. Some newsmongers allege that a secret understanding has been arrived at between Yuan and General Li, but that is probably a pure hypothesis.

Meanwhile General Chang, of Nanking fame, seems to be the only person who knows his own mind. He declines to obey Yuan's order for retirement, and he is still at Hsuehchow, where rumour alleges that he is collecting troops and vehemently asserting his determination to occupy Pukow, as a basis for ultimate recovery of Nanking. He will probably soon find his potentialities at an end, for Peking has cut off his supplies.

The greatest uncertainty seems to exist with regard to the body of three thousand men said to have been embarked in two steamers by the Insurgents at Shanghai, and despatched under escort of two destroyers with instructions to land at Chinwantao with the ultimate object of succouring the Lanchow rebels. Some accounts say that the two steamers have actually reached their destination and that the troops are now landing. Other accounts allege that the expedition never set out at all, and from yet another quarter comes news that the Manchurian Imperial forces have been rapidly distributed to meet this menace, and that the Peking Government is taking steps to mass twenty-thousand men in the threatened region. We ourselves are disposed to regard the story as made out of whole cloth. An expedition so completely in the air can scarcely have been seriously contemplated even by the Insurgents, and for the rest, it is now known that the Lanchow mutiny was a purely ephemeral affair inspired by discontent at the non-receipt of pay.

The controversy between Yuan and Wu, an epitome of which we publish elsewhere, has assumed some interesting phases. The Peking Premier, it will be remembered, charged the Insurgent leaders with contradicting themselves, inasmuch as while, on the one hand, asking for a national assembly to fix the country's polity, they proceeded, on the other, to elect a president of a republic just as though that form of government had already been decided upon. To this, Wu Ting-fang replies that the appointment of a president is no more inconsistent on the part of the Insurgents than is the tenure of office by an Imperialist premier on the part of Peking. Both are measures to assert and maintain local discipline. If the National Assembly decides in favour of a monarchical form of government, the Insurgents will not hesitate

to accept that decision, just as they trust the Imperialists to do in the other event, namely, a majority vote for a republic. In short, Yuan and Wu are well-matched controversialists, and one can easily understand the futility of their attempting to discuss a great question over the wires.

As to the choice of a place for the meeting of the Delegates, Wu has stated very plainly that he and his fellow-negotiators are not prepared to entrust their persons to the guardianship of the capital. He recalls the very scant respect for the lives of even foreign diplomatists shown during the Boxer Trouble, and he declares that while Yuan and his comrades could be thoroughly guaranteed against danger, the case would be very different for the advocates of the republic.

With regard to Tang Shao-i's credentials, Yuan appears to have taken the line that he, in his position as Prime Minister, is responsible to the Sovereign for his acts, and that he could not possibly have delegated to Tang Shao-i plenipotentiary authority which is vested ultimately in the Throne. His Excellency adds that if Mr. Tang possessed the powers attributed to him by Wu, there would have been no occasion for him to telegraph to Peking the latter's proposals. But inasmuch as all international treaties and conventions are negotiated by plenipotentiaries explicitly empowered by the Sovereigns or Chief Magistrates of the countries they represent, we are bound to assume that Mr. Tang's credentials were couched in those terms, and that an experienced diplomatist like Mr. Wu would not otherwise have recognized their validity.

General Chiang Kwei-ti's troops in Shansi are causing some uneasiness. They show a disposition to ignore discipline, and it is feared that at any moment they may become a lawless mob.

The latest development is an inclination on the part of the Insurgents to organize a national assembly without any further reference to Peking. It is understood that the representatives of seventeen provinces are now present in Shanghai, and the Insurgents are thinking that with such a backing they may proceed independently of the northern capital. This project is still in embryo. If it matures, it will probably mean a division of the Chinese Empire between Imperialism in the north and republicanism in the south. It is evident that such an arrangement would involve serious embarrassments in connexion with questions of international politics. For example, the revenue of the customs is pledged for foreign debts contracted on account of the whole nation, and a division of the Empire would at once invalidate that security. On the other hand, Mr. Sun Yat-sen, in an interview with a representative of the *Yiji Shimpo*, is said to have fully recognized the necessity of preserving the integrity of China. He says that she must look to foreign money for means to develop her resources and that she can get money only by pledging the nation's credit.

Wednesday, January 10.

The controversy between Premier Yuan and Mr. Wu continues to be carried on over the wires. The terms of peace that had been agreed upon by Tang Shao-i and Wu Ting-fang before the former's resignation, are said to have been nine in number, and the Insurgent leaders are now insisting that

these conditions shall be accepted *en bloc* by the Peking Government. These nine conditions are:—

First, that the Manchu Sovereign, while receiving all respect at the hands of the Chinese nation, shall be regarded as a foreign potentate for administrative purposes.

Secondly, that the location of the Court shall be at Jehol or at the Summer Palace.

Thirdly, that the Sovereign shall receive a suitable maintenance allowance, the amount to be determined by a vote of the Senate.

Fourthly, that the conservation of the Imperial Sepulchres and of the temples connected with them shall be left to the Manchus.

Fifthly, that the lives and properties of the Manchus shall be preserved.

Sixthly, that good treatment shall be extended to the natives of Manchuria, to the Mohammedans, to the Mongolians and to the Tibetans, and that they shall be protected in the possession of their property.

Seventhly, that until they are in a position to support themselves, the members of the Eight Banner corps shall be continued in their present pay and emoluments.

Eighthly, that all the restrictions hitherto imposed upon the freedom of trade and religion shall be abolished.

Ninthly, that the Princes of the Blood shall remain in possession of their present ranks and estates, and that the income of the Court shall be fixed at 10 million *taels* annually.

It is very evident that one of the prominent intentions of these terms is to win the sympathies of foreigners. The provision relating to freedom of conscience and of commerce is evidently inspired by that motive. Moreover, the attitude of the Insurgents towards the Imperial Court is sufficiently liberal to evoke universal praise.

One of the first acts of Mr. Sun Yat-sen in his capacity of President of the new Republic has been to issue a strongly worded instruction forbidding everything in the way of looting or outrage on the part of the insurgent troops, and prescribing severe punishments for any violation of this veto.

It is stated that General Li has represented to the Imperialist leaders through the medium of the British Consul at Hankow that even in the event of a renewal of hostilities, Hankow and Hanyang shall be regarded as neutral territory. Previous news attributed this proposal to the British Consul himself. But that was difficult of credence, for though the Consul might have preferred such a request with reference to Hankow, he could hardly have ventured to advance it with respect to Hanyang. The telegram now received explains the situation, and shows that the original misconception was due to the fact of the application having passed through the Consul's hands.

The mysterious expedition of three thousand men said to have been sent to Chin-wantao, has refrained from any attempt even to land. Some accounts say that the commanders of the expedition found that effective measures had been taken to give them and their troops a sanguinary welcome; while others allege that when the fact of the mutiny at Lanchow became known, it was seen that no opportunity offered for a coup in that direction. We are not unprepared to learn eventually that the expedition never took place at all.

Meanwhile the Insurgents evidently have some intention of pushing northwards, for a small body of Hunan troops are said to have

crossed the river into the province of Houan. This, however, is probably a very insignificant operation. The Insurgent leaders are evidently not in a condition to attempt any offensive movement on a considerable scale. They have more than enough to do in procuring equipment of all kinds for their followers and in training the latter, many of whom never handled a rifle until this occasion. One would suppose that the wisest course for the Imperialists, would be to take advantage of the Insurgents' unreadiness, and to strike at them quickly. But for some reason not fully explained, neither side seems disposed to re-open the conflict.

Thursday, January 11.

There is evidently no disposition on the part of the public to regard with patience the solution of the Chinese problem. In various quarters complaints are raised that either Peking is at the end of its resources or that Yuan is playing for time. In either case, the result is equally disastrous to the smooth progress of international commerce and to the enjoyment of the privileges guaranteed by treaty. How long, therefore, the Powers of the West will abstain from interference, no one likes to predict. It is certain, however, that Russia's action with regard to Mongolia gives a severe shock to the maintenance of the policy hitherto proclaimed so ostentatiously by the Powers, namely, the policy of maintaining the integrity of the Chinese Empire. At all events, China is receiving a very rude lesson as to the imperative necessity of putting her house in order.

Meanwhile the apparently fruitless controversy between Yuan and Wu is proceeding. We publish elsewhere a translation of the telegraphic intercommunications that have been conveyed to Tokyo by the most recent intelligence. There are various rumours, the most important of them being that Yuan has privately intimated to General Li Peking's willingness to make peace if suitable treatment can be guaranteed to the Court, the members of the Imperial Family and the troops of the Eight Banners. This is a somewhat cryptic statement considering that full engagements on the above points are understood to have already been given, or at any rate tendered, by the Insurgent leaders.

As for Yuan, he is said to be endeavouring to place upon the shoulders of the foreign Powers, responsibility for his own hesitation to renew hostilities. He is represented as pointing out that whereas the Western Powers were all in favour of a constitutional monarchy at the outset, they have now turned round and become advocates of a republic. Consequently, if Yuan now re-opens the campaign, he must count on the opposition of those Powers.

Rumour has it that with regard to the important question of war funds, the Imperial Princes have addressed to the Cabinet and the Prime Minister a letter explaining that they possess no such amount of money as public rumour assigns to them. In fact, they have already given to the war chest everything that they can afford to give. It must be assumed, however, that Yuan has not been playing with mere shadows throughout the recent conferences with the Court. Before repeatedly soliciting assistance from the Imperial Family, he must have assured himself that there was competence to render such assistance.

Another statement attributed to Yuan is that there are already serving under the Insurgents' colours, military men of English, French, German and American nationalities. In these circumstances it is hopeless for the Imperialists to expect any sympathy from Western States.

It is rumoured from Peking that want of confidence in Yuan is daily gaining strength, and further, that the Manchu leaders have lost their disposition to entrust to him the duty of maintaining a Dynasty which has been on the Throne for 270 years. Such telegrams are to be expected at this juncture, but it is very doubtful whether the telegraphists have any access to facts justifying their analyses. An anonymous diplomat, quoted by the *Fiji Shimpō*, says that Yuan Shih-kai has the whole stage to himself at present but he does not know which way to turn, as lack of money paralyzes him. The Imperial Family will not open their purse, inasmuch as they doubt Yuan's ability to purchase success with the funds, and they therefore deem it wiser to keep their money for a rainy day, especially as they are virtually assured of being able to retain possession of it even under a republican form of government. The same diplomatist affirms that England and Japan are no longer acting alone for the purposes of friendly intervention. Their separate action provoked some resentment in the Occident, and the result is that six Powers are now moving in concert, namely, the United States of America, France, Germany, England, Russia and Japan.

THE LANCHOW AFFAIR.

It is now comparatively easy to understand the complication which occurred a few days ago at Lanchow near Shanhaikwan and which inspired a rumour that Prime Minister Yuan had taken refuge in the Japanese Legation against his mutinous guards. The troops stationed at Lanchow are the Twentieth Division, which made itself conspicuous at the very outset of the disturbance, and which was at one time designated to move to the relief of Nanking. Three battalions, that is to say fifteen hundred men, of this Division, have now declared themselves advocates of a republican form of government. This they seem to have done just at the time when the republic an sun was near its zenith. But their comrades remained true to their colours, and a conflict ensued, with results which are not yet clearly defined. Lanchow is in the district where the Japanese have undertaken to protect foreign life and property, and in consequence of this undertaking, Yuan Shih-kai is said to have applied to the Japanese Government for assistance in preserving order at that place. This application is reported to be now under consideration by the foreign Representatives in Peking, and it is easy to understand the distortion which these facts underwent in transmission through the channels of rumour.

The latest news on this subject is sent by the *Chuo's* Peking correspondent. He wires that the troops sent from Peking to quell the disturbance have united with the force remaining true to the Imperialist colours, and the two bodies have invested Lanchow and have given the Insurgents four days to choose between fighting and surrendering. It further appears that pay, not politics, occupies the horizon of the mutineers.

YUAN'S LAST CARD.

It was on the 2nd instant that Yuan appears to have played his final card in the historic struggle now going on in China. He is said to have repaired to the Palace on that day and to have memorialized the throne in the sense that if the lives and properties of the Imperial Family, of the Manchus settled in China, and of the loyal Chinese subjects were to be secured, it could not be by acting on the defensive. The offensive must be taken, and if the Throne would issue an order providing financial resources to carry on the struggle, a successful result might be confidently predicted. If on the other hand, it was decided to accept the terms formulated by the Insurgents, then he himself must beg to be relieved of office. Thereupon, the Empress Dowager directed that 3 million *taels* should be disbursed from the Imperial purse, and that the Princes should provide as large a fund as possible.

There can be very little doubt that this act had been rehearsed beforehand, and that Yuan knew very well what the Imperial decision would be.

It does not follow by any means, however, that a successful issue of the so-called Patriotic Bonds is assured. On the contrary, several of the Princes and of their Chinese fellow-subjects are said to be offering strong opposition to what they regard as the waste of their hereditary possessions. There is said to be considerable agitation in Peking with reference to this subject, and it is thought quite possible that the opposition may carry the day. The Throne, however, is evidently very resolute. It has appointed Prince Ching and Premier Yuan to the post of Special Commissioners for the purposes of the Patriotic Fund.

Premier Yuan appears to have come also to an understanding with the generals commanding the troops, including General Chiang, who, it will be remembered, was relieved of the command of the Guards and sent to Shansi some time ago. These officers are all keenly bent upon continuing the fight. They understand that the season is exactly suitable for attacking Wuchang, the water in the Yangtze being so low as to preclude the use of warships having any considerable power. Hence the Insurgents will not be able to make much use of the vessels which have fallen into their hands. It is stated that fully twenty thousand well-armed, well-disciplined and well-equipped troops are now collected at the front under the Imperial banner, and the capture of Wuchang is regarded as an altogether feasible operation.

On the other hand, the number of Insurgent troops massed in Wuchang is said to be thirty thousand and they have twenty thousand more at Nanking. But there can be no comparison in point of efficiency between this mob of ill-trained and ill-equipped troops and the well-armed and well-trained soldiers serving under the Imperial colours. From some quarters, however, comes news to the effect that the threat of the boycott has accomplished its purpose, and that the Insurgents are obtaining arms and munitions from merchants of the same Power which figured so prominently in connexion with similar supplies to the Imperialists.

THE IMPERIALIST FUND.

Advices from Peking go to show that the Court and the Imperial Family are not disposed to provide funds with any special alacrity. Great pressure is said to have been brought to bear on them by the members of the Loyalist Association recently formed in the capital, and the result thus far has been that the Empress Dowager has furnished 3 million *taels*. But in spite of the confident talk audible a few days ago, the Princes and other members of the Imperial Family are said to be keeping their pockets tightly closed, their difficulty being that they have lost confidence in Yuan Shih-kai's ability; or, if not in his ability, then in his sincerity. It is stated that even if one-half of the promised 10 millions were forthcoming, the struggle could be renewed with certain advantage to the Imperialists, but this outlook does not effectually influence the Princes. Figures have been published showing that the funds held by the foreign banks on account of the Princes of the Blood are 16 million *taels* in the Specie Bank; 13 in English banks; 10 in Russian; 3 in French; 8 in German, and 5 in American. Their Highnesses have been pressed to put up at least a moiety of the amount, but they will not listen. Meanwhile, the Treasury is in possession of only 2,600,000 *taels*, which would not last even a month were the struggle renewed. In fact, both sides are paralysed by impecuniosity, and it may be for that reason that they are carefully eschewing a renewal of the combat. On the other hand, they cannot remain idle long. In Japan it appears to be anticipated that so soon as the month of February sets in, great disturbances will make themselves felt in China. The Gregorian calendar has been adopted, it is true, but the settlement of all yearly accounts is to take place in accordance with the old almanac and therefore the 3rd or 4th of next month will be the opening of the new year, when all accounts have to be settled. The anticipation is that mob-law will assert itself at about that time. At any rate, the foreign Powers will not consent to leave things as they are for an indefinite interval. Already commerce has been more or less dislocated, and it is not to be supposed that a state of affairs so much at variance with the spirit of the treaties will be interminably continued.

MR. TŌYAMA.

There are a number of men of whom it may be said, without any insult, that they are the stormy petrels of Eastern politics. Prominent among them are Messrs. Tōyama Mitsuru, Nakamura Yōroku, Miyazaki Tōten and even Mr. Uchida Ryōhei. The first of these was at one time a leader of *sāshi*, and in that capacity he cemented close relations with Mr. Hwang when the latter was a political refugee in Japan. Hwang is now a Field-Marshal and altogether a great personage, and Mr. Tōyama, who recently arrived in Shanghai, received a visit from the Insurgent leader who droye up to Tōyama's place of sojourn in a motor-car and altogether with great state. The two had a conference which lasted several hours, and the principal topic said to have been discussed was the necessity of taking measures to prevent the armed interference of foreign Powers

at the present crisis. We mention this incident not for its own sake but because of its vicarious importance as laying bare one of the channels by which Japanese sympathy has flowed to the Insurgents in the neighbouring country. The presence not only of political refugees, but also of politically-disposed students in Japan during several years past, naturally has had the effect of enlisting the friendship of many Japanese and securing their approval of the revolutionary views entertained by their visitors. Men of the stamp of Mr. Tōyama make themselves specially conspicuous in such affairs, and their conduct is apt to create an exaggerated estimate as to the trend of Japanese public opinion. It is probably owing to their influence that so many foreigners have formed an unduly pronounced idea about Japanese sympathy with the Insurgents.

COUNT OKUMA.

There seems to be some possibility of Count Okuma entering the field once more as a political leader. His retirement several years ago is generally supposed to have been suggested by Mr. Oishi Masami, whose purpose was to lead the Progressists into the camp of the Government party, the so-called Bureaucrats. But when Mr. Oishi attempted to carry out this programme, he soon found himself in vehement conflict with Mr. Inukai Ki, an inveterate enemy of any compromise with the Bureaucrats. Then ensued the well-remembered split in the ranks of the Progressists, with the resulting victory for the conservatives under Mr. Inukai. Since that time the Progressists, or the "Popular Party," as they now call themselves, have gradually undergone a process of disintegration, and it is apprehended that their candidates will fare badly in the coming general elections unless some powerful means of restoring their prestige be discovered. Hence the idea of soliciting Count Okuma to once more assume the leadership. If the Sage of Waseda agrees to emerge from his seclusion, the Popular Party will be galvanized into new life.

THE IMPERIAL BANQUET.

The usual New Year's banquet took place at noon on the 5th instant in the Phoenix Hall of the Imperial Palace. Five hundred and twenty-five covers were laid. The Emperor's speech was couched in the usual courteous terms, his Majesty expressing the pleasure it gave him to meet the Representatives of the foreign Powers and his Ministers of State, as well as the other high dignitaries assembled at the New Year's banquet. His Majesty then proposed the health of the Sovereigns and Chief Magistrates of the Powers and expressed a hope for the ever-increasing intimacy of relations.

In the absence of the Prime Minister, Marquis Saionji, who is suffering from illness, Baron Saito, Minister of State of the Navy, briefly replied on behalf of the Japanese subjects represented on the occasion, and the British Ambassador performed a similar office as *doyen* of the foreign Corps Diplomatique. Count Toda, Grand Master of Ceremonies, translated the speeches from Japanese into English and *vice versa*.

FRANCE AND GERMANY IN CHINA.

There are widely circulated rumours that the French Government has formally demanded from Peking concessions for the construction of two lines of railway, namely, the Chen-Shu and the Chen-Kwei. The former road will run from Yunnan to Kweichow. The pretext alleged to have been formulated by France in making this application is that the provinces through which the two roads would run are at present in a state of anarchy and the duty of protecting French life and property in those parts of the Chinese Empire can no longer be left to Peking. If France contemplated the exercise of police control throughout the regions in question, we could very well understand a proposal for the despatch of French gendarmes and even troops. But that the security of life and property should be urged as a plea for building a railway, is not easy to conceive. Such, however, is the story now told, and it brings us once more face to face with the old rivalry between France and Great Britain, as to which Power should open communications with the huge province of Szechuan. The rumour is further supplemented by adding that Germany is taking similar action in Shantung. But in this last case no attempt is made to be definite. We do not agree,—indeed, we emphatically disagree,—with the tendency that prevails in some quarters to attribute all sorts of aggressive designs to the Berlin statesmen. But we have no difficulty in believing that Germany would not be so discourteous as to allow Russia and France to monopolize the advantages which the present situation offers to any ambitious Power.

We observe that even the *Fiji Shimpoo* places some credit in the above rumours of the Russian, French, German and English tendency to assert themselves in the outside regions of the Chinese Empire. Our contemporary thinks that the Chinese problem has entered its third stage. The first was a frank struggle between the advocates of a monarchical and a republican government. The second was the partition of the Chinese Empire into two administrative districts, one on the north of the Yangtze, the other on the south. Throughout those two stages of the struggle, foreign Powers maintained an attitude of strict neutrality, their only semblance of intervention being prompted by a desire to restore peace. But now the third stage has come. The salient feature of that third stage is that the outlying sections of the Chinese Empire have ceased to be under any sort of efficient administrative control, and the great foreign Powers feel constrained not to sit any longer with folded hands, but to interfere forcibly for the protection of the lives and properties of their nationals in those regions. It remains to be seen what Japan will do. We cannot expect her to take no practical notice of such momentous happenings.

VICEROY CHAO ERH-FENG.

This official was reported at one time to have committed suicide; then to have been murdered by the soldiers in Szechuan and then to have effected his escape. The last version seems to be the true one. He is now said to have made his appearance at the head of two thousand Tibetan troops and to have recaptured Chiagtu from the Insurgents.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF TOKYO.

The Tokyo Municipal Authorities, and especially the present Mayor, Mr. Ozaki Yukio, are expected to work wonders, and while very little credit is given for the things they do achieve, plenty of abuse is levelled at them for their sins of omission. Indeed Mr. Ozaki may take it as a compliment that so much is expected of him, for were he in any sense a small man, he would not be expected to live up to such a high standard as that set for him by his fellow-citizens. The latest example of this is furnished by a criticism on the Tokyo Railway. We read in the columns of an English Tokyo contemporary the following paragraph:—

Tokyo enjoys an excellent system of communications but its operation is otherwise. That self-respecting mortals should submit year in and year out, to being packed like sardines in Liliputian cars which ought to have been relegated to the scrap-heap long ago is assuredly a proof of patience almost superhuman. If the authorities are inspired by any genuine wish to vindicate the much vaunted system of municipal ownership they will do well to get rid at the earliest possible moment of all the small cars now running and to substitute therefor bogie cars of the pattern at present confined to the central Ginza line. Even then it may well be doubted whether the service will be able to cope with the immense traffic of this city. While things remain as they are it will be true to say that there is no great city in the world where the automobile is a conveyance more necessary and less familiar than in Tokyo.

The writer of the above criticism seems entirely oblivious of the fact that in the sequel of the recent most unreasonable agitation on the part of a small body of citizens, there has been imposed upon the street-trams a uniform rate of fare which is wholly inadequate to support a comfortable and respectable service of cars. Every one must agree that it would be an excellent thing to substitute bogie cars for the uncomfortable and circumscribed vehicles working on the greater part of the lines. But where is the money to come from? It would have to be obtained either by imposing a special tax, against which the citizens would vehemently rebel, or by raising the four-sen fare, which would bring agitators once more into the field. It is a very inconvenient state of affairs, but no help for it is apparent.

THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

It was related in a recent issue of this journal that a scheme is on foot to invite Count Okuma's emergence from political seclusion, and his resumption of the leadership of the Progressist Party. According to the *Asahi Shimbun* this programme is the outcome of fresh discussions in the ranks of the Party. It is a re-telling of the old story. The Reform Section, as they call themselves, have of late shown a disposition to follow their leader, Mr. Oishi Masami, into the camp of the so-called Bureaucrats; that is to say, the adherents of Prince Katsura. The idea is to form a new party with the object of making head against the *Seiyukai*, and advantage has been taken of the absence in China of Mr. Inukai Ki, leader of the Conservative Section. The partisans of the latter, not a little disturbed by the prospect, have decided to invite Count Okuma to resume the leadership of the Party. We do not vouch for the accuracy of this analysis, but it seems to us very credible.

CHOSEN.

Almost simultaneously with Governor-General Terauchi's optimistic address to the Seoul correspondents of the Tokyo journals on the evening of the 5th instant, the Reverend Mr. Kitano of Hongwanji, who has just returned from Korea, told some very unpleasant truths about the conditions he observed there. He said that of the criminals undergoing punishment in the jails of Chosen, 20 per cent were Japanese subjects charged with the crime of murder, and 70 per cent were Korean burglars. To a category scarcely less heinous, belonged the practices of certain Japanese adventurers and capitalists who took advantage of the helpless condition of the Korean people to lend them money at ruinous rates of interest and otherwise to exploit them. Mr. Kitano justly pointed out that so long as these evil practices continued, not only was the progress of Chosen impeded but also the fair fame of Japan was injured.

ASSASSINATION OF BRITISH MISSIONARY.

A telegram to the Tokyo Press from Shanghai says that a mob at Hanchow on the 7th instant, murdered a British missionary, Mr. Felgate (?). The exact place of the outrage is given as Moku-shan where stand a number of villas occupied by foreigners. The mob appears to have been bent on plunder, but encountering Mr. Felgate, it murdered him. This is the kind of incident that is likely to be repeated in the course of the present disturbances. Mr. Felgate is said to have been labouring for many years in the Chinese mission field.

THE HANYANG IRON FOUNDRY.

Lieut.-General Nakamura, President of the Edamitsu Steel Foundry, is quoted as saying that the annual supply of iron ore drawn from the Taiyu iron mine amounts to about 100,000 tons, and the pig-iron drawn from Hanyang Iron Foundry to about 30,000 tons. Notwithstanding the disturbances in Central China, the import of iron ore this fiscal year has shown an increase reaching a total of some 110,000 tons, but the import of pig iron has decreased to about 15,000 tons. The rumour that the Peking Government contemplates raising a foreign loan on the hypothecation of the Hanyang Iron Foundry sounds apocryphal. The Foundry is a great corporation run jointly by the Taiyu iron mine and the Ping Ching coal mine corporation. The rumour originated in its president, Mr. Sheng Hsuan-huai, having been in the public service. A belief seems to obtain in some quarters that the corporation is in debt to the Foundry, but this is a delusion. How it may be with some other banks he does not know, but so far as the Foundry is concerned he could most positively assert that no security is deposited in connection with the supply of iron ore and pig-iron, the business being transacted under contract. The visit of Mr. Sheng Hsuan-huai to Japan is interpreted in some quarters as connected with the business of the Hanyang Iron Foundry, but this is a pure hypothesis. The object of his visit is to recuperate his health. He had had no interview with Mr. Sheng since the latter's arrival.

THE FAILURE OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
YUAN SHIH-KAI AND WU TING-FANG.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires what purports to be the gist of the telegraphic notes exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang.

The first note sent by Yuan Shih-kai reads:—"Various provinces suffer greatly by the disturbances. The Peking Government could hardly bear to bring further calamity on the people, so it invested proper power in Tang Shao-i and dispatched him to Shanghai as my representative to negotiate on the broad terms of peace. Tang was invested with no greater power than to discuss the general situation. Tang has, nevertheless, telegraphed me that he has signed an agreement concluded between him and you, without my knowledge or sanction. I have, therefore, wired to Tang intimating that I am unable to observe some items of that agreement, with an instruction to inform you of my reply. Tang has twice tendered his resignation and as there are circumstances which forbid me to force him to remain in office, I have taken steps to obtain Imperial sanction to his withdrawal. I cannot find a proper person to send to the south as my representative and I propose to conduct the negotiations in person by telegram in order to facilitate the speedy restoration of peace."

In response to the above note Wu Ting-fang wired back:—"I regard your telegram as entirely unreasonable. Tang Shao-i came to Shanghai as the peace plenipotentiary of the Peking Government and exchanged credentials and met me five times in conference. Every clause of the agreement concluded between him and myself binds both sides. You now state that the agreement was signed by Tang Shao-i without your sanction. I cannot accept the statement as I feel confident that your Government is bound by the agreement signed by Tang. Although Tang has now resigned his commission, this by no means invalidates the agreement signed by him before his resignation. You are fully aware of the terms agreed upon and I have no doubt that you will respect the agreement. You propose to conduct the negotiations by telegram but I find it impracticable to discuss matters of great importance by telegram at a distance of several thousand li, and hold that personal *parlours* are necessary to conduct the negotiations. The conference has invariably been conducted by personal interviews, and never by correspondence or telegrams. I have already consulted with Tang regarding the means of convening the national assembly and have come to an agreement on nearly all points, except the date and place of convocation. Tang has no doubt telegraphed you of my proposals concerning this. Both China and the foreign Powers now earnestly await a peaceful solution of the situation. Any radical change would create in the minds of the people a sense of uneasiness. If Your Excellency sincerely desires peace, you should show your sincerity without delay and enforce the agreement signed on December 29th last regarding the withdrawal of the troops; and issue to the army an order to withdraw 100 li from their present posts within five days following December 31st last."

Yuan Shih-kai's second telegraphic communication reads:—"Many items are still

left undecided, but I demand a renewal of the armistice for fifteen days, that is, up to 8 a.m. on the 15th instant. A telegraphic reply is awaited."

Wu Ting-fang telegraphed Yuan in reply:—"Your telegram demanding extension of the armistice for fifteen days is to hand. I must demand a reply to my proposal regarding the convocation of a national assembly, which I trust you have received. I have already agreed with Tang on the matter, the date and place of convocation alone being left undecided. If Your Excellency agrees to my proposal the National Assembly will speedily come into existence and the minds of the people will be put at ease. If your Excellency finds it inexpedient to give telegraphic consent, I must ask you to come to Shanghai to confer with me personally with a view to a speedy settlement of the matter. The agreement was signed on December 30th last. Should there be any indication of the negotiations falling through, hostile action will be resumed."

A later dispatch states that Wu Ting-fang has sent to the Consular Body in Shanghai a circular letter intimating that the peace negotiations have ended in failure in view of the peculiar attitude of the Manchu Government.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes what is alleged to be the original telegram of Tang Shao-i tendering his resignation. The telegram reads:—"Acting under the Imperial instructions to represent the Government I came to Shanghai for the purpose of negotiating peace and terminating the local disturbances, but since my arrival the insurrectionists have persistently upheld their own views and there has been little room for discussion. At the outset I proposed that the future form of government should be left to the decision of a national assembly, but the revolutionists opposed the proposal. After having resorted to various measures to conclude the negotiations, matters came to this end. Now North China opposes the negotiations, and the clauses which I have agreed upon with the revolutionists have been rejected by Yuan Shih-kai. I feel guilty of neglect in my public duties and have declined attending the conference from January 1st. I desire to have the fact officially notified to Wu Ting-fang and at the same time ask that a substitute be forthwith sent to Shanghai. Time presses and an order is impatiently awaited."

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires the gist of the telegraphic notes subsequently exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang.

Wiring under the date of the 4th instant, Wu Ting-fang contends that the Lanchow army being revolutionists advocating a republican government, the Imperialists could not properly attack them during the period of armistice. He also refuses to consent to the mutual withdrawal of the troops demanded by Yuan, and insists that Tang Shao-i was vested with full power to negotiate for peace. He further points out the impracticability of signing documents by telegram and demands that Yuan should come to Shanghai.

Yuan Shih-kai telegraphs to Wu Ting-fang under the same date that the Peking Government has been asked by the Italian Minister to protect the lives and property of foreign residents at Taiyuan in Shansi province against rioters, and a similar de-

mand was also made by the British Minister. The revolutionists in that town fled, but the Imperial army was debarred, by the terms of the armistice, from advancing. The Government consider it necessary to send troops thither in response to the demand of the Ministers concerned.

Yuan, replying to Wu Ting-fang's note, states that the suppression of the mutiny in the Lanchow army was no breach of the terms of armistice. Prompt measures had to be taken in view of the treaty of 1901. The Peking Government could not approve the agreement signed by Tang Shao-i regarding the proposed foreign loan. The scope of the credentials of Tang Shao-i was limited as stated in a previous note. If Wu Ting-fang considered it inexpedient to conduct the negotiations by telegram, he must ask him to come to Peking.

Wu Ting-fang wired back on the 5th instant, intimating that the Imperial army was at liberty to march on Taiyuan for the rescue of foreign residents, but it should not be permitted to attack the revolutionists. As to the foreign loan he could not consent to the alteration of the agreement signed by Tang Shao-i.

Yuan, wiring on the 6th, demanded the withdrawal of the revolutionary army from Shensi, where they had attacked the Imperialists in violation of the terms of the armistice. With regard to the plenipotentiary power vested in Tang Shao-i, Yuan contended that any agreement signed by Tang Shao-i only became binding upon ratification. Those agreements had not yet received his approval. The Imperial army had now been withdrawn from the South, while the revolutionary army was moving up northward, though Wu denied it. Justice demanded a mutual withdrawal on both sides. It was therefore desirable that the revolutionary troops should also be withdrawn to a similar distance with a view to facilitating the peaceful settlement of the situation.

Telegraphic notes exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang were made public on the 8th instant, wires the *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent.

The first telegram from Yuan Shih-kai reads:—

"It was agreed to submit the future polity of China to the decision of a national assembly, the method of convocation of which is now under discussion, so as to decide the question by popular vote. It came to me as a surprise therefore to learn of the organization of a Government in Nanking. Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who has been elected President, openly advocates the overthrow of the Manchu Government. This action is manifestly a breach of the agreement for deciding China's polity by popular vote. I must ask you to give me a full explanation of the reason of the election of a President and whether both the Nanking Government and the presidency will be dissolved should the national assembly decide in favour of a monarchical form of government. A telegraphic reply is awaited."

Wu Ting-fang replied:

"The establishment of a Provisional Government at Nanking is in nowise inconsistent with the principle of deciding the polity by popular vote in a national assembly. Firstly, whereas the revolutionists now occupy ten provinces, there is no machinery to maintain their unity.

There was thus a necessity for them to create a provisional government and elect a provisional president until a decision is made by the national assembly. The Government considers those provinces under the regime of the revolutionary army, which is nothing but ordinary political usage. If your Excellency chooses to attack us on this score we must also raise the question why your Excellency does not renounce the Peking Government prior to decision being given by a national assembly, and why your Excellency retains the services of numerous officials. Presumably your Excellency could not give an adequate answer to this. Your Excellency should correct your own actions before you blame those of others. Secondly, Article 1 of the agreement concluded with Tang Shao-i regarding the national assembly clearly stipulates that 'both parties shall abide by the decision of the national assembly regarding the polity China shall adopt in future.' Should the national assembly decide in favour of a Republican Government, would the Emperor forthwith abdicate the Throne? As for ourselves, we have already decided to abide by the decision of the national assembly, and any suspicion of our good faith is uncalled for."

To this Yuan Shih-kai responded:—

"There are, amongst the four clauses agreed upon between you and Tang Shao-i, many points which it is difficult to put into practice. If the convocation of a national assembly has for its object to submit the future polity to decision by popular vote, each prefecture or city should be represented by a member, as it would then be possible to ascertain the feelings of the people. You nevertheless propose to elect only three representatives from each province, which is tantamount to attempting to decide the question by the views of the minority. How can such a polity win the confidence of the whole nation and the recognition of the foreign Powers? China comprises a vast dominion. In addition to ten Mongolian districts there are the Talhot (?) and new Talhot (?) races in Kobdo and old Talhot tribe in Ili, exclusive of two tribes in Tsinhai as well as Chahai (?), Ulyonhai, Kasak (?) and several other races. If any of these tribes be not represented in the assembly the decision cannot be regarded as a consensus of public opinion, and it will be improper to accept its decision as to the future of China. The national assembly should be convened by the order of the Peking Government and such order should be transmitted through the medium of the revolutionists to those provinces where the Government cannot conveniently communicate direct either by telegram or post. The name of 'Provisional Government of the Chinese Republic' should in no case be used as it has not yet received official recognition."

The Election Law consisting of 17 articles, is appended to this telegram.

Wu Ting-fang again replied:—

"The rules for convening a national assembly, agreed to between Tang Shao-i and myself on December 13th last, have been duly signed by the plenipotentiaries on both sides, and I do not see any necessity for modifying them. Should we alter them we shall call down upon ourselves the ridicule of the Chinese nation, as well of the whole world. The Election Law your Excellency proposes to adopt is practically similar to that proposed by Tang Shao-i. We have

given it our deliberate consideration until we arrived at the decision embodied in the agreement of December 13th last. If your Excellency and other Peking authorities denounce the representation of each province by three members as the despotism of a minority, it betrays a sad lack of knowledge, on the part of your Excellency and your Excellency's subordinates, of the principles of election in civilized countries. The parliamentary members represent the views of the electors, or, in other words, the views of all the people qualified to vote. It cannot be said to be despotic. Three members for each province is by no means too small. The Election Law which your Excellency proposes to adopt has been framed purposely to protract the convocation of the national assembly. The convocation of a national assembly has for its object the speedy termination of this disastrous war. The speedier the national assembly is convened, the sooner will the future polity of China be decided. The people will thus be at ease and the war will cease. A transient armistice is insufficient to pacify and settle the popular mind, and the prospects of a peaceful settlement are obscure, as has been proved by the conflicts of the two armies during the period of the previous truce.

"Tang Shao-i and myself, therefore, signed an agreement on December 13th last, in the hope of thereby speedily convening a national assembly in order to decide the form of government China shall adopt and terminate all hostile action in order to set the public mind at ease. If your Excellency sincerely desires to restore and maintain peace, you will do well not to enter upon side issues so as to unduly protract the situation. I believe I have fully explained the points raised by your Excellency. I respect and abide by the clauses agreed upon between myself and Tang Shao-i, and will in no case tolerate their repudiation. Your Excellency states that Tang Shao-i signed the agreement without your knowledge or sanction, but I do not know whether or no Tang referred the matter to your Excellency. What I know is that Tang Shao-i is your Excellency's plenipotentiary and that to which he set his hand has the same validity as if it were signed by your Excellency. Otherwise the whole procedure will end in nothing and provoke derision. Further discussion is limited to the points left undecided between Tang Shao-i and myself, that is to say the date and place of convocation of the national assembly. It is needless to go over again matters already decided, as the agreement binds both sides."

Yuan Shih-kai replied:—

"With reference to the date and convocation of the national assembly discussed between you and Tang Shao-i on December 31st, I say that the assembly must be convened in Peking for the following reasons: (1) Peking has long been the capital of China and the so-called Chinese Republican Government has not yet received the recognition of the nation and of the foreign Powers. (2) Peking is located at a central point from all provinces and frontier dependencies. (3) All the Ministers of the treaty Powers are stationed in Peking. It is expedient to show to the representatives of the foreign Powers what we are doing, as will be the case if the national assembly be convened in the capital. Shanghai settlement is an international neutral

zone, and is not under Chinese administration. The national assembly should not be convened in such a place. We have no intention of assembling the representatives in Peking to seduce or persecute them. They will be fully protected. I hope you will dispel all unneeded anxiety. The number of representatives you propose is decidedly too small. To decide a matter of great importance by such a small number of representatives is incompatible with the spirit of constitutional administration. A question of such great importance as that now at issue should not be too hastily decided. If a national assembly is to be convened to ensure everlasting peace, the welfare of the state and happiness of the people, the question at issue should not be decided by a minority, whereon the prefectures and other minor administrative districts, as well as Eight Banner men and dependencies, are not duly represented, because it is then impossible to ascertain the true voice of the whole nation. The Election Law we propose, provides for the representation of the people's views by an adequate number of delegates. The date of convocation can be conveniently arranged after obtaining an adequate number of representatives. We must denounce any measure as despotic by which an adequate number of representatives is not convened in the discussion of state affairs of great importance. In short I cannot agree to any such method as that you propose. A speedy answer is awaited."

Wu Ting-fang's final reply reads:—

"Peking is the capital of the Manchu Government, which the revolutionists, who rose in the cause of righteousness and constituted a republican government, refuse to recognize. There is no need to discuss whether it is the capital. The distance between Peking and the headquarters of the southern revolutionists can be covered only by three or four days' travelling. As to the Ministers of foreign Powers, European and American countries do not raise any opposition to the actions of the Chinese Republic [no reference is made to Japan] and the national assembly is open to the observation of foreign countries, no matter in what place it is convened. A national assembly is a domestic affair of a country and not of an international character. It is therefore not necessary to convene it in a place where the Ministers of treaty Powers are stationed. Since Your Excellency insists on convening it in Peking, I must also insist with equal emphasis on its convocation in Nanking. I will, however, waive my point, and propose to choose the foreign settlement in Shanghai as the place of convocation, in view of its perfect equipment and the facilities of communication it offers. Peking lies in the sphere of influence of the Manchu Government, where many of the staff of the foreign Legation were, if we remember correctly, massacred during the Boxer trouble. Prince Tsaitao and others are men of the stamp of Prince Tuan, who made himself notorious in connection with the Boxer trouble. There is thus no guarantee against the peace plenipotentiaries being murdered or the National Assembly surrounded and attacked, if the assembly meets in Peking. As a matter of fact, rumours are current that Prince Tsaitao and other are planning the assassination of myself and my colleagues. What is Your Excellency's present position? Your Excellency can barely protect yourself, and can-

not spare a single soldier for the protection of others. Does your Excellency really think that you can accord to others due protection in present circumstances? That is the reason why I insisted on convening the assembly in Shanghai when Tang Shao-i proposed to hold it in Peking. At first I proposed to hold it in Nanking but finally consented to hold it in Shanghai. If your Excellency sincerely desires the speedy restoration of peace, I must hope you will desist from obstinate insistence and bring the peace negotiations to a speedy conclusion."

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires reports of further telegraphic notes exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang, which were made public on the 9th instant.

Yuan Shih-kai telegraphs that he is the peace plenipotentiary and Tang Shao-i is nothing but his agent, whose powers were specified in his credentials with which Wu Ting-fang is no doubt acquainted. Any agreement requiring signature must first be referred to Yuan. Agreements signed by Tang Shao-i without Yuan's approval have no binding force, irrespective of Tang Shao-i's resignation, and such agreements are invalid from a legal point of view. Yuan hopes for a peaceful settlement and would, therefore, consent to the withdrawal of the troops, as stipulated on December 29th on condition that such withdrawal shall be mutual. But he can not consent to the conditions agreed upon between Wu Ting-fang and Tang Shao-i relating to the national assembly. He desired to have a definite answer to the two points raised by him, viz. the proposed rules of the election, and the convocation of the national assembly in Peking. He proposes to withdraw the troops from Hanyang and Hankow for the sake of peace and desires that the same procedure be observed on the other side. He considers it expedient to conduct the peace negotiations by telegram but details may be discussed by post. If Wu Ting-fang came to Peking, full protection would be given him, since they had agreed to the convocation. If a national assembly is to decide on the future polity by popular vote they must consider proper measures for its convocation. He opposes any arbitrary decision for private reasons to deceive the nation as well as the outside world.

Wu Ting-fang wires back:—

"Your Excellency's statement regarding the powers vested in Tang Shao-i is at variance with Tang Shao-i's credentials, a copy of which is now in my hands, and I cannot, therefore, accept your view. Tang is duly authorized as plenipotentiary, and as such any agreement signed by him is as binding as if it had been signed by yourself. Your Excellency would be well advised not to advance any such argument. I have already so fully answered Your Excellency regarding the withdrawal of troops that I do not see any necessity for repetition. I cannot consent to the continuance of negotiations by telegram. I have asked Your Excellency to come to Shanghai, but instead of giving me any reply, Your Excellency asks me to come to Peking. The peace negotiations, which were smoothly progressing in Shanghai, were rudely interrupted because Your Excellency accepted the resignation tendered by Tang Shao-i. If Your Excellency desires to continue the negotiations I must ask you to come to Shanghai as there is no reason

why I should come to Peking. Shanghai is extremely tranquil at present and there was no attempt made to impede the *pourparlers* between your plenipotentiary and myself throughout the conference. I cannot consent to your proposal of exchanging telegraphic notes through the medium of the *Taotai* of Shanghai.

Yuan Shih-kai replies:—

"I would make the following proposition regarding the armistice:—The two armies shall not exchange fire until the resumption of hostile action be simultaneously announced by telegraphic instructions of the authorities of the belligerent parties. In the event of either army commencing hostilities in the meantime, the other shall assume the defensive, holding the delinquent responsible for a breach of good faith, and if no reply be forthcoming to a protest within thirty-six hours, the war operations shall be continued. If your Excellency agrees to the proposed arrangement, instructions should be issued to the two armies concerned, accordingly.

Wu Ting-fang in response to this proposal says:—

"The arrangement made between Tang Shao-i and myself regarding the truce is practically similar to your proposition, and I do not therefore, see any need for an alteration of the existing arrangement. I do not know whether Tang Shao-i has telegraphed you of the stipulated conditions of armistice, but the agreement made between him and myself is binding, though he has now resigned his commission."

Wu Ting-fang further wires:—

The public mind is not at ease since the national assembly still remains unconvened. Your Excellency no doubt reciprocates my desire for peace, but it is regrettable to note that the terms of the armistice are often violated by the two armies, especially by the Northern army. Although the revolutionists have risen in a righteous cause, they have not attained their ends and a feeling of uneasiness generally obtains amongst the public. We desire that the national assembly should be convened as speedily as possible to terminate the war and to restore peace. I desire your Excellency will concur in our views in regard to the date and place of convocation."

Wu Ting-fang again wires:—

"A telegram from Pukow reports the arrival at Ying shan on the 1st inst. of Yu Chungying, civil administrator in Honan, at the head of a large number of cavalry. This is a flagrant breach of the armistice. Such action cannot but create in the minds of the revolutionists, as well as the public, a suspicion as to the sincerity of the Manchu Government, and may lead to the resumption of hostile action. I must desire Your Excellency to issue strict injunctions against the recurrence of such incidents."

The Peking correspondent of the *Tokyo Asahi* telegraphs some further notes exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang.

Yuan, wiring under the date of the 8th instant, says that according to a report received from the president of the Tsin-Pu railway, the revolutionists are holding the railway officials, who are non combatants, under detention. Such an action is illegal and they should forthwith be released. The Deputy-Viceroy of Honan also reports that the revolutionists have advanced in defiance of the terms of the armistice. Yuan desires

that the troops should be withdrawn to their original posts.

Yuan also wires under the same date that General Tuan reports that the revolutionists have arrested a number of water-police in Hanyang. This action is a breach of the armistice and they should at once be released from detention. At the same time he desires that the Hnpeh army should be disbanded. Reports also reach Peking from Honan that the revolutionary troops in Shensi and Shansi provinces have advanced and compelled the Imperialists to retreat. The further the Imperialists retreat, the further have the revolutionists advanced, so that a decisive battle is thought necessary to settle the situation.

The Shanghai correspondent of the same journal also wires a telegram from Yuan addressed to Wu Ting-fang which was made public on the 10th instant. The telegram reads:—

"Your Excellency puts a strained construction on Tang Shao-i's credentials, when you hold that the credentials invest Tang with power not only to negotiate but also to decide the terms of peace. The words 'to settle the general situation' used in the credentials should be interpreted in the sense of a provisional settlement. Not only is there no clause in the credentials which invests Tang Shao-i with full plenipotentiary power, but the facts prove otherwise. Tang asked for my approval to the convocation of a national assembly, and he addressed to the Throne a telegraphic memorial on the subject. Were full powers vested in him, all such procedure would have been unnecessary. It is also a gross misunderstanding to think that Tang has been delegated with the powers vested in a Minister-President. The scope of the plenipotentiary powers vested in Tang is clearly defined in the Imperial Rescript which I have had the honour to receive. From a legal point of view, any clauses that Tang may agree to, take effect only on ratification. Tang's power can not exceed mine. To discuss the general situation implies a consultation on the best means for the preservation of the State, or in other words, to decide the future polity according to the popular wishes of the nation. The revolutionists recognize a national assembly, which amounts to the admission that China is under the regime of one government. Both sides should abide by the decision of the national assembly, no matter whether it decides in favour of a republican government or a monarchical government. This is on the hypothesis of the existence of one government, not of two governments in China. International precedents are, therefore, not applicable to a case where a Government and people jointly discuss domestic affairs. Besides, jurists all agree that the agreement signed by a plenipotentiary takes effect on ratification. Tang had no power to decide, and therefore, the clauses agreed to by him, such as the decision of the country's polity by the views of three representatives from each province, can naturally have no binding force, as they are clearly at variance with the spirit of solving the situation in consonance with the popular vote. A delegation is a sort of contract between the principal and the agent, its power being specified and limited by the power-of-attorney. Any excess of power by the agent is subject to a revision by the principal. The fundamental idea of the peace conference is to decide the country's

polity by popular vote. Opposition to this betrays a lack of sincerity for a peaceful settlement of the situation. This is the point which the Government disputes. I can not understand why the proposals and the Election Law I submitted to your consideration are left unanswered by your Excellency. I desire your Excellency should answer this and other proposals which are still left unanswered."

THE BUDGET.

COMMENTS OF THE "TOKYO ECONOMIST."

Speculating on the probable effect the Government fiscal programme will have on general economics, the Tokyo Economist (*Keisai Zasshi*) writes that the Budget for next fiscal year is not likely to be subjected to any radical amendment in the House this session. The Budget puts both the revenue and expenditure at 573,841,996 yen, or, in other words, the whole revenue is to cover the whole expenditure leaving neither surplus nor deficit. Of the total revenue the sum transferred from the surplus of the previous Budget stands at 15,025,000 yen, while the rest is made up from ordinary revenue as shown in the official explanation, which reads:—

The surplus of the Budget of the 43rd fiscal year, which has been transferred to the account for the 44th fiscal year, amounts to about 101 million yen when about 48 million yen appropriated to meet the expenditure in that fiscal year is deducted. Of this balance, about 31 million yen has been used for urgent and unavoidable expenditure, so that the net balance remaining over amounts to about 21,700,000 yen. Of this sum 15,025,734 yen has been transferred to the present Budget, in addition to 2,981,083 yen, which is to be appropriated as a financial source for the extraordinary special war fund carried over, altogether aggregating 18,007,717 yen. The balance still remaining over, amounting to about 3,700,000 yen, is reserved as a financial source for a supplementary budget for next fiscal year.

There was thus an enormous surplus in the previous Budget, but since the surplus has been transferred to other accounts and expended, it leaves only about 3,700,000 yen, besides some 15,000,000 yen transferred to the present Budget, and the first named sum is to form the financial source for a supplementary budget for next fiscal year. Thus all the surplus of the 43rd fiscal year Budget is to be expended in the next fiscal year.

The national bonds redeemable next fiscal year are fixed at 50 million yen, but there are public works to be undertaken by the issue of new national bonds or loans as shown below:—

By the issue of national bonds or by loans	Yen.
(Railway Budget).....	40,000,000
By the issue of national bonds (Chosen Budget).....	12,595,540
Do (Formosan Budget).....	2,585,000

Total 55,181,540

It will thus be seen that the sum to be raised by the issue of new national bonds on temporary loans exceeds the amount of national bonds redeemable in the course of next fiscal year. The excess must be greater than represented above if new bonds are issued at home, inasmuch as the whole amount of the 50 million yen redemption does not go into the pockets of people at home. Although it is possible that a portion of the Chosen bonds may be accepted by the Bank of Chosen and of the Formosan bonds by the Bank of Formosa, there can be no doubt that the amount to be subscribed for the new

bonds far exceeds the amount of bonds redeemable. The Government has the option of issuing new bonds on the home market or abroad, or getting the whole sum accepted by the Deposit Bureau, or raising a loan from the Nippon Ginko without having recourse to bond issue. If the Government desires to replenish the specie reserve kept abroad, it may issue the bonds abroad, but if otherwise disposed it may issue them on the home market. Different procedure naturally affects the economic market differently. Although it is rather difficult to form any accurate idea as to the probable effect the fiscal programme will have on general economics until the Government's policy is ascertained in this respect, there can almost be no doubt that the financial authorities are disposed to carry out the fiscal programme in such a way as to have the smallest possible effect on the general economics.

The principal items of extraordinary expenditure which show marked increases over the previous Budget comprise:—

Increase in annual instalment for land and sea connective equipment of the Kobe Customs House	1,032,000
Increase in annual instalment for the inauguration of the Tobacco Monopoly Bureau	1,230,000
Increase in annual instalment for Naval Armament Extension	4,609,987
Increase of expenditure incidental to the shortening of the prescribed period for naval armament expansion.....	1,500,000
Increase in annual instalment for the extension of steel foundry	1,222,251
Increase in annual instalment for the extension of telephone service	2,500,000

There are the more important public works to be extended next fiscal year. Surprise was expressed by some publicists as to the final agreement of the Minister of the Navy to the revision of the Naval Budget, but there is no cause for wonder when the increase in the appropriation for naval extension shown in the Budget is considered. As a matter of fact the sum devoted to the purpose next fiscal year practically amounts to some 6,000,000 yen. A portion of the extraordinary expenditure will go abroad in the form of payment for materials for the work, but the larger portion will be distributed at home to give an impetus to the development of domestic trade and industry.

Turning to the Railway Budget we see the following items:—

Annual instalment for construction already voted	Yen. 23,342,574
Annual instalment of supplementary expenditure for the same.....	1,457,426
Annual instalment of the cost of improvements already voted.....	25,978,038
Supplementary annual instalment for the same	4,065,000
Redemption of debts	100,000
Total	54,943,038

The financial sources for the above comprise the following:—

Railway revenue	10,107,551
Miscellaneous revenue belonging to capital account.....	207,655
Fund carried over from the previous account of 44th fiscal year	4,627,830
Total	14,943,036

The balance, amounting to 40 million yen, is to be met by the issue of railway bonds and loans.

It will thus be seen that the Government contemplates prosecuting the railway enterprise with an increased outlay amounting to over five million yen, the deficit being met by the issue of railway bonds or loans. The increase in the expenditure will go to enrich

the pockets of local people. We are thus constrained to view the so-called negative fiscal policy of the Minister of Finance with a certain amount of scepticism, since we consider it would be possible to lessen the burden of taxes and abolish the monopolies, if the Government refrained from the extension of public works. True economic development and prosperity are only attainable after the taxes have been reduced and the monopolies discontinued in order to lessen the heavy taxes which are imposed almost to breaking point.

PROGRESS IN CHOSEN.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Governor-General Terauchi invited the Seoul correspondents of the Tokyo journals to his official residence on Saturday evening last, and delivered an address. The Count said he welcomed fair criticism of the administration of Chosen, based on substantial facts, and highly appreciated the services rendered by journalists in making the affairs of the peninsula known to the world. As for himself he would continue to pursue the policy followed since the annexation. Only a few years had elapsed since the new regime was established in Chosen, but the administrative programme had made favourable progress and there had been a marked increase in the rice and cotton crops. Sericulture had also shown a great improvement. The value of the foreign trade last year reached a total of 71,000,000 yen, showing an increase by 19 per cent. over the preceding year. It was regrettable that the export trade did not keep pace with the ever increasing volume of import trade. The imports, however, principally consisted of articles which tend to build up the foundations of industry, and might therefore be taken as an indication of the promotion of the national wealth. The annual revenue of the Government had also increased by about three million yen, which sum was to be appropriated for the encouragement of trade and industry. The Government also proposed to abolish the import tax on rice, cereals, marine products, lumber and other principal articles of import, in order to accelerate the progress of industries in the peninsula. The abolition would cause a deficit of 1,500,000 yen in the revenue, which would be made good by a further retrenchment in the administrative expenditure. The matter was now under investigation. It was the Government's intention to economize the administrative expenditure as much as possible and to devote the money saved to the development of the trade and industry of the country.

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

We learn from a trustworthy source that Hwang Chun-ying, the Minister of the Navy of the Revolutionary Government, is a Fukien man, who now commands the warship *Haichou*. Tang Chieh ming, Vice Minister of the Navy, formerly held the directorship of Civil Administration in Wuchang. Mr. Tang studied in France for seven years and is a capable young officer, endowed with a large amount of political knowledge. He was formerly the commander-in-chief of the Second Squadron. He will be in charge of all the naval affairs of the Revolutionary Government.

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY.

OPINION OF DIPLOMATIC OFFICIAL.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a certain official, long connected with the diplomatic service, as saying that a belief evidently obtains amongst a section of publicists that the Japanese Government considers a constitutional monarchy best suited to China and would therefore urge its adoption on the Chinese, even by force. These publicists allege that the Genrō statesmen think that the adoption by China of a republican government would injuriously affect Japan and therefore the tendency must be checked in time, and that they compelled the Government to accept this view. They even denounce Japan's diplomacy as a failure and attribute it to this cause. "I do not profess to know what has led people to entertain such an erroneous notion of Japan's diplomacy, but I venture to presume that the rumour originated in the announcement of Yuan Shih-kai, who declared, when sending the peace commissioners to Shanghai, that the Governments of the Six Powers were all in favour of a constitutional monarchy and opposed a republican government. Yuan may have thought it necessary to make such a statement for the prosecution of his own policy, but it is clear that no foreign Power would dare to dictate to other nations the form of government they should adopt. Even if a foreign Power could uphold such a claim by force, she must be prepared to maintain that form of government by force if it be not acceptable to the bulk of the nation. It would thus be found necessary to interfere with the domestic affairs of the country and virtually turn it into a protectorate or dependency. If things came to that pass other foreign Powers interested would certainly not look on with folded arms. It is unthinkable that the Genrō statesmen and the Government authorities could shut their eyes to these obvious results and commit such a blunder as publicists would have the people to believe. The public, nevertheless, are inclined to attach some credence to the rumour, because the true nature of Japan's diplomacy remains a sealed book to them.

"To the best of my knowledge, when the disturbance was started in Wuchang the Japanese Government was conscious of its magnitude but felt convinced of the ability of the Peking Government to suppress it effectually. Nevertheless the revolutionists gained an ascendancy as time passed, until the Peking Government proved incompetent to deal with them. Consternation and terror seized the Government and the disturbance began to seriously affect Japan's trade interests in China. The Japanese Government then began to think of the propriety of taking some measure to prevent a further spread of the disturbances in order to protect Japan's rights and interests. Just at this juncture, Yuan Shih-kai, who had responded to the call of the Peking Government, showed a disposition to effect a peaceful settlement by compromise without having recourse to force. Thereupon Japan entered into *pourparlers* with the British Government, as well as other Powers, and they agreed to offer jointly to China, friendly advice to bring the peace conference to a successful conclusion. A Note Identique was issued in consequence. In the meantime the various Powers had been consulted by Yuan Shih-kai on the propriety or otherwise of the adoption by China of a

constitutional monarchy. Yuan presumably intended to give weight to the terms of peace he was about to propose by getting the indorsement of various Powers. But even if some of the representatives of the foreign Powers approved Yuan's view and promised their support to the peace negotiation, it is clear that they did so because they thought it unnecessary to oppose Yuan, and because they felt it was urgent to restore peace. They most positively did not advocate a constitutional monarchy, as represented by Yuan Shih-kai, for obvious reasons. Besides, it is unthinkable that they should have promised Yuan armed support. Through the good offices of the foreign governments Yuan established an understanding with the revolutionists and dispatched Tang Shao-i to Shanghai to negotiate for peace. Tang, however, has shown a lack of the qualifications required for a peace plenipotentiary. Not only has he not advanced his own terms of peace, but he has accepted the views of the revolutionists entirely, and has endeavoured to induce the Peking Government to accept the terms dictated by the revolutionists. The fact is too well known to the public to need repetition. Yuan is the meantime appealed to the foreign Powers for financial aid, stating that the Government had barely sufficient funds to pay the soldiers their allowance for another week, and that if the soldiers were unpaid, they might be driven to riot, which would endanger the lives and property of foreign residents. Yuan's appeal failed to produce the desired result, because if the foreign Powers had responded to the appeal, they would have been regarded by the revolutionists as supporters of the Peking Government. It was also impossible to obtain the consent of the revolutionists to such financial aid. While the diplomatic negotiations were at this point in Peking, notwithstanding Yuan had formerly strongly insisted on a constitutional monarchy, he nevertheless, without giving any notice to the Corps Diplomatique, entered into *pourparlers* with the revolutionary government in Shanghai in regard to the proposal of convoking a national assembly to submit the choice of the future form of government. The diplomatic negotiations with the foreign Powers in Peking thus came to an end. In the circumstances the foreign Powers can do nothing but take measures for the protection of their own rights and interests and also watch quietly any further development of the situation to bring about the speedy restoration of peace at the right moment. At present, when suspicions are apt to creep into the minds of the various Governments, it is no easy work for the responsible authorities to move judiciously. In my opinion the measures taken by the Japanese Government in ancient Chinese affairs are most fair and upright and leave no room for either suspicion or censure."

COUNT OKUMA ON THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Count Okuma is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as saying that the failure of the peace conference has restored the Imperialists and revolutionists to their former state. The peace conference differed somewhat from the usual conferences between belligerents in that the two sides did not enter into *pourparlers* with equal rights. It seemed as

though the Peking Government was compelled from the start to accept the terms dictated by the revolutionists, so that the negotiations savoured more of surrender. But since the Peking Government chose this method for the solution of the situation, Yuan Shih-kai ought to have conducted the negotiations with sincerity. Yuan nevertheless, afterwards changed his mind and is now attempting to invalidate all the agreements signed, on the pretext of an excess of power on the part of Tang Shao-i. Apart from the legal aspect of the question, such can not be pronounced a sincere attitude. To think it possible to conduct peace negotiations by telegram is but a fool's dream. The revolutionists issued to the Consuls of the various Powers a circular note intimating the failure of the negotiation and placing the blame on the shoulders of the Peking Government. Yuan will no doubt endeavour to give a plausible reason for laying the blame on the revolutionists in order to enlist the sympathy of the foreign Powers. Delay is calamitous to both sides, but the revolutionists will feel it keenest. It is therefore, natural, that they should wish to attain their aim quickly. Yuan is fully aware of the enemy's weakness and therefore resorts to a procrastinating policy to tire them into submission.

Yuan, nevertheless, will lose his influence as time passes; and there is a danger of his losing both political and military power if he resigns, and then he might perchance lose his head. If he remain in power, he will be confronted with many difficulties. It is impossible now for him to secure the first presidency of the Chinese Republic. Resourceful men ever fall victims to the measures they devise. Yuan is an example of this. On the other hand, if the revolutionists go headlong beyond proper bounds, they might lose popular sympathy, which might go to the Peking Government. The final issue of the struggle now depends on winning the sympathy of the outside Powers.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF MONGOLIA.

ALLEGED SCHEME TO RAISE MONEY.

With a reference to the Reuter's telegram reporting that Russia has demanded the recognition of the independence of Outer Mongolia for internal affairs, the *Chuwu* publishes a lengthy telegram received from Peking which states that the report is a revelation of a portion of a secret convention entered into between Russia and the Peking Government. The secret agreement is of deeper significance, as it relates to the sale of Outer Mongolia to Russia for 30 million roubles. The author of the scheme is no other than Tang Shao-i who suggested the proposal to Yuan Shih-kai as the means of raising a war fund. The *Chuwu's* Peking correspondent adds that China is also disposed to sell Tibet to Great Britain and that the scheme is fast taking a definite shape, as intelligence transmitted from Bombay *via* Singapore reports that the British flag has been flying at Lhasa and other cities in Tibet for the past month. It is further alleged that Yuan Shih-kai intends to realize 50 million taels by the sale, so as to raise sufficient funds for the maintenance of the Manchu dynasty against the insurgents.

PROCLAMATION OF THE [PRESIDENT.]

THE CHARGE AGAINST THE MANCHU DYNASTY.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires the text of the proclamation issued by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, President of the Chinese Republic, which is countersigned by Dr. Wu Ting-fang, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The proclamation reads:—

The character and finest qualities of private individuals, as well as the national ambition of her people, being held down by despotism, the intellectual, moral and material development of China has been greatly impeded. The removal of the cause of the evil by revolution has been necessitated. We hereby declare that the despotic rule of the Manchu Dynasty has been overthrown and a republican government constituted. The substitution of a republican government for monarchical rule is not a matter of transient feeling, but the spontaneous fulfilment of a long cherished desire for liberty, perpetual contentment, and ever increasing development and progress. It must be considered as a formal announcement of the popular wishes of the Chinese people. They are a peaceful and law-abiding nation. They have never unsheathed their swords unless for self-defence. During the past two hundred and sixty-seven years the people have groaned under the despotic rule of the Manchu Dynasty, but have made endeavours to effect reforms by peaceful means in order to gain their liberty and effect progress. Our attempts have nevertheless proved ineffectual. We have suffered such oppression as human nature can hardly endure, until we have been constrained to think it our inalienable right and sacred duty to save ourselves and posterity from this despotic rule by recourse to armed force. We have now succeeded in throwing off the most disgraceful bondage ever known in Chinese history and obtaining our liberty. Our future is thus full of hope.

"The policy of the Manchu dynasty consisted of seclusion and despotism. We have long groaned under its administration. We take this occasion to set forth before the free nations of the world the reasons which justify the revolution and the establishment of the republican government. On looking back, we find that, prior to the assumption of the Throne by the Manchus, China had been opened to foreign intercourse and commerce, and there existed freedom of religious faith. Marco Polo's writings and the Nestorian monument in Hsian give clear evidence of this. The ignorant Manchus, to serve their private ends, closed the country to foreign intercourse, shut the intellectual eyes of the Chinese and impaired their ability, thus committing an unpardonable sin against humanity and civilization. They coveted their power and wealth and forced on the Chinese an everlasting submission to their rule which proved injurious to the Chinese people. They created privileges and monopolies and set up insurmountable barriers around themselves. They have for centuries past maintained this mood to the exclusion of the Chinese. They have imposed harmful taxes without the consent of the nation and restricted the foreign trade to treaty ports.

They have imposed a *likin* tax on merchandise in transit, to the great impediment of domestic trade and industry, thereby rendering the development of the national resources impossible. They neglected to protect vested rights and they did not tolerate the creation of law courts to ensure a fair administration of justice, and thus subjected the people to the most cruel punishments without discrimination. They have often infringed the sacred rights of the people without observing proper legal procedure. They have tolerated official corruption and sold public offices to the highest bidders. They have been often moved by personal influence and have unjustly rejected proper demands for political reforms. When pressed by the nation they have given promises which they did not mean to keep, and thus impeded the aspirations of the people for better government. They have taken no heed of many sad precedents in foreign countries, where they might have learnt good lessons, until, as time went on, both the Manchu Government and Chinese people have become objects of contempt to the world. We rose in arms and have constituted our government in the hope of sweeping away existing evils and in order to elevate China amongst the ranks of the various Powers of the world. In fear of our good faith being misunderstood, we hereby openly give the following pledges:—

All the treaties and conventions that have been concluded with the various foreign Powers by the Manchu Government prior to the revolution shall be respected and remain valid until the expiration of their respective terms. Those entered upon after the opening of the revolution shall, however, be considered as invalid.

The various concessions granted by the Manchu Government to foreign countries or people shall be respected, but rights or interests conceded after the revolution shall be considered as invalid.

The lives and property of foreign-residents in the Chinese Republic shall be respected and protected.

Our constant efforts shall be directed to the establishment of a stable government, commensurate with the future development of China. We avow our intention of elevating the people, giving them peace and legislation to promote their happiness. We shall accord to the Manchus who acknowledge allegiance to our rule, equal treatment and protection with Chinese. We avow our intention to revise the laws and ordinances, consolidate the bases of the State finances, abolish the restrictions on foreign commerce, guarantee freedom of religious faith and maintain cordial relations with the treaty Powers. We shall spare no efforts to realize these ends.

We claim the friendly assistance of sympathetic nations in the work attendant on the reformation of the government in order to enable us to realize the fundamental reform of the administration of China which the friendly Powers have so long advised us to carry out.

We desire that the Chinese Republic shall be admitted to the comity of the nations, not only because we have claims to equal rights and privileges with other nations, but because we desire to co-operate with them to contribute something to the noble work of world civilization.

"Issued at Nanking on the 5th day of the first month of the first year of the Chinese Republic."

JAPAN'S CHINA TRADE.

EXPORT OF COTTON YARNS AND COTTON CLOTH.

The *Tokyo Asahi* publishes elaborate statistics on the export of cotton yarn and cotton cloth, which are the most important items of Japan's China trade. The total export of cotton yarns to China during October, November and December last, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, is as under:—

	1911.	1910.	Increase or decrease.
October.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Quantity	16,681½	23,480	—4,166
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Value	3,027,754	4,355,196	—1,353,344
November.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Quantity	12,440½	26,126½	—13,686
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Value	1,811,903	4,789,122	—2,977,919
December.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Quantity	13,265½	20,391½	—7,026
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Value	2,022,316	3,754,996	—1,732,680

As shown above, the total decrease in export during the three months under review amounted to about 24,880 bales in quantity and some 6,000,000 yen in value.

The export of cotton cloth during the period, with a comparison with the preceding year, is shown below:—

	1911.	1910.	Increase or Decrease.
October	1,156,125	1,240,512	—84,879
November	597,212	1,069,189	—471,977
December	553,778	523,263	+30,515

There was a considerable decrease in October and November, but an increase of about 30,000 *yen* was shown in December. The disturbance in South China has had no direct effect on the export of the leased territory in Manchuria as shown below:—

	1911.	1910.	Increase or Decrease.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
October	45,538	14,991	+30,547
November	131,430	138,210	+6,780
December	177,688	66,902	+110,786
October	731,871	528,594	+203,277
November	488,628	420,435	+68,193
December	396,186	164,067	+232,119

It will be seen from the above that the export of cotton yarn during the period has shown some increase, while cotton cloth also showed an increase in October and November, though it decreased in December.

TOKYO CLEARING HOUSE.

The negotiable documents presented to the Tokyo Clearing House for transaction during last year totalled 3,819,000, representing 3,708,250,000 yen in value. As compared with the preceding year this shows an increase by 333,000 in number but a decrease by 133,120,000 yen in value. The decrease in value is due to the absence of the large bills which were in circulation in 1910, owing to the conversion of national loans, etc. The following table shows the result of the business during the past decade:—

	Number.	Value yen.
1902	2,110,000	1,350,791,000
1903	2,487,000	1,562,637,000
1904	2,506,000	1,954,393,000
1905	2,120,000	2,500,528,000
1906	3,102,000	3,500,854,000
1907	3,185,000	3,540,443,000
1908	3,138,000	2,962,973,000
1909	3,226,000	3,486,873,000
1910	3,486,000	3,841,380,000
1911	3,819,000	3,708,250,000

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 6.)

OUR readers must have anticipated, as indeed we ourselves remarked when publishing the news received on the 3rd instant, that things were tending towards a renewed outbreak of hostilities in the Yangtze Valley. Unfortunately that estimate of the situation is confirmed by the latest intelligence. The correspondence that passed between Peking and Shanghai with reference to the terms of the agreement signed on the 31st ultimo at the latter place by the two plenipotentiaries, TANG SHAO-I and WU TING-FANG, is published elsewhere in our columns. It shows that the negotiations have practically been broken off. The verdict of the public on reading this correspondence will, we think, be in favour of Mr. WU TING-FANG. The Prime Minister in Peking has practically repudiated his own plenipotentiary. TANG SHAO-I went to the Conference carrying with him his credentials which were duly exhibited, in the conference-chamber at Shanghai before the discussion commenced, and which, although their text has not been published, must be assumed to have conferred upon TANG powers of the same plenipotentiary scope as was indicated in the credentials of Mr. WU TING-FANG himself. Both of the delegates were perfectly satisfied with each other's status, and they proceeded at once to consider points which must have been fully communicated to Peking at every stage of the proceedings. It is futile now for YUAN to plead ignorance. He undoubtedly knew everything that was going on, and even though he had not known, the commission given with his full cognizance to TANG SHAO-I would bind Peking to abide by the terms which obtained the latter's acquiescence. But YUAN deliberately repudiates TANG's action, and claims in effect that he had no plenipotentiary power at all. This is an old device in China. Japan and other Powers have had experience of it. If such procedure were admitted to be legitimate, it would obviously be futile to organize any conferences between plenipotentiaries. Short of the Sovereign in person no one could be entrusted with full powers. If YUAN himself replaced TANG in the conference chamber at Shanghai, the Insurgents could have no assurance that the former's negotiations would not be rejected by the EMPEROR at the supreme moment. On the other hand, it must be confessed that some of the stipulations formulated by the Insurgent leaders and apparently by the Peking delegate were incapable of practical execution. This is notably true of the provision that the Imperial troops should be withdrawn to a distance of 100 li during the course of five days, and that a national assembly should meet in Nanking or Shanghai within the course of a few weeks. It is quite

obvious that to evacuate the positions won in the sequel of fighting is not a condition which can be properly imposed upon one side only, and it is equally plain to military men that to make all arrangements connected with the withdrawal of an army through a distance of 33 miles within the brief period of five days is virtually impossible, or would at least entail abandonment of many of the sick and wounded and of large quantities of stores. TANG SHAO-I ought never to have endorsed such a stipulation as that. But nothing is less probable than that the Insurgent leaders would have insisted upon these extravagant terms had objections been raised in a temperate manner, whereas the Prime Minister in Peking adopts by no means a conciliatory tone when referring to these stipulations. The impression conveyed by the whole correspondence is that right is technically on the side of Mr. WU TING FANG, and that, in the interval since the convening of the Conference, the conditions have undergone some alteration which has had the effect of strengthening the back of the Imperialists. That alteration can scarcely be misconstrued. It is a question of finance. The Imperialists suddenly find themselves in command of something like 10 million *taels*, whereas the Insurgents are practically penniless so far as the public knows. There is still a bare possibility that the renewal of warfare may be avoided, but it must be confessed that the situation looks very gloomy.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 9.)

JAPAN'S industrial future depends so largely upon the possibility of maintaining the mutually sympathetic relations existing at present between employers of labour and employees, that we make no excuse for referring again to the recent strike of the Tokyo Railway staff. We do so because experience has shown that any misapprehensions which find their way into the columns of the local foreign press are sure to be taken up abroad and to be made the basis of unwarrantable deductions. Under such a misapprehension the *Japan Advertiser* seems to have been labouring when it wrote as follows with regard to the tram-car strike:—

The merits or demerits of this particular strike concern us less at this juncture than the simple fact of the strike. But it would certainly require a good deal of evidence to convince us that the life of a Japanese street-car employee is not a dog's life, and that his reward in Japanese legal tender is sufficient to keep body and soul together. We can anticipate the cynical reply that Voltaire, in reply to the hack who excused his bad verses on the ground that a man must live, remarked, "I don't see the necessity." If society chooses to adopt that attitude towards the claims of the proletariat, the proletariat is hardly to blame if it has recourse to the only sort of weapon calculated to appeal to society. Now that the street-car men in Tokyo have demonstrated their power, some change for the better in the hard lot of the men may perhaps be expected. A circumstance that must be accorded to them for righteousness is

the extreme orderliness which, with inconsiderable exceptions, characterised the conduct of this strike throughout. Elementary common sense, of course, told the men that they had what, in sporting parlance, may be called a "strangle hold" upon their employers and that the latter's realisation of the fact would render it quite unnecessary for the victors to apply any extra pressure. The directors of the old street railway company, indeed, found it advisable to pay back \$96,000 *per* *ann* or so of the bonus recently distributed, as the strikers contend, unfairly, and this additional amount was promptly apportioned among the men, who professed themselves satisfied.

We have here a very erroneous statement of facts and a correspondingly false inference. The error is that the life of a Japanese street car employee is "a dog's life, and that his reward in Japanese legal tender is not sufficient to keep body and soul together as they should be kept together." The truth is that the Japanese street-car employee receives a salary which compares favourably with the pay of working men in general in this country. He receives from eighteen to twenty-five yen a month, together with his uniform, and that is at least as much as a highly trained gardener gets. Thus, to speak of the Tokyo street-car employee leading a dog's life and not getting enough to keep body and soul together is to greatly distort facts. The false inference is that rates of pay were responsible for the strike. They were not in any sense responsible. There was no question whatever about rates of pay. The men are entirely content in that respect, and nothing could be more unfortunate for them than that an influential foreign journal published in this country should write in a strain such as the *Japan Advertiser* adopts in discussing this question. Our contemporary's article is emphatically provocative. It expresses an unequivocal hope that as the men have now shown their strength, some change in their hard lot may be expected. There are in Tokyo, unfortunately, a number of agitators who have more than once brought disgrace upon the city by inciting the citizens to resort to violence where reason alone should have been appealed to. These men were at work fomenting the recent strike. They went about from car to car threatening that physical violence would be resorted to in the case of any motor-men or guards who refused to join the demonstration. To such men an article like that in our Tokyo contemporary's columns cannot fail to serve as an evil message. They will conclude that foreigners are on their side, and it is quite conceivable that this injudicious paragraph will be responsible for future breaches of law and order. It is not sympathy which is due to either these inciters to violence or to the employees who allow themselves to be incited. There never was a giddier or less reasonable strike. If the motor-men and guards had been deprived of their billets or if their pay had been reduced in consequence of municipalization, they might have had some just ground of complaint. But nothing of the kind had happened. Municipalization

made no difference to them. They remained at their posts and continued to receive their emoluments as before. The sufferers by municipalization were the Directors of the Company: they were deprived of posts which are counted among the prizes of their class. That the Directors, with this catastrophe staring them in the face, nevertheless worked in the interests of the shareholders to bring about municipalization, was very much to the former's credit and constituted a title to any rewards that were going. Nevertheless the arrangement made was that out of the million yen remaining in the Company's hands after it had handed over its property to the Municipality, six-tenths should be divided among the employees and four-tenths should go to the Directors. It was more than an equitable arrangement from the employees' point of view: it was emphatically generous. Yet the employees struck work in support of a demand for a larger bonus and did not hesitate to subject the whole of their fellow-citizens to extreme inconvenience and to earn vicarious opprobrium for the Municipal Authorities who were absolutely irresponsible. It is a parody of justice that any publicist should invite readers of newspapers to sympathise with these strikers. In fact, the whole incident seems to us very ominous as to the future relations of labour and capital in Japan. The motor-men and guards of the tram-cars showed that they are prepared to take the law into their own hands, quite without care for the justice or injustice of their acts.

JAPANESE FEELING.

The *Kokumin Shinbun* writes that a section of the Japanese formerly unequivocally sympathized with the revolutionists, but there has of late been signs of a change in the popular sentiments. The people sympathized with the revolutionists for two reasons. Firstly because they thought the revolutionists were unable to stand against the Peking Government, so that sympathy was naturally with the weaker side, and secondly because they suspected Yuan Shi kai was ambitious of being the first president of the Chinese Republic. Yuan has nevertheless demonstrated his sincerity in his support of the Peking Government even after many reverses, and this has stimulated the chivalrous feeling of the Japanese nation, and drawn forth their sympathy. Moreover the revolutionists lately showed a disposition to achieve their ends by diplomacy and also a tendency towards self-conceit, which created an impression that they could hardly expect to succeed in the work of the revolution. There are nevertheless many Japanese who bear a hereditary grudge towards Yuan, so that they would naturally hesitate to support the Peking Government so long as Yuan remains at the helm of state. There have already appeared some persons, however, who, openly promise their support if either Chu Hung-chi or Tsen Chun-hsuan come into power. It is especially noteworthy that these people were former staunch sympathisers with the revolutionists.

THE FIRING ON A JAPANESE STEAMER.

Lieutenant Togawa, commander of the Destroyer *Makikumo*, now at Chingkiang, reports to the Admiralty as to the incident in which the revolutionists fired on the Japan-China Steamship Company's liner, killing one Chinese and wounding another. On the 3rd instant, a delegate of Lin Show-ching, Magistrate of Chingkiang, proceeded to Chingkiang and effected a private settlement by paying 400 taels as indemnity. On the same afternoon, Lieut. Togawa proceeded to Yangchow and interviewed Magistrate Lin, who apologized for the unfortunate incident and promised to guard against any recurrence. Lieut. Togawa warned him that he would be compelled to offer armed resistance if Japanese steamers were wantonly fired on or otherwise molested in future. The matter has thus been amicably settled.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The many friends of Captain Piggott, R.E., will be pleased to learn that in consideration of his quite exceptional ability in mastering the Japanese language, the War Office Authorities have decided that he shall remain in Tokyo for another year from March next. It is stated that Captain Piggott will act as assistant to Colonel Somerville, Military Attaché of the British Embassy.

According to an official telegram reaching the Admiralty from the Japanese Embassy in Washington, Rear-Admiral Evans passed away suddenly on Wednesday night last and the funeral is to take place on the 5th instant. The deceased Admiral long commanded the United States Squadron in the Far East and has numerous friends in Japan. The loss of the gallant Admiral will be generally felt.

According to an official telegram received at the Admiralty the training fleet *Aso* and *Soya* left Auckland for Sydney on the 8th instant.

The *Official Gazette* announces the appointment of Privy Councillor Count Yoshikawa as Vice-President of the Privy Council to fill the vacancy created by the recent demise of Count Higashi-kuze.

Baron Sufu, Governor of Kanagawa, has been appointed a member of the Privy Council. The successor to the Governorship of Kanagawa is not yet announced.

A dispatch reaching the Admiralty from Hawaii reports that the United States Pacific Squadron, of which the *California* is the flagship, was to leave for home on the 6th instant, but its departure has been postponed.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, January 5. The Tokyo Stock Exchange held one session on the 4th instant when prices were tolerably firm and no considerable rise was recorded. The 5th was a holiday and we shall therefore recommence quotations from the 6th.

Saturday, January 6. The news from China naturally exercised a most depressing effect upon the share

market as the quotations for the 6th instant indicate.

Monday, January 8.

The downward tendency continues sharply.

Tuesday, January 9.

A sign of briskness in the Osaka market affected Tokyo favourably yesterday. It is thought that there may be a partial recovery.

Wednesday, January 10.

The forenoon session brought a sharp upward re-action owing to rumours that the Tokyo municipal loan had been floated in London. But when this news proved false, the tide turned rapidly in the opposite direction.

Thursday, January 11.

The market was very strong yesterday with an upward tendency. The apparent cause was a belief that the Tokyo Municipal loan is on the verge of conclusion. Latest quotations were:—

	Jan. 10th.	Jan. 11th.
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—
Yusen Kaisha	111.50	111.70 + .20
Toyo Kisen	43.50	43.00 — .50
Specie Bank.....	213.95	214.40 + .45
Tanko Kisen	24.95	24.60 — .35
Tokyo Gas	72.65	72.70 + .05
Tokyo Dento	71.00	72.00 + 1.00
Fuji Gas Spinning	85.05	85.70 + .65
Tokyo Spinning	47.00	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	107.05	108.15 + 1.10
Beer	82.50	83.20 + .70
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	62.00	—
Nippon Oil	70.00	—
Rice Exchange.....	105.50	107.10 + 1.60
Stock Exchange	159.40	163.50 + 4.10

THE "NEW YORK HERALD" AND THE CHINA QUESTION.

In an official despatch from the *Chargé d'Affaires* of the Japanese Embassy at Washington, published in our issue of the 10th inst., a brief summary was given of an article on the China question appearing in the *New York Herald*.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. J. Harrison, correspondent for Japan of the American journal, we are able to give a fuller report of the *Herald's* remarks.

The *New York Herald*, in an editorial commenting upon the attitude assumed by Great Britain, who, under the guise of mediation, is declared to be giving aid to the Republican movement, thus promoting a split between the North and South, says:—

"In this Chinese crisis England seems to be, as Lord Salisbury once said, backing the wrong horse. 'The maintenance of the Chinese Empire,' said Lord Charles Beresford a few years ago, 'is essentially for the protection of Anglo-Saxon interests.' Since that opinion was expressed, nothing has happened to invalidate it. The downfall of the Chinese Empire means the break-up of China. Divisions are already beginning to reveal themselves. Although the Republic idea is accepted by certain provinces, others reject it entirely. Mongolia, Tibet, and Chinese Turkestan mean to remain Monarchist, or become independent. All the provinces north of the Yangtze still cling to the monarchical regime. It is evident that a Republic in China is a material impossibility. All that the agitators can accomplish is to raze existing institutions and split up the Empire into a series of States, first into southern and northern divisions, with an independent Mongolia and an independent Tibet, with further secessions later on. A disintegrated China of that kind means general anarchy, foreign intervention, the destruction of Chinese independence, and the domination of Asia by Japan and Russia. Is that what England is working for?"

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Baron's Hair; by A. W. Fox. Macmillan & Co., London.

THIS book excellently accomplishes the purpose for which it was written, namely, to convey an idea of the manners and customs of the 16th century in England, that is to say, at the time of "bluff King Hal." The authoress has consulted no less than fifty-three standard works covering every branch of her subject, and the result of this exhaustive research is that the reader is presented with a picture which has almost the accuracy of a photograph. The plot is very slight, but being skilfully interwoven with the details of everyday life as men and women lived three hundred years ago, it suffices to sustain interest, especially since the characters include the immortal Sir Thomas More, author of *Utopia*; Holbein, the renowned artist, and Erasmus, the great theologian. Comparatively little is heard of the clash of swords, or the freedom of speech commonly invoked by writers who deal with mediæval romances. Miss Fox's volume may safely be placed in the hands of the young, for whom it is indeed explicitly designed.

Little Books about Old Furniture; by J. P. BLAKE, and A. E. REVIERS-HOPKINS. William Heinemann, London.

It is a pleasure to peruse a book permeated by such a wholesome atmosphere of common sense as are these attractive volumes. We have often inveighed in these columns against the mania habitually obeyed by so many collectors, the mania of valuing an object of art in the direct ratio of its age. Age, in such cases, has only one advantage, namely as indicating the era when the best examples of the objects in question were produced. A comparatively modern article may be, and often is, preferable from every point of view to one twice or three times as old, for the latter may date from a period antecedent to the highest development of the skill that produced it. Messrs. Blake and Reviere-Hopkins understand this fully, and warn their readers plainly against the folly of acquiring "dilatations instead of antiques." "A piece of furniture," they write, "is not good because it is old. It may be interesting for that reason, but the first quality that should be asked from every article is utility." They keep this truism constantly in view when discussing and explaining the "points" of old furniture, and the result is two very serviceable and sensible volumes, small in dimensions but large in scope and in practical serviceability. They are profusely illustrated and the text is lucid so that nothing is left to be desired. The first volume treats of the interval from Tudor to Stuart, the second performs the same office for Queen Ann's era.

Great Engravers.

FOUR most dainty and instructive volumes lie before us. They have the title "Great Engravers," are edited by Mr. Arthur M. Hind, and are published by Mr. William Heinemann, London. Each volume covers the work of renowned schools of engravers; namely, the schools of Watteau, Boucher, Andrea Mantegna, Albrecht Dürer and John Raphael Smith. Mr. Hind prefaces each volume with a minute appreciation of the various academies and their masters, spending

also to every reproduction an interpretation of motive and a description of technique. The volumes are not large or costly, yet they suffice to afford a liberal education for any careful reader, the lessons of the text being supplemented by beautifully executed reproductions of great engravers. A more satisfying and conscientious treatise has seldom been conceived. Mr. Hind and his enterprising publisher well deserve the thanks of the artistic public.

THE LATE MR. W. G. ASTON.

At the meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan at the British Embassy in Tokyo on the 21st ult., as already reported, a vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Mr. W. G. Aston was passed.

In moving the resolution of condolence, Mr. J. C. Hall, I.S.O., said:—

This Society deploras the loss which Japanese scholarship and research has sustained by the decease of Mr. William George Aston, C.M.G., D. Litt., who passed away at his residence at Beer, Devon, on the 22nd of November last.

Mr. Aston came out to this country in 1864 as a Student Interpreter in the British Consular service, being then in his twenty-fourth year, and fresh from a distinguished university career as a student at Queen's College, Belfast. After twenty-five years of active service in Japan (and Korea), he retired, owing to ill health, in 1889. He was one of the original members of this Society at its formation in 1872 and was a contributor to the first volume of its Transactions, published in 1874. The latest number of the Transactions, published a few months ago, contains a contribution from his pen. Altogether his papers in our Transactions number nearly a score; and they deal with a great variety of subjects connected with the language, literature, history, life and thought of the Japanese people. But not exclusively with things Japanese; for the neighbouring and kindred people of the Korean peninsula attracted much of his attention. Having received at college a thorough training in Aryan philology, he brought, in addition, to the study of the Korean language a thorough acquaintance with the grammatical analysis of the old Japanese vernacular, which had been worked out by Moto-ori and his school in the 18th and 19th centuries. The result of his researches in this hitherto unexplored field was to prove the affinity of the two languages and to show that the Koreans and the Japanese are kindred offshoots of the same Ural-Altaic stock.

Appointed Consul-General for Korea in 1884, Aston's stay in the country was of less than a year's duration. In December of that year he was one of the guests at the notorious Post Office dinner, when the hosts, led by Kim Ok-Kiun, left the table and betook themselves to the work of assassinating their conservative rivals in the government. The guests dispersed in confusion, each finding his way home as best he could. The exposure to the frosty night air brought on a pulmonary attack which nearly cost Aston his life. Thanks to Count Inoue, who arrived in Korea soon after, Aston was rescued from the jaws of death. The Count specially detached one of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers to take the patient with all speed direct to Kobe, where it was met by his friend, Dr. T. C. Thornicroft, who took the patient to his own house and nursed him back to life. Count Inoue's beneficent action on that occasion has ever since been gratefully remembered by Mr. Aston's friends.

Aston's work as a scholar and investigator is divisible into two periods, namely, that done in his quarter of a century of service in the East and that done after his retirement in 1889. To the former period belong his grammars of the spoken and the written language, his demonstration in the Royal Asiatic Society's Journal (1879) of the affinity of the Japanese and Korean languages, and the bulk of his contributions to the Japan

Asiatic Society's Transactions on historical, philological and literary subjects. His, of itself, is a creditable output; and many men, when they have retired in impaired health from public service, consider that their capacity for literary work is exhausted. But it was not so with Aston. His three greatest works, the translation of the Nihongi (1896), the History of Japanese Literature (1899), and "Shinto, the Way of the Gods" (1905) were done in his period of retirement and in spite of serious illness that never left him for a day. Numerous minor essays from his pen appeared in a variety of periodicals, such as the Folk Lore Society's Journal, the Transactions of the Japan Society, London, and more especially in "Man," the monthly journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Clearness of thought and scrupulous regard for accuracy in the interpretation as well as in the statement of facts were the dominant characteristics of his work as an investigator. His wide erudition was always under the control of a well-balanced judgment. But his intellectual eminence only served to set off in stronger relief the qualities of his heart and character. He was a man whom to know was to love. Keenly interested in politics, philosophy, history, literature and art, what he most enjoyed was the society of friends. During all the long years of his illness never a word of repining was he heard to utter. As Professor Chamberlain puts it:—"Aston's courage through a life-long struggle with death was so great that one somehow took it for granted, and often even forgot it in admiration of his other qualities."

DEATH OF MR. BEKKEY.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. H. Bekkey, Director of the Yokohama Specie Bank at his residence at Kanagawa on the 9th inst. Mr. Bekkey was, we believe, suffering from some internal complaint but of what nature we have been unable to learn. His death will come as a shock to his many friends.

Mr. Bekkey had been attached to the Yokohama Specie Bank in many capacities for most of his life, and spent a good many years at the branch of the Bank in London, where he acquired a fluent knowledge of English and a knowledge of English customs which made him very popular with the English community. Later, Mr. Bekkey was appointed Manager of the Bank in Yokohama.

Mr. Bekkey was a member of the Yokohama United Club, where his genial presence will be much missed.

The late Mr. Bekkey, we now learn, was suffering from a disease of the throat, and that death took place under an operation. The Senior Grade of the Sixth Rank was conferred on him prior to his death.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE QUAY.

A serious accident, which by this time may have proved fatal, took place at mid day on Tuesday on the Quay, when the *Chicago Maru* was casting off for her outward journey. A Japanese sightseer was standing close where the wire hawser was holding the ship to the wharf. Suddenly it was let loose and flying off with a whirl, struck the onlooker above the ankle, hurling him headlong. He was at once picked up and was found not only to be unconscious but with his foot hanging to the leg by only a few threads. The rush of blood was of course tremendous. The doctor of the *Tenyo Maru*, who was close handy, was quickly on the scene and rendered immediate assistance; whilst a foreign resident—Mr. C. Pereira—who was close by with his automobile, kindly volunteered to drive the injured man to the nearest Japanese hospital. The offer was accepted, and within ten minutes, the patient was in the hands of the doctors.

It is feared that he will not recover from the injuries and the necessary amputation.

DEATH OF MRS. F. S. PATTON.

It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death on Sunday evening (7th inst.) at her residence on the Bluff of Mrs. F. S. Patton, an old and esteemed resident, at the advanced age of 81. Mrs. Patton came to Japan 23 years ago, when she opened a dancing academy and soon gathered around her a large clientele. A few years ago, she removed to Shanghai where she started yet another establishment, but lately returned to Japan. Mrs. Patton had a very wide circle of friends in the extreme Far East; and her sudden death, coming even though it did at her great age, will be felt as a shock.

ADDRESS BY MR. JOHN CAREY HALL.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Patton was held on Wednesday afternoon, when a number of the deceased lady's friends gathered at her late residence on the Bluff. The remains, which had been cremated, were enclosed in a casket, and this was borne to the cemetery by Mr. John Carey Hall, I.S.O., British Consul-General for Japan, Mr. Edward Beart, Mr. L. Susor and Dr. Wheeler. The burial took place in the grave of a daughter of Mrs. Patton, who died many years ago.

Following the instructions in Mrs. Patton's will, there was no religious ceremony, but a tribute to Mrs. Patton was given at the graveside by Mr. Hall, who said:—

"Dear Friends,—As a friend of many years' standing and a warm admirer of the deceased, I am permitted to say a few words on this sad occasion while we are met together to solemnize the termination of the long and useful life of our old friend, Mrs. Patton, who passed away quietly on Sunday evening last. As you are doubtless aware, she was born in England over eighty years ago, and at an early age accompanied her father to Australia, where she spent many years. Twice left a widow, she had the grief of losing both her son and daughter while they were still young, and it is beside the grave of her daughter, whose funeral took place here twenty years ago, that we lay her ashes to-day.

"In Japan, where Mrs. Patton passed the greater part of the last twenty-three years, and which she looked upon as her adopted home, her warm heart and quick sympathy won her many friends. On her first arrival here to work for her living as a teacher of music and dancing, she was struck with a deep appreciation of the natural beauties of this country and the engaging qualities of its people, and, with characteristic thoroughness, she continued to sympathize with the nation and made many individual friends among the Japanese, although not speaking the language. Having no ties of close kindred, she made a point of keeping in touch with the surviving companions of her youth, as well as the host of friends of her later years, by means of a large correspondence which engaged her energies almost up to the last day of her life.

"It is above all as a teacher that most of us here present have known her, and it was her work as a teacher that she wished to live after her and by which she expected her memory to be chiefly preserved. And in this she was right, for her pupils learned much more from her than the principles of the particular branches in which she gave them instruction. They learned by her precept and example, clearness of thought and thoroughness in action. They learned to be dissatisfied with any standard less than the best they could possibly do. Those of you who had the privilege of associating with her as pupils will remember the sentence writ large upon her wall: 'Trifles make Perfection, and Perfection is no Trifle.' This uncompromising determination to achieve perfection and completeness in everything she undertook was an inspiration to all who came within her influence, and is the key to the successes she made often in the face of tremendous difficulties and drawbacks.

"Endowed with great mental as well as physical strength and endless perseverance, she gained distinction in many departments of activity, one of her favourite mottoes being: 'What man

has done man can do.' A generous scorn for all that savoured of injustice, meanness, or hypocrisy was a marked feature of her character, but she always gave a warm welcome to talent and industry and a quick response to friendly feeling and sincerity wherever she found them.

"You cannot have failed to be struck by the absence of any religious ceremonies on this occasion, such as are usual even at the gravesides of those who during their lifetime have paid little or no attention to religion. These customary rites have been omitted by the express wishes of the deceased, whose otherwise well filled life was quite without the religious interest that so many people find indispensable.

"From her youth up she found no attraction in the doctrines and rites of Christianity, and advice to outwardly conform for the sake of appearance produced the reaction to be expected from one of her honest and downright nature. An unbeliever she always professed herself, and was solicitous that the closing scene of her career should be marked by consistency. This attitude of hers towards religion was so well known that I am sure you will all agree with me that no survey of her life, however brief, would be adequate without some mention of it. A few of her good friends may perhaps feel it somewhat painful to be reminded at this time of this ever-present element of her mental life, for her circle included many who differed from her in this respect, but all will unite in admiring the unswerving adherence to principle which prompted her directions to her executor.

"The honesty, sincerity, benevolence and strenuous industry of our late valued friend and teacher will ever be an example to us all; and may we who stand here, and those who though absent join with us in this tribute of honour and regret to one whose labours and trials are over, be strengthened for the labours and trials of our own lives, strengthened too in our sympathies with our fellow-men, as each death reminds us that our power of aiding them whilst living will soon be past. Good-bye, old friend!"

YOKOHAMA MUSICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

"THROUGH THE YANGTSE GORGES."

The above Society had a most interesting evening at the Van Schaick Hall on the Bluff on Thursday last, and the occasion was one that could justly be described as being a great success. The principle feature was an able and illuminating lecture by the President of the society, the Rev. J. L. Dearing, D. D. The subject selected by him was also distinctly *apropos* to the present time; for it dealt with that part of China that is in the full throes of active revolution; and assisted as it was by the really splendid pictures thrown upon the screen, gave those of the audience who had not travelled up that most wonderful of rivers—the Yangtze—an understanding that became an education.

In opening his lecture, the President quietly stated that it was not his intention to intrude in any way or shape into the troubled domain of politics. It would be his pleasure to describe to his hearers a journey he had made from Shanghai up the Yangtze to Szechuan and the borders of Tibet and to illustrate the same by pictures taken from photographs by himself and by his friends.

Discoursing in a genial and charming manner, lightened with many touches of delightful humour, he took his audience with him along this mighty waterway. Hankow was visited, and its splendid Bund, with its palatial stone buildings and trees, was described and seen. Then came Ichang with its turbulent rapids, frowning mountains, and dangerous rocks. The manner in which the boats are hauled up the rapids by over a hundred coolies, was graphically described and illustrated in such a manner that many present envied the President his experience. In fact, the lecture, which lasted a little over an hour, was a kaleidoscope of colour, both in words and in

actuality. There were pictures of grim Taoist idols, of magnificent bridges, giant pagodas, wild men of Western China, mountaineers of far off Tibet, huge towns that are beehives of humanity, and great boulders in their hundreds of thousands worn smooth and round by the incessant grinding of the mighty river in its perpetual rise and fall. In short, it was an illustration of Nature as is seldom presented in a concert hall. Every congratulation is due to Mr. Dearing; for it is certain that the pictures he presented and the modest unassuming description of his journey will live for a long time in the memory of his audience.

To have heard the easy nonchalant manner in which he described his wanderings, one might have thought that his trip was merely a pleasant holiday; but one must have done the journey, or something similar, to realise the hard work, the great discomfort, the physical endurance and the steady nerve that is demanded of the Occidental who launches out on such a venture.

After the customary vote of thanks was accorded, the musical part of the programme was entered upon. Opening with a capital banjo trio by Messrs. J. Gorman, E. Neale and E. Carroll, Miss Mendelson sang most prettily German's "Roses in June"; and in response to an enthusiastic encore, gave "Coming through the Rye." She was followed by Mr. T. Zelle, who on the Violin, rendered Beethoven's difficult Sonata IV., opus 23, in a very fine manner. Equal praise is also due to Miss Moulton for her pianoforte solo which was played with sympathy and excellent technique.

The Committee of the Society are to be congratulated on their successful programme, whilst it was also a great pleasure to note that a large audience was present to enjoy the many good things that were put before them.

The next lecture will be on January 18, when Professor W. W. McLaren will give an "Outline of the National Government of Japan."

THE PHILIPPINE CARNIVAL.

An arrangement has been entered into between the Pacific Mail S.S. Co., the Norddeutscher and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for special, reduced, round-trip rates from ports of Japan to Manila for those desiring to attend the Philippine Carnival to be held at Manila from February 3rd to the 10th inclusive. Passengers going by any of these lines have the option of returning by way of the others.

The reduced rates become effective from January 15th going, and up to March 3rd from Manila returning. Exceptionally close connections may be made by those whose time is limited. Full particulars regarding the above may be obtained from the Agents of the above Companies.

FUNERALS IN TOKYO.

The funeral of Count Higashikaze was held on Sunday morning last at the Zojoji Temple, Tokyo. Over two thousand high officials and private persons were present, among whom were included Ministers of State and other dignitaries. Chamberlain Hojo was sent to the Temple as Imperial messenger. Two companies of troops attended the funeral as guard of honour.

The same afternoon the funeral was held in the Aoyama cemetery of the late Vice-Admiral Ichiji. A battalion from the *Tsuyuba*, *Kurama*, *Fuji*, and *Hashidate* attended the funeral, at which there was a large number of mourners.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

VICTORY FOR JAPAN.

Telegrams from Shanghai report that in the third game played between all Japan and Shanghai on Friday last, the former team was victorious, beating the Shanghai men by two goals to nil, the goals being scored by Stanford and V.A. Hearne within half an hour of the opening of the game.

THE "CLEVELAND" TOURIST PARTY.

It is reported from Nagasaki that the itinerary of the *Cleveland* tourist party has been altered. According to the new programme the party is to arrive at Kobe at 6 a.m. on the 5th, leaving there for Osaka at 9.26 p.m. on the 6th. After spending the night at Nara they will arrive at Kyoto on the 7th inst., and making a day's sojourn, will leave for Kodzu by special train at 1.45 p.m. on the 8th. They will visit Hakone and, will arrive at Shimbashi via Kamakura at 4.58 p.m. on the 11th instant. The party will stay in the capital until the 14th, during which time a visit will be paid to Nikko on the 12th and 13th. They will embark on the *Cleveland* at Yokohama at 5 p.m. on the 14th, for Honolulu.

A FEW FACTS CONCERNING THE CRUISE.

The *Cleveland* Tourist Party which is due in Yokohama on Tuesday, sailed from New York on October 21st, is due back in San Francisco on February 1st; and on February 6th will start on a return cruise, making the same ports in reverse order.

This is the first cruise around the world by the Hamburg-America Line, the pioneer in the conception of special pleasure cruises to different parts of the world—such as the land of the Midnight Sun, the Zone of the Southern Cross and the capitals of Europe. The third and fourth cruises will be made by the *Luise Victoria*, which has been luxuriously arranged for this special service.

The voyage is 22,613 miles long. The following parts have been visited: Funchal, Villefranche, Cairo, Bombay, Colombo, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Batavia, Manila, Hongkong, Canton and Nagasaki. Most of the passengers took one or more special trips across India, which included Agra, Delhi, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Benares and Darjeeling.

From Japan the party will proceed to Honolulu and then to San Francisco, where the passengers will form small groups and cross the American continent.

While the *Cleveland* has accommodation for as many as 1,000 passengers, it carries only 534 on the world-cruise, in order to provide greater comfort on board and ashore. Every cabin on the return cruise was sold out before the first party sailed from New York.

All arrangements afloat and ashore are made by representatives of the Hamburg-American Line. With 601 services to all parts of the world and with 171 ocean steamers calling regularly at 350 ports, it was already provided with a staff of resident agents familiar with conditions in each of the ports to be visited. However, special representatives went over the route in advance and then returned to New York to accompany the passengers and give them the benefit of their experience.

Mr. C. Vogelsang, of Hamburg, is the head of the Tourist Staff. He is assisted by Mr. C. Scherer of Berlin and by nine experienced men from the Company's offices in Hamburg, Berlin, and New York. This staff works in accordance with the fine organization of the ship itself and with that of the agents ashore.

The Cruising Ship *Cleveland* of 17,000 tons is the largest passenger vessel that has passed through the Suez Canal. She is 608 feet long and 55 feet above the water-line; is a steel ship, with double bottom and water-tight compartments and special provision against fire, and also equipped with wireless. She has the luxuriousness of a private yacht, elevator service to the five upper decks, two dining rooms so that all may be served at one sitting, music room, saloons fore and aft, smoking room, grill room, gymnasium, dark room, bookstall, library, swimming pools, steam laundry,

information bureau, banking department, tourist office, capacious promenade decks—in a word, all the conveniences that the Company's long experience could suggest.

The ship's band plays on deck every morning and at the grill room every evening. A stringed quartette provides musicales that are of frequent occurrence, being arranged by the Social Director, Mrs. M. Landon Reed.

Shortly before arrival at a port, a stereopticon lecture is given by the Rev. Dr. George Hough, of San Francisco, while lectures for passengers speaking only German are delivered by Dr. L. Mecking, of Göttingen University. After leaving port, the passengers come together as a "Girdlers' Club" to discuss their experiences ashore.

The ship is commanded by Captain Chr. Dempwolf, an officer with a record for distinguished services. The Commissary Department is represented by Mr. Martini, of Hamburg, who sees that the passengers are provided with the best food that the market affords. The cuisine of the ship is superior to that of the best hotels in the East, which is one reason why most of the passengers prefer to dine aboard even when in port.

THE PROGRAMME FOR JAPAN.

NAGASAKI—The ship arrived on January 1st at 3 p.m. and sailed for Kobe January 3 at 2 p.m.

KOBE—The vessel arrived January 5th about 6 a.m. and sailed for Yokohama on January 8 at 6 a.m. The passengers formed two groups for convenience in making visits to Nara and Kyoto.

YOKOHAMA AND TOKYO—Ship arrives January 9th at 7 a.m. and remains until January 14th at 5 p.m. The passengers will be divided into four groups to facilitate visits to Tokyo, Nikko, Kamakura and other points of special interest. Much time will be devoted to shopping.

ACROSS JAPAN PARTY—A special party will leave the ship at Kobe and proceed overland by train in accordance with the following itinerary: January 5th, Kobe; 6th, Osaka, leaving in the afternoon for Nara; 7th, Nara, leaving at noon for Kyoto; 8th, Kyoto, leaving at night for Kozu; 9th and 10th in Kozu and Miyashita; 11th, Yumoto and Kamakura, leaving at 3.30 for Tokyo; 12th, Tokyo, leaving at 4 p.m. for Nikko; 13th, Nikko, leaving at 3.30 for Yokohama; 14th, Yokohama.

On the second cruise, leaving San Francisco February 6th, the *Cleveland* is due in Yokohama on February 26th and will leave Nagasaki two weeks later.

The H.A.L. *Cleveland* arrived at Nagasaki on the 1st inst. at 3 p.m. from Hongkong and was greeted by a discharge of rockets. Unfortunately the weather was very bad, says the *Nagasaki Press*, and the vessels' passengers, who number 534, missed the beautiful view of the entrance to the harbour which usually commands the admiration of visitors. As soon as the vessel was moored Mayor Kitagawa boarded her to welcome the tourist party to the city and Japan.

In spite of the weather a great number of the visitors landed and inspected the Japanese stores, Kago-machi and other streets presenting an animated appearance in consequence. In the evening the office of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the agents for the tourist party, was beautifully illuminated.

On the 2nd and fine weather prevailed and the visitors were enabled to go farther afield than on the preceding day. Small parties were formed and conducted to places of interest by students of the Higher Commercial School, who acted as interpreters. From two to three o'clock a reception was held at the Homei-kan by the Municipality in honour of the *Cleveland's* passengers. Mayor Kitagawa delivered an address of welcome and an *odori* was then given by geisha.

In the evening a lantern parade took place, Deshima being the place of assembly and the route taken being through and around the foreign settlement, giving those passengers who remained on the vessel an opportunity to view what is one of the most picturesque scenes in Japan.

An entertainment, including Japanese music,

fencing, and judo, was arranged to be given at the Y.M.C.A. Hall in the evening.

So far the *Cleveland* has had a good voyage and all the plans for the entertainment of the tourists have been carried through without a hitch. Notwithstanding the revolt in China, Canton was visited and the party received a most enthusiastic welcome, the Chinese "republicans" doubtless regarding the visit from the great Republic as a good omen.

The Hamburg-America steamer *Cleveland* arrived at Kobe on the 5th inst. from Hongkong and Nagasaki. The passengers, who number 534, landed shortly afterwards and expressed themselves as being delighted with the views in the Inland Sea. Fortunately the weather was fine, says the *Kobe Herald*, and numerous parties were able to visit the stores. Moto Machi and other streets presented an animated appearance in consequence. Many of the passengers sought accommodation at the Oriental Hotel, where they did not hesitate to show their appreciation of the arrangements made for their stay. Others proceeded to the Tor, which is now crowded in overflowing in consequence. The bulk, however, took the earliest possible train for Kyoto and Nara. The *Cleveland* will remain at Kobe until the 8th. So far, she has had a good voyage and all the plans for the entertainment of the tourists have been carried through without a hitch. During the voyage out, two deaths occurred among the passengers, a gentleman having died from heart failure shortly after the vessel left Bombay, and a Mrs. Sherwood Hall, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, having jumped overboard in Java waters. When the latter sad event took place, the vessel was stopped as near to the scene as possible and a Mr. Marcus Jordan, of Washington, who happened to be in bathing dress, jumped overboard, as the lady could be seen floating on the surface of the water. Mr. Jordan, the *Nagasaki Press* reports, succeeded in supporting the lady until a boat arrived and picked both up, but she expired before medical assistance could be rendered. A large sum of money was subscribed by the passengers and presented in Mr. Jordan in recognition of his gallantry in attempting to save life in shark-infested waters, and an account of the brave deed is to be forwarded to the Carnegie Hero Fund Trustees with a view to a medal being awarded him. Mrs. Sherwood Hall was in ill-health at the time and greatly depressed by reason of family bereavement.

ARRIVAL IN YOKOHAMA.

The H. A. liner *Cleveland*, with 460 tourists on a trip round the world, arrived at Yokohama early on Tuesday morning from Kobe. The visitors were met by representatives of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Otani, President of the Chamber of Commerce, read a welcome address, which was translated by Mr. Okada, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and ran as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce extends to you a sincere welcome and expresses its appreciation of the friendly feeling shown by your visit to Yokohama. I am very glad to say that the relations between Japan and the countries you worthily represent are of a most cordial kind and that the commerce between us has been increased in a marvelous manner.

"International friendship and trade depend upon the knowledge each nation has of the other. Those who know something of the others hold them in real respect and have the wish for their individual and national happiness. The difficulty in international relations arises generally from misunderstanding, or rather ignorance, of the conditions of the respective countries.

"Of all the agencies for promoting good relations and international peace, an exchange of visits would be a most powerful one. There is no doubt as to the almost incalculable effect such an exchange would have on the good relations of the countries concerned. The exchange of visits

is no new idea. Parties of American and Japanese business men visited each other a few years ago and their visits have already had a considerable effect in both countries, making each other better understood. Nothing is more potent at the present time than a frequent exchange of visits of men and women like you, who mould public opinion and fashion the destiny of the community. I should say now that you may not understand the other's language but you can hardly fail to understand the other's heart. We welcome you here with all the heart. I am sure that your visit will advance the understanding that we earnestly desire for the international peace. Before closing, I hope that your stay in this part of Japan may be most agreeable to you and that you may take home with you the happiest memories of a pleasant trip you had."

Of the members of the party, 80 immediately proceeded to Tokyo by train, 80 went to Kamakura, and another 80 to Nikko in the afternoon. The rest are expected to stay in the city for two days.

THE CABINET SPLIT IN ENGLAND.

The Reuter's telegram from London, dated January 7, stating that there is a split in the British Cabinet on the subject of Woman's Suffrage, has naturally caused much elation in Opposition circles, the organs of which justly argue that a Ministry so divided against itself, cannot be maintained. There is a considerable amount of truth in such an assertion, for British political history is full of illustrations of a similar kind, nearly all of which have heralded either the resignation of the Cabinet, or the dissolution of Parliament followed by a General Election. The present position of the Government, is, to say the least of it, remarkable. It is a well known fact that the mere idea of Universal Woman's Suffrage is anathema to the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith. If he were allowed to have his way, the bare possibility of such a bill would be relegated to the realms of obscurity. Unfortunately for him, strong man as he is and leader of a powerful party, his second in command, Mr. Lloyd George, is absolutely determined on such a bill being introduced. To make matters worse for the Premier, his Chancellor of the Exchequer is supported by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey. Almost in despair, Mr. Asquith pleads that the question be put to a general referendum before any bill is presented to the House. This proposal, however, is inflexibly opposed by these two statesmen and it looks as though the Premier will either have to sacrifice his principles for the sake of remaining in office, or else by standing firm to his guns, bring about the resignation of his lieutenants. Individually, we are inclined to think Mr. Asquith will give way, and by making it a strictly non-party bill, trust to the two Houses to throw it out. It is not our intention or desire in this brief comment to speak for or against Woman's Suffrage; suffice, that the many utterly disgraceful scenes that have been caused by neurotic shrieking women in London and elsewhere during the past few months in the attempt to promote their cause, does not exactly persuade we calmer spirits abroad that they would be of much use to the Empire as voters and perchance eventual legislators. Altogether, the British Premier has certainly got both hands full of trouble, as what with Home Rule for Ireland in the immediate future, the hopeless muddle of Mr. Lloyd George's Insurance Bill, which has antagonised both masters and employers and thoroughly exasperated the entire British Medical profession, he has now "Votes for Women" to wrestle with. The situation is a difficult and complicated one and will require all Mr. Asquith's skill and finesse to be successfully solved.

An aviation school has been opened at Sydney. Mr. Hart, the first Australian pilot, made several flights with the Postmaster-General as a passenger.

A RECORD CARGO ON THE "MINNESOTA."

The Great Northern steamship *Minnesota*, which arrived in harbour on Friday last, after experiencing dirty weather during the voyage, carried the largest cargo that has ever been brought to the Far East on one vessel. Drawing 38 feet of water the *Minnesota* had in her holds when she reached Yokohama 20,638 tons measurement or 16,277 tons deadweight. The total number of packages was 580,384, of which flour accounted for 566,899, cotton for 8,318, and salmon for 4,509. Of the flour 510,699 bags are for Hongkong, and 14,200 for Manila. The remainder of the cargo, with the exception of the salmon, which is for Manila, mainly goes to Japan ports.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROMAJI v. KANA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I was much interested in what was said on this subject in your weekly issue of 23rd December. The regrettable thing is that so much has been written and spoken about it without our getting any "forwarder." I understand that a strong Parliamentary Committee has been sitting for years; and that people have been waiting, and waiting, and waiting again, for some really informing and effective word from it on this urgent question of language reform. We must all feel a little discouraged that Lord Redesdale has difficulty in seeing his way to approve of the Chinese ideographs, and that many influential Japanese who have spent half their lifetime hobnobbing with statesmen and professors in Europe and America should keep urging their recommendation to use Roman letters on an unwilling people. One relevant item is the certainty that the Chinese will never abandon their native script. They have the gumption to see that any general adoption of Roman letters amongst them would spell out dismemberment and weakness in necessitating the creation of dialectal literatures by the hundred; and so divergent, that they would be altogether non-interchangeable. Thus, a Romanized letter from Fuchau is quite unintelligible at Amoy or Canton, and experts assure us that the local *patois* changes every 20 or 30 miles. If, therefore, I might venture to say so, the proposal to use Kana pure and simple for less educated people in Japan would be a step in the right direction; because, unlike Romanizing, this would still present the method of writing from top to bottom of the page, and enable learners to go on using their own hair-pencils, ink, and cheap, porous paper. Of course, the intelligent classes would see to it that no deep linguistic cleavage would be tolerated between them and their powerful neighbours across the way.

I am, &c.

W. CAMPBELL.

Tainan, Formosa, 30 December, 1911.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

London, January 5.

The absence of Queen Wilhelmina from the New Year State Ball at The Hague is much commented upon.

Reports of a gratifying nature respecting the cause of the Queen's absence have not been hitherto denied.

PANAMA CANAL RATES.

London, January 5.

The British Press, referring to the suggested preferential rates for American shipping going through the Panama Canal, declares that the proposal is a breach of the provision in the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, which stipulates for equality of treatment for all shipping.

Mr. Nagel, the Secretary for Commerce, in his Annual Report agrees that preferential

rates are impossible and proposes instead an annual Treasury appropriation, devoted to the payment of tolls on behalf of American vessels.

The report of the Foreign Commerce Committee of the House, which has just visited Panama, proposes rates of 2s. to 4s. a ton, with preference for American shipping.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

London, January 6.

The Committee which is drafting the International Opium Convention, embodying the Conference's decisions, has resumed its labours.

The Conference reassembles on Monday.

LABOUR TROUBLES.

London, January 6.

The papers state that the ballot of the miners of Great Britain next week will be practically unanimous in favour of a strike from the 1st of March, to establish the principle of a minimum wage.

The trouble regarding character certificates threatens to involve the whole of the shipyards on the north-east coast.

Two thousand men are already idle.

THE CABINET AND WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

London, January 6.

The Conservatives are giving prominence to the Cabinet split on the question of women suffrage.

The papers say that Mr. Asquith, the Premier, favours a national referendum on the question.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the most powerful members of the Cabinet are inflexibly opposed to this.

The Conservative organs argue that a Ministry so split cannot be maintained.

BRILLIANT COURT AT CALCUTTA.

London, January 6.

Their Majesties have held a memorable Court of Investiture, which is considered the most brilliant social event in the history of Calcutta.

The dresses and jewels were magnificent.

GERMAN NAVAL DOCUMENT STOLEN.

London, January 7.

The safe of the First Officer on the cruiser *Stettin* has been broken into and a secret document stolen.

A reward has been offered.

TRADE RETURNS.

London, January 7.

The decrease of imports during December amounted to £4,147,447 and the increase of exports to £1,147,769, the latter being principally iron and steel manufactures.

The increases for the twelve months are: Imports £2,302,151; exports £23,897,683. In the exports cotton goods show an increase of £14,197,532.

THE FUTURE OF THIBET.

London, January 7.

Sir Robert Fulton, former Acting Chief Justice of Bengal, writing to *The Times* upon the future of Thibet, urges that it would be greatly to the advantage of England for the Dalai Lama to resume his rule of Thibet, since he is indebted to the English for an asylum and means of subsistence.

He sees that Great Britain does not want to annex the country and his feeling towards the Chinese must be exactly opposite.

It would surely be easy, in the present upheaval in China, to arrange that Thibet shall be an independent State under the

joint protection of Great Britain and China, but interfered with internally by neither.

BRITISH NAVAL WAR STAFF.

London, January 8.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has issued a lengthy memorandum announcing the immediate formation of a Naval War Staff and explaining generally the changes involved.

The War Staff will be organised from the existing elements in three divisions,—Intelligence Division, Operations Division and a Mobilisation Division, dealing respectively with war information, war plans and war arrangement.

The three divisions will be combined under one Chief of Staff, who will be a Flag Officer.

He will be primarily responsible to the First Sea Lord and work under him as his principal assistant and agent, but will not be the sole channel of communication with the First Sea Lord, who will, whenever convenient, consult the Directors of the various divisions. Constant intercourse between the divisions is indispensable.

The personnel of the War Staff will be considerable, consisting of naval officers representing every specialist branch, fresh from sea and returning to sea fairly frequently.

Nothing in the constitution of the Staff is to be designed to arrest the free play of professional opinion of all the members, from top to bottom, the central object being to form a convenient flexible machine for the elaboration of plans and a school of sound progressive thought in naval science.

In order to set free the Third Sea Lord to direct the construction of the Fleet and relieve him of the pressure of business transactions, an additional Sea Lord will be appointed as member of the Board of Admiralty on fixed tenure. He will be non-parliamentary and non-political, and will control various Admiralty contracts, purchasing and conducting all the business in commercial transactions of the Board, and transacting all relations with the great contracting firms. He will be Admiralty buyer and business-manager.

The additional expenditure involved will be met by the abolition of the four Admiralty yachts.

Admiral Troubridge is appointed Chief of the War Staff and Sir Francis Hopwood the additional Sea Lord.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, January 8.

A strong force attacked the Italians who were constructing the outworks at Homs on Saturday.

It was repulsed after three hours fighting, in which 21 Italians were wounded.

ITALIAN FINANCES.

London, January 8.

The Italian Minister of the Treasury in his financial statement estimates the surpluses for 1911-12 at 23,700,000 *lire* and for 1912-13 at 14,500,000 *lire*.

He states that the progress of Italy during the half century is illustrated by the fact that the expenditure on the national development has increased by 593,000,000 *lire* during the decade ending 1912-13.

The Minister also emphasised the fact that the treasury is able to meet all war ex-

penditure from its existing resources, without in any way diminishing the votes for social reforms, chiefly the establishment of public works.

THE NAVAL WAR STAFF.

London, January 9.

The Naval War Staff has been cordially received in service circles.

The Navy League warmly supports the proposal and says it will greatly assist in the consolidation of Imperial defence, which the scheme will bring to the highest level ever reached.

The Maritime League also welcomes the scheme, but says it must possess a knowledge of strategical matters.

CHINA AND MONGOLIA.

London, January 9.

Russia has notified China that the latter must recognise the independence of Outer Mongolia for internal affairs under the dignity of the Lamaite Church who was recently proclaimed the autocratic sovereign at Urga.

Russia will assist the Mongolians in the maintenance of order and will construct a railway from Kiachta to Urga.

Henceforth China will not be allowed to maintain troops or colonies in Outer Mongolia, but external affairs will be permitted to remain in China's hands.

China has not yet replied.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

London, January 9.

Their Majesties have left for Bombay.

They received a very hearty send off from crowds of natives.

THE MINING STRUGGLE.

London, January 9.

Mr. Thomas, Chairman of the Cambrian Coal-Combine, in a speech at Cardiff, said that now that the struggle with the miners was coming to a crisis, the employers wished to make it clear to the outside world that intervention, even that of the Board of Trade, was undesirable. The mine-owners motto was "Hands off, busybodies."

THE SHIPPING COMBINE.

London, January 10.

It is officially announced that sufficient Union Castle line shareholders have ratified the terms of the agreement of the 18th ult. to ensure the completion of the amalgamation.

RESIGNATION OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.

London, January 10.

M. De Selves, the French Foreign Minister, has resigned, as the result of disagreement with M. Caillaux, the Premier, during the discussion of the Franco-German Agreement in the Committee of the Senate.

THE RUSSIAN NOTE TO CHINA.

London, January 10.

The Russian *Chargé d'Affaires* to the Peking Embassy has informed the Chinese Government that Russia expects a reply to the Note of the 9th inst. without delay.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

London, January 10.

M. Prupensky, the Councillor to the Embassy at Vienna, will shortly replace M. Korostovetz, the Minister at Peking.

THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.

London, January 10.

M. de Selves, in a letter to President Fallières, says he can no longer assume

responsibility for France's foreign policy, wherein unity of views and action is wanting. It is rumoured that M. Delcassé will succeed him.

London, January 11.

M. Delcassé has accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

RESIGNATION OF FRENCH CABINET.

London, January 11.

The French Cabinet has resigned.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

London, January 11.

Their Majesties have returned to Bombay and proceeded in state on board the H.M.S. *Medina*, which sailed in the evening.

Their Majesties received a great ovation.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

London, January 11.

The report from St. Petersburg that Russia has officially contradicted the statement that she had made demands on China regarding Mongolia has caused surprise in London in view of the positive statement from Peking.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, January 5.

From Salonika it is reported that there is reason to believe that the general conditions of peace between Turkey and Italy have been already arranged and that hostilities will end shortly.

Salonika is the headquarters of the Committee of Union and Progress, which is believed to have great influence with the new Turkish Ministry.

UNREST IN MACEDONIA.

London, January 5.

It is reported from Sofia that revolutionists are going to Macedonia to preach their propaganda.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 5.

On the Stock Exchange Japanese, Chinese and Russian stocks are easier.

LANCASHIRE COTTON DISPUTE.

London, January 5.

The Lancashire cotton dispute is not yet settled, but the Government representative has intervened and the outlook is favourable.

THE FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA.

London, January 5.

The question whether the French settlements in India shall be ceded to Britain has been referred to the General Council at Pondicherry.

LABOUR TROUBLES.

London, January 6.

The British industrial outlook is unsatisfactory.

The cotton dispute is unsettled and the situation is less hopeful.

The South Wales coal mine owners regard the men's demand for a minimum wage as a breach of agreement.

The Clyde and North-east coast shipyard workers object to the system of discharges and many have struck.

SCENES AT CALCUTTA.

London, January 6.

Two gorgeous Hindu and Mahomedan historic processions defiled before their Majesties, who were seated on golden thrones

under a golden cupola in the centre of a vast semi-circular amphitheatre.

Everywhere was a blaze of colour and an indescribable melody of sounds.

Splendidly bedecked retainers on 50 elephants, with gold and silver howdahs, jewelled with letters, dancers, warriors, magnificently decorated triumphal cars, all passed slowly before the Throne.

Their Majesties then entered a carriage and were slowly driven close past a dense cheering mass of native spectators.

There were no troops and few police. Yet everywhere order was maintained.

It was an Emperor's triumph.

COPPER.

London, January 6.

Copper is quoted at 63½—64½. The tone is strong and New York quotations are firmer.

UNITED STATES POLITICS.

London, January 8.

The Democratic factions in the United States are nervously awaiting the utterances of their ex-leader Mr. Bryan, who is suspected of influencing the opposition.

Mr. Underwood, the Democratic leader, has mooted whether Bryan will again stand for the Presidency.

GERMAN POLITICS.

London, January 8.

It is considered in various quarters that the favourable prospects of the Socialists in the elections are exaggerated by the Government.

The non-Socialist parties continue to proclaim that the struggle is essentially anti-Socialist.

There is every indication that the Reichstag will shortly be asked to vote fresh supplies for armaments.

JAPANESE MILITARY MISSION.

London, January 9.

The Japanese military mission has visited the St. Cyr aerodrome and ascended in the Zodiac dirigible.

STORMY WEATHER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

London, January 9.

The rivers are all rising owing to storms, which are causing serious damage on the coast and in the interior.

A heavy snowstorm has been experienced in North Britain and Scotland.

Some of the Irish railways are flooded.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, January 9.

The *Times* military correspondent, reviewing the Turco-Italian war, points out that after three months 92,000 Italians occupy five points along a coast line of 1,100 miles and are restricted to the defensive, with no means of penetrating far into the interior.

The other side are practically controlling the entire country. A few thousand Turks are leading large forces of Arab irregulars, who are awaiting a favourable moment for action.

THE LABOUR TROUBLES.

London, January 9.

The Northern Ship-building employers and men have agreed on a temporary truce in view of the prospective national strike of miners. The Admiralty is busy fully stocking the depots.

RUSSIA'S MONGOLIAN POLICY.

London, January 10.

Dr. Morrison, *The Times*' Peking corre-

spondent, points out that Russia's notification to China in regard to Mongolian independence, is the outcome of repeated warnings as to China's aggressive policy in Mongolia.

Dr. Morrison refers to the Russian Note of June last and says it is probable an agreement will be reached and the subject embodied in the treaty now being discussed at St. Petersburg.

THE COTTON DISPUTE.

London, January 10.

The negotiations for the settlement of the cotton dispute have failed up to the present. The conference has adjourned till Monday.

THE FRENCH CABINET.

London, January 10.

Discussing the resignation of M. de Selves, *The Times*, in a leading article, states that it has been evident lately that M. de Selves would be unable to continue as a colleague of M. Caillaux, the latter having charged him with carrying on secret negotiations with Germany since he was Finance Minister in the Monis Cabinet, unknown to the President, his colleagues and the Ambassador at Berlin.

It is suggested, *The Times* says, that he was the first to make proposals to Germany of cessions in the Congo, and it is hinted that he also attempted furtive negotiations with Spain.

It is not expected that the Caillaux Cabinet will long survive the resignation of M. de Selves, and it is feared that France is re-entering on a system of short-lived Ministries, disastrous to international policy.

London, January 11.

The resignation of the French Cabinet was due to the inability to find a successor to the Minister of Marine, M. Delcassé, who accepted the portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

There were also acute Ministerial dissensions.

The best opinion hopes that the fall of M. Caillaux means the end of the perilously weak system with which M. Clemenceau rightly interfered.

Public feeling was struck a deadly blow when it was revealed that secret negotiations had been going on between M. Caillaux and Germany.

FUNERAL OF JAPANESE OFFICER.

London, January 11.

The funeral of Major Kurokawa at Golder's Green cemetery was attended by members of the Japanese Embassy and the War Office.

Military honours were rendered the deceased by a detachment of artillery and cavalry.

Mr. Yamaza, the *Chargé d'Affaires*, and Major Inagaki, the Military Attaché, delivered eulogistic addresses.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL.

Bombay, January 10.

Their Majesties arrived safely from Calcutta at noon to-day, and embarked immediately after arrival. Their Majesties are expected to leave at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE JAPAN HERALD.)

THE TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, January 4.

The Great European Powers have entered into a confidential exchange of opinions as to

the conclusion of an armistice between Italy and Turkey, the universal desire being for the restoration of peace.

Said Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier, has directed a circular letter to all the Turkish Wallis, expressing the conviction of an early restoration of peace and advising them to redouble their efforts for the maintenance of order in the provinces.

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

The *Nieuwe Courant* reports that Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is enroute.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Reports of the English and French Press that Germany is making warlike preparations against Great Britain in South Africa and that she has certain aims for the acquirement of Barbados and Trinidad are officially contradicted at Berlin.

ATTITUDE OF MONGOLIA.

The *St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency* reports that efforts are being made in Southern and Western Mongolia to declare independence and that the coronations of Mongolian Princes at Kobda and Uijassutai as Sovereign rulers are imminent.

MINERS ON STRIKE.

A strike of coal miners has broken out in Belgium.

INCREASE OF ITALIAN REVENUE.

The *Tribuna* reports that the revenue of Italy has increased to the amount of 30 million liras.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to December 21st ex-Yokohama arrived at Berlin on January 4th.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, January 5.

The Powers are continuing their efforts to sound the Italian attitude as to the conclusion of an armistice with Turkey.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

It is stated in political circles at St. Petersburg that the coronation of the Mongolian Prince Chyturchta is only of religious, but not of political, importance; the section of Mongolia now declared autonomous will in future remain under the sovereignty of China. It is further reported that the Russo-Chinese negotiations on the conclusion of a new treaty of commerce are steadily progressing without interruption.

The *St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency* reports that orders for the holding of elections for the National Assembly have been received at Mukden. The Peking Government will conduct the elections in the Northern provinces, as well as in Turkestan and Tibet; the Republican Government, those in the Southern provinces.

THE VATICAN.

The Vatican intends to hold, in the course of the year 1912, a great jubilee celebration in commemoration of the declaration of the Christian religion as the Roman State religion by Emperor Constantine the Great. The celebration is intended to be a reply to last year's jubilee celebrations of the Italian Kingdom.

RUSSIA.

The Tsar and his family will return to Livadia in the spring of this year.

PERSIA.

In connection with the Anglo-Russian agreement as to railway construction in Northern Persia, it is stated at Berlin that

signalled track at all times of the day and night and in all conditions of traffic; it is not merely that he has to regard the lives of those he drives; the chauffeur is equally in charge of the safety of pedestrians, and especially tiny pedestrians, who suddenly appear from behind carts and other road obstacles. And he has to beware of reckless cyclists and others, and for some years, at any rate, must remember that the world has not yet accustomed itself to the necessary transmutation of roads into what I may be excused for calling rail-less railroads. English chauffeurs in particular are hampered by the narrowness of our highways and by the indisputable fact that per head of population we have now more motor vehicles than any country in the world.

"My own chauffeurs—and they are only typical of thousands—are not only accustomed to drive hard, but to take my cars all over Europe, and I feel that they and their fellows are a credit to Great Britain wherever they go. The British chauffeur may not be so fond of dangerous performances as some of his American and Continental brethren, but he is reliable, careful, and by instinct a first-rate engineer. After all, we are the best engineers in the world, though we were a little late in coming into the automobile movement."

The guest of the evening was Mr. Plowden, who in his speech criticized the trap system as un-English.

FACE KEPT BREAKING OUT WITH ECZEMA

For 4 Years. Mass of It All Over. Most Irritating and Itching. Could Hardly Keep Fingers Off. Nothing Would Stop It. Cuticura Ointment Gave Instant Relief.

In 3 Weeks, Not a Spot on Face.

"For some four years, off and on, my face kept breaking out with eczema. It was most irritating and itching, so I could hardly keep my fingers off it. At last, for six or eight months, my face was a mass of breaking-out all over. I tried several ointments but they did no good. Nothing would stop it. I got a box of Cuticura Ointment which gave me instant relief from the irritation and in the course of three weeks I had not a spot on my face. I only bought one tin of Cuticura Ointment but the Cuticura Soap was excellent for shaving. Where I used to get a nasty place on the right side of my chin, since I am using Cuticura Soap I do not get it at all. I hope you will be able to use this letter to the advantage of other sufferers from eczema." (Signed) Samuel Wm. Kirk, Sunnyvale, Twerton Hill, Bath, Som., England, Dec. 23, 1909.

Mr. Kirk's letter shows the success and economy of the Cuticura Remedies in the treatment of torturing, disfiguring humours of the skin. Cuticura Soap and Ointment are equally effective in preserving and beautifying the skin, scalp and hair, and in preventing minor eruptions from becoming chronic. A tablet of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment are often sufficient. Sold throughout the world. Depots: London, 27, Charterhouse St.; Paris, 10, Rue de la Chaussée d'Antin; Australia, R. Towns & Co., Sydney; India, B. K. Paul, Calcutta; S. Africa, Lennox, Ltd., Cape Town, etc.; U. S. A., Fetter Drug & Chem. Co., Sole Props., Boston. Send for free 32-page Cuticura Book on skin and scalp diseases.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, January 13.

The market of Raw Cotton is quiet. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, a little business has been done, and prices remain firm. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the market is very quiet.

RAW COTTON.		PER PICUL.
American Middling	...	31.00 to 32.00
Indian Broach	...	30.00 to 31.00
Chinese (Old crop)	...	—
Chinese (New crop)	...	31.00 to 32.00

COTTON YARN.		PER BAL.
Nos. 2/50, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.	
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/4-44 in.	...
Common to Good	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—45-47 yds. 44 in.	...
in. Ordinary to Good	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches	7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Veneers	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, PAR. PACE.	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.	
Flannels	...
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilot, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	...
Cloths—Army Cloth	...
Cloths—All others	...
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs	0.90 to 1.00

METALS.	
Prices on the home side are firm, and the market is dull.	
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.10 to 4.20
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	4.95 to 5.10
Sheet Iron	6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel	6.50 to 6.70
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.20 to 10.40
Flat	11.20 to 11.30
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.50 to 6.55
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. L.C.W.	8.50 to 8.55
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.30

KEROSENE.	
The market is not active.	
Chester	Y. 3.91
Victory	3.65
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	...
Nurneo	2.70 to 2.85
Bokuyetsu	3.05 to 3.60
Hippon	3.00 to 3.64
Ogura	2.85 to 3.37
Total	3.30

SUGAR.	
Little business has been done in imported Refined.	
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	...
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.50
White Java	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.00
(Hongkong)	14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.	
No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.	

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
second	280.00
Madras, first	—
second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.	
The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.	
Gold Drop	4 sacks 10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks 10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	13.15 to 14.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40

JAPANESE.	
Rising Sun	6 Awamame 2.80
Takasago	6 " 2.75
Fuji	6 " 2.85
Pine	6 " 2.80

WHEAT.	
Little business has been done.	
White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	Yen. 4.95
Red	4.90
Blue Stem	5.00

EXPORTS.	
RAW SILK.	
The market is quiet. Some business has been done On December 28th stocks were: Filatures 29,847 bales, Re-reels, 3,969 bales; Kakeda, 654 bales.	

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	915
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	860
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	880
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	850
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	890
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	870
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyoshi	825
Re-reels—Extra	845
Re-reels—No. 1	830
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	810
Kakeda—Gold Cup Chop Extra	835
Kakeda—Veiled Woman Chop	825
Kakeda—One Horsehead Chop	815
Kakeda—Two Horseheads Chop	815

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE	
January.	January February delivery. delivery. March delivery.
5h	8.42 8.53 8.52
6h	8.34 8.46 8.48
7h	8.38 — 8.48
8h	8.36 8.46 8.45
9h	8.46 8.55 8.56
10h	8.51 8.59 8.64

WASTE SILK.	
Market continues active at unchanged prices. On December 29th stocks were: Noshi, 3,000 piculs; Kibiso, 5,100 piculs; Sundries, 1,400 piculs.	

QUOTATIONS.	
Noshi—Filatures, Best	155 to 175
Noshi—Filatures, Good	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	115 to 135
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	100 to 110
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	70 to 85
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	90 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	60 to 80
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	100 to 115
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	—
Rereel—Fair	—
Rereel—Best	—
Rereel—Good	—
Rereel—Medium	—

HABUTAE.	
Fukui—The market is somewhat active. Kanazawa—There has been a general advance in prices for all qualities. Kawamata—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.	

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)	
6 ms. 6 1/2 ms. 7 ms. 7 1/2 ms. 8 ms.	...
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...
22 1/2"	8.30 8.10 8.00 7.80 7.70
27"	8.15 8.00 8.00 7.85 7.95
36"	8.15 7.95 7.90 7.85 7.85

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)	
4 1/2 ms. 4 3/4 ms. 5 ms. 5 1/4 ms.	...
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...
22 1/2"	7.90 7.90 7.95 7.05
27"	7.75 7.79 7.70 7.60
36"	7.95 7.65 7.65 7.07

KAWAMATA.	
3 ms. 3 1/2 ms. 4 ms. 4 1/4 ms.	...
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...
20"	7.10 7.70 8.60 9.40
23"	7.40 8.30 9.50 10.00
27"	8.90 10.20 11.10 11.80
36"	12.00 13.40 15.30 16.30

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of January 11th the quotation was 45.12 1/2.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.90-45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00-50.00
Ore...	29.50-33.00

RICE.

The market is firm.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	552.703
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	121.991
Delivery	Closing Price:
January	18.47
February	18.49
March	18.68
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
January	18.46
February	18.47
March	18.51

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

Superior	Yen 19.20
Medium	18.20
Common	16.80
Average	18.07

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.

Delivery	Yen.
January	139.58
February	139.99
March	134.15

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till December 31st, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choice	nominal.
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Jan. 11.
London silver 1/4 lower for spot and unaltered for forward delivery. China sterling quotations unchanged as well as all local rates.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credit 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	262
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207 1/2 @ 8
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100, 93 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 90 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	81 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	82 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	25 1/2 @ 1/4

* Nominal.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 5th Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Bencluch, British steamer, 2,679, Geo. McMillan, 5th Jan.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Carnegie & Co.
Pembroke, British steamer, 3,000, W. C. Barrett, 5th Dec.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.
Tuscarora, British steamer, 3,925, F. S. Hollinshead, 5th Jan.—San Francisco, Kerosene Oil. Standard Oil Co.
Kichirin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 5th Jan.—Yawata, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 5th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 5th Jan.—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—G. N. S. S. Co.

Montague, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 6th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Tonyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, E. Bent, 6th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, T. Noguchi, 6th Jan.—Dairen, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rijun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 6th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Titan, British steamer, 8,720, Evans, 6th Jan.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 7th Jan.—Manila and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

Awaji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,155, M. Tabush, 7th Jan.—Hakodate, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 8th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fujisan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, K. Kikuchi, 8th Jan.—Takao, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Asiatic, British steamer, 1,373, S. A. Bolton, 8 Jan.—Christmas Island, Phosphate.—Carnegie & Co.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minakawa, 9th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cleveland, German steamer, 10,300, Dempwolf, 9th Jan.—New York via ports, Round the World Tourists.—C. Illies & Co.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 10th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Awai Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Irizawa, 11th Jan.—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inverclyde, British steamer, 3,214, D. Mansfield, 11th Jan.—New York General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Lucerne, British steamer, 4,100, J. Mathie, 11th Jan.—Vancouver and Portland, Ore., Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Toloni Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 11th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tonkin, French steamer, 2,327, Charbonnel, 11th Jan.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,413, K. Soyeda, 11th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 5th Jan.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,147, M. Winkler, 6th Jan.—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 6th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Uma Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 6th Jan.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,140, H. Yada, 6th Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yobeshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clark, 6th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Titan, British steamer, 8,720, Evans, 6th Jan.—Victoria, Tacoma and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Pembroke, British steamer, 3,000, W. C. Barrett, 6th Jan.—Vladivostok, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.

Caledonian, French steamer, 2,100, Melber, 6th Jan.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 7th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 7th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—G. N. S. S. Co.

Montague, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 7th Jan.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Pelex, British steamer, 4,800, H. Nicholes, 8th Jan.—Mororan, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,081, Buch, 8th Jan.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Daito Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246, Y. Kawazumi, 9th Jan.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 9th Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sakshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,319, K. Saikawa, 9th Jan.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 9th Jan.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.).

Nore, British steamer, 4,180, G. Philipps, 9th Jan.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Tonyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, Ernest Bent, 9th Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Bencluch, British steamer, 2,679, Geo. McMillan, 10th Jan.—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Carnegie & Co.

Kichirin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 10th Jan.—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chfoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 10th Jan.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fujisan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,267, K. Kikuchi, 10th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 11th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 11th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mail and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Segovia, German steamer, 3,796, Deinat, 11th Jan.—Marseilles, Rotterdam and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Inverclyde, British steamer, 3,214, D. Mansfield, 11th Jan.—Yokosuka, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Minnesota* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Williams and Miss G. Jaquet. For Manila:—Mr. E. Criss, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Thomas and 2 children, Mrs. H. Bryan & 2 children, Mr. G. W. Davis, Mrs. C. G. Medon, Rev. T. L. Chavasse, Mr. F. Olden, Mr. W. S. Keves, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Fisher, Mr. E. E. Reets, Mrs. J. J. Rafferty and 2 children, Mr. A. Leavitt, Mr. G. Walsh and Mrs. F. Olden. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Kennedy and Mr. P. Wong in cabin; 6 persons in European steerage and 30 persons in Asiatic steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakui Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Sakurai in cabin; Mr. S. Naito in second class; 8 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Sibiria* from Vladivostok:—Baron Edgar d'Uexkull, Mr. Grigor Biboyan, Mr. Rene de Lohel and Mr. Momomaro Yushin in cabin; Mr. Alexander Lichodzievsky and Mr. Otto Pegler in second class.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Rutan* from Vladivostok:—Mr. B. Mango, Mr. M. Takenouchi, Mr. K. Fujinami, Mr. T. Ishihashi, Mr. K. Takano, Mr. T. Ohyama and Mr. K. Murakami in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Meshalkin in second class.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamo Maru*, from Europe:—Mr. P. Watson, Mr. S. Tanabe, Mrs. Souter, Mr. A. Yoshikawa, Mr. T. Furusawa, Mr. O. V. Thomas, Mr. S. Gifford, Major T. Oake, Mrs. Ross, Mr. M. Ishida, Mr. S. Nakamura and Mr. Horuchi.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Montague* for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. J. Carlin, Mr. H. Cunningham, Mrs. C. M. Edge, Mr. J. J. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. B. Foith, Miss A. Foith, Mr. and Mrs. W. Holloway, Miss E. Holloway, Miss F. Holloway, Mrs. W. H. Howard, Master K. Howard, Mr. J. Irvine, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jackson, Miss J. Jackson, Mr. W. W. Jackson, Mr. H. G. Jackson, Mr. S. Kickenillo, Rev. F. E. Lund, Mr. J. Sutherland, Mrs. J. C. Warrington, Mr. P. T. Wisner and Miss M. E. Wood in cabin.

Per French steamer *Caledonian* for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Ed. Valpy, Mr. Hanser, Mr. T. Hinzinger, Mr. J. H. Glas and Mr. Myres in cabin.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America.....	P. M.....	China 1	Sa. Jan. 13
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	Persia 2	Su. Jan. 14
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.....	Tamba Maru	M. Jan. 15
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Canada Maru	Su. Jan. 15
Hongkong.....	B. L.....	Suvero	M. Jan. 21
Seattle.....	N. Y. K.....	Sado Maru 3	Tu. Jan. 23
Europe.....	N. D. L.....	Goeben	Tu. Jan. 23
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Seattle Maru	W. Jan. 24
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Jan. 24
America.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Jan. 27
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Shinyo Maru	Su. Jan. 28
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of India	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong.....	G. N.....	Minnesota	Tu. Feb. 13

- 1 Left Honolulu on the 2nd inst.
 2 Left Hongkong on the 5th inst.
 3 Left Seattle on the 6th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

To	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru	Sa. Jan. 13
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Panama Maru	Sa. Jan. 13
Europe.....	N. D. L.....	Huelow	Sa. Jan. 13
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	China	Su. Jan. 14
Shanghai.....	N. Y. K.....	Kosai Maru	Su. Jan. 14
America.....	P. M.....	Persia	Tu. Jan. 15
Europe.....	N. Y. K.....	Hirano Maru	W. Jan. 17
Seattle.....	N. Y. K.....	Tamba Maru	W. Jan. 17
Europe.....	M. M.....	Tonkin	Sa. Jan. 20
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Canada Maru	Tu. Jan. 23
Seattle.....	B. L.....	Suvero	Tu. Jan. 23
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Jan. 24
Shanghai.....	P. & O.....	Oriental	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	M. Jan. 29
America.....	T. K. K.....	Shinyo Maru	Tu. Jan. 30
Australia.....	N. Y. K.....	Yawata Maru	Sa. Feb. 3
Tacoma.....	B. & S.....	Protesilaus	Sa. Feb. 3
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of India	Sa. Feb. 4
Seattle.....	G. N.....	Minnesota	F. Feb. 16

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 20TH, 1912.

DEATH.

MGR. BONNE.—At Tokyo, Tsukiji, on Thursday, January, 11th, 1912, MOST REV. FRANCIS BONNE, Archbishop of Tokyo.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. IMAI NIKRO has been appointed Consul-General at Hongkong.

LORD HARDENGE, Viceroy of India, has received the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order.

THE *Asio* and *Soya* of the Training Squadron are reported to have arrived at Sydney on Monday

morning. The Squadron was received by the citizens with great enthusiasm.

THE British East Africa Corporation announces the issue of £50,000 ordinary shares at par.

THE death is announced of Sir J. P. Gibson, Liberal Member of Parliament for East Edinburgh.

TWO trains collided at Bondy near Paris on the 8th inst. Nine persons were killed and seventeen injured.

BARON KATO, who is now in Tokyo on furlough, will leave for London early in April, to resume his duties.

AT the first opium sales of 1912 the total number of chests sold was 1,747, of a total value of Rs. 5,973,450.

A SEPOY who went to Lahore from Uganda in 1910, suffering from sleeping sickness, has completely recovered.

HER MAJESTY the EMPRESS will proceed to Numazu, on the 17th instant, and is expected to stay there until April next.

MARQUIS SAIONJI, the Premier, who has been suffering from bronchial catarrh, is reported to be almost completely restored to health.

MR. OSHIMA KUMAJI, the new Governor of Kanagawa, left the capital for Yokohama on Monday, to enter upon his new duties.

A ROYAL Colonial Lodge of Freemasons has been formed in London. H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught has been elected the first Master.

H.M.S. *Lion*, a new battleship-cruiser, in her trials in the English Channel in a storm on the 9th inst. attained a speed of thirty-one knots.

H. E. MR. OSHIMA, the new Governor of this prefecture, paid an official visit on Tuesday morning to each of the Consulates in the city.

A SEVERE earthquake shock was felt in Nagasaki at 8.30 p.m. on the 16th instant. The shock was so severe as to stop the pendulums of clocks.

THE new dock in the Sasebo Naval Arsenal has been completed. It is stated that the dock is perfectly equipped for accommodating warships of 30,000 tons.

REAR-ADMIRAL the Hon. A. E. Bethell, C.M.G., has been appointed to succeed Rear Admiral E. J. W. Slade, M.V.O., as Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station.

THE despatch boat *Manchu* is reported to have left Kure on the 12th instant for South China. The warship is expected to stay at Hankow until the middle of April next.

REV. C. V. T. RICHESON, Pastor of a Baptist Church at Boston, has been sentenced to death for the poisoning of Miss Linnell, to whom he was engaged to be married.

THE death is announced of Mr. Sofer Whitburn, a London financier. The deceased left estate valued at £1,481,219. He lived the life of a hermit, and was unknown outside the City.

A SERIOUS landslide was experienced on Tuesday morning in the Mamaki district in Noto province, a large Buddhist temple there being entirely destroyed. The same afternoon 45

dwelling houses, 20 storehouses and 7 sheds were crushed by a repetition of the disaster. Fortunately no casualties are reported. The loss sustained is estimated at some 40,000 yen.

THE Yokohama Silk Export Guild has drafted a memorial in regard to the establishment of a *habutae* conditioning office in the city, which will be presented in a few days to the Kencho.

TOKYO papers publish a forecast that General Count Oku, chief of the General Staff, will be promoted to membership of the War Council and be succeeded by General Viscount Hasegawa.

IT is announced in Berlin that the Englishmen Lieutenants Trench and Brandon, who are confined at the fortress of Glatz, will be subjected to rigorous restriction in consequence of the escape of Capt Lux.

AN officer on the 11th inst. flew by aeroplane from the deck of H.M.S. *Africa*, battleship of the Home Fleet, to Sheerness, where he circled round the men-of-war lying in harbour, amid the cheering of their crews.

REAR-ADMIRAL TONAMI, who has been ordered to proceed to Central China to inspect military affairs, left Moji by the *Hakui Maru* on the 14th instant. After a few days' sojourn in Shanghai, he will proceed to Nanking.

THE Nippon Kaisha steamer *Bushu Maru* (1,968 tons), which was lying at Uraga, caught fire on Wednesday night last, and the interior of the vessel was entirely destroyed. The loss is estimated at 8,000 yen. There was no cargo in the hold of the vessel at the time.

A RAILWAY accident occurred on Friday afternoon last at a place near Kobuchisawa station on the Central Line. A passenger train from Hinoharu was running down a gradient when an explosion took place on the engine. The engineer and two stokers were seriously injured, but there appears to have been no other damage.

EARLY on Saturday morning last the O.S.K. steamer *Fujikawa Maru* (575 tons) ran upon a rock called Umanokubi, off Sufumura, Hokkaido province, on her way to Hamada from Esaki, Yamaguchi prefecture. The vessel was refloated after eight hours' strenuous work by the crew and others, and was then towed to Setogashima. No casualties nor any damage to cargo are reported.

THE Hoshino, Murakami, and four other landing agencies of Yokohama, engaged in the handling of coal, went on strike on the 13th instant. Up to now the landing charge has been 150 yen per 10,000 *kin*, but the agencies are now demanding an increase of thirty per cent. The demand has been rejected by the ship-owners, and the discharging of coal from the steamers *Akebono Maru* and *Sorachi Maru*, lying in the port, has ceased.

THE funeral of the late Mr. H. Bekkey was held at the Buddhist Temple at Kanagawa on Friday last in the presence of a large number of mourners, Japanese and foreign, including representatives of the Government, the leading banks, and a number of Japanese and foreign firms. The popularity of Mr. Bekkey was not only shown by the large number of friends of all nationalities who gathered at his graveside, but also by the quantity of beautiful wreaths. Many of these were sent by the deceased's foreign friends, including one from those who used to gather with him atiffin at the Y. U. Clubs for so many years.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Friday, January 12.

Very contradictory reports reach Tokyo, one from Shanghai and one from Peking. The Peking story represents Yuan as standing firmly to his guns. He has informed Wu Tingfang that the latter is confounding international law and domestic. The claims that Mr. Wu sets up with regard to Tang Shao-i, might be tenable had Tang been a plenipotentiary accredited to some foreign Power, but being merely a national commissioner appointed by the Central Government for the purposes of domestic discussion, his signature cannot be held binding on the Court, and Peking therefore refuses to be tied by any concessions that Tang made. Upon that point Premier Yuan refuses to yield an inch. Further, his Excellency points out that the only questions really at issue are the manner of electing a national assembly and the fixing of a place for its meeting. These matters can be perfectly well settled by telegraphic communications. There is no necessity for the plenipotentiaries to meet face to face, and even if there were, it would be for Mr. Wu to come to Peking, inasmuch as the Prime Minister's duties and responsibilities render it practically impossible for him to absent himself from the capital.

According to the above *resumé*, Yuan is assuming a very firm attitude. Shanghai, on the contrary, represents the Peking Premier as prepared to make any concession in the interests of peace.

Meanwhile, the Insurgent military leaders are said to have memorialized Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the sense that Yuan's promises cannot possibly be carried out and that the wisest plan is to march northward at once on Peking. To this Dr. Sun is said to have replied, reminding the memorialists that a truce exists at present, and that the suggested movement would be premature.

It appears to be thought in Tokyo that Yuan will ultimately yield as to the convention of a National Assembly in Shanghai, while the Insurgent leaders will concede the points raised with regard to the manner of electing the members of the Assembly. But agreement on these lines would, it is thought, be somewhat premature. Some onlookers cling to the impression that Yuan is working to be appointed President of the Republic, but that seems to be a supposition without any solid basis.

The talk that was recently heard about the division of the country into two parts, the southern under a republic and the northern under a monarchy, is again heard. The idea is that the provinces forming the northern section would be Pehchili, Shan-tung, Shansi, Honan, Shensi, Kansu, and the whole of Manchuria, with one-half each of Hupeh and Anhui. It is even added the Yuan is endeavouring to secure the acquiescence of the foreign Powers for this arrangement.

In Tientsin, a strong spirit begins to prevail. The troops there are said to be inveighing against the vacillations and hesitations of Yuan Shih-kai, and to be clamouring for the renewal of hostilities. They propose to organize an expeditionary force having Tientsin for its base.

This stalwart attitude is now taken by the Senate also. The members of that body who are now in Peking are reported to be urging Yuan in the sense that there is not

the slightest chance of the Insurgents making any concession and that the only sound scheme is to reopen hostilities at once.

Our readers will probably agree that all this indicates something very like a game of bluff.

Saturday, January 13.

All sorts of more or less contradictory rumours are reaching Tokyo from China. It is stated that, on the 12th instant, Yuan Shih-kai summoned a meeting of the Cabinet and informed them that there was no prospect of the Insurgents abandoning their design of a movement against Peking; that only a few days of the truce still remained, and that a peaceful solution could not be hoped for. Another telegram undertakes to explain the fact that although the Peking Government has obtained money from the Throne as well as assurances from the generals commanding its troops, no sign is visible of it taking resolute belligerent action. The interpretation given is evidently conjectural. In the first place, Yuan is said to be anxious to win foreign sympathy by manifest reluctance to recommence the armed struggle. In the second, the Peking Premier is represented as having become convinced that there will soon be a split in the ranks of the Insurgents. Already President Sun and Field Marshal Hwang are reported to be disputing about the limits of their respective powers, and Yuan believes that if only time be given to the Insurgents, they will inevitably fall into a state of disintegration. In the third place, the financial embarrassments of the Insurgents are at least as pressing as those of the Imperialists, and the former, having no means whatever of raising a loan, will be obliged to fall back upon the system of requisitions, which will be at once resented by the people, and trouble will ensue—trouble in which foreign life and property may even become jeopardised, in which event, the Insurgents will no longer be able to keep the field. In the fourth and final case, it is pointed out that the Imperialist troops are much better equipped and trained than the Insurgents, and that it is only necessary for the former to act strictly on the defensive in order to bring about a settlement on the basis of dividing the country into a northern monarchy and a southern republic. With all these things before him, Yuan's hesitation to assume the offensive is easily understood. But to us (*Japan Mail*) another important consideration suggests itself, namely that a truce exists until the 15th instant, and that prior to that date, neither side can attack without a flagrant violation of good faith. Yet another telegram credits Yuan with having recognized the hopelessness of the Imperial cause, and says that he is determined to resign as the only atonement he can make for his blunders. Then we have a message from Peking to the effect that Yuan is quite convinced of ultimate success and is determined to leave to the Insurgents the arduous task of organizing an offensive campaign, while the Imperialists will occupy all the important positions in the north. In connexion with this, it is noticeable that dissatisfaction with President Sun's capacity and procedure is said to be finding loud expression among the Insurgents.

On the 12th instant a Court council is said to have been held at the Palace. It was attended by Imperial Princes only, and after some discussion a vote was passed favouring the immediate abdication of the Emperor,

and agreeing that the further management of the situation should be entrusted to Yuan Shih-kai. This is confirmed by a message from another quarter to the effect that the inevitability of abdication has now come to be fully recognized, and that the Emperor's advisers think it wiser that His Majesty should step down voluntarily from the Throne rather than wait to be dragged from it.

It appears to be certain that the Imperialist forces have all been withdrawn from Hanyang and Hankow and that their headquarters are at Hwanpel, which lies a little to the east of Hsiaokan. As for the Insurgents, they do not seem to be observing the terms of the truce with similar fidelity. They are moving up so as to occupy, or at any rate command, the evacuated positions, and it is expected that on the expiration of the truce, the Insurgents will at once assume the offensive.

Meanwhile talk of an Insurgent expedition against Peking and other places in North China continues to be heard. A force of six thousand men is said to have been collected in Shanghai, and preparations are being made for the immediate embarkation of this corps, which will sail with instructions to land at some point along the Manchurian coast. Fuchow in mentioned as the most probable place. Thereafter, a march from Mukden will be made. But where are the Insurgents to find ships and equipment for this force? Another telegram represents Takushan as the probable place of landing and represents General Lan as commanding the army of invasion. This wire speaks of a flotilla of two transports guarded by destroyers; but it will immediately occur to our readers that to carry an army of six thousand men with horses, artillery and other paraphernalia by means of a fleet of two transports would be a miraculous feat. The Chinwantao expedition does not appear to have materialized. It nevertheless furnished evident food for perturbation in Peking, whence orders were issued for due preparations to resist a landing. Finally the Peking statesmen are said to have come to an understanding with the foreign Representatives that Chinwantao should be regarded as a neutral port. The latest news about this occurrence is that the expeditionary force has headed for Chefoo. It will be observed that at least two expeditions are referred to in the stories. Here we may mention that Hanyang and Hankow also have been declared neutral.

Sunday, January 14.

In Peking, the Court is said to have decided that no resource is available except the abdication of the Throne and retirement to Jehol or some other suitable place. Meanwhile no attempt to renew the fighting will be made.

It is a notable fact that not so much as one Japanese newspaper raises its voice in defence of Yuan. All unite in the belief that he is playing entirely his own game. They argue that had he desired to bring the insurrection to a speedy conclusion he could easily have crushed the rebels. But it was the wave of insurrection that carried him once more into office, and he has no desire to see that wave calmed too rapidly. He knows, and has long known, that from the moment when the policy of talk was substituted for that of action, the preservation of a monarchical form of government ceased to be possible. But there was something which concerned him much more intimately than

the monarchy, and that something was his own elevation to the rank of President. He had this in view from the outset. It was in pursuance of that aim that he contrived his own nomination as Premier; then the resignation of the Prince Regent; then the transfer of the command of the Guard's Division to himself; then the arguments between Peking and Shanghai, and now the pressure brought to bear upon the Throne and the Imperial Princes to despoil themselves by contributions to the military chest. It is quite curious to observe the unanimity of Japanese newspapers in discussing the situation, but we have always to remember that their views are largely influenced by their own correspondents in China, and thus Tokyo journals indirectly represent, not their own opinions, but those prevailing in China.

It appears true, though incredible, that the Insurgents are planning an expedition to the north. They are said to have chartered thirteen steamers belonging to the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company's fleet. These vessels are to carry an army whose strength is not stated. It will embark at Woosung, at the mouth of the Yangtze River, and will effect a landing at Chefoo. Premier Yuan is said to have issued instructions that even on the conclusion of the armistice the Imperialist troops are to refrain from striking any blow unless the Insurgents attack them. This would not apply, of course, to an incident such as that said to be contemplated by the Insurgents, but we must confess that we regard as chimerical the transport by sea of an army sufficient to menace Peking. That story, especially when we consider the absence of all concealment, does not inspire confidence.

The Insurgents have established in Shanghai an office which will deal with the purchase of arms. Each province is to make requisitions for the quantity it needs, and these requisitions will be carried to Nanking, there to receive the endorsement of the Republican officials, after which they will be taken to Shanghai and offered to foreign merchants in payment for arms and munitions of war. This sounds very business-like; but will any business man accept such notes in discharge of a debt?

There is a talk of the sale of the Pinghsiang coal-mine, the Taya iron-mine and the smelting works at Hanyang to a Japanese company, so as to save these enterprises from the danger now menacing them. That is the business, according to rumour, which has brought to Japan Mr. Sheng, formerly Minister of Communications. He is now sojourning at Suma, nominally on account of lung trouble, but really to conclude a bargain in the above sense.

Monday, January 15.
The Shanghai correspondents of several important journals in Tokyo telegraph this morning that the abdication of the Emperor has been decided upon and will take place in the course of the next three days.

In connexion with this, there is a very strange rumour to the effect that the foreign Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai has addressed a *note identique* to Prince Ching, the ex-Prince Regent and all the Princes of the Blood, strongly advocating the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty, and advising that none of the Imperial Princes shall henceforth be allowed to take part in the administration of State affairs. It is scarcely

credible that such a step should have been taken by the foreign Chamber of Commerce, and we are disposed to think that the words "foreign" and "native" have been confused in the process of telegraphing.

Another report is to the effect that President Sun having forwarded to Peking a document containing a statement of the terms which would be given to the Emperor and the Imperial Princes in the event of abdication, a conclave of these Princes was held in the Palace on the 12th instant with the result that the Manchu leaders determined to vacate the Throne. But all accounts are not unanimous with regard to what occurred at this meeting. One story has it that opinions were divided, some of the Imperial Princes being disposed to advocate the continuance of armed resistance. The truculent Princes pointed out that funds having now been found and the general officers in the field having avowed their determination to extirpate the Insurgents, there was no reason whatever for abdication or surrender of any kind.

Meanwhile comes the startling news that Yuan Shih-kai has tendered his resignation to the Throne and to the Senate. His Excellency's plea is inability to cope with the situation. Several critics attribute this action on Yuan's part to a crafty motive. The Prime Minister thinks that if he steps aside, the Sovereign's abdication will necessarily follow, and thus Yuan himself will have to be regarded as the real *deus ex machina*. We must be prepared, however, for the attribution of all kinds of sinister schemes to Yuan, since he does not command the full confidence of either side. One reason for his desire to retire is said to be a belief that Great Britain and Japan have espoused the cause of the Insurgents.

As to the armistice, whose period came to an end at 8 a. m. on the 15th instant, it is said to have been renewed for a further term of seven days at the instance of the British Authorities.

Tuesday, January 16.

Everything now points to the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu Dynasty and to the abandonment by the Manchus of all the high posts held by them in the administration. Mr. Na Tung is said to have actually drafted a proclamation of abdication, which document sets forth the sufferings caused to the people by the struggle between the Insurgents and the Imperialists. Reference is also made to the disgrace of exposing domestic quarrels to foreign observation. The document being couched in very strong terms, is said to be undergoing revision, but its presentation before the armistice concludes is regarded as certain. The probability is that the Court will retire to Jehol, as everything has been prepared at the latter place with that intention.

As to the method of carrying on the administration pending the formation of some responsible government, the idea is said to be that the truce should be extended for three weeks, during which time a provisional government would be organized under the control of Yuan Shih-kai, and on the expiration of the armistice, a national assembly should be convened. It is evidently here that the greatest difficulty will present itself. For, after the Emperor's abdication, there will be no legitimate source of administrative authority, and unless Yuan is prepared to

carry on the administration by military aid, it is evident that he will be powerless to command obedience.

Accounts are published of the occurrences at the Palace council held on the 12th instant, but it is not possible to place implicit reliance upon such reports. That the Empress Dowager wept continuously is credible enough, but that Princes Tsai-tao and Tsai-hsun declared their desire to die at their posts rather than be a party to abdication requires to be confirmed. Subsequently to the council, Prince Tsai-tao is said to have proceeded to Jehol where all arrangements have been made for the reception of the Court, and nothing now remains except to provide for safety on the journey.

It appears that Shanghai is convinced of the truth of the Emperor's abdication and believes that it will take place within a week's time. Thereafter the truce will hold for at least 14 days' according to present agreement, but as yet there is no discussion as to the inchoate state of affairs that must ensue with Sun as President in Nanking and Yuan as Chief Administrator at Peking, neither of these men being in possession of a mandate from any competent source.

Negotiations appear to be now going on direct between Sun Yat-sen and Yuan Shih-kai. The former is said to be reiterating his proposal that Yuan should accept the dignity of President of the Republic and should immediately commence to discharge its functions. Mr. Tang Shao-i also, in spite of his failure at the negotiations in Shanghai, and in spite of his repudiation by Yuan, is still acting as intermediary.

The Insurgents are to be informed that the withdrawal of the Court to Jehol does not mean the surrender of the metropolis to their hands. But how this is to be intimated to them, and how the intimation is to be enforced in the event of the Insurgents declining to be bound by it, there is nothing to indicate. The Imperial Court is to be followed to Jehol by a force of ten thousand Manchu soldiers, and truly this seems to be the only steady point in the situation. It appears to us that so soon as the child Emperor abdicates and so soon as the Court retires to Jehol, there will be nobody to give orders or to obey them if given.

There is a somewhat wild story to the effect that the Throne has handed a sum of 200,000 taels to General Liang-pi, and has ordered him to use the money for the formation of a body of braves to stand in the van of the anti-Insurgent army. General Liang-pi, however, is said to be offended by the Court's neglect of his previously tendered advice, and instead of proceeding to the organization of a force, he is devoting his time to drinking and gambling.

There appears to be in Peking an association called the Constitutional Monarchy Support Party. It consists for the most part of military men. The telegraph says that a meeting of the society was held in the capital on the 15th instant, but that its discussion was futile. The members were evidently disposed to think more of their own safety than of the defence of the Monarchy.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from Peking which says that Premier Yuan is insisting on the necessity of his own retirement simultaneously with the abdication of the Emperor. The Court is alleged to be endeavouring to convert Yuan from

that conviction, but the Prime Minister appreciates fully the impossibility of the situation in which he will be placed if he attempts to administer the offices of the State in Peking after the retirement of the Court to Jehol. This is by no means the first instance of the withdrawal of the Court to Jehol, but never before has the withdrawal been accompanied by abdication. Yuan sees that he would have no authority whatever in such circumstances. Everything must therefore depend on his being able to come to some agreement with the Insurgents for the discharge of administrative functions from the moment of the Emperor's abdication. If he attempts to govern without such cooperation, he will not be as wise a man as even his enemies believe him to be. Therefore he is said to be insisting that abdication should be deferred, pending the settlement of this question.

A committee of four members of the Senate has made the rounds of the foreign Legations in Peking seeking an expression of views as to the future polity of China. They have declared themselves and the Senate to be staunch advocates of a constitutional monarchy, and they are said to have obtained the endorsement of practically the whole of the foreign Representatives.

Wednesday, January 17.

President Sun Yat-sen is said to have declared officially that if the Throne be quietly abdicated by the Manchus, the latter's wishes will be attended to in every respect. Sun further undertakes that during the remaining period of the armistice, which has been renewed until the 29th instant, there shall be no movement whatever of the troops on the side of the Insurgents.

It appears that lines of communication in China are not working very conveniently at present, and there is thus much difficulty in collating facts. What seems to be certain is that the Insurgents are determined not to lay down their arms until the abdication of the Manchus becomes an actually accomplished fact. Further, it is easy to see that both sides would be only too well pleased to bring the war to a termination.

We gather from telegrams received in Tokyo that the Provincial Assemblies in Honan and Pehchili—where the situation appears to be thoroughly controlled by the Imperialists—have addressed a despatch to President Sun asking whether, in the event of the Manchus abdicating the Throne, the Insurgents will agree to the Presidency of Yuan Shih-kai; whether, in the event of peace being restored, exactly similar treatment will be accorded to the Insurgent soldiers and to the Government troops; and whether the contemplated consideration extended to the Court and the Imperial Family will be put into concrete form as a measure preliminary to abdication. To this Dr. Sun is said to have replied, first, that the strongest possible desire exists among the Insurgents to bring about the establishment of a republic at the earliest possible date, and that so soon as ever that is achieved, he, Dr. Sun, has solemnly pledged himself to resign his appointment of President. In the second place, with regard to Yuan Shih-kai's Presidency, no obstacle whatever will be placed in the way by the Insurgents, who recognize fully the important part acted by him in the present drama. With regard to treatment extended to the troops, it will be exactly similar in all respects, and if the Imperialists doubt the good faith of the Insurgents in

this matter, there will be nothing for it but another appeal to the sword.

In Shanghai the general opinion is said to be that the troops in the north will not be persuaded to lay down their arms and swear allegiance to a republican government, for they well know that no trust can be placed in the *bona fides* of the Republicans. But even supposing that that difficulty is overcome, and supposing further that a republic is established, it is scarcely conceivable that things will move quietly for more than a few months. Troubles will present themselves in the republican camp; a fresh struggle will be precipitated, and an easy opportunity will then be furnished for the ambitious aggressiveness of outside Powers.

THE AMERICAN ARMY.

Major-General Carter is not the only responsible official of the United States who has recuscitated the alarm about the condition of the American army. The Secretary of War, Mr. H. L. Stimson, startled his countrymen by declaring in his first annual report that the army was ineffective for serious active service owing to lack of concentration. Naturally Mr. Stimson's dictum created considerable excitement in America, but it was interesting to observe that a majority of newspapers showed a strong disposition to minimize the military question and to ridicule the possibility of war between the United States and any Occidental Power. It was nevertheless acknowledged that steps must be speedily taken to correct the lack of concentration denounced in the Secretary's report. It was doubtless in reference to this report that Major-General Carter's statement, as telegraphed this morning, was made to a congressional committee. It is not to be assumed, of course, that the Major-General's remarks were animated by any unfriendly spirit towards Japan, although a very disagreeable impression has inevitably been produced by his re-invocation of the old bogie about time-served Japanese soldiers in Hawaii and the Philippines. Such an utterance must suggest that the Major-General had Japan in view when he advised army-reorganization if the United States wished to keep its insular possessions intact. It is most unfortunate that the feeling of antagonism to Japan, which was created originally in connexion with the labour question on the Pacific slope, should be thus revived from time to time. The average American citizen reading Mr. Stimson's declaration, and Major-General Carter's endorsement of it, cannot fail to reach the conviction that hostility lies latent between the people of the United States and the Japanese nation; though we who live in Japan are in a position to emphatically deny the existence of any such sentiment on this side of the Pacific.

HAINAN.

The inhabitants of the island of Hainan have declared their independence, and one of their first acts was to destroy a German Church. Hainan is a large island on the south-east coast of China. It served as a base for the British expeditionary force which attacked Canton in the very early days of China's foreign intercourse. On receipt of the news of the above event, a Chinese war-ship was immediately sent from Canton and was followed by a German vessel.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

It is stated that the Consular body in Shanghai, with the endorsement of their Representatives in Peking, have presented a document to the Yuan Cabinet, urging, first, that the National Assembly should be convened on neutral ground either at Nanking or Tientsin; second, that a new peace plenipotentiary should be appointed; third, that all military operations should be suspended at Wuchang and Hankow, that the Insurgent troops should be disbanded and that the Imperial forces should be withdrawn from the field; fourth, that the Representatives of various Powers should be allowed to attend the debates of the proposed National Assembly; fifth, that the duty of restraining and punishing rioters should be entrusted entirely to government troops; sixth, that the provisions of the preceding three articles should be carried out within a week; and seventh, that steps should be taken by the foreign Powers to protect the peace plenipotentiaries so as to avert all menace. It will be at once agreed that some of the above provisions are quite impracticable. Nevertheless, all accounts go to show that the Consular body has intervened resolutely, and that a further truce of fourteen days has been fixed.

The *Yamato Shimbun* gives a somewhat different *precis* of the conditions formulated. It makes them stipulate mainly for the cessation of hostilities and the break up of the armies in the field. This latter proviso does not contemplate the disbanding of the Government's regular forces. It seems to refer solely to the Insurgents, and nothing is less likely than that they would consent to lay down their arms while the Imperialists remain in battle array. Yet, after all, no one could reasonably expect that the regulars who constitute the main part of the Imperialist army should be disbanded.

Rumour says that the above terms were submitted to Yuan Shih-kai, and after receiving his endorsement were carried to the Palace, where also they obtained sanction.

KOREAN RICE.

The question of rice export from Korea to Japan is expected to give rise to some discussion in the Diet this session. It is of course very desirable from Japan's point of view that every obstacle which tends to impede the use of Korean rice should be abolished. Japan is obliged every year to supplement her domestic supply of rice with imports from abroad of more or less magnitude, and if she could meet this need from Chosen within her own dominions, she would be economically benefited and corresponding encouragement would be given to the farmers of Chosen. The Governor-General of Chosen fully appreciates this fact and has removed the export tax upon the cereal. But the Japanese people are anxious that the import tax imposed upon Korean rice entering Japan should be abolished. That, however, is not possible in view of the pledge given by the Tokyo Government against any change of tariff during the ten years immediately subsequent to annexation. The foreign Powers would certainly insist that similar indulgence should be shown to their imports of rice also, and that would mean a loss of a million yen to the Treasury, which is more than can now be afforded.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Monday, January 15.

In our last issue we mentioned that a number of transports, escorted by torpedo destroyers and carrying considerable Insurgent troops, had left Woosung for Chefoo, where they propose to effect a landing, and march thence upon Peking. To-day's intelligence is that whatever may be the ultimate intention of the Insurgents, they have not yet translated their plans into action. No transports or war-vessels have left Woosung, and although full preparations have been made at Chefoo to give the invaders a rough lesson if they come, people are beginning to doubt whether this expedition will ever materialize. There can be no question, as the *Siji Shimpo* observes, that the moment is favourable for such a movement. Mongolia, Ili and Tibet are creating trouble; the Emperor is about to abdicate; Yuan Shih-kai has tendered his resignation, and every day that passes without a final appeal to force embarrasses the insouciant Insurgents much more than it does the comparatively well furnished Imperialists. All these things combine to create an eminently favourable opportunity for delivering a final blow to Peking.

Tuesday, January 16.

There is much talk of a movement against Peking by the Insurgents. The province of Hupeh is reported to be mustering an army of ten thousand men, the van of which has already commenced its northward march parallel to the line of the railway. The Imperial troops, however, are giving way steadily. They have received orders, it appears, to refrain from fighting as far as possible, and to retire constantly until they reach a practically impregnable position. Nothing is said as to the source from which the Hupeh army is recruited. People talk very glibly about a force of Insurgents raised here or there and marching hither and thither. Such events are not impossible in countries where the system of conscription has long been in operation, and where virtually every adult male unit of the population has served his time with the Colours, and requires only a rifle to become a capable soldier. But there has never been any such system in China, and a mob of men mustered in Hupeh or in any other province would be practically useless for campaigning purposes. Therefore this army of ten thousand men under General Sun Wu assumes a semi-mythical character. More tangible is a force of some fifteen hundred men said to be now in process of embarkation at Woosung on three steamers belonging to the China Merchants' S. N. Company. This force is said to have been originally destined for Chinwantao, but as that place reported itself to be in a state of ample preparation, and as, moreover, the season is not suited, it is said to have been decided to substitute Chefoo and to make the province of Shantung the immediate object of attack. This will involve the danger of a collision with the Germans, and at any rate, the operation is comparatively insignificant. A force of only fifteen hundred men would mean not much more than a thousand in the fighting line, and what could a thousand men hope to do against the large forces that remain still loyal in the Metropolitan Province? If, instead of fifteen hundred men, seven or eight thousand were landed at Chefoo

simultaneously with the advance of a Hupeh army along the route of the Lu-Han Railway, a difficult situation might be created for the defenders of the Metropolitan Province. At the same time it is just conceivable that the despatch of this petty expedition to Shantung may have for its object to inveigle that province into the Insurgent camp. It will be remembered that at the outset Shantung declared its independence, and then subsequently withdrew the declaration. But the people are now said to be once more in favour of shaking off the Manchu yoke, and a body of men may have been despatched by the Insurgent leaders to give effect to the subsequent policy of the Shantung folks.

Collating the telegrams received in Tokyo yesterday afternoon, it appears that the Insurgents have planned to attack Peking from three directions. One corps has effected a landing at a point below Hankow on the north bank of the Yangtze and is moving west towards the Lu-Han Railway. Another is advancing northwards from Pukau—opposite to Nanking. And a third body has been carried by sea to Chefoo, or is now in process of transport thither from Woosung. As to the exact strength of these attacking columns there is no information, but their number can not be large. Much will depend on the disposition of the populace in the regions through which the Insurgents pass, for they will have to rely for supplies largely on the localities.

Wednesday, January 17.

The brief analysis in our last issue as to the movements of the Insurgent troops is not contradicted by later intelligence. There can be no doubt that three columns are advancing in different parts of the field, all having the same objective, namely, Peking. The first is a corps which musters 30,000 men and which consists, for the most part, of troops who formed the garrison of Wuchang. They moved down the southern bank of the river and, crossing at a point not clearly indicated, marched due northward, the left wing taking possession of Shekau on the line of railway, and the right flank advancing as far as Hwangpei. The Imperialists appear to be falling back instead of risking a combat with these Insurgents, and apparently no resolute stand will be made until Hsinyang is reached. This last place lies about 125 miles north of Hankow, and possesses great topographical advantages for defence. Several days must elapse before the van of the Insurgent army reaches Hsinyang, and it does not follow necessarily that no resistance will be offered by the Imperialist troops at a point nearer to Hankow. The second northward-moving army consists of the greater portion of the troops who captured Nanking. This army crossed the Yangtze some days ago to Pukow, and is said to have set out from thence northward, probably with the intention of striking at the left flank of the Imperialists in the Hsinyang region; or possibly of getting possession of the Tsin-Pu Railway. We have no accurate information as to the numerical strength of this army. Fifteen hundred men were originally spoken of, but it is scarcely credible that such a handful of soldiers should have embarked upon such an enterprise. Perhaps, however, the corps may depend upon receiving considerable accessions of strength in the course of its march. The third body of troops destined for the north

embarked at Woosung and proceeded by steamer to Chefoo, where a landing is rumoured to have been effected on the 16th instant. This force met with no resistance, and is said to have been cordially received by the inhabitants, who hung out the Insurgent flag and gave various evidences of welcome. The corps consists only of 1,500 men, but an even less formidable expedition is said to have landed at Tengchow in Shantung on the 15th instant. Of course it is quite conceivable that substantial reinforcements may speedily be transported to the Insurgent forces in Shantung, but in the meanwhile this enterprise offers little prospect of success.

One does not like to think of the hardships that the troops engaged in these expeditions have to encounter. Marching in mid winter, across plains where terrible dust storms prevail in the fall of every year and where shelter is difficult to obtain, the men will have to endure much suffering. Indeed we shall not be surprised to hear that they have been scattered among the villages wherever accommodation is available. In fact, they are merely intended as a menace.

How all this is to be reconciled with the existence of a truce and in the face of the pledges given by either side to refrain from moving any troops within their lines, we cannot see. No wonder that Yuan Shih-kai is said to have entered a protest against such doings, which his Excellency rightly designates as breaches of promise.

Thursday, January 18.

Apparently the Insurgent leaders construe an armistice in the sense of suspending actual fighting, but not forbidding the movement and marshalling of troops at points of vantage. Thus, three war vessels under the command of General Lan, which anchored off Chefoo on the 16th inst., are said to be full of soldiers and to be awaiting the arrival of reinforcements from Woosung, but it seems to be thought that such procedure is quite legitimate so long as swords are not actually crossed. General Lan says that there is no immediate intention of landing these troops, or such others as are daily expected to arrive. They will remain on board ship until after the conclusion of the armistice, and they will then use Chefoo as a basis of operations against either Manchuria or Pehchili.

It will be immediately concluded that this movement is not serious. If there were any genuine intention of carrying out the programme so frankly described by General Lan, the transport of the troops would have been arranged so that their landing might take place immediately after their arrival. Moreover their real destination would be carefully concealed.

A telegram received at Dairen from Chefoo represents the inhabitants of the latter place as strongly disposed to welcome the Insurgents. A deputation went out to meet the Insurgent leaders, and they were escorted to an inn under Republican colours. Of course the apparition of such an army has caused no little consternation in Manchuria, the people apparently believing in the reality of the Insurgent attack.

Mr. Hattori, Public Procurator of the Yokohama District Court, proceeded to the Central Police Office on Wednesday to make an examination in connexion with charges against certain Public-works Inspection officials in the Prefectural Government.

RUSSIA IN MONGOLIA.

Friday, January 12.

An idea is gradually coming to prevail in Tokyo that the telegraph has greatly distorted Russia's attitude in the Mongolian question. This idea is based mainly on the fact that no official communication has been made from St. Petersburg to Tokyo on the subject, and it is considered evident that Russia would not willingly flout the sentiment of the two Powers who are allied for the purpose of protecting the integrity of the Chinese Empire. Some communication would surely have been made to Tokyo, and Russia's neglect of any such precaution would be too significant to contemplate seriously. That something has taken place cannot be doubted, but the dimensions of the incident have probably been greatly exaggerated. Outer Mongolia is very important to Russia from a commercial point of view, and it may well be found that the *pourparlers* between St. Petersburg and Peking have been limited to some question of trade privileges. On the other hand, Russian newspapers seem to be taking a very decided line. They contend that the independence of Mongolia under Russian protection would not disturb the integrity of the Chinese Empire, since Outer Mongolia was formerly independent. It has to be remembered also that the Chinese Government is wholly incompetent, at present, to assert its authority in Mongolia, or to preserve law and order there. If ever there was a time ripe for action of the kind now attributed to Russia, to-day is that time. None the less, the silence maintained by her in Tokyo and London constitutes a strong evidence that things have not gone so far as the telegraph would have us believe.

Saturday, January 13.

It turns out that Russia's attitude towards the Mongolian question is very different from what it was originally said to be. The St. Petersburg Government explains that it has no desire whatever to interfere with the affairs of Mongolia. The steps hitherto taken were entirely at the solicitation of the Mongolians themselves, who asked Russia to act in the capacity of intermediary. They pointed out that unless China withdrew her administrative officials, removed her troops and vetoed emigration from her territory into Mongolia, it would be out of the question for Mongolia to maintain peaceful relations with the Chinese. Russia explicitly disavows any aggressive purpose of her own, but is not unwilling to lend her good offices in the cause of preserving friendly relations between the Chinese and the Mongolians, in view of the important commercial questions arising between St. Petersburg and the States adjacent to her East-Asian boundary.

There is a rumour prevalent in Hongkong that Great Britain has decided on sending the Dalai Lama back from India to Lhasa, and declaring Tibet's independence under British protection. This will be a replica of what has happened in Mongolia, and indeed Great Britain's action is represented as consequent upon that of Russia in Mongolia. No final step will be taken, however, until the return of King George to England. The authority upon which these statements are based, cannot be regarded as by any means unimpeachable.

Sunday, January 14.

Relations between Russia and Mongolia are said to have produced consternation in Nanking, where the Republican Government construes the incident as showing that the internal disorder of the Chinese Empire has been translated into external complications. Much consultation is said to be taking place between President Sun and the members of his Cabinet, but the telegraph says nothing about any possible measure on their part. A suspicion is said to prevail that this Mongolian complication is, in the main, a device on the part of Russia to lend money to the Imperial Government of China. Of course the idea is that the St. Petersburg Government intends to buy up China's interests in Mongolia, which procedure the Insurgent leaders construe as evidence of Russia's intention to support the Manchu Government.

From Maimaichen comes news that on the 1st instant an imposing ceremony was performed to mark the Lama's ascension of the Throne at that place. The rites were modelled after the papal example and in accordance with Russian usage. Afterwards, a regiment of guards was duly organized, and the men were armed with rifles which had been furnished by the Russian authorities. A proclamation was subsequently issued announcing the resumption of the old-time method of combining sacerdotal and civil government. It was further proclaimed that all Chinese residents must embrace Lamaism, that the Chinese officials should be replaced by followers of that faith, and that the flag of the Lama should be displayed on all public occasions. The uniform of upper-class officials was ordered to be in accordance with Russian models, while that of junior officials was to be henceforth in Mongolian style, Chinese costume being entirely abolished. Finally, the taxation methods inaugurated by the Chinese were to be abandoned, and replaced by a system elaborated with the cooperation of the Russian authorities.

It is further stated that immediately on the recognition of Mongolia's independence by China, the Russian Consulate at Kulong will be converted into a Russian Legation.

Doubtless Russia's action in this matter will provoke some criticism, but it must be carefully observed that her intervention was solicited alike by China and by Mongolia. She accepted the part assigned to her, and after due consultation decided that the only course was for China to withdraw her troops and her administrative officials and to recognize Mongolia's independence. If China agreed to these terms an amicable settlement was assured; but if she disagreed, then Russia would support Mongolia. This seems to have been the outline of the process adopted. But unquestionably, the issue of the affair is that Mongolia becomes a Russian protectorate. A few months ago that result would have caused some consternation, but it appears to be recognized now that the magnitude of Russia's material interests in Outer Mongolia constitutes an ample warrant for the course she is pursuing. The outlying States of the Chinese Empire could not be expected to outlive the Manchu Dynasty.

During recent times, China's attitude in both Mongolia and Tibet has developed exceptional activity, and in each case the result has been disastrous to the supremacy of the Middle Kingdom's power in those regions. As for Russia's intentions, we have

no right to interpret them by any light except that furnished by the Russo-Japanese *entente* and by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. These documents pledge their signatories to maintain the independence of the Chinese Empire, and it is scarcely conceivable that Russia should take any action prejudicial to the observance of that promise without due consultation with London and Tokyo. From that point of view, and having due regard to the magnitude of Russia's interests in Outer Mongolia, it is not likely that any of the Powers will actively protest against her procedure; especially as none of them has any material reason for interference. All criticism based upon the hypothesis that St. Petersburg privately conferred with London and Tokyo before this active intervention in Outer Mongolia, must be regarded as unwarrantable in the face of official assurances that no such consultation has taken place.

Tuesday, January 16.

Prime Minister Yuan is said to have replied to Russia's demands with regard to Mongolia by pointing out that such an important international question could not be properly discussed while the Chinese Empire is in a state of anarchy. His Excellency therefore suggests that any attempt to solve the problem should be deferred until China is prepared to devote her full attention to it. In communicating this view to the Russian Representative in Peking, Yuan is also said to have pointed out that there is a good prospect of peace being speedily restored in China, and that this Mongolian affair can be more suitably discussed by the National Assembly which is shortly to be convened.

CHINA AND MONGOLIA.

Considerable persistence is shown by the rumour that the Mongolian affair had its origin in a secret agreement between Russia and China, the gist of the agreement being that if China recognized the independence of Outer Mongolia under Russian protection, Russia would furnish to the Manchu arms, munitions of war and funds to carry on the campaign. It is impossible at present to trace the source of this wild canard, but we observe that it has been strenuously denied by the Russian Consul in Shanghai. Perhaps the denial was advisable, but it does not seem probable that any thoughtful person should credit such a tale.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* correspondent telegraphs to that journal an expression of views said to have been expressed by a high official of the Waiwupu. This official says, as must be very evident, that the declaration of independence made by the inhabitants of Outer Mongolia is a serious blow to the Manchu Dynasty. The Emperor and the Imperial Family have regarded Mongolia as a last resource at the critical moment, and having been thus deprived of their citadel, they have completely lost heart. It is alleged that the people of Outer Mongolia chose deliberately between the only two courses that seemed open to them, namely, to join the Insurgents or to place themselves under Russian protection, and they decided in favour of the latter. Not one person appears to have been found who advocated Mongolia's anticipated role of offering an asylum to the Manchu Dynasty, and fighting for its cause against the Republican Insurgents.

CHINA'S FINANCES.

It is said that the value of the heirlooms hitherto transferred to the war-chest by the Imperial Family is four million *taels*. One is disposed to interpret the term "heirlooms" in the sense of all kinds of objects of art, but from the telegrams we judge that articles of gold and silver are alone contemplated. Out of this sum of four million *taels*, a large part is said to have been taken over by German banks in China, and some portion has been sent to Europe. But this instalment represents only a small fraction of the total available. It is further stated that the Specie Bank, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and a French bank have taken over portions of the four millions, and that the Russian Bank in China, which came latest into the field, has received $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions worth. These four millions could be largely supplemented if the whole of the treasures were brought out, for it is said that there are altogether nine million ounces of precious metals in the Palace vaults. These represent, for the most part, Buddhist images of gold and silver which were sent up to the Throne during the reign of the great Emperor Chien-Lung. There are also included parcels of money contributed by Canton and other places of Southern China at more recent dates. During the Court's retirement at Hsian at the time of the Boxer troubles, the Palace treasures were guarded by the allied troops, and the Court received them nominally intact on its return from exile. But undoubtedly there has been much diminution, though, in the days of the late Empress Dowager, the Imperial treasure was believed to represent an enormous sum. As to the ultimate owner of the treasures, there appears to be a radical difference of opinion in Peking; some publicists claiming that the Palace heirlooms have been practically hypothecated among the securities given for foreign loans; while others insist that they must be regarded as the property of the Crown.

In the meanwhile, the distress caused by lack of funds in Peking grows daily more acute. Demands for money are said to be coming to the capital "as fast as the flight of arrows," and the Treasury is at its wit's end. There has been much talk of a syndicate of six Powers to lend pecuniary assistance, but the need is too pressing to be met by such a troublesome process. Things now point to separate negotiations. Almost any security demanded by the creditors would be given, and even if China tides over this financial crisis, she is not unlikely to sow the seeds of ultimate disruption.

Of course the Insurgents are even in worse plight. They are willing to give any security and almost any rate of interest for a sum of five million *taels* to meet immediate necessities. They are further said to have approached Mr. Carnegie with proposals for a Chinese-American syndicate which should raise a sum of 30 million *taels* on the basis of a monopoly of all the business enterprises throughout the ten provinces which have espoused the republican cause.

It is evident that this question of money may create serious international trouble. The most-favoured-nation clause becomes mere waste paper in the presence of proposals such as that said to have been made to Mr. Carnegie. It would be very interesting if the hitherto conspicuous champion of

the open door and equal opportunities should now become the parent of such a syndicate.

In a word, the struggle has become one of finance alone. We have always to remember that mid-winter is the climatic condition in North China at present, and that to carry on a campaign at such a season requires immense stores of winter clothing. These, however, are not to be obtained without money, and therefore, it may be said that the fate of the contest depends upon the solution of the financial problem. Not many days can be expected to elapse before this question enters its most acute phase.

In the Peking *Official Gazette* an interesting item of news is found. A few days ago there was said to have been a firm belief among the people of China that the Imperial Princes had large sums deposited in the foreign banks, and their apparent reluctance to purchase the Patriotic Bonds was much censured. This seems to have been bitterly resented by the Prince Regent, Chun. His Highness invited the Government to send to the banks and make enquiries as to the truth or falsehood of the rumour. If it was found that he, the Prince Regent, was proprietor of a large sum deposited in any bank or banks, he was quite willing that the money should be confiscated for the service of the State, and even punishment should be inflicted upon himself for making a false statement. On the other hand, he required that if his assertion was borne out by facts, then the Government should take steps to rehabilitate his reputation. As a matter of fact, he was only in possession of ten thousand *taels*, saved with difficulty from his salary. All this has been published in the Peking *Official Gazette*, from which we infer that the accuracy of the Prince's statement is admitted by the Authorities.

The *Official Gazette* concludes by saying that exhaustive measures have been taken at the instance of Princes Chun and Ching to ascertain the actual state of the Princes' resources, and the result has been that a majority of Princes have no funds whatever in the banks and that the deposits of all the officials put together do not aggregate more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ million *taels*.

In this context we may mention here an interesting item published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. It is to the effect that at the time of the Court's retreat to Hsian, a quantity of gold ingots, totalling seven million pounds in weight, was buried in the ground secretly. Two documents were prepared, by collating which the whereabouts of this huge sum could be ascertained. One of these documents was carried away by the Empress Dowager and the other was handed to Mrs. Rockhill, by whom it was subsequently given in charge of the British Legation. The documents have now been duly found. This requires a great deal of confirmation. If seven million pounds sterling were in question, there would be not be much to cavil at, but when we come to weight, the story sounds very apocryphal.

THE ARMISTICE.

If the accounts reaching us from the Yangtze Valley be correct the Insurgents are taking very little trouble to observe the armistice. A considerable body of them is said to have embarked from some place in the vicinity of Wuchang, and dropping down stream, finally effected a

landing on the Hankow side. Thence they have set out for the Lu-Han Railway, reaching Shekau and thus obtaining command of the line at Hankow. They have been followed along nearly the same route by a much larger force. Of course it is possible that a great part of this movement may have taken place outside the thirty-three-miles radius, and the question of distance may exonerate the Insurgents. But in the eyes of onlookers it would seem that very little strict attention is paid by the Insurgents to the terms of the armistice. Moreover, the railway station at Shekau which they are said to have seized is only eight miles from Hankow. The second column is said to have moved northward to Hwampe, and thus it would appear that some ten thousand Insurgents have placed themselves on the east side of the railway. There is a report that the Imperialists, acting under orders from Peking, are retreating steadily before this column of Insurgents, and will not make any stand until Hsinyang is reached. Our readers may possibly remember a statement made in these columns in the early days of the fighting to the effect that Hsinyang is a position of the greatest strategical importance, the mountain passes becoming there almost inaccessible for an army moving north. The plan attributed to Yuan is to concentrate the whole of the Peking forces at Hsinyang and defy the Insurgents to carry that strong position.

PRESIDENT SUN AND THE FOREIGN POWERS.

President Sun is said to have addressed to the foreign Powers an identical note announcing his election on the 29th of last month to the post of President of the new Republic and declaring that with the exception of Tientsin and Newchwang, the whole of the treaty ports are now under the control of the Insurgents. In this document Sun prefers no request for foreign recognition of his office. He confines himself to a bald statement of the facts. The note is described as having been written in the English language.

Sun is well advised when he refrains from seeking formal recognition from the Powers. History shows that civilized States make it a rule to hesitate long before recognizing insurgent movements within the territories of another Power. The latest example was the case of Portugal, where a whole year elapsed before the Republic obtained recognition.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

On the 12th instant, the *Peking Official Gazette* published a statement of the contributions made up to that date for the purposes of the Patriotic Fund. The figures show something like a fiasco. The total aggregates only 640,000 *taels*. It will be remembered that five millions were confidently spoken of at the outset. But that sum included three millions given by the Empress Dowager, which three millions are not included in the *Official Gazette* list. In addition to the above, 270,000 *taels* worth of short-period bonds have been successfully issued, but when the total is considered the whole effort assumes the character of a fiasco.

THE CHINESE COURT.

The news is repeated that the Manchus have decided to abdicate the Throne. Nothing is yet said about the exact time when His Majesty's retirement will take place. It is related, however, that so soon as the Court had intimated its intention of stepping down, Yuan assumed a stalwart attitude and declared that the National Assembly must be held at Peking. In fact, Yuan is again accredited with insincere procedure. Now that the foreign Powers have chosen to intervene he sees that there is opportunity for him to pose as the master of the situation. This far-fetched idea is merely one of many notions conceived about Yuan by his enemies, who are doubtless innumerable.

Another item of intelligence is that on the 15th instant Prince Ching and Prince Chun waited on Yuan and endeavoured to induce him to withdraw his resignation. The question of retirement of the Court was debated at the same meeting, but it does not appear that foreign Representatives took any part in the proceedings.

It can no longer be doubted that the Peking Court has decided upon the abdication of the Sovereign, and that the fact will be announced in a very few days. At first the Empress Dowager appears to have been disposed to remain in Peking even after abdication, but Yuan strongly opposed that programme and finally it was resolved that Jehol should be the future Imperial residence. It is now said, however, that a marked difference of opinion exists as to the maintenance allowance which is to be given to the Court. The Insurgents propose one million *taels* annually, but the Court asks for four millions. The latter sum can hardly be deemed excessive when we remember that out of it have to be defrayed all charges on account of the households of the Imperial Princes. Probably a compromise will be effected. At all events, a very brief interval is expected to suffice for completing all preliminaries of the Court's retirement.

As to the question to which we referred in our previous issue, namely, the interregnum that must exist between the abdication of the Sovereign and the organization of the new polity, whatever it may be, the programme contemplated is said to be that the post of Vice-Regent will be conferred upon Yuan Shih-kai, and the affairs of State will be administered by him until the National Assembly elaborates a final form of government.

MR. INUKAI KI.

Mr. Inukai Ki, whose name is well known without and within Japan as one of the leaders of the Popular Party, has returned to Kobe from his trip to China. It will be remembered that he was said to have entered the service of the Insurgents, or rather to have been on the point of entering their service, when some part of their procedure towards him fell short of the dictates of courtesiousness, and he was consequently deterred. Mr. Inukai now denies all these things emphatically. He says that there was never, so far as he knows, any intention of engaging his services for the Insurgents nor was he particularly intimate with them during his brief sojourn in China. The sum of the matter is that he has several friends and acquaintances among

the Insurgent leaders, and that there were consequently several interchanges of greetings.

As to the general situation, Mr. Inukai speaks optimistically. He thinks that victory will ultimately rest with the Insurgents. But in speaking of victory he does not contemplate the continuance of armed conflict. Concerning that, he does not venture to utter any prediction. Referring to the apprehensions which evidently exist in several quarters as to the competence of the Insurgent leaders to conduct the administration of State, Mr. Inukai is rather disposed to minimize that phase of the affair. He thinks that a little experience is alone needed to create able statesmen. In proof of this forecast he cites the cases of the late Prince Ito, Prince Yamagata and Marquis Inouye. These were all young and inexperienced men at the time of the Restoration, but they very soon developed governing ability, and it will doubtless be the same in China.

JAPAN AND GERMANY.

In the columns of the *Yamato Shimbun*, which now occupies a high place among Tokyo journals, we find an interesting article on the subject of German and Japanese relations. Alluding to the passages at arms that have taken place lately between Japanese and German newspapers, our Tokyo contemporary contends that on the Japanese side no deeply-rooted sentiment has been involved. There remains nothing of the profound chagrin caused by the retrocession problem after the war of 1894-5. What possesses the mind of the very few Japanese journals which attack Germany, is merely a feeling of pique and annoyance, which sentiments are evoked by the seriously critical and even unfriendly tone of German newspapers. The editors of these German journals write as though their set purpose were to bring Japanese into distrust and dislike, and in these circumstances it is not unnatural that the Japanese should conceive some umbrage. But there is nothing deeply rooted on Japan's side. It is all a passing pique without any evil motive underlying. At the same time, the *Yamato* warns its own countrymen that they too should observe greater circumspection in discussing German affairs, for, after all, Japan's sentiments towards the great European Power are essentially friendly, and nothing is less desirable than a rupture of that amity.

SHANSI.

A large force of the Imperial troops in Shansi are said to have gone over to the Insurgents, and these have gained entire possession of the Tatung region. The seceding soldiers are all well-trained men who carry arms of precision, and the possibility of their marching upon Peking is said to be creating great perturbation in the capital. The whole body are under the orders of General Wang Te-sheng who was formerly Commander at Tatung.

In this context we read that the Italian Representative in Peking approached the Chinese Government with a query as to the steps taken for the protection of Italian life and property in Shansi. The Waiwupu replied that a force ample to establish order had been despatched to the place in question; that all the missionaries in the locality were found to be safe, and that any of them who wished to withdraw from their posts would be escorted in safety by the Imperialist forces.

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

We do not discover in any messages from Peking a clear statement of the impression produced upon Yuan Shih-kai by the attempt to assassinate him. Some accounts say that he has not ventured out since that event; but others allege that he is moving hither and thither as before with a strong guard of mounted soldiers. Everything now points to his accession to the Presidency of the new Republic. His partisans, notably Tang Shao-i, are labouring strenuously to bring about this result, and their efforts are materially furthered by the Mongolian complication. Of course Yuan's enemies persist in charging him with having contrived that complication, his object being to show that the longer China's internal affairs remain unsettled, the greater will be the danger of interference from abroad. But few publicists will be disposed to believe that Yuan can have manoeuvred in such a manner. His foes, if their accusations be sincere, must have a most extraordinary conception of his shrewdness and unscrupulousness. At all events, the Mongolian trouble is said to be operating in favour of Yuan's candidature for the Presidency, and Mr. Sun Yat-sen is apparently behaving with much large-heartedness, for he is fully disposed to step down from the Presidential chair in favour of Yuan, and both at Shanghai and at Nanking the advisability of nominating Yuan is evidently receiving greater and greater recognition. It remains to be shown whether there is any reasonable prospect of Yuan's competence to govern the Empire during the time that must elapse between the downfall of the Manchu Dynasty and the construction of some other polity on its ruins.

AN APPRECIATION.

In the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* we find a statement professing to epitomise the views of a high Japanese official despatched some time ago for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the state of affairs in southern China. He is quoted as declaring that a very large number of his countrymen are assisting to obtain disciples for the propaganda of the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty. But the influence which might be exercised by these men is greatly diminished by their own squabbles among themselves. They think it much their business to injure one another's reputations as to accomplish any great result, and the consequence is that their preaching produces little effect. The case of Captain Ota is adduced by way of example. This is the officer whose attack upon the Japanese Navy, to which he belonged, led to his being placed on the retired list last summer. He is now in South China, and appears to have been playing a tolerably large role until some of his countrymen put into circulation a rumour that President Sun had refused to receive him. The same authority states that Messrs Homer Lea and K. Ike are serving respectively as Sun's Adviser and Private Secretary. All three speak English fluently and carry on their business in that language. Mr. Ike was educated in the United States, and the influence he wields in Nanking is so fully recognized that telegrams from prominent men in the United States reach him not infrequently.

MR. COUNCILLOR MATSUI.

Mr. Matsui, of the Foreign Office in Tokyo, about whose visit to Peking a few weeks ago there was so much talk, has just returned to Japan, and has of course, been interviewed. He is quoted as saying that the state of affairs at Shanghai is almost miraculous. There is, in reality, no universally recognized Government, yet everybody goes about his business in the most orderly manner, and everything moves smoothly. With regard to the question of funds, Mr. Matsui explains that the partisans of the Insurgents include many wealthy men who could easily put up large sums if they pleased to do so. But there is considerable reluctance, and in the meanwhile the Insurgents are beginning to have recourse to forced requisitions, so that the people are escaping from the interior and taking refuge in Shanghai. As between republicanism and a limited monarchy, Mr. Matsui evidently thinks that the former commands wider support. He found a remarkable want of confidence in Yuan Shih-kai, and he observed also that the fighting spirit of the Insurgents seemed to be much better than that of the Imperialists, but the former were crippled by lack of funds. On the other hand, the newly formed Nanking Government does not show much sign of stability. Several of the most important men who are gazetted to portfolios have displayed no disposition to take up their duties, and altogether, with the exception of Commander-in-Chief Hwang himself, it cannot be said that any one is working very strenuously.

MANCHURIA AND MONGOLIA.

News comes from Harbin that the mounted bandits are committing great depredations at places not more than 50 kilometres distant from that town. A thousand of these freebooters are said to be working in combination, but probably this is an exaggeration, for some accounts speak of only two hundred. At any rate, the important feature of the affair is that China has formally protested against the despatch of Russian troops to the place, and Russia has replied by detaining the time-expired soldiers even after the arrival of their reliefs, so that there is a very considerable force of her troops in the disturbed district. What answer, if any, she has made to the Chinese protest we do not learn yet, but of course Russia will contend that if China cannot protect the lives and property of Russian subjects within her dominions, the task must be undertaken by Russia.

In Maimaichen also, a state of unquiet is said to exist. The Mongolians there, having declared their independence, undertook to expel the Chinese, but the latter proved the stronger of the two. The Mongolian soldiers were deprived of their arms by the Chinese and were told that the town would be destroyed in the event of any symptoms of revolt.

SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG.

The foreign community of Shanghai on the 2nd instant and of Hongkong on the 15th inst. are said to have addressed to the former Prince Regent, Chun, and to Prince Ching a memorial urging the advisability of

the Manchu Dynasty's speedy abdication. The signatories of the document point out that the present Government of China has ceased to be able to protect foreign life and property, and that if this state of affairs continues much longer, all contracts concluded between foreign merchants and Chinese will necessarily prove null and void. They further insist that whatever politics a Chinese publicist may have originally professed, they are replaced by Republican convictions so soon as he arrives in Shanghai, and therefore the longer the crisis is extended the firmer will be the hold of republicanism. As for the proposed National Assembly the memorialists think that a long time must elapse before such a body can be convened and consulted, in which time things will inevitably go from bad to worse. The only effective and speedy method of settling the question is that the Sovereign should voluntarily abdicate without delay.

The Chinese, who are essentially a practical people with strongly-developed commercial instincts, must be fully sensible of the very evil complexion that affairs are rapidly assuming owing to the present lack of decision. There is practically no Government in China, and such a state of affairs is intolerable.

HUNAN.

A telegram says that in the province of Hunan there is a Republican Association, and that it has forwarded to Peking a very strongly worded manifesto in favour of the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty. Various reasons are assigned, but the gist of them is that the Manchus have shown themselves incompetent to govern China. They have not sufficient ability to administer the affairs of even those outlying regions to which they declare themselves specially devoted as the birth-place of the Manchu Dynasty. If they are unable to control these regions and to protect them against foreign aggression, how is it likely that they can satisfactorily discharge such functions in the case of the 400 millions of the Chinese population? The document further points out that not a single Prince of the Blood has been found to step forward at this crisis on behalf of the Manchu Court. Such a marked absence of patriotism speaks ill for the morale of the Princes.

MOB-LAW.

What was feared from the outset appears to have come to pass. Neither the Insurgents nor the Imperialists are strong enough to preserve law and order while they are maintaining their attitude of mutual hostility. Thus mob law is said to be supreme at Tatung in Shansi and at Chankiakow. In both of these places burglaries, assassinations and brutality towards women are said to be frequent. In fact there is absolutely no security for life and property, and not a few unfortunate females have preferred suicide to the horrors they would have to undergo if they fell into the hands of the rioters. Matters have been still further complicated by the appearance of mounted bandits after the excesses committed by the mob, and the Imperialist troops are quite incompetent to grapple with the situation. It says very little for the Insurgents that they should allow such outrages to continue unchecked.

AMERICAN COMIC JOURNALS.

It is a pity that some sentiment of international sympathy can not be breathed into the bosoms of the artists who work for American comic journals and periodicals. Their type of Chinaman is so revoltingly ugly that it ceases altogether to be funny and becomes at once vindictive and hateful. Can it be possible that the average Chinese presents himself in such guise to American draughtsmen? Artists are said to have special vision. They see much that is hidden from ordinary eyes. But they must see the good as well as the bad, and there is no saving element of good in these Chinese caricatures. There can be no doubt about the mischief they do. The humblest and most unassuming Chinaman, finding himself painted in such odious colours, can but infer bitter dislike on the part of the painter. If the thing happened only occasionally, and if now and then a redeeming feature were suffered to appear, there would be some margin for apology. But it happens always, and there is never a redeeming feature. Like beggars like. These constant efforts to demonstrate to the Chinaman how much he is loathed, can not fail to educate reciprocity of abhorrence on his side, and to create an entirely false impression among untravelled Americans.

A NEW BANK.

The question of finance in China has already become a wearisome subject. Yet its latest phase justifies a short paragraph. The Insurgents, as recently stated in these columns, have issued a quantity of war-notes for the redemption of which there will certainly be a popular clamour, growing louder as the New Year approaches. Unless some provision be made for the conversion of this paper, the credit of the Insurgents will fall entirely to the ground. Accordingly a plan has been devised for establishing a bank which shall combine the characters of a national and industrial institution. Its capital will be all the Government industries in the Yangtze Valley, and the expectation is that many opulent foreigners, especially Americans, will purchase the bank's shares and thus a fund will be accumulated for dealing with the war-notes.

THE BANK RATE.

It is announced that from the 15th instant the leading banks will increase their rate of interest. Thus fixed deposits will carry a rate of 5 per cent. instead of 4, and the interest on current accounts will be raised from 5 *rin* daily to 7 *rin*, while special current accounts will pay 1 *sen* daily instead of 8 *rin*. The approximate cause of this change is said to be the rate of interest paid on postal savings, which, being higher than that given by the banks on fixed deposits, naturally attracted investments. But, as a matter of fact, the bank rate has ruled higher since last fall, and the figures now fixed are a close approximation to the reality.

The Mitsubishi Goshi Kaisha's Banking Department announces that from the 16th instant its rates of interest will be as follow:—

	Per annum.
Fixed deposits for 6 or 12 months	5 per cent.
Current Account	2.55
Special Current Account	3.8

ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF YUAN SHIH-KAI.

NARROW ESCAPE OF CHINESE STATESMAN.

The news reached Tokyo on Tuesday evening that an attempt had been made on the life of Yuan Shih-kai at Peking. Yuan is reported to have escaped unhurt, but two of his suite were killed.

The would-be assassins are reported to have used bombs. It is presumed that the attack was made in the street, but no particulars are yet to hand.

Yuan Shih-kai, according to a Peking despatch to the *Chuwo*, has now fallen quite out of favour with the Manchus and certain desperadoes have been long watching a chance to assassinate him. Yuan was maintaining a strict guard, however, and the city was being carefully searched for assassins.

Prime Minister Yuan was on his way back from the Palace on the 16th instant, at about 12 30 p.m., when an attempt was made on his life. All accounts agree that he himself escaped scathless, but there are discrepancies about the killed and wounded among his Excellency's guards. The most trustworthy accounts go to show that one sergeant of the guards and two privates were wounded. It appears that the assassins were three in number and that they all carried bombs. The Prime Minister's carriage was approaching a bridge when the attack took place. The assassins seem to have acted independently of one another, except that each waited to observe the effect of the other's bombs. The first missile that was thrown fell harmlessly in the water; the second dropped among the guards, and the third effected nothing as it was thrown after the carriage had crossed the bridge. The assassins are said to have been arrested. Two of them were natives of Kweichow and one came from Tientsin. It is of course thought that this outrage was the work of Insurgents, but we fail to see why it should not be attributed to Manchu hands.

It is stated that the man who threw the bomb on the 16th instant, and wounded three of Yuan's guards, calls himself Hwang and is a native of Kweichow. Under examination he has boldly declared himself to be an agent of the Insurgents, and he further alleges that the latter have planned the killing, not only of Yuan but also of Prince Ching. In fact, there is some talk of a bomb having been thrown into the *yamen* of Prince Ching, but intelligence upon this subject is meagre. The would-be assassin, who is only twenty-one years of age, is said to have stated that the Insurgents are convinced that Prince Ching and Yuan Shih-kai would organize means for overthrowing the Republican Government, and that, in fact, there can be no stability of administration so long as these two statesmen are at liberty. He speaks also of a plot to inveigle Yuan Shih-kai to Shanghai and to kill him there. But however positive these allegations may be, a belief is gaining ground that the bomb-thrower is in reality of Manchu origin, and that the whole affair was planned with the express purpose of discrediting the Republican cause.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF KANAGAWA.

Owing to the appointment of Baron Sufu as a member of the Privy Council, it became necessary to find a suitable successor to the Governorship of Kanagawa. The Government's first idea is said to have been to appoint Mr. Hattori, Governor of Hyogo. But Mr. Hattori considered that his office at Hyogo was of greater importance and involved larger issues than the Kanagawa post. He therefore declined the proposed change. Then the appointment was offered to Mr. Fukano, Governor of Aichi. But he objected that with only a thousand *yen* per annum for entertaining allowance, the Governor of Kanagawa must run into debt, as indeed Baron Sufu had done. Finally the Government's choice fell on Mr. Oshima, who served for some time as Civil Governor in Formosa.

It appears that Baron Sufu had long desired to become a member of the Privy Council, but in the absence of a vacancy his wish could not be complied with. The recent death of Count Higashikuni and the consequent appointment of Count Yoshikawa to the position of Vice-President of the Council, created a vacancy in the ranks of the latter, and Baron Sufu's nomination thus became possible. Baron Sufu was eminently successful in his administration of Kanagawa prefecture. He maintained excellent relations with the foreign residents, and at the same time, discharged his duties without favour or affection.

It is announced that Mr. Oshima Kamaji has been appointed Governor of Kanagawa prefecture to succeed Baron Sufu.

Mr. Oshima is the ex-Director of the Civil Administration Bureau of Formosa. He was born in Aichi-ken in 1864 and graduated at the Law College of the Imperial University in Tokyo in 1888. He was first appointed Secretary in the Legislative Bureau and then in the House of Representatives, which post he retained until he went to Formosa.

ADMINISTRATIVE ECONOMY IN CHOSEN.

We take the following from the *Seoul Press*:-

In connection with the Budget for the next fiscal year, we recently reported that the Government-General of Chosen is undertaking to save some half a million *yen* by partial rearrangement of the administrative machinery. This rearrangement, we now understand, provides for the abolition of the General Affairs Department Investigation Bureau and Sections for Miscellaneous Business in the different Departments. As the result of the abolition of the General Affairs Department, the Bureau for Foreign Affairs and Accounts, at present forming part of that department, will be taken over by the Governor-General's Secretariat, but will still continue to exist as Bureau. On the other hand the Personnel Bureau will be changed into a section, and a new section created to undertake the business of the present Investigation Bureau. These also will be managed by the Governor-General's Secretariat, which will thus be greatly enlarged and do work hitherto done by the General Affairs Department and Investigation Bureau. A section for miscellaneous business will, moreover, be added to the Secretariat in order to concentrate in it all business belonging to the miscellaneous Business Sections of the different Departments, which will be abolished. At the same time, a considerable reduction will be made in the number of the Judiciary personnel. It is stated that certain of the officials who will be out of service through the rearrangement, will be appointed to the provincial service, which is to be enlarged in some degree.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

In spite of the feeling of depression in the share market which has been present for some time past, the actual figures show that there has been a more or less steady rise since December 1st. The following are the quotations:-

	Jan. 10th.	Dec. 1st.	
Yusen	111.85	105.20	+ 6.85
Tokyo Gas	73.10	71.65	+ 1.45
Tokyo Denso	71.05	66.50	+ 4.55
Fuji Gas Spinning ..	85.20	78.80	+ 6.40
Kanegafuchi			
Spinning	107.30	97.65	+ 9.65
Yensui Sugar	64.65	58.05	+ 6.60
Taiwan Sugar	83.90	80.50	+ 3.40
Tokyo Stock			
Exchange	165.00	149.75	+ 15.25
(New)	117.85	103.75	+ 14.10

The most credible explanation seems to be an easy money market. Rates of interest ruled so low at the close of the year 1911 and the beginning of 1912 that the dividends earned on shares appreciated by comparison, and investors turned their attention to that avenue of money-earning. Something of the easy feeling is probably due to the Government's abstention from new enterprises and to the conservative character of the Budget for next fiscal year, but the low rate of interest ruling is thought to be the direct cause. On the whole, the business prospects for 1912 are considered promising. Orders are said to be coming briskly from provincial districts and a sense of buoyancy begins to be experienced. China is the heavy mill-stone that keeps the head of the business-world under water. If normal conditions were restored in that country, the Japanese market would at once respond strongly.

THE CHOSEN YUSEN KAISHA.

We take the following from the *Seoul Press*:-

A report from Fusan says that a meeting of promoters of the Chosen Mail Steamship Company, which is to be established with a capital of three million *yen*, will be held in Seoul towards the middle of March next. It has already been decided that the main office of the company shall be established at Fusan. Mr. K. Hatada, ex-Director of the Osaka Branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, will be elected President and Mr. H. Yoshida of Wonsan, Managing Director of the new Company. The shareholders will be called upon for the payment of earnest money, one *yen* for each share, before the 15th inst. The total number of shares of the company is 60,000, of which subscriptions for 27,500 shares will be invited in Japan proper and 32,500 in Chosen. The leading capitalists in Japan proper, who will take up the shares, include Baron R. Kondo and Mr. K. Okura of Tokyo and Mr. G. Ukon and Mr. J. Hatada of Osaka. Both the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, the report adds, have approved of the formation of the new Company. Further, it is reported that in order to make arrangements for the establishment of the Company, Mr. Hatada and Mr. Yoshida were to arrive at Fusan yesterday. The two gentlemen together with Mr. Oike, chairman of the organising committee, will come up to Seoul very shortly in order to sound the intention of the Government-General concerning their scheme.

JAPANESE ASSISTANTS.

The Tokyo papers state that Professor Haraguchi of bridge-building fame and Baron Sakatani have been appointed Financial Advisers to President Sun. From the same source we learn that Mr. Mukai has been nominated Chief of the Legislative Bureau under the Republican organization. There is, however, no confirmation yet of this rumour nor has any application been received on the subject by the Japanese Authorities.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN WU TING-FAN AND YUAN SHIH-KAI.

The following further telegraphic notes have been exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang according to the *Tokyo Asahi*:—

Wiring under the date of the 7th instant, Wu Ting-fang says:—The frequent breach of the terms of the armistice by the southern army is due to the unsettled condition of the public mind incidental to the delay in the convocation of a national assembly. Both your Excellency and myself desire a peaceful settlement, but no understanding is yet established between the two armies. The northern army is also guilty of breaches of the terms of the armistice. I desire Your Excellency to see your way to specially convening a national assembly to ensure peace.

Wu Ting-fang again wires under date of the 8th instant:—

It is now agreed to convene a national assembly, but in spite of the plenipotentiaries the date and place of convocation still remain undecided. I desire Your Excellency to come to Shanghai or send a plenipotentiary so as to stop the fruitless discussion by telegram. I agree to the extension of the truce to 8 o'clock on the 15th instant and this has been duly notified to the provisional government and the revolutionary army. Notice will be given when belligerent action is resumed.

Mr. Wu Ting-fang further wires on the 9th instant:—

I have already transmitted to President Sun your telegram, in which reference is made to the alleged advance of the revolutionary troops in Anhui in breach of the terms of armistice, and I have issued to Chen, the magistrate of Kiangnan, a telegraphic instruction to investigate matters regarding the alleged detention of officials of the Tsu-Pu railway.

Yuan Shih kai telegraphs on the 9th instant:—

I have already declared and brought forward a separate proposal regarding the articles signed by your Excellency and our plenipotentiary, excepting those to which I am unable to agree. I am unable to come to Shanghai owing to the pressure of State business. I must ask your Excellency to come to Peking to negotiate for peace, because, even if I send another plenipotentiary, he will not have full powers to decide anything on his own discretion. The question at issue is the date and place of the convocation of the national assembly, as well as the Election Law. If this question be settled by telegraphic negotiations, I think other questions can forthwith be settled. I insist on convening the assembly in Peking, but will give further consideration to the Election Law.

Writing under the same date Yuan says:

I have given to the Imperial troops an instruction to strictly observe the terms of the armistice, the period of which has been extended to 8 a.m. on January 15th next.

Yuan again wires on the same date:—

Rioters in Shensi are plundering and murdering with impunity. They have massacred foreign missionaries and members of the Red Cross Society. The revolutionary army there, also does not observe the terms of the armistice. The Peking Government can not recognize them as revolutionists and must exclude them from the scope of the terms of truce.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

VIEWS OF DR. TOMIDZU.

Dr. Tomidzu, is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as saying that, despite the official announcement by the Russian Government that Russia has no intention of interfering with the domestic affairs of China, her action relative to Mongolian independence being limited to friendly advice to China, and not being inspired by territorial ambition, her present claim must be considered as a realization of a long cherished desire for the acquisition of Mongolia. It is as clear as day that Russia desires to place Outer Mongolia under her protection to smooth the way for gradual aggression on Inner Mongolia. The natural sequence of Russia's action in Outer Mongolia will be similar action by Great Britain in Tibet.

An important question for Japan is what measure is most conducive to the interests of the country *vis-à-vis* Russia's activity in Mongolia and British action in Tibet. Dr. Tomidzu thinks the question is not difficult to solve. He does not hesitate to advocate that Japan should give to Russia and Great Britain every facility for the prosecution of their designs in Mongolia and Tibet, in order that she herself may quietly bring the whole of South Manchuria into her own dominion. It is a great mistake to think that present conditions will continue in perpetuity because Japan possesses a railway in South Manchuria. South Manchuria is doomed to fall into the hands of a strong Power. The lease of South Manchuria expires eleven years hence, and Japan would be ill-advised to await its expiration before settling her future policy. Now is the time to decide upon the acquisition of South Manchuria.

Inasmuch as the Anglo-Japanese alliance guarantees the territorial integrity of China, there exists a fear that territorial aggression may affect its existence and also the balance of power in the Far East. The object in view can be attained, however, by entering into a new convention with Great Britain and Russia. If the three countries pursue a policy of territorial aggression, the fear may be entertained of independent action on the part of other Powers, which might result in the partition of China. Such a contingency may be disregarded. Germany and the United States may be strong Powers at home, but they can not cope with Japan's strength in the Far East and they can not possibly acquire anything without the concurrence of Japan.

YUAN SHIH-KAI AND THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

ALLEGED AGREEMENT TO INSURRECTIONARY DEMANDS.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires, under date of the 11th instant, a telegraphic despatch alleged to have been issued by Yuan Shih-kai. It reads:

"I agree to the revolutionists' demand for the convocation of a national assembly in Shanghai and also express my approval of the actions of Tang Shao-i."

Our contemporary remarks that the Foreign Office is not in receipt of an official telegram confirming the news, but a certain responsible official stated that there is no denying that Yuan now finds himself in

rather a difficult position. Apart from the logical outcome of the situation, public opinion in China tends to favour a republican government and Yuan will ultimately have no alternative but to agree. Nevertheless the report that Yuan has conceded the demands of the revolutionists seems to be premature, considering that the period of the armistice has several days more to run. Presuming that the report is correct, the hypotheses which naturally suggest themselves are either that Yuan has agreed to hold the assembly in Shanghai on condition that the revolutionists accept the Election Law proposed by him, or that Yuan is confident of his nomination to the first presidency of the Chinese Republic, or that he has decided to resign himself to the inevitable. It does not, however, appear that such arrangements have been made between Yuan and the revolutionists, nor does it seem that Yuan has abandoned his ambition and decided to leave the solution of the situation in the hands of the revolutionists. In short the report seems yet premature, though there is good reason to believe that Yuan will finally have to yield.

RAILWAY NATIONALIZATION.

ALLEGED PROPOSED PURCHASE OF FURTHER LINES.

Mr. Yamanouchi, Director of the Railway Administrative Bureau, repudiates the rumour that the Government contemplates the purchase of the Chugoku, the Nankai and the Narita railways in the near future although the first named railway was originally included in the railway nationalization programme, but was struck out by the House. The purchase of the railway was thought necessary to connect the Sanyo and the Sanui lines, but now that the Bantan line is nearly completed and since also the railway programme comprises the construction of a branch line starting from Hiroshima to run to Enotsu in Shimane prefecture, *via* Mitsugi, the necessity is obviated.

While the Nankai railway is an important line connecting Kishu with Osaka, no necessity exists for its immediate purchase.

The question of the purchase of these railways have never come up before the Railway Board. The rumour must therefore be dismissed as entirely groundless. He did not know if the proposal had been advanced in high political circles beyond the reach of the Railway Board, but, at any rate, it would be necessary either to revise the Railway Nationalization Law or to pass a new Nationalization Law if the purchase be contemplated.

ILI.

ILI has also fallen into a state of complete disorder. Chinese local officials have been killed or obliged to flee for their lives and the independence of the region has been proclaimed. Things seem to be considerably worse than in Outer Mongolia, and probably the difference is due to the fact that the majority of the Insurgents in ILI are Mohammedans. Thus, one by one, China's buffer States are falling away from her, and her flanks will presently be bared for the direct onset of Powers, whose aggressive ambitions are perpetually seeking lines of least resistance.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

THE ST. PETERSBURG OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

As already reported, the Russian Foreign Office has issued an official announcement to the effect that when Mongolia declared its independence at Kulon and asked Russia for support, the Russian Government advised it to effect a peaceful compromise with the Chinese Government. The Russian Consul at Kulon, meanwhile, under instructions made strenuous efforts to protect the telegraph wires, the banks and Chinese authorities in Mongolia. The Russian Government was subsequently asked by both China and Mongolia to arbitrate between them and decided to comply, but being confident that a compromise could only be effected by Mongolia retaining her hereditary institutions, Russia recognized the necessity of inducing the Chinese to respect them. She therefore advised the Peking Government that in view of the Chinese administration of Mongolia being considered as a defiance of the rights of the Mongolians, and also the stationing there of the Eight Banner soldiers, and the attempt of Chinese emigrants to colonise the Mongolian dominion, the remedy of these grievances should form the basis of the compromise. Inasmuch as both the Russian and the Chinese Governments recognize the necessity of leaving the Mongolians to work out their own development, the Russian Government deemed it necessary to make it clear that there is no conflict of views between Russia and China respecting the Mongolian question. The Government complied with the request for arbitration as it felt convinced that any assistance Russia could give towards the development of Mongolia would be conducive to the interests of both Russia and China as well as Mongolia. The Government therefore intimated to the Chinese Government its views, and also stated that if the Chinese Government accepted these views, the Russian diplomats would offer their services in bringing about an agreement between China and Mongolia in order to induce Mongolia to fulfil her obligations. Russia does not desire to interfere with the domestic affairs of China, nor has she any ambitions moving her to make aggressions on Mongolia. At the same time, she views with disfavour the disturbances in the frontier districts, which threaten to injure her own interests. This is the reason why the Government has consented to undertake the task of arbitration. Inasmuch, however, as Russia cannot ignore the government constituted in Mongolia in view of her large interests in that country, she will be compelled to enter into business relations with the Mongolian Government in the event of the relations between China and Mongolia being severed.

STATEMENT BY A RUSSIAN JOURNAL.

The latest issue of the *Novoe Vremya* to hand, explaining Russia's policy on the Mongolian question, is quoted by the *Tokyo Asahi* as saying that although Russia has no intention of interfering with the domestic affairs of China, she cannot remain silent regarding the disorder in Mongolia, Russo-Chinese trade being mainly conducted *via* or in Mongolia and its future development dependent on that region. Whereas China has brought her political influence to bear upon Mongolia to

impede her development, Russia has done her best to accelerate the growth of civilization in that country and make it a market for Russian industrial products. Mongolia is now trying to throw off the covetous yoke of China and obtain her independence in order to enter into a commercial treaty with Russia to promote the happiness and prosperity of her people. When she succeeds in acquiring political independence, she can obtain economic autonomy. The Chinese merchants will then not be able to get thirty or forty per cent. interest on their loans to the nomad inhabitants or royal Princes of Mongolia. Russia welcomes the national movement in Mongolia, and the sooner Russia's diplomacy succeeds in obtaining China's recognition of Mongolian independence, the greater will it prove to the mutual interests of both her and Mongolia. Besides, it will lessen the trouble connected with the negotiations for the revision of the Russo-Chinese commercial treaties and deliver the Chinese diplomats from useless temptations.

TEXT OF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Vladivostok correspondent wires the full text of the official announcement published by the Russian Government, which explains Russia's position in Mongolia. The official note reads:—

The Mongolians declared their independence at Urga, and elected their religious chief *Gegen* as their ruler, and appealed to Russia for protection. The Russian Government adopted a cautious attitude and replied that it would investigate means of coming to terms with the Chinese Government. The Russian Consul at Urga acted as mediator and caused them to suspend the attempted destruction of telegraph wires between Kalgan and Kiakta, and also the destruction of the local branch of the Bank of China in Urga. He also gave the Chinese Governor-General in Mongolia every facility for withdrawal through Russian dominions. Mr. Kuehan (?), who was appointed by the Chinese Government to negotiate with the high Mongolian officials, addressed to the acting Russian Minister in Peking an inquiry if the Russian Consul at Urga would offer his friendly services as arbitrator. Almost simultaneously the Mongolians asked the Russian Government to arbitrate. The Government considers it not impossible to satisfy the demand, and believes an *entente* between the Chinese and Mongolians can be effected in the manner shown under.

"The Outer Mongolians should first of all obtain a guarantee for the conservation of their traditional polity. The Russian Government considers that in order to bring about an *entente*, China must give some assurances for suspending all actions calculated to destroy the national polity of Mongolia. It is generally recognized that the Mongolians regard the policy long pursued by the Chinese Government in Mongolia, especially the enforcement of Chinese administration, the stationing of a Chinese standing army, and colonization by Chinese immigrants, as detrimental to the Mongolian polity. The Government, therefore, replied through Mr. Kuehan (?) that it was possible to effect a compromise on the basis of the discontinuance of the policy stated above and also added that in view of the mutual welfare of the Russian Government and Mongolia, the Government felt it necessary to make the Mongolians understand that all means for the development

of their country must receive the support of the Russian Government as well as the Chinese Government, when the Russian Government would not hesitate to give friendly assistance for the promotion of the politics, economics, and literature of Mongolia. Further, if a compromise be effected on this basis, Russian can assist Mongolia without a breach of the cordial relations existing between her and China. China had the offer to accept or reject the Russian arbitration. Russia has no intention of interfering with the civil commotion in China nor has she any ambitions in Mongolia, but is desirous of strengthening the guarantee of peace and order in that country, as it has an important bearing on Russia's trade in Siberia. Any conflict between the Chinese and Mongolians will injuriously affect the interests of Russia. For this reason the Russian Government proposed to undertake the rather difficult task of arbitration between China and the Mongolians who had risen in revolt against China. In view of the enormous interests at stake, the Government must recognize the new government constituted in Mongolia. In the event of the compromise ending in failure, the Government is determined to maintain relations between China and Mongolia even by armed force, in order to put a stop to hostilities between the belligerents.

MR. INUKAI ON CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Mr. Inukai, who returned from Shanghai by the *Chikugo Maru* on the 15th instant, is quoted as saying that he hastened home under his doctor's orders, but intends to go back to China again on recovery of his health. Although he was not at liberty to enter into details on the present situation in China, he had heard some complaints raised against Dr. Sun Yat-sen, probably evoked by the President's attempt to enforce his experience and personality on obdurate Chinese. It seems that Dr. Sun is now conscious of his mistake. A conflict of views amongst leaders in such circumstances is often inevitable, but the revolutionists are unanimous in their determination to fight to the last for the cause they advocate. Dr. Sun is desirous of bringing about a peaceful settlement as speedily as possible. The organization of the new Ministry is being variously criticised, but the selection of portfolio-holders must be pronounced as good on the whole. The majority of the portfolio-holders are now assembled at Nanking, though a few Ministers and Vice-Ministers still remain in Shanghai. Hwang Hsing is in Nanking, and Li Yuan-hung is actively engaged in war preparations in Wuchang. Despite the armistice, all preparations are being made for an advance to the north, and a section of the troops is on the point of debarkation, some say for Chinwantao, while others say for Newchwang. Mr. Inukai did not hesitate to discredit the rumour of the reappointment of Tang Shao-i as peace plenipotentiary. Common sense will at once disprove the truth of the rumour. Tang Shao-i is now staying in the house of Mr. Little in Shanghai. It is true that the revolutionists feel financial difficulty, but the revolutionary government enjoys high popularity. The Government has issued many ordinances but a difficulty is experienced in their practical enforcement. The adoption of the solar calendar is, nevertheless, successfully enforced.

RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA.

RUMOURED GOVERNMENT SCHEME.

The *Yorodan* publishes a vague rumour that the Government has under consideration a scheme for making the best use of the influence of the existing religious sects, Shinto, Buddhist and Christian, without discrimination, in the promotion of the interests of local administration, under the name of according special treatment to religious teachers. The scheme is said to have been worked out with the greatest secrecy to avoid troublesome interference by religious bodies.

It is stated in this context that under the Katsura Ministry, Baron Hirata, Minister of Home Affairs, made strenuous efforts for the propaganda of the "Ninomiya Doctrine" in the interests of local self government, but with the downfall of the Katsura Ministry this doctrine lost favour in the eyes of the general public, and the Government is now convinced of the advisability of turning the religious belief of the people to the best account for the promotion of local administration. Amongst a section of the Genro statesmen Christianity is, nevertheless, still held in abhorrence, which renders the impartial treatment of all religious sects impossible. In view of the necessity of obtaining the approval of the Genro statesmen to the scheme, Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, recently paid a visit to Prince Yamagata, when he succeeded in prevailing upon the veteran statesmen to consent to according impartial treatment to the Christian sects. Our contemporary further states that amongst the parties interested in the scheme are Dr. Anezaki, a well-known Buddhist scholar, Bishop Honda Nissho, representing the Buddhist sects, and Mr. Uyemura Masahira, representing the Christian sects. Mr. Tomeoka Kosuke is acting in the background as lieutenant to the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs. When the scheme takes definite shape, the Shinto sect will also be represented by a proper delegate. The nature of the scheme is not disclosed beyond the statement given above.

GREAT SCHEME OF VICE-MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.

As already reported, the Home Office authorities, being impressed with the desirability of bringing the three religions, Shintō, Buddhism and Christianity, into closer relations, so that they may contribute to the progress of the State, have under consideration a scheme for the realization of this end.

The prime author of the scheme, Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, invited the press representatives to the Home Office on the 17th instant, when he made public his opinions on the subject as follows:—

In order to bring about an affiliation of the three religions it is necessary to connect religion with the State more closely, so as to give it additional dignity and thus impress upon the public the necessity of attaching greater importance to religious matters. In the early years of the Restoration the nation, too eager to reform all the traditional institutions, did not judiciously discriminate between what should be destroyed and what should be preserved intact. Many Buddhist temples and Shintō shrines were demolished, and the national sentiment towards religion was thereby greatly impaired. Christianity was then

also held in abhorrence and distrust. Since the freedom of religious faith has been arrested, however, Christian teachers have energetically engaged in the propaganda of their religion. Taking these circumstances into consideration, it is felt necessary to give religion an additional power and dignity. The culture of national ethics can be perfected by education combined with religion. At present moral doctrines are inculcated by education alone, but it is impossible to inculcate firmly, fair and upright ideas in the minds of the nation unless the people are brought into touch with the fundamental conception known as God, Buddha or Heaven, as taught in religions. It is necessary that education and religion should go hand in hand to build up the basis of the national ethics, and it is therefore desirable that a scheme should be devised to bring education and religion into closer relations to enable them to promote the national welfare. This necessitates binding the State and religion by closer ties.

It is necessary to bring about a rapprochement of the various religious sects to make them a potential power to help forward the progress of the age. All religions agree in their fundamental principles, but the present day conception of morals differs according to the time and place and according to the different points of view. It is ever evolving. It may therefore be necessary for Shinto and Buddhism to carry their steps towards Western countries. At the time of the Restoration, Japan adopted the progressive policy of opening the country to foreign intercourse, discarding the traditional policy of seclusion and expulsion of foreigners, and carried out every reform with a strong hand. Japan thus came into close touch with Western countries in outward form, and endeavoured hard to conform with the general current of thought of the world. In like manner Shintō and Buddhism must endeavour to conform with the progress of the world. Christianity also ought to step out of the narrow circle within which it is confined, and endeavour to conform to the national polity and adapt itself to the national sentiment and customs, in order to ensure greater achievements. Some critics may say that the three religions would then lose their peculiar characteristics, but Christianity has developed peculiar characteristics in England, in France and in Germany, by adapting itself to the national conditions of the land of its adoption. Even if Shintō and Buddhism advance outward and Christianity inward, nothing can impede them from fully developing their peculiar characteristics as the religions of modern Japan. It is desirable to bring Western thought and faith into harmonious relations with Japanese thought and faith in the spiritual world. Japan has adopted a progressive policy in politics and economics in order to share the blessings of Western civilization and the same must be done with spiritual matters. The problem demands special attention on the part of Japanese because of the radical difference from the people of Western countries. The division of humanity into races is based on mere outward appearance, but it is important to alleviate the conflict of sentiment arising from racial distinctions, not only on the material side but also on the spiritual side. Humanity is one whole, but in order to enjoy the blessings of world-civilization it is no less necessary to guard against spiritual isolation than

against political and economic isolation. The great mission of religious teachers is to coöperate in the promotion of the common interests of the State and religion. It is desirable that steps be taken to give an additional dignity to religion in order to inspire in the minds of the nation a sentiment of religious worship, so as to elevate the national morals and also to enable the spiritual world to contribute to the progress of peace and civilization. These matters are, nevertheless, apt to give rise to misconception, so it is first desirable to establish a thorough understanding between the various religious sects, and it is proposed to bring religious teachers of different sects into closer touch for the attainment of this end.

THE JAPANESE BUDGET.

STATEMENT BY VICE-MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, explaining the Budget before the Saiwai Club, stated that the Government framed next year's fiscal programme on the so-called negative policy in view of the present condition of State finances, and consequently decided to indefinitely postpone the Grand Exhibition to be held in 1917, and struck out the appropriation for it from the Budget. The Government was in favour of the wide-gauge conversion scheme but was reluctantly compelled to exclude it from the fiscal programme for next fiscal year for financial reasons. An appropriation had, nevertheless, been made in the Budget for the construction and improvement of State railways, which work would be executed so as to make them serviceable for the wide-gauge in anticipation of conversion in the future. With regard to the Chosen Budget, the Government proposed to effect a radical reform in the administration of Chosen with a view to appropriating the expenditure thereby curtailed to the encouragement of domestic industry in the peninsula. Mr. Hashimoto regretted that owing to lack of knowledge he was unable to fully explain the details of the Naval Budget. The Government was determined to effect an adjustment of the taxation system and enact administrative reforms on definite principles, but he was not at liberty to disclose the Government's views on the matter.

The *Tokyo Asahi*, from which we quote, adds that inasmuch as the Vice-Minister declined to answer any questions on the Budget and the explanation was merely a repetition of what has already appeared, the members of the Club were not a little disappointed.

THIBET.

Since the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Thibet the followers of Lamaism appear to have gained strength daily. They are said to be completely masters of the situation at present. But at the same time they are much perturbed because of the rumour that Great Britain will speedily despatch an armed expedition to Thibet. They are disposed to snap their fingers at anything that China might do, but the potentialities of British military force belong to another category.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

The Tokyo Municipal Budget for next fiscal year was introduced to the Municipal Aldermen's Council on the 16th inst and referred to a special committee. As compared with the previous Budget it shows a decrease of 668,202 yen in the general revenue but an increase of 205,023 yen in ordinary expenditure, with a decrease of 893,225 yen in extraordinary expenditure. Details are given below:—

	Budget for 1912-3.	Budget for 1911-2.
Revenue:—	Yen.	Yen.
Income from municipal property	191,566	194,238
Income from the use of municipal property.....	132,257	135,377
Fees	54,420	49,232
Miscellaneous revenue ...	392,666	311,111
State aid	355,791	469,095
Contributions	6,280	28,099
Sum transferred	1,683,051	1,249,975
Sum received	90,000	181,975
Municipal taxes	2,820,214	2,692,444
Expenditure:—		
Municipal office expenses.	513,426	540,373
Ward offices expenses ...	626,337	627,058
Municipal and ward councils expenses	17,075	15,498
Public works	607,269	541,970
Education	258,170	169,741
Sanitation	889,310	789,887
Public gardens.....	73,545	68,946
Cemeteries	10,154	9,009
Municipal lands.....	41,804	33,838
Relief	88,315	87,063
Industrial encouragement.	422	115
Street Fighting	18,938	20,070
Handling public funds ...	36,000	6,000
Special allowances.....	46,900	37,000
Sum transferable.....	10,958	71,650
Miscellaneous	2,806	2,806
Emergency expenses	101,914	117,032
Extraordinary expenditure:—		
Municipal office expenses.	28,161	24,255
Ward offices expenses ...	38,495	64,191
Public works	1,324,437	1,891,890
Education	716,604	696,794
Sanitation	127,418	80,899
Public Gardens	62,706	10,724
Cemeteries	2,099	3,787
Municipal lands	17,518	189,567
Industrial encouragement.	5,958	2,000
Sum transferable	4,500	116,145
Interest on Municipal loans	55,000	15,218
Yen.		
Poor house account	154,441	
(This shows a decrease of 12,741 yen.)		
Waterworks accounts:—	1912-3.	1911-2.
Revenue	2,041,140	2,001,713
Ordinary expenditure....	1,360,615	1,401,362
Extraordinary expenditure	201,380	137,536
(This shows an increase of 104,591 yen in expenditure.)		
Public Works Bonds Redemption fund account:—		
Revenue	3,824,011	3,774,695
Expenditure.....	750,075	750,035
Special fund account:—		
Revenue	461,669	682,966
Expenditure.....	6,045	81,909
Construction of municipal elementary schools		310,000
(This shows an increase of 80,300 yen both in revenue and expenditure.)		
Mutual fire insurance fund.....	135,466	
(This shows an increase of 35,026 yen both in revenue and expenditure.)		

SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

THE NEW SOUTH SEA SERVICE.

Mr. Yukawa, Director of the Merchant Marine Board, has been interviewed in regard to complaints raised in connection with the South Sea Service subsidy embodied in the Budget for next fiscal year. The amount of the subsidy is cut down to 75,000 yen in

the Budget, Mr. Yukawa stated, simply in anticipation that at least six months must elapse before a charter is given to the intending shipping company and all the necessary preparations are completed for running the service. The Government intends to inaugurate the service from the beginning of the latter half of next fiscal year, that is from October next, placing three 3,000-ton steamers on the routes.

The readjustment of the Far Eastern service comprises a partial modification of the Chosen and North China routes. The new shipping subsidy of 250,000 yen embodied in the Chosen Budget does not clash with the Government subsidy, as the former is to be granted for the coasting services in Chosen, which will give greater facility to the transportation of goods between the colony and the mother country.

The utility of the shipping services of the China-Japan Steamship Company has been clearly proved by the activity shown during the present disturbances in Central China, as the Company's liners afforded Japanese, Chinese and foreign travellers the only means of communication in the Yangtze valley. The annual subsidy granted to the Company amounts to 800,000 yen. The Company, which maintained its regular services throughout, in spite of danger and business losses caused by the disturbances, has a full claim to public sympathy for the losses entailed, but no proposal has been put forward for an increase of the subsidy to make good the losses, as it would be difficult to find grounds for such a claim. Compensation for the damage sustained by the Company's warehouses and cargo junks is, however, another question.

UNITED STATES AND THE MOST-FAVOURLED NATION CLAUSE.

The Foreign Office yesterday published an announcement that some time ago the German Ambassador in Washington addressed to the United States Government an inquiry if the benefits of the preferential Customs Tariff granted to Canadian goods could be extended to German goods. Inasmuch as the latter Government withheld its reply, the German Government decided to apply to American goods the tariff specified by the commercial treaties existing when the law promulgated on February 5th, 1910, was in force, but not to apply to American goods the conventional tariffs granted to third Powers after that date. It accordingly issued a Customs notification on December 1st last, declaring that the conventional tariffs appended to the new German-Swedish Treaty and the German-Japanese Treaty shall for the time being not be applied to American goods. There were also enumerated the imports from the United States to which (1) the conventional tariffs with third Powers are not applicable, (2) the conventional tariffs are conditionally applicable, and (3) the conventional tariffs are applicable where specified.

The United States Government puts on the most-favoured-nation clause the construction that the clause is reciprocal and that special privileges and favours granted by treaty are to be unconditionally granted only to Powers which give the United States the same privileges and favours. Public opinion in Germany seems to hold that so long as the United States refuses to grant to German goods the benefits of the preferential tariff

granted to Canadian goods, Germany can properly refuse to grant to American goods the benefit of the conventional tariff granted by Germany to other most-favoured-nations.

YUAN AND THE ABDICATION.

The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain Foreign Office authority, as saying that it would seem as though Yuan Shih-kai sounded the disposition of the Representatives of the principal Powers in Peking regarding the contemplated abdication of the Manchu Emperor, but that all the Representatives reserved their opinion in view of the delicacy of the matter. All will be well if Yuan Shih-kai can bring about a successful conclusion of peace with the revolutionists after the abdication, but if the peace negotiations end in failure and an Imperial Edict be issued entrusting to Yuan the management of State affairs, two governments will inevitably come into existence in China. The question will then arise whether the foreign Powers should continue to regard Yuan as the Prime-Minister of the Chinese Government. It is not easy to solve the question as it wholly depends on the policy the various Powers contemplate in China.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The figures of Japan's foreign trade during the ten days ending the 10th inst were as follows:—

	Yen.
Exports	7,097,000
Imports	11,101,000
Excess of Imports	4,004,000

As compared with the corresponding period of last year, there was a decrease of 854,000 yen in exports and an increase of 2,547,000 yen in imports.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, January 12.

Profit-taking sales caused the market to break on Friday.

Saturday, January 13.

The tone of the market was tolerably firm on Saturday though transactions were not numerous.

Monday, January 15.

The market was firm on Monday and some shares appreciated considerably.

Tuesday, January 16.

The market weakened yesterday.

Wednesday, January 17.

Prices continue on the downward scale.

Thursday, January 18.

A slight hardening of prices was witnessed yesterday afternoon. But it was not significant. Latest quotations were:—

	Jan. 17th.	Jan. 18th.
Kei-Hin Railway.....	110.00	110.15
Yusen Kaisha	44.05	43.70
Toyo Kisen	214.00	214.10
Specie Bank	24.35	24.40
Tanko Kisen	72.45	72.20
Tokyo Gas	70.35	70.20
Tokyo Dento	85.30	85.45
Fuji Gas Spinning	46.90	46.70
Kanegafuchi Spinning.....	106.60	107.10
Beer	84.90	84.85
Hoden (Takara Oil).....	62.00	61.65
Nippon Oil	69.00	68.85
Rice Exchange.....	113.15	112.95
Stock Exchange	160.30	160.65

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 15.)

THE *Kokumin Shimbum* has a remarkable article inspired by recent incidents in China. Our contemporary avers—in spite of official denials—that the Japanese Government intervened in the early stages of the Chinese complication, and that the attitude of non-intervention now assumed by Tokyo is to be regarded as a case of the burned child that fears the fire. As a matter of fact, all the *ententes* and alliances concluded within the past few years in Eastern Asia are based upon the principle of preserving China's integrity. But there can no longer be any talk of integrity. The Chinese have themselves broken up their country into a number of fragments, each proclaiming itself independent, and the Empire may now be said to consist of a congeries of independent principalities. It is extravagant in these circumstances to sacrifice national interests on the altar of international etiquette. The *Kokumin* is evidently in favour of active intervention, and there can be no doubt that the kind of intervention contemplated by our Tokyo contemporary would be fatal to the cause of the Insurgents. We (*Japan Mail*) cannot but agree, in part, with the *Kokumin's* view. No thinking man can predict anything but disorder and disaster as the result of such a wild experiment as the conversion of China into a republic. The reasons militating against the success of any such extravagant project have been marshalled by many publicists, but not a single one has attempted to demonstrate from the lessons of history or from the promptings of practice that the sudden metamorphosis of such a nation as the 400 million Chinese into a republic, could be attempted without fatal danger. In fact, in overtly or covertly assisting Dr. SUN and his fellow thinkers, the Powers are fitting their feet to a route which must ultimately lead to the brink of a precipice. The Chinese people are not endowed with any aptitudes that place them in a region apart from the world's experiences. It is not conceivable that at a moment's notice they should be able to step into a republican regime. The thing is unthinkable. It must lead to anarchical conditions amid which life and property would be wholly insecure, and the active interference of foreign Powers must prove inevitable. No one is disposed to deny the immense difficulty of active intervention, but on the other hand, nobody can entertain any doubt as to the ultimate consequences of letting things drift much longer.

CHINA AND JAPANESE FINANCIERS.

Marquis Inouye invited Baron Shibusawa, Baron Takahashi, President of the Nippon Ginko, Mr. Odagiri, Director of the Specie Bank, and a few prominent bankers to his

residence on the 16th instant, when the veteran statesman stated that, according to information received, both the Manchu Government and the Chinese revolutionists had of late entered into negotiations with Japanese business men regarding a supply of war funds and other necessities. It was desirable, Marquis Inouye thought, that those present should maintain a very cautious attitude in order to preserve the harmonious working of their economic policy towards the neighbouring country. Any precipitous and independent action was to be deprecated at the present juncture.

The financiers present, it is stated, expressed their appreciation of the advice and exchanged views on the line of policy they would pursue *vis-à-vis* the Chinese Government and the revolutionists in financial matters.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

We greatly regret to announce the death of Monseigneur Archbishop F. Bonne of the Roman Catholic Mission, which took place at St. Luke's Hospital in Tsukiji at 9 a.m. on the 11th instant. The much venerated prelate had served the cause of Christianity for thirty-two years in Japan and had won universal love and esteem. He was carried off at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven. He had lain for some weeks in a precarious condition at the hospital, and at one time hopes of his recovery were entertained. But despite the utmost care and skill of Doctors Teusler and Bliss he succumbed at length to pleurisy.

The Americans have arranged to have a grand contest at Manila for the lawn-tennis championship of the Far East. Messrs. Yamazaki and Asabuki, the Tokyo Champions, will play for Tokyo and Mr. Chapman will represent this port. These gentlemen are to leave Yokohama on the 21st instant by the S.S. *Manchuria*.

The Board of Directors of the Japan Brewery Company has decided to submit the following accounts to the general meeting of shareholders to be held on the 28th instant:—

	Yen.
Net profit	579,445.60
Sum carried over from previous account..	369,924.77
Total	949,370.37
Legal reserve.....	30,000.00
Bonuses	28,972.28
First dividend (12 per cent.)	451,200.00
Second dividend (1 per cent.)	37,600.00
Pension fund.....	25,000.00
Sum carried forward	576,598.00

The death is announced in Tokyo, after protracted illness from heart disease, of Mrs. Morimura, wife of Mr. Morimura Ichizemon, proprietor of the well-known Morimura firm, the sad event taking place on the 14th instant. The deceased lady was sixty-eight years of age. The funeral will take place at the Aoyama cemetery on the 18th instant at 2 p.m.

Although for reasons of economy the Government has abandoned its intention of holding a great international exhibition in Tokyo in the fiftieth year of *Meiji* (1917), there is serious talk of getting up a Tokyo Exhibition on a scale smaller than the originally planned building but still of considerable magnitude. The idea is that a com-

pany should be formed to take over free of charge the land acquired by the Government for the purpose of the originally planned enterprise. On the security of this land, Japanese capitalists will be asked to put up 2½ million *yen*; another sum of 1½ million will be furnished by the city of Tokyo, and the Government will be petitioned to grant a million in aid. It is thought that with five million *yen* an exhibition on a sufficiently magnificent scale can be organized.

The new Destroyer *Tachibana* (750 tons displacement, with a contemplated speed of 30 knots) was launched on the 15th inst. She is a sister-ship of the *Sakura*, and was built at the Maizuru naval dockyard. On the completion of her equipment, the destroyer will be incorporated into the new destroyer fleet to be formed, along with the *Yamakaze*, *Umekaze* and another destroyer of the *Swift*-type.

The new naval dry-dock at Saseho, just completed, is said to be the largest of its kind, not only in Japan but East of Suez. The work was begun in 1908 and practically brought to completion on the 11th instant, though some details are still to be completed. The length of the new dock is 777 feet and the width 111 feet, thus surpassing the Mitsui Bishi dock in Nagasaki, the next largest in Japan, by 49 feet in length and 15 feet in width.

Mr. Yamaza, Councillor to the Japanese Embassy in London, who is spoken of as the probable candidate for the post of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is expected to return home on furlough in April, when Ambassador Baron Kato returns to London to resume his duties. Mr. Yamaza will probably not return to London, although it remains uncertain whether he will accept the post of Vice-Minister under Viscount Uchida.

The death is announced at Kanazawa of Lieut.-General Tsukamoto, the sad event taking place on the 15th instant. His Majesty the Emperor was pleased to raise his rank by one degree before his death as a mark of special favour.

The vernacular papers report that Mr. Katayama Sen, a well-known Socialist, was arrested on the 15th instant, on the charge of uttering seditious speeches and thus instigating the recent tram drivers' strike in Tokyo. A few other Socialists are also reported to have been arrested in connection with the recent strike.

The *Nippon* alleges that things have proved very unfavourable for the floating of the Tokyo Municipal Loan abroad. The London money-market has been exceptionally tight since the beginning of the year, and there have been other proposals which found greater favour with investors. Our contemporary thinks that until April things must remain as they are.

The figures published by the Finance Department with regard to prices of commodities during December, show that out of fifty-six items tabulated, twenty-one appreciated, thirteen depreciated and twenty-two remained stationary, the general result being an appreciation of fifty thousandths.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Surgeon's Log; by J. JOHNSTON ABRAHAM. Messrs. George Bell and Sons, London.

VERY few books are written in an absolutely natural manner. There is always some straining after effect; some endeavour to strike a chord that is beyond the easy reach of the performer. "The Surgeon's Log" is a notable exception. A young physician, finding that his health imperatively demands complete change of air and scene, and not being sufficiently opulent to travel as passenger, decides to go as a ship's surgeon. He obtains a berth on a big tramp-steamship and is carried by her to the Far East; visits all the places of note from Suez to Yokohama, and jots down the story of each day with brief appreciations of the people he meets and the scenes he views. That is all. There is no plot; no episode; no sensation. Even the writer himself can scarcely be said to make any show of presence. One detects that he must be essentially a good fellow for everybody becomes his friend at once. But as to the qualities that distinguish him, or any other unit of the ship's company, there is virtually not a word said. Yet the book is not only fascinating but also satisfying. Skeleton descriptions of landscapes are sketched with such skill that the reader seems to be gazing at the flesh and blood of the original, and to be breathing the very atmosphere of the tropical or subtropical scene. The author tells without variation and with wonderful accuracy the tales that are told to him by his surroundings. He speaks, for example of the white women in Pinang thus:—

One shrinks from describing English women in the East. I looked around the room. Some of them may have been beautiful once but the East had finished them and now they all looked like those elderly spinsters who live a more or less predatory life on Bloomsbury Boarders—pale, thin or pastily fat, cadaverous, hollow-eyed. The soft complexions, the graceful contour, once present in some of them, had paid a heavy toll to the moist steam-hot climate. One cannot live in a continuous Turkish bath without showing it. The bronzed men, used to open and constant physical exercise, had gained, by reason of the climate, an air of ascetic dignity—the line on their brows did not matter. But in the women, the sedentary life, the tedium of movement in garments unsuitable to the climate, the necessary separation, for years perhaps, from their children, the consequent emptiness of their lives, the eagerness, therefore, with which they clutched at any form of excitement, all were reflected in the sharpness of their voices and their general air of queulous discontent.

Of the Japanese he recounts some of the harsh libels that permeate the conversation of many Occidentals who profess to know the East by actual contact. We refrain from reproduction. The day cannot be far distant when the Japanese will cease to be slandered because they have committed the sin of climbing with strenuous, though but brief, effort to the platform whereon Americans and Europeans used to believe that they themselves possessed a divinely conferred monopoly of standing. Meanwhile to combat these libels serves merely to confirm them. Besides, Dr. Johnston Abraham is not in any sense their author. He merely reproduces them as he reproduces other features forced upon his attention, and when he does modestly venture to express his own opinion, it is found to be in disagreement with the traducers. We should like to select some of the brief and pregnant descriptions of scenery as they are

entered in the "Log." But choice is difficult, all are so good, so we take one at random:—

Midnight in the Canal is a sensation. There is an air of ghostly unreality about it. No sound is heard except the sizzling of the enormous searchlight hung over the bow close down near the water. Everything is dark save in the region of the cone of light. There is nothing to see but a narrow strip of illuminated water, fluorescent green, bounded on either side by unlimited dun-coloured sand. The ship crawls slowly on, raising scarcely a ripple, following the line of buoys as they appear in the area of light, one after another endlessly, in an interminable shadowy chain, making one count, owing to the absence of other objects, till sheer futility kills by inanition.

It is safe to predict that this volume will find a multitude of delighted readers.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

GREAT MEN.

Every year the magazines vie with each other in bringing out striking New Year numbers, which are usually double the size of the ordinary monthly issues. This year the *Jitsugyō no Nihon*, a widely read periodical, published a large number of articles on great men. Count Ōkuma opens the discussion with very laudatory references to China's greatest heroes, nearly all of whom rose from obscure positions to rule over millions of people, and they did this in an almost incredibly short space of time. Count Ōkuma reminds us. In Japan Hideyoshi accomplished this feat, but it took him 20 years to attain to the rank of Kwambaku. Count Ōkuma says that there are more examples of rapid promotion to the highest posts in Chinese history than in European history. The Chinese seem to have a great deal of hero-worship in their natures, as is proved by the readiness with which they have submitted to the rule of the leaders of the revolution during the past few months.

Dr. K. Tsuboi discusses the meaning of the five ideographs used for great men 英, 俊, 賢, 豪, 傑, *ei, shun, ken, go, kei, and ta*. According to the definitions given in Standard Chinese dictionaries, *ei* refers to high intellectual development, to great intelligence. The next three terms refer to degrees of superiority. A man who is superior to a thousand other men merits the title *shun*; he who surpasses a hundred, *go*, and he who surpasses ten, *ken*. The term *ta* was originally applied to warlike superiority only. But in Japan to day the various titles are used very irregularly. Dr. Tsuboi says that the term *goketoku* includes almost every kind of man who is above the average in the matter of attainment or character, but that the eminence denoted by the term *ei-shun* is of a much rarer kind. He discusses the leading characteristics of great men and the variety of types met with, such, for instance as the sanguine, the phlegmatic and the melancholic, and comes to the conclusion that moral courage, great strength of will and superior intelligence are invariably found combined in the true hero.

Dr. Mitsukuri, of the Tōkyō Imperial University, says that the essence of heroism lies in generosity of temperament and in the entire absence of pettiness, spite and a disposition to take mean advantages over an enemy. Herein lay the greatness of Julius Caesar, who knew not what it was to bear any malice in his heart against any one who had once given in his allegiance to him, however relentlessly this person may have previously opposed him. One thing is very noticeable in history, says Dr. Mitsukuri, that is, that not one of the great heroes whose lives are at all well known to us acted heroically on every occasion. Though Hideyoshi at times displayed extraordinary generosity, occasionally he lapsed into horrible cruelty. The same was the case with Ieyasu and with the great Cæsar himself. . . . If nations aspire to greatness, they must get rid of the small-mindedness which is constantly displayed in this country, of readiness to slander others and to discover failings and

weaknesses in order to publish them to the world. There are people in this country who will rake up the deeds of deceased persons and by misrepresentation try to bring shame on their names. This is as heartless as beating a corpse (*Sude ni shiseru hito no koto no jiseki wo tsukiyū shi, moishikuba kyōkai* (曲解) *shite, adakamo shishi ni moishiseru ga gotoku kannin naru koto wo acto suru*). If we aim at becoming a great nation, we must cultivate more generosity and nobleness of mind. Suspicion, pettiness and narrow cliquism must be got rid of. All the nations that in past ages wielded great power were noted for their magnanimity. Such were the Persians and the Romans. Though some cruel acts were perpetrated in time of war by the Romans, yet their policy to men of different races and their treatment of enemies, regarded as a whole, was characterized by great liberal mindedness and generosity.

Dr. Segawa is of opinion that warriors are the finest type of heroes. He compares our European knights of olden times with Japanese warriors. The only difference between them he says is in the respect paid to religion and the excessive worship of women by the Western warriors.

Each writer on heroes has his own special point of view. Dr. H. Yoshida discusses the connection of heroes with the special localities where they are born and bred and the races to which they belong.

Dr. K. Kuroita maintains that great heroes are embodiments of the finest qualities of the nations to which they belong, and that hence each of them lays bare the national spirit or soul. He draws an interesting distinction between ordinary heroes and great religious teachers, remarking that the latter are invariably opponents of prevailing practices and doctrines and the former are in close sympathy with them.

Baron Gotō Shimpei says that only heroes can understand or correctly analyse the characters of heroes, and that, since he himself is no hero, the subject given him he finds difficult to treat. Nevertheless he covers some six pages of the magazine with a statement of his views. He compares Napoleon's heroism with that of Hideyoshi; and the heroism of Saigō with that of Ōkubo, and he points out how mistaken is the notion that any man can be great in everything.

In many respects Dr. Tatebe's article on heroes is the most interesting of the series. He says that the existence of great men is a proof of the fact that so few people reach a high ideal, yet he holds that there is nothing in the character of the hero that is unattainable by ordinary people if they will only set themselves to strive to attain it. Dr. Tatebe asserts that he can find no heroes in officialdom nor among the members of the Diet to day. (*Nihon gendai no daihyōheia taru daigishi ga kwanryō ni mo yōyū-rashiki jimbutsu nashi*). But his theory is that society is moving upwards all the time and that hence whole nations are becoming more or less heroic. But we have no space to pursue the subject further.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRITICAL SPIRIT IN JAPAN.

Writing in this month's *Taiyō*, Dr. Kuwaki Genyoku, Professor of Literature at the Kyōto Imperial University, maintains that though boys and girls have a great many ideas imparted to them, the faculty of judgment is not developed and they grow up without acquiring the power to discern between what is true and what is false, what is good and what is bad. As regards the ideas which are imbibed in Primary and Middle Schools, they mostly come from the teachers or from the school readers. Boys and girls are habitually taught that Japan's history is quite unique and that she has a polity such as has never existed in the world elsewhere (*Waga kokutai no bankoku ni hirui nai koto wa nabe*), hence that Japanese customs are necessarily good ones (*Kore*

* This is only one among scores of Japanese comments on the doctrines taught in schools to-day that could be quoted which go to support what Mr. Chamberlain has recently asserted in the article which is now attracting so much attention in this country.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY)

ni hwanren shite, waga kokusoku no junryō na koto wo nashin ni chinjutsu shite, etc.). Pupils are constantly told that the introduction of Western thought has undermined and destroyed certain good Japanese customs, and so on. This is of course the teaching of the conservatives, and there is always a progressive party which stands up for foreign ways, but the Japanese people are not philosophical naturally, according to Dr. Kuwaki, hence they become confused by the diversity of the opinions expressed. The critical spirit, according to this writer, is no other than a philosophic spirit (*Sunawachi kishyō-taki seishin wa tetsugaku-taki seishin ni hoka naranu*) and this spirit, he considers, sadly needs more cultivation in this country, if the nation is to avoid becoming the victim of delusions of sundry kinds.

SOCIALISM AND INDIVIDUALISM.

In the January *Taiyō* we find an article penned by Dr. K. Toda bearing the above title. Dr. Toda says that the conversion of the Japanese nation to individualism as it is practised in the West, is quite impossible, so wedded to solidarity are the inhabitants of these islands. Japanese civilisation is intensely anti-egoistic, observes Dr. Toda. It is inconceivable that we as a people should ever come to make the ego the pivot on which all things in life turn in the way that has been done in the West. It goes without saying, that we shall only borrow from the West such ideas as we can assimilate without doing violence to our national standard of life. With us the highest type of character is that in which the ego is always kept in the background. As for socialism, we already have a kind of socialism here, but it is not the same as that which prevails in Europe and America. The socialism of the West is the product of the economic conditions there. It is a war between classes, between the "haves" and the "have-nots." But the important thing to notice is that it grew out of individualism and that it is nothing but another form of individualism. When men found that by acting apart they could not each obtain the individual satisfaction they desired, they began to combine, to form unions and alliances. The good of society as a whole never was the object of these alliances, but the benefit of one group of individuals, the labourers, at the expense of another set of individuals, the capitalists. The claim that socialism is altruistic is unsupported by facts. It is but another form of egoism or individualism, and therefore it is that I have reached the conclusion that Occidental socialism will never take deep root here, despite the fact that certain people are trying to introduce it, because in this country we place the good of society as a whole above that of individuals or certain classes. (*Kojin ya, kaisyō yori mo shakawai zentai wo hontō (本位) to naru bōtōga (沒我) keikō no tōyōi waga kuni ni oite wa, shōrai ni oite mo, Seyō ryū no shakawai shugi ga daiteiryoku to naru koto wa dekinu*). Therefore there was not the slightest justification for the consternation which overtook the Katsura Cabinet last year when they found that a few hare-brained Japanese were trying to spread Western socialistic doctrines here.*

It is continually maintained by Occidentals that individualism makes for liberty and socialism for equality and that consequently they are both good. But if individuals are free, then they compete with each other and a state of inequality is at once created. One is clever, the other stupid, one is strong, the other weak, one is thrifty, the other foolishly lavish. Where then is there any equality among individuals all consulting their own interests? Though these individuals may combine for definite purposes, their inequality is not affected thereby. The inequality caused by the wealth possessed by some and the poverty of others can never be

altered radically as long as men are free to act as they please. The same is the case with divers other sorts of inequality. If one set of class distinctions is got rid of, it is at once replaced by another. To say that there shall be no class distinctions is to say that competition of all kinds will cease.

That the action of socialists in Europe and America is frequently subversive of state interests is an undeniable fact. The constant strikes that are taking place in England can not but cause anxiety to any Government that may be in power. These strikes are nothing but attempts to force capitalists to part with their property for the benefit of their poorer brethren.

As conditions are different here, Dr. Toda thinks Japan will be subjected to none of the inconveniences that have been experienced in Europe and America, but other Japanese writers on this topic say that with the growth of industry and the pressure of competition the Japanese under-classes will certainly make use of strikes as frequently as Occidental labourers do.

■ ACADEMIC CLIQUISM DESIRABLE?

In the January *Shin Nihon* four learned writers state their opinions on this subject. Since alumni meetings are very popular in this country and seeing that scholastic associations wield a considerable amount of power, the question propounded above seems to be of some interest. We have no space for anything more than a brief epitome of the four articles.

(1) *Mr. Kamada Eitichi*.—I hold that school clannism is worthy of warm support. It is founded on many pleasant associations, on similarity of training and on agreement in the matter of youthful ideals. In a world of keen competition it is desirable that learned fraternities of this kind should be formed. The more there are the better. That each body should be actuated by a strong *esprit de corps* and that each member should feel that he is in a measure responsible for the reputation of his school are most desirable. It goes without saying that connected with school associations there will always be some unworthy and some unfortunate members, some men who have failed from some cause or other to make their mark in the world. But even in their cases contact with successful alumni often proves an incentive to renewed efforts. The union of graduates of private universities and schools at the present time ought to be encouraged, if for no other reason than to show that the vaunted superiority of graduates of the Imperial Universities is not founded on fact. If efficiency in actual life be the test, then the private school alumni are undoubtedly ahead of graduates of the Imperial Universities. The learned cliquism that I desire to see established is one in which scholars from various schools shall all combine on perfect equality without any of the invidious distinctions between the graduates of one school and those of another being made as they are to-day.

(2) *Mr. Sawayanagi Masatarō*.—I can see no good in encouraging academic cliquism. The difference between efficient and inefficient men is not to be got rid of by emphasizing the fact that they graduated at the same school. Men should never be recommended solely on account of their connection with any particular school. Scholastic clannism implies that the alumni of each school should unite and cooperate irrespective of character, capability and the stage of progress reached. (*Gaku baimo to ieba, sono nō funō ni kakawarasu, senjin kōshin tagai ni ai-hiki au koto wa imi seneba naranu*). This seems to me undesirable. It is asserted that the authorities encourage a bad kind of academic cliquism by giving official posts of importance exclusively to Imperial University graduates. But I maintain that this is not a case of academic cliquism. The graduates of our Imperial Universities are on the whole better educated than the graduates of private universities and for this reason they are promoted to responsible positions. The general education received at private schools is insufficient, and therefore the

graduates of these institutions do not in the long run prove as serviceable to the State as Imperial University graduates.* The number of graduates of private schools who pass the Civil Service examinations do not amount to more than five or six among several hundred successful candidates. And even the few who pass are apt to be so elated by their success as to deem further efforts unnecessary. The Imperial University graduates, on the other hand, do not think it a great honour to pass this examination, and fully realize that it is only the first step in making a career for themselves and that it must be followed by big efforts on their part. The position occupied by Imperial University graduates in the official world is certainly attributable solely to their qualifications for the posts they fill and to nothing else.

As far then as Imperial University graduates are concerned, academic cliquism does not exist. Alumni meetings are seldom held by these graduates. This is as it should be, for to me it seems that inefficient men should never be backed by their schoolmates under any consideration. Academic cliquism, where it exists, only tends to raise suspicion in the minds of men.† Here in Japan many people are so small-minded that they attribute official appointments to academic clannism quite erroneously. In England this is not so. There are no less than four Oxford men in the present Cabinet. What an outcry there would be if this occurred in Japan! But Englishmen are too great-minded to notice such trifles. There is something very grand about the English attitude of utter indifference to small things.

(3) *Dr. Ueura Sōmei*.—As things are to-day, officialdom draws its supply of officers from the Imperial Universities and business men fill their offices with Keiōgijuku graduates or with graduates of the Tōkyō High Commercial School. Now this may be regarded as a proof that scholastic cliquism exists both in the official and the business worlds, but the truth is that the above-named phenomenon is traceable to quite another source. Many years ago the practice of giving official appointments to Imperial University graduates and of filling up vacancies in business houses with graduates of the two institutions mentioned above began to be followed, and, on the principle that "birds of a feather flock together," the graduates of the respective colleges have year after year gone their separate ways in response to the calls of old graduates of these colleges. But the fact is that to-day every tub stands on its own bottom. Inefficient men can not retain their posts for any length of time either in the official or the business world solely on account of the prestige to be derived from their alma-mater. To me it seems that academic cliquism is now quite out of date. If men organize themselves into parties, they do it on account of agreement as to principles, but union based on attendance at any special school is bound to be a very poor thing, as there is no standard to fall back on, moral or intellectual. The present preponderance of Imperial University men in Government offices will not continue a great many years longer, as the private universities are turning out a number of clever men that are bound to find their way to high official posts in the course of time.

(4) *Dr. Takata Sanae*.—If asked whether scholastic cliquism exists, I say of course it does and it is perfectly natural that it should do so. When it is to men's interests to combine, they will do so on some basis or other. The formation of cliques is one of the laws of social existence that never can be got rid of as long as human beings are constituted as they are to-day. As to whether parties or cliques are in themselves desirable

* Mr. Kamada and Dr. Takata, representing the Keiōgijuku and the Waseda Universities, would certainly take exception to this assertion. Mr. Sawayanagi for many years past has maintained that the education received at private universities is inferior to that obtained at the Government institutions.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† *Gishin anki wo shōzu* is the title of Mr. Sawayanagi's article.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY)

* It is not fair to law-abiding socialists to describe Kōtoku's attempt to bring about a state of anarchy here as the result of the doctrines taught by Western socialists.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY)

or not, that must depend on the basis of union. If individual interests are the only basis, then not much good is likely to come of the union. Principles or views constitute a better foundation for combination. . . . There is one habit which prevails in this country which is much to be deprecated, and that is a tendency to attack people who disagree with us.* This species of contentiousness creates much bad feeling and benefits no cause and no body of men. . . . It is perhaps true to say we are a cliquish nation. We began with aristocratic cliquism. This was followed by clanism and to-day scholastic cliquism exists everywhere. Perhaps it would be better if it did not exist, but it has been rendered necessary by the keenness of the competition going on which so often spells ruin to isolated young men.

JAPANESE OPINION ON SUN YAT-SEN.

For some years the Japanese have taken the keenest interest possible in Chinese affairs and, owing to a certain affinity between the two nations and to the fact that all Japanese scholars have studied Chinese history, it often happens that Japanese writers throw much light on the course of events in the neighbouring continent. At the present moment the eyes of the whole world are fixed on three Chinese leaders, Yuan Shih-kai, Wu Ting-fang and Sun Yat-sen, and consequently the capacity, character and past history of each of these men have been fully discussed in every part of the world. Hence it would serve no useful purpose to quote the opinions expressed in a recent number of the *Chuo Kōron* by twelve Japanese writers on the President of the new Republic, to any great length. But the following remarks may prove to be of interest. Dr. Miyake Satsurei says that Dr. Sun has yet to prove that he is equal to the task of dealing with the difficult situation that has been created in China. The political training he has undergone has been very imperfect. He has spent most of his life in studying and practising medicine and until recent events brought him to the front he was comparatively little known in China, though he has attracted much attention in England and America. To win the confidence of a great nation like the Chinese is no easy task. Will Sun accomplish it? The next few months will enable us to answer this question.

Major Nezu, who is considered an authority on Chinese affairs, remarks:—Sun Yat-sen is clever, daring and learned. He is in every respect a fine type of man. A man who can organize a big revolution in so perfect a manner that it is able to accomplish in a few weeks feats that under different circumstances might have occupied years is no ordinary personage. For quite a long time he has figured as the head of scores of revolutionary secret societies whose operations he has superintended. Of course he has filled this role at the risk of his life all along. He is undoubtedly one of the greatest men of our time.

Count Ōkuma observes:—The revolution will do no good. I am sick of it. It embarrasses us and embarrasses the Chinese to no purpose. (*Waga hai wa mō kakumei wa ekanu. Kakumei wa itasura ni Nihon wo komarase, Shina wo komarase, &c.*)† As for Sun he is a very ordinary man. He knows English tolerably well, but he is neither highly talented nor well versed in Western learning. There is nothing in his character to entitle him to be considered a great man. But even if he were a great man, he could never revolutionize the whole of China. In ancient times this might have been done, but to-day the feat is

* *Tō-ji-batsui* is the expression used in the original, "associating with those who are of the same mind as oneself and attacking those who differ."—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† As will be seen by the recent utterances of Count Ōkuma published in the *Tōkyō Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and reproduced in the *Japan Mail*, he has altered his opinion greatly on the subject of the revolution. Numerous predictions as to how the Chinese would act during the present crisis have been falsified by recent events. (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

impossible. To set up a new Government in China's 400 provinces is not a thing that can be done in a hurry and if the war drags on for any length of time foreign interference is certain to take place. At the time of our restoration the men who effected great things, such men as Saigō, Kido and Ōkubo, all had strong clan support and therefore they were successful. But Sun has no backing of this kind, and, moreover, he is dealing with people who speak some 20 different languages, whose interests are diverse, whose proclivities are different and who will be little likely to submit to a central republican government. In my opinion the movement is doomed to fail.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF TOKYO.

What may be called technical literature is as extensive in Japan as it is in Western Countries. Every learned subject is discussed by a number of experts and the papers read at meetings of the various Societies are all to be found in the monthly or quarterly issues of reports of transactions. The sundry controversies going on among the members of learned societies we can find no space even to mention here, but it is well that foreign investigators should know that there are in this country a number of earnest-minded and hard working students of all the different "ologies." For some little time past the Journal of the Anthropological Society has been publishing papers on Aino and the Ainu. Their traditions regarding stars, their legends on the *Koro-Pok-Guru*, the phonetic system followed by the Ainu of South Saghalien, and a comparison of the Aino and Japanese languages are among the subjects on which papers have been read. Formosa and the traditions and superstitions prevailing there are also receiving a good deal of attention from members of the Society. And there is a paper by Mr. K. Yanagita in a recent number of the journal on the persons to whom the terms *shaka* and *sanka* were applied in former times, who are represented to be spiritual media by Mr. Kurita.

THE HIGH PRICE OF COMMODITIES.

There are no less than eleven articles on this subject in the *Chuo Kōron*, five of which were written by Doctors of Law and the remainder by business men. Dr. Toda, who starts the discussion, thinks that there is no immediate remedy for the high prices prevailing, as they are the result of Japan's heavy debts. But he reaches the conclusion that Japan can only thoroughly extricate herself from her financial difficulties by largely increasing the yield of her original home industries. This can only be done by resort to improved methods of cultivating the soil and by introducing changes in the way of carrying on other industries. A greater use must be made of machinery in all industries and work that is now carried on in a most unscientific manner must give place to the use of up to date methods. In originality we Japanese are certainly deficient, says Dr. Toda, (*kono dokuritu no kufu hatsumei no shikara no Nihonjin ni toboshii koto wa arasouarenu jijitsu de aru*), so we resort to imitating Occidentals in most things. But the industries we have learnt from them, such as gas-making and the use of electricity, are being overworked to-day, so we must expend more energy on the higher development of our original industries.

Writing in the December *Hōgaku Kyōkai Zasshi* on the same subject, Dr. Kawazu Sen, Professor of Law at the Imperial University, furnishes a number of statistics to show that the high prices now prevailing have been largely caused by the heavy taxes imposed and by the monopolizing policy pursued by the Government. Though Dr. Kawazu admits that prices have gone up all the world over, he thinks that Japan's home market has not been greatly influenced by the appreciation of commodities that has taken place in foreign countries. Dr. Kawazu points out that the earnings of the Japanese middle classes have not kept pace with the rise in the price of the necessities of life. The wages of the

lower orders have no doubt been raised sufficiently to place them in a better relative position than school teachers, policemen, military and naval officers, and low-class officials of all sorts, all of whom have to keep up to a higher standard of living than that of workmen on very small incomes. A readjustment of the taxes whereby rich capitalists were made to pay at a higher rate than they do now and whereby the burdens of the middle classes were lightened, would go a long way towards relieving the distress which is felt so keenly throughout the country.

On the existing financial condition of this country and its causes there is no better authority than Mr. Honda Seiichi, who for some years wrote articles on finance for the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and who now is one of the editors of the *Taishō*. A full translation of a recent article of his has already appeared in these columns.

MR. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

The great majority of Englishmen have a deep feeling of affection for the ex-President of the United States of America. We know him as a brilliant, clean statesman. We know him as a strenuous personality; and also do we know him as a scholar and a gentleman. It is because we know of these fine attributes that he possesses, and which are undoubtedly his birthright, that we men from the old country regret his present attitude in the field of American politics to-day. It is said—and with much truth—that no man outside America understands American politics; and also, that very few men inside understand them. This being accepted as a logical fact, it affords the Britisher an excuse to tender—with all deference—his and many of his brother-nationals' opinions of Mr. Roosevelt's action in affairs of the present time. It is true that he has not in recent months referred extensively to European, or Oriental, politics. Sensibly and discreetly, he has steered gently away from them; but being compelled by the strength of his disposition to keep himself still in evidence before the world, he has taken upon him the great office of being the defender of America's honour, and also the practical opponent of arbitration treaties in general. In addition to this, he is running antagonistic to his old friend, Mr. William Taft, the present President of the United States. Strong man as Mr. Roosevelt is, and staunch believer also in the great possibilities of his country, he has failed to keep in mind the simple unassuming qualities of the great man who previously held the high position of Head of the Republic that twice fell to him. The writer is sorry to say so, but it is palpable that, from being a statesman, he is running perilously close to becoming a demagogue. In proof of this assertion, one has but to look at the earnest endeavours of President Taft for the advancement of Peace. It may be said that the President's efforts are but the dreams of an idealist; that a strong Power will over ride those dreams; and that treaties are sometimes not worth the paper they are written on. This may be so to a certain degree; for one has to admit that the recent annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary, in direct violation of the famous Berlin Treaty, is an illustration of the possible value of treaties. But one has also to remember that Arbitration agreements between Great Powers have avoided several possible wars—or, at least, the committal of "unfriendly acts."

It is known and accepted by all foreign Powers that the Monroe Doctrine stands for good and all. This being the case, any arbitration treaty between the United States of America and other Powers would naturally be free from any possibility of that particular doctrine being brought into the line of argument. Consequently only minor questions would be left for solution, and the perpetual phrase of Mr. Roosevelt's—*viz.*, the question of America's honour, would never be assailed. The foolish attempt to bring in the subject of Russia refusing to grant Russian passports to American

Jews, is not in any way the faintest slight on American honour. Russia is not America, and vice-versa. Russia could justly object to many things that are done in America; but we have not yet heard of her having done so. This being the case, it is more than surprising to see a man of Theodore Roosevelt's brilliant calibre, wantonly acting in the obverse ratio to the days when he ranked among the very few great men of the World. There are many great names in the history of the World's statesmen—and a few of them are still with us—whose actions prove that they are consistent, patriotic, and loyal; but who also have never been guilty of the flagrant indiscretion of turning their coat and considering that they, and they only, are indispensable to their country's welfare, prosperity, and safety.

GREAT FIRE IN OSAKA.

ANOTHER HOLOCAUST.

LICENSED QUARTER SWEEP AWAY.

A little before 1 a.m. yesterday morning, a fire broke out at Yoban-cho, Minami-ku, Osaka. It originated in one of the licensed houses, called the Yuraku-kwan, which was a three-storied building. There was a strong wind blowing and the flames rapidly spread to Nibancho, Sanbancho, and Gobancho in the quarter. The flames also proceeded towards Sennichimae, where a large number of shows were installed. Before 3 a.m. over 1,500 buildings were reduced to ashes, among which were included several large buildings for cinematograph and other performances. Despite the strenuous efforts of the fire-brigades, the flames became even more furious and spread in all directions. A little past four o'clock, another fire broke out at Kozu-Hachiban-cho on the other side of the river, due to the sparks. The Kozu Preliminary School was destroyed in a short while, and the flames then spreading in a southerly direction, the Ikudama Shrine, which was situated fairly distant, caught fire and was reduced to ashes in a quarter of an hour. At noon the area devastated by the fire extended over several acres of *cho*, including not only almost the whole of the licensed quarter but also Kawara-cho, Sekiya-cho, Kozu-juban-cho, Hachiban-cho, Sanban-cho, Yoban-cho, and other streets, over 1,000 houses and other buildings being destroyed, including some 130 three-storied and four-storied restaurants and licensed houses. The Eighth Regiment of the Fourth Division despatched several companies of engineers to various spots to help the fire-brigades and to carry away a number of sufferers from the fire.

Further information has reached Yokohama that at 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon, the fire was still raging. Although it seemed that the fires were extinguished at about noon yesterday, they broke out again, and continued with renewed force. The strong wind that was raging, together with the lack of a good water supply, were responsible for the continued conflagration. Street after street was consumed by the flames and the scenes presented were pitiful in the extreme. The losses are tremendous; and it is estimated—at even a low figure—that the losses of the Insurance Companies are nearly two million yen.

Several casualties are reported, the injured being cared for at the Hospital. Fortunately, no deaths have yet been officially notified.

As will be readily understood, the panic in Osaka was out of the ordinary. It is only two years ago that the great commercial city of Japan went through an almost similar experience; and it is deeply to be regretted that the authorities in charge had not made arrangements to cope with a possible renewal of the first catastrophe.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENES.

YEN 30,000,000 DAMAGES.

The houses and other buildings destroyed by

the fire in Osaka numbered 5,330, the devastated area extending over a large tract which comprised eighteen prosperous streets in the southern part of the city. The loss sustained is estimated at over 3,000,000 yen. As to the losses of various fire insurance companies, it is so far known that the Kobe Marine and Fire Insurance Company had insurances for 180,000 yen, the Meiji for some 100,000 yen, the Nihon for 90,000 yen, the Tokyo for 120,000 yen, the Yokohama for 70,000 yen, Kyodo for 80,000 yen, the Osaka for 50,000 yen, the Nisshin for 50,000 yen, the Fukuju for 30,000 yen, the Naniwa for 50,000 yen, and a few other companies for twenty or thirty thousand yen, amounting in all to some 1,000,000 yen.

The Relief Society of the city immediately made arrangements for the refugees who are already housed in five preliminary schools in the vicinity of the conflagration. The food for the sufferers in these houses is being prepared by companies despatched from the Eighth Regiment.

Three persons are reported to have been burned to death, while the exact number of injured is yet unknown.

The five large theatres at Dotonbori which escaped the fire, will suspend performances for three days.

As to the cause of the outbreak, there is a dispute between the owner of the Yuraku-kwan in which the fire originated, and the owner of a bath-house on the opposite side of the street. The former urges that sparks from the chimney of the bath-house flew and set fire to the roof of the Yuraku-kwan building. But, on the part of the bath-house owner, he states that the fire must have been caused by the carelessness of a servant of the Yuraku-kwan.

It is reported that the Communications Department has sustained a loss of some 10,000 yen, serious damage being done to telephone apparatus and cable wires.

The Railway Board has already arranged for making a twenty to fifty per cent. reduction for the transportation of tiles and timber from various parts of the country to Osaka.

Our Kobe contemporary, the *Kobe Herald*, in its issue of Tuesday evening, gives the following graphic account of the outbreak of the fire at Osaka in the early hours of the morning and its progress to nearly mid-day. It states that at 1 a.m., sparks from a chimney in a bath house known as the Hiakusoyu in Yoban-cho, in the Namba Licensed Quarter at Minami-ku, Osaka, fell on the roof of the Shuraku-kwan next door, and caused an outbreak of fire there. There was a strong south-westerly wind blowing at the time and the flames soon spread, a large building called the Shuraku-kwan being almost immediately enveloped. The fire bells all over the city rang out at once and in response to their clamour, fire brigades hastened to the scene from all quarters. Squads of policemen, too, with steam pumps, hurried to the threatened quarter. It was a solid sheet and the flames reflected in the Dejima gawa resembled a river of blood. The quarter of the city where the outbreak occurred was soon destroyed. The flames spread eastward and by 2.30 a.m. about 30 licensed houses had been reduced to ashes. Despite the desperate efforts of the fire brigades and the police, nothing could be done to arrest the flames, the wind being so strong.

There were a number of powerful steam fire engines on the spot but it was dangerous to approach the burning area, owing to the narrowness of the streets and the height of the buildings. As time went on, the flames grew more and more furious. At 3 a.m. the flames began to spread to the south and north, and crossing Ebisu Bashi rapidly extended to Sanban-cho. The conflagration caused in the whole quarter of Namba baffles description. Desperate efforts were made to prevent the flames from spreading to Sennichimae, which is a noted pleasure quarter in Osaka containing a large number of theatres, shows and halls for performances. The Hinodekwan, the 1st Denkikwan and the 2nd Denkikwan, both large cinematograph exhibitions, were amongst the first structures

in the quarter to fall before the devouring element; the Chikurinji temple soon followed. As the flames seemed likely to spread to Dotonbori, the quarter in which the most famous theatres are situated, the gendarmes sent a request to the Officer Commanding the 8th Regiment of the 4th Division in garrison in Osaka to lend assistance in fighting the flames. In response to this message a strong force of troops was hurried to the scene, where they rendered most valuable aid. The homeless people took refuge in the neighbourhood of Namba Railway Station. At about 3.30 a.m. sparks were carried by the wind to the house of one Sakai in Saka-machi, and another fire broke out there in consequence. In this quarter of the city, too, the excitement was intense for a time, and at Yobancho, a policeman was struck by a piece of burning timber which fell from a roof, and three women burnt to death. At Sennichimae, the Chiyoseki, the Shikishima Club, the Okudaseki, the Ashibe Club (1st), the Ashibe Club (2nd) and other large buildings were reduced to ashes. The Jianji Temple was also destroyed. The flames spread in Kawaramachi at about 4 a.m. In the direction of Namba Station, the Meiji Hospital and the Seika Primary school—two of the largest buildings in the neighbourhood—were burnt down and the Namba Dance Hall had a very narrow escape. The whole of Sennichimae was totally destroyed. At day-break, the wind turned to the north west, and, still fanned by a violent wind, the flames began to advance toward the south-east. Showers of sparks fell over Saka-machi, Minami Saka-machi, and Takeyoko-suji, and soon these streets were enveloped in flames and destroyed. Some houses in Nihonbashi-suji were also destroyed. Meanwhile, from Nihonbashi-suji, a chome, and 3 chome, the flames spread toward Kodzu. Kodzu Nibancho was destroyed entirely. Among the houses which were burnt down, were the Kodzu Primary School, the highest building in the neighbourhood, the Kodzu Shrine in Masuya-cho and other well known buildings. For a time the houses at Tennoji and Kami Honcho, etc., were endangered. In the neighbourhood of Kami-machi, the flames spread eastward, and soon reduced Tani-machi 9 chome, and threatened Higashi Hirano machi. At 10.30 a.m. the fire was still raging furiously. As it appeared to be impossible to check the fire's ravages by ordinary means, a Company of Infantry under the command of Major Oka commenced to pull down houses to clear an area over which the flames could not extend. The scene for a time almost resembled a battlefield.

FURTHER REPORTS.

The relief fund that has been subscribed for the sufferers from the Osaka fire amounts up to the present to 1,150,789 yen. The Home Office has instructed Osaka-fu to expend a reasonable sum for urgent relief, and has ordered Mr. Hotta of the Home Department, who has been on a tour of inspection in Nara Prefecture, to at once proceed to Osaka and report on the conditions there. Boron Sumitomo and many other prominent citizens have so far contributed 11,050 yen and several thousand *koku* of rice for the relief of the sufferers. Mr. Kimura Kamekichi, of Shikanjima-cho, Nishi-ku, has offered a hundred tenement houses free of rent for three months to those who have suffered the most.

It is reported that over 4,300 letters and other mail matter, together with 300 telegrams, are at the post-office, unable to be delivered owing to the whereabouts of the people being unknown.

Next to some of the Fire Insurance Companies, the Electric Light and Gas Companies in the city have sustained the greatest losses, they having lost about 90,000 yen.

In view of the almost entire destruction of the licensed quarter, the advocates for its removal to a place near Abeno in the suburbs of the city are becoming active. As a result, the shares of the Izuo Land Company have advanced by seven yen.

MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE.

AN OLD PARLIAMENTARY HAND.

The death of the Rt. Hon. Henry Labouchere, at his residence, the Villa Christina, Santa Marta, Florence, will be received with sincere regret by Britishers of the older school who remember the staunch old Parliamentarian and brilliant journalist at his best. For the last few years he had completely retired from public life, and moving from England to his beautiful villa in Florence, gently and calmly waited for the end. It came on Tuesday last, when he passed away at the advanced age of nearly eighty one.

As brilliant journalist, a caustic wit and a master of sarcasm, it is doubtful if his times produced his superior. His paper *Truth* was known in almost every house in England, whilst his exposures of frauds, cases of cruelty and instances of tyranny on the part of local magnates, ran him into more libel actions than any man of his day. He would frequently say that he had unwittingly helped lawyers to make their fortunes and that he himself had lost more money by telling the truth than he had made by not remaining silent. Underneath his sharp caustic manner and biting tongue, was a man of a singularly loveable disposition; and there are many men of to-day who have risen to high positions who have to thank Henry Labouchere for their start in life.

An Eton man, he entered the Diplomatic Service in 1854, but resigned from it ten years later to enter upon a Parliamentary career. He used to say that the diplomatic service was too deadly respectable and slow; yet it is also said that he did his utmost to extract as much fun from it as was possible. Perhaps one of the best stories told of him is of one that took place when he was a junior secretary in the British Embassy in Washington. One morning an excitable American gentleman, with a loud voice and domineering manner, burst in upon young Labouchere and demanded with much emphasis to see the Ambassador. Somewhat nettled at his manner, Labouchere mildly remarked that the Ambassador was out; upon which the visitor growled and stormed at the indolence and inattention of Ambassadors in general and expressed his intention of waiting until he came in. Labouchere courteously passed him a pile of newspapers to while away the time and then went on with his work. Two hours elapsed and then the American's patience was exhausted. "See here, young man," he exclaimed hotly. "When do you expect that Ambassador of yours to come in?" "I really don't know," answered the young diplomatist in his most bland manner. "You see, he left here for England yesterday on official business and I'm afraid—" But the rest of the story was unfit for publication.

YOKOHAMA CHARITY ORGANISATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Charity Organisation was held on Monday at the Foreign Board of Trade Rooms. Mr. G. G. Brady presided.

The report of the Organisation showed a debit of 1,237 yen but this, the Chairman announced, had since been decreased by 200 yen. The Chairman also referred to the arrangement with the Salvation Army, by which the latter took entire control of all cases needing assistance. The scheme had worked very well, as was shown by the absence in the streets of beachcombers.

A letter from Inspector Hodder, the Chief-Executive of the Army in Japan was then read by the Chairman, in which it was stated that as Adjutant Carter's time would expire towards the end of the year, it was advisable to know whether the present arrangement would be continued, since otherwise the Army barracks in Yokohama could not be maintained.

Inspector Hodder stated that the barracks had

been run at a loss and without the guarantee of 2,000 yen from the Charity Organisation was continued they could not be maintained.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, a Committee was appointed to consider the question, consisting of the Rev. Walter Weston, Rev. T. Roseberry Good and Messrs. H. G. Cole, M. de Cuers de Cogolin, and Edward Boschart.

During the course of the proceedings the report of the Organisation was adopted and it was announced that Mr. White, British Vice-Consul, had consented to accept the Hon. Treasuryship in the place of Mr. T. Harrington.

Votes of thanks to Mr. Brady and Adjutant Carter terminated the meeting.

THE "JAPAN DIRECTORY."

The forty-fifth annual issue of the *Japan Directory*, published by the "Japan Gazette" Co. is out well on time and in its familiar red binding presents a very neat appearance. We notice that the contents have increased by some forty pages, the new feature being useful alphabetical lists of Missionaries in Japan and Korea. There are also some additions to the information as to the Government services. The alphabetical list of foreigners in Japan (exclusive of Tokyo and Kobe) has decreased by three pages, which would seem to indicate a diminution in the number of foreign residents. Probably, however, this is a merely temporary phenomenon.

The large amount of useful information contained in the "Japan Directory" and the general accuracy of its contents, make it more than ever an indispensable work of reference for business firms in Japan.

SNOW IN THE NORTH.

The snowfall in various parts of the Hokkaido has become very much lighter, and railway traffic on the Hakodate and Rumoye Lines has been restored.

Snow storms are reported from various sections of the Shinyetsu, Tokai and Hokuyetsu Railways. At some places in Echigo, snow lies more than ten feet deep and more or less serious damage has been done to railways and dwelling houses. Railway traffic between Taguchi and Sekiyama on the Shinyetsu Line is interrupted. On the Tokaido Line, snow fell on Tuesday over one foot deep in the districts of Ogaki and Sekigahara.

Snow still continues to fall in various sections of the Shinyetsu and Hokuyetsu Railways. In the meantime railway traffic between Taguchi and Sekiyama on the Shinyetsu Line and Kashiwazaki and Yasuda on the Hokuyetsu Line, which was interrupted, was restored from Wednesday morning.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROFESSOR B. H. CHAMBERLAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL"

SIR,—No public man is so closely watched as is the above named celebrated Professor. Prof. Chamberlain is no timorous soul, afraid of his shadow in a religious community, but an open, frank and outspoken Liberal. His Liberalism is not of the kind that expends all its force in talk; it is a working kind.

Living in Japan, and most of the time associated with numerous Japanese scholars, he so conducted himself as to win their confidence and respect, while at the same time all knew just where he stood. He is public spirited and progressive in thought, and liberal with his means. A world of men like Prof. Chamberlain would make life a far more glorious thing than it now is,—men who could devote themselves to good and useful occupations in a spirit of cheerful, good feeling, helpful, kind and just, without any fear of the future or unreasonable superstition. Japan was made better by his linguistic knowledge. We owe to the Professor a great deal of gratitude, which is impressed upon every Japanese student.

Y. OYAMA.

January 18th, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN GENERAL ELECTION.

FIRST RETURNS.

SWEEPING SUCCESSES OF THE SOCIALISTS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 12.

The weather in Germany favours a record poll at the elections for the Reichstag to-day. The excitement is very keen and the Socialists most active. In their manifestoes they warn the electors of the dangers of the rule of a progressive nation by a coalition of reactionaries and clericals.

The Conservatives insist upon the necessity of averting foreign peril by building up armaments and unitedly opposing the Socialists.

The Kaiser, who is at Potsdam, has arranged to be continuously informed of the progress of the fight.

London, January 13.

Out of the 265 results known at 2.30 this morning, 138 have been definitely elected and 127 will require second ballots.

The feature of the returns so far is the sweeping successes of the Socialists, who have already regained a third of the losses they sustained in 1907.

It is significant that the bulk of the Socialist gains have been won from other Left parties.

The Socialists have lost a seat to the National Liberals.

[The Reichstag numbers 397 members.—Ed. J.D.M.]

London, January 14.

The complete results of the German elections show that 208 have been definitely elected and that in 189 cases second ballots are necessary.

The Socialists have a net gain of 26.

This has evoked a Conservative appeal to the electors to look to the future of the Empire instead of to party considerations.

THE FUNERAL OF MAJOR KUROKAWA.

London, January 11.

Major Kurokawa, who died at Brighton, was cremated at Golder's Green.

The staff of the Japanese Embassy met the coffin at Victoria, together with detachments of the Third Dragoon Guards and the Horse Artillery.

The coffin was placed on a gun-carriage and escorted through London.

The band of the Guards met the procession and played funeral marches to Golder's Green.

The War Office and officers of the Dragoon Guards sent wreaths.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

London, January 11.

A long semi-official statement has been issued at St. Petersburg which states that the Mongolians, after declaring independence, asked protection from Russia, who advised that efforts should be made to arrive at an understanding with China.

At the request of both parties, Russia undertook the task of mediation, and pointed out to the Chinese Government that Mongolia's individuality must be safeguarded against violation, such as the organisation of Chinese

troops and the settlement of Chinese in Mongolia.

Russia has no aggressive designs on Mongolia, but should Mongolia break her bonds with China, the important interests of Russia would compel her to enter into business relations with Mongolia.

BRITISH EXPEDITION TO SOUTH PERSIA.

London, January 12.

There is a growing belief at Calcutta that the despatch of a British expedition to South Persia is imminent, though it is still under consideration in London.

ACCIDENT IN THE BLACK SEA.

London, January 12.

A Russian yacht has sunk in a storm in the Black Sea with 172 persons on board, including the Russian Consul at Galatz and family.

THE FRENCH CABINET CRISIS.

London, January 12.

In view of the probability of M. Bourgeois declining the French Premiership through ill health, it is expected that President Fallières will summon M. Delcassé.

London, January 13.

M. Delcassé has been offered the Premiership but has declined it.

President Fallières has now offered the position to M. Poincaré.

London, January 14.

M. Poincaré has accepted the French Premiership.

PREPARING FOR THE MINERS' STRIKE.

London, January 13.

Hundreds of extra men are working day and night at Chatham dockyard, laying railway lines and constructing a coal-yard to store thirty thousand tons of coal, in view of the expected strike of miners.

Three colliers arrived to-day.

The Admiralty has secured 100,000 tons of coal in South Wales.

ITALIAN NAVAL SUCCESS.

London, January 13.

The Italian cruiser *Piedmonte* and two destroyers have destroyed seven Turkish gunboats and captured an armed yacht off Kufuda in the Red Sea, after stubborn resistance.

Gunboats and other trophies were also captured.

The Italian warships were dispatched to intercept the gunboats, which were conveying arms and troops which intended to enter Cyrenaica via Egypt.

UNITED STATES ARMY ORGANISATION.

London, January 14.

Major-General Carter has startled the Congressional Committee on Army Reorganisation by declaring that reorganisation is necessary if the United States wishes to retain her insular possessions.

Major-General Carter also stated that 35,000 Japanese ex-soldiers were in the Philippines and Hawaii ready for an anti-American rising in the event of a dispute with Japan.

THE THREATENED COAL STRIKE.

London, January 14.

Yesterday's advance in the price of coal has developed a frantic public demand, particularly in the Midlands and the North.

In some places no coal is available, owing to London buying all the stock.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

London, January 15.

The French Cabinet is composed of M.

Poincaré, Premier and Foreign Minister; M. Briand, Minister of Justice, and Vice President of the Cabinet; M. Millerand, Minister of War; M. Delcassé, Minister of Marine; M. Klotz, Minister of Finance; M. Lebrun, Minister of the Colonies; and M. Bourgeois, Minister of Labour.

The Cabinet is generally well received. The Republicans hail it as a great national Ministry, capable of rehabilitating France in the eyes of Europe.

The Opposition comments are remarkably temperate.

The Cabinet has drafted a declaration of its policy, affirming France's loyalty to the alliance friendships, which are stronger than ever.

The declaration emphasizes the need to maintain the army and navy at a level to meet all eventualities.

THE TRANS-PERSIAN RAILWAY.

London, January 16.

The bankers who met in Paris have completed their financial arrangements for preliminary studies in connection with the trans-Persian railway and are now proceeding to draft a scheme.

JAPANESE CRUISERS AT SYDNEY.

London, January 16.

The Japanese cruisers *Aso* and *Soya* have arrived at Sydney.

Festivities on an extensive scale have been arranged.

NEW SUPER-DREADNOUGHT.

London, January 16.

Miss Evelyn Moore, the sister of Admiral Moore, laid at Portsmouth this afternoon the keel plate of a new 25,000 ton super-Dreadnought, at present unnamed.

The vessel is to have a speed of 30 knots and a battery of increased power, the smallest guns to be six inches.

MERCANTILE SHIPBUILDING.

London, January 16.

The output of mercantile shipbuilding for the year in the United Kingdom was 1,803,834 tons. This shows the splendid increase of 660,675 tons.

The total tonnage of foreign shipbuilding was 846,296, an increase of 32,000 tons.

The United States' returns show an enormous decrease and Germany and France big increases. In Holland there was a record output.

The features of the year's shipbuilding were the size and speed of the vessels and the number of vessels fitted with turbines and oil-engines.

CAPTAIN TRENCH.

London, January 17.

It is officially confirmed that Captain Trench, who is imprisoned in the fortress at Glatz, attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself.

The warden cut him down with a knife unharmed.

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

London, January 17.

The French Chamber has passed a vote of confidence in the Government by 440 to 6.

The Ministerial declaration says the first task of the Government is to ensure as quickly as possible the ratification of the Franco-German Agreement.

"There is no doubt that by a loyal agreement with Spain, it will enable us to organise

a protectorate in Morocco, which is the natural goal of our African policy."

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 17.

The papers are pointing out that the German elections, despite the Socialist successes, give the Government a three to one majority in favour of increased armaments, involving the expenditure of about three million sterling more annually for the Navy, as all parties, except the Socialists, favour a big army and navy, although they are not agreed as to home politics.

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN SWEDEN.

London, January 17.

The Swedish Government has announced that it will bring in a Bill for Women's Suffrage, including eligibility to Parliament.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY LABOUCHERE.

London, January 17.

Mr. Henry Labouchere has died at Florence.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

London, January 17.

The Opium Conference Drafting Committee has submitted its revised scheme for ratification by the representatives of the six Powers, who have agreed in principle to the draft, subject to the approval of their respective Governments.

The Times in a leading article says that it certainly would not be surprising if the first results of the present Convention fall short of the highest expectations, as the ground to be covered is enormous, while the amount of definite information available is most limited.

KING GEORGE'S RETURN.

London, January 18.

It is announced that the Italian Squadron will meet King George at Malta.

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

London, January 18.

A well founded report dissipates the hopes aroused by Queen Wilhelmina's repeated absences from Court.

INDIAN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

London, January 18.

The Twenty-sixth Punjab leave for Hong-kong before the end of the month owing to the general situation in China.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO, ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE FRENCH PREMIER.

London, January 12.

The *Journal des Débats* charges M. Caillaux, the ex Premier, with proposing to hand over to Germany, economically and politically, the watershed of the rivers Sanaga, Rbangi and Shari, and the whole outlet of French Equatorial Africa, the only advantage to France being certain profits payable by the Congo trading companies.

M. Caillaux also proposed, the paper states, to come to a general political understanding with Germany while the Congo and Morocco questions were still unsettled, the hands of the Government thus being tied.

AFFAIRS IN CRETE.

London, January 12.

The revolutionary move is spreading in Crete, and the Revolutionist Committee now governs the island.

PERSIAN REVENUE.

London, January 12.

Since the notification of the dismissal of Mr. Shuster, the American Treasurer to the

Persian Government, not a penny of general revenue has been paid.

THE LABOUR TROUBLES IN BRITAIN.

London, January 12.

A general British coal strike is threatened. Large majorities of the Northern and Scottish miners are in favour of a stoppage.

The Continental miners are closely watching the situation.

The outlook in the cotton spinners dispute is more favourable.

COPPER.

London, January 13.

Copper is quoted at 62½—63½. There have been heavy liquidations despite strong American advices.

THE NEW FRENCH CABINET.

London, January 13.

M. Poincaré has agreed to form a Cabinet.

M. Delcassé will probably be Minister of Foreign Affairs or Marine.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 13.

The German elections are proceeding tranquilly.

Out of 134 results, 56 deputies have been definitely elected, whereof 35 are Socialists.

The Socialists' net gain at present is 17. Moreover they have qualified to participate in 60 second ballots.

London, January 15.

The main result of the first ballots in the German Elections is the unexampled success of the Socialists, the crushing defeat of Liberalism, and the maintenance of its position by the Clerical Centre party.

Sixty-four Socialists have been already elected and they are fighting 121 out of 191 seats where second ballots will take place.

No Radical and only four National Liberals have so far been elected, though the latter represent the bulk of the national wealth and trade and control all the best newspapers.

The Government has issued a violent appeal to all good citizens to oppose the Socialists, though the latter have not a majority and cannot possibly defeat the new Ministry's proposals.

What the Government wants is a majority that will not give any trouble.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 16.

On the Stock Exchange, Japanese bonds are strong.

London, January 18.

Japanese stocks are again being bought. Chinese are higher.

Later.

Chinese stocks are all higher. Japanese and Russians are supported.

THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS.

London, January 16.

The German Government's anti-Socialist appeal is generally ridiculed.

Practically the whole of the Radical press favours supporting the Socialists in the second ballots.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

London, January 18.

The French Chamber has passed a remarkable vote of confidence in the new Premier, largely owing to his business tone and debating power securing marked sympathy.

Loud cheers greeted the declaration that the first duty of the Government was to

secure the final adoption of the Franco-German Agreement and an honourable understanding with Spain.

The Government adheres to the existing alliance and friendships.

Later.

The Ministerial declaration was well received by the public and has relieved the anxiety revealed in the recent debate on the Franco-German treaty.

THE COTTON OPERATIVES.

London, January 18.

The Manchester Cotton Spinners Conference proposes that the operatives should immediately return to work for a six months' truce, after which the Government representatives will submit suggestions for a working arrangement.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE JAPAN HERALD.)

RUSSIA'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE.

Berlin, January 12.

M. Krupensky, Councillor at the Russian Embassy at Vienna, is quoted as the probable successor to M. Korostowetz as Minister at Peking.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

Telegrams from India unanimously report that the visit of the King and Queen has been a full success in every respect.

BRITISH ACTION IN PERSIA.

The London Times demands the occupation of harbours in the Persian Gulf if the situation does not improve in the near future.

FRENCH CABINET CHANGE.

No further changes in the French Cabinet are expected, except the nomination of M. Delcassé as successor to M. Selves, the former Minister for Foreign Affairs. The French Press states that the nomination of M. Delcassé will in no way influence the present good relations between France and Germany.

RUSSIA SEEKING A MOTIVE FOR INTERVENTION.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that very extensive raids of Chinese brigands have taken place in Mongolia and that the Mongolian Princes have appealed to the Russian Government for help.

THE MOROCCO CONVENTION.

Berlin, January 12.

The ratification of the Franco-German Morocco Convention will not be delayed by the resignation of the French Caillaux Cabinet. The German Press continues to express itself very calmly on the Cabinet crisis.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg is repeatedly mentioned as the coming Governor of German East Africa. In the presence of the Kaiser and the Kaiserin, he gave a lecture on his last Central African tour, in which he emphasized the necessity of the construction of a railway from the Atlantic to the lake of Tschad.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency reports semi-officially that Russia has advised the Mongolian Government to come to an understanding with China. The Russian Consul at Urga prevented the destruction of the telegraph line between Kalgan and Kiachta and the looting of the branch office of the China Bank.

The Russian Government wishes to conclude a treaty with China on the Mongolian

question, by which Mongolia will be protected against further aggressions of China. Russia, however, has no intention of interfering with Chinese internal affairs or to acquire Mongolian territory. Her only aim is the restoration of peace and order for the protection of Russian commerce in Mongolia. For this reason she has opened diplomatic negotiations with the present Mongolian Government.

The Mongolian Government has issued orders that the new Chinese Manchu Resident for Mongolia, who is now on his way to Urga, will not be allowed to continue on his journey.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency reports the favourable progress of the Russo-Chinese negotiations between the Russian Consul and the Chinese representative at Urga. Russia is satisfied with China's friendly attitude.

THE TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

Italy is preparing the despatch of a new expeditionary force of 30,000 men to Tripoli.

SOCIALIST VICTORIES IN ELECTIONS.

Berlin, January 13.

The participation of all parties in the German elections is very keen.

Later.

The first results in the polls for the six electoral districts of Berlin were six Socialists elected and one for the second ballot. Socialists were also elected at Breslau and Magdeburg.

Later.

The results of the elections do not yet give a clear idea of the future composition of the new Reichstag. It seems that in spite of the increase of Socialists, the Conservative and Central parties have not lost any votes in the first ballot. The progressive Liberals, who up to now have not secured one seat, have good prospects in several of the second ballots. The Socialists have already secured 84 seats and further likely successes in several second ballots.

Count Posadowsky will come into the second ballot. Dr. D. Hahn, the President of the Agrarian party, D. F. Naumann, the well-known National Social politician, and Herr Stresemann, one of the prominent members of the National Liberal party, have been defeated.

Berlin, January 14.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, in an appeal to all national parties, entreats them to unite their efforts in the second ballots, which will be held in a fortnight.

RUSSIAN IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

M. Akimow has been re-elected President of the Russian Imperial Council.

THE TURKISH CONSTITUTION.

The Turkish Chamber has declined to pass a bill, according to which the Constitution would be altered with regard to the Sultan's right to dissolve the Chamber.

THE NEW FRENCH CABINET.

The new French Poincaré Cabinet is regarded as a very strong one by many politicians in Germany, who state that it will take up as its first duty the solution of all Moroccan questions.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to December 31st arrived at Berlin on January 14th.

MOVEMENTS OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Berlin, January 13.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency contradicts the report according to which

Russian troops are said to have passed Kiachta on their way to Mongolia.

Kuldja in Mongolia is reported to have gone over to the Chinese revolutionists.

Berlin, January 14.

The *St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency* reports that Russia has no intention of erecting new Consulates in Mongolia, but that only the military posts will be strengthened.

THE NETHERLANDS.

Berlin, January 13.

The accouchement of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is expected in July.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Berlin, January 15.

The Chancellor, on the occasion of the convocation of the Prussian Landtag, read a speech from the Throne, in which the financial situation was reported to have further improved, so that the revenue and expenditure gave promise of balancing in the near future. An allotment is demanded for electrifying the Berlin City Railway. The reports of the great famine as a result of the drought in the summer of 1911 have been much exaggerated. A Bill will be presented providing for forced labour for tramps and vagabonds.

ELECTIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY.

All political parties in Germany, including the Radicals and Liberals, state that the foreign policy of the Empire will not be affected by the result of the elections for the new German Reichstag.

THE RELIEFS FOR KIAUTSCHOU.

The relief transport for the German garrison in Kiautschou has arrived at Algiers and both officers and men visited the city on the invitation of the French authorities.

NEW FRENCH CABINET'S POLICY.

The new French Poincaré Cabinet is favourably received by the German Press, which, like the French papers, is assured that no change of the foreign policy of France may be expected.

CABINET RESIGNS.

The Spanish Cabinet has resigned, owing to differences with the King on the question of amnesty. It is probable that the new Cabinet will also be formed by the present Premier, Senor Canalejas.

KIDERLEN-WAECHTER'S TRIP.

Berlin, January 16.

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is staying in North Italy, and will probably later pay a visit to Rome.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

The final resolutions of the Opium Conference will be based on the text proposed by the German delegates, and further amended by the Dutch and Belgian delegates. The reading of the final protocol has already commenced.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

New rumours of the resignation of Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, are officially contradicted at Vienna.

MONGOLIA.

It is officially reported from St. Petersburg that the town of Chailar on the Trans-Siberian Railway has been occupied by Mongolian troops. A Mongolian form of administration has been instituted and independence declared.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Russian Government has presented

to the Powers signatory to the Berlin Congress, a proposal to urge the cessation of hostilities between Turkey and Italy with regard to the Parliamentary crisis at Constantinople. This proposal has no prospect of being accepted.

DEATH OF HERR VON RADOWITZ.

Berlin, January 16.

Herr von Radowitz, the former Ambassador at Madrid and father of the German *Chargé d'Affaires*, is dead at Berlin at the advanced age of nearly 73 years.

Berlin, January 17.

The whole of the German Press publish very laudatory obituaries in honour of the deceased Ambassador von Radowitz, expressing at the same time their deep sympathy with Herr von Radowitz, the German *Chargé d'Affaires* at Tokyo, the son of the deceased.

M. POINCARÉ'S POLICY.

M. Poincaré, the new French Premier, in a speech in the Chamber outlining his policy, referred to Germany. He said that it would be the principal aim of his policy to cultivate friendly relations with France's neighbour.

SIR EDWARD GREY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

The British Liberal Press has opened a very strong campaign against the one-sided foreign policy of Sir Edward Grey, talking as its attitude a purely national standpoint.

GERMAN SECRETARY'S VISIT.

Herr von Kiderlen Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will pay a visit to Signor Giolitti, the Italian Premier, at Rome on January 20th. The European Press speaks of this meeting as a new proof of the firmness of the Triple Alliance.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINE.

The Hamburg-Amerika Line has decided to declare a dividend of 9%. The balance sheet shows a transfer of 29 million mark to the amortisation and reserve funds. The capital of the Company will be increased by about 25 million mark.

KAISER TO ATTEND SWISS MANOEUVRES.

Berlin, January 16.

The Kaiser will attend this year's autumn manoeuvres in Eastern Switzerland, the invitation having been initiated by the German-speaking Cantons in connection with last year's visit of President Fallières of France.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN JAPAN.

LECTURE BEFORE THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

At the General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan, held on Dec. 21st at the British Embassy in Tokyo, Dr. W. W. McLaren, Professor of Economics in Keio University, delivered the following lecture on Local Self-Government in Japan:—

For purposes of local administration Japan proper, excluding Hokkaido, Karafuto, Chosen and Taiwan, is divided into 43 prefectures (*ken*) and 3 *fu*; the prefectures are subdivided into districts (*gun*) and cities (*shi*); the districts are further subdivided into towns (*cho*) and villages (*son*). The *fu* and larger cities are subdivided into wards (*ku*). This subdivision of the country is about as simple as it could be; there is no overlapping of areas or authorities. The organs of government within the areas are likewise characterised by almost complete uniformity. In the prefectures, *fu*, cities, towns and villages there is an executive

organ embodied in the person of a single official, called, in the first two, the Governor (*chiffi*), in the third, the Mayor (*shicho*), and in the last three, the Headman (*gun cho*, *cho-cho*, and *son-cho*); there is a consultative organ, the Council, in all the areas except the last two mentioned above; and a so called legislative organ, the Assembly, in all the areas.

This organisation for local government was not arrived at without considerable experimentation since the beginning of Meiji, nor may it be said to be permanent even now, for this year a sweeping change has been made in the functions exercised by the councils in all the areas. At the Restoration the existing daimiates were renamed *han*, some 273 of them, and the daimyos were generally retained as governors of the *han*; the territory of the Shogun was subdivided into 11 prefectures and 8 *fu*, in which members of the Imperialist party were made governors. Three years later, early in 1871, the *han* were converted into prefectures, and the number of the *fu* reduced to three, viz., Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. Towards the end of the same year the number of the prefectures, 305 in all, was reduced to 75, in 1878 to 45, and finally in 1890 to 43. With regard to the smaller areas, in 1878 the districts and their subdivisions, the towns and villages, were created, and the changes in these areas since that date have been due mainly to the definite adoption in 1888 of the Prussian organisation for local administration, and partly to the movement of population consequent upon the growth of manufacturing industries.

Not only have the areas of the local units undergone a series of changes, but the organs of government within the areas have been newly created in some cases and modified in others. Originally the prefectures were designed to be merely local administrative areas under the authority of the governor, but in 1878 assemblies were set up, not for the purpose of legislating, it is true, but for deliberation and discussion, as forerunners of parliamentary government under the promised national constitution. The prefectural assemblies were difficult little parliaments to manage, and the laws regulating them were revised frequently, and finally in 1890, the *Fu-Prefecture Law* (*Fu-ken-sei*) was enacted, bestowing legislative powers of a limited order upon the assemblies. This law or code was itself amended several times, but finally attained a form which appeared permanent in 1889. Under this code the organs of government in the prefecture and the *fu* were named as follows; the executive authority reposed in a governor, the administrative authority in the council, the legislative authority in the assembly. In November 1911, by Imperial Ordinance, the Council of the prefecture and *fu*, as indeed of the city and district, was deprived of its administrative functions, and left the ghost of its former self, for it can now do nothing; it can only give advice when consulted by the executive authority of the area.

In 1888 a Municipal code (*shisei*) and a Town and Village code (*cho sonsei*), and in 1898 a District code (*gunsei*), were issued. By these laws the organs of government for cities, towns, villages and districts were created, similar to those already described in connection with the prefecture, with one exception, which has already been mentioned; to the towns and villages, a council was not given.

Generally speaking, the changes in the areas were designed to obtain administrative units which would be convenient in size and number; in the organs of government, to introduce a popular element consonant with the principle underlying the national constitution; and finally to completely concentrate administration in the bureaucracy.

Methods of constituting the various organs of Local Government.—For convenience of statement the local government units may be divided into three groups; first, urban, including the cities, towns and villages; second, rural, including the prefectures and districts; third, rural-urban, the *fu*. This classification

of the areas is not entirely satisfactory, because many of the towns and all of the villages are not strictly urban, and moreover the *fu* defy classification. Thus Tokyo-*fu* consists not only of Tokyo city and its suburbs, but of 22 towns and 156 villages contiguous to the city, and hundreds of small islands in all parts of the empire, one of which lies at a distance of a thousand miles from the city. Moreover the *fu* and the *fu* city organs of government do not correspond exactly to those of the prefecture and the ordinary city. This regime *exceptionnel* need not receive any further notice because it is not germane to the purpose of this lecture.

The organs of government of the areas in the first group, the city, town and village, with the exception already mentioned, are identical, and consist of a Mayor or Headman, a Council and an Assembly. The Mayor of a city is appointed, for a term of six years, by the Emperor, upon the advice of the Home Minister, from three candidates elected by the City Assembly. The Mayor is in all cases a professional official, who gives his whole time to his office and receives a salary, which varies in amount according to the importance of the city. The Headman of a town or village is elected by the local assembly for a term of four years, but his election to be valid must be confirmed by the Governor of the Prefecture. The Headman may or may not be a professional official, and may or may not receive a salary. His status in these respects depends upon the importance of the town or village.

The City Council consists of the Mayor and his deputy and six non-professional members. The Deputy Mayor is of course a member of the bureaucracy, and is elected by the Assembly for a term of six years, but his election must be confirmed by the Governor of the prefecture. He devotes his whole time to public business and is paid a salary. The six non-professional members of the Council are elected by the City Assembly for terms of six years from among the citizens over thirty years of age. Their service is compulsory, amateur and unpaid.

The City Assembly is elected by popular vote in wards for a term of six years, one half of the members retiring every three years. The electorate consists of all male citizens over twenty-five years of age, who have resided in the city two years or more and have paid at least two *yen* a year direct national taxes. Lunatics, criminals, etc., are disqualified. Any citizen is eligible for the Assembly provided he is on the voters' list. Officials of the prefecture, district or city, judges, policemen, public-procurators, priests and elementary school teachers are disqualified. While elections for the Assembly are direct and by secret ballot, they are conducted according to the Prussian three class system, which apportions the voting power among the electorate according to the amount of taxes paid by the individual, and thus throws the control of the Assembly into the hands of the larger tax-payers. The effects of this system will be considered later in this lecture. The town and village Assembly is elected by the citizens of the area for a term of four years. The same qualifications and disqualifications, both for the electorate and the candidates for election, are to be found in these areas as in the cities. Elections are conducted upon a two class system, based also upon the principle that the payment of taxes determines the voting power of the electors. The City Assemblies vary in size from thirty to sixty members, those of towns and villages from eight to thirty according to population.

In the second group, consisting of the Prefecture and District, while the organs of government are identical, the methods of constituting them differ. The Governor of the prefecture is appointed by the Emperor, upon the advice of the Home Minister, and holds office during pleasure. He is responsible to the Home Minister in all ordinary matters, but in finance to the Finance Minister. He is a professional official, devotes all his time to public business and is paid a salary. The Council is composed of this Governor, two high officials of the central government and six non-

professional members. The non-professional members are elected by the Prefectural Assembly, from among the citizens of the area over thirty years of age. Their service is compulsory, amateur, and unpaid. The Assembly of the Prefecture is elected directly and by secret ballot for a term of four years. The franchise is exercised by the district electorate. Candidates must have paid direct national taxes amounting to at least 10 *yen* a year. All citizens on the voters' lists of the districts are eligible for election to the prefectural assembly. Members of the National Diet are disqualified.

The Headman of the District is appointed by the Governor of the Prefecture and is a professional official. The District Council is composed of the Headman and five non-professional members, elected by the Assembly from among the citizens over 30 years of age, for terms of four years. The conditions of their service are the same as in the case of the non-professional members of the Prefectural Council. The District Assembly is elected directly by the electorate of the towns and villages. Candidates for the Assembly must have paid at least 5 *yen* a year in direct national tax and electors to qualify must have paid at least 3 *yen* a year. The District contractors are ineligible for election to the assembly.

To summarise, the executive organ in all the more important local areas is appointed to office and in all the areas is considered an official of the central government; the consultative organ is composed of professional and lay members, the former appointed, the latter indirectly elected; the legislative organ is elected popularly, directly, and by secret ballot in all the areas; the franchise is limited by age, residence and the payment of national taxes; in the urban units the voting powers of the electorate is rendered unequal by grouping electors into classes according to their tax paying ability.

Local Government Powers and Central Control.—Into this framework of local government we proceed to introduce the powers which make it work. Those powers are either executive or legislative, and are reposed respectively in the Governors, Mayors or Headmen and the Assemblies. It must not be thought, however, that any of these authorities is able to exercise its powers freely, for control by the central government is so minutely and completely exercised, that even in matters of purely local concern, it is impossible to say how much independence of action is being exercised by the local government.

All of the local authorities are given by general laws a wide grant of powers, to do anything, within their areas which they think fit, provided that their actions do not conflict with any State law and are not contrary to the public good, and also provided that the consent of the higher authorities has been obtained for their projects. This method of bestowing powers upon local authorities is customary in continental European countries, and it undoubtedly has its advantages when compared with the Anglo-Saxon habit of bestowing specific powers upon local governments. It precludes the necessity of frequent reference to Parliament in Great Britain and to the State Legislatures in the United States, for permission to undertake certain projects. A great deal of time and money is wasted in Great Britain upon what is called Private Bill Legislation, and the bulk of that legislation has for its purpose to obtain for local government authorities the necessary powers, to name only one class of projects, to operate public utility services. But, on the other hand, the method in vogue in Japan has its disadvantages, for it gives the bureaucracy almost complete power, not only to prevent a local government authority from doing what the people wish, but to compel the carrying out of projects in which the local people are not interested or to which they are opposed. This difference between the Anglo-Saxon and the Japanese methods of bestowing powers upon local authorities is, however, inherent in and is a part of the much wider

difference between democratic and bureaucratic government.

The powers of the local executive authorities are very extensive. The Governor of a prefecture or a *fu*, the Mayor of a City, the Headman of a district, town or village is at one and the same time the representative in his area of the Central Government, and the head of the local administration. In his former capacity he is commissioned with the execution of all State laws within his area, he publishes and enforces all orders of the Home Minister, and controls the financial affairs of his area through his budgetary powers. The Governor of the prefecture, moreover, controls the local police. In his latter capacity he executes all the ordinances of the Assembly, or delays their execution pending the consent of the higher authorities or declares the ordinances void on the ground that they are *ultra vires* or opposed to the public welfare. In all urgent affairs the executive authority of the area may act upon his own initiative, subject, of course, to ratification later by this local assembly or the higher officials. In all matters, legal or otherwise, the local areas are represented by their executive officials. Voters' lists, *état civil*, primary schools, charity, and a host of other matters are under the control of the executive officials.

From this recital it is evident that the Governors of the prefectures and *fu*, the Mayors of cities, and, in a lesser degree, the Headmen of the smaller units are important and busy officials. The difficulties of their positions arise not only from the multitude of their duties, but from the twofold functions which they exercise. It is necessary on the one hand to obey the orders of their superiors and on the other to get along in harmony with the local assemblies and the local people. The opposition of the local assemblies is, however, not so difficult to overcome as that of the local people, for the power of finance is in the hands of the Governor or Mayor, and as a last resort it is possible to get the local Assembly dissolved. In the larger areas disputes are usually compromised, or a majority of the members of the Assembly are bought up, or if extreme action is taken and the Assembly dissolved, the general public looks on with more or less indifference. The Assembly seldom has the confidence of the people. On the other hand, popular demonstrations of hostility to projects of the central government, to be carried out usually at local expense, are usually heeded, and the objectionable measure withdrawn. But concerted action of such a kind is seldom possible, except in the small rural communities. The old habit of mind, so characteristic of the feudal times, when the populace had mainly to obey, is still too strong to permit of frequent and lasting opposition to the wishes of the constituted authorities.

The local bureaucracy also derives a certain amount of protection from the Administrative Courts in which all civil suits against them must be tried; and still further support is drawn from the *esprit de corps* which characterises the whole governing class. For these and other reasons the difficulties of the local administrative heads are kept from becoming too great for the average man to cope with. Apart from the possibility of violence exerted against their persons by some exasperated opponent of their measures, the executive officials have little to fear while in office, and nothing afterwards.

The general efficiency of the local bureaucracy cannot be doubted, for to them must be attributed the carrying out of those measures, if not their origination, which have spread over the whole country the enlightenment, the patriotism and the general national development so characteristic of the present time.

The powers of the legislative authority, the local Assemblies, are of very limited extent, for the system in which the Assemblies have to work was so constructed as to prevent their controlling the policy of their respective areas or sharing in the local administration. The Assembly, for its own area, issues ordinances, undertakes enterprises in the public name, votes the budget (which includes not only the appropriation of public

money but the levying of taxes), incurs obligations, disposes of public property and elects its own officers and some of the local officials. It initiates no measures whatsoever, and is therefore a very much handicapped legislative organ. The utmost it can do is to refuse consent to measures presented to it; but even this negative power it cannot freely exercise in all those vital matters which concern finance, for refusal to pass the budget is met by independent action on the part of the executive authority. So much may be said of Assemblies in general.

But it is necessary to say something further about the *fu-city* and the ordinary City Assemblies. If the Assembly in general must be said to be insignificant, the City Assembly has a name for dishonesty as well. Considering the system of which it forms a part, the method of its election, and the general lack of interest in city government, it is not difficult to understand the low esteem in which it is generally held. The evil reputation of the Assembly in the past, and the hard names flung at its members are enough to make any citizen, who values his good name above prospective money gains, hesitate before becoming a candidate for the Assembly. But even if candidates of satisfactory character could be obtained it is no easy matter to get them elected. There is no legal machinery for bringing the names of candidates before the public; no person is publicly nominated; no public contest can take place. Canvassing for votes must be done privately, and as there is no limit to the number of candidates, hired canvassers are so numerous as to become a great public nuisance, against which bitter complaint is frequently heard. But even if this difficulty caused by the lack of machinery for the nomination of good men, which is taken advantage of by numerous local parties, could be overcome, there still would remain the much graver difficulty which is connected with the three-class system of voting. That system must be held responsible for the greater part of the almost universal apathy of the electorate, the voting power being so unevenly divided that voters do not think it worth while to exercise their franchise. Especially is this the case with the newly risen middle class, composed of the commercial and professional people, the great majority of whom are qualified to vote in the third class. Thus in the election for the Assembly held in Tokyo in 1905, there were 42,100 names on the voters' list, but only 7,915 votes were actually polled. In the third-class there were 37,005 names, and 5,816 votes, in the second 4,465 names and 1,765 votes, in the first 630 names and 274 votes; or to put these figures into percentages, in the third class 15.7 per cent., in the second 39.5 per cent., in the first 43.6 per cent., or taking the average of all classes, 18.8 per cent., of the electorate voted.

Not only has it been impossible in the past to get more than a modicum of the electorate to vote at an election for a City Assembly, but the system upon which elections are conducted makes it almost impossible to bring about any improvement of the character and ability of the Assembly. The voting power is so unequal, that even if the vast majority of the electorate, say 85 per cent., was to be stirred up by a popular agitation in favor of honest government, it would still be possible for two-thirds of the members of the Assembly to be elected by the remaining 20 per cent. of the voters, who conceivably might not be affected by the popular movement. In fact in Tokyo in 1905 one-third of the members of the Assembly were elected by a little more than one half of one per cent. of the qualified voters. But further still, even if the popular agitation for reform should become so universal as to affect the voters of all the classes, all that could possibly be accomplished would be the removal from the Assembly of the charges of dishonesty and corruption. The Assembly must continue to be insignificant, so long as its powers remain what they are, so long as it remains under the control of the Mayor, the representative of the Central Government.

It is difficult to say whether the method of its election or its limited powers does most to make the Japanese City Assembly a despised popular

organ of local government. A wise reformer would probably begin the rehabilitation of the City Assembly by bestowing upon it complete control of local policy, but such powers could not be exercised without destroying the local bureaucracy. Apart altogether from the reformer's point of view, it is certainly obvious that in creating the City Assembly, the central government placed it in a system and determined the method of its election in such a way as to bring the popular organ of government into disrepute, and thus to cast suspicion upon representative institutions in general.

It is not, however, till we have considered the power of control over the local authorities exercised by the central government that we finally understand Japanese local institutions. The mainspring of all local action is not the local Assembly nor the local executive official, but the Home Minister. He is the original source of power, and all action or inaction in local officialdom is inspired from the Home Office. Administration is completely centralised, and while legislative powers are supposed to be shared with the local assemblies, the lion's share has been retained by the central government, and is sufficient to ensure to the Home Office the control of all important features of the policy of all important local areas. As illustrations from current events in Tokyo of the power of the central control over policy, the municipalisation of the tramways in June and the amalgamation of the gas companies in December of this year might be cited. In both these cases the initiative came from the central government, not from the City Assembly.

But central control does not depend entirely upon the local executive officials, for individual members of the bureaucracy might fail through ignorance, carelessness or even veniality. A variety of devices exist for the more thorough exercise of that control, viz. periodic inspection of the local administration by high officials, periodic reports from the local authorities to the Home Minister, Home Office sanction of all special undertakings, suspension of local ordinances, dissolution of a recalcitrant local assembly, and finally the removal of certain kinds of business from the control of the local authorities. Such are the powers given by law to the central government, and in addition to these are many extra-legal, non-legal and even illegal powers which can be resorted to in cases of necessity, the most commonly exercised of which is corruption, not so much at present by the vulgar giving of money-bribes, but by free distribution of industrial franchises, or the generous expenditure of money upon public works in the area to be placated.

Conclusions.—In bringing this lecture to a close, permit me to make some general remarks, which may help to explain the point of view from which I have chosen to look at Japanese local government. With regard to government institutions in general, the abstract question as to the best form of government cannot be discussed, for governments are best which work best, i.e. which render the kind of service which the people desire. Even in connection with the institutions of the particular country which have formed the subject of this lecture, it is not necessary to express an opinion whether or not they are the best possible for the present stage of the nation's development. All such questions we may leave *sub judice*. We are only interested in finding some explanation of local institutions as they exist in Japan. One possible explanation I wish to suggest. Just as the Emperor is the apex of the national government, ruling by right of descent from the Imperial Ancestors, so his deputy the Home Minister is the apex of the local government; through him and his subordinates, the local bureaucracy, the rights and powers of the sacred throne are maintained in all parts of the country. Upon the claim of divine origin for the Imperial House, the Japanese Government, both central and local, rests, and by that cult it must be explained.

After the lecture the Chairman threw open the subject for discussion.

Mr. J. C. Hall said he considered Professor

McLaren's paper one of the most interesting and valuable that had been read before the Society for many a year. And the most valuable portion of it was unquestionably the introduction,* which furnished the key to the understanding of the whole subject. No one but an expert, dealing with his own special branch of study, could have furnished us with so luminous an analysis. Not the least of its merits was its calm unflinching candour in the statement and explanation of undeniable facts over which a cloak of profound silence was usually thrown. And the correctness of the writer's views was as incontestable as his candour. By a wholly fortuitous coincidence, the writer's conclusions as to the pervasive influence of the cult of the Emperor were confirmed by the brilliant monograph of Professor Chamberlain on the same subject which has just been published. From his own observations during many years he (Mr. Hall) had no hesitation in supporting the conclusions arrived at by these two thoroughly competent observers. Not criticism, much less censure, was the object of either of the two writers. The salient features of both essays were exact sociological observation, correct scientific analysis and outspoken regard for truth. No doubt there might be still some Japanese who were sensitive on the topic of the old fables of the Shinto mythology and the erroneous antiquity assigned to what used to pass for history. Indeed, a very popular account of the nation's record, written by a member of the Diet, is entitled "Two Thousand Five Hundred Years of Japanese History." As every serious student of the subject is aware, this is an inflation of chronology to the amount of a thousand years.

What should be the attitude of honest foreign enquirers in view of this retrograde prejudice? Surely their motto should be to speak the truth and fear not. In due time Japanese students themselves would follow in the same path. Seeing that Christian theologians, in the pages of the *Encyclopedia Biblica*, had frankly abandoned as untenable many of the most important dogmas of the old creeds, both Jewish and Christian, was it to be supposed that Japanese savants are incapable of boldly taking a similar course with regard to the supernatural narratives in the sacred books of the old Shinto religion?

Professor Ernest W. Clement called attention to the fact that in actual practice public opinion is steadily increasing in power and influence. The machinery of local government, while unquestionably subject to central authority, has become the means of actually forming a body of intelligent and energetic opinion in the mass of the people, and this opinion, whenever it can be manifested, is not only taken into account, but welcomed and heeded. Moreover, this state of things has been effective in blocking enterprises desired by the authorities. Mr. Clement mentioned a very strong case—that of Gumma Prefecture—in which, when the authorities desired to establish licensed prostitution, the instant and decided force of adverse public opinion prevented such action.

Rev. C. F. Sweet hoped that this lecture would be given to the Society as a Paper and appear word for word in the published transactions.

CLAIM ON SHARE TRANSACTION.

On Tuesday afternoon the hearing took place in the Yokohama District Court of an action brought by Mr. N. Prunn, of the Yokohama Ice Works, against Messrs. Stanton, Schoene, and Hood, No. 51, Yamashita cho, Yokohama, claiming the sum of 1,250.26 yen and the recovery of certain shares deposited in the above firm, valued at 2,700 yen, together with daily interest.

Judge Goto presided, and the plaintiff and defendants were represented by Mr. Someya and Mr. Sato respectively.

In opening the hearing Mr. Someya, counsel for plaintiff, stated that during June and July 1911

* The introduction here referred to has been omitted, but the lecture will appear in full in the Transactions of the Society.

Messrs. Stanton, Schoene, and Hood, in compliance with the request of Mr. Brunn, the plaintiff, bought and sold various shares in the Tokyo Stock Exchange and gained a certain amount of profit, of which 1250.26 yen was due to Mr. Brunn. They refused to hand over this sum and Mr. Brunn had accordingly brought the action, claiming that amount, as well as fifty Ice Works shares deposited in the hands of the defendants as securities, valued at 2,700 yen, together with daily interest.

Mr. Sato, counsel for defendants, entirely denied the above statement.

The judge ordered Mr. Sato to produce the Articles of Agreement of the organization of the firm of Messrs. Stanton, Schoene, and Hood, and the hearing was adjourned until the 1st proximo.

FAREWELL DINNER BY BARON SUFU.

His Excellency Baron Sufu, the former Governor of this prefecture, who has lately been promoted to the post of Privy Councillor, gave a farewell dinner on Thursday evening at his official residence, entertaining the Japanese journalists of Yokohama, who represent the Tokyo and Yokohama papers, both foreign and Japanese.

Baron Sufu, in a short speech thanked the guests for their attendance and remarked that he would always keep the good of the prefecture in mind.

Mr. Makiuchi of the *Yokohama Mainichi Shimbun* replied on behalf of the guests, and offered their congratulations on Baron Sufu's deserved promotion.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MR. JUSTICE SCRUTTON, to a stylish lady giving evidence at the Law Courts: "Speak up, madam. What with your veil, and what with your hat, I can neither hear you nor see you."

THE Khedive of Egypt has visited Sollum and has found that the Bedouins are happy and contented and that the crops are good. The British cruiser *Suffolk* arrived at Sollum on the 7th inst.

THE Argentine Government has authorized the railway companies to obtain substitutes for the men who are on strike, and states that it will enforce strictly the law guaranteeing the freedom of labour.

THE *Cleveland* left for Honolulu on Sunday afternoon. On the previous evening, a grand dinner party was held at the Grand Hotel, when there was a large attendance of Yokohama residents. The excellent band from the *Cleveland* played during dinner.

COLONEL J. E. B. SEELY, Under Secretary of State for War, and Member for the Ilkeston Division of Derbyshire, has taken a referendum of women in his constituency on the suffrage question. Out of 5,600 papers, 1,811 were marked against woman suffrage, and 1,074 in favour, while the rest were left blank.

At a general meeting of the officials of the Mitsubishi Banking Department held on Monday afternoon, the following accounts were adopted:—

Yen	
Net profit for the present term.....	323,773
Brought forward from the previous term...	5,399,921
Total	5,723,694
Transferred to the Head Company	50,000
Carried forward to next term	3,673,694

THE *Nagasaki Press* reports the death of Mrs. Marie Balnes, which took place at her residence, Oura, on the 9th inst. The deceased was born at Shidzuoka and came to Nagasaki from Yokohama fourteen years ago with her husband, who was a baker and contractor and died soon after arriving in the port. For some years past she has suffered from apoplectic attacks and apoplexy was

the cause of death. She leaves a son, who resides in Korea, a daughter who is now in France, and an elder sister with whom she resided. Deceased was sixty-three years of age.

We are courteously informed by the local branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation that it is in receipt of a telegram from the Head Office, Hongkong, announcing that, subject to audit, the Directors will recommend a distribution of the profits for the half year ending 31st December 1911 as follows:—

Payment of a dividend of 40s. per share.
Payment of a bonus to share-holders of 5s. ..
To be carried forward\$1,050,000.

ITCHING FRIGHTFUL HAD NO REST

Night or Day for Two Months. Face and Arms One Mass of Scurfy Skin. Smarted All the Time. She Scratched Until It Bled.

Relief, Sleep and Cure In One Box of Cuticura Ointment.

"My face and arms were one mass of scurfy skin and full of inflammation. They itched so frightfully that I had no rest, night or day, for about two months. The eruption smarted all the time, and I could not rest a minute without scratching until I bled. I tried every treatment I could think of, or was told to get, but with no result. At last I saw Cuticura Ointment advertised so got a box of it. With the first few dressings I found relief and could begin to sleep a little. So I bought another box of Cuticura Ointment, and before I had used all of that I was fully cured. I shall be glad if you will make use of this so that others may learn of the Cuticura Remedies, as what I say is the truth." (Signed) Mrs. E. Haddott, 61, Office Row, Pinxton, nr. Alfreton, Derby., England, Jan. 12, 1910.

Torturing, disfiguring humours on the skin and scalp of infants, children and adults are instantly relieved by Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment.

Sold throughout the world. Depot: London, 27, Charterhouse Sq.; Paris, 10, Rue de la Chaussee d'Antin; Australia, R. Towns & Co., Sydney; India, B. K. Paul, Calcutta; So. Africa, Lemon, Ltd., Cape Town; U.S.A., Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., New York. Send for free 32-page Cuticura book, an authority on the skin and scalp and the best treatment of their diseases.

LAJEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, January 20.
The market for Raw Cotton is quiet. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, a little business has been done, and prices remain firm. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the market is very quiet.

RAW COTTON.	PER PICUL.
American Middling	31.00 to 32.00
Indian Broach	30.00 to 31.00
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	31.00 to 32.00

COTTON YARN.	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.	
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43½-44 in.	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in.	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches	7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38

Cotton Veneers	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.	
30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 1.60
Flannelette	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.	
Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mousseline de Laine, 120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mousseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Flots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—
Cloths—Army Cloth	—
Cloths—All others	—
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs	0.90 to 1.00

Prices on the home side are firm, and the market is dull.

IRON OR MILD STEEL, BAR, FLAT, ROUND AND SQUARE.	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar	4.10 to 4.30
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	4.95 to 5.10
Sheet Iron	6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel	6.50 to 6.70
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.20 to 10.40
Flat	11.20 to 11.30
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.50 to 6.55
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	8.50 to 8.55
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.30

KEROSENE.
The market is not active.

Chester	Y. 3.91
Victory	3.65
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	—
Bokuyetsu	3.05 to 3.60
Hippoon	3.00 to 3.64
Ogura	2.85 to 3.37
Todai	3.30

SUGAR.	
Little business has been done in imported Refined.	
PER PICUL.	
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.90
White Java	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 20.05

INDIGO.
No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	300.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.80

FLOUR.
The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Yen.	
Gold Drop	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	12.15 to 12.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—	
Rising Sun	2.80
Takasago	2.75
Fuji	2.85
Pine	2.80

WHEAT.	
Little business has been done.	
Yen.	
White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	4.95
Red	4.90
Blue Stem	5.00

EXPORTS.
RAW SILK.
The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On January 13th stocks were: Filatures 24,186 bales, Re-reels, 3,001 bales; Kakeda, 673 bales.

Yen.	
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	915
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	860
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	880
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	850

Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 9-12den ...	890
Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 10-12den ...	870
Filature—No. 1-1 1/4, 13-15den ...	—
Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 11-13den ...	855
Filature—No. 1 1/4 Shinyeisha ...	825
Re-reels—Extra ...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 ...	845
Re-reels—No. 1 1/4 ...	830
Re-reels—No. 2 ...	810
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ...	835
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ...	825
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ...	815

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

January.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
12th	yen. 8.51	yen. 8.62	yen. 8.65
13th	8.54	8.64	8.69
14th	—	—	—
15th	8.55	8.65	8.71
16th	8.47	8.64	8.60
17th	8.45	8.54	8.56
18th	8.44	8.53	8.59

Market continues active at unchanged prices.
On January 13th stocks were: Noshi, 16,575 bales; Kibiso, 10,502 bales; Sundries, 988 bales.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best ...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good ...	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium ...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior ...	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ...	100 to 115
Rereel—Fair ...	—
Rereel—Best ...	—
Rereel—Good ...	—
Rereel—Medium ...	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.
Kanazawa:—There has been a general decline in prices for all qualities.
Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"FINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
23 1/2"	7.15	7.95	7.95	7.85
27"	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.60
36"	8.05	7.80	7.75	7.60

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/4 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
23 1/2"	7.85	7.70	7.65
27"	7.65	7.60	7.55
36"	7.55	7.55	7.50

KAWAMATA.

3 ms.	3 1/4 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/4 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.10	7.70	8.60
25"	7.40	8.30	9.50
27"	8.90	10.20	11.10
36"	12.00	13.40	15.30

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of January 18th the quotation was £63 10.

Refined per 100 kin ...	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin ...	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin ...	47.00—50.00
Ore ...	29.50—33.00

RICE.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa ...	bags. 641.974
Foreign rice in Fukagawa ...	109.551
Delivery.	Closing Price.
January	18.52
February	18.49
March	18.70
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
January	18.94
February	18.80
March	18.63

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

Superior	Yen 19.20
Medium	18.20
Common	16.80
Average	18.07

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.

Delivery.	Yen.
January	135.00
February	134.00
March	132.80

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till January 14th, amount to 53,858 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest ...	nominal.
Choice ...	—
Finest ...	—
Fine ...	—
Good Medium ...	—
Medium ...	—
Good Common ...	—
Common ...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Jan. 18.
London silver 1/4 lower but China sterling quotations are unchanged and local rates are continued from yesterday.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2 @ 1/4
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credit 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	262
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	207 1/2 @ 8
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 93 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	91 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	80 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	82 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	25 1/2 @ 1/4
— Nominal.	—

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M.	Manchuria 1	Su. Jan. 21
Hongkong	P. M.	Korea 2	Su. Jan. 21
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Ca da Maru	Su. Jan. 21
Hongkong	B. L.	Suivic	M. Jan. 22
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru 3	Tu. Jan. 23
Europe	N. D. L.	Goeben	Tu. Jan. 23
Europe	M. M.	Sydney	Tu. Jan. 23
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	W. Jan. 24
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan 4	W. Jan. 24
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Jan. 27
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Su. Jan. 28
Vancouver	B. L.	Hercules	Tu. Jan. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. Feb. 13

- 1 Left Honolulu on the 9th inst.
- 2 Left Hongkong on the 12th inst.
- 3 Left Seattle on the 6th inst.
- 4 Left Vancouver on the 11th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M.	Tonkin	Sa. Jan. 20
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamaguchi M.	Su. Jan. 21
Hongkong	P. M.	Manchuria	Su. Jan. 21
America	P. M.	Korea	Tu. Jan. 23
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	Tu. Jan. 23
Seattle	B. L.	Suivic	Tu. Jan. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Jan. 24
Shanghai	P. O.	Oriental	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru	Th. Jan. 25
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	F. Jan. 26
Europe	N. D. L.	Goeben	Sa. Jan. 27
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	M. Jan. 29
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Tu. Jan. 30
Europe	N. Y. K.	Tango Maru	W. Jan. 31
Seattle	B. L.	Hercules	W. Jan. 31
Australia	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Feb. 3
Tacoma	B. & S.	Protesilaus	Sa. Feb. 3
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Su. Feb. 4
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Feb. 16

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Antiochus, British steamer, 5,796, A. R. Stewart, 12th Jan.—Vancouver, Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Muto, 12th Jan.—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)
Persia, British steamer, 2,744, A. Lockett, 13th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,825, C. H. Butler, 13th Jan.—Antwerp and London via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kumeric, British steamer, 4,006, McGill, 14th Jan.—Vancouver, Portland and Seattle, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Pukling, British steamer, 2,875, Bie, 14th Jan.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 15th Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,803, K. Noda, 15th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tango Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,627, K. Kawara, 15th Jan.—Antwerp and London via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Nyansa, British steamer, 4,179, H. N. Rivers, 16th Jan.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, R. Swain, 16th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kjeld, Norwegian steamer, 910, J. Helesoe, 17th Jan.—Shanghai, Ballast.—Thomas & Co.
Mexican Prince, British steamer, 1,953, J. C. Young, 17th Jan.—Singapore, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Hanley, British steamer, 2,111, T. H. Masters, 17th Jan.—Tacoma via Dutch Harbour, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Prinz Waldemar, German steamer, 1,737, F. Iske, 17th Jan.—Melbourne, Sydney, Manila and ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.
Canlon, Swedish steamer, 2,226, J. M. Renstrom, 18th Jan.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Lucifer, British steamer, 4,100, J. Mathie, 12th Jan.—Hongkong and Manila via ports, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Budelov, German steamer, 5,223, H. Formes, 13th Jan.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.
Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Muto, 13th Jan.—Manila and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)
Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Iriawa, 13th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Antiochus, British steamer, 5,796, A. R. Stewart, 13th Jan.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Tuscarora, British steamer, 3,925, F. S. Hollin, 14th Jan.—Murooran, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.
Cleveland, German steamer, 10,307, Dempwolf, 14th Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Round the World Tourists.—C. Illies & Co.
Kotai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, K. Soyeda, 14th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Pukling, British steamer, 2,875, Bie, 16th Jan.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Persia, American steamer, 2,744, A. Lockett, 16th Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 16th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
Kumeric, British steamer, 4,006, McGill, 16th Jan.—Hongkong and Manila via ports, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,803, K. Noda, 17th Jan.—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Huano Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,282, H. Frazar, 16th Jan.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, R. Swain, 18th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hensley, British steamer, 2,111, T. H. Masters, 18th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Prins Waldemar, German steamer, 1,737, F. Iseke, 18th Jan.,—Sydney, Melbourne via Hongkong and Manila, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.
Saichu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 18th Jan.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tategami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,574, T. Hori, 18th Jan.,—Otrru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. M. Sato in cabin; 18 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Awa Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. Oshima, Mr. K. Shuto in cabin; Mr. K. Moriyama and Mr. U. Yamazaki in second class; 21 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe:—1 Chinese and 62 Japanese and 2 Russian in steerage. For Moji:—2 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong:—4 Chinese and 3 Philippines in steerage.

Per British steamer *Persia* from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. H. Ellsworth, Mrs. M. Beaumont, Geo. Betts Brown and A. H. Kruss. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. John W. Weaver, Miss A. H. Carter, Mr. C. H. Logue, Mr. G. L. Youmans, Mrs. E. R. Marriott, Master A. Marriott, Mrs. E. Thompson, Miss S. P. Adams, Mr. Hung Pin Man, Lee Sing On, Mrs. Leong Shee, Mrs. Chan Quong, Mr. C. Clowe, Mr. and Mrs. E. Flood Stewart, Mr. Lillian Stewart, Miss Ida Walen, Miss M. Harsted, Mr. D. McKenzie, Mr. H. A. Sibley, Mr. Norman Sibley, Miss Olive Sibley, Mr. Paul Sibley, Dr. R. M. Stephenson, Mr. Aileen Stephenson, Miss N. E. Zirkle, Mr. R. V. A. Mills, Miss L. Taylor, Mr. Frank P. Beal, Mr. Dudley Tyng, Mrs. Ren Yin Mei, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. O'Brien, Miss E. L. Lundy and Mr. J. P. Doughten. For Honolulu:—Mr. Ching Quan Ampon, Mrs. Yuen Shee, Mr. Ching Hau Moi, Mr. F. R. Vda, Mr. Sbae Po-sai and Mr. and Mrs. M. Farrell in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamka Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. V. St. Clair in cabin; Mr. J. Iwami in second class; 1 Japanese in steerage. For Seattle:—Mr. and Mrs. S. Tamura in cabin; Mrs. F. Okamoto and Mr. Y. Ogata in second class; 5 Chinese and 27 Japanese in steerage. For Victoria:—14 Chinese and 2 Japanese in steerage.

Per American steamer *China* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. Charlie Chu, Mr. W. E. Grow,

Mr. R. Ichida, Mrs. C. R. Kear, Mr. J. M. Douglas, Mr. M. V. Merchant, Mr. T. C. Lu, Mr. C. M. Morrison, Mr. O. Nakamura, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Ogawa and infant and Mr. M. Osaki. For Kobe:—Mrs. P. Auge and Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Wm. Vaness. For Shanghai:—Mr. R. Bassett, Mr. M. R. Kway, Mr. Wm. W. Pipkin, Mrs. E. A. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Woodward, Miss Mary Woodward and Mrs. W. A. Young Jr. For Hongkong:—Miss E. Allan, Mr. A. Barnes, Mr. T. S. Baldwin, Mrs. V. Bulyeu, Mr. G. H. Brock, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. W. H. Baugh, Miss M. Broz, Mrs. M. E. Cleland, Master M. Cleland, Master V. Cleland, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Cohn, Miss A. D. Cole, Mr. W. Cookson, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Eberly and servant, Miss Claria Eberly, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Fox, Mr. C. R. Gardner, Miss B. M. Gertch, Mr. Gin Chen Ning, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Herrier, Mr. J. Gool, Mr. L. A. Gleyre, Mr. H. Gyzeman, Mr. Lee Hammond, Mrs. L. Hermann, Mrs. M. Hoxsey, Mr. H. L. Lawler, Miss M. S. Ledbetter, Mr. S. P. Mays, Mr. C. G. Markey, Mrs. F. W. Maage, Mr. V. Maroni, Mr. H. Nichols, Mr. J. G. Owen, Miss M. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. D. Plath, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Reburn, Miss M. Ruiz, Mrs. F. Stockman and Mr. Wing Yee Lee in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Tango Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. N. Meredith, Capt. and Mrs. R. Voruz and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hotta, Mr. S. Fernihough, Mrs. H. Kitamura and 2 children, Mrs. T. Takatsuji, Mrs. D. Stewart and 2 children, Mr. G. Nakatsumi, Mrs. Y. Yoshida and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. A. Harker in cabin; Miss I. Forbes, Miss M. MacDonnell, Miss K. Parker, Mrs. M. Kinnes and child, Mr. J. Pereira and Mr. Hasmamal in second class; 3 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kaiga Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. M. Kishimoto, Mrs. Clerk and 2 infants, Miss Bouring, Miss A. T. Carr and Dr. Norris in cabin; 1 Chinese in second class; 8 Japanese and 7 Chinese in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Simbirsk* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Walter Knipping, Mr. Adolf Serno, Mr. Elisabeth Serno, Mr. Paul Becker, Mr. Olaf Nilsen, Mr. Adolf Engler, Mr. Hermann Kunz, Mr. T. Mizutani, Mr. Y. Kimp, Mr. Y. Saito, Mr. M. Hasegawa, Mr. Ichann Muller and Mr. M. Hiwatashi in cabin; Mr. J. Kihara in second class.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Nore* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—Mrs. Halahan, child and nurse.

Per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai:—Rev L. B. Cholomondeley, Miss Tennessey and Mr. H. T. Richardson in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer *Nore* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—

	Waste Silk.	
	Marseilles, Genoa, Trieste	
Siber, Hegner & Co	68	17
Bavier & Co	95	—
C. Eymard	71	40
Total	234	40 17

Silk per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai:—

	RAW.	WASTE.	
	London	Marseilles	Trieste
Pilas & Co.	19	20	—
Samuel Samuel & Co.	13	—	—
Salzer Rudolph & Co.	32	—	17 13
Hara Yushutanten.	20	60	—
Sieber Hegner & Co.	15 11	—	34
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Company Ltd.	55	—	82
Bavier & Co.	—	20	109
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	35
Jardine Matheson & Co.	—	—	27
Total	15 32 35	20 80	27 233 4

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明治廿五年三月廿七日
第三千四百四十四號

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JAN. 27TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Spanish Cabinet has decided to resume office.

THE death is announced of Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice.

COLONEL TAKAYAMA of the General Staff Office has been ordered to proceed to Peking.

THE Crown Prince of Saxony will not visit Ceylon as intended, but will make a tour in Egypt.

RECRUITING for the Commonwealth Navy is progressing steadily, and the authorities are highly satisfied.

A BRONZE bust of the late Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, erected by Parliament in Westminster Abbey, has been unveiled without any

ceremony. It is placed in a niche in the nave by the side of the monument to the late Lord Salisbury.

THE death is announced of Lord Reilby Lawley, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., P.C., third Baron Wenlock.

M. PAUL VEDRINES has made a flight in an aeroplane at the rate of eighty eight and a quarter miles per hour.

THE Army Council entertained the Board of Admiralty at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London on the 14th inst.

INTENSE cold is reported from central Europe and several persons have been frozen to death in the vicinity of Vienna.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, First Lord of the Admiralty, has given up his official residence for the use of the Naval War Staff.

THE death is announced at Kamakura, early on Wednesday morning, of Baron Isahaya Iyetaka, a member of the House of Peers.

THE Mitsui and Iwasaki families have each contributed a sum of 5,000 yen towards the relief fund for the sufferers from the recent fire in Osaka.

MR. KOIKE CHOZO, Consul-General in London, has been appointed Councillor of the Embassy there, to succeed Mr. Yamaza, who is returning to Japan.

THE British Admiralty has agreed to await the result of the ballot of the Thames Ironworks' employees on January 23, before placing the orders for cruisers.

THE appointment of Mr. Uchida, Minister in Brazil, as the successor of Mr. Sugimura in Sweden, was officially announced on Tuesday's Official Gazette.

THE Argentine railway strike continues although the period of grace has expired. Troops are guarding the line. Drivers and firemen are being engaged in England.

CAPTAIN OKUMURA TAKUJI, Aide-de-camp to His Majesty, has been ordered to proceed to Chosen to inspect the condition of the forces stationed in the Peninsula.

A PRUSSIAN syndicate has taken up the Imperial loan of £4,000,000 and the Prussian State loan of £21,000,000, both bearing interest at four per cent, and offered for subscription on January 29th at a price of 101.40.

A CEREMONY in connection with the completion of the construction of the Bank of Chosen at Seoul was held on the 20th instant. The building, which covers 882 *tsubo*, is the most magnificent of its kind in the Peninsula.

ON Monday morning a number of workmen were engaged in intrenching work near Tobigahana in the compound of the Yokosuka Naval Arsenal, when a large mass of earth suddenly fell over them. Two men were seriously injured and are in a critical condition.

MR. ICHIMATSU, Public Procurator of the Yokohama District Court, proceeded on Friday afternoon last to the house of Mr. Aoki Kikutaro, a steel and iron merchant at Sumiyoshi-cho of this city, and made a domiciliary search. Afterwards Mr. Aoki was arrested and sent to Negishi Prison. It is alleged that the arrest is in connection with a

theft of coke owned by Mr. Uchida Ikusuke of Tokyo. Two coal merchants in Yokohama and a *banto* of a foreign firm were also taken into custody.

THE wedding of Miss Soejima, daughter of Count Soejima, and Mr. Sufu Kanemichi, son of Baron Sufu, took place on Wednesday morning at the Daijingu Shrine, Isejima, Yokohama.

A SERIOUS snowslide took place on the 17th instant at Massadomari, Sutsu-gun, Hokkaido. Several houses in the village were destroyed, in one of which six inmates were crushed to death.

THE R. Majesties the Emperor and Empress have been pleased to grant the sum of 7,000 yen to relieve the sufferers from the recent fire in Osaka. Chamberlain Hineno has been dispatched to the scene of the disaster.

A GOLD mine at Kushikino, Kagoshima prefecture, which belongs to the Mitsui Mining Company, has, upon prospecting, been deemed to be promising, and it is reported that arrangements for starting mining will be completed by the end of this year.

PROFESSORS MOTOORI, Mishima and Mita, lecturers to H.I.H. the Crown Prince, repaired on Sunday morning last to the Imperial villa at Hayama, and delivered lectures on the Japanese, Chinese, and English classics in the presence of Their Highnesses, the Crown Prince and Princess.

THE minerals mined in the Hokkaido last year amounted to 55,000 *momme* of gold, 743,000 *momme* of silver, 1,380,000 *kin* of copper, 1,310,000 tons of coal, and 43,150,000 *kin* of sulphur, showing some decrease in gold, silver, and sulphur as compared with the preceding year.

A FAIRLY wealthy man, by the name of Toyama Tsurukichi, living at Shitaya, Tokyo, was arrested a few days ago on the charge of counterfeiting five yen notes. It is alleged that when the public procurator searched the house, a number of these counterfeit notes were discovered in various parts of the house.

TWO men named Kobayashi Eitao and Hirano Genzo of Yokohama and two *senbo*, were arrested on the 17th instant by the Harbour Police. It is alleged that they have since October last, stolen large quantities of sugar, rice, bean-cake, and other commodities from various vessels lying in the port, valued in all at over 10,000 yen.

A LITTLE before 3 p.m. on Wednesday an explosion of gunpowder took place at a powder-mill at Iwahana, Gumma prefecture, which belongs to the Tokyo Military Arsenal. Three workshops in the mill were shattered to pieces by the explosion, while 46 other buildings were partially destroyed. Six workmen were killed and six others sustained serious injuries. The explosion, it is stated, appears to have been due to the friction of guncotton with some other ingredients.

THE death from heart disease is announced of Rear-Admiral Wilde, of the U.S. Navy. George Faxon Wilde was born in 1843, graduated at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1864, became lieutenant 1868, commander 1885, captain 1898, and rear-admiral 1904. He retired in 1905. The deceased officer had a distinguished career, serving in the war between Northern and Southern China, and the Cuban insurrection. He captured Ilo Ilo in 1890, and Vigan in 1900, receiving the thanks of the Spanish Government for rescuing 190 Spanish officers and families at Vigan.

THE SITUATION IN PEKING.

Saturday, January 20.

It is not to be supposed that while momentous incidents are occurring in the Chinese capital there is no accompaniment of disturbance on the part of the Manchu partisans. Thus, one telegram says that the advocates of preserving the Manchu Dynasty are showing a very stalwart demeanour. A deputation of them repaired to Prince Ching's *yamen* and declared that, so long as the fate of the Dynasty was in abeyance, they would decline to retire from the *yamen*. They moreover compiled a manifesto calling upon all loyal subjects to rally for the defence of the Throne and thousands of copies of this circular were scattered broadcast. These things happened on the 18th instant, but they do not appear to have produced any tangible results, since the abdication of the Throne was virtually decided at the council on the following day. But the fact is that, as might have been expected, telegrams of the most contradictory character are being published. One cablegram alleges that this pro-Manchu demonstration assumed such a formidable character that the council on the 19th broke up without coming to any decision. Prince Ching, with whom Yuan Shih-kai seems to be working hand in hand, evidently appreciates that every day's delay at this juncture tends to complicate the situation.

Sunday, January 21.

When the results of the Palace council on the 19th instant became known, Peking was thrown into a state of great anxiety. The partisans of a republic found themselves in a dangerous position, and the advocates of constitutional monarchy were proportionately emboldened. It was evidently felt that a crisis might be precipitated at any moment, and the foreign residents, or at any rate, a portion of them, were sufficiently alarmed to take refuge within the precincts of the Legations or to retire to Tientsin.

It is said to have been ascertained that Prince Yu-lang was the instigator of the attempt upon the life of Yuan, whom his Highness regards as a traitor to his country. Since the bomb-throwing incident, the Prince has remained closely shut up in his *yamen* and is regarded as one of the principal leaders of the anti-republican crusade.

As for Yuan, very contradictory accounts are published with regard to his doings. He is said to have recognized that his policy had received a distinct set-back, but while some represent him as determined to resign, other allege that he has gone secretly to Tientsin to confer telegraphically with the insurgent leaders, and some go so far as to say that he is now *en route* for Houan, where he will go into permanent retirement. We entertain no doubt that these stories are, for the most part, apocryphal. Such a world-shaking event as the establishment of a republican form of government in China cannot possibly be consummated without much commotion and excitement.

Telegrams received by the *Chuo Shimbun* from Peking represent the Chinese metropolis as being in a state of great excitement. Prince Ching and Premier Yuan have become objects of execration among the Manchus, and three of the Mongolian Princes are said to have announced their intention of exposing the heads of the Prince and the Premier over the city gates. Ching and Yuan are therefore strongly guarded.

Meanwhile General Chiang Kwei-ti, speaking on his own account and that of his troops, is reported to have announced the re-opening of the campaign against the Insurgents. This is the officer who is noted for anti-foreign feeling, and who was recently despatched at the head of a corps of veteran soldiers to the provinces of Shansi and Shensi. His latest utterance, if truly reported, carries much consequence.

It is also stated that the Imperial Guards have declared their determination to fight for the monarchy, and that a similar declaration has been made by General Feng Kwong-chang, conqueror of Hanyang.

Nevertheless we must repeat our conviction that this commotion, whatever be its real dimensions, will not permanently affect the situation. Things have moved too far in the direction of a republic to permit any practical change of programme now. We entirely agree with the *Jiji Shimpō* that what is happening to-day in Peking might well have happened a month ago. The overthrow of a Dynasty which for nearly three centuries has ruled over the biggest Empire in the world, is an event not to be contemplated without the greatest concern, and the wonder is, not that a commotion has broken out at the eleventh hour, but that it did not break out long ago on a much larger scale. So far as the Court is concerned, it has to choose now between the dubious chances of a sanguinary appeal to the sword, on the one hand, and on the other, a safe and opulent retirement. The decision will doubtless be in favour of the latter course.

Monday, January 22.

Naturally it is impossible to make any conclusive statement about the situation in China at the present moment. The sequel of the rupture between the Cabinet and the Imperial Princes in Peking remains to be seen. The broad facts appear to be that Yuan's peaceful policy has suffered defeat, temporarily, at all events. The Imperial Princes are talking vehemently of an immediate appeal to arms and of driving Yuan and his followers from the capital, but the indications do not suggest that such a course will be rapidly adopted, if indeed it be adopted at all. An important figure upon the scene is the Tartar General Tieh-ling with whom the recalcitrant Princes appear to be taking council. Meanwhile Yuan seems to place his reliance upon foreign intervention. He sees plainly enough that the situation must soon become quite intolerable for foreign merchants, and that the Powers will not sit with folded hands while this protracted drama is being acted.

There was another Cabinet meeting on the 20th instant, but several of the Princes absented themselves, and those that attended did not seem prepared to formulate any decision. Thus the meeting broke up ineffectually.

It is not to be assumed, however, that Yuan's policy has met with a conclusive defeat. On the contrary, the Princes from whom opposition comes chiefly are not the most influential. The latter are headed by the ex-Regent Prince Chun and by the veteran Prince Ching. The telegraph says that these two Princes repaired to the Palace on the 21st instant with the object of seeking Imperial sanction for the programme of organizing a mixed Cabinet to officiate pending the decision of an extraordinary National Assembly. The present

impression in Peking is that these influential Princes will carry the day, and that the recalcitrant section will be obliged to bow its head.

Those that have followed the course of events closely must perceive that the attitude now assigned to Princes Ching and Chun is different from the attitude attributed to them by the report of the proceedings in the Palace council on the 19th instant. Probably the contradiction is due to misconceptions on the part of newspaper correspondents. The facts seem to be that the ex-Regent and Prince Ching are acting in unison with Yuan Shih-kai, and that they have formulated a schedule of terms as the basis of an agreement between the north and the south. Those terms are, first, that the reigning Emperor, even after his abdication, shall retain the title of Sovereign of Great China; secondly, that the Government shall accept the responsibility of conserving the Imperial mausolea; thirdly, that the Government shall further undertake to construct the mausoleum of the late Emperor Kwanghau; fourthly, that the allowance to the retired Sovereign shall be five million *taels* annually, according to Prince Ching, and one million according to Yuan Shih-kai,—this difference remains to be adjusted; and fifthly, that the Emperor shall be allowed to remain quietly in Peking for some time after his abdication, retiring ultimately to Jehol, at his leisure. In short, these three statesmen have evidently drawn up a programme whose observance will entail a minimum loss of prestige for the Imperial Family.

The above are Peking's proposals, but of course they will not be accepted in their entirety by the Insurgents. As to the title of the Sovereign after abdication, Tang Shao-i, who is evidently still acting as Yuan's mouth-piece, is said to have communicated Peking's wishes to the Nanking Government, but the latter has declined to entertain the proposal, and has declared its unwillingness to agree to any title higher than that of "Retired Sovereign." With regard to the important question of the sum to be allowed for the maintenance fund, the Cabinet at Nanking is said to have agreed upon four million *taels* annually, and further to have promised that the Banner Troops in Mongolia and Manchuria shall remain in undisturbed possession of all their privileges. These concessions with regard to allowances and privileges are expected to have a very mollifying effect on Peking. The question of the seat of Government may cause considerable discussion. The Insurgents adhere obstinately to Nanking and the Imperialists are all in favour of Peking. We are unable to state the reasons of this attitude on the part of the Insurgents. It is possible, of course, that they have pledged themselves in some way or other *vis à vis* the inhabitants of Nanking, but when we consider the immense interests involved in such a change of capital, and the absence of any sufficient warrant, we are compelled to sympathise with the Imperialists.

It will be perceived that the crucial point in the situation is the attitude of the Mongolian and Manchurian Princes. Some onlookers seem disposed to conclude that these Princes, who must be fully sensible of their own ultimate impotence, have obtained some outside assurances on the strength of which they have assumed their present stalwart attitude. But no publicist under-

takes to put this vague suspicion into explicit terms.

Yuan Shih-kai's resignation is perpetually *in evidence*. It appears to be thought that his retirement will be catastrophic, and indeed he himself seems to think so.

One telegram received in Tokyo says that with reference to the establishment of a mixed Cabinet in Tientsin, twenty-two railway cars are held in readiness to transport Yuan and his staff to that place, and suitable buildings have been chosen there. But it will be observed that the question of establishing the Cabinet at Tientsin remains undecided.

As to Yuan's candidature for the Presidency of the Republic, the latest intelligence is that the insurgent leaders insist that the President must be chosen by a vote of the extraordinary National Assembly, and that the question must remain open until that vote can be taken. It will occur to most people, however, that if such objections have any validity in excluding Yuan from the Presidency, they must have equal validity in the case of Sun Yat-sen.

Meanwhile Yuan is said to be guarded by no less than 3,500 men. The avenues to his *yamen* are crowded with troops.

One feature of the situation is that, on the morning of the 21st instant, several of the Princes applied for and obtained leave of absence for several days, which means of course that things must remain unsettled during that interval.

Tuesday, January 23.

There is still nothing definite to report. A section of the Mongolian Princes, abetted by certain military men of note, are maintaining a strong attitude and asserting that abdication must not take place. They are said to have made arrangements to prevent the withdrawal of Yuan from the capital, their intention being to hold him prisoner until he agrees to endorse their policy. Another report has it, however, that the Empress Dowager has agreed to an arrangement under which the Sovereign would receive the title of King, without, however, discharging any administrative duties, and an allowance of 1 1/2 million *taels* would be guaranteed for the maintenance of the Court. Her Majesty stipulates, however, that before force is given to this arrangement it must be reduced to the form of a solemn covenant, and here we are again confronted by the difficulty that no person, or group of persons, has any valid authority to negotiate with the Court in this matter. The idea is that the Court should retire to the Summer Palace temporarily, until the necessary agreement has received the approval of the Provisional Government. The Provisional Government would have to be organized by Premier Yuan and President Sun acting in cooperation, and the trouble is that they have not yet found a basis on which both are disposed to stand, while, at the same time, there is no guarantee as to what course will be taken by the National Assembly, with which, after all, the ultimate decision must rest.

It appears that Prince Ching and Prince Pu-lun have applied for and obtained leave of absence for five days and ten days, respectively. These Princes are the chief advocates of abdication, and their temporary withdrawal from the scene leaves the situation in the hands of the monarchical party. Thus, a Palace council, held on the 22nd instant, adopted several resolutions of an Imperial character. The Mongolian Princes and

some of their colleagues in Peking had a clear field to ventilate their views, and they made good use of the occasion. Several facts are said to have been elicited showing that the Throne had been misled up to the present time, and it was decided to call upon Yuan Shih-kai for an explanation. Yuan, however, is still pleading sickness and is absenting himself from these councils. The work and worry of the last few weeks may well have told upon his health, but the hypothesis in Peking is that his illness is political. Yuan is said to have tendered his resignation again and the Minister of Home Affairs has adopted the same course.

On the whole, the vacillation and delay that are taking place seem to warrant the inference that victory will ultimately rest with the advocates of a republican polity. The Imperialists are doing everything in their power to make capital out of the Empire's foreign politics. They point out that Mongolia owes allegiance to the Manchu Sovereigns only, and that if the latter are dethroned, the Sovereignty of Mongolia will necessarily revert to its own people. The ultimate outcome then must be a repetition of the Korean drama. Mongolia will be taken under the protection of Russia and will ultimately be annexed as Chosen has been. In that event, Japan will certainly take steps to consolidate her position in Manchuria, and England will follow suit in Tibet. Thus, it may be conclusively stated that the fate of these three great regions, Mongolia, Manchuria and Tibet, depends upon the continuance or the cessation of Manchu overlordship, and the advocates of imperialism are naturally making much out of this obvious contingency. They are said to have decided not to attend any further conferences in the Palace, but to take steps for removing the Manchu Dynasty to Mongolia, and elevating the latter region to the position of an independent monarchy under the rule of the Manchu potentates. To that end they are now shaping their course. Such a result might mean that China would have on her flank a constant enemy, and war between Mongolia and the Middle Kingdom would be a not impossible outcome.

One rumour has it that the foreign Powers have thrown their influence into the scale of Yuan's policy, which they consider likely to result in a peaceful settlement. Strengthened by this cooperation, Yuan is said to be bringing pressure to bear on the Imperial Court, and he promised Nanking that the formal abdication of the Sovereign should take place on the 22nd. That day, however, has come and gone without any such incident. We do not attach much credence to a report which comes by Chingwan-tao that the Empress Dowager and the boy-Emperor have fled from Peking in disguise, and are now *en route* for Jehol. Shanghai distributes this intelligence but does not endorse it.

An advantage conferred by the stalwart attitude of the Mongolian Princes is that one wavering flag has had to be pulled down. We no longer hear doubts expressed about Yuan's political convictions. He is definitely ranged on the side of republicanism.

It need scarcely be said that all kinds of more or less incredible reports are in circulation. Our rumour has it that Yuan's followers aim at placing him on the Throne. Another alleges that Prince Ching and Prince Chun have advised him to withdraw

at once to Tientsin and to establish there a provisional Government. We are prepared to find that most of those wild rumours emanate from the Yangtze Valley.

Wednesday, January 24.

The situation in Peking seems to be more complicated than ever. At a meeting in the Palace on the 22nd instant the Imperial Princes and their Mongolian confrères assumed a very resolute demeanour. Prince Kung specially distinguished himself. There has been talk once or twice of instability in this Princes' moral equilibrium, but certainly no trace of anything of the kind could be detected in the speech delivered by him at the council on the 22nd instant. He spoke not only with resolution but also with dignity. He set out by emphatically declaring that in no circumstances should the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty be endorsed. He himself was ready to shed the last drop of his blood in support of the Throne. The situation had been presented to the Court in a most pessimistic light by the Prime Minister, but he, Prince Kung, contended that the representations made to the Empress Dowager by Yuan in the sense that a hopeless position has been reached, and that not more than 10,000 of the troops could be trusted to fight for the Imperial cause, were quite misleading. Doubtless Yuan would threaten to tender his resignation if the idea of abdication were abandoned. In that event his resignation must be accepted. The Princes and every one interested in the Dynasty should stand together at this crisis and defend the Imperial Family with the fullest resolution. The speaker took the occasion to severely condemn Yuan for consenting to negotiate with Wu Ting-fang. Mr. Wu was once in the employment of the Peking Government, and it was contrary to all etiquette that he should be set up as a plenipotentiary *vis-à-vis* that Government.

This speech cannot have failed to produce a considerable effect. At all events no dissenting voice seems to have been raised to the resolution adopted by the council, namely, that the Monarchy must be defended at all hazards. As for the Empress Dowager, she is said to have appreciated for the first time the deception practised upon her by Yuan.

An idea now prevails in Peking that Yuan is playing fast and loose. He refrains from any irrevocable pronouncement, and seeks to contrive that all the responsibility shall rest on other shoulders. He is believed to be rather pleased than chagrined at Prince Kung's utterances in the council on the 22nd instant, since the delivery of such a speech and its endorsement by the council may be utilized either as a plea for monarchical institutions or as an excuse for recourse to the sword. Nevertheless, there can be no question that the power of the State is still in Yuan's hands. The pendulum will swing in whatever direction he impels it. But the trouble is that he carefully hides his purpose, and until full provision is made for his safety by agreement between the northern and southern disputants, he is expected to remain silent. It is very observable that all these analyses go to discredit Yuan, and that no voice is raised in his defence. From that fact alone it is possible to judge that he has not succeeded in inspiring the public with confidence in his own sincerity.

In such circumstances rumour has an open field and is utilizing the opportunity. Tele-

grams of the most contradictory nature are emanating from Peking. Thus, the public is informed at one moment that the organization of a republic has been agreed upon; that Sun has resigned the Presidency in favour of Yuan, and that the abdication of the Throne will be effected without any commotion, preparatory to the establishment of a temporary government in either the metropolis or Tientsin. On the other hand, some news-mongers are declaring with equal assurance that the Manchus are determined to fight to the death, that they have a powerful army at their command, and that Yuan's time-serving devices no longer receive any credit.

There is on the tapis one proposal which, while protecting the Court against any indignity, provides a practical exit from the dilemma. It is that the Throne should delegate a part of its power to a mixed Ministry under the Premiership of Yuan Shih-kai, the Sovereign himself remaining nominally Emperor. Such a Ministry would sit in Peking or Tientsin, and would administer affairs of State during the interval that must elapse before the decision of a National Assembly can be taken. All the arrangements could then be made without any undue haste, and there would be no embarrassing interregnum nor any loss of prestige by either side. That is practically the course that has been advocated more than once in these columns. It is essential that some legitimate repository of administrative power should remain in existence, until the will of the nation can be pronounced by a parliament; and it is difficult to see how that can be effected unless the Throne be preserved in the exercise of its Imperial prerogatives. Yuan Shih-kai is represented by the *Asahi's* correspondent as being in favour of some such arrangement. But his Excellency is said to doubt whether the foreign Powers could be induced to assent. Another difficulty not mentioned by this correspondent but nevertheless forcing itself upon attention, is that the Insurgents might not be disposed to credit the *bona fides* of the Imperialists sufficiently to render the above programme practically possible. The Insurgents would have to choose between remaining in armed occupation of the field pending reference to a National Assembly, or laying down their arms and trusting implicitly to the honesty of the Imperialists. It may be doubted whether the former course is within the competence of the Insurgents, and whether the latter could secure their assent. In short, from whatever point the situation is regarded, great difficulties present themselves and we can well appreciate the perplexity of those upon whom the duty of finding a *modus vivendi* devolves.

The *Chuo Shimbun* has an interesting telegram with reference to a council said to have been held in the Palace on the 23rd instant. Yuan himself was not present either on the 22nd or the 23rd, but at the latter meeting he was represented by Mr. Chao, Minister of the Interior. This council is said to have been inclined in the direction of abdication, but the telegram does not make it clear whether any of the Imperial Princes present on the occasion, raised their voices in favour of maintaining the Monarchy.

Another telegram published by the same journal represents Yuan as having lost his confidence since he received news that private Japanese banks are disposed to

assist the Insurgents, and since the adoption of a stalwart attitude by the Imperial Princes. It must be confessed that throughout this complication the sympathy of Japanese publicists has not been with Yuan, nor has Yuan shown himself particularly anxious to placate this country. Whether these two facts stand to each other in the relation of cause and effect, we are not able to determine, but Yuan's latest utterance as quoted above shows that he would readily place the blame upon Japan's shoulders.

Thursday, January 25.

It will be remembered that when Yuan agreed to emerge from his retirement and assume administrative charge in Peking, the delay which occurred in giving effect to that programme was generally interpreted as showing that he was engaged in negotiations with the Insurgents, and that not until he had secretly arranged a programme culminating in a republic, did he finally proceed to Peking. This analysis is now said to have been confirmed by facts, and the consequences are fatal to public confidence in Yuan. There is talk of his attempting to escape to Tientsin, and there is also talk of his performing a *volte face*, and once more placing himself at the head of the monarchical party. This may be mere idle conjecture and indeed few people can seriously believe that Yuan would attempt a radical change of policy at this eleventh hour. But the fact that such rumours are circulated does not encourage belief in his sincerity. Even his friends are said to be clamouring for an open and definite statement of his position. England and Japan are alleged to be the recipients of various offers from Yuan, but neither Power is disposed to place any reliance on his sincerity, and the same is said to be true of all the foreign Representatives in Peking.

The fact is that we find ourselves today quite unable to follow the various ramifications of the situation with any confidence. The only point which emerges clearly is that Yuan seems to have forfeited the trust of all parties, and a feeling is beginning to be entertained that the situation will end in a renewal of hostilities. The monarchical group have certainly gained in power during the past few days. Their leaders do not claim ability to completely crush the Insurgents, but they assert with assurance that at the worst the outcome of fighting would be a drawn battle, leading in all probability to a partition of the country into north and south. Tokyo journals abound in telegrams defining or conjecturing the attitude of this person or that, and estimating the strength of the forces that would be marshalled on each side respectively. But whatever may be said or suggested it remains tolerably certain that the last word is with Yuan.

Prince Kung, of whom we spoke in our last issue as having placed himself virtually at the head of the Monarchists, has memorialized the Throne impeaching Yuan Shih-kai, and declaring that he is an exact counterpart of the notorious Wang Mang of the early Han Dynasty. The indictment is said to be couched in powerful language, and the accuracy of the parallel drawn has had a striking effect. It would appear that this Prince Kung has a character very different from that previously assigned to him.

We should merely bewilder our readers

by quoting the various views wired from Peking by correspondents of Tokyo journals. Nothing could possibly be vaguer or more contradictory. Thus in one journal we find it positively stated that the draft of a decree of abdication is actually sketched, and in another we are told that the Court has decided to make a final appeal to arms. Then again Yuan is represented as having re-espoused the Manchu cause, while at the same time he is rumoured as organizing a force to cover his own flight to Tientsin.

The great danger evidently is that the tension of all this uncertainty and procrastination may prove too strong for the preservation of peace. It is certainly the most perplexing situation that has ever arisen in the East.

The most ignoble estimate of motives is wired by the correspondent of the *Chuo Shimbun*. He avers that it is all a question of money; first, how much the Insurgent leaders will promise to allow the Court for purposes of maintenance; secondly, what guarantees will be given for the permanence of that payment; and thirdly, how the amount will be apportioned among the various claimants. This correspondent alleges that the Insurgent leaders have raised their offer from one million *taels* annually to three millions and that the Empress Dowager is said to be willing to accept that sum, but that her Majesty's most trusted advisers are urging her to hold out for a larger amount. Great importance also attaches to the validity of the Insurgents' promise. It is all very well to issue State bonds for the delivery of certain moneys at certain dates, but nothing can be easier for the issuer of such bonds than to repudiate them at any moment. The Imperialists will therefore insist that the bonds shall be secured by the intervention of foreign Powers.

JAPAN'S VIEW.

The estimate which the Japanese are forming with respect to the Chinese disposition is not very flattering. All minor considerations sink into insignificance when compared with the broad fact that not a single able man has emerged from the ruck of Peking statesmen or soldiers to defend the Dynasty whose favours and benefactions they have so long received. Absolutely not one man is found willing to stake his life and fortune in his country's cause. It is asked in Tokyo whether such a thing as Chinese patriotism really exists. Evidently the answer to this question is in the negative, and the conclusion arrived at from the evidence is that the Chinaman lacks the qualifications of greatness, and that his ideas do not extend beyond his *soroban*.

We do not think that the world will endorse the above analysis. On the contrary, we are inclined to think that the *Nippon*, which heads this anti-Chinese appreciation, loses sight of the admirable fact that whatever may be the patriotic qualities of the Chinese nation, they are ahead of other nations in formulating and respecting the admirable doctrine that to fight is the act of fools. Reason is what a Chinaman relies on, and he will not draw the sword unless he is convinced that the evils of keeping it sheathed palpably outweigh the advantages of appealing to it.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

Saturday, January 20.

Prince Yamagata's return to Tokyo from his country villa led to a visit from Prince Katsura and Marquis Inouye, and the three eminent statesmen invited the attendance of Viscount Uchida, as they were naturally anxious to have the fullest and the latest intelligence about the state of affairs in China. Viscount Uchida was unable to attend, and Baron Ishii went in his place. With regard to this meeting most contradictory accounts are published. The *Asahi* represents it as a mere social reunion. The three statesmen found themselves together in the capital at such a critical time, and they took the opportunity of meeting to compare their ideas. But nothing was definitely settled. The *Kokumin*, however, attaches great importance to the conference, and represent it as having a most important bearing upon the relations between China and Japan. According to the *Kokumin*, the subject which formed the great topic of discussion by the three statesmen, was the attitude to be assumed by Japan towards her neighbour during the interregnum between the abdication of the Throne and the recognition of the new Republic by the foreign Powers. Considering all the circumstances that have attended the adoption of a republican polity in China, Japan is naturally indisposed to take the lead in recognizing that form of government. She must see what effect it is likely to have upon the fundamental principle of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, namely, the preservation of China's integrity and the maintenance of the open door. The *Kokumin* alleges that Japan was disposed from the outset to lend her influence in support of a constitutional monarchy, but she found that such a policy could not count on the vigorous endorsement of the Peking statesmen, and she therefore stood aside. Thereafter things moved steadily in the direction of a Republic, and there can no longer be any doubt that a republican form of government will be established in China temporarily, at all events. How much stability will it have, however, and what interval must elapse before it obtains the recognition of the foreign Powers? These questions are very difficult to answer, yet, in view of the large interests she has at stake, it is essential that Japan should find an answer to them at the earliest possible opportunity. The situation is obviously very delicate, and according to the *Kokumin*, full consideration was given to all the facts at the meeting of the three *Genro* alluded to above.

Sunday, January 21.

A not unimportant section of the Tokyo press insists on alleging that Prince Katsura and the Elder Statesmen were originally in favour of supporting a constitutional monarchy in China, but not finding sufficient seal in Peking, the statesmen stood aside, and that now, since they see the monarchical agitation raising its head once more, they are inclined to foment it. It invariably happens that when Japan's foreign policy is confronted by serious situations, the newspapers oppose the Cabinet in power and endeavour to make capital out of the situation. That fact has always to be remembered when reading comments like those now found in the columns of certain journals. Nobody, however short-sighted, can fail to see that affairs in China may at any moment precipitate a

partition of that Empire, in which case Japan's interests in Manchuria might well call for some emphatic assertion. We may presume that Japan's statesmen are fully alive to this contingency and that they will take steps to guard their country's over-sea assets adequately. In the meanwhile events are assuming a character much too serious to warrant irresponsible newspaper comment. From Nanking comes an extraordinary statement that Yuan Shih-kai proposed reference to the Hague Tribunal, but that this suggestion was negated by President Sun, who pointed out that the crisis being purely domestic, the Hague's good offices could not be properly appealed to. It is, we need scarcely say, wholly improbable that any such incident has occurred.

A much more credible and much more important event is said to have taken place in Nanking. Mr. President Sun and his Cabinet are reported to have lost confidence in the sincerity of Yuan Shih-kai, and to have decided that Nanking must send its ultimatum to Peking without a day's delay. The document resulting from this resolution is said to have embodied four counts, namely, first, that the resigning Emperor must surrender all governing authority; secondly, that the Manchu House must pledge itself to abstain hereafter from all interference in Chinese local affairs; thirdly, that Peking shall not be the site of the provisional government; and fourthly, that until the Chinese Republic receives the approval and recognition of foreign States, and until that form of government is firmly established in China on progressive lines, all meddling with State affairs on the part of Yuan Shih-kai shall be interdicted. It does not appear to be absolutely certain that this document has been presented, but if it has, the consequence can scarcely be overrated. For a serious rupture must ensue between Sun and Yuan, and then indeed the situation would be more than perplexing. We may mention here that Yuan is said to have sent no less than eight hundred secret envoys to the Yangtze Valley for the purpose of agitating in favour of his own aspiration to the post of President.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs in President Sun's Cabinet is reported to have addressed to the Courts of six principal Powers of the world an appeal asking for the speedy recognition of the Chinese Republic. The document claims that by opening negotiations with the representatives of the south, the latter's right of international recognition has been virtually established, and that nothing now is needed to render the Republic stable and to avert further bloodshed except open recognition by foreign Courts.

A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION.

Mr. Sheng, former Minister of Communications in China, who is at now at Suma for the benefit of his health, is rumoured to have negotiated a loan of 20 million yen on the security of the Taiya, Pinghsiang and Hanyang mines and arsenal. Out of that sum three millions will be allotted to the enterprises themselves, and the remaining 17 millions will be handed to the Insurgents' war-chest, the only condition being that the Republican Government shall guarantee the security of Mr. Sheng's property in China. President Sun is said to have endorsed this transaction. For our own part, we find it incredible.

THE SHANGHAI NEWSMONGER.

Shanghai circulates a strange rumour about the convictions of the Republican Government. It is to the effect that the attitude of Mongolia and Russia's relations therewith were contrived by Japan, and the next chapter in the story will see Japan in possession of Manchuria. To avert that calamity Peking and Nanking must join forces and they will not hesitate to do so. That is the gist of what the Republican Government is represented as saying, the evident object of the rumour being to discredit Japan. Of course it is not impossible that sooner or later Japan may be forced to take action in defence of her Manchurian rights, but we have no hesitation in asserting confidently that the Tokyo statesmen will do everything in their power to avert such an issue. It cannot be too emphatically stated that peace is the object of Japan's policy in the East, and that she would shrink from any intrigue of the nature attributed to her now in Shanghai.

Another account suggests that a difference of opinion exists in the Republican camp as to the probable outcome of the situation. Field Marshal Hwang is described as believing that if Japan lends her support to the Republican Government, she may look forward to coming into possession of Manchuria, but President Sun is reported to have said that China, if confronted by such a contingency, would appeal to the Western Powers for assistance.

The one fact which emerges from this welter of tales, is that Japan's attitude is causing much thought to the Insurgents. They find it difficult to believe that her reticence does not cloak some sinister purpose. President Sun is said to have approached the Japanese Government with a proposal that this country should take the lead in recognizing the Chinese Republic, in consideration of which action exceptional privileges would be extended to Japan. Exceptional privileges are difficult things now-a-days to manipulate, as President Sun must be well aware.

THE ATTITUDE IN THE YANGTZE.

As may be seen from the translations published elsewhere in these columns, Dr. Sun Yat-sen offers an intelligible explanation of his apparent *volte face* in the matter of resigning the Presidency of the proposed Republic. He says that he originally offered to make his own resignation synchronise with the abdication of the Emperor, but there was always the condition that Yuan himself should at the same time publicly announce his espousal of a republican form of Government. Yuan, however, had departed from his share in the covenant. He had declared in favour of a Peking Cabinet to hold office pending the convocation of a National Assembly, and he had declined to pronounce finally in favour of either a republic or a monarchy. This necessitated a corresponding change on the side of the Insurgents, and Sun had intimated that his own resignation must be deferred until news of the Emperor's abdication had been formally announced through the channel of the foreign Corps Diplomatique in Peking, or the Consular body in Shanghai; and until Yuan had solemnly sworn to abide by the decision of a National Assembly, whatever that decision might be.

MANCHURIA.

From various parts of the Three Eastern Provinces disquieting reports are received, showing that the Insurgents are beginning to make their influence felt there. Thus Changtu is said to have fallen into the hands of the Insurgents and at Tiehling and Kaiping there are signs of unquiet. Some days ago it was rumoured that the northern expedition organized by the Insurgents would effect a landing at Takushan, a place made famous in the wars of 1894 and 1904. This rumour seems to be now credited in Manchuria and is causing much uneasiness.

The Viceroy in Manchuria has declared himself—if the telegraph can be trusted—as irrevocably opposed to the establishment of a republic in China. He is uncompromising in his support of a constitutional monarchy, and he has intimated the fact to Premier Yuan, informing him at the same time that the people of the Three Eastern Provinces adhere to the same policy. He blames the Prime Minister very roundly for showing any vacillation about such a matter, and he has addressed to all the northern satraps of the country a memorandum inviting them to declare themselves unequivocally in favour of a monarchical form of government.

It cannot be denied that Viceroy Chao has shown himself from the outset loyal to the Throne in Peking. But he does not truly interpret the mood of Manchurian officials in general, unless the telegrams coming from the Three Eastern Provinces be discredited. Those telegrams show that in spite of the Viceroy's urging, the capitalists in Manchuria decline to contribute any money to the war-chest in Peking. That does not necessarily mean that they advocate a republican polity, but it does seem to mean that they are not very zealous in their support of the Monarchy. This news has also an important bearing upon the Insurgents' plan of invading Manchuria. If they seriously contemplate any such enterprise, they will have to devote to the task greater strength than they have hitherto shown any disposition to employ.

Meanwhile every semblance of order and tranquillity has passed out of sight in Manchuria. From no less than ten separate quarters reports are received showing that between the Insurgents, the Imperialists and the mounted bandits actual disorder or a state of extreme unquiet exists. If the Viceroy's estimate of Manchuria's loyalty be correct, there are certainly no confirmatory evidences.

A startling piece of news comes from Mukden. At a little after mid-night on the 23rd instant, as Mr. Chang, President of the "Speedy Reform Society," was emerging from an inn where he had passed the evening with some of his fellow-thinkers, a man stepped forward, and fired three shots with a pistol into Chang's body at point-blank range. Death was instantaneous. A little later on the same night a certain Mr. Pao of the same Society was similarly assassinated in the streets of the city; and yet a little later, Mr. Tien, editor of the *Kuoming-pao*, was assassinated in his own house. An impression prevails in Mukden that the three crimes were perpetrated by the same hand, but as yet there is no evidence in support of that theory. It is also rumoured that the Viceroy, Mr. Chao, was more or less responsible for the crimes, but

of course no credit attaches to such a charge unless the strongest possible testimony is forthcoming. The Viceroy is opposed to the rapid-progress programme, and has openly declared himself a partizan of monarchical institutions, but between that attitude and recourse to assassination there is a long interval. There is, however, one strange feature of the incident, namely, that after Mr. Chang's murder his house received a domiciliary visit from the police, and several documents were impounded, his family being marched off to the police station to undergo examination. The Society to which Mr. Chang belonged is of course in a state of considerable trepidation.

The *Asahi's* Mukden correspondent wired that the assassination was perpetrated by a patrol which was moving about the city under arms.

From Chinchow near Shanhaikwan comes intelligence that two leading members of the Speedy Reform Society, residents of that town, were apprehended in the streets of Mukden, whither they had proceeded on business, and were subsequently executed in the jail.

All this goes to indicate that the Local Authorities are concerned in checking the progressive spirit, and in this context we may quote a rumour that Viceroy Chao has received the commands of the Empress Dowager to form a monarchical Cabinet. Another story is that Yuan Shih-kai has sent a message to Chao asking for a statement of his views in consideration of the fact that should the negotiations now going on in Peking prove abortive, fighting will recommence, and all sorts of complications with foreign Powers may be anticipated. To this query, if it has ever been formulated, Chao is said to have returned no answer as yet.

THE QUESTION OF RELIGION IN JAPAN.

It is evident that a very important controversy is taking place in Japan with reference to the subject of religion. Many thoughtful men have come to the conclusion that the progress of the country during the past fifty years has been entirely intellectual, and that moral improvement has been dangerously neglected. These publicists believe that some methods can be devised for enlisting the influence of religion in education, but it is evident that they have no idea of dictating any hard and fast method for achieving that end. Their idea is merely to invite a conference where the problem may be considered by representatives of the three creeds now preached in Japan, namely, the Christian, the Buddhist and the *Shintō*. On the other hand, it would appear that the Department of Education, or at any rate, some of its leading officials, are irrevocably opposed to any introduction of religion into the curriculum of the Japanese schools. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this question, and every one must hesitate to pronounce any definite opinion one way or the other without the profoundest thought. The Department of Home Affairs is evidently sensible of the gravity of the problem, and therefore refrains from laying down any method of solution other than consultation between the representatives of the three creeds.

HSIAN.

A Japanese who made his escape from Hsian during the disturbance that took place there recently, is said to have reported that the massacre of the Manchus, some five hundred of whom were slain, was almost entirely the work of the notorious secret society called the *Kolao-hui*. There was no cumily felt towards foreigners nor would any have been displayed, had not a foreign lady pointed her pistol at the heads of some of the rioters, and threatened them with death if they attempted any violence. This lady is described as having been a beautiful woman, but unhappily the memory of her heroism will not be perpetuated by history, for she herself, her children and two missionaries, who formed the party, were one and all massacred so that no one remains to tell the tale. As for the notion that these foreigners would not have been molested had they not shown a disposition to defend themselves, we decline for a moment to believe it. The foreign missionary has never, so far as we know, over-estimated the riotous disposition of the Chinese, and we may be very sure that the utmost reluctance to resort to armed defence was shown by the little party of Hsian martyrs from first to last. It was on the 2nd of December, subsequent to the above event, that the main body of Western and Japanese residents effected their escape safely from Hsian under the escort of a *Kolao-hui* detachment. There were thirty-five Occidentals, including women and children, and sixteen Japanese. They travelled southward to Hankow, and as they advanced towards that place, their ranks were recruited by other fugitive missionaries, so that the party mustered sixty-nine strong by the time they reached the bank of the river. A cruel act is recorded to have been perpetrated in the case of a lady who was a fugitive from the interior, but the telegraphic particulars are so vague that they defy lucid statement. The certain intelligence is that the lady was treated with great indignity, and that two of the Chinese who had assisted in inveigling her were killed.

PRINCE KATSURA.

Interviewed by a representative of the *Tokyo Asahi Shinbun*, Prince Katsura is reported to have explained that his recent meeting with Prince Yamagata and Marquis Inouye was not at all of the character ascribed to it by certain publicists. So far as Chinese affairs were concerned, the three statesmen—whose *rèunion* may be said to have been accidental—did not attempt to discuss the attitude of their country towards China or the policy that Tokyo should pursue in dealing with Peking. What they discussed was whether it might not be expedient to make some communication to China with reference to the Japanese adventurers who are now carrying on a vehement campaign in China with pen and with speech. It might very well be that if the Japanese Government ignored the proceedings of these adventurers, a false construction would be put upon its reticence. There was no debate, still less was there any plan, as to the attitude of the Japanese State towards either the Insurgents or the Imperialists in China.

The above is certainly explicit enough to satisfy all moderately impartial onlookers, but that it will silence the newsmongers, we do not for a moment pretend to think.

JAPANESE TROOPS FOR CHINA.

On Wednesday night the streets of Tokyo reverberated with cries of "Extra! Extra!" and when the citizens detected that the extra issued from the office of the *Asahi Shimbun*, some excitement was caused, as the *Asahi* does not send out extras after the light-hearted manner of some of its confrères. The excitement was justified, for the extra declared that orders had been given for the immediate despatch of the Twelfth Division to Manchuria. The Twelfth Division is under the command of Lieutenant-General Aoto, and has its head-quarters at Kokura in Kyushu. The news of its despatch seemed to command credence, inasmuch as the exact detail of the troops was given by regiments and battalions, with the names of their commanding officers, and the list showed that the whole Division, with the exception of small forces of garrison, artillery and land transport, was to take the field. The reason assigned was that the interests of peace and the protection of Japanese life and property in the Three Eastern Provinces demanded the presence of an effective body of troops in Manchuria, and when the news arriving from that quarter during the past few days was considered, there certainly did appear to be some ground for this decisive step. Application at the War Office, however, disclosed the fact that the rumour was at least premature. In view of the situation in Manchuria it appeared to the Japanese Authorities that the services of the army might at any moment be required, and orders had accordingly been issued to the Twelfth Division to hold itself in readiness. But the officials of the *Rikugun shō* explained that the step taken was purely of a precautionary nature; and that, although Manchuria seemed to be falling into a disturbed condition, nothing had yet occurred to warrant such a decisive step as the despatch of troops. Besides, there was already a force of 1½ Divisions in the Peninsula, and that would amply serve for any immediate purpose. The whole matter, therefore, summed itself into the fact that the Twelfth Division had been required to hold itself in readiness for immediate over-sea service. It is noticeable, however, that what has been effected is not mobilization in the full sense of the term. The reserves are not called out, and the order for preparation affects only the men with the colours, that is to say a force of about ten thousand of all ranks.

THE SENATE IN PEKING.

The Senate in Peking is said to find itself in a curious dilemma. The authority by which it was called into existence, namely, the Throne, has ceased to take any active part in the administration, and the Senate's mandate has thus become unreal. Its session was originally fixed for five months, but even that provision cannot hold valid in the event of the Sovereign's abdication. Meanwhile there is no business for the Senate to discharge. No bills are presented and no motions made. The evident course is for the Senate to resign, and the President has suggested that the members should lose no time in doing so. What will then become of the celebrated Nineteen-Article Constitution?

FINANCING CHINA.

An explanation is now forthcoming of a piece of news which, in its original form, was calculated to greatly mislead the public. It will be remembered that some time ago, before any talk of an insurrection was heard, certain Japanese financiers agreed to lend to the Chinese Government, through Mr. Sheng, Minister of Communications, a sum of 12 million yen, on the security of the Taiya and Pinghsiang coal and iron mines and the Hanyang arsenal. The insurrection interfered with the consummation of this scheme, but it appears to have been now again brought upon the tapis, though in a slightly altered form. Japanese capitalists agree to carry out their offer of putting up 12 million taels on the security of the mines and arsenal, but an additional eight millions will be found by Chinese financiers. Out of the 20 millions thus obtained, three millions will be paid to the Insurgents on condition that the latter protect the three properties in question, and the remaining 17 millions will be devoted in developing the enterprises. We take these details from the *Yanato Shimbun*, but we do not vouch for their accuracy. It is observable, however, that the transaction now loses the character of a loan and becomes a simple affair of company-forming. There will be no lending of money. Funds will be obtained by the sale of shares. This programme is said to have been arranged by Mr. Sheng, ex-Minister of Communications, who is now sojourning at the Suma hot-springs. It need hardly be said that the Taiya and Pinghsiang mines have vital importance for Japan, inasmuch as she draws from thence her main supplies of iron ore.

With reference to the loan of three millions, which Messrs. Okura & Co. are reported to be about to make to China, Mr. Okura himself has explained that this transaction has no political character whatever. The proposed loan is to be made to a private company on the security of the Shanghai-Pengchao Railway. The original idea was to obtain the money through Messrs. Okura & Co., several important Japanese banks undertaking to find the amount. These banks, however, when applied to by the Okura Co., showed a disinclination to lend money in China at this moment, and the Okura Co., rather than disappoint the Chinese, agreed to endorse the loan themselves. The Tokyo banks on being approached again, consented to find the money on the Okura guarantee. The length of the Railway is 40 miles and the terms of the loan are 8 per cent. interest, five years unredeemed and five years thereafter for redemption. The transaction is quite independent of politics.

PREMIER YUAN.

The impression is evidently growing that Yuan has been working throughout for his own hand. At the time when he repudiated the agreement concluded by his own plenipotentiary, he had made up his mind that nothing was to be gained for himself and that much might have been lost by transferring his fortunes to the Insurgents. It was then that he began to be specially importunate about the funds that the Court and the Princes ought to put

up for the prosecution of the campaign. In that contention he was not eminently successful, but he at least showed the Insurgents that they would have to reckon with him, and that the roots of Imperialism were more firmly fixed in Chinese soil than might have been imagined. Yuan himself was well aware that the monarchical cause had been lost, and the steps taken by him were directed solely towards keeping his own position. It was thus that he instructed Tang Shao-i and other influential men in the latter's suite to carry on private negotiations with the Insurgents and the issue has been that on condition of Yuan being nominated President, the Emperor's abdication will take place. Tang Shao-i is now said to have succeeded in this mission, largely on account of the magnanimity shown by Sun Yat-sen, whose character for sincerity becomes more and more striking by comparison with Yuan's unscrupulousness.

That is what Yuan's critics are saying. But the public was prepared for some such utterances. One solid fact which must not be lost sight of is that Yuan's policy has put an end to bloodshed for quite a long time and may eventuate in a wholly pacific settlement. To say that history will accuse him of having been one of the chief enemies of the Manchu Dynasty is to carry imagination beyond the bounds of reason.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CRUX.

We have further confirmation of the view taken some days ago in these columns, namely, that one of the greatest difficulties of the situation is to contrive the continuity of administrative competence. If the Imperial Court retires unconditionally, what source of administrative potentiality will be available? In answering this question the Insurgent leaders seem to be taking a headstrong and ill-judged position. The plan of the Court, as advised by the present Cabinet, is that Yuan should receive from the Throne a commission as Vice-Regent, and should in that capacity administer the affairs of State pending the vote of a National Assembly. But Dr. Sun Yat-sen, representing the Insurgent leaders, refuses to endorse such an arrangement, and insists that the Manchu Sovereign must abdicate the Throne absolutely and unconditionally, whereafter the Insurgents will assume complete control of all State affairs. In other words, the Insurgents demand complete and absolute surrender on the part of the Imperialists. Confronted with that attitude on the part of the Insurgents, and with the unlooked for recalcitrancy of the Imperial Princes on the other, Premier Yuan finds himself in a grievous dilemma.

Commenting on the above situation the *Fiji Shimpō* thinks that Yuan must adopt one of three courses. He must either resign and step down altogether; or he must frankly perform a counter-march and espouse the cause of the Court; or he must simply fight for his own hand. Our Tokyo contemporary thinks that he will adopt the last course, and the result will be a very perturbed state of affairs in North China, probably involving armed interference by foreign Powers. The *Fiji* concludes by advising that it is manifestly Japan's duty to make immediate military preparations on a sufficiently extensive scale.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA. THE EXPEDITIONS TO THE NORTH.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Foochow, January 18.

The students' Northern Expedition, organized in Foochow, consists of five leaders, 350 male and 20 female students. The party left Mawei for Shanghai by a China Merchants S.N. Company's liner at 10 a.m. on the 18th instant.

Shanghai, January 18.

The three transports carrying the Northern Expedition, which have been at anchor in Woosung, were reinforced by another transport and all left Woosung for the north on the 19th instant.

Commenting on the above news, a War Office authority states that according to intelligence to hand, two battalions of troops are on board the transports. The point of their debarkation is Chefoo, but the expedition had Chinwantao as its objective for actual operations. The bay of Chinwantao is now frozen over to the extent of five or six miles, the ice being about six inches in thickness. It is therefore impossible to effect a landing there. This probably accounts for their debarkation at Chefoo. The expedition cannot undertake any operations during the period of armistice, but its presence in Chefoo will have the effect of intimidating Peking. In order to make sure of its effect, the expedition must land at Chinwantao and make its headquarters in Manchuria. Inasmuch, however, as the Peking-Shanhaikwan railway is now guarded by foreign troops, the expedition cannot probably achieve anything, although it may have the effect of hastening a solution of the situation.

THE IMPERIAL HOUSE.

Peking, January 18.

It is generally believed that the retreat of the Imperial House to Jehol will take place towards the end of the month.

Peking, January 18.

The Peking Government has demanded from the revolutionists the following treatment for the Emperor on abdication:—That a hereditary title shall be conferred on the Emperor; that the sanctuary of the Imperial ancestors shall be held in due respect; that the grave of the preceding Emperor shall be built at the cost of the new government; and also that an annuity of 5,000,000 taels shall be granted to the Imperial House. No satisfactory reply has yet been received.

THE EDICT OF ABDICATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that a council was to be held before the Throne yesterday morning. Abdication is now decided upon, but the wording of the Imperial Edict is yet to be considered. The Imperial Edict will, it is expected, be issued on the 20th instant.

It is reported that the ex-Prince Regent has proposed to have the Emperor educated abroad when he attains ten years of age.

The Empress Dowager approves the proposal.

CONCERNATION REIGNS IN PEKING.

YUAN SHIH-KAI THREATENS THE COURT.

THE COURT COUNCIL.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, January 19.

In the Council held to-day before the Throne the Mongolian princes persistently expressed strong opinions, and Prince Ching, as the result of intimidation by the Banner-men, showed an inclination to the monarchical form of government, while other princes also supported it. The Cabinet Ministers intimated that they had no alternative but to resign, if this view generally obtains in the Court. The Council came to a close amidst confusion.

ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST YUAN.

Peking, January 19.

It is rumoured that Prince Yu-lang, highly resenting the disloyalty of Yuan Shih-kai, instigated two Chinese and two foreigners to assassinate him, but the plot was disclosed and the four assassins were arrested, the prince being confined to a back room in the Reception Hall.

OPPOSITION TO SUN YAT-SEN.

Shanghai, January 19.

Chang Fing-lan, Chan Te-chuan and their followers are reported to have held a secret meeting in opposition to Dr. Sun Yat-sen. A few days ago when Dr. Sun was returning home from his office, he was shot at by a desperado and was slightly injured. This report lacks confirmation.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Nanking, January 19.

The following appointments were published on the 18th instant:—

Minister of the Navy.....	Hwang Chung-ying.
Vice-Minister of the Navy.....	Tang Hsian-ming.
Director of Fleet Bureau.....	Chu Shang-kang.
Director of Paymaster's Bureau.....	Lu Te-yuan.
Chief of Naval Staff.....	Hwang Chih-chang.
Vice-Chief of Naval Staff.....	Hsieh Kwang-che.
Director of Naval Affairs Bureau.....	Lin Ko-shih.
Director of Naval Education Bureau.....	Chin-fu.
Adjutant to the Minister of Navy.....	Wang Tao.

ICE IN THE NORTH.

Chinwantao, January 19.

The bays of Takushan, Hwayuen-hi and other towns have been frozen over to the extent of about five miles from the shore.

BRITISH TROOPS.

Peking, January 19.

Two hundred British soldiers and five officers left in the direction of Tangshan, while another fifty soldiers and two officers left for Fengtai.

ADMIRAL SAH.

Mukden, January 19.

Admiral Sah left Mukden for Dairen on the 19th instant.

MUTINY OF SOLDIERS.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Peking, January 19.

The soldiers under the Tartar-General in Hl have mutinied and killed over sixty Manchus and burnt down the *yamen*.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Peking, January 19.

A telegraphic dispatch in the name of Wu

Ting-fang has been received by the officials and principal people resident in Peking, intimating that as the peace conference has failed and that the Northern Expedition is already landing at a certain point, they would do well to quit the capital within five days to save their lives and property. Great consternation prevails in the capital.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS.

Hankow, January 19.

Li Yuan-hung has forwarded to the Imperialists, through the United States Consul in Hankow, the following proposals:

That the executive and police power in Hankow and Hanyang shall be delegated to the Hankow Chamber of Commerce and the Imperialist police be withdrawn; that the Hanyang Iron foundry and Rifle factory shall be delivered to the same institution, together with the management of the railway.

TROOPS LANDING AT CHEFOO.

Port Arthur, January 20.

According to a report of the Commander of the *Otowa* at Chefoo, at 12.30 p.m. on the 20th instant the revolutionary transport *Taishun* commenced landing troops. The citizens fired crackers in welcome. The troops are quartered in the Eastern battery.

THE MARCH ON PEKING.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "MOGAMI."

Nanking, January 21.

About two thousand soldiers were landed between dawn and 8.30 yesterday morning. The arms and ammunition in the Chi-lin castle have been transported to the railway station. At 10 o'clock the same morning about 1,000 soldiers with eight mountain guns and 500 cases of powder and 3,000 horses, were taken across to the opposite side of the river at Hsiakwan and thence marched northwards.

GERMAN BLUEJACKETS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, January 20.

A number of German bluejackets arrived here by a German steamer on the 19th inst. The exact number of the detachment and their destination are unknown.

PRINCE CHING.

Peking, January 21.

Yuan Shih-kai anticipated that abdication would be decided upon at the council held before the Throne on the 19th instant, but Prince Ching, who had advocated abdication, stated that personally he was not in favour of it but was asked by the Cabinet to advocate it. This change of attitude is said to be due to intimidation by the Manchus.

EDICT OF ABDICATION ISSUED.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that the Imperial Edict announcing the abdication of the Throne has been issued. It will be made public on the morning of January 21st (solar calendar).

A later dispatch says that the publication of the Edict has been postponed owing to the excitement prevailing in the capital. The Manchus formed a dare-to-die party for the assassination of Yuan Shih-kai, but the plot was brought to light and great consternation obtains in Peking.

Yuan Shih-kai with leave the capital and proceed to Tientsin, where he will form a provisional government and negotiate for peace with Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

Yuan threatens the Manchu Court that he will withdraw to Tientsin and join hands

with the revolutionists if the Court does not consent to abdication.

The precious treasures of the Palace have all been removed. The Empress Dowager has secretly removed all her private property to the legation of a certain Power.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS AND THE POWERS.

We learn from a reliable source that the Nanking Government has issued to Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, the United States and Japan a *Note Identique* demanding official recognition as a belligerent body. The Japanese Government is of opinion that matters are not yet sufficiently advanced to grant official recognition.

EXODUS BEGINS FROM PEKING.

DR. SUN'S MESSAGE.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 22.

The *Times* regards Dr. Sun Yat-sen's message to Yuan Shih-kai as injudicious, and adds that the insulting conduct of the Nanking party is inexcusable and is exposing China to most serious internal and external dangers.

The *Times* trusts that the people will insist that the rival claimants settle their differences.

THE EMPEROR'S ABDICATION.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Peking, January 20.

The Emperor's abdication is reported as imminent. The report is, however, purposely circulated by Yuan's followers. In reality matters are not yet so forward as the report would make the public believe. The *status quo* will be maintained for at least several days to come, and no radical change is probable in the general situation.

THE WAR OFFICE.

Nanking, January 20.

The following composition of the War Office is officially announced:—

Director of War Affairs Bureau ... Chou Hao
Director of War Supply Bureau ... Tseng Chao-wen
Director of Army Secret Bureau ... Weng Chih-len
Director of Army Surgeon Bureau ... Fang Chi
Director of Army Justice Bureau ... Chin Chia-hwai
Director of Army Education Bureau ... Chang Cheng-li

FIRE AT HANKOW.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGANJI.

Hankow, January 20.

Many Chinese in Hankow have obtained possession of unused shells and cartridges. On the 19th instant a shell exploded in a Chinaman's house in the Japanese settlement, when over 100 Chinese houses were burnt down and a number of Chinese were killed.

THE IMPERIALIST DEAD.

Hankow, January 20.

It is reported that the Imperialists exhumed the bodies of those who fell in the fighting and carried away the remains by train before the recent withdrawal.

RAISING FUNDS IN MANCHURIA.

Changchun, January 19.

Yuan Shih-kai's Cabinet issued to the Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces an instruction for a remittance to relieve the financial difficulties of the Central Government. Viceroy Chao transmitted the order to the Deputy Viceroys of Kilin and Amur Provinces, with a special instruction to the Deputy-Viceroy of the latter province

to raise and remit 200,000 *taels*. The Deputy-Viceroy wired back that it was difficult to raise the full amount in that province, but he would try and remit as much money as he could possibly raise.

CANTON BANK-NOTES.

Hongkong, January 20.

The Canton Government contemplates issuing convertible notes of the denominations of \$1, \$5 and \$10, altogether amounting to 15,000,000 dollars. The Government is inviting designs and estimates from a printing house in the city.

ATTACK BY BANDITS.

Niuchwang, January 20.

At dawn on the 19th instant a number of bandits attacked the police in Wanfu-chwang, a town lying about 40 Chinese *li* to the east of Kaiping, and made away with 30 rifles. A detachment of police was sent from Kaiping with all possible haste.

JAPANESE REFUGEES.

Shanghai, January 21.

Twenty-one out of 39 refugees from Chengtu arriving here left for home to day by the *Hakuai Maru*.

THE ARMY AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, January 20.

Liu, the commander of the Hu army of the Northern Expedition of the Chinese Republic, has sent to the Consular Body in this town the following note:—

"Chefoo has declared its independence and forms a part of the dominion of the Chinese Republic. Located as the town is on a distant coast it is impossible to maintain its safety unless a large army is stationed here. In obedience to the command of the President and the Magistrate of the Hu army I arrived here at the head of a detachment, to safeguard the town, and am ready to give the merchants of various nationalities due protection without discrimination. I exhort all merchants to follow their respective avocations at ease."

Two hundred soldiers were quartered in the Eastern fort to-day.

JAPANESE KILLED.

Chefoo, January 21.

Six Japanese merchants residing in Hwanghsien, a town located to the north-west of Chefoo and to the west of Tengchow, in Shantung province, were killed during the recent fighting between the Imperialists and Revolutionists. There are several Japanese residents in that town and they are threatened with impending danger.

JAPANESE TORPEDO-BOAT.

Chefoo, January 21.

The torpedo-boat *Karigane* left Port Arthur to-day on a cruise of inspection in the direction of the town of Tengchow in Shantung.

ACTION IN PEKING.

Peking, January 21.

The advocates of a constitutional monarchy in Peking have since formed themselves into a combination and are trying hard to gain the ascendancy. The opposition of the Mongolian princes to the Republican Government grows stronger, and General Feng Kuo-chang is persistently insisting on the adoption of a monarchical form of government. It is doubtful if they can turn the tide, but the Emperor's abdication has no doubt received a check.

AMERICAN TROOPS.

Tientsin, January 21.

Five hundred American soldiers with 70

horses arrived at Chinwantao on the 19th instant.

WARSHIPS FOR TENGCHOW.

Port Arthur, January 21.

Two revolutionary warships and a transport at Chefoo left for Tengchow this morning.

THE MONGOLIAN RISING.

Harbin, January 21.

The Mongolians have taken possession of Manchuli station.

Harbin, January 21.

Three hundred Chinese soldiers have started from Tsitsihar for Hailar to recover that town. The detachment has to travel on foot for about twenty days to get there.

TROOPS FOR PEKING.

Peking, January 21.

A detachment of mounted soldiers of the Huai army arrived at the capital to-day from Changte. The first Infantry Battalion of the Eighth Regiment in Paojing is expected to arrive on the 22nd instant.

DISORDER IN HANKOW.

Hankow, January 21.

Rifle reports have often been heard in Hanyang since the evacuation of the town by the Imperialists. The poor people have got possession of the rifles left by the Imperialists and Revolutionists on the field and, armed with the weapons, are plundering the wealthier people, thus causing rifle reports to be heard.

ANOTHER NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Hankow, January 21.

The Wuchang revolutionists have organized a Northern Expedition to start for the north *via* Shanghai by the sea route. The expedition will set out to-day or tomorrow.

PANIC AT PEKING.

Peking, January 21.

Great fears are entertained in the city as to the invasion of the revolutionary Northern Expedition, and a panic has begun to prevail. An exodus of refugees is taking place. Many Manchu noblemen are removing their families to Jehol.

ABDICATION AGAIN REPORTED.

A Peking telegram to the *Chunwo* reports that the Emperor's abdication has finally been decided upon, the Empress-Dowager having accepted the conditions proposed by Yuan Shih-kai. An Imperial Edict is expected to be officially gazetted on the 22nd instant.

Amongst the conditions accepted by the Empress Dowager are that the Emperor shall hereafter be known as the King of China, that an annuity of 1,500,000 *taels* shall be granted to the Imperial House, and that the Emperor shall retire to the Wang-shau-shan in Peking until peace is concluded between the provisional Republican Government and the Peking Government.

President Sun Yat-sen has sent to Yuan Shih-kai a telegram stating that the Peking Government has no longer any political power, and that Yuan will be warmly received by the revolutionists if he comes to Nanking.

REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT ASKS FOR RECOGNITION.

THE EMPEROR'S ANNUITY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, January 21.

According to confidential talk of Hwang

Chung-kui, Dr. Sun Yat-sen is resolved to proceed to Peking to confer with Yuan Shih-kai on the constitution of the new government after the abdication of the Manchu Emperor, and has already entered into telegraphic communication with Li Yuan-hung, asking him to come up to Nanking and take charge of the Provisional Government during his absence. Yang Shih-chi, a credited with having stated that the Manchu Court entertain a suspicion as to whether the new Government will grant it an adequate annuity after abdication. Yuan Shih-kai invited the opinion of Tang Shao-i as to the advisability of otherwise of obtaining the guarantee of the various Powers in order to dispel the doubts entertained by the Court. Tang wired back that he considers it advisable to submit the question to the Hague Peace Conference, as the measure proposed is calculated to give rise to future trouble.

THE BOXER INDEMNITY.

Peking, January 21.

The Indemnity payable to foreign Powers by China in connexion with the Boxer trouble reaches a total of over 40 million taels, and the principal financial source available for payment consists of the Customs revenue, amounting to some 25 million taels. The Corps Diplomatique in Peking is now in negotiation with the Peking Government for making the control of the salt tax security for the balance of the debt.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POST OFFICE.

Niuchuang, January 22.

It is generally believed that the Northern Expedition, which arrived at Chefoo on the 20th instant by four transports under the escort of three warships, will land on the south coast of the Liaoyang peninsula near Takushan.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHEFOO.

Chefoo, January 21.

The reformation of the military government in this town has been realized as anticipated.

Wang, the magistrate, addressed the Consular Body a note to the effect that the Military Government highly appreciates the strict neutrality maintained by the Consular Body since the formation of the Government. The Northern Expedition had now arrived in the town and they had organized the Shantung magistracy independent of the Government. Tu Chui had arrived from Nanking as acting magistrate of Shantung province. It was desired that after the 22nd instant they should refer all diplomatic matters to the new magistracy and consider the name and officials of the Military Government cancelled.

FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA.

Newchwang, January 22.

On the 19th instant about 40 revolutionists attacked Tingfahchwang, a town lying to the east of Kaiping, and took possession of that town. The revolutionists were reinforced until they now number about 100. Over 100 Imperial troops were sent there from Kaiping for their suppression.

THE ARMY AT HANKOW.

Hankow, January 22.

The revolutionary army continues to cross the river.

MISSIONARIES IN LUSHAN.

Kiukiang, January 22.

The report of the murder of an English missionary in Lushan, a summer resort near

Kiukiang, turns out to be incorrect. A letter was received by the English Consul that there are now over forty English missionaries in Lushan, but they are all safe and the locality is quiet.

MURDER OF JAPANESE DENIED.

Chefoo, January 22.

On inquiry it has been ascertained that the report of the murder of six Japanese traders in Hwanghsien in baseless.

IMPOSTS AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, January 22.

The Consular Body in Shanghai has lodged with the Revolutionary Government a protest against the imposition of various taxes and public imposts on the Chinese residents in the Foreign Settlement.

THE REVOLUTIONARY TROOPS AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, January 22.

The present revolutionary force in Wuchang numbers about eight regiments. The force has been divided into two army corps, one being commanded by Cheng Tsao-ning and the other by Tu Hsi-chi.

PRINCE CHING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that Prince Ching has skillfully removed his private property, which is valued at 50 million taels, to Tientsin. A rumour is current that the Prince will pay a long visit to Japan.

RECOGNITION BY JAPAN.

The Revolutionary Government has announced that it has obtained the official recognition of Japan and that it no longer desires to conclude peace but will march its army on Peking to compel the Peking Government to surrender. It has also announced that it has obtained accommodation of 200,000 taels from Japan. Despite the denial of Minister Ijima of the official recognition alleged to have been given to the Revolutionary Government by Japan, the Manchu Court is terror-stricken, and has appealed to Germany for sympathy. Foreigners generally regard the opposition of the Imperial and other princes as the last struggle.

A MANCHU CABINET.

A few Chinese papers in Peking publish an evidently inspired report that Yuan Shih-kai's Cabinet will resign *en bloc*. The Empress Dowager takes exception to the annuity offered by the Revolutionary Government and has under contemplation a scheme for restoring the Regency of Prince Chun and organizing a Manchu Cabinet at the expense of Yuan Shih-kai. A later despatch states that Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern provinces has been commanded by the Empress Dowager to organize a new Ministry, but it remains uncertain whether Chao will respond to the call.

PRINCE KUNG IMPEACHES YUAN SHIH-KAI.

INSPECTION AT HANKOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

FROM CONSUL GENERAL ARIYOSHI.

Shanghai, January 23.

Secretary Yagi wires that a note has been received from the Director of Foreign Affairs in Wuchang, stating that as the Imperial troops have been withdrawn from Hankow the inspection heretofore enforced on vessels passing there has been discontinued.

THE CAPTURE OF HWANGHSIEN.

Chefoo, January 22.

The following details of a collision of the

contending forces in Hwanghsien have been received:—On the 19th instant about 400 Imperial soldiers arrived here from Laichowfu to recover the town and collided with the revolutionists on the 21st instant. After hard fighting the Imperialists were routed at 5 o'clock on the following morning. Two infantry companies of the Northern Expedition sent to Tengchow from Chefoo were landed and sent to Hwanghsien on the 23rd to guard the town. After the occupation of Hwanghsien, four revolutionists proceeded to Lungkau and took possession of that town, but fifty Imperialists arrived there on the 22nd and recovered the town unopposed. On receipt of the news the *Haitan* was sent to Lungkau to regain the town. On the approach of the warship the Imperialists retreated without assistance.

ATTITUDE OF THE DALAI LAMA.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJII.

Shanghai, January 22.

A number of refugees from Tibet were brought here by the steamer arriving at Shanghai on the 18th instant. According to the refugees, they had an interview with the Lama at Darjeeling on their way home. Opinion differs amongst the Lama's high officials on the current situation in China. Some are in favour of Mongolian independence under the protection of the Russian Government, some advocate loyalty to the Manchu Government, while others advocate the recovery of the lost power of Tibet by joining hands with the revolutionists. There are also some who advocate that the Dalai Lama should return to Lassa under the protection of Great Britain on the advent of the New Year (Tibetan calendar). Britain's attitude towards the Dalai Lama remains unchanged. The refugees are the purveyors to the Lama's court in Lassa. They further stated that owing to a lack of political knowledge on the part of the officials of the Lama's court they failed to elicit from them any explicit opinion regarding the situation.

THE EX VICEROY OF SZCHUAN.

Chungking, January 20.

According to intelligence from Shensi, Mr. Wang Jin-wen, ex-Viceroy of Szchuan, arrived there on the 18th instant on his way home to Yunnan. He will resume his journey shortly.

JAPANESE RESIDENTS IN YUNNAN.

Chungking, January 23.

It is telegraphed from Shensi that according to correspondence, dated November 21st last, from Yunnan, the Japanese residents there are all safe. The repair of the Tien-Yuh railway is not yet complete. The town is quiet.

TROOPS FROM FUCHOW.

Fuchow, January 23.

An infantry battalion, composed of about 500 men, leaves here for Shanghai by a China Merchants S. N. Company's steamer on the 24th to reinforce the Northern Expedition. On the eve of their departure Magistrate Sun addressed the soldiers and the party had a brilliant send off.

MOVEMENTS IN MANCHURIA.

Chefoo, January 23.

Since the arrival at Chefoo of a portion of the Northern Expedition on the 16th inst., the revolutionists in various parts of Manchuria have commenced active movements and frequent communications are taking place between them and the mounted

bandits. The mounted bandits have made their appearance in the vicinity of Fakumen, where they attacked the police force and seized some rifles. Owing to the activity of the mounted bandits in the direction of Sapingchich the export of beans is stopped.

The revolutionists who took possession of Wangfuchwang do not show any activity. The Imperialists also do not make any attempt to regain the town.

IMPERIAL EDICT.

Peking, January 23.
An Imperial Edict was issued on the 23rd instant relieving the Deputy-Viceroy Hu of Shantung from office and appointing Chung Kwan-chien as acting Deputy-Viceroy of that province.

A SKIRMISH.

Chefoo, January 22.
A skirmish took place at Hwanghsien between the Imperialists and Revolutionists on the 22nd instant, resulting in some casualties on both sides.

ATTACK ON LANCHOW.

Tientsin, January 23.
The Revolutionists who were defeated at Lanchow have again assembled at Achichwang and are planning an attack on Lanchow.

A REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

Nanking, January 23.
The Revolutionary Government has decided to issue a 100 million taels loan. The unredemmed period is four years and the loan is then redeemable in ten years, the rate of interest being 8 per cent. The issue is to be undertaken by the Chinese Chambers of Commerce.

THIBETAN INDEPENDENCE.

Peking, January 23.
According to an Indian telegram the Dalai Lama, who has already returned to Lassa, has prevailed upon the Thibetan princes to declare their independence, taking advantage of the Mongolian trouble, with a view to the recovery of military power. He has sent out military commissioners to all important places. A certain Power is pulling the wires in the background.

IMPEACHMENT OF YUAN.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that a rumour of the impeachment of Yuan Shih-kai by Prince Kung has startled political circles in Peking. In his impeachment the Prince compares Yuan to Wang Mang, who usurped the Throne of the Han dynasty but was taken captive after fifteen years' occupation of the Throne and decapitated. The Prince concludes that a similar fate awaits Yuan.

Yuan is highly indignant at the action of the Prince, and his influence in political and military circles remains unshaken. He will probably not remain inactive, and a startling change in the situation is imminent.

PROBABLE RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS' ULTIMATUM.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Shanghai, January 23.
According to a confidential talk of Hwang Chung-kin the reported ultimatum has been issued to the Peking Government. Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to Wu Ting-fang on the 21st instant, refuting the points raised in the ultimatum. Wang Chao-ming, Wang Chung-

kin, Chin Chi-mei and other representatives of the revolutionists in Shanghai all consider Yuan's refutation as reasonable and have sent a telegram, jointly with Wu Ting-fang, to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, demanding reconsideration, with a view to a speedy settlement of the situation. If Dr. Sun raise no objection to their suggestion, the conference between Yuan and Dr. Sun will come to a successful conclusion.

FEELING IN PEKING.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJIL.

Peking, January 23.
According to intelligence emanating from military circles in Peking, as the Revolutionists insist on a republican government and have made the Imperial armies in various provinces withdraw 100 Chinese li to facilitate their advance, a conflict is unavoidable, even if a national assembly be speedily convoked. The Revolutionists will not possibly accept a monarchical government and would the Imperialists weakly submit to a republican government? The Government is in the most difficult position. The military community should stand by the Government, otherwise they would call down upon themselves unexpected pressure. Without the Government the army would have no alternative but to disperse. They are now in telegraphic communication with the armies in various provinces to determine their attitude.

RIFLES FOR MONGOLIA.

Peking, January 23.
A Kulon dispatch reports that the Gegen, who declared Mongolian independence, has purchased a quantity of rifles from Russia and transported them to Kulon on camels.

RISING IN ILI.

Peking, January 23.
The latest telegram confirms the report of a rising in Ili, resulting in the murder of a large number of Manchus, and further states that the Tartar-General Chihjin and his family were murdered by the mutinous soldiers under his command on the 6th instant.

REVOLUTIONISTS FROM DAIREN.

Dairen, January 24.
On the night of the 23rd instant 300 coolies, commanded by the Revolutionists, left here for Chefoo by junk, and another batch of 150 revolutionists also left by steamer.

A NEW MINISTRY.

Peking, January 24.
A rumour is current that should Yuan Shih-kai resign, a new ministry will be formed with Chao Erh-sun, Tieh Liang, Chen Hui-lung and Feng Kiao-chang as members.

ASSASSINATION IN MUKDEN.

Mukden, January 24.
Chang Yung, the leader of the Radicals in Mukden, was assassinated by two desperadoes on his way home from Pingkwang last evening, and the papers in his house and other property were seized. The assassination is said to have been instigated by Chang Tso-lin. The followers of Chang Yung strongly resent the dastardly action and are planning revenge.

THE MARCH ON PEKING.

Shanghai, January 24.
Seeing the bad faith on the part of Yuan Shih-kai and the impossibility of a successful conclusion of the peace negotiations, the Revolutionary Government has decided to march its large army northward on the expiration of the period of armistice. All preparations are now complete and

Hwang Hsing has been appointed chief of the General Staff of the expedition. The expedition is divided into four armies and they will march northward by four different routes, viz, the first army corps is to march on Shantung from Hsuehchow; the second on Chingchow from Hupoh; the third on Honan from Anhui; and the fourth on Chinwangtao by the sea route. All these armies are assembled in Nanking, where all the public offices, school houses, and private houses are appropriated for their accommodation. The soldiers are being drilled every day and are ready to start at the shortest notice.

SARTORIAL QUESTIONS.

Fuchow, January 24.
The local Chinese newspapers argue that citizenship should be denied to those who refuse to have their queues cut off, but oppose adopting foreign clothes on the ground that it would encourage the importation of foreign goods, resulting in the outflow of specie.

THE PALACE AT JEHOI.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJIL.
Peking, January 24.
The repairs of the Detached Palace at Jehoi, which were being conducted under the superintendence of Shih-liang, the Court defraying the cost, amounting to 100,000 taels, have now been completed and the Court is ready to quit the capital at any moment.

BRITISH TROOPS.

Shanghai, January 28.
It is reported that Yuan Shih-kai intends to borrow 200 English soldiers for the protection of the arsenal in Tangshan and the coal mine in Lanchow.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Hankow, January 24.
About 2,000 Kwansi soldiers in Wuchang, resenting the inactivity of the advance guards of the Northern Expedition, have decided to start on the expedition northward.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

Peking, January 25.
The Revolutionary Government has forcibly demanded from the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company in Shanghai a loan of 15 million taels.

TROUBLE IN PAOTING.

Peking, January 25.
A large number of revolutionists are circulating a seditious manifesto in the districts bordering on Honan, with Paoting for centre of operations, to stir up the agitation. Their object is to split the Imperialists into two factions. The Imperialists' efforts to suppress them have so far proved futile.

PEKING COUNCILS.

Peking, January 24.
A council before the Throne continues to be held since the 19th instant. The council is not, however, attended by Cabinet Ministers. An opinion prevails that an attempt should be made to suppress the revolutionists instead of abdicating.

DEMAND FOR ABDICATION.

Peking, January 24.
The provincial assembly in Shansi has telegraphed to the similar institution in Chihli that joint steps should be taken to demand the speedy abdication of the Manchu Emperor in order to bring about a final solution of the situation in the interests of the nation.

IMPERIAL TROOPS PREPARING.

Tientsin, January 24.
The tenth infantry regiment, stationed in

Chengchiatien, has been sent to Shanhai-kwan under Chang Tso-lin for the purpose of guarding that locality against an invasion by the Northern Expedition.

YUAN'S RESIGNATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chunuo* reports that a secret Cabinet Council is being held in Yuan's residence, which is strongly guarded by the Honan army.

Another telegram states that a secret agreement, which is favourable to Yuan Shih-kai, has been concluded with the revolutionists, but Yuan has decided to resign instead of bringing about the abdication of the Emperor, to leave no blot on his name. All the other Ministers of State will also resign. Yuan will repair to the Palace on the 26th to tender his resignation. On the acceptance or otherwise by the Empress Dowager of Yuan's resignation will depend the conclusion or failure of the peace negotiations.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Chinese at Home; by J. DYER BALL. The Religious Tract Society, London.

THE author of this work was for several years an official of the Hongkong Civil Service and he is well known to the public as the writer of "Things Chinese," and "The Celestial and His Religion." The volume now lying before us does not contain much original matter, but it has been compiled after reference to numerous authorities, and the result is that its pages convey an excellently clear idea of the manners, customs and morals of the men and women of the Middle Kingdom. One special attraction of the book is the evidence furnished again and again in its pages of a genuine desire to avoid anything like racial prejudice and to appreciate the Chinese at their just value. Thus, for example, in analysing one of the strongest ethical tenets of the Chinese he writes:—

Filial piety is supposed to be the motive power for the reverence of the dead. Not for a moment would the author deny this virtue as a factor in Chinese ancestral worship; but after all that can be said for this aspect of the case, it still remains that one of the chief and the most potent causes of the reverence and worship of the dead in China is fear of what might result from not propitiating the departed spirits.

Again, in writing of "Man and the Unknown" the author says:—

The Chinese have made many attempts to lift the dark curtain that hides the future from mortal ken. Their theories are often times vague and contradictory, and when they are put to the touch of logic they fail utterly before its tests. They are as brave an effort as has ever been made by any heathen people to construct a system that shall try and satisfy the cravings of the human heart about the Unknown. They are profoundly human, and an exalted vein of righteousness runs throughout them. There is no paltering with evil, and no elevation of vice or impurity, and even their ideal ruler of the Land of Shadows, stern and severe as he is represented to be, can always unbend before the exhibition of goodness in any of the spirits under his control.

It should be stated in justice that Mr. Dyer Ball is not responsible for the use of the detestable adjective "heathen" which obtrudes itself into the above comments, nor can we lay to his charge the thoughtless act of bracketing logic and religion together. For these things the responsibility rests with Macgowan in his *Sidelights on Chinese Life*, but Mr. Dyer Ball quotes the criticism with evident approval. Thus, it cannot be said that his analyses are

untainted with any breath of the Sadducee. Nevertheless he does not close his eyes to the faults that disfigure Occidental intercourse with the people of the Middle Kingdom. Thus he writes: "Put on Chinese spectacles, and you will be shocked at the immorality of some of the European residents in China; at the often-seen drunkenness of the soldier and sailor; the rudeness which characterizes the conduct of some to the Oriental—rudeness which shows itself by a whack from a walking stick or a prod from an umbrella, or a slash from a riding-whip, as one passes the other; by the ill-disguised superiority which shows itself in some cases in almost every word and action; in the hauteur which often reveals itself in the countenance; in the ignorant disregard of Chinese rules of politeness, even the most elementary, which the Westerner not only does not know, but, strange to say, does not even take the trouble to learn, though living surrounded by masses of natives who are polite to an almost painful degree in the only way they know." Much of the above was true in Japan's case a few decades ago, and something of it remains even to-day. But such an evil state of affairs has been greatly changed for the better in China during recent years, and we could wish that Mr. Dyer Ball had noted the fact. On the whole, his work affords the best insight into the ways and thoughts of the Chinaman that has yet been published, and its pages will certainly effect a change of Anglo-Saxon sentiment towards the Chinese, apart from the minute knowledge such a book will educate in Europe and America. We heartily congratulate the author, and we venture to warmly commend his work to the public.

THE PREVENTION OF STRIKES.

PETITION LAID BEFORE THE DIET.

(COMMUNICATED)

The Japan Branch of the International Peace Forum has filed a petition to both Houses of the Imperial Diet setting forth the importance of an arbitral measure for preventing strikes and lock-outs. The petition opens with reference to the recent tramway strike of the city, which completely dislocated the traffic on three of the busiest days of the year. The petition refers to the Industrial Dispute Investigation Act of the Canadian Government, and the speech of Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King, the Labour Minister of the same Government, delivered before the Mohouk Conference on May 24, 1910, is briefly quoted. According to this speech, out of 94 cases, since the Act came into operation, a strike or lock-out has been prevented in 28. The petition concludes by praying that a representation be made to the Government for taking necessary steps for the prevention of such grave occurrences as the recent tramway strike. The petitions filed at each of the Houses of the Imperial Diet have been so far either personal or local in character, and the Petition of the International Peace Forum is quite unique in having for its object a national legislation for the prevention of the heavy material and also serious mental unrest that are menacing the industrial and business circles of this country.

Two Japanese daily papers published in Pyongyang, the *Heijo Shinbun* and *Heijo Nippo*, have hitherto been keen rivals, causing not a little friction in the social life of the Japanese community there. Recently a scheme was mooted to amalgamate the two; and the *Seoul Press* learns that it has just been brought to a successful conclusion. A new journal will be published on the 1st prox. called the *Heijo Nichi Nichi Shinbun*.

CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVES.

(COMMUNICATED)

The public announcement that it is the purpose of the Vice Minister of Home Affairs to hold a Conference of representatives of Shintō, Buddhism and Christianity has awakened wide interest. It could not be otherwise. But among the statements that have appeared in the Press there are some which have been written without a clear knowledge of what is intended; and in order to prevent possible misunderstanding, the Vice-Minister has sanctioned the publication of the following statement:

1. The primary intention in holding the conference is to direct attention to religion as a necessary means to the highest spiritual and moral welfare of both the individual and the nation. For a number of years this matter has not been given the importance that properly belongs to it; and the primary purpose of the Conference is to reassert that importance.

2. No attempt is intended to unite the adherents of the several religions in one body; still less to establish a new religion. Shintō, Buddhism and Christianity are all religions; but in certain important particulars each differs from the others, and the religious convictions of the adherents of each should be respected without interference. It may however be confidently presumed that Shintoists, Buddhists and Christians alike will cordially recognize a responsibility to act as fellow-labourers for the advancement of the spiritual and moral interests of the nation to the utmost of their ability.

3. Shintō and Buddhism have long had a recognized place as religions of the Japanese people. Christianity should also be accorded a similar place.

WILLIAM IMBRIE.
M. C. HARRIS.
G. M. FISHER.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES.

We are courteously informed by Mr. E. J. Harrison, the representative in Tokyo of the *New York Herald*, that he is in receipt of a despatch from New York, dated the 23rd inst., stating that the *New York Herald* publishes news from Washington that the Powers have agreed not to recognize the Chinese Republic at Nanking, realizing that such recognition might precipitate chaos at Peking and throughout North China.

A despatch to the *Herald* from Peking, outlining the necessity for positive action by the Powers if they wish to avoid intervention, harmonizes with the general sentiment in Peking as communicated to the State Department by Mr. Calhoun, the U.S. Minister. The State Department, less pessimistic, takes the view that agreement between Yuan Shih kai and the revolutionists is still likely. In the meantime it is determined to keep to a middle road course rather than attempt to apply a remedy to a situation that is changing too fast to crystallize.

Commenting on the foregoing the *Herald* says that the Washington officials and the European Governments with which they are in agreement are manifestly optimistic.

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended January 21st are as follows:—

	Small Pox.	Dysen- tery.	Ty- phoid.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Para- Typhus.
Yokohama—						
New cases...	1	1	2	4	1	—
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Districts—						
New cases...	—	—	2	7	—	—
Died	—	—	—	2	—	—

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUDGET.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.15 yesterday morning after the recess.

Marquis Saionji, the Minister-President of State, opened the proceedings by a general statement on the administration. He spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen,—In obedience to the Imperial command I have again assumed a heavy responsibility; and I consider it a very high honour that I should meet you here to-day and personally lay before you our administrative policy.

The relations of the Empire with the Powers, gentlemen, have grown more intimate than ever; our Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain has been renewed; and as regards the revision of our treaties with the various Powers, a majority of the treaties have already been concluded, while as to those not yet concluded, the negotiations are now in progress and will, I am confident, be brought before long to a successful conclusion.

In common with yourselves, I regard with grave anxiety the present disturbances in the neighbouring State. In view of the general situation in the East, the Government earnestly desire speedy restoration of order in China. They are, therefore, giving their unceasing attention to the changes in the situation and they purpose to neglect no opportunity of taking such measures as may be deemed necessary.

Gentlemen, I have since my appointment made every effort to place on a firmer basis the administrative service in every Department; but as it is not long since I entered upon my office, I cannot yet bring before you the results of those efforts. A Special Bureau for the readjustment of the Administrative Organisation has, however, been already established, and investigations are being made in regard to the adjustment of the administrative, financial, and taxation systems. I am, in conjunction with my colleagues, earnestly engaged in this work and hope to obtain satisfactory results from it by careful consideration of every matter according to its urgency and importance.

With respect to the finances of the Empire, the Minister of Finance will in due course give a detailed explanation. We have to-day presented to the House of Representatives our draft Budget for the Forty-fifth Financial year of Meiji, which has been drawn up on the basis of maintaining an equilibrium between the annual revenue and expenditure, while giving attention to our national expansion. Further, various projects of law which are deemed necessary in view of the times will be presented in due course and explained by the respective Ministers concerned.

It is my most earnest hope, gentlemen, that you will appreciate the intentions of the Government and with careful consideration and deliberation perform your duty and assist in the progress of the State.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

Viscount Uchida, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, then made a statement as to Japan's foreign policy. He said:—

I feel it my valued privilege to be afforded an opportunity to address this House upon the outlines of Japan's foreign policy and of the general situation in her international relations.

It is a fundamental principle invariably governing the foreign policy of this country, to maintain general repose and tranquillity, especially in the regions of the Far East, and to safeguard the rights and interests which Japan justly enjoys. Constantly guided by that principle, the Imperial Government have directed their careful and unceasing attention to the necessary measures responding to the actual requirements of the

situation and to the condition of the development of our national resources.

It will no doubt be highly gratifying to you, as it is to myself, to find a steady advancement of friendship between this country and the foreign Powers. Above all, our relations with Great Britain have been constantly growing in cordiality while the revision of the Anglo-Japanese Agreement, which was effected last year, has I am sure, given additional strength and solidity to the alliance.

Equally re-assuring are the friendly relations between Japan and Russia. The two Governments have loyally observed, in spirit as well as in letter, their arrangements of 1907 and 1910, and all the reclamations which had for a long time past remained under discussion between them were finally and simultaneously adjusted, leaving no longer any question of serious moment outstanding between the two countries.

Our relations with France are also marked by growing sentiments of mutual confidence and appreciation, both Governments firmly abiding by their Arrangement of 1907. The commercial relations between the two countries are for the time being regulated by the engagement of a *modus vivendi*, but it is confidently expected that they will find a sure guarantee and a fresh impulse in the new Commercial Convention, which was signed last year, and of which the exchange of ratifications is shortly to be effected.

No less satisfactory development is noted in our intercourse with Germany. The revised Treaty of Commerce and Navigation which was concluded and came into operation last year passed the Reichstag in December last, and both Governments having thereupon waived their right of denunciation, the commercial relations between the two countries were placed upon a solid and enduring foundation.

With America, Japan is united, not only by cordial sentiments of traditional standing, but also by material interests of far reaching importance in commerce and trade. Their friendship is too deeply rooted to be shaken by the anti-Japanese movements found in a certain section of the United States. Besides, recent indications point to the gradual removal of the misapprehensions apparently entertained by those agitators against Japan, and the frequent exchange of visits between the two countries of men of distinction and influence has been largely instrumental, for both nations, in appreciating the national dispositions and sentiments of each other and in promoting their mutual good understanding and accord.

The Imperial Government have viewed with serious concern the disturbance in China. In view of the important interests, both political and economic, which Japan possesses in China, the Imperial Government are sincerely anxious to see a prompt re-establishment of order and security, and upon an exchange of views with the Powers interested in the country, they have directed their friendly efforts to bring the conflict to a pacific adjustment before it assumed a graver aspect. They have offered, in co-operation with the British Government, their good offices in facilitating the negotiations between the Chinese Government and the revolutionists, and have moreover, in common with England, Russia, America, France and Germany, urged upon the representatives of both contending parties the necessity of an early restoration of peace. They profoundly regret that in spite of those endeavours, the situation in China has so far shown no sign of improvement. While they will continue to watch with close attention the development of affairs and spare no effort in the interest of peace and stability in the Far East, they ardently hope that the Government and people of China, in appreciation of the general situation, will exert themselves to put an end to the hostilities and to secure the re-establishment of order and tranquillity.

Finally, with regard to the question of Treaty Revision, the conclusion of a new Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and the United States was already announced, I under-

stand, at the last session of this House. The old Treaties with the other foreign Powers having been duly denounced by the Imperial Government, ceased to be operative in the course of July and August last. New Treaties have already been concluded and put into force with Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland, while equally with France and Spain new ones have been signed, and are now awaiting the exchange of ratifications. Negotiations are still proceeding with Austria-Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Portugal for the conclusion of the revised compacts, but in the meantime provisional arrangements have been made with each of those Powers, with the exception of Portugal, pending the conclusion of new Treaties. The Imperial Government, desiring to complete the work of Treaty Revision as early as possible, and to realize the national aspirations entertained ever since the time of the Restoration, are exerting their best endeavours to accelerate those negotiations.

THE LATE COUNT HIGASHIKUZE.

The House then entered on the order of the day, when Prince Tokugawa, President of the House, moved that a message of condolence be sent to the bereaved family of the late Count Higashikuze, Vice-President of the Privy Council. The motion was carried.

Leave of absence applied for by some members was also considered and approved.

The Bill relating to proposed changes in the boundary between Tokyo-fu and Kanagawa prefecture was then taken up for first reading.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, explaining the Bill, said that the main stream of the Tama river now formed the boundary, but the irregularity of the boundary line caused great inconvenience to both prefectures in the matter of riparian work, education and collection of taxes. The change is therefore proposed to avoid these inconveniences.

The Bill was referred to a special committee nominated by the President.

The House rose at 10.45.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives, sat at 1.10 yesterday afternoon after the recess. Marquis Saionji, the Prime Minister, spoke on the general administration, and Viscount Uchida on foreign affairs. Their speeches were identical with those delivered in the House of Peers.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, in introducing the Budget, said:—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of introducing to you the Budget for the 45th fiscal year.

In framing the Budget the Government perceived that whereas the revenue does not show any considerable increase, not only does the annual allotment for consecutive business show some increase, but the progress of public works already voted for calls forth an increased expenditure. In order to maintain the equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure the Government has adopted the policy of drawing up the fiscal programme to the limits of the ordinary revenue and the surplus of the previous Budget.

The Budget, framed in accordance with the said policy, shows the ordinary revenue to amount to 502,555,805 yen and extraordinary revenue to 70,336,061 yen, totalling 572,891,866 yen, while the ordinary expenditure amounts to 411,965,868 yen and extraordinary expenditure to 160,926,002 yen, totalling 572,891,866 yen. Thus the ordinary revenue shows an excess of 90,589,941 yen over the ordinary expenditure, which gives a better result as compared with the relations between the ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure for the preceding fiscal year.

Over and above the expenditure enumerated in the Budget the Government proposes to make use of 2,981,983 yen, which is a portion of the estimate transferred to the general account from the special account of extraordinary

THE GREAT FIRE IN OSAKA.

TERRIBLE AND PITIABLE SCENES.

The *Kobe Herald* of Wednesday evening last gives further details of the great holocaust in Osaka. Our contemporary states that the latest returns compiled by the Police show that in Tuesday's conflagration at Osaka, eighteen streets were devastated and about four thousand five hundred houses were completely destroyed. The pitiable condition of thousands of sufferers in beyond the power of pen or tongue to describe. Hundreds of dispirited people with pale faces and bowed heads may be seen loitering about amidst the yellowish grey smoke that is still rising from the charred timber in devastated districts; men and women, half mad from despair at having suddenly lost all they possessed, are running about the streets where their house once stood. Men and women choked with tears and suffering from cold and hunger after long and desperate labour, are grouped everywhere; while young and old, utterly exhausted, are here and there sleeping beside the scanty property saved from the fire. The flames swept over many districts so swiftly that scores of people lost everything they possessed save the clothes on their backs. One poor woman at Kawara Machi, Namba, who had no time to change her night clothes, so rapid was the progress of the fire, was seen shivering from cold and hunger with an infant at her breast. She was imploring help from passers-by but very few heeded her pleas; almost all were absorbed in contemplation of their own troubles. At Saka Machi, Aoihashi suji, a girl about 7 years of age lost her parents and was loitering about the neighbourhood of her lost home calling for her mother. The police and others tried to soothe her and many of them were in tears. In the neighbourhood of Suehirohashi, Irihori, Kodzu, a couple about 40 years of age went to give assistance to their relatives at Namba in carrying the household goods to a safe place, leaving their children, a girl 12 years of age and boys of 5 years and 2 years old at their own house, but during their absence, the house was burnt down. On returning in haste, they found that their children were missing. Supposing that the children had been burnt to death, the mother went almost mad, and calling upon her children by name started tearing away the red hot tiles and smoking timber with her bare hands. Though her hands were burnt and bleeding, she still kept on while her husband, dazed and dispirited, stood looking on too crushed to take action. Finally some bystanders interfered and promised to assist in discovering the fate of the children. To mention all such pathetic sights would fill our columns. When the course of the fire reached the house next to the Renkoji Temple at Nara, Tera-machi, a priest called Gentoku, aged 30, thought that if the burning house fell toward the north, the temple would be certainly doomed. He once climbed on the fence and tried to prevent the burning house from falling toward the temple. His face looked as red as copper in the lurid light of the burning buildings. While at work in this way, he noticed white smoke issuing from the ceiling of the temple, and at once jumped down from the fence and forced an opening in the ceiling, and threw water in. By this means he was just able to check the flames. But for his resolute efforts, a large number of houses north of Renkoji Temple would have certainly fallen a prey to the flames.

In connection with the cause of the outbreak, it is stated that the sparks from the chimney of the Hiakusoto Bath House, in the Licensed quarter of Namba, fell on the roof of the Yuraku-kwan, which unfortunately only had a shingle roof, and easily set the roof on fire. Investigations made by the Minami Police Station, show that four streets in the Namba licensed quarter, Sennichi-mae, Kawara machi 1-chome and a chome, Nihonbashi-suji 1-chome and a chome, to streets in Kodzu, Shimo Tera machi, Naka Tera machi, Tani machi 6-chome and Ikutama cho, 18 streets in all, in-

cluding 4,885 houses, were devastated, and the total damage is estimated to exceed 10,000,000 yen. The devastated district includes the licensed quarter in Namba Shinnchi, the most bustling district known as Sennichi mae, where there were a large number of shows, theatres and halls for public performances. The consternation caused by the fire was not less than that which was caused by the great conflagration in Kijta-ku a few years ago, though the financial loss this time is much less. There were no wholesale merchants with large stocks of merchandise and but few large godowns, so the loss by Tuesday's conflagration is comparatively small. The houses destroyed were mostly small ones, except about 200 in the licensed quarter, some theatres and shows in Sennichi-mae and Ikutama Shrine and some Temples. As the district was recognized as a dangerous part of the city for fires, the Fire Insurance Companies were slow to take risks there unless the buildings were exceptionally good, and in consequence the losses of the Insurance Companies are not heavy. As full investigations have not yet been completed, it is very difficult to ascertain correct figures as to the loss, but the risks affected are supposed to be somewhat as follows:—

Fire Insurance Companies.	Yen.
Meiji	23,000
Tokyo	70,000
Kobe Kaijo	94,000
Nippon	80,000
Kyodo	80,000
Yokohama	34,000
Osaka	50,000
Naniwa	100,000
Toa	30,000
Fukuju	20,000
Nippon Kaijo	25,000
Nisshin	30,000
Teikoku	25,000
Sun	20,000
New Zealand	15,000
Liverpool and London	20,000
Norwich Union	5,000
Commercial Union	5,000

T. K. K. STEAMER IN DISTRESS.

LACK OF FUEL.

The T. K. K. steamer *Kiyo Maru*, which left Honolulu on the 4th instant for Yokohama, is reported to have encountered a violent storm on Wednesday last, and to be now in distress, her position being aggravated by a lack of coal. At noon on Friday the vessel was at a point 500 miles from Yokohama and going at a speed of six miles an hour. She is expected to arrive here to-morrow. The *Okinawa Maru* of the Communications Department, which was ordered to go to the rescue, postponed her departure on receipt of a message that the storm had abated.

A report is also said to have been received that the Chief Engineer, Mr. Yamashita Yoshio, has committed suicide.

ARRIVAL IN HARBOUR.

The T. K. K. steamer *Kiyo Maru* arrived safely at Yokohama early on Monday morning.

It would appear that the wireless message stating that the vessel was short of fuel was only a surmise, there being enough coal on the *Kiyo* when she reached Yokohama to last for another day and a half. The storm experienced by the *Kiyo* raged from the 14th to the 19th, when the sea went down. The Chief Engineer jumped overboard on the 16th, for what cause is unknown. The vessel sustained no injury in the storm and leaves for Hongkong on the 25th.

Mr. Tahara, Commercial Commissioner in London, in a report as to the defects in silk piece goods exported from Japan, states that the inactivity of the export of Japanese silk piece goods, excepting *habutae*, is to be attributed to the exporters being too far distant from the centre of European fashion to be able to supply the demand of the times, and that the art of weaving and finishing the silk is not perfected.

TELEGRAMS.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

FIGHTING AT DERNA.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 20.

There was severe fighting at Derna yesterday, when the Turks attacked the Italians repairing the aqueduct.

The Turks had taken up positions behind the Italian walls, despite the searchlights and watchdogs, and had also occupied the neighbouring heights.

The Italians brought up their mountain artillery, which proved very effective, and then took the Turkish fort by assault.

The Turks were dislodged from the height after four hours fighting.

The Turks and Arabs, numbering three thousand, retreated after seven hours' fighting and left over a hundred dead on the field, together with arms, ammunition and grenades.

Only a few Italians were killed.

Later.

There was another fierce all-day battle at Tripoli yesterday.

The Italian casualties were fifty; the Turkish are reported to be heavy.

THE FIGHT IN THE RED SEA.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

London, January 15.

Telegrams from Rome state that a despatch from the Italian commander in the Red Sea gives a graphic description of the naval fight on January 13th. He was convinced that the gunboats were concealed at the Farsan Islands and determined upon a driving movement with all the available men-of-war, which was likewise intended to dislodge large forces situated midway between Lohia and Kunfuda.

The cruisers *Calabria* and *Fugla* bombarded Lohia in order to divert the enemy's attention. Meanwhile the cruiser *Piedmonte*, accompanied by two destroyers, was scouring the coast from Jeddah to the south and sighted the yacht and the seven gunboats. The action opened at a distance of 7,000 metres and developed into a sharp engagement in which the land batteries supported the gunboats. The fight lasted for three hours and ended at nightfall, when the gunboats were completely put out of action and retired defeated. Some went ashore, where their crews, who were demoralized, landed under cover of darkness, carrying ammunition and flags, which they had seized, to the beach.

The Italians landed a party in the morning, when the men-of-war again bombarded the gunboats and completed their destruction. The Turks have abandoned Kunfu's, where the Italians avoided hitting mosques.

The Italians did not suffer any losses. The ships bombarded various scattered columns of troops and camels proceeding in the direction of Lohia.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

A THREATENED NAVAL DEMONSTRATION.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 22.

The *Daily Chronicle's* correspondent at Paris states that France intends to make a naval demonstration on the Italian coast in the event of the Italian reply in regard to the captured Turks being unsatisfactory.

Orders have been sent to Toulon to hold the Squadron in readiness.

London, January 23.

There is nothing to confirm the *Daily*

Chronicle's statement as to a naval demonstration by France.

Italy proposes to submit the question of the legality of the seizures to the Arbitration Tribunal at The Hague.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

(FROM THE "N.C. DAILY NEWS.")

London, January 17.

The Italians have stopped the liner *Carthage*, owned by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, which was carrying mails from Marseilles to Tunis, off Sardinia, and seized an aeroplane as being contraband of war.

It appears that the aeroplane was intended for the aviation meeting in Tunis. The aviators are protesting.

France has notified Italy that she reserves liberty of action with regard to the seizure of the steamer *Carthage*. Law experts are now considering the legal aspects of the case.

STATEMENT BY FRENCH PREMIER.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 23.

The French Chamber showed unprecedented enthusiasm, even the Socialists applauding, at the statement of M. Poincaré, the Premier, that neither in international nor in civil law could France surrender the Turks on board of the *Manouba*.

Only after Italy had given them up could the necessary investigation be permitted.

He had taken steps to this end and was confident that Italy would recognise the necessity of settling such incidents in conformity with justice and prevent their recurrence.

Italy's reply gave an assurance of a speedy solution of the question by friendly conversations of the two Governments, and if any differences remained, they could be settled by arbitration.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 23.

The French Chamber received the Premier's statement as to Italian interference with French mail boats with the greatest enthusiasm.

While his tone was friendly, the Premier announced that he was unable to accept the Italian contentions.

The Italian Government declared that it was necessary the searching of ships should be conducted but that it would be done with the consideration due to a friendly nation.

The Premier added that provided the captured Turks were given up these assurances might be regarded as promising a satisfactory settlement.

It is reported that Italy proposes to refer all questions to The Hague.

The tone of the Italian Press is not conciliatory. The papers speak of the French as suffering from nervous irritation.

ITALY AND THE POWERS.

AN AUSTRIAN STEAMER STOPPED.

FRENCH DEMANDS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 24.

It is reported from Perim that the Italian warships have stopped the Austrian liner *Bregenz*.

The French *Chargé d'Affaires* at Rome has demanded that Marquis di San Giuliano, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, release the Turks removed from the *Manouba*.

The Marquis di San Giuliano has delayed

his reply till to-day and confers in the meantime with the Italian Premier.

London, January 25.

There is every prospect of an amicable settlement in the Franco-Italian trouble.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 24.

Public opinion in France unanimously supports the Government's policy in regard to the restoration of the 29 Turkish passengers taken from the *Manouba* when under the protection of the French flag, as an essential preliminary to arbitration.

A satisfactory solution is anticipated without a diplomatic conflict.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE GERMAN FLEET.

London, January 18.

The *Taegliche Rundschau* says that the new third overseas fleet consists of eight ships. Two battleships are already commissioned.

THEIR MAJESTIES' VISIT TO EGYPT.

London, January 18.

The *Medina* arrived at Suakim yesterday morning.

Their Majesties were received by Lord Kitchener, Sir Reginald Wingate and others, and landed amid a picturesque assemblage of native chiefs, including the former Mahdists, who did them homage.

The Majesties took the train to Sinkat and there the King reviewed 3,500 men of the Camel Corps and witnessed some native dances.

Their Majesties returned to the *Medina* in the evening and sailed for Suez.

THE MINERS' BALLOT.

London, January 19.

The official figures of the miners' ballot are 445,801 in favour and 115,921 against a strike.

THE TURKISH CHAMBER.

London, January 19.

The Sultan has dissolved the Turkish Chamber.

FRENCH PROTECTORATE FOR MOROCCO.

London, January 19.

M. Poincaré, the new French Premier, addressing the Senate Committee on the Franco-German Agreement, said it was estimated the expenditure for the establishment of a protectorate in Morocco in 1912 was 3½ million sterling.

The army of occupation consisted of 38,000 men, but this would be reduced on the creation of a Moorish army commanded by French officers.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

London, January 20.

In pursuance with the result of the ballot at the Miners' Conference at Birmingham, it has been decided to despatch notices of a general strike, beginning on the 1st of March.

SEIZURE OF A FRENCH MAIL-BOAT.

London, January 20.

The Italians have seized and conveyed to Cagliari the French mail-boat *Manouba*, which was bound for Tunis.

Later.

The *Manouba* was released on landing twenty-nine Turks, who, the Italian Government was informed, were officers taking money to Tripoli.

The captain of the *Manouba* says the

seizure was due to his refusal to surrender the Turks, who were Red Cross male nurses.

COTTON DISPUTE SETTLED.

London, January 20.

The cotton dispute has been settled and the mills will re start work on Monday.

FRENCH MILITARY AEROPLANES.

London, January 20.

The French Government is asking Parliament for a vote of £880,000 for military aeroplanes.

COUNT VON AEHRENTHAL.

London, January 20.

Count von Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, is reported to be critically ill.

A section of the Press recently violently attacked Count von Aehrenthal in connection with his attitude towards Italy, and there have been rumours of his resignation.

KING GEORGE AT PORT SAID.

London, January 21.

H.M.S. *Medina* has arrived at Port Said. Lord Kitchener travelled on the vessel from Port Sudan.

The Khedive, Lord Kitchener and others lunched on the *Medina* and the King landed in the afternoon.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 22.

The first lot of second ballots show unexpected successes for the Liberals and Radicals and disappointing results for the Socialists.

Those elected are:—Conservatives, 9; Imperialists, 6; Reform Party, 2; Economic Union, 4; Liberals, 20; Radicals, 17; Centre, 7; Socialists, 8; Guelphs, 2; Peasants' Union, 1; Independents, 2.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

London, January 22.

The Opium Conference has practically concluded its labours and has passed the Convention in its entirety.

The Convention was signed in its final form on the 23rd.

It is announced that the Conference has attained the object for which it was summoned.

BRITISH VESSEL STOPPED.

London, January 22.

On the 16th inst. an Italian gunboat overhauled the British ship *Africa* going from Hodeidah to Aden, when near Perim, and removed twelve Turkish officers, including Riza Bey, the famous Yemen veteran.

THE ROYAL PROGRESS.

London, January 22.

Their Majesties have left Port Said.

FIGHTING AT BENGHAZI.

London, January 22.

Four hundred Turks and Arabs attacked the blockhouse at Benghazi on the 18th inst. and were repulsed with 29 killed.

SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN THE STATES.

London, January 23.

The Illinois central express dashed at full-speed into the rear of a passenger train at Centralia, Illinois, and smashed to atoms a private car in the rear of the latter which contained the railway magnates, Messrs. Harahan, Melcher, Peirce and Wright, who were all killed while they were asleep.

Twenty persons were injured.

THE CONNAUGHTS IN NEW YORK.

London, January 23.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and

Princess Patricia have arrived at New York on a visit.

They were welcomed by Mr. Whitelaw Reid.

The large crowds assembled had to be controlled by police-guards.

The Duke and Duchess received fifty invitations to dinner to-night.

They drove off in separate motors in order to avoid reporters.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 24.

The Socialists show 24 nett gains in the second ballots decided on the 22nd.

Those elected now number: Conservatives, 41; allies of Conservatives, 26; Centre, 91; allies of Centre, 24; Liberals, 37; Radicals, 35; Socialists, 99; other factions, 10.

The total Socialist gains are 50, while the Conservatives and their allies have lost 30, the Centre 9, the Liberals 10, and the Radicals 4.

There are 33 more second ballots, which will be decided on Thursday.

THE HOME RULE CAMPAIGN.

London, January 24.

The Belfast Corporation has decided to let Ulster Hall to the Unionists on the 7th of February, the night prior to Mr. Winston Churchill's meeting.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

London, January 24.

The Opium Conference has ended.

The Plenipotentiaries of twelve Powers have signed the Convention, consisting of 25 articles.

London, January 25.

Persia, Siam, Japan, Holland, and Russia are among the signatories of the Opium Convention.

The *Times'* correspondent at The Hague says that by the Convention the Powers agree to control the production and distribution of raw opium so far as it is already unregulated, and to limit, according to the differences in their commercial conditions, the number of towns and ports where the import and export is permitted.

The Powers also agree to prohibit or to control the export of raw opium to countries where its use is prohibited or limited and only authorise persons to carry on the trade where it is permitted.

The Powers undertake the gradual suppression of the manufacture and use of prepared opium and the local trade therein according to the legislation of the different countries.

The Powers which are still not ready for immediate prohibition will adopt restrictions.

The Powers having treaties with China and nationals residing in China all undertake to restrict smoking and limit the number of shops and smoking dens *pari passu* with China.

THE "MEDINA" AT MALTA.

London, January 25.

The sun was shining brightly when H.M.S. *Medina* entered the harbour at Valetta.

Salutes were fired by the warships and the batteries and their Majesties were greeted with loud cheers by the multitude.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

London, January 18.

The warning sent to Cuba is reported

from Washington not to prestage intervention. The State Department hopes it will strengthen the hands of President Gomez and frighten his opponents into a more law-abiding attitude.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 18.

The Kaiser has visited the Chancellor, who subsequently conferred with such leaders of the parties in Prussia as it was possible to assemble.

The Radicals, it is stated, refused the invitation.

The Government appeals for solidarity against the Socialists as yet have had no practical effect, as nobody believes in the alleged danger to the army and navy bills.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, January 19.

The Turks attempted on the 17th inst. to surprise the fortifications building at Delna, but were repulsed with 100 killed.

The Italian losses were trivial.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 20.

On the Stock Exchange Japanese bonds are in demand and Osakas have recovered to 99 3/4.

Chinese are supported.

A ROYAL VISIT TO CANADA.

London, January 20.

The prospect that their Majesties may visit Canada and the United States is being widely discussed in Toronto.

OPERATIONS IN MOROCCO.

London, January 20.

The operations against the Riff Moors have been resumed.

Eight thousand Spaniards have occupied Monterriat commanding the plain of Gaset.

THE COTTON DISPUTE.

London, January 20.

The cotton lock-out has ended.

The operatives have accepted the manufacturers' offer to settle the dispute as to the non-unionist question on the basis of a six months' truce.

COPPER.

London, January 22.

Copper is quoted at 62 1/8—63 1/8 and is tolerably steady.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 22.

On the Stock Exchange Osakas and Nagoyas are in renewed request.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 22.

The expectation of the Socialists that they would not obtain more than 100 seats is justified.

THE DETENTION OF FRENCH MAIL BOATS.

London, January 22.

The Italian activity in seizing two French mail boats has provoked a most angry feeling in France.

Owing to a mistake in deciphering the orders sent, the French Consul at Cagliari surrendered the Turks on the *Manouba*, whereas the order sent to the French Embassy at Rome was to refuse to surrender them.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 23.

On the Stock Exchange Chinese securi-

ties were sold on the receipt of unfavourable news.

Japanese are supported.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 24.

The Socialists now number about 104 and are the strongest party in the Reichstag.

The Conservative and Centre combination is already dead so far as power to carry any division for the Government is concerned.

WEST AFRICA.

London, January 24.

The French Camel Corps have defeated at Tichit in Tauritania a band of pillagers who have long molested the French Settlements in West Africa.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO MALTA.

London, January 24.

Valetta is gaily decorated in anticipation of their Majesties' arrival.

The French and British sailors are fraternising.

THE CONNAUGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

London, January 24.

The arrangements of the U.S. Government show a full determination to mark its appreciation of the Duke of Connaught's forthcoming visit to the President.

The public everywhere is receiving their Highnesses in a very cordial way.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

FURTHER RUSSIAN DENIALS.

Berlin, January 18.

The Russian Foreign Office states in an official declaration that the report published by the *Novoye Vremya*, according to which Mongolia will be ceded to Russia in return for a loan to China, is not based on facts. It is the wish of Russia that Mongolia organizes an autonomous government under Chinese sovereignty.

THE KWANTUNG PENINSULA.

The report of the *Novoye Vremya*, according to which the annexation of Kwantung by Japan is said to be imminent, is also contradicted.

PROPOSED ANTI-SOCIALIST COMBINE FAILS.

The negotiations for an alliance of all other parties against the Socialists for the second ballots have failed. A *rapprochement* is, on the contrary, being prepared between the National Liberals, the Radicals and the Socialists.

NEW LOANS TO BE FLOATED.

The German Government will issue internal loan bonds of 80 million mark and the Prussian Government others of 420 million mark. Subscriptions will be closed on January 29th, the rate of issue being 101.40 mark. The former loan will be used for the amortisation of treasury bonds and the latter for railway construction and electrifying of Berlin City and other railway lines.

SWITZERLAND.

The Press of Switzerland expresses itself very delighted at the coming visit of the Kaiser, who will attend the autumn manoeuvres in the Bernese Alps and in the Engadine.

The Swiss *Army Gazette* says that the progress made by the Swiss militia will be

shown to the Kaiser on the occasion of his visit.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The proposal of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, according to which the early conclusion of an armistice between Turkey and Italy should be effected, although favourably received by the Powers, is strenuously refused by Turkey. The conditions, as fixed by M. Sazanoff, according to which Turkey will be forced to withdraw her troops from Tripoli in return for an indemnity paid by Italy, are declared to be absolutely unacceptable.

QUEEN WILHELMINA'S ILLNESS.

All hopes of a further addition to the family of the Queen of Holland have to be abandoned for the present. The Queen, however, is reported to be progressing favourably.

NEW STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

The Rickmers Steamship Company will extend its service to Japan and Kamchatka.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to January 4th, ex-Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on January 18th.

TURKISH CHAMBER DISSOLVED.

The Turkish Chamber has been dissolved. KING TO MEET VON KIDERLEN.

Berlin, January 19.

Victor Emanuel, King of Italy, has expressed his intention of meeting Herr von Kiderlen on his visit at Rome.

CLERICAL OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER.

The Clericals in Austria have raised very strong opposition in the Reichsrath against Count Aehrenthal, who is backed by the Hungarian deputies. The Emperor Franz Joseph agrees with the Count's cautious political attitude towards Italy.

GERMAN-PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS.

The Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs has declared that the German-Portuguese negotiations on the regulation of the frontier of Southern Angola are making good progress.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Egyptian troops have occupied the Sinai peninsula for the purpose of maintaining the neutrality of the peninsula during the Turco-Italian war.

MONGOLIA.

It is officially denied from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government has offered a loan to China for the cession of Mongolia.

The Chinese garrison of Uijassutai has fled, owing to the dangerous attitude of the Mongolian populace. The highest Chinese official in the town has handed over to the revolutionaries the arms of the garrison.

It is officially announced from Mukden, that the Princes of Southern Mongolia have declared their independence. Northern Mongolia will also declare her independence only in the event of the Dynasty of the Manchus being overthrown.

GERMAN SECRETARY AT ROME.

Berlin, January 20.

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has arrived at Rome. It is stated that he will sound the Italian Government as to the conditions of peace between Italy and Turkey.

Berlin, January 21.

The principal reason for the visit of Herr

von Kiderlen-Waechter to Rome is reported to be for the purpose of holding preparatory conferences with a view to the conclusion of an understanding between Turkey and Italy. He was received by the King and honoured with the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Maurice. He also had a meeting with Count Buelow, the former German Chancellor.

AUSTRIAN HEIR-APPARENT'S VISIT.

Berlin, January 20

It is expected that the Austrian Successor to the Throne and his Consort will visit Berlin on the occasion of the Kaiser's birthday, when the youngest son of the Crown Prince will be christened.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

Berlin, January 21.

The second ballots for the Reichstag, so far concluded, have resulted in losses to the Conservatives and the Centre and gains to the middle parties.

NEW GERMAN ARMY BILL.

The German press publishes some further statements as to a new Army Bill, according to which two new army corps and several mounted artillery corps are to be provided, the cost of which will be met by an inheritance tax.

HUNGARY SOLID FOR AEHRENTHAL.

Berlin, January 20.

The Hungarian Ministry is unanimously voting for retaining Count Aehrenthal, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at his post.

EGYPTIAN LAW-COURTS.

The *Egyptian Gazette* demands the introduction into Egypt of the English Law Code and the suspension of the mixed courts.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

The Opium Conference has passed its final resolution and the principal aim of the conference is said to have been reached.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

The Russian Garrison at Mukden is reported to have been strengthened and the Manchurian coast will be strictly guarded by Russian warships as a precautionary measure against the revolutionary expedition of General Lang Tien-wai.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to January 7th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on January 21st.

FAR-EASTERN DIPLOMATS DECORATED.

Berlin, January 22.

Count Rex, the German Ambassador at Tokyo, has been honoured with the Star of the Second-Class of the Order of the Red Eagle; Freiherr von der Goltz, the German Minister at Bangkok, with the Second Class, and Consul-General von Syburg at Yokohama, with the Third-Class of the same Order.

COUNT AEHRENTHAL ILL.

Count Aehrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is reported to be ill.

CHINESE TROOPS BARRED FROM RAILWAY.

It is officially reported at St. Petersburg that the Russian-Manchurian Railway has refused to transport Chinese troops against the revolutionaries at Chailar.

GERMAN SECRETARY'S VISIT.

The German Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs has paid a visit to the Secretary of State at the Vatican, Mons. del Val. He left Rome on January 21st.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The proposed mediation between Italy and Turkey for the conclusion of peace has proved unavailable at present, owing to the radical difference of opinion of both sides.

The Italian Government has declared an effective blockade over the whole of the Turkish-Arabian coast on the Red Sea.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

Berlin, January 23.

The results of the Elections for the German Reichstag, including the second ballots, concluded by Saturday last, according to the official registers are as follows:—Conservatives 36, Reichs Party 11, Reform Party 2, Economic Union 7, Peasants Union 2, Centre 88, Poles 14, National Liberals 24, Progressive Liberals 17, Socialists 72, Alsacians 6, Welfes 2, Danes 1, Independents 2.

By Saturday last 284 deputies were elected and 113 second ballots were to take place between January 22nd and January 25th, when the elections must be concluded.

The competition in the election for the sixth Deputy for Berlin was very keen. The second ballot was between the Deputy Herr Kaempf of the Progressive Liberals and a Socialist. The Conservative Party, at the beginning of the struggle proclaimed that it would abstain from taking part in this election campaign. The party, however, issued an appeal to its members in favour of the progressive candidate, after the Ministers of the State had taken part in the election.

Herr Kaempf, the Candidate of the Progressive Liberal Party, was elected after sharp competition, by a majority of only seven votes over the Socialist.

QUEEN HELENA AS GODMOTHER.

Queen Helena of Italy has consented to be godmother to the youngest son of the German Crown Prince, who will be christened on the Kaiser's birthday.

N.D.L. SEAMEN DROWNED.

Four of the members of the crew of the Nordd.-Lloyd steamers *Halle* and *Crefeld* have been drowned as the result of an accident when boating in the harbour of Rio de Janeiro.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

Berlin, January 24.

The results of 364 elections for the German Reichstag have been announced up till January 23rd. The state of the parties is now as follows:—

Conservatives	41
Reichs Party	12
Agrarians (Economic Union)...	10
Reform Party.....	3
Poles	16
Centre.....	91
Welfes.....	3
Bavarian Peasant Union	4
National Liberals	38
Progressive Liberals	35
Socialists.....	99
Alsacians.....	5
Lothringians	2
Dane	1
Independents	2

There are 33 second ballots still outstanding which will be concluded on January 25th. The prospects of the Liberals in these last 33 second ballots are not unfavourable.

The Cities of Cologne and Frankfurt

have elected Socialist deputies for the Reichstag.

COMING SESSION OF REICHSTAG.

The Reichstag will be opened on February 7th.

The Press of all parties expects the speedy presentation of the new armament bills, in order to outline the attitude and co-operation of the new Reichstag with regard to national demands.

"PANTHER" CREW FETED.

A banquet has been given in honour of the officers and crew of the German gunboat *Panther* on the occasion of the latter's return to the West African Station. Toasts were exchanged on this occasion emphasizing the good relations between Germany and Portugal.

FOREIGN SECRETARY'S RETURN.

Herr von Kiderlen Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will return to Berlin on January 26th.

TURKISH LOAN FLOATED.

The Turkish Loan has been concluded in London through the efforts of Sir Ernest Cassel, the amount being 170,500,000 francs.

H.A.L. ORDERS NEW VESSEL.

The Hamburg-America Line has ordered from the Weser Dockyard a new fast steamer for the round-the-world line. The new service is to be inaugurated after the completion of the Panama Canal.

NEW LOAN COMMISSIONER.

Consul-General Prietsch will be nominated as Chief of the Turkish Loan Administration Commission, succeeding Consul General Dr. Bünz.

KOBE SAILING CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

On Wednesday afternoon last, states our contemporary, the *Kobe Herald*, the annual general meeting of the Kobe Sailing Club was held at the Gymnasium at 5.30. There was a large attendance of members. The Chair was taken by Mr. W. W. Campbell, the Commodore.

The Chairman reviewed the work of the past season and went generally into the question of the racing, the judging, etc. He said he thought that a hearty vote of thanks ought to be accorded to the *Osaka Mainichi* and especially to Mr. Fugieda and his assistants for the kindness with which they treated the members of the Club who went over to Hamadera at the invitation of the *Osaka Mainichi* Shimbunsha. He thought it was very regrettable that no Japanese yachts were present. He himself had preached for a long time on "Why do not the Japanese go in for yachting?" He thought it was very strange they did not take it up.

Referring to the Interport Races he regretted to say that when the Yokohama representatives came down in the Spring, Kobe was defeated. In the Autumn the Kobe men went up to Yokohama after that Cup but they did not bring it back. Yokohama had eleven wins to their credit while Kobe only had six. The thanks of the members were due to those who represented Kobe and to the Yokohama Mosquito Yacht Club, who looked after Kobe's representatives while they were there.

On the motion of Mr. Forsyth, Mr. W. W. Campbell was re-elected Commodore by acclamation. On the motion of the Chairman, Captain J. S. Stevenson was re-elected Vice-Commodore by acclamation.

The Chairman said that when he went home last year he took with him the flag which they presented to him and flew it at the truck of a big

fishing smack which he sailed at Falmouth for a week. The flag was greatly admired.

A ballot was taken for the election of a new Committee, the result being that Messrs R. Levy, Alkin, H. E. Reynell, Junr., J. A. Doyer, J. D. Abell, and Kramer were elected.

ADMINISTRATIVE ENTERPRISES IN CHOSEN.

FOR 1912-13 FISCAL YEAR.

A summary of the programme of enterprises to be executed by the Government-General of Chosen in the next fiscal year, commencing the 1st of April, has just been published at Seoul. The *Seoul Press* translates it as follows:

In the coming fiscal year, although there will be no change in carrying on the policy and programme already fixed, the Government-General will devote its energies chiefly towards the promotion of industrial development with a fund available from increase in its revenue. A plan has been formed for the same purpose; and in addition to the execution of it, the Authorities will undertake curtailment in administrative expenses through a re-arrangement of Government departments. The principal features of the re-arrangement include the abolition of the General Affairs Department, the business of which will be transferred to the Governor General's Secretariat; readjustment and transfer of business of the present three separate Bureaus for Investigations, Monopoly and Printing to the Government-General proper; and abolition or fusion of some other bureaux and sections with a view to facilitating transaction of business. As to the judicial machinery, the three instance examination system will be maintained, but a modification will be introduced, so that in lower Courts the single judge system, as principle, will obtain in future, the collegiate system, composed of three judges, being adopted only in very important cases, both civil and criminal. These rearrangements will enable the Chosen Administration to reduce its personnel by eighty officials in the higher civil service and 175 lower officials. Money saved by the changes, again, will amount to over 470,000 yen, of which the Government-General proper represents over 106,000 yen, Law Courts some 150,000 yen, the Railway Bureau over 155,000 yen, and the three Bureaus of Investigations, Printing and Monopoly over 57,000 yen. The sum thus obtained will, first of all, be made instrumental in discontinuing the export and transit duties on a majority of taxable articles, including rice, cocoons, marine products, and manures, with the object of stimulating trade and economic activity. Decrease in the revenue owing to this partial abolition is estimated at over 450,000 yen. Articles liable to export or transit duties in future will be only eight in number, viz., wheat, soya beans, red beans, sesame, cattle, hides, coal and iron ore.

The revenue of the Government-General for the next fiscal year is estimated at over 26,730,000 yen ordinary, and over 26,150,000 yen extraordinary, making a total of over 52,890,000 yen. The expenditure is estimated at over 30,230,000 yen ordinary, and over 22,650,000 yen extraordinary, making a total of over 52,890,000 yen. As compared with the present fiscal year (1911-12), the Budget of the next fiscal year shows an increase of over 4,150,000 yen in revenue. The principal factors of this increase, in so far as ordinary revenue is concerned, consist in a natural increment of tax receipts to the value of over 450,000 yen, increased railway receipts amounting to over 1,420,000 yen and increased receipts from communication enterprises amounting to over 430,000 yen. These added to others indicate an excess in ordinary revenue of 2,660,000 yen in round figures as against the current fiscal year. In extraordinary revenue an increase of over 270,000 yen in proceeds from the issue of loan bonds and over 1,220,000 yen brought forward from the previous fiscal year from the principal factors, making a total of over 1,480,000 yen.

The chief enterprises decided to be undertaken as a result of this increase in revenue comprise extension of salt and ginseng industries, communication facilities, railways, water-works, harbour accommodation, landed property investigations and work of the Pyongyang Mining Station; protection of forests, betterment of land, industrial investigations, and encouragement of raw cotton cultivation; establishment of more schools and Monetary Circulation Associations; and subsidies to, and encouragement of, the coasting trade and river navigation, philanthropical enterprises, engineering works and productive industries.

With regard to administrative offices, the necessity for increasing the personnel of the provincial offices was made manifest, so that administrative improvement might be secured. Additional executive official and technical experts will accordingly be appointed to the different provincial offices. The number of medical experts and assistants in the provincial Charity Hospitals will be increased at the same time. A nursery for silk-worm eggs, attached to the Model Industrial Station, and a central experimental station concerning manufacturing industries, will be newly established, while Customs inspection stations will be newly added. As a result of growth in the number of prisoners, the staff of prisons will also be increased. A special account, on the other hand, will be created for the Government Hospital in order to unify the management of various enterprises of the hospital and the Saisei In (asylum for orphans, blind and others).

THE CANADIAN NAVY.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The first annual report of the Canadian Department of Naval Defence since its inauguration has been issued. Details are given concerning the organization of the staff, the establishment of the Naval College at Halifax, and the operations of the *Rainbow* and *Niobe*. The total expenditure on the service during the year was \$1,790,017 (\$358,000). Down to the end of the year, besides the 21 naval cadets now in training, 223 recruits were registered. Of these 185 went to the *Niobe* and 38 to the *Rainbow*. Nova Scotia contributed 97 men to the *Niobe*, Ontario 45, Quebec 28, Prince Edward Island 11, and New Brunswick 3. The recruits for the *Rainbow* were, with the exception of two from Ontario and one from Alberta, all obtained in British Columbia. Neither Manitoba nor Saskatchewan has as yet sent a single man to the naval service.

The section of the report dealing with the hydrographic survey of Hudson Bay by the ice-breaking steamer *Stanley* does not give a reassuring view of the safety or feasibility of the Hudson Bay route for other than specially constructed craft suitable for encountering ice floes. It is stated that as late in the year as July 22 the *Stanley* encountered at the north entrance of the bay an ice field extending for 200 miles, requiring great skill on the part of the pilot in finding leads. Hydrographer William J. Stewart concludes that any vessel navigating the bay must be prepared to meet ice. He says:—

Whilst none of that met with on this voyage could have been dangerous to the *Stanley*, or sealers and other specially constructed vessels now trading with this district, I am of the opinion that it might be dangerous to a ship not so built. I certainly do not think any cargo vessel of ordinary construction would have been able to find or force her way through the large field met with at Fort Churchill, but would have been obliged to remain in the ice until it was loosened by wind or currents.

Apart from the ice, the report indicates that dangers and difficulties in the navigation of Hudson Straits and Bay are by no means unimportant, arising chiefly from inaccurate or inadequate charting and from the proximity of the magnetic pole, with the consequent effect upon compasses.

The report also describes the plan of the Department for a wireless telegraph system on the

Great Lakes. This will include a chain of stations approximately 180 miles apart from Port Arthur to Kingston, with a station at Kingston of sufficient range to communicate with Montreal, thus linking up the proposed system with the east coast system and giving through communication between Belle Isle or Cape Race and Port Arthur. The scheme as drafted will include stations at or near Kingston, Toronto, Port Colborne, Port Stanley, Sarnia, Tobermory, Midland, Sault Ste. Marie, and Port Arthur.

DEATH OF MRS. LAWRENCE.

The *Nagasaki Press* regrets to report the death of Mrs. Yoshi Lawrence, widow of the late Mr. Simeon Frost Lawrence, who for many years was Constable of the British Consulate there. Deceased, who was 58 years of age, entered Urakami Hospital about a fortnight ago and underwent an operation for cancer; the disease had taken too firm a hold, however, and after considerable suffering deceased passed away at 12.38 a.m. on the 21st. Mrs. Lawrence was the first Japanese lady to marry a foreigner after the first treaties with foreign powers had been signed, her marriage taking place at Hakodate in 1869 or 1870. In 1878 her husband was transferred from the Consulate at Hakodate to Nagasaki and here she resided until her death. During her long residence in Nagasaki the deceased lady was a member of the Church of Japan and actively engaged in religious work; her death will be a great loss to the local church and various Christian organisations to which she belonged.

The funeral took place on the 22nd, the remains being interred in Urakami Cemetery. The Rev. S. Ushijima, of the Omura-machi Church, was the officiating clergyman. The chief mourners were two adopted children. A large number of friends, Japanese and foreign, attended and some beautiful floral tributes were sent.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The railway strikers in the Argentine have agreed to accept Government mediation.

THE S.P.C.K. has voted £50 towards the building of a wooden church at Hiroshima, in the diocese of Osaka.

THE *Soya* and *Aso* of the Training Squadron are officially reported to have left Sydney on the 22nd instant for Townsville.

THE *Daily Chronicle* learns that Welsh Disestablishment will take precedence of Home Rule in the next session of Parliament.

THE battleships *Aki*, *Katori*, *Shikishima* and *Mikasa* of the First Standing Squadron left Chemulpo for Port Arthur on Wednesday.

MR. EDMUND HERRING, aged 55, has just been selected as a Rhodes scholar. The veteran Mr. Morris Herring is the uncle of Mr. Edmund Herring.

THE *Daily News* states that their Majesties will visit Belfast and Londonderry next summer, after which they will cruise round the western and southern coasts.

A PARTY of Tokyo actresses will give performances at the Kirakuza Theatre, Isezaki-cho, Yokohama, from Thursday, commencing at 8 o'clock every evening.

THE Lord Mayor and Corporation of London have decided to invite their Majesties to a luncheon at the Guildhall on their return to England from the Durbar.

It is reported from San Francisco that the aviators Baldwin, Lee, and Hammond, have left there for Japan, where they will establish schools of aviation and factories for construction of aerial

machines. The scheme is being supported by American and Japanese capital to the amount of £100,000.

CONTINUOUS snowstorms were reported from the Midlands and the north of England during the preceding thirty hours on the 19th inst. The roads and railways were blocked.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha held its ordinary general meeting on Wednesday afternoon, when a dividend of seven per cent. per annum for the present term was declared.

THE Australian Commonwealth is organizing an aviation school and the authorities are obtaining two skilled British aviators and are ordering four aeroplanes of British make.

THE *Nagasaki Press* reports that the captains of the steam trawlers *Minato Maru*, of Kobe, and No. 3 *Nagato Maru*, of Osaka, are being prosecuted for fishing within the prohibited zone near Hirado, Nagasaki Ken.

A JAPANESE employé of Messrs. Simon, Evers & Co., by the name of Sugiura, who is alleged to have since 1910 embezzled some 6,000 yen of the rebates of Customs duty belonging to the firm, has been arrested by the Kagacho police.

ACTIVE preparations are being made in London, Windsor and Sandringham to welcome their Majesties on their return from India. A thanksgiving service at St. Paul's, a banquet at the Guildhall and a drive in semi state through the City are being arranged.

A DESPATCH from Tientsin reports that a meeting of the shareholders of the Lanchow Colliery Company was held on the 15th instant, when the question of amalgamation with the Kaiping Colliery was discussed. After careful deliberation it was decided that the Kaiping Company should receive 60 per cent. of the net profit for ten years, the remainder going to the Lanchow Company, and that on the expiration of that period the two companies should share the profits equally.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL left England on the 3rd inst. for a tour of the world, the chief object of which is to encourage the Boy Scout movement not only in the Colonies, but in foreign countries. His journey includes Japan, where he will spend about a fortnight. The movement has a warm champion in General Nogi, who was recently in England. It is possible that a Japanese corps of Boy Scouts will be inaugurated. Subsequently he will visit Hongkong.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, January 27.

The market of Raw Cotton is somewhat firmer. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON. PER PICUL.
American Middling ... 32.00 to 33.00
Indian Broach ... 31.00 to 32.00
Chinese (Old crop) ... 30.00 to 31.00
Chinese (New crop) ... 30.00 to 31.00

COTTON YARN. PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed ... 260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ... 345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed ... 520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in ... 5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/4-44 in. Common to Good ... 5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. Ordinary to Good ... 6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches ... 7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ... 3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians ... 0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians ... 0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—28 to 31b 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.
30 inches ... 1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—38 to 41b, 24-25 yards, 32 inches ... 2.50 to 3.65

HEAD ONE MASS OF RUNNING ECZEMA

Took Every Hair Off. A Pitiful Sight. Kept Someone Night and Day to Prevent His Scratching. After Second Application of Cuticura Ointment, Itching Stopped.

Now Has Lovely Skin and Hair Thanks to Cuticura Remedies.



"I have much pleasure in enclosing a photograph of baby by which you will see that there is no trace of eczema left. When he was three months his little head and face became one mass of running eczema which took every hair off his head, and his little eyes were almost closed up. He became a pitiful sight, and it kept someone night and day to prevent him from scratching himself and making it bleed. The doctor attended him for about three months and gave us ointments and medicines which did him no good. Then we turned to patent ointments. Still no result. We felt daunted until we read of a cure by the Cuticura Remedies. Then we carefully applied Cuticura Ointment. After the second application the itching stopped. He made no further attempts to scratch, and in a week he was on the high road to recovery. We continued with Cuticura Soap and Ointment, and in about five weeks there was no trace of eczema. He has lovely skin and a beautiful head of hair, thanks to Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment." (Signed) Mrs. H. A. Morgan, 20, Fuli St., London, So. Wales March 20, 1910.

Sold throughout the world. Depots: London, 17, Charterhouse Sq.; Leghorn, Ltd., Cape Town, etc.; B. K. Paul, Calcutta; U.S.A., Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ... 12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ... 1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette ... 0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere ... 0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.
Flannels ... 0.44 to 0.70
Union Italians ... 0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium ... 0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best ... 0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches ... —
Cloths—Army Cloth ... —
Cloths—All others ... —
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs ... 0.90 to 1.00

METALS.

Prices on the home side are firm, and the market is dull.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round, and square ... 4.10 to 4.20
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate ... 4.95 to 5.10
Sheet Iron ... 6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel ... 6.50 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated ... 10.20 to 10.40
" Flat ... 11.20 to 11.30
Wire, Nails, Ordinary assortments ... 6.50 to 6.55
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. ... 8.50 to 8.55
Fig Iron, No. 4 " Redcar " ... 2.25 to 2.30

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.
Chester ... 3.30
Victory ... 3.60
Nonpareil ... 4.80
Somatra ... 2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo ... 3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu ... 3.00 to 3.55
Nippon ... 2.78 to 3.35
Ogura ... 3.30
Todai ... 3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.
Brown Manila ... 10.10 to 12.40
Brown China ... —

Brown Java...	9.90 to 10.50
White Java...	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)...	15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong) ...	14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first ...	Y. 240.00
" second ...	300.00
Java, first ...	320.00
" second ...	280.00
Madras, first ...	—
" second ...	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand ...	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin" ...	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.00
Flag ...	10.95 to 11.00
Royal ...	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal ...	10.95 to 11.00
Lion ...	11.05 to 11.70
Portland ...	11.15 to 11.20
Premier ...	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—	
Rising Sun ... 6 ...	2.80
Takasago ... 6 ...	2.75
Fuji ... 6 ...	2.85
Pine ... 6 ...	2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.

White Walla Walla, 100 lbs ...	4.95
Red ...	4.90
Blue Stem ...	5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On January 23rd stocks were: Filatures 21,934 bales; Re-reels, 2,346 bales; Kakedas, 689 bales.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse...	930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse...	880
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse...	900
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den...	865
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 9-11den...	900
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 12-14den...	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 13-15den...	845
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 11-13den...	875
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha...	835
Re-reels—Extra...	—
Re-reels—No. 1...	865
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2...	850
Re-reels—No. 2...	830
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra...	870
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop...	850
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop...	845
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop...	830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

January.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
19th...	8.42	8.51	8.56
20th...	8.44	8.51	8.59
21st...	—	—	—
22nd...	8.38	8.45	8.53
23rd...	8.40	8.48	8.54
24th...	8.39	8.47	8.54
25th...	8.37	8.44	8.51

WASTE SILK.

Market continues active at unchanged prices. On January 13th stocks were:—Noshi, 16,575 bales; Kibiso, 10,502 bales; Sundries, 988 bales.

QUOTATIONS.	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best ...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good ...	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium ...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior ...	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ...	100 to 115
Rereel—Fair ...	—
Rereel—Best ...	—
Rereel—Good ...	—
Rereel—Medium ...	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull. Kanazawa:—There has been a general decline in prices for all qualities.

Kawmata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINK-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)	
Inches.	Yen.
6 ms. 6 1/4 ms. 7 ms. 7 1/4 ms. 8 ms.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" ...	8.15 7.95 7.95 7.85 7.80
27" ...	7.90 7.80 7.70 7.60 7.70
36" ...	8.05 7.80 7.75 7.60 7.65
"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)	
Inches.	Yen.
4 1/4 ms. 4 3/4 ms. 5 ms. 5 1/4 ms.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" ...	7.85 7.70 7.65 7.50
27" ...	7.65 7.60 7.55 7.55
36" ...	7.55 7.55 7.50 7.50

KAWAMATA.	
Inches.	Yen.
3 ms. 3 1/4 ms. 4 ms. 4 1/4 ms.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
26" ...	7.10 7.70 8.60 9.40
27" ...	7.40 8.30 9.50 10.00
27 1/2" ...	8.90 10.20 11.10 11.80
36" ...	12.00 13.40 15.30 16.30

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of January 25th the quotation was £63 2 6.

Refined per 100 km ...	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 km ...	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 km ...	" 47.00—50.00
Ore ...	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm	
Domestic rice in Fukagawa ...	bags. 712.852
Foreign rice in Fukagawa ...	98.601
Delivery.	
January ...	Closing Price 18.25
February ...	18.13
March ...	18.33
(Osaka.)	
January ...	18.88
February ...	18.31
March ...	18.22
(Kobe.)	
January ...	18.59
February ...	—
March ...	18.18

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.	
	(Tokyo.)
Superior ...	per koku. Yen 19.00
Medium ...	18.00
Common ...	16.60
Average ...	17.87

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)	
The market is firm.	
Delivery.	
January ...	Yen. 132.45
February ...	131.90
March ...	130.85

TEA. The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till January 23rd, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.	
Choicest ...	nominal.
Choice ...	—
Finest ...	—
Fine ...	—
Good Medium ...	—
Medium ...	—
Good Common ...	—
Common ...	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Jan. 26. London silver 1/8 higher, China sterling quotations not yet received but local rates on China are rather higher, and other rates unaltered.

London—Bank T.T. ...	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— " Sight ...	2/0 1/2
— " 60 days ...	2/0 1/2
— " 4 months' sight ...	2/0 1/2
— " Credit 4 months' sight ...	2/0 1/2
— " 6 months' sight ...	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days ...	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight ...	257
— Private 4 months' sight ...	262
America—Bank sight ...	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight ...	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight ...	51
Germany—Bank sight ...	207 1/2 @ 8
— Private 4 months' sight ...	213
India—Bank sight ...	152
— Private 30 days' sight ...	154
Hongkong—Bank sight ...	per \$100. 95 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight ...	do 93 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight ...	78 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight ...	79 1/2
Silver (London) ...	20 1/2

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IN DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America ...	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Jan. 27
Hongkong ...	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Su. Jan. 28
Seattle ...	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	F. Feb. 2
Hongkong ...	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong ...	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Su. Feb. 4
Europe ...	N. D. L.	Derflinger	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong ...	P. M.	Siberia	M. Feb. 5
Tacoma ...	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	W. Feb. 7
America ...	P. M.	Mongolia	F. Feb. 9
Hongkong ...	B. L.	Lucifer	F. Feb. 9
Hongkong ...	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong ...	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. Feb. 13
Vancouver ...	B. L.	Ortic	Sa. Feb. 17
Vancouver ...	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23

1 Left Seattle on the 16th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 23rd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe ...	N. D. L.	Goeben	Sa. Jan. 27
Shanghai ...	N. Y. K.	Hakui Maru	Su. Jan. 28
Hongkong ...	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	M. Jan. 29
America ...	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Tu. Jan. 30
Europe ...	N. Y. K.	Tango Maru	W. Jan. 31
Seattle ...	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	W. Jan. 31
Europe ...	M. M.	Sydney	Sa. Feb. 3
Australia ...	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Feb. 3
Tacoma ...	B. & S.	Proteus	Sa. Feb. 3
Vancouver ...	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Sa. Feb. 4
Hongkong ...	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	M. Feb. 5
Tacoma ...	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu. Feb. 6
America ...	P. M.	Siberia	W. Feb. 7
Shanghai ...	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Feb. 8
Hongkong ...	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	F. Feb. 9
Seattle ...	B. L.	Lucifer	Sa. Feb. 10
Hongkong ...	P. M.	Mongolia	Sa. Feb. 10
Seattle ...	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Feb. 16
Hongkong ...	B. L.	Ortic	Su. Feb. 18
Hongkong ...	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997, S. Nemoto, 19th Jan.,—Osaka, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,140, H. Yada, 19th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Slam, Danish steamer, 2,489, Knudsen, 19th Jan.,—Copenhagen and Gothenburg via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, K. Amakawa, 19th Jan.,—Dairen, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 19th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Asyanax, British steamer, 3,021, J. W. Reed, 19th Jan.,—Liverpool via Shanghai and Kusanaka, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.
Aragonia, German steamer, 3,224, C. Meyer, 19th Jan.,—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Mai Rickmers, German steamer, 2,563, H. I. Iam, 20th Jan.,—Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Saxonia, German steamer, 3,316, Stehr, 20th Jan.,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Kioto, British steamer, 4,020, J. Arthur Smith, 20th Jan.,—New York via ports, General.—Sole & Frazer Ltd.
Inverclyde, British steamer, 3,214, D. Mansfield, 21st Jan.,—Yokosuka.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, K. Hori, 21st Jan.,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka 'hosen Kaisha.)
Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 21st Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. Fisher, 21st Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Yamanaka, 21st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Pulhan, British steamer, 3,176, E. A. Chaplin, 21st Jan.,—Liverpool via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Algon, British steamer, 4,897, A. Watson, 21st Jan.,—San Francisco, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,825, C. H. Pule, 21st Jan.—Muran, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kiyō Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,757, S. Togo, 22nd Jan.—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Annam, French steamer, 3,899, Veziat, 22nd Jan.—Antwerp and Marseilles via ports, General.—M.M. Co.

Benlueers, British steamer, 2,510, H. W. Bee, 22nd Jan.—Leith, Middlesbrough and London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,615, A. Muir, 22nd Jan.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazer Ltd.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 22nd Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Suvaric, British steamer, 4,011, F. S. Cowley, 22nd Jan.—Manila and Hongkong via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860, J. C. Richards, 22nd Jan.—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Silesta, German steamer, 3,138, Reuss, 23rd Jan.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Bentley Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 23rd Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glenlogan, British steamer, 3,740, J. McGregor, 23rd Jan.—London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Sherrie, British steamer, 2,796, G. J. Perks, 23rd Jan.—Vancouver, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Goben, German steamer, 5,151, A. Thilborn, 23rd Jan.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 23rd Jan.—Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

Rippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 23rd Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kobura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurosumi, 23rd Jan.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Needles, British steamer, 2,906, J. P. Turner, 23rd Jan.—Tacoma, General.—American Trading Co.

Savarino, British steamer, 3,330, Semple, 23rd Jan.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazer Co., Ltd.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, R. D. Owen, 24th Jan.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kichirin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 24th Jan.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Agashima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 24th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 24th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,077, Costa, 24th Jan.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 24th Jan.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oturu Maru, Japanese steamer, 973, S. Kawashima, 24th Jan.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, F. L. Davison, 25th Jan.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Chibyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 25th Jan.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Yasuda Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,366, J. Sekine, 25th Jan.—Melbourne, Sydney and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Kinan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 19th Jan.—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sayami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,140, H. Yada, 20th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mexican Prince, British steamer, 1,953, J. C. Young, 20th Jan.—Moji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Asyansz, British steamer, 3,021, J. W. Read, 20th Jan.—Marseilles, Havre and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tonkin, French steamer, 2,327, Charbonnel, 20th Jan.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Atagomid, German steamer, 3,224, C. Meyer, 21st Jan.—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Siara, Danish steamer, 2,489, Knudsen, 21st Jan.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Yeboshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clarke, 21st Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Canton, Swedish steamer, 2,226, J. M. Renstrom, 21st Jan.—Copenhagen and Gothenburg via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, Y. Kishi, 21st Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yotorofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 22nd Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 22nd Jan.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 22nd Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997, S. Nemoto, 22nd Jan.—Yokkaichi, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Asiatic, British steamer, 2,313, S. A. Bolton, 23rd Jan.—Moji, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Pembroke, British steamer, 3,000, W. C. Barrett, 23rd Jan.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Nyansa, British steamer, 4,179, H. N. Rivers, 23rd Jan.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Korea, American steamer, 5,631, W. Fisher, 23rd Jan.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M.S.S. Co.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,759, K. Hori, 23rd Jan.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

Suvaric, British steamer, 4,011, F. S. Cowley, 23rd Jan.—Seattle and Portland via Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Saxonia, German steamer, 3,316, Stehr, 23rd Jan.—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Bentley Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 23rd Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kioto, British steamer, 4,020, J. Arthur Smith, 24th Jan.—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Sale & Frazer Ltd.

Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Yamanaka, 24th Jan.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Alcoa, British steamer, 4,807, A. Watson, 25th Jan.—Kobe, General.—P.M.S.S. Co.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 25th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 25th Jan.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860, K. Asakawa, 25th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, F. L. Davison, 25th Jan.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 25th Jan.—Manila and Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.).

Needles, British steamer, 2,906, J. P. Turner, 25th Jan.—Kobe, General.—American Trading Co.

Kjeld, Norwegian steamer, 910, J. Hellesoe, 25th Jan.—Hongkong, General.—Thomas & Co.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, R. D. Owen, 25th Jan.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Oturu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,551, S. Kawashima, 25th Jan.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 25th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sherrie, British steamer, 2,796, G. J. Perks, 25th Jan.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per French steamer *Tonkin* from Marseilles via ports:—Capt. Hunt, Mr. S. Matsuyama, Mr. Uyeno and Mr. Ferdinand Jean in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. S. Tachibana in cabin; 1 Japanese in second class; 5 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Korea* from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. E. Hamilton, Mrs. E. M. Kelley, Mr.

P. J. Waldmer, Mr. D. Ordovega, Miss C. Ordovega and Mr. G. W. Shirley. For Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. P. O'Higgins, Mr. H. H. Hewlett and Mr. R. M. King. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Brown, Master Hansom Brown, Mr. Jno. Ruchman, Mrs. G. C. Buell, Master D. Buell, Mr. J. H. Pagan, Mr. W. S. Fleming, Mr. G. V. Heane, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Kirshner, Mr. C. E. Lynam, Mrs. M. B. McCormick, Mr. R. S. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Mandell, Master L. Mandell, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Mead, Master Geo. Mead, Mr. and Mrs. A. Nayagamo, Mr. K. Nishimoto, Miss E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Westaway, Miss Jean Westaway, Master W. Westaway, Master Jack Westaway and Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Youngworth in cabin.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. M. C. McDonald and servant, Mr. C. H. Corse Jr., Miss Frances McCray, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Morgan, Mr. C. Morgan Jr., Mr. Culver Morgan, Mr. W. H. Hoogs, Mr. J. G. Cumstic, Mrs. E. A. Broadley and Miss W. B. Martin. For Kobe:—Miss Lulu A. Miller. For Shanghai:—Mr. G. Knox. For Manila:—Mr. E. Aylworth, Mr. W. H. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Coverston, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Cromwell, Master Edward Cromwell, Mr. J. J. Curran, Mr. G. J. Mr. J. E. Durston, Mr. R. A. Grinsel, Mr. I. M. Hess, Mrs. E. L. Jones and infant, Miss Mildred Jones, Mr. E. J. Lane, Mr. F. L. Manderfield, Mr. T. S. McEachran, Miss A. P. Meredith, Mrs. W. Mc D. Fox, Miss Janet Fox, Mr. J. M. Ray, Mr. H. G. Reed, Mr. W. C. Reibling, Mrs. R. H. Rhoades and infant, Mr. F. E. Schneider, Mrs. J. L. Viven, Miss Lucille Wilhelm, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wilmoth, Master R. C. Wilmoth, Mr. J. O. Winger, Mrs. M. Wood, Master Eric R. Wood, Mr. G. H. Wright, Mr. C. J. Young, Mrs. Henderson, Miss B. Williams, Mr. G. Goepfert Jr., Mr. C. M. Swift, Mr. and Mrs. E. Garret, Mr. W. J. Gray, Dr. F. H. Clark, Mr. W. Howard Jr. and W. Howard. For Hongkong:—Miss B. Ainsworth, Miss A. Aston, Mr. J. T. Bloomer, Mr. H. E. Brooks, Mr. E. Brooks, Mrs. D. F. Brooks, Mr. F. J. Comins, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Cadbury, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Chevalier, Mr. F. H. Cookinham, Mr. H. Cowrick, Miss Amy Hebard, Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Kelly, Miss E. Kelly, Master F. Kelly, Mr. J. H. Kern, Miss M. A. Keyes, Mrs. F. W. Moore, Mrs. J. D. Seitz, Mrs. Fanny Simpson, Mrs. E. C. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stelwagon, Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Irwin, Mr. W. J. Cross and Miss L. Hofer in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikusan Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Nakano. For Hakodate:—Mr. N. Fukaura and Mr. S. Fukaura in cabin; Mr. C. Arai in second class; 9 Japanese and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. Nakamura, Mr. J. B. Crocker, Mr. I. Nishi, Mrs. Y. Iyemaga, Mr. and Mrs. D. Dewar, Master J. Dewar, Miss E. Dewar, Miss Dewar in cabin; 13 Japanese and 2 Russian in steerage. For Kobe:—Capt. and Mrs. Davidson in cabin; 22 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Miss L. Boyd and Mr. J. B. Katie in cabin; 1 Chinese in second class. For Hongkong:—Mr. David McClain, Mr. L. M. Wagner, Mr. J. R. Mayhew and Mr. W. S. Colman in cabin; 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Simbirsk* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Ralph Heathcole, Mr. William Clarke, Mr. Eugene Strauss, Mr. Bernard Strauss, Mr. George Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. M. Wese, Mr. Elsa Ritter, Mr. S. Miura, Mr. Louis Sauvan and Mr. Elise Arnold in cabin.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Aki Maru* from Europe:—Mr. C. Z. Wong, Mrs. Meizget and Mr. S. Otsuka.

DEPARTED.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Pensa* for Vladivostok:—Dr. J. P. Arend, Mr. P. R. Roseman, Mr. H. Diercks, Mr. W. Coleman, Mr. I. Hase, Mr. T. Kitahama, Mr. M. Miki and Mr. and Master Smith in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per Japanese steamer *Canada Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 23rd inst.

F. Strahler & Co.	50
P. Daurille	25
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	462
Kitto Gomei Kaisha	205

Total 742

Per British steamer *Suvaric* for Seattle and Portland on the 23rd inst.

	New York.	Easton.	Montreal.
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	76	—	—
Bavie & Co.	10	—	15
Total	86	—	15

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer
Tonkin :—

Compt.	Raw.		Wash.				
	Marcellus Option.	Lyons.	Monow.	Illian.	France.	Italy.	Prussia.
Hara Vashitsuten	165	—	—	—	—	—	—
W. Festalosi	1-0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	100	36	—	—	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan K'isha ..	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nakhols & Cie.	57	—	—	—	—	—	—
F. Strahler & Co.	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Mottet and Barmont ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. Dourille	15 ³	—	—	—	49	—	—
Jewett and Bent	—	37	—	—	—	—	—
Comptoirs Soes	—	30	—	45 ¹	8	—	—
Vivanti Brothers	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	—	—	183	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	—	—	—	80	—	—
Pila & Co.	—	—	—	—	23	—	—
Bretschneider & Co.	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	—	—	—	—	25	Peignes	—
Dell Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	132	—	—

Total	576 133	—	55 371 132	—	—
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* Tamaño.

† St. Etienne.

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Correspondence enclosing full details and first writing invited.

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寄土曜日 A REVIEW OF JAPANESE COMMERCE, POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND ART. 一回刊行

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AS A NEWSPAPER.

YOKOHAMA, FEB. 3RD, 1912.

明治三十五年三月廿日
第三千四百零四號

VOL. LVII.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 3RD, 1912.

BIRTHS.

BEYTAGH.—At Shanghai on the 26th January to Mr. and Mrs. L. M. FRENCH BEYTAGH—a Son. (By telegram.)

IGLEHART.—On January 30th at Yokohama to Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES W. IGLEHART of Sendai, a daughter, FLORENCE STRATTON.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of the Earl of Carlisle.

THE destroyer *Tachibana*, built in the Maizuru Naval Yard, was launched on the 27th ult.

AN aviation pupil fell sixty feet at Juvisy, in the environs of Paris, on the 21st ult. and was killed.

A FRENCH aviator named Lieutenant Boemer fell a distance of a thousand feet at Senlis, twenty-

seven miles north-east of Paris, on the 19th ult. and was fatally injured.

THE Government of Mexico has prohibited the import of arms and ammunition for three months.

SIR THOMAS GIBSON-CARMICHAEL, K.C.M.G., has been appointed Governor of the Presidency of Bengal.

THE resignation of Mr. Percival Hughes, Chief Conservative Agent, is unexpectedly announced.

MR. RUTHERFORD PAGE, a wealthy amateur aviator, fell with his aeroplane at Los Angeles on the 22nd ult. and was killed.

ACCORDING to an official dispatch reaching the Admiralty, the training fleet *Soya* and *Aso* arrived safely at Townsville on the 27th ultimo.

HEAVY snow has again fallen in various sections of the Central and Shinyetsu Railways. The snow lies from 10 to 15 feet deep, and railway traffic is interrupted.

MR. NUMANO YASUTARO, Consul at Hamburg, has been appointed acting Consul-General at New York, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Mizuno's return to Japan.

GOVERNOR OKADA of Tochigi prefecture has been reprimanded for insufficient control on account of the Governor's official residence having been destroyed by fire.

THE Thames and the Trent overflowed their banks on the 22nd ult. and the water rose steadily in consequence of the heavy rains and the melting of the snow.

BARON CHINDA, the new Ambassador in Washington, is to leave Shimbashi by the 11.50 a.m. train on the 30th ultimo and will embark on a man steamer at Yokohama for the United States.

It is reported that Count Terauchi, Governor-General of Chosen, who has been confined to his house by a mild fever for the last few days, is better and is expected to be convalescent in a week's time.

MARQUIS SAIONJI, Prime Minister, who has been rather indisposed since the beginning of this month, has obtained a few days' leave of absence and left for his villa at Oiso on Monday afternoon to recuperate.

ON Wednesday morning an accident took place in the laboratory of the Yokosuka Naval Arsenal when, owing to a breakage in the machinery, an assistant engineer was killed and two workmen severely injured.

CHAMBERLIN HINENO, who has been in Osaka inspecting the condition of the city since the recent conflagration, returned to Tokyo on Sunday morning last and submitted to the Throne a report of his mission.

DR. SOLE, who was recently appointed German Secretary of State for the Colonies, was in London last week, where, according to the *Daily Mail*, he was to discuss Colonial questions between Great Britain and Germany.

THE visit of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughter to New York seems to have caused a great stir in American society. The visit was a private one, but the newspapers were full of conjectures regarding who would be asked

to meet Their Royal Highnesses. Tremendous anxiety was shown by many society people lest they should be omitted.

SINCE January 8th the British Board of Trade has received 80,000 applications for appointments through the Labour Exchanges and for insurance against unemployment.

PROFESSOR TERAOKA of the Tokyo Imperial University, who was put on the retired list in December last on account of his having gone to China, has been released from his position at his own request.

ON Saturday afternoon last several fish torpedoes were being submitted to inspection at the Kure Naval Arsenal, when one torpedo exploded. A man in the inspecting office was killed and several others more or less seriously injured.

RATIFICATIONS have been exchanged in the case of the Anglo-German Treaty concerning the extradition of criminals between Germany and a number of British Protectorates in Africa. The treaty comes into force on March 20th.

THE Board of Foreign Missions at New York has received a telegram from Shanghai declaring that two and a half millions of people in China are famine-stricken. Relief is urgently needed and it appears that at least a million dollars will be required.

IN the German elections the Socialists captured the Catholic seat at Cologne. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, and other Ministers, by voting Radical, saved the so-called Kaiser Division of Berlin from the Socialists by eight votes.

A TELEGRAM received at the Communications Department states that submarine telegraphic communication between Tokyo and Ogasawara-jima has been interrupted since 6 p.m. on the 26th ultimo, and in consequence, telegraphic communication between Tokyo and Guam is also interrupted.

MOUNT Asama is reported to be again in a state of eruption. On Sunday morning last thick volumes of dark smoke were seen unceasingly ascending from the crater. A little past noon, ashes fell in large quantities in the district of Matsui and its vicinity, and rumbling sounds continued till late in the afternoon.

THE receipts of the South Manchuria Railway Company during the second ten days of last month were 127,771 yen in passenger fares, 714,769 yen in freight, and 34,000 yen in miscellaneous items, showing a conspicuous increase in each item as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

A DISASTROUS explosion of dynamite occurred on Sunday afternoon last in a factory belonging to the iron works at Minamiosawa, near Morioka. Some twenty cases of dynamite were being taken out to dry in the open air, when they suddenly exploded. Six workmen were killed and eight others more or less seriously injured.

A TAIHOKU telegram reports that a troop of the punitive force had a hard fight on the 23rd ultimo with a formidable group of savages near the upper stream of the Taiankei. Five policemen and ten native followers were killed, over ten others being more or less seriously wounded. The enemy offered a stubborn resistance.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

From Nanking comes news that on the 25th ultimo, it was decided to carry the campaign northward, and Field-Marshal Hwang was appointed to take the command-in-chief. It is estimated that the forces under his orders will aggregate 80,000 men, but of course this does not mean one column of 80,000 troops; probably the campaign is planned on the basis of four *corps d'armie*. Another probability is that this movement is altogether one of menace only. Nevertheless we note that according to news received from Hankow, the Insurgents are pushing up the Lu-Han line of railway and threaten to invest Hsiaokan. The Imperialists are falling back without any attempt to check this advance.

Meanwhile, in the north, an Imperialist force, 2,000 strong, with a considerable park of artillery, is said to be marching on Chefoo. Further, a somewhat serious engagement is reported to have taken place in the Hwang-hsien district on the 25th instant between a body of Insurgents and an Imperialist force numbering about 600. The result was in favour of the Insurgents, and they captured the town of Pehma.

The Insurgent troops now assembled at Chefoo under the command of General Lan are said to be somewhat perplexed about their future procedure. There is talk of a landing at Hsien-yo-cheng in the gulf of Pechili, which place is familiar to our readers as the scene of repeated fishery disputes between the Japanese and the Chinese. But whereas General Lan himself is desirous of taking some decided step which would involve Manchuria, his subordinate captains are represented as urging that the purpose of the expedition is sufficiently achieved by its presence at Chefoo, which constitutes a constant menace to Peking. They claim that to cross from the Shantung Promontory to Manchuria with the intention of opening a campaign at this season of the year would expose the troops to great suffering, and would not produce commensurate results. Meanwhile, Manchuria is said to be anxiously awaiting General Lan's decision, as numerous small bodies of Insurgents are awaiting the presence of some leader to combine for warlike purposes.

The much-talked-of northward movement of the Insurgent forces seems to be materializing on a very small scale. On a date which is somewhat uncertainly recorded, a little flotilla of vessels, whose number is variously stated, the highest figure being three and the lowest one, set out from Chefoo, steering in a north-easterly direction. They were obliged to put back, however, by stress of weather, and according to some accounts, they set out again on the following morning and effected a landing at Takushan. Other telegrams, however, speak only of the first attempt and do not admit that there has been any landing.

From the other extremity of the Chinese Empire comes news of a seemingly formidable outbreak on the part of the Insurgent forces. They are said to have obtained possession of Taliu in Yunnan, and to be now in command of a district numbering a million inhabitants.

A GERMAN named Holst has been sentenced to four years' penal servitude for attempting to deliver plans of the defences at Kiel to Russia, France and Great Britain.

RECOGNITION.

Owing to the strong line taken by Messrs. Inukai and Okazaki in recommending the immediate recognition of the Insurgents as a belligerent State, the question has naturally been thrust into public notice. The *Fiji Shimpō* quotes the views of an anonymous diplomat on this topic. Everybody must agree with what he says. He points out that recognition at this moment would be at once premature and mischievous. If Japan took the lead of other Powers in recognizing the Insurgents, she would have to accept all the consequent responsibilities, and the role of neutrality which she is now pursuing would have to be exchanged for one of active interference. It is impossible to say conclusively at the present moment which side will ultimately gain the ascendancy, and looking at the case of Portugal, it is seen that although the monarch was driven out and the administrative posts were all filled with competent officials, the great Powers of the Occident withheld recognition of the new Republic for fully a year. To recognize the Chinese Insurgents at this early hour would practically mean the partition of China into two mutually independent States, one in the north and the other in the south. That is certainly not the result which anybody can desire to witness, still less to assist in bringing about. It has to be remembered also that whereas there are, within the limits of Peking, many statesmen who have been trained in, and have had long experience of, administrative duties, the Insurgents in the Yangtze Valley are practically without any such qualifications. From this point of view it would be altogether premature to recognize them as an organized State. And indeed it is not easy to see what benefit the insurgents themselves would derive from recognition. Their main object appears to be the obtaining of funds; but surely that purpose will not be promoted by recognizing their belligerent status? No Power will be likely to lend them money, or to refuse to lend it, because of their recognized condition. There are other sources from which the Insurgents can obtain financial assistance. In fact, from no point of view would Japan be acting wisely or beneficially by taking the lead of all the Powers in recognizing the Insurgents. Her only prudent course is to watch the trend of events with the utmost care, meanwhile holding herself in readiness to intervene so soon as ever intervention becomes desirable.

That seems to be the official reply to the agitation fomented by Messrs Inukai and Okazaki.

THE NANKING CABINET.

A somewhat belated but very important piece of news is published by several of the leading papers of Tokyo. It is to the effect that on the 21st ultimo, a meeting of the Southern Cabinet was held at Nanking, with the result that some interesting decisions were arrived at. The first was that the Southern Cabinet must be held to represent the whole nation. In fact, there must be no division of administrative authority. The second had reference to finance. The Ministers determined that the assets of the China Merchants' S. N. Company should be taken over by the Republican party, and that as the bulk of the shares belonged to the ex-Minister of Com-

munications, Mr. Sheng, they should be confiscated to the extent of 10 million *taels*, but that the interests of the other shareholders should be protected. The third resolution was that Wu Ting-fang should be instructed to formally promise Peking that, in the event of abdication, munificent terms should be granted to the Imperial Princes, but that it was necessary for Yuan to proceed with all expedition to Nanking for the purpose of negotiating final terms.

Naturally there is much difficulty in settling this question of the China Merchants S. N. Company's property. At present it looks very much as though a Republican Cabinet, under the pressure of urgent need, was about to commence its career by an act of spoliation. Mr. Wu Ting-fang, who is one of the Directors of the Company, has resigned that position on the plea of stress of business, but in reality, it is said, because he cannot endorse the Cabinet's procedure. So far as we can judge, the Insurgent leaders are disposed to replenish their coffers by selling the ships of the China Merchants' Company.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram on this subject which explains that Mr. Wu is indignant at the Nanking Government's attitude towards the Company. The latter has done everything in its power to assist the Republicans by lending ships for the transport of troops and by subscribing money to the war-fund. In these circumstances it is scarcely fair that the Nanking Government should take this proposed course, namely, compulsory hypothecation of the Company's property for a loan of 10 million *taels*.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

There is quite an animated controversy going on in the Japanese press about the attitude of the Foreign Office in Tokyo towards the warring parties in China. The familiar charge is re-formulated that the Japanese Government with one hand supported the Monarchy, and with the other applauded the Republicans. We confess to some surprise that such an argument should engage such serious attention. It is obviously a device on the side of the Chinese to commit Japan to an irrevocably definite policy. But the impression produced upon unbiased observers is that it will be time enough to charge Japan with vacillation when the Chinese themselves are in a position to claim fixity of purpose. It is beyond all doubt that Japan has marched from first to last in step with Great Britain, and that if any blame attaches to one of the Allies for mistakes or vacillations of policy, the same accusation may be laid at the other's door. When the Japanese Government, in concert with the British, offered their good offices to the Imperialists in the role of mediator, it seemed to the whole world that a constitutional monarchy would be the best form of government for China, in the cause alike of present peace and future progress. Unfortunately, mediation then proved abortive, and the situation gradually tended towards republicanism. But the change was at least as much due to the vacillation of the Peking Authorities as to the growth of national sentiment. What loyal Japanese have to do now is to refrain from wrangling over the inevitable, and to support the Government stoutly when the occasion for action arises.

JAPANESE OPINION.

It seems evident that public opinion in Japan is tending more and more in the direction of a republican polity in China, not perhaps because such a form of government is considered specially admirable, but because the sentiment of the Chinese nation turns plainly in that direction. The organization of a society in Japan by an influential politician like Mr. Inukai Ki is a significant sign of the times. But something of the kind might have been inferred from Mr. Inukai's Waseda associations. No such element of domestic politics attaches, however, to the views expressed by Mr. Okazaki Kunisuke who has just returned from China which he visited for the purpose of making investigations. Mr. Okazaki is a prominent member of the *Seiyukai*, and his opinions are always valuable. He reports, as the result of his observations, that the Chinese nation has evidently set its heart upon a republic, and that the sooner that form of government is adopted the better for peace and good order. He is also very emphatic in his views about Manchuria. He says that the general opinion among the Japanese there is that in consideration of Japan's large interests in Manchuria, she should insist upon the neutrality of that region, and should enforce the principle by arms if necessary. He interprets the orders given to the Twelfth Division as an official recognition of the situation in the Three Eastern Provinces, and he is emphatically persuaded that Japan should not lose an hour in asserting her rights in Manchuria. Mr. Okazaki is sure to find many follow thinkers among the *Seiyukai*.

THE JAPANESE DEMONSTRATION.

It has already been related in these columns that Mr. Inukai Ki, on his recent return from China, declared himself in favour of recognizing the Chinese Republic. Mr. Inukai is virtually the leader of the Popular Party, and he has something like eighty votes at his disposal in the House of Representatives. He is therefore a force to be reckoned with, even apart from his personality, which is universally respected. Evidently he is determined not to confine himself to academical dissertations. He has already made arrangements for organizing a party to promote his views, and the inaugural meeting took place at the Seiyōken in Tsukiji on the 29th ultimo. It was attended mainly by members of the Popular Party, but the Centre section was also well represented, and there were some members of the *Seiyukai* among those attending. Close observers of Japan's domestic politics will be prepared to find that among those present were Messrs. Minoura, Miyake, Hanai, Fukumoto, Urabe and Hinata. The meeting passed a resolution in the sense that pressure should be brought to bear upon the Japanese Cabinet to induce it to recognize the new Chinese Republic.

In this context we would call attention to an incident in the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives on the 29th ultimo reported in these columns on the 30th. Interpellated by a member of the Committee with regard to the Government's intention as to recognizing the Chinese Republic, Viscount Uchida declared that the Foreign Office was watching the course of events carefully, but that it considered that the time is not ripe for any declaration of recognition.

THE POPULAR PARTY AND THE REPUBLIC.

Our readers are aware that the leader of the conservative section of the Popular Party, Mr. Inukai Ki, recently returned from a visit to the Yangtze Valley. It is now rumoured confidently that he has determined to exert all his influence in seeking to induce the Japanese Government to recognize the Chinese Republic. Mr. Inukai was to wait upon Marquis Saionji on Friday last, for the purpose of stating his individual views on this subject, and as there was very little probability of agreement on the part of the Marquis, Mr. Inukai is expected to seek the cooperation of the various Japanese societies organized for the purpose of promoting progress in the East and furthering Japan's relations with her western neighbour. Such societies are the *Yūrin-kai*, the *Zenrin-kai*, the *Asia-gikai*, the *Dairiku-kai* and the *Taikeiyō-kai*. Doubtless from a purely legal point of view there is no obstacle to the course as advocated by Mr. Inukai. The Chinese Government itself having recognized the Insurgents by formally opening negotiations with them, any foreign Power may follow suit. But as is very justly pointed out by the *Niroku Shimpō*, the effect of such a recognition on Japan's part would probably be to defeat the explicit purpose of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. China would be at once divided into two States, and the integrity of the Chinese Empire would become a thing of the past.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR THE INSURGENTS.

The *China Press* undertakes to give an exact list of arms and ammunition supplied by a Japanese firm to the Insurgents in the Yangtze Valley. The list is as follows:—

- 50,000 latest model 1909 Japanese rifles.
- 20,000,000 cartridges.
- 25 quick-firing guns.
- 12 big field guns.
- 10,000 shells.
- 2,000 military revolvers.

It appears to us that this list bears contradiction on its face. It would not be possible for any firm in Japan, unless it received Government assistance, to procure 50,000 new-pattern rifles. The public may, therefore, take it for granted that our Shanghai contemporary's list is based on very vague information. It may be asserted with the utmost confidence that the Japanese Government or the Japanese War Office has not aided such a transaction in any way. The arms in question doubtless form part of those taken by the Japanese in the recent war and subsequently sold to Japanese merchants by open tender at very low prices. The purchasers of these arms from the Japanese Authorities have long been puzzled how to dispose of them, and we need hardly say that no restraint whatever has ever been officially exercised in the matter.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

A section of the American Republic has again taken up the question of Japanese immigration to the United States. The proximate purpose is to obtain funds for the fortification of Hawaii, and the chief argument advanced is that the Japanese

immigrants in that island comprise 30,000 men who have served with the colours, and who would constitute a formidable army at any moment if they were supplied with arms. The Senate in Washington is invited to consider this situation and to pass a bill providing for it, but the good sense of the American public will doubtless carry the day. This spectre of men who carried the colours would be just as tangible in the case of the German or the French elements of the American population, and the obvious way to deal with it effectively is to extend to the Japanese the privilege of citizenship in the States. That would be the magnanimous and conclusive method of exorcising the spectre, and we fully expect that America will one day be great enough to substitute the hand of friendship for the mailed fist in this matter.

NANKING AND TOKYO.

The Nanking Government is said to have despatched its Minister of Justice, Mr. Sun Chiao-jen, on a mission to Tokyo for the purpose of obtaining the Japanese Government's recognition of the new Republic. But there is not the slenderest chance that the Tokyo Cabinet will lend an ear to this request. The matter of recognition has already been made the subject of interpellation in the Japanese Diet, and has practically evoked a declaration that all the Powers will move uniformly in this matter, no one of them separating itself from the rest. Moreover, it is understood that negotiations are going on between Peking and Nanking, and that even in the event of success crowning the southern cause, the dissolution of the Nanking Cabinet will ensue quickly. Thus the present is not a suitable time for seeking recognition.

THE SALE OF ARMS.

It appears that some Japanese merchants in Shanghai are accused of selling arms to the Insurgents. Who their accusers may be, the telegram does not state, but the Japanese Consul, when approached on the subject, is alleged to have explained that an immense quantity of rifles, taken by the Japanese troops in the war of 1904-5, were subsequently disposed of by public tender, and the Japanese Government accepts no responsibility in connexion with the ultimate disposal of those weapons by private individuals or companies. This explanation is precisely analogous to that put forward in these columns with regard to sale of arms by German merchants to the Imperialists. The law applicable to the Imperialists must also be operative in the case of the Insurgents.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY.

The Republican Cabinet in Nanking has issued a notification, endorsed by President Sun, to the effect that the property of all Chinese citizens within the districts in the occupation of the Insurgents, shall be recognized as belonging to its holders, and shall receive official protection. Moreover, the decree goes on to say that even the property of Imperialists shall be treated with respect and protected, provided that its owners make act of submission. This is the first ordinance of its kind enacted by the Insurgents, and its spirit deserves applause.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN YUAN SHIH-KAI
AND WU TING-FANG.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires the full text of the latest telegrams exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang.

Yuan, wiring under the date of the 17th instant, says:—

"The Empress Dowager deeply deploras the calamity that has befallen the nation and can no longer bear to see bloodshed. Her Majesty is, therefore, disposed to accede to our desire. Princes Ching and Chun are in perfect accord with us in their political views, but the Mongolian princes and noblemen persistently oppose us. I will fully discuss the matter with them with a view to bringing about a peaceful settlement. If I force my views upon them, they will no doubt return to their own provinces and declare their independence, which might render the restoration of peace rather difficult. Outer Mongolia has already turned its back on China, and if Inner Mongolia follows suit, the situation on the north-western frontier will become very critical. It is my desire to proceed towards a peaceful settlement of the situation, and I consider it most conducive to this end if the Mongolian princes change their views. What do you think of this?"

Yuan, again wiring under date of the 22nd instant, says:—

"Both sides have already agreed to leave the decision as to the future polity to a National Assembly and have therefore repeatedly renewed the terms of armistice with a view to discussing the method of election and convocation of such an Assembly in order to enable the nation to enjoy the blessings of peace. I desire your Excellency to devote your energies to a speedy solution of the situation. A telegraphic reply is awaited."

Wu Ting-fang, wiring back on the 26th instant, says:—

"The armistice has repeatedly been renewed in the hope of arriving at a peaceful settlement. I desired to decide the future polity by a national assembly convened in conformity with the agreement entered into with Tang Shao-i. Your Excellency has, nevertheless, eaten your words and thus provoked popular indignation. I still firmly hold to peaceful views and have urged the Provisional Government to accord the Manchu Court the most cordial treatment. When a peaceful settlement was in sight, Your Excellency changed your attitude and thus rendered the repeated renewal of the armistice fruitless. A crisis is imminent, but the period of armistice has still three days to run. If your Excellency is sincerely desirous of adopting a republican polity in conformity with the popular wishes, you must prevail on the Emperor to abdicate within three days and try to bring about a peaceful settlement. Otherwise we shall be compelled to renew hostile action, the blame for which will rest on your Excellency."

Yuan telegraphed on the 27th:—"I have never given my approval to the agreement entered into with Tang Shao-i so I cannot regard it as valid. Moreover I have never discussed with your Excellency the question of the abdication of the Emperor."

Dr. Sun Yat-sen forwarded to Wu Ting-fang on the 28th inst. a lengthy telegram to the effect that the armistice had repeatedly

been renewed in the hope of achieving the end in view by peaceful means. Yuan had nevertheless revoked the credentials of Tang Shao-i and refused to recognize the agreements entered into with him regarding the convocation of a National Assembly to decide the future polity of China. Telegraphic communication had also been exchanged on the subject of the abdication of the Emperor, but Yuan now denied having ever discussed the matter with Wu Ting-fang. Yuan had thus shown a lack of sincerity. The confidence reposed in him was now completely shaken and the nation strongly resented his unfaithfulness. The Provisional Government had agreed to accord the Manchu Court the most cordial treatment on the abdication of the Throne, but the speedy establishment of a Republican Government had been rendered impossible owing to Yuan's opposition. Not only was Yuan an enemy to the Republican polity, but he was a traitor to the Manchu Emperor. The Provisional Government will not consent to a further extension of the period of armistice, and Yuan must hold himself responsible for the resuscitation of the war. The whole country will then rise against Yuan Shih-kai.

THE RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE.

FURTHER EXPLANATION BY MR. TOKONAMI.

Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, is quoted by the *Nippon* as saying that although various criticisms had been raised concerning the scheme for the proposed religious conference, an outline of which he recently made public, not one of them was to the point, as they were founded on a misconception of the object he has in view. In the first place he proposed to convene a meeting of the representatives of the three religions, not to attempt to amalgamate them into a new religion, as misunderstood by some publicists, but to the end that each of the three religions should do its best for the promotion of the interests of the community in its peculiar creed. The scheme was, however, misconstrued in some quarters as an attempt to affiliate and unify the three religions at the sacrifice of their respective characteristics. This was a mistake. It lay beyond the realm of possibility to unify three religions differing in their respective characteristics and histories, and he did not dream of such a wild programme.

Secondly, the criticism had been made in some quarters that the scheme confused religion with education, whereas in Japan there was a distinct line drawn between religion and education. He had no idea, however, of introducing a religious element into education. All he contended was that religion and education must go hand in hand in the promotion of the moral culture of the nation. Thirdly, a report had even been circulated that he had struck out of the scheme a clause relating to worship at shrines, in consequence of the demands of the Christian section. Nothing could be further from the truth. In this country the shrines were placed outside the pale of religion, and had nothing to do with the proposed religious conference, so that there could be no reason why such a clause should have been included in the programme. Fourthly, some critics raised doubts whether any good could possibly accrue from such a scheme, while other critics

were inclined to regard it as an attempt to unify politics and religion, or an attempt to combat the Ninoniyu Doctrine. Others again were inclined to regard the proposal as an attempt to utilize religion to serve some end in view. He had no such idea. He only desired to convene a religious conference in order to give an impulse to the public mind, so that politics, education and religion should contribute to the promotion of the welfare of the State, holding one another in due respect. Good results would be obtainable only after repeated conferences, when a thorough understanding should have been established between the three religions concerned. It was a mistake to expect much at the initial stage. The simple proposition for the convocation of a religious conference had given rise to various rumours and comments. How much more would have been evoked if a greater proposal had been made.

He believed that he had pointed out the more important points on which misunderstandings had arisen. Material civilization alone was unsatisfactory; it must be accompanied by spiritual development.

There had of late been frequent conflicts between capital and labour. The evils rampant in western communities would inevitably find their way into this country as manufacturing industry progressed. These evils were not limited to towns alone, but permeated the rural districts, where equally unsatisfactory relations had begun to arise between landlords and tenants, replacing those friendly relations which had hitherto existed. These relations were now governed by economic considerations. The friendly feelings between different classes of people were beginning to cease to exist and even family relations among the poorer classes were affected. This was a serious question that should engage the attention of statesmen. It could not be solved solely by economic considerations. True relief was to be found only on the spiritual side. Some spiritual consolation must be given them, so that they may live happy though poor.

Compulsory education now consisted of six years' school education, but investigations conducted on conscripts showed that most youths forgot nearly all they learned in school. It must be the same with moral culture. It was doubtful if the children who complete the six years' school course can retain the moral precepts they were taught while in school and regulate their conduct thereby throughout their lives. Men endowed with high intellectual power could of course distinguish between right and wrong, but for ordinary men six years' school education was insufficient to do this. It was difficult for even those who received a middle school education to retain their grasp on moral precepts, and it was essential some measures should be devised to foster and develop the moral precepts taught them in school. Herein lay the necessity of moral education, for which religion was the most powerful factor. The majority of the nation received no higher education than the six years' school course. It was thus clear that they could be not content with school education alone in the matter of the moral culture of the nation.

The question had been raised whether the adoption by China of a republican polity would or would not have some effect on the minds of the Japanese people. This would mean a revolution of the national thought,

But if a nation had firm moral convictions, evil thoughts could never creep in and obtain a footing. The modern development of the means of communication had brought all countries nearer together, and it was especially necessary to foster a healthy development of national thought and thus to consolidate the basis of the national destiny. All men should unite for the common object of helping forward the promotion of the welfare of the State, and it was desirable that all men should endeavour to study the merits or demerits of the scheme, setting aside petty sentimental dissensions.

BISHOP NICOLAI.

We greatly regret to learn that the celebrated Archbishop Nicolai is lying at St. Luke's Hospital seriously ill. Heart trouble is the principal mischief, and the illustrious prelate is said to have abandoned all hope of recovery.

Bishop Nicolai, who is now undergoing medical treatment in St. Luke's Hospital in Tsukiji, is reported to be slightly improving, but great anxiety is felt in view of his advanced age.

The *Yiji Shimpō* publishes an interesting story about Bishop Nicolai and Dr. Yasushima. Our contemporary states that the chief medical attendant on Bishop Nicolai is Dr. Yasushima, formerly Vice-President of the Juntendo Hospital, in whom the bishop places high confidence. The physician is a devout Buddhist and openly professes his great dislike of Christianity. Yet so close a friendship exists between him and the bishop that the bishop confides his life to the aged physician. Their friendship dates back to the time of the Russo-Japanese war. During the war the Greek Church at Surugadai was strongly guarded by gendarmes and soldiers, and no one paid it a visit. Even adherents turned their back on the church. One fine winter morning, a stranger paid a visit to the bishop and expressed his warm sympathy with him in his solitude, and made him a present of two beautiful flowering plants in pots. The stranger was no other than Dr. Yasushima. The bishop was so deeply moved by the sympathy of his visitor that he shed tears of gratitude on the hands of the physician on which hung the *susu*, the symbolic emblem of Buddhism. A close friendship was thus formed between the two men. On the following day Bishop Nicolai sent to his new friend a copy of his translation of the Old Testament, with a request that he would accept as a present a work on which more than one half of his life had been spent. Dr. Yasushima called again a few days after and returned the present with thanks, stating that he was afraid to accept it, as he had his own creed which he valued above all other religions. Instead of taking offence at this seeming rudeness, Bishop Nicolai highly admired the straightforward sincerity of the physician, and their acquaintance fast ripened into warm friendship.

Archbishop Nicolai has left St. Luke's Hospital. He is not cured of his malady, but he has obtained Dr. Teusler's permission to resume his labours for the completion of the translation of the Bible upon which he has been engaged during thirty-one years. It is characteristic of this great man that his last labours upon earth should take the form of such a sacrifice.

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S MEMORIAL.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires the full text of Yuan Shih-kai's memorial, which was published in last Sunday's issue of the *Official Gazette*. The memorial reads:—

"I have enjoyed special grace for successive generations. Since the outbreak of the Wuchang insurrection, I have been called to a post of heavy responsibility. Several months have now elapsed, but I have so far failed to achieve anything. The administration of the State has suffered a collapse, and popular feeling has run wild beyond control. I am deserving of capital punishment and have no meritorious service to record. I venture to lay before your Majesty the difficulties I have experienced since my installation in the premiership. Since the first outbreak of the insurrection both Government officials and people have thrown in their lots with the insurgents and no less than thirteen provinces had fallen into their hands ere hardly one month had elapsed. The articles of the Constitution were subsequently issued, by which the Sovereign's prerogatives have almost become extinct. The people began to cry out for 'an empty Throne and a Republic.' When I first entered Peking, I advocated the principles of a constitutional monarchy and did my best to restore the situation. The only effect was the cancellation of the declaration of independence by Shantung province. In the meantime the Imperial navy at Hankow went over to the Revolutionists. The recapture of Hanyang was counteracted by the fall of Nanking. The friendly Powers offered their services for mediation. Government delegates were accordingly dispatched to Shanghai to negotiate for peace, but the revolutionists obdurately insisted on a republican polity. The disturbances spread far and wide in the meantime. Warning came from Kulon and Ili, where our dependencies of several centuries standing turned their backs. For fear of the general rupture which threatened to overthrow the dynasty, I was compelled to decide on the convocation of an extraordinary session of the national assembly against my wishes. But I felt confident that the national assembly would vote in favour of a monarchical government. The telegraphic memorials reaching the Throne of late, nevertheless, advocate a republican polity. When I sit in solicitude and ponder over this, tears roll down my cheeks. As to military affairs, I find that war funds have run short and the supply of arms and provisions is hopelessly inadequate. Many a time money has been disbursed from the privy purse to relieve the soldiers from starvation. And yet nothing important has been achieved. The revolutionists have instigated risings everywhere. Diplomatic business was no less difficult to handle. I found myself confronted by various claims of foreign merchants and for the protection of the lives and property of foreign residents in various parts of China. The difficulties increase as time passes. I feel myself freighted with burdens which my decrepit body can hardly bear. Your Majesty now graciously proposes to confer on me the honourable title of Grand Duke, which I can not accept. If I shamelessly accept the offer, how can I show myself a model to the nation and lead the army? I most humbly implore Your Majesty to revoke the Edict in order to set my conscience at ease."

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

TEXT OF OFFICIAL NOTE.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Vladivostok correspondent wires the text of the Official Note of the Mongolian authorities sent to the representatives of the various Powers through the Russian Consul at Urga regarding the declaration of the independence of Mongolia. The note reads:—

"We Buddhist Mongolian people faithfully submitted to the rule of the Manchu Emperor and endeavoured to satisfy the demands of the Chinese authorities. The Chinese Government, nevertheless, turned a deaf ear to all our demands. Internal troubles in Mongolia have of late become grave and the disturbances in South China have assumed wide dimensions, until nearly all the provinces have declared their independence. The civil commotion is calculated to spread far and wide and the Manchu dynasty will eventually collapse. The authorities of the four provinces in North Mongolia met at Urga to discuss measures to relieve the crisis that overhangs Mongolia, and decided to ask Saint Gegen for guidance as to the course they should pursue in the present juncture. They received from Saint Gegen the following reply:—'Your proposition is a very important matter. I consider that we Mongolians must take hostile action against the Chinese, and deprive them of the power they exercise over us in order to consolidate our own autonomy. I bless all my adherents and hereby order them to declare independence, and also order them to contribute money to the temples in Urga and offer up prayers, to read the scriptures and observe fasting on holidays.'

"We have decided to convene a meeting in accordance with the Holy Message in order to throw off the Chinese yoke and gain our autonomy. We also decided to deport all the Chinese authorities, but to grant to Chinese merchants freedom of residence in Mongolia since the latter do us no harm. Our army has been mobilized to maintain the safety of Saint Gegen and our creed, as well as the peace of the community. Any Mongolians taking exception to these arrangements shall be strictly dealt with by law. We trust all the Mongolians will unequivocally try to do their duty."

INVENTION.

Tokyo newspapers write enthusiastically about a new invention attributed to Takamatsu Umeji. The name *mugin-kidō* has been given to it, which is intended to signify that the advantages of rails for locomotive purposes are obtained on ordinary roads. A machine of some kind not described by our contemporaries is affixed to the wheel of a vehicle and the latter then moves with perfect ease over the roughest possible road. Trial was made on the 31st ult. in the presence of several responsible experts, and great results are said to have been obtained. It is pointed out that not the least of the advantages conferred by the machine is the absolute immunity of the roads it traverses, and the municipal authorities are said to recognize that vehicles thus equipped should be exempted from the tax for road-maintenance. Nothing is said, however, as to the cost of the machine.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL TRAMWAY LOAN.

PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

The vernacular papers report that the negotiations for the issue of the Tokyo Municipal loan have made such favourable progress that a successful conclusion is now in sight. The Industrial Bank, which is conducting the negotiations for the Municipality, addressed to the Municipality on the 28th instant a note regarding the terms which the Municipality would accept. The Aldermen's Council was convened at 2 p.m. on the 29th ultimo, and sat with closed doors, when Mayor Ozaki laid before it a full report on the progress of the negotiations, and the terms of the loan were discussed. It was decided to accept the following terms:—

Amount of issue.....	£9,000,000
Net proceeds	£92½%
Rate of interest	5 per cent.
Unredeemed period	3 years.
Period of redemption.....	32 years.
Period of issue.....	Not more than three instalments, the subscription for the last instalment not later than June, 1912.

The loan is to be issued in London, Paris and New York, and it is expected that the negotiations will be successfully concluded on these terms early in February.

The *Fiji Shimpō* writes in this context that when the negotiation was first opened in the latter part of 1911, the political atmosphere in Europe was overcast with a war cloud and financiers maintained a cautious attitude, which impeded the progress of the negotiations. The pacific settlement of the political trouble in Europe was followed by the outbreak of the revolutionary upheaval in China, which again placed capitalists in a cautious mood. It was thus considered advisable to postpone the negotiations until a more favourable time, which was expected to come after the advent of the New Year. In the meantime the improvement in business circles in the United States called forth a large demand for capital and in Germany the French capital withdrawn on the outbreak of the Moroccan affair has not yet fully found its way back, this, coupled with bad crops last year, keeping the German money market rather tight. Moreover, the demand for capital for India made on London reached an enormous amount. To make matters worse, national loans, the issue of which had been reserved on account of the Moroccan and Tripoli affairs, began to appear on the market in quick succession, to say nothing of the contemplated issue of a German loan for 20 million mark. The money market thus failed to present the expected improvement, so that the prospects of a change in the tone of the market appeared rather remote. On the other hand the Tokyo Municipality was in urgent need of capital for the settlement of the purchase of the tramways, and the issue of the loan at an early date, even on rather unfavourable terms, was imperative. The Aldermen's Council has therefore decided to issue the loan on the terms stated above, although the net proceeds will fall short of what was expected by about 3,500,000 yen. A certain foreign capitalist in Kobe offered to accept the loan at £90½, but the offer was declined for obvious reasons. The issue value is not yet fixed, but it will be fixed at about £97 or £98 per £100 face value. The terms are considered reasonable in present economic circumstances.

The proceeds of the loan are to be appro-

priated for the payment of the shareholders in two instalments, so that it would seem that about 45 million yen will find its way on to the home market. A belief obtains, however, that no such influx will take place, as the shareholders have not held their shares idle, and a large portion of the purchase money will be absorbed by the banks in settlement of advances made on the shares. The cash payment of the purchase money will of course impart easiness to the market, which will be further accelerated by the redemption of the 20 million yen worth of outstanding bonds to be effected towards the end of March next.

The terms obtained in London for the Tokyo Municipal loan are very severely criticised by the leading journals of Tokyo. The loan-bonds carry 5 per cent. interest, and it was fully expected that the sum received by the city would be 96, whereas it is to be only 92½. It is easy to calculate the effect of this difference in a transaction involving 90 million yen, and probably the loss is to be attributed, as the *Fiji Shimpō* remarks, to a clause in the agreement with the Tokyo Railway Company, providing for payment with ready-money during the course of one year. British financiers are not to be blamed if they have taken advantage of this condition to exact terms unfavourable to the borrowers.

FORMOSA SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

Heretofore contracts for shipping subsidies in Formosa have been terminable at the end of each fiscal year, but as the basis of the subsidized routes has been consolidated, the Formosan Government has decided to grant contracts for several consecutive years in order to obviate the trouble of the renewal of contracts every year and also to enable the subsidized companies to carry out connected services between land and sea. Contracts are to run for five fiscal years, commencing from April 1st next, the whole amount in subsidies reaching a total of 1,013,933 yen a year. The subsidies are to be granted subject to the conditions that four steamers of over 6,000 tons and of 12-knot speed be placed on the Keelung-Kobe route, making at least 96 trips a year; two steamers of over 2,500 tons and 10 knots speed on the Takao-Yokohama route, making at least 24 trips a year; and steamers of over 1,500 tons and 10 knots speed on the coasting route, the Tamsui-Hongkong, the Takao-Canton, the Takao-Taku, the Fuchow-Hongkong routes,—one to three steamers on each, making no less than 24 and no more than 108 trips a year on each route.

THE SITUATION IN YUNNAN.

Mr. Iwamoto Chizuna, who recently returned from Yunnan, is quoted as saying it takes some forty days for a letter posted at Yunnan to reach Japan owing to the lack of means of communication. On news of the revolutionary disturbance in Szechuan reaching there, on the 25th of last month, revolutionary flags were hoisted. The commander of the garrison in Tengyueh, the political and economic centre of the western part of Yunnan, was murdered. Three thousand soldiers of the garrison surrendered and subsequently Talifu, the ancient capital of Yunnan, fell into the

hands of the revolutionists. There are over twenty chieftains, resembling Japanese *daimyo* in feudal times, in the western part of the province, who rule over about one million population. They place implicit confidence in Japan. The eastern part of the province is under the rule of Magistrate Tsai-e. The development of the situation in Yunnan needs to be closely watched by the Japanese.

SHANTUNG.

Shantung's condition also is beginning to inspire alarm. The Imperial troops have recovered possession of Hwang-hsien, but an insurgent force is said to have started from Laiyang on the morning of the 29th ultimo, heading for Chefoo. In the latter city there is something like a panic. The inhabitants are said to be busily engaged transporting their belongings to some safer place, and an idea begins to prevail that trouble is not unlikely to ensue between China, on the one hand, and England and Germany, on the other. Germany naturally will desire that Kiaochow should remain neutral, and Great Britain will resent any attempt to convert Weihaiwei into a scene of conflict. It may be added here that Shantung is now the only one of the eighteen provinces which professes adherence to the Imperial cause.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

There has been much talk lately about Mr. Ijuin's transfer from the Legation in Peking to some other post; but any such change is now denied, according to the *Fiji Shimpō*. Our contemporary attributes the rumour entirely to the return of Mr. Yamaza from the Embassy in London, and to his replacement by Mr. Consul-General Koike. But Mr. Yamaza's return is in the regular sequence of events, his three years' service in London having expired, and there is no idea of removing from Peking at this critical juncture, an official of Mr. Ijuin's experience and ability.

According to an official dispatch reaching a certain quarter in Tokyo, nine military aeroplanes are used in the direction of Tripoli and four at Benghazi. Experience shows that although the enemy in the desert is discernible from a height, it can not be ascertained whether they are armed with rifles. The enemy scattered about in the oasis among the palm trees are also invisible, and it is difficult to make use of binoculars owing to vibration. The aeroplanes usually fly between four or five hundred and one thousand metres above the enemy. Experiments have also been made of throwing down projectiles but the effect has so far proved comparatively small.

The inaugural meeting of the White Cross Society, formed for the prevention of tubercular disease, was held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall in Kanda on Thursday evening last; and was attended by over eight hundred persons. Drs. Sudo, Yoshimura and Kobayashi were elected directors of the Society.

Dr. Hanai and other members have brought forward an interpellation in the Diet regarding the increase in the number of criminals. The interpellation states that when a question was introduced in the House last session regarding the increase in

the price of daily necessities, a reference was made to the increase in the number of criminals, when the Government refused to admit that there had been any increase. Now the Budget provides for an augmented appropriation of 110,526 yen for increasing the prison-warders and also 531,745 yen incidental to the increase of criminals. These increases in the prison account amount to an admission that crime has become more frequent of late. Does the Government recognize this fact? If so, what is the cause? Does not the Government think the increase in the price of daily necessities to be a cause of the growth of crime? If so, what remedial or preventive measure does the Government propose to take?

According to the latest census returns published by the Foreign Office, the Japanese residents in China, including the leased territory in South Manchuria, at the end of December last, numbered 91,437. This includes the Koreans in Chientao, and the Formosans in Amoy and other places. The Japanese residing in the Strait Settlements, India, Australia and North America total 152,516, while those residing in British Canada, South America, Russian Asia and European countries number 34,398. Thus the Japanese residents abroad altogether number 191,901, which is an increase by 24,692 as compared with the census taken at the end of 1910.

The Stock Exchange was closed on Monday for settlement, which was effected without a hitch. The shares delivered for settlement numbered 49,220, representing 2,338,840 yen in value, the average price per share being 47.51 yen. As compared with the preceding month, this shows a decrease of 12,060 shares in number and 811,140 yen in value. It also shows a decrease of 3,883 yen in averaged price per share. This indicates dullness in the transactions on the Exchange this month.

The various subsidies enumerated in the Budget for next fiscal year reach a total of 20,061,258 yen, of which 19,826,258 yen is the annual allotment of the subsidies voted for in the previous session, while the balance 235,000 yen refers to the new subsidies to be granted from next fiscal year. The latter comprise subsidies for the construction of waterworks and drainage in Tokyo and seven other cities in addition to 75,000 yen for the South Sea Shipping service.

According to an official dispatch the warship *Tatsuta* arrived at Amoy on the 28th. The warships *Ibuki* and *Tsukuba* of the First Squadron also arrived at Port Arthur on the 29th ultimo.

While Dr. Mano, Director of the Technical Education Bureau, was passing in a rikisha near the General Staff Office at about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning last, the rikisha accidentally collided with a tram-car. The rikisha was smashed to pieces and Dr. Mano was thrown on the tramway track senseless, sustaining bad injuries to his head and hands. First aid was quickly rendered him, and on recovering consciousness he was removed to the University Hospital, where he is attended by Dr. Sato. It is expected he will recover, as his injuries prove not so serious as was at first imagined.

A general meeting of the Japan Peace Society was held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall in

Kanda on the 29th ultimo, the occasion being made the opportunity of giving a reception to Mr. Shimada, who recently returned from a tour in American. Count Okuma was re-elected President, and Mr. Ebara and Baron Sakatani, Vice-Presidents, the latter filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Terao. Baron Shibusawa was elected an honorary member.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF FIFE.

SERIOUS ILLNESS ENDS FATALLY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of His Grace the Duke of Fife, K.T., who passed peacefully away at the little town of Assouan, south of Cairo, Egypt, at 6 o'clock on Monday evening. The earlier telegrams stated that he was in a critical condition, as he was suffering from pleurisy and congestion of the lungs as the result of a severe chill.

There is but little doubt that the death of the Duke is the aftermath of the terrible experiences that he, the Princess and their daughters, went through when the P. & O. liner *Delhi* was wrecked off Cape Spartel in December last, and when they were so gallantly rescued by the combined efforts of French and British war-vessels.

His Grace the Duke of Fife, K.T., brother-in-law of His Majesty King George V., was a lineal descendant of one of the oldest families in Scotland, and one of Britain's greatest landowners. Born on November 10, 1849, he succeeded his father in 1879 and inherited the old and historic titles of Earl of Fife, Baron Braco, Baron Macduff and Baron Skene. In 1889, he married the eldest daughter of the late King Edward VII., H. R. H. Princess Louise Victoria, and in the same year was created a Duke by the late Queen Victoria. The Duke has never entered very prominently into public life but has contented himself with the administration of his huge estates, which are roughly computed at about 240,300 acres. During his life he has occupied but few high posts, his chief ones being those of Lord Lieutenant of the County of London, which he has held since 1900, and the Lord Lieutenant of Elgin, N.B., from 1872 to 1902. He was also one of the founders of the great Chartered Company of South Africa and for nine years was its Vice President, which position he resigned after the famous Jameson raid. The Duke and the Princess Royal have two daughters, Princess Alexandra and Princess Maud. By special remainder, Princess Alexandra, who is twenty years of age, is heir to the great estates.

Every sympathy will go out to the Princess Royal and her daughters and also to King George and the Royal Family on the loss they have sustained. The late Duke was one of the most unassuming men of his day and was known to his tenants as one of the best of landlords; whilst to his friends he ever stood as a typical specimen of all that is best in the annals of the old families of Great Britain.

MISS HOLLAND'S WORK.

Miss J. M. Holland, who for 14 years has sought to benefit the girl and children operatives living in the boarding houses of 40 of the great spinning and weaving factories which extend from Akashi to Lake Biwa, now finds it necessary to employ two men assistants for her various entertaining and lecturing paraphernalia, consisting of Lime-light, Electric, Acetylene Lanterns, for Stereopticon, Kinematograph and opaque projector. The employment of these men will bring an additional expenditure of 65.00 yen monthly. To this end the philanthropic cooperation of friends is requested.

Mrs. Holmes has kindly consented to receive subscriptions and donations which may be sent to the British Consulate, 25 Kawaguchi, Osaka.

BARON SUFU.

A CHARMING "GOOD-BYE."

A very pleasant little ceremony took place on Monday afternoon at the new City Office in Yokohama when the local Japanese Officials together with the Foreign Consular Bodies and Foreign residents, assembled to bid farewell to the ex-Governor of Kanagawa-ken and also to congratulate him upon his appointment to the rank of Privy Councillor.

Over two hundred were present at the farewell, among them being close on fifty foreigners. Remembering that wise old adage that "Brevity is the Soul of Wit," Mr. Arakawa, the Mayor, eulogised Baron Sufu in a speech, that was brief and was excellent. In concluding, he asked the ex-Governor to accept a set of silver flower vases as a souvenir of his term of office.

In reply, the Baron thanked one and all for their kindness. He trusted that the friendly relations that had always existed between himself and the community would ever continue; as he was only too willing to accentuate those good feelings after his departure from Yokohama. His Excellency then drank the health of all present.

About half an hour later, the party dispersed.

AMENDMENT OF TAX REGULATIONS.

We are asked to draw the attention of taxpayers to the fact that owing to the amendment of the National Tax Collection Law, any person who has failed to pay the tax within the specified time, will have to pay interest on the overdue tax at the rate of 3 sen per 100 yen a day.

The amended regulations came into force from January in which month the payment of the 3rd portion of the Income Tax and the 2nd portion of the residential Land Tax of the 44th Year of Meiji fell due.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, January 26.

Sales were all the order of the day on Friday.

Saturday, January 27.

The 27th instant being settlement day, there was only one session of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The tendency was upward, but it was a question of adjustment rather than of actual improvement.

Wednesday, January 31.

Things were unexpectedly dull yesterday. Evidently, until the Chinese complication is disposed of, there with not be any real activity.

Thursday, January 1.

The tone of the market was very dull on the 1st inst. Something like a slump took place in Kinugawa hydro-electric shares. Latest quotations are as follows—

Jan. 31st. Feb. 1st.

Kel-Hin Railway.....	50.00	49.45	—	.55
Yusen Railway.....	110.95	111.20	—	.25
Toyo Kiseh.....	45.70	45.95	—	.25
Specie Bank.....	214.00	214.50	—	.50
Tanko Kisen.....	24.95	25.00	—	.05
Tokyo Gas.....	72.70	72.50	—	.20
Tokyo Dento.....	69.95	69.95	—	—
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	85.50	85.50	—	—
Tokyo Spinning.....	47.10	—	—	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	106.50	106.50	—	—
Beer.....	84.90	84.50	—	.40
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	62.40	62.55	—	.15
Nippon Oil.....	69.50	—	—	—
Rice Exchange.....	111.80	110.60	—	1.20
Stock Exchange.....	160.50	161.80	—	1.30

THE SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 27.)

PROBABLY no more interesting speech was ever made from the rostrum of the Japanese Diet than that delivered by Viscount UCHIDA, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on the 23rd instant. Gravely important topics inspired the statement and Viscount UCHIDA showed just sufficient frankness to satisfy his hearers, while observing all the reticence dictated by discretion. When the late Marquis KOMURA addressed the Diet in its twenty-seventh session, the question of the Customs tariff monopolized attention, and threatened to become injurious to the quality of Anglo-Japanese friendship. Never did a cardinal question receive harder treatment at the hands of accident. It was prefaced by Marquis KOMURA's unhappy reference to Great Britain's free-trade disability; it was complicated by a still more unfortunate correspondence, and it was accentuated by a troublesome misunderstanding, so that on the whole it seemed doomed to leave an aftermath of bitterness. But owing to the tact and good will brought to bear by the Cabinets in London and Tokyo, the incident was finally deprived of all mischievous potentialities, and Viscount UCHIDA was able to report that not only had a satisfactory solution been found, but also that Anglo-Japanese relations had in nowise suffered. That was excellent news, for the Anglo-Japanese Alliance promises to exercise the most beneficial influence in the Far East at the present juncture.

Not less satisfactory was the announcement that all questions arising out of the war of 1904-5 have been effectually disposed of. This page of history bears indelible testimony to Russian magnanimity and Japanese good sense. A little lack of this quality or of that on either side might have produced calamitous results. But the long struggle in Manchuria showed the two nations that each is worthy of the other's trust, and the knowledge bore good fruit subsequently.

These two problems now happily belong to past history, and have, therefore, less pressing interest than the question agitating China to-day—a question which may have consequences of the most far-reaching nature. It was for the sake of the light that might be thrown upon the insurrection in the Middle Kingdom that Viscount UCHIDA's utterances were anxiously waited by friendly and hostile critics alike. His reference to that part of his subject was studiously guarded. He dwelt in forcible terms on the vital importance of restoring peace and good order in the East with the least possible delay, but he carefully avoided all indication of the route to be taken by Japan with that object. This country has vested interests of the largest nature

in her great neighbour, and if haply the situation develops any phase calculated to impair those interests, it will be her unwilling duty to interfere in an effective manner. Meanwhile she is working in cooperation with Western Powers—notably England—to bring about a pacific settlement, and she has made offer of her good offices to facilitate that result. But her policy is to avoid all interference in her great neighbour's domestic polity—a policy from which she will not readily depart.

THE CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, January 31.)

THE case in connection with the charge of forging official documents, a translation of the text of the judgment wherein was published in a recent issue of the *Mail*, has aroused some interest in view of the questions it raises in regard to the relations between employer and employé. The story of the case, as told in the confession of one of the accused, is a simple one. The idea was conceived,—by whom will be considered later,—that it would be possible to make unlawful gains by deceiving, on the one hand, the Customs authorities, and, on the other, the firm of Messrs. BABCOCK & WILCOX, by whom the accused were engaged. Accordingly new invoices of consignments from Europe were forged, whereon the original value of the goods was considerably reduced, and these were presented to the Customs, who accepted them as the original statements of value. The gain to the accused lay in the fact that although the actual duty paid was considerably lower than the proper amount, cheques for the full amount of duty were obtained from the firm, who were supplied with forged Customs receipts for the full amount. One of the accused, MATSUMURA, having confessed to the crime, the chief question the Court had to consider was whether he had any accomplices, or in other words, whether the difference between the actual amount obtained from the firm and the amount paid to the Customs was kept by himself or divided with others. MATSUMURA, in his confession, implicated Mr. HARGREAVES, who was at the time in charge of the Yokohama office of the firm of BABCOCK and WILCOX, and subsequently SATO, an employé of the Toyo Transport Agency, who was at first only examined as a witness, was arrested and confessed to collusion. These three accused have now been found guilty by the Court of First Instance and sentenced to terms of imprisonment. As MATSUMURA and SATO have both confessed to the part they took in the crime, the chief question before the Court was whether Mr. HARGREAVES was also implicated,—that is whether, as stated by MATSUMURA, the scheme was planned by Mr. HARGREAVES and the money unlawfully obtained handed to him.

In considering the judgment, attention may first be drawn to the fact that, while the statements of the accused quoted therein are put in the first person, as though they were the actual words used, they are in reality merely general summaries of the depositions. As the Japanese language does not admit of indirect narration, in the original Japanese text even the deposition of MATSUMURA is put in the first person, although transferred to the third person in our translation. The use of the word "judgment" in these depositions, which are supposed to have been made before judgment was delivered, shows that they are not quotations from the actual evidence. Attention is drawn to this point not only because it has an important bearing on the decision of the Court, but also because the text is likely to lead readers into the belief that the actual words of the depositions are quoted. In deciding that the foreign accused was guilty the Court was guided by three points—firstly, the statement made by MATSUMURA; secondly, the evidence of the accused SATO; and thirdly a statement in the evidence of Mr. MITSUHASHI, an employé of the firm of BABCOCK & WILCOX. This last may be dismissed very briefly. It was, in effect, a statement that he was told by Mr. METCALF, Manager of the Yokohama office, that the affair was the doing of Mr. HARGREAVES and MATSUMURA. Mr. METCALF, as shown by the evidence given by him before the Court, was in England at the time the affair happened, and therefore could know nothing of it. Even if he made such a statement, which, as is also shown by his evidence in Court, he denies, it could only be taken as an expression of opinion and valued accordingly. It may be pointed out that in an English Court such "hearsay" evidence would have at once been ruled out. The law of evidence is not so highly developed in Japan, but still it may be said that the majority of Japanese jurists would regard such evidence as too weak to found a judgment on. Turning to the evidence of MATSUMURA, it will be seen that the summary of it given by the Court in its judgment amounts merely to a statement that the foreign accused instructed him to prepare the forged documents and received the unlawfully gained money. Here any conclusion must be based on the degree of credence to be attached to MATSUMURA's statements, and one or two points may be considered in this connection. Out of a total of over 3,000 yen wrongfully obtained, MATSUMURA claims that he only received three months' salary, that is 210 yen, twice a year, in addition to some profits and bonuses. How much these amounted to is not stated, but as the illegal transactions only lasted from June, 1910, to September of the same year, and as MATSUMURA gave himself up to the police in that month, it appears that all he received was 210 yen.

If the foreign accused were implicated he would certainly not have paid MATSUMURA any money before the illegal transactions began nor would he have paid him any after he had, in his confession, dragged in his name. That MATSUMURA should be content to run the grave risk of forging official documents for the sake of two hundred odd yen, while handing 3,000 yen to the foreign accused, appears curious. Again, there is the statement of MATSUMURA, that they (Hargreaves and he) asked the accused SATO to insert on the receipts the amounts, etc., as their handwriting was known to the head office. These receipts are, of course, in Japanese writing, except the amounts, which are put in Arabic numerals. How MATSUMURA could conceive the idea that the head office could distinguish between Japanese handwritings is a mystery; more especially as the only part of the receipt that would be decipherable by them would be the Arabic numerals showing the amount, which might be inserted by any clerk. It can only be supposed he was trying to mislead the Court. It is a significant point, however, that his handwriting, whether in Japanese or Roman characters, would be recognised in the Yokohama office by his fellow employes, which fact may throw some light on the reason why he asked SATO to assist him. Enough has been said to show that MATSUMURA's deposition, as summarised by the Court, is open to grave doubts as to its credibility. Further, the whole of the statements made by MATSUMURA are of the nature of a confession, and if there is any legal principle which receives common assent it is that confessions are evidence only against those who make them. They may, and often do, lead to the judgment of accomplices, but in such a case judgment is not founded on the confession but on other evidence.

In regard to the deposition of SATO, the summary given by the Court appears to be derived not only from the depositions made by him as one of the accused, but also from his evidence as a witness, when he denied that he had taken any part in the affair. Even then it is difficult to see how the Court can put in the mouth of SATO such a definite statement as "I saw MATSUMURA hand the money to Mr. HARGREAVES," meaning the money of which the Customs were defrauded. On this point SATO contradicted himself several times. His first statement was that he saw MATSUMURA taking the money to Mr. HARGREAVES, although he did not actually see the money handed over; later he said he *thought* he delivered the money himself to Mr. HARGREAVES once or twice, but corrected this at the same examination by saying he did not mean he delivered the money to Mr. HARGREAVES direct but handed it to MATSUMURA in Mr. HARGREAVE's room, the former at once giving it to Mr. HARGREAVES. Later still, SATO corrected this again and said he delivered the money

to MATSUMURA, who took it downstairs to Mr. HARGREAVES, and later still he said that the money was delivered to MATSUMURA and he thought also to Mr. HARGREAVES but only through MATSUMURA. It will thus be seen that no such statement as is quoted by the Court as having been made by SATO appears in the depositions, while SATO's statements on this point are so contradictory and confusing as to be entirely unreliable.

The case against Mr. HARGREAVES will thus be seen to rest on the uncorroborated statements of two men who have confessed to their crime and whose confessions are evidence only against themselves, and a vague statement of a witness that he was told by some one in the office that Mr. HARGREAVES was guilty. This seems very unsatisfactory proof whereon to found a sentence of three years' imprisonment. In fact, judging from the sentences passed, it would seem that the Court itself felt great hesitation. If Mr. HARGREAVES instructed his employe MATSUMURA to commit the crime and the latter was only acting under his instructions, then the sentence passed on the former should certainly be more severe than that passed on the latter. To sentence them to equal punishment seems to show that the Court did not regard MATSUMURA's action as being solely on the initiative of the foreigner accused. But a person must be either guilty or not guilty. To find a person guilty and yet reduce his punishment because the evidence against him is not clear, is simply to stultify justice.

In conclusion, the grave nature of the precedent established by the judgment may be pointed out. Under its ruling an employe guilty of fraud has merely to drag in the name of his employer and get an accomplice to support his statements to bring that employer within the grasp of the law. Hitherto it has been considered that the law in Japan affecting relations between employer and employe was rather in favour of the former. But if the present judgment is upheld by the Appeal Court to which it has been referred, the reverse will be the case. In any event, it is to be hoped that what now appears on the face of the judgment given to be a grave miscarriage of justice, will receive careful investigation in the Court of Second Instance.

THE LATE ADMIRAL SIR JOHN HAY.

The late Admiral Sir John Charles Dalrymple Hay, P.C., G.C.B., F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., whose death is announced in a despatch, was born in 1821 and had thus reached the ripe age of 91. He entered the Navy in 1834 and served during the first Kafir War on the coast of Africa and Cape stations. Hewas on the Pacific and South American stations from 1836 to 1839, when he was put on the Mediterranean station and was present at the capture of Beyrout and St. Jean d'Acre. He was specially gazetted for gallantry at the attack on Tortosa. In 1842 he was transferred to the East Indian station and subsequently to the China

station, and was Flag-Lieut. to Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane in the Borneo operations of 1845, when he was promoted to Commander. He was in command of the squadron which destroyed the piratical fleets in Bias Bay and in Tonquin River in 1849. In the same year he was promoted to captain, and commanded the *Hannibal* in the Black Sea during the Crimean War, being present at the capture of Kerich and Kinburn and the siege and fall of Sevastopol. He was promoted Rear-Admiral in 1866 and retired in 1870, subsequently being promoted Vice-Admiral in 1872 and Admiral in 1878. From 1866 to 1868 he was a Lord of the Admiralty, and sat in Parliament as member for Wakefield from 1862 to 1865, for Stamford from 1866 to 1880, and for Wigtown Burghs from 1880 to 1885. Sir John wrote several books on naval affairs and was Chairman of Reuter's Telegram Co. at the time of his decease.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Dai-ichi Ginko was held on Thursday last, when the following accounts were adopted:—

	Yen.
Net profit for present term	993,126
Balance brought forward from previous term	618,842
Total	1,521,968
Bonuses and pension fund for official and other members	45,150
Reserve fund	350,000
Dividend (10 per cent. per annum)	500,000
Balance carried forward to next term	626,818

An ordinary general meeting of the Japan Hypothec Bank was held on Friday afternoon last, when the following accounts were passed unanimously:—

	Yen.
Profit for present term	984,192
Balance brought forward from previous term	102,666
Total	1,086,858
Reserve fund for making good deficit	118,000
Reserve fund for equalization of dividend	39,000
First dividend for old shares (5 per cent.)	250,000
First dividend for new shares (5 per cent.)	62,500
Bonuses for directors	75,000
Second dividend for old shares (5 per cent.)	250,000
Second dividend for new shares (5 per cent.)	62,500
Special reserve	85,000
Balance carried forward to next term	14,858

An ordinary general meeting of the Tokyo Gas Company was held on Monday afternoon, when the following accounts were adopted:—

	Yen.
Profit for present term	1,013,313
Balance brought forward from previous term	155,080
Total	1,168,393
Bonuses for officials	20,266
Reserve fund for retiring allowance	10,133
Legal and special reserves	84,274
Dividend (11 per cent. per annum)	1,017,500
Balance carried forward to next term	36,220

Some controversy occurred as to the bonuses for directors, but it was at length decided to discuss the matter at the next general meeting to be held on the 16th proximo.

THE Lord Mayor of London has been asked to consider whether it is not possible to identify the Municipalities of the United Kingdom with the welcome to be given to Their Majesties on their return, by the City of London. It is understood that the Lord Mayor is communicating with Buckingham Palace on the subject. It is suggested that the occasion should be made a national holiday and that thanksgiving services should be held throughout the country.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

A NEW IMPERIAL MINISTRY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, January 24.

In the Council before the Throne an opinion in favour of the retention of monarchical government prevailed and the proposal of abdication received a check. Yuan Shih-kai now finds himself in a dilemma. He will probably leave for Tientsin under some pretext. Viceroy Chao of the three Eastern provinces, Tieh Lang, Feng Kuo-chang, Chin Chi-lung and the Manchus will organize a new Ministry. Chang Hsun, Commander of the Hsuehchow garrison, will assume the command of the Imperial troops to decide the final issue at the point of the bayonet.

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Peking, January 24.

It appears that Yuan Shih-kai has changed his attitude since the recent bomb outrage, and has of late been exchanging secret telegrams with the revolutionists. It is rumoured that Yuan will proceed to Shanghai shortly to enter into final negotiations for peace with the revolutionists.

IMPERIALIST SUCCESS.

Dairen, January 25.

The Imperial army attacked the Revolutionists at Wanfuchwang at 7 p.m. on the 23rd instant and took possession of that town the same evening. The Revolutionists fled southward.

AN IMPERIAL EDICT.

Peking, January 25.

An Imperial Edict was issued to-day to the effect that in conformity with the representation of the Senate advising the Throne that an armed force should not be used for the suppression of civil commotion and also, on the advice of friendly Powers, that an armistice should be declared for the sake of humanity, the Court had dispatched a peace commissioner to Shanghai. As a result of the exchange of views with the Revolutionists, it had been agreed to submit the future polity to the public opinion of the nation and in consultation with the Imperial Princes and the Ministers of the Crown, the Court had ordered the convocation of a national assembly to submit the matter to their decision. In this action the Court was impelled by a desire for a peaceful solution of the trouble. Various disquieting rumours are now rife, causing great uneasiness in the public mind through misunderstanding of the situation. Negotiations are in progress regarding the convocation of a national assembly.

THE HANKOW POLICE FORCE.

Hankow, January 25.

The Imperial police force has been withdrawn from Hankow in response to a demand of the Revolutionists, the latter now maintaining order.

REVOLUTIONISTS ROUTED IN HONAN.

Peking, January 25.

According to a telegraphic dispatch reaching Peking from Honan, the revolutionists in Honan were attacked and routed by the Imperialists.

THE ATTITUDE OF MONGOLIA.

Tientsin, January 25.

The Mongolian Princes will hold a mass

meeting shortly to decide their final attitude in the situation.

OPINION AGAIN CHANGES.

CRITICAL POSITION IN PEKING.

HONOUR FOR YUAN SHIH-KAI.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, January 26.

An Imperial Edict has been issued to-day conferring on Yuan Shih-kai the title of Grand Duke in recognition of meritorious services rendered by him. The resignation of Li Chia-chu has been accepted and Hsu Ting-lin has been appointed his successor to the presidency of the Senate.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, January 26.

Revolutionists rose in Fakumen, on the 21st instant, and attempted to take possession of the town, but a revolutionist leader proceeded thither from Tieling and prevailed upon them to disperse, as simultaneous risings in so many places would weaken their strength. The revolutionists in South Manchuria have now completed their preparations to rise in arms when the Northern Expedition effects its landing on the Manchurian coast.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.

Chefoo, January 26.

The transport *Hsinming* left Chefoo for Tengchow at 3 a.m. on the 26th instant. The warship *Wufeng* also left for Tengchow at one o'clock the same afternoon, but put back into the harbour owing to the stress of weather. The warship *Haitan* is ready for departure but her destination is unknown.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

Nanking, January 25.

The dispatch of troops in the direction of Linhaiwan is a scheme planned by the Revolutionists to keep up the martial spirit in view of the uncertainty of the situation. Intelligence has reached a certain quarter that the idea of the abdication of the Throne has been dropped, it having been decided to adopt a monarchical form of government. The necessity of the Northern Expedition is, therefore, more keenly felt than ever, and the Revolutionary Government is now busily engaged in war preparations. As the advance guards of the two armies are within a short distance of one another at Linhaiwan, it is believed that the two armies will come into collision in that direction on the expiration of the period of armistice.

FIGHTING AT PEHMA.

Chefoo, January 25.

According to intelligence received this morning, 300 men of the Northern Expedition started from Hwanghsien at 9 a.m. on the 25th with two field-guns to attack the Imperialists at Pehma. About 400 Imperialists counter-attacked them at a place about six Chinese li off Pehma. After two hours hard fighting the Imperialists retreated to Linshan and continued the resistance. The Revolutionists took possession of Pehma at about 8 o'clock the same evening. The Revolutionists lost four officers and twenty men either killed or wounded. The casualties on the Imperialist side are unknown, but two officers were taken prisoners.

TROUBLE AT NANCHANG

Kiukiang, January 26.

A collision has occurred at Nanchang be-

tween the local police guards and the members of the Paohuanghui. The Catholic missionary appealed to the mission board in Kiukiang for protection. The local government dispatched thither 400 soldiers without loss of time. The Japanese instructors resident in Nanchang wire that the town is vigilantly guarded and all foreigners are safe.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Nanking, January 26.

A Kwantung regiment, a part of the Northern Expedition, stationed at Kuchien (a town on the north of Fengyangfu in Anhui province), which lies on the Tsin-Pu railway, was attacked on the morning of the 25th instant by about 400 men under the command of Chang Hsun, and put to flight. The troops retreated to the south along the railway line, and at the same time the Imperialists also retreated to the north. A division of the Northern Expedition is stationed in the vicinity and a brigade will also be dispatched thither from Nanking on the 27th instant.

THE MONGOLIANS.

Tsitsihar, January 26.

A portion of the Mongolian soldiers who took possession of Hailar, made their appearance on the banks of the Aigun river, via Manjuria, and commenced operations against the frontier guards. It is rumoured that King Ming was dispatched to Hailar from Tsitsihar on the 25th instant for the pacification of the Mongolians.

OUTRAGE IN PEKING.

Peking, January 27.

General Liang Pi, formerly commander of the Imperial Guards, paid a visit to Prince Su at 11 p.m. last evening. On his way home an army man followed him and threw a bomb at him. The officer sustained grievous injury to his legs, while one of his servants was killed outright. The assassin was also killed on the spot by the explosion.

BOMB AT TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, January 27.

A bomb was thrown at Chang Hui-chi in Tientsin on the 27th instant, but he escaped unhurt.

CRISIS IN PEKING.

Peking, January 27.

Yan To, Yuan's right-hand man, who has been advocating the Manchu dynasty, has suddenly changed his attitude and has organized an association advocating the speedy formation of a republican government, and demanded the abdication of the Throne. General Tuan Chi-jin and forty-six officers of the Imperial army have presented to the Throne a telegraphic memorial under joint signatures pointing out that the trend of general affairs tends to a republican government. Chao Ping-chun repaired to the Palace this morning, representing Yuan Shih-kai, most probably on a mission to urge abdication. The situation in Peking is critical. Preparations are being made to transport to Peking the troops which are detailed in the vicinity of Chinwantao to guard against a probable invasion of the Northern Expedition.

DR. SUN'S ULTIMATUM.

Nanking, January 28.

Yuan's telegram in answer to Dr. Sun's ultimatum raises no objection to the conditions proposed by the latter, but the disposition of the Peking Government hints the Revolutionists' feelings and Sun despairs of

a peaceful settlement in view of the lack of sincerity on the part of Yuan Shih-kai.

A FOREIGN LOAN.

Nanking, January 27.

The representatives of the foreign bankers staying in the town are holding a conference concerning the acceptance of 100 million taels loan to be raised by the Revolutionary Government. The negotiations are said to be making favourable progress.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Nanking, January 28.

The First Division of the Northern Expedition will set out for Anhui tomorrow. A large part of the Canton army will also start for Linhuai simultaneously.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

Peking, January 27.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Dr. Sun Yat-sen his intention of convoking a national assembly in Shanghai to decide the future polity of China.

THE SITUATION IN PEKING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that the situation has undergone another change. The fever of the Paoliuanhui has subsided and a feeling has begun to prevail in favour of abdication. Prince Chun sent Prince Tao to Yuan's residence to discuss the issue of an Imperial Edict announcing abdication. It is rumoured that the Edict will be issued on the 1st of next month.

Prince Kung is keeping indoors and his residence is strongly guarded for fear of assassination.

OPIUM PROHIBITION.

Tuan Ch'ui-jui, Commander of the First Army, wired to Yuan reporting that the smoking of opium is tolerated among the revolutionary soldiers. Owing to anarchy prevailing in the Yangtze valley, no control can be exercised on the importation of opium. The opium dens in various towns have opened their doors and are doing brisk business, especially in Shanghai and Canton. The Revolutionary Government makes no attempt to enforce the prohibition. The worst part of it is that, taking advantage of the armistice, the Revolutionists are selling opium to the Imperial soldiers, who are getting gradually addicted to the habit. According to information the Canton army carries a large quantity of opium and uses the drug as the means of inducing the Imperialists to surrender. The revolutionary disturbances are likely to encourage the habit which the Government has taken so much pains to stop.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, January 27.

The Northern Expedition at Hankow has joined with the Kwangsi Army stationed at Hwangpi and commenced its march northward, the advance guards having reached Hsiaokanhsien, with headquarters at Sinciejou.

Nanking, January 27.

The Canton army commenced to march on Fengyang to-day.

THE ARMY AT NANKING.

Nanking, January 27.

The Revolutionists in Nanking have of late gained a bad reputation for plunder. The Government has issued a law consisting of twelve articles to prevent the malpractice.

THE PAY OF THE ARMY.

Nanking, January 27.

The pay of the revolutionary soldiers was

a month in arrear, but the Government has now given them their pay and also distributed 200,000 taels amongst them as a reward for the capture of Nanking. The martial spirit has thereby revived. The Government is also giving three months' pay in advance to the soldiers starting on the Northern Expedition.

DR. SUN AND YUAN.

Shanghai, January 26.

According to Hwang Chung-kui a telegram has been received by Tang Shao-i to the effect that General Tuan Chi-jui and other principal army officers under Yuan Shih-kai presented a joint memorial, urging the Emperor to abdicate the Throne and convene a national assembly to decide the future polity in consonance with the popular wishes. The memorial insinuates that the memorialists are determined to press for abdication by armed force, if it be not accepted. Chin Ki-mei, magistrate of the revolutionary army, is also credited with having stated that on the 24th instant Dr. Sun telegraphed Yuan Shih-kai cancelling the ultimatum wired on the 19th instant and expressing his profound sympathy with Yuan's present position. Cordial relations now exist between the two statesmen. A belief obtains that in the event of the Manchu and Mongolian princes persistently opposing the abdication, Yuan's army may join with the Revolutionists in an invasion of Peking.

A REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION.

Peking, January 27.

On the initiative of Tang To, one of the leading adherents of Yuan Shih-kai, an association calling itself the "Republic Promotion Association" has been formed and the members enlisted already reach over 500. The association has for its object the establishment of a Republican Government and the conservation of the territorial integrity of China. The association held its general meeting on the 26th and adopted the following resolutions which were transmitted to Yuan Shih-kai with a demand for their speedy adoption:—That the war shall not be continued even after the expiration of the period of armistice; that the Republican polity shall be speedily declared without consulting the Imperial princes and other great officials who are opposed to the polity. The association has made public the resolution through the columns of the newspapers. This may be taken as an indication of a radical change of feeling.

OCCUPATION OF HSIAOKANHSIEN.

Peking, January 29.

A report has it that the Imperialists retreated from Hsiaokanhsien on the 25th or 26th instant and the town is now in the occupation of the revolutionists.

BOMB-THROWING.

Suchow, January 26.

When Liu San-chieh, commander of the Kiangsu army, was returning home from the castle, a man threw a bomb at him. The commander escaped unhurt, but his followers received slight injuries. The would-be assassin made good his escape.

THE DEMAND FOR ABDICATION.

Peking, January 28.

The signatories to the joint memorial presented by Tuan Chi-jui and others to the Throne demanding abdication comprise nearly all the commanders of the Imperial Army Divisions.

SITUATION IN MUKDEN.

Mukden, January 29.

Chang Tsa-lin has already had assassinated

Chang-yang and a few Radical leaders. Not satisfied with this, he now seeks the lives of all those who disagree with him. Viceroy Chao is powerless to dissuade him. Many Manchu officials have quitted the town for fear of assassination. The situation in Mukden is gradually becoming critical.

A SOLDIERS' QUARREL.

Suchow, January 26.

At about 2 p.m. on the 26th instant a soldier of the old-style army came into collision with a soldier belonging to the vanguard of the Third Battalion outside the town gate. Several hundred soldiers joined in the fighting, and fire was exchanged in the neighbourhood of the Japanese settlement. The casualties on both sides numbered about 30 or 40. The commanders were powerless to stop the fighting. Great confusion prevailed for a time, but both sides withdrew about 9 o'clock. The quarrel is said to have arisen out of an attempt to cut off the queue of an old-style soldier. A belief obtains in official circles that the incident has some connection with the bomb outrage committed on Liu San-chieh on the preceding night, but this seems to be a mistake. The two armies have ever been on bad terms with one another and the incident is considered as an outburst of mutual hatred. Anxiety is nevertheless felt lest robbery follows if the disturbances become general.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF MONGOLIA.

Peking, January 23.

It is reported that Russia has published a declaration of the recognition of the independence of Mongolia.

ABDICATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that the Empress Dowager is at last conscious of the inevitability of abdication and has sent for Prince Ching to confer with him on the matter, as the Empress Dowager considers it to be the only way of saving China.

The Empress Dowager will proceed to the Imperial Shrine shortly, accompanied by the infant Emperor to take the oath of abdication.

Feng Kuo-chang, Commander of the Imperial Guards, has memorialized the Throne stating that it is inadvisable to continue the war and also urging the speedy retirement of the Emperor to Wangshonshan; otherwise the six Army Divisions in North China might be compelled to bombard Peking.

YUAN SHIH-KAI HAS FULL POWERS.

THE EXTENSION OF THE ARMISTICE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, January 28.

Up to 6 o'clock this afternoon no news has been received as to the extension of the armistice. According to intelligence from Nanking, Hwang Hsing has issued an order to commence hostile action in all directions except in the district guarded by the Imperialists under General Tuan Chi-jui. It appears that the Revolutionists will direct their attack on the Imperialists under Chiang Hsun, and will probably refrain from attacking the troops under the command of General Tuan Chi-jui, in view of the report that Tuan has memorialized the Throne in

favour of the adoption of a republican polity, the memorial being followed by a threat that he would join the Revolutionists if the Manchu Government did not speedily decide on abdication.

ATTEMPTED INTERMEDIATION.

Shanghai, January 28.
It is reported that the German Minister in Peking is making an effort to induce Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang to renew the peace negotiation in Tsingtao.

THE WAR FUNDS.

Hankow, January 28.
Li Yuan-hung stated to an interviewer that the Hupeh revolutionists had now plenty of funds, and there was in stock a large quantity of silver and copper which was now being coined.

MOVEMENT OF CHINESE WARSHIP.

Chefoo, January 30.
The warship *Haiyung* left for the north-east at 7 p.m. on the 29th instant, with the transport *Kuanping*. Her destination is believed to be Takushan.

COUNCIL IN PEKING.

Peking, January 29.
A council of the Imperial princes was held on the 28th, but only five Imperial princes and seven Mongolian princes attended, Prince Ching and other influential princes being all absent. The council came to a close without any decision being arrived at. The council was convened in response to a telegraphic dispatch received from Wu Ting-fang, demanding the final decision of the Imperial House. The council will again be convened to-morrow when the Imperial House will finally decide on its attitude.

REVOLUTIONISTS FROM DAIREN.

Dairen, January 29.
The revolutionists in Dairen and vicinity have joined hands with the local notables and bandits and now number over 500. Armed with rifles and ammunitions borrowed from the citizens, they first of all took possession of Yushutai near Chengtu, and then occupied Chengtu. Great uneasiness prevails in Chengtu and its neighbourhood.

RECOGNITION OF REPUBLIC.

Shanghai, January 29.
According to information emanating from a certain reliable quarter the Corps Diplomatique in Shanghai has declared to the Chinese Government that the Foreign Powers will give their official recognition to the Chinese Republic if the Emperor and other princes retire to Jehol and Yuan Shih-kai is elected president, with the capital in Peking, and simultaneously the Provisional Government in Nanking be dissolved.

MARCHING NORTHWARD.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.
Hankow, January 29.
Detachments of the Northern Expedition, which has been organized in Wuchang since the 24th instant, are crossing the river every day. Three Army Divisions were organized of Nanking, Anhui and Chekiang soldiers, and the troops landed at Yangtze. Two Army Divisions were also organized of the Shansi, Hupeh and Hunnan armies, who were transported to Yanglo by junks, where they joined the other Division. These troops are now marching northward. The Revolutionists stationed to the north of Wuchang also joined the Shansi and Honan troops arriving at Wuchang and are moving northward. The Imperialists, who were withdrawn from Hankow and Hanyang, are now

completely smothered by the revolutionary force.

SITUATION IN ILI.

Peking, January 29.
According to a telegram from Ili the new army has mutinied and burnt down the *yamen*, and murdered the instructors and traders with impunity. The town presents a pitiable scene. Russia has dispatched a detachment of soldiers for the protection of the foreign residents.

UNNEGOTIABLE DOCUMENTS.

Hankow, January 29.
The Chinese bills and bank notes in the hands of the foreign merchants in Hankow reach a total of seven million *taels*. The foreign merchants find it impossible to have them cashed. The Consular Body has decided to dispatch to Shanghai a delegate to enter into negotiations with the revolutionists to devise a remedial measure.

A SECRET EDICT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* states that the Empress Dowager has issued to Yuan Shih-kai a secret Edict, investing him with power to decide the fate of the Manchu dynasty. The Edict will not be published in the *Official Gazette*. The Edict enables Yuan to negotiate peace with the revolutionists. Yuan inwardly desires that the Revolutionists should reject the negotiations and take the offensive now that the six Army Divisions in North China are in his hands, and the troops amply equipped with munitions of war.

A later despatch reports that Yuan is now in negotiation with the Revolutionists; and his proposal for the appointment of Feng Kuo-chang as Commander in chief of the army has startled the Revolutionists. War seems inevitable but it will be a struggle between the Revolutionists and Yuan Shih-kai, and not between the Revolutionists and the Chinese Government.

An agreement has nearly been concluded regarding the organization of a provisional government, in which the Peking and Nanking Governments will be represented by Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen.

Yuan has issued to the commanders of the Imperial force an instruction to avoid fighting as much as possible even if the Revolutionists open fire on them, in order not to waste shells and powder. The period of armistice has now expired and no definite arrangement has been made as to its renewal, though the controversy is continued by telegrams.

ABDICATION AGAIN TO THE FRONT.

FEELING AT CHEFOO.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Chefoo, January 29.
There has for several days past been a rumour of the invasion of the town by the Imperialists. The rumour proved false but a sense of great uneasiness prevails amongst the citizens. All shops are closed and business is paralyzed.

THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Hankow, January 30.
General Tuan has notified the Consular Body that the Imperial troops were withdrawn to Kuangshui on the 28th instant.

CONSTITUTION FOR KIANGSI.

Kiukiang, January 30.
Magistrate Ma in Nanchang has published a provisional constitution enforceable in

Kiangsi province. The constitution will be revoked simultaneously with the publication of the Constitution of the Chinese Republic. The provisional constitution is framed on the model of the Japanese Constitution. The recent trouble in Nanchang has now been settled, but internal conflict seems to prevail in the military government.

IN MONGOLIA.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.

Peking, January 30.
The Gegen (literally "living Buddha") in Kulon, has dispatched an envoy to a Mongolian Prince and is trying to persuade all the Princes in Inner Mongolia to declare their independence.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SUMMONED.

Peking, January 30.
An Imperial Edict has been issued ordering the convocation of an extraordinary session of the national assembly. A section of the Senate advocate dissolution, as it is now a useless institution and its existence will not bring any good result. In view of the difficulty of obtaining a quorum in the council it has been decided to dissolve the institution, and steps are being taken to obtain Imperial sanction.

THE WALLS OF CANTON.

Hongkong, January 30.
The Magistrate of Canton has issued a plan for making a new road by destroying the walls around the city. Surveyors are already at work, and the destruction of the walls will commence shortly.

UNREST IN MANCHURIA.

Dairen, January 29.
Six or seven principal members of the revolutionists in Tashihchao are holding secret conferences day and night. Taotai Yuan has instructed the commander of the garrison to keep the soldiers ready to guard against emergencies. The revolutionists are in constant communication with their confères in various districts and preparations are being made for open revolt.

The Abbot of the Mangmangmiyao in that town is an enthusiastic advocate of the revolution and has been appointed quarter-master to the revolutionary army. They are biding their time for rising. According to the present arrangement, the revolutionists in Tashihchao and Mukden are to rise in arms simultaneously with the landing of the Northern Expedition at a certain point on the coast of South Manchuria. A rumour has it that the mounted bandits in various districts have joined hands with the revolutionists.

THE TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, January 30.
The Imperial troops in Hankow were removed to Kuang-shui on the 27th instant. According to a native, the revolutionists commenced a northward march from Hsiao-kanhsien on the 28th instant.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Peking, January 31.
According to information emanating from a Chinese source, the revolutionary soldiers on five warships and transports commenced debarkation in the vicinity of Takushan on the 28th instant.

Chefoo, January 30.
The warship *Haitan* and a transport, returned to Chefoo on the 30th instant from Tengchow. Another transport has left here for Tengchow.

Dairen, January 31.
A two-funnelled warship and a transport

appeared three miles off the mouth of Lali river at 3 p.m. on the 30th instant. Presumably they are the revolutionary warship and transport that left Chefoo on the night of the 29th inst.

THE ARMY MEMORIAL.

Peking, January 13.

On the news reaching Peking that General Tuan and forty-six other high army officers had jointly presented to the Throne a telegraphic memorial recommending the adoption of a republican polity, the Monarchical Association in Peking telegraphed to all the commanders of the Army asking for confirmation of the news. Up to the present only thirteen officers have replied to the inquiry in favour of a republic polity and thus it has now become clear that the joint signatures to the memorial were forged. On further inquiries the Association found that General Yuan arrived at Peking on the 25th and returned to his army on the 26th. It is believed that the memorial was drawn up by General Tuan on consultation with General Tsai. The Association has commenced a counter-movement and is collecting the signatures of army officers to a memorial advocating a monarchical government.

ATTEMPTED RISING AT TIENTSIN

Peking, January 31.

A disturbance arose in Tientsin to day. A bomb was exploded as a signal for a rising in various quarters of the town, but the plot was betrayed. Several revolutionists were killed whilst about a dozen others were arrested. Disturbances still threaten to occur in the town.

PRECAUTIONS IN PEKING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that a belief obtains in Diplomatic circles in Peking that the abdication will be officially announced on the 1st of next month, and the Corps Diplomatique is in consultation as to increasing the Legation guards to prepare for emergencies. Yuan Shih-kai has removed suspected officers and men of the Imperial Guards outside the city walls and disarmed them, and appointed General Tuan Chih-kui as Inspector-General of Metropolitan Police, placing 7,000 Honan soldiers under his command. The troops of the Third Army Division in Lanchow have been called to the capital, and General Tsao has been appointed commander of the guards, his duty being to protect the lives and property of the foreign residents. Preparations have now been completed to suppress any disturbances that might result from the abdication.

THE ABDICATION OF THE THRONE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 31.

Prince Chun, ex-Regent, and Prince Ching had an audience with the Empress Dowager yesterday.

It is understood that abdication has been decided upon in accordance with the conditions formulated by the Republicans.

Imperial personages and nobles will retain their titles and be allowed to reside in Peking or elsewhere as they please.

The Imperial Family are to receive three million taels annually.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

THE SITUATION IN PEKING.

Peking, January 30.

Putting the statements of Tuan Chih-kui,

Feng Kuo-chang, Ka Han-king and other Chinese together, it would seem that the idea of a constitutional monarchy, which was recently resuscitated with some vigour, has since gradually waned on account of an insufficient supply of war funds and Tuan Chih-jui's memorial informing the Throne that a large number of the Imperialist officers and men are not disposed to continue fighting. Moreover Feng Kuo-chang is not inclined to support the Manchu Court in opposition to Yuan Shih kai and also the members of the Constitutionalists are not ready to advocate this course at the sacrifice of their lives. In the meantime the negotiations conducted between Prince Ching and the revolutionists in a spirit of mutual accommodation have made such favourable progress that a radical change has taken place in the situation. The prospect of a fresh outbreak of hostilities on the expiration of the armistice has led to brighter prospects of the possibility of a peaceful solution by the decision of the National Assembly. On the 27th instant Yuan telegraphed to Wu Ting fang, informing him that he was ready to simplify the method of election and also to hold the assembly in Tientsin. The title of Grand Duke was conferred on Yuan Shih kai to day. (The Constitutionalists view this as a way of preventing treason.) Yuan's adherents state that Yuan has not the heart to recommend abdication, but thinks that the best way of arriving at a peaceful settlement lies in arranging an *entente* with the revolutionists, which would inevitably necessitate abdication. The Manchu Court is also conscious of its inevitable fate, but still hesitates to abdicate the Throne. The Imperial officers and men confidently believe that Yuan will be the first President of the Chinese Republic and consider, therefore, that the continuance of the war is rather detrimental to this end. This construction is based on the presumption of Yuan's good faith. At any rate the necessity of a peaceful settlement is generally recognized by both Yuan and the Revolutionists as well as by foreign countries, so that the convocation of the national assembly wired to Wu Ting-fang on the 27th ult. will probably be realized.

The period of armistice has now expired but the Imperialists will most likely not assume the offensive. The tension now appears to have been gradually removed.

YUAN'S TITLE.

Peking, January 31.

Yuan Shih-kai has repeatedly declined to accept the title of Grand Duke conferred on him, but the Empress persisted on its conferment. Yuan finally memorialized the Throne that he would accept the honour after the settlement of the situation. The memorial was accepted and an Imperial Edict has been issued in that sense.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.

Hankow, January 31.

As already wired, the Imperial army under General Tuan Chih-jui has withdrawn to Huangshui and the Revolutionists have occupied Hsiaokanhsien. This is an outcome of the private arrangement between Li Yuan-hung and Tuan Chih jui, it having been agreed that the Revolutionists in Wuchang should continue their northward advance and the Imperialists assist them in the attack on Peking.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Fuchow, February 1.

A maxim gun company, with eight

maxims, composed of 200 officers and men, a cavalry party, an artillery company, and 100 heavy artillery, which compose the third Northern Expedition, left Fuchow on the 31st ult. and will embark on a China Merchants steamer at Mamei for Shanghai on the 2nd instant.

THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Shanghai, January 31.

To-day's issue of the *Min lipao* published General Tuan Chih-jui's telegram received by Tang Shao-i and transmitted to the Nanking Government by Wu Ting fang. The telegram reads:—"I accorded an interview to the representatives of the Wuchang revolutionists who arrived at Hsiaokan-hsien. With a view to accelerating a peaceful settlement I have withdrawn my army to Kuangshui. The Revolutionists threw an explosive bomb at the train, killing or wounding over twenty soldiers, and a considerable delay was thereby caused in the withdrawal of the troops. I strongly resented this action, and in the course of my interview, I called their attention to this incident and demanded that steps be taken to prevent its recurrence. I have sent a mixed regiment and the fifth infantry battalion to Peking and also presented to the Cabinet a memorial, asking that the Second Army Division should be ordered to return to Paoing, but have received a telegraphic answer that the proposal will not admit of speedy execution."

TROOPS FOR MONGOLIA.

Mukden, January 31.

According to a dispatch from Hsin-min-tun, on the night of the 30th ult. two cavalry regiments and two infantry companies under General Feng Liu-kuo arrived there and left for Changwu on the following morning for the suppression of the insurrection in Mongolia and the mounted bandits in that direction. Mounted bandits make their appearance frequently in the direction of Fakumen, and are coming into collision with the local guards.

EXPEDITION LANDED.

Dairen, January 31.

According to information emanating from a reliable source, the warships carrying the troops of the Northern Expedition which started from Chefoo were sighted off Changshan Islands at 8 p.m. on the 30th instant and the troops landed by 11 o'clock in the neighbourhood on thirty junks which awaited their arrival. The number of soldiers is unascertainable, but they are roughly estimated at about one thousand. The expedition has in view uniting forces with the Revolutionists in Fuchow and attacking about 600 Imperialists stationed at Wafangtien and then taking possession of Port Adams. A scheme is also planned to start disturbances in Fengchang and Liaoyang. A notification will be issued shortly by Lan Tien-wei, the Commander of the Northern Expedition.

MOVEMENT NORTHWARD.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hankow, January 31.

Over 15,000 revolutionary soldiers in Wuchang are being transported to the lower part of the river by steamers and junks in batches of about one thousand men a day. They are landed at Chilipo in the lower course of the river, and are marching northward by the land route.

ABDICATION AGAIN IMMINENT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* states

that a council was held on the 31st ult. in the presence of the Empress Dowager, the Emperor, and Princes Chun and Ching. All the Cabinet Ministers were present. Abdication was finally decided upon at the Council. The Emperor is to assign the sovereignty to Yuan Shih-kai in order to enable him to conclude peace and maintain the unity of China. The issue of an Imperial Edict is expected every moment. There can now be almost no doubt that a new Government will be established in Peking.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

DISCUSSION IN BUDGET COMMITTEE.

As briefly reported in our previous issue, the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.30 on Thursday morning last.

In reply to an interpellation brought forward by Mr. Koji, Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, explained that the gradual decrease in the surplus from previous Budgets necessitated the issue of 100 million yen worth of Treasury notes. The fall of Japanese bonds in London was due to an erroneous report on Japan's finance, and was only a transient phenomenon. Japanese bonds were now improving as the true position of Japan's finances had since become known abroad.

Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, also replying to a question of Mr. Koji, denied the rumour of the mobilization of the Twelfth Division for dispatch to China, but said that the time might nevertheless come when Japan would find it necessary to reinforce her troops in China.

Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, in reply to a question, stated that the Grand Exhibition had been postponed for financial reasons.

Mr. Kataoka asked whether the Government could not lay before the Budget Committee a rough estimate of the Budget for the 46th fiscal year (1913-4), without which it was impossible to decide either in favour or against the Budget now before the committee. If there were a deficit in the revenue in the 46th fiscal year, would the Government decrease expenditure or postpone the consecutive works to make both ends meet?

Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, replied it would take some days to draw up a rough estimate for the 46th fiscal year. In the event of a deficit in that year the Government would make good by financial and administrative retrenchment instead of having recourse to an increase of taxes or the issue of national bonds.

The reply was endorsed by the Minister of Finance.

Replying to a question of Mr. Kataoka, Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, stated that the Government was determined to carry out the naval increment programme in the 46th fiscal year, but would reserve to a future occasion any details of the contemplated increment. He would prosecute the programme even if available funds could not be obtained from the administrative reforms, as the national defences did not admit of any further delay.

Mr. Kataoka remarked that 320 million yen out of 430 million yen worth of convertible notes recorded at the end of last year was issued to facilitate the finances, with the result that the general economics suffered a great deal owing to the enormous amount of convertible notes in circulation. At no time in the economic history in Japan had the market been able to absorb more than 50 million yen worth of Treasury notes. The contemplated issue of 100 million yen worth of notes would no doubt depress the market.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, admitted that the increase in the Budget affected the general economics. He had framed the Budget with special care to restrict Government enterprises in order to remove the pressure as much as possible. He also admitted the fact that the money market was incapable of absorbing an enormous amount of Treasury notes, but found an increase in the

amount of Treasury notes issuable during the next fiscal year necessary to meet the demands for capital for the execution of consecutive works. Inasmuch as the Government would gradually restrict the public works, he did not think that the increased issue of notes would affect the money market so seriously as would appear at first sight.

The committee resumed its sitting at 1.30 in the afternoon after a recess, when the Minister of Finance further explained that the Government was yet undecided whether to raise the 40 million yen needed for railway enterprise by the issue of railway bonds or by a company loan. The matter wholly depended on the economic condition obtaining at the time.

Replying to Mr. Kataoka, Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated that the present railway scheme was based on the narrow-gauge system, and no preparation had been made for its conversion to standard gauge in the future. The recent purchase of land for the Atami line had apparently given rise to a rumour that the Government was getting ready for the adoption of the wide gauge system. This was, however, erroneous. The Government would lay a narrow-gauge railway on the Atami line.

Mr. Arai, the parliamentary delegate of the Chosen Government, stated in response to a question from Mr. Kataoka that the Government debt to the Bank of Chosen now amounted to 4,500,000 yen, of which 2,500,000 yen formed a financial source for public works, while the balance was the old debt transferred from the old Korean Government. The Government confidently believed that the Bank of Chosen could advance four or five million yen more before the end of the fiscal year. The Government intended to raise a fund for the public works contemplated in the Budget by temporary loans, but it might have recourse to national bonds in future to suit its convenience.

Mr. Yamamoto, again replying to a question of Mr. Kataoka, stated that the amount of currency in circulation must be regulated by the economic condition of the time. Even presuming that between 200 and 300 million yen was an adequate amount for Japan, if the price of commodities rose and imports exceeded exports, the amount must be decreased. In view of the unfavourable balance of trade and the increase in the price of commodities now obtaining, he was conscious of a necessity for decreasing the amount of currency in circulation, but he would carry it out gradually as any radical measure would disturb the money market.

Mr. Arakawa stated that the morals of the nation had of late shown a deplorable laxity, and students' troubles had increased. The newspaper reports had at times had an injurious effect on the community. The Home Office had started a scheme for the amalgamation of three religions, but the Government had no fixed line of policy for the guidance of the nation. He would like to know the Government's view on these matters.

Mr. Haselua, Minister of Education, stated in reply that school troubles had of late considerably decreased, but the responsible authorities would spare no efforts to check the evils.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, also replied that the newspapers were controlled by the Press Law. Freedom of religious faith was guaranteed by the Constitution and the Home Office had no scheme to effect an affiliation of the three religions.

A few more unimportant questions were asked and answered before the committee rose at 4.30.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND CHINA.

The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives resumed its sitting at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when sharp passages of arms took place between Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Inukai, the leader of the Popular Party, on Chinese affairs.

Mr. Inukai asked whether the Government believed the territorial integrity of China is being still maintained, and also what was the form of the so called friendly action of the Government

towards the Imperialists and Revolutionists? It seemed that the Government had forced on China one form of policy. What was the result? Was that principle still maintained by the Government?

Viscount Uchida stated in reply that the territorial integrity of China was guaranteed by the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the American-Japanese, Franco-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Conventions, and it was further strengthened by Japan's participation in the Anglo-Russian Convention. The Government viewed the final issue of the Chinese disturbances with grave concern and was determined to offer the best assistance which lay in Japan's power in the hope of a speedy settlement of the disturbances. As there existed between Great Britain and Japan an agreement for an unreserved exchange of views by virtue of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, the two Governments had from the start held communications on the China question and intimated their views to the Imperialists and Revolutionists. The peace negotiations, however, were not so far advanced as to permit them to put their friendly advice into practice. The Government refrained from going any further, as a further attempt at mediation would lead to interference. The Government, nevertheless, was ready to offer its good offices when a good opportunity presented itself. The principle of territorial integrity was maintained intact. The friendly mediation offered by the Government had no political significance, as the Government had not dictated any terms of peace. If the Government had dictated terms of peace, the mediation would have assumed a political colour and would have paved the way for interference. The Government disclaimed anything of the sort.

Mr. Inukai said that the answer was unsatisfactory, as it was merely a vindication. What he would like to know was whether Japan had or had not forced on a foreign country some special kind of policy. He wanted a candid answer. The fact that Japan had forced on China a certain policy, was clearly proved by the telegram sent to Wu Ting-fang by Yuan Shih-kai. How long had the Government maintained this policy? He wanted only a candid and straightforward answer to his question in the House.

Viscount Uchida said that the Government had never advised the Imperialists and Revolutionists to come to terms on the conditions of a certain definite policy. A month or two ago, when the Chinese Senate had decided to adopt nineteen articles of the Constitution, Yuan Shih-kai sought for the views of the representatives of the various foreign Powers in Peking. Mr. Ijuin had then given his private opinion that he thought it advisable for China to conclude peace on such a basis, since such a Constitution had been declared. It was customary for a Minister to give his private advice, and in that case Mr. Ijuin acted on his own discretion and not on the direction of the home Government.

Mr. Inukai again said that the Minister of War had denied the rumour of the dispatch to China of the Twelfth Division but had also said there might be occasion for its despatch in future. From this statement he drew the conclusion that the principle of the maintenance of territorial integrity in China had already been destroyed. The Minister of War also said that the situation in China changed almost hourly, but the general trend of affairs was taking a predestined course. At the present moment, when Russia had set her hands upon Mongolia, the Minister of War explicitly stated that there might be an occasion for the dispatch of troops to China in the near future. Such an announcement was likely to make one suspect that some understanding existed between Russia and Japan, which would lead to serious consequences. Japan had already sent to China troops sufficient to cope with the situation. What necessity could there possibly be for the mobilization of a large number of troops in the near future?

In the absence of the Minister of War, Viscount Uchida, replying on behalf of Baron Ishimoto, stated that the Minister of War did not mean to

say that he thought there might be occasion for the mobilization of the Twelfth Division for dispatch to China, but vaguely alluded to the necessity of sending more troops to China, in the event of the situation assuming greater gravity. His statement was in no way inconsistent with the principle of the territorial integrity of China.

Mr. Inukai remarked that the Government should state a definite policy *vis à vis* China. The Government adopted a policy, only to overhaul it a few days after. Let the past bury the past, but he would call the attention of the Government to the necessity of a definite policy.

Viscount Uchida stated that he had given Mr. Inukai an interview prior to the latter's departure for China, but the views he had then expressed were his private opinions which did not bind the Government.

Mr. Inukai sharply asked whether or not Viscount Uchida had told him that he was at liberty to communicate the views then expressed to the Imperialists and Revolutionists?

At this stage, Mr. Noda, Chairman of the Budget Committee, suggested that it was advisable to continue the debate with closed doors.

Mr. Inukai consented to this procedure, and the debate was continued in *camera* until 11.50.

DISCUSSION IN BUDGET COMMITTEE.

The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives resumed its sitting at 1.40 on Saturday morning last, when Mr. Oishi, a leader of the Popular Party, introduced an interpellation.

In course of his remarks Mr. Oishi stated that it was not too much to say that the Budget was framed on no fixed fiscal policy. The nation looked for a fiscal policy which would place the finances and general economics on a stable basis. The Katsura Ministry fell because it failed to remedy the financial and economic difficulties and the present Ministry ought to give its best attention to this point. The Budget, nevertheless, included many enterprises for which there was not a definite financial source. The Government professed to carry out reforms in the administration and in finance to meet the actual requirements, but a Budget must be so framed as to remedy the present financial difficulties, which were due to the mismanagement of the post-bellum finances. A simple remedy lay in the curtailment of administrative expenditure, but no attempt had been made in the Budget to adopt this remedy. Radical retrenchment should be effected by the decision of the Cabinet Council, and not by an adjustment committee composed of Vice-Ministers of State and other subordinate officials. Marquis Saionji, when last in power, said that he had put a stop to the contemplated administrative reforms. The Katsura Ministry which succeeded to the first Saionji Ministry carried out a partial reform in the administrative system and thereby economized about half a million *yen* in the expenditure. The present Ministry professed to carry out retrenchment both in the administrative system and in finance. He would like to know when the proposed retrenchment was likely to be carried out and to what extent the expenditure would be curtailed.

The next question he would ask, referred to Japan's diplomacy *vis à vis* Chinese affairs. Japan's attitude had witnessed frequent changes. The Minister of Foreign Affairs stated in the House that the Chinese disturbances concerned China alone, but in his opinion the disturbances had a close bearing on the welfare of this country. Were not the lives and property of Japanese residents threatened and Japan's China trade seriously affected? There was also no guarantee against the disturbances leading to a final partition of China. Russia's action in Outer Mongolia should not be overlooked. The lack of a definite policy on the part of the Japanese Government was likely to unduly protract the disturbances. The Government had attempted to force on China a monarchical form of government, which had made Japan an object of suspicion to both the Imperialists

and Revolutionists. He raised the question in the hope of putting a stop to the interference of outsiders in the administrative policy, which was plainly visible in the compilation of the Budget.

The third question referred to the naval increment programme. The Minister of the Navy emphatically stated in the House that the increment programme must be carried out from the 46th fiscal year. This statement met his views. The nation could not rest contented with the present naval armaments, especially in view of American-Japanese complications that might arise in future, though he trusted the cordial relations now existing between the two countries would place them out of the pale of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Naval increment was an urgent necessity for the national defence. What were the Government's views on this question?

Marquis Saionji, the Prime Minister, stated in response that the Government also desired to strengthen naval armaments but was compelled to temporarily drop the increment programme for financial reasons. The Government would, nevertheless, consider the advisability of taking up the programme according to the result of the investigations of the Adjustment Committee. The Government had never changed its China policy. It had maintained strict neutrality throughout. Care was being taken to preserve the integrity of China and also to protect Japan's rights and interests without breaking its friendly relations with China. Three weeks had barely elapsed since the organization of the Adjustment Committee, and he had been prevented from attending to the work through illness, but he would spare no efforts to attain a result which might ensure the satisfaction of the nation. When he was last in power, he stated that he had put a stop to the work of administrative reform because it was then being used as a weapon to attack the Government; but Count Terauchi, then Minister of War, had, if he remembered correctly, offered an explanation to the House sufficient to dispel any misunderstanding that might arise from his statement.

Replying to a further question of Mr. Oishi, the Prime Minister stated that the Adjustment Committee had not so much in view the curtailment of the administrative expenditure, as of facilitating the quick dispatch of official business, though curtailment might follow as a natural sequence of the investigations.

Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, also emphatically denied that the Government had admitted the correctness of the rumour that Japan proposed to solve the situation in China on the basis of a constitutional monarchy. It was alleged in the telegraphic communications between Yuan Shih kai and Tang Shao-i.

The House then took a recess for luncheon, and on the sitting being resumed at 2 o'clock, Mr. Nakamura asked as to the result of the adoption of the two year's conscript system and whether the conscript term could be further reduced to 1½ years. Also whether it was impossible to reduce the standing army by one third.

Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, stated in reply that the Government was not yet in a position to pass final judgment on the merits or demerits of the two years' system. He did not approve the idea of further shortening the term of conscription, nor did he think it possible to reduce the standing army. An Army Division consisted of about 15,000 men on a war footing, but the number did not exceed 5,000 in time of peace. He would rather have the number increased than decreased.

Mr. Nakamura asked whether the manufacture of arms, warships and other weapons could not be conveniently transferred to private enterprise.

Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, replied that the Government encouraged private undertakings of this description, but no private enterprise of any magnitude had yet arisen in this country. As a result of the adoption of the large warship principle, even the materials made by the Edamitsu foundry were insufficient to meet the demand, and the Government had for a few

years past been compelled to buy foreign-made materials. The Government was ready either to transfer or buy the manufactures of private factories if the time came when they were able to supply the articles needed.

After a few more questions about the South Manchuria Railway Company and the naval increment programme had been asked and answered, Mr. Inouye inquired as to the specie reserve abroad and the Deposit Bureau of the Finance Department.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that the specie reserve abroad at present amounted to about 370 million *yen* and that the outflow of specie for the settlement of the balance of foreign trade amounted to about 70 or 80 million *yen* a year. The national bonds amounted to about 2,600 million *yen* in 1908, of which foreign bonds amount to 1,160 million *yen*. They had now increased to 1,450 million *yen*. For several years past the national debt had been settled by raising national municipal loans. The Government might find it necessary to issue national bonds for the prosecution of the fiscal programmes contemplated in the Budget. Proper measures would be taken in regard to the specie reserve in order to consolidate the basis of the convertible note system.

The committee rose at 5 o'clock.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1 p.m. on Saturday last.

After various reports had been submitted, Mr. Takahashi, in bringing forward an interpellation, remarked that the loans granted by the Hypothec Bank, Agricultural and Commercial Banks and the Hokkaido Development Bank are redeemable or interest payable thereon twice a year, in January and July, but these banks render the interest account only once a year—in January. Moreover, the official loan rate sanctioned by the Government is 7.8 per cent., but in practice they are charging a higher interest, averaging 8.13 per cent. on the loans. Did not the Government think this improper?

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that it was inevitable that these banks should charge a rate of interest somewhat higher than the official rate, and the Government did not think the business methods of the banks improper.

The House then entered on the order of the day, when Mr. Oku introduced a motion relating to a proposal for a revision of the income-tax. He stated that he did not doubt that the Government would accept the proposal and introduce an Income Tax Revision Bill to the House in the course of the current session.

Mr. Takagi asked the mover as to the details of the proposed revision.

Mr. Oku replied that the motion was only a proposal that the Government should introduce to the House a Revision Bill.

Mr. Takagi stated that he must oppose such a vague motion, and intimated his intention of introducing a Revision Bill.

Mr. Inouye remarked that similar Bills had often been introduced in the previous session, but in view of the impracticability of the proposed revision, they had only resulted in adding a few pages to the parliamentary records. The present motion was a question to be decided before the introduction of the Revision Bill suggested by Mr. Takagi.

Mr. Tsunematsu moved that the motion should be referred to a special committee, and the motion was carried in spite of the opposition raised by the Popular Party.

The House rose at 2.10 p.m.

BUDGET COMMITTEE.

The First Sub-committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 1.30 on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Kodera brought forward an interpellation and in the course of his remarks said that the Government had repeatedly announced in the

House that it had maintained strict neutrality in Chinese affairs. This neutrality implied recognition of the Revolutionists as a belligerent body. Why does the Government hesitate to give official recognition to the new Republican Government of China?

Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated in reply that the Government did not think the time was yet sufficiently advanced to justify such recognition. The expression strict neutrality was used in the unofficial sense. The Government had not yet recognized the revolutionists as a belligerent body.

Mr. Kodera again asked if the declaration of the territorial integrity of China still held good.

Viscount Uchida replied that the Government attached great importance to the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China, and did not consider either Russia's action in outer Mongolia or French action in Yunnan detrimental to the principle. Moreover, the Government was not yet in receipt of any official confirmation of the alleged action of France in Yunnan.

Mr. Kodera asked as to the Government policy regarding the immigration problem.

Viscount Uchida stated that the Government was doing its best to cultivate the historical cordial relations existing between Japan and the United States and the new commercial treaty recently concluded was a manifestation of the principle. The Government would place no restriction on emigration. Capital was now finding its way to Chosen and Manchuria, and he thought it possible that the present Japanese population in those regions might be doubled. As to emigration to the United States, the Government adhered to the policy pursued by the preceding Ministry, but would not fail to study measures for developing emigration.

Replying to a further question of Mr. Kodera, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the revision of the Anglo-Japanese alliance treaty was rendered necessary owing to the Anglo-American general arbitration treaty. The Government confidently believed that it would conduce to the promotion of the cordial relations between this country and the United States.

A few more questions were asked as to the condition of the Japanese emigrants in the United States before the committee rose at 3 o'clock.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE.

The third Sub-committee of the Budget Committee sat in the House of Representatives at 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon last.

Replying to an interpellation of Mr. Asano, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, explained that the surplus of the Budget of the 43rd fiscal year amounted to over 20 million yen, of which 15 million yen was transferred to the account for the 45th fiscal year to fill the deficit. He expected some deficit in the 46th fiscal year, but believed that it could be made good by the surplus of the Budget for the 44th fiscal year. Moreover, the Government expected some surplus would result from the financial retrenchment which the Government had in contemplation.

In response to a question by Mr. Inouye on the specie reserve kept abroad, Mr. Yamamoto stated that the reserve owned by the Government and the Nippon Ginko amounted to 370 million yen, while the specie payable abroad for the settlement of the balance of trade and interest on national loans, etc., totalled about 95 million yen a year. The annual gold production in Japan proper, Chosen and Formosa amounted to about 12 million yen, so that the outflow of specie was between seventy or eighty million yen. The remittances received from Japanese emigrants abroad left about 20 million yen when a balance was struck with the money expended by Japanese travellers abroad. Even if specie continued to flow out for two or three years at the rate of 70 or 80 million yen a year, the basis of the convertible-note system would not be endangered. The issue of Tokyo Municipal bonds for 100 million yen was appropriated for the purchase of the tramways,

but the proceeds would form a part of the specie reserve. Quite recently a Kyoto Municipal loan for five million francs came into existence and the introduction of foreign capital by private companies was likely to take place from time to time, so that no anxiety need be felt about the specie reserve kept abroad, although he was not satisfied with the present financial conditions.

Replying to a further question, Mr. Yamamoto stated that it was of great importance to the general economics to strengthen the foundations of the convertible-note system. Should the foundations be weakened by any considerable decrease in the specie reserve, a foreign loan must be raised to replenish it. If the economic market of this country were fully developed, there would be no need for the Government to keep a special reserve abroad, but the system was an inevitable necessity in the present condition of economics. The Government hoped to accelerate the full development of domestic economics.

Replying to a question on the proposed increase of the amount of treasury notes issuable in the course of last fiscal year, the Minister of Finance stated that the Government estimated the deficit at the end of February at 97 million yen, and therefore proposed to issue about 100 million yen worth of those notes. Such a deficit always existed at that period when a balance between the revenue and the expenditure was lost. The deficit had heretofore been filled either from the surplus of the previous Budgets or the various special funds. Both the surplus and the special funds had markedly fallen off of late so that the Government proposed to fill the deficit by the issue of notes. He thought it was a way leading to financial adjustment.

A few more questions were asked regarding the interest on Deposits, the result of the tobacco monopoly business in Chosen and Manchuria, etc.

The committee rose at 3.30.

The fourth Sub-committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 1.30 on Monday afternoon last.

Replying to an interpellation of Mr. Oishi, Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, stated that a further increase of the troops in China depended on future developments, but it was necessary to hold the troops in readiness for emergencies. The Chosen garrison was now composed of an Army Division, while there were six regiments stationed in Manchuria. It was impossible to decrease the garrison at present. The army expenditure for Formosa amounted to about two million yen. An opinion was mooted in the Katsura Ministry to throw the burden of support of the troops on the shoulders of the Formosan people, but the opinion prevailed that it was advisable to desist until the colony could stand financially independent of the mother country.

To a further question, the Minister replied that the Government was in favour of the two years' conscription system as far as infantry was concerned. Aeroplanes were not yet sufficiently advanced to be practically serviceable; and the topographical features of the country rendered practical use of the machines rather difficult. He thought the reports of the successful use of aeroplanes in actual warfare in Tripoli were greatly exaggerated. The utilization of motor cars in warfare was hopeful.

Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, replying to a question of Mr. Oishi on naval armaments, stated that he felt convinced of the necessity of a speedy execution of the increment programme, but was obliged to exclude it from the Budget purely for financial reasons. The present naval programme involved an outlay of sixty or seventy million yen a year, the works being spread over seven consecutive years. Replying to a further question, the Minister said that it was desirable to place orders for warships one by one instead of placing orders for many warships at a time. The construction of warships in the home dockyards did not take any greater length of time than those built abroad, but some delay was inevitable in the

collection of building materials before the work was commenced.

The committee rose at 3.40.

The fourth Sub-committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat on Wednesday morning.

Replying to an interpellation brought forward by Mr. Yamamoto, Rear-Admiral Takarabe, Vice-Minister of the Navy, explained that the matter of naval adjustment was now under investigation. Great care was needed to maintain naval efficiency to meet emergencies, which excluded any idea of a radical curtailment in the naval expenditure. There was a fixed complement for reserve warships, but they were not manned up to the complement, though all the warships on active service were manned to the regular number. In time of peace only one half of the regular complement was engaged. The question of the manning of the standing fleet was an important one to be decided not only on the basis of displacement, but also by equipment and accommodation. The Admiralty was giving its best attention to the question. Of the navies of the world, German warships carried the largest crews, whilst British warships carried the smallest in proportion to their displacement. The Japanese warships carried larger crews than those carried by Russian, French and Italian warships, but smaller than those carried by German warships. A comparison with the British navy showed that whereas 24 per cent. of British naval officers were on the land service and the remaining 76 per cent. on the sea service, 18 per cent. of Japanese naval officers were on land service and 82 per cent. on sea service. The percentage of officers on land service cannot be said to be too large.

Supplementing this explanation, Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, stated that the naval stations were bases for naval operations. In an insular country like Japan, there was a necessity to have naval stations at various strategical points. It was absolutely impossible to abolish the present system for strategical reasons. The Admiralty, nevertheless, had under investigation an adjustment of the official business assigned to the Naval Stations.

The Fifth Sub-committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.50 on Wednesday morning last.

Mr. Nakamura asked how much foreign rice had been imported since the reduction of the Customs tariff last year, when the price of rice was abnormally high, and whether such importation had had any effect in lowering the price of the cereal.

Replying to the question, Mr. Oshikawa stated that the Katsura Ministry was in power when the price of rice witnessed an abnormal rise last year to twenty yen per *koku*. The bad harvest in 1910 and a corner in the market by speculators were mainly responsible for the rise. The Government reduced the Customs tariff to prevent a further rise, but there had been no considerable increase in the importation of rice.

Replying to a further question, Mr. Oshikawa stated that it was in August 7th last year, if he remembered correctly, that rice rose to twenty yen. A violent storm was then experienced throughout the country, which forced the quotation up by one point. Taking advantage of the situation, speculators contrived a gigantic corner, not only in Tokyo but in various local rice markets. The Government was, therefore, compelled to order the suspension of time bargains in the rice market to prevent the rigging of the cereal by unscrupulous speculators.

The Committee rose at noon.

The Third Sub-committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at one o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

Replying to a question by Mr. Taketomi, Mr. Hashimoto, Vice Minister of Finance, stated that, apart from its legal aspect, he was in favour of an adjustment of expenditure of a consecutive nature, but the Government had no time to go into the details of the various public works with

a view in their adjustment before the Budget was framed. The adjustment would be effected in the Budget for the 46th fiscal year.

Replying to a question by Mr. Inouye, the Vice-Minister stated that he did not know the source of the newspaper report concerning the alleged conclusion of the Tokyo Municipal loan. Apart from the correctness or otherwise of the report, he thought the publication of the news was premature. As a matter of fact the negotiations were still pending between the parties interested and the disclosure at the present moment of the conditions which the Tokyo Municipality would accept could not possibly conduce to the interests of the Municipality.

Replying to a question by Mr. Asano, Mr. Egi, parliamentary delegate of the Colonization Bureau, stated that the South Manchuria Railway Company found it necessary to increase its capital as its works progressed, and the increase in the issue of its debentures meant an increase of the amount of interest payable thereon. The increase in capital also necessitated an increase in the amount transferable to the reserve fund. The decrease in dividends was inevitable, but the company's business was in a prosperous condition and a pessimistic view of its future was unwarrantable. The company's debentures totalled 14 million pounds sterling; of which two millions sterling, forming a short term loan issued in 1908, were redeemed in August last, so that the outstanding debentures amounted to 12 million pounds sterling; the net proceeds of which had been approximately 11 million sterling. The paid up capital amounted to two million yen. The capital appropriated to the various works was as under:—Railways, 84,000,000 yen; steamships 520,000 yen; electric business, 4,600,000 yen; gas business, 1,100,000 yen; harbour improvements 8,800,000 yen; mining, 9,200,000 yen; hotels 1,400,000 yen; local works, 8,700,000 yen; factories 750,000 yen; and buildings 9,500,000 yen.

The parliamentary delegate, also replying to a question by Mr. Inouye, stated that the latest traffic returns of the South Manchuria Railway showed no decrease in the volume of bean and bean cake traffic. The delegate also denied the alleged secret reduction of the conventional freight tariff by the Eastern Chinese Railway Company.

A few more questions were asked and answered before the committee rose at 6 o'clock.

The sixth Sub-committee of the Budget Committee sat at 1.20 the same afternoon.

Replying to a question by Mr. Nemoto, Mr. Komatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, stated that great developments had of late been made in the utilization of hydraulic power. The Government was investigating sources of hydro electric power with a view to accelerating the development of this enterprise. The motive power used in this country in 1902 comprised 38,000 kilowatts of hydro-electricity and 58,000 kilowatts of steam power. This had increased to 580,000 kilowatts of hydro-electricity and 250,000 kilowatts of steam power in September, 1911.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Moriya, the Vice Minister stated that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha now stood on a stable economic basis, but it must be remembered that shipping subsidies were not granted to protect companies. In by-gone days the subsidies were no doubt to protect the companies, but now they were to protect the steamship routes. When the Government recognized the necessity of running a regular mail steamship service on a certain route, it granted a subsidy subject to strict conditions as to the steamships to be placed on that route. The Government would of course consider a decrease or discontinuance of a subsidy when it deemed such subsidy was no longer necessary, but at present the Government thought it best to continue the subsidies now granted on the various routes. Subsidies were also granted to encourage shipbuilding. These subsidies had for their object to cover the difference in the price of shipbuilding materials in the home market and abroad. It made no difference whether they were granted

to shipbuilders or shipowners, but under the Law in force they were granted to shipowners.

After a few more questions had been asked and answered the Committee rose at 6.45.

The fourth Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee also sat at one o'clock on Wednesday afternoon.

Replying to a question by Mr. Ishibashi, Mr. Tsujimura, parliamentary delegate of the War Office, explained that the provisions manufactured under the direct supervision of the War Office were canned beef, biscuits and soy. These were the chief provisions needed in the army, especially in war time. The manufacture was, nevertheless, limited to the replenishment of stock, and in no way impeded the development of private enterprises.

Replying to a question of Mr. Ogawa, Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, stated that the arms sold in connection with the Chinese disturbances totalled about three million yen in value, but the proceeds were not included in the Finance Department's account, being entered in the special account of the Arsenal. The Minister also stated, in response to a further question, that a retrenchment of the army expenditure was under investigation. It was, nevertheless, a mistake to expect any large curtailment, simply because the Army budget provided the largest outlay of all budgets.

The committee met in camera to discuss the item of "sum transferred" in the Army budget.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives met at 1.10 yesterday afternoon and after various reports had been submitted entered on the Order of the Day.

A Bill relating to the appointment of public arbitrators in Municipalities was first taken up for discussion, when Mr. Takagi, the mover of the Bill, explained that it had for its object the appointment of public arbitrators in each Municipality for the pacific settlement of civil disputes.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

A Bill relating to the revision of the organization of the law courts, introduced by Mr. Takeda and other members, was next taken up, when Mr. Takeda stated that the proposed revision referred to a reduction in the number of judges sitting in the Court of Cassation from seven to five and in those sitting in appeal courts from five to three, with a view to expediting the dispatch of business and also curtailing expenditure.

The Bill was also referred to a special committee.

A Bill relating to the endowment of local Municipalities with the State forests was then considered.

Mr. Murakami, who is responsible for its introduction, explained that the Bill had for its object handing over to the local Municipalities a portion of the State-owned forests, to create a municipal fund and thus strengthen the basis of the local self governments. After a few questions had been asked, the Bill was referred to a special committee.

A Bill relating to the revision of the Income Tax Law, introduced by members of the Popular Party, was next taken up for discussion. Mr. Tomita, explaining the Bill, said that the revision of the Income Tax had long been an outstanding question, the solution of which was of urgent necessity to reduce the rate of the tax now imposed and to ensure a fair distribution of the burden of the tax. The Bill proposes to fix the rate of income-tax of juridical persons, that is public companies, at 6½ per mil, and that leviable on the interest on national bonds and debentures at 20 per mil. As to the incomes of private individuals, it is proposed to fix the taxable income at 500 yen and over, the rate being fixed at 17 per mil for incomes not exceeding 500 yen, and rising in a graduated scale up to 265 per mil for incomes exceeding 100,000 yen a year. The Bill was referred to a special committee of 27.

The House rose at 2.30.

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

ESSAYS ON FOUR GREAT SAGES.

Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō certainly shows great enterprise in editing his well known organ the *Tō-A-no-Hikari*. The New Year's number of the magazine, which is about twice the size of ordinary numbers, is largely devoted to the publication of essays on Shaka, Christ, Socrates and Confucius, who are regarded by Dr. Inoue as the four greatest teachers the world has produced. Doctors Murakami Sensei, Maeda Eon and Katō Genchi and Mr. Hori Kentoku write on Shaka; Messrs H. Minami, K. Matsumura, S. Hiroi and H. Akashi on Christ; Dr. G. Kuwaki, Dr. S. Yoshida and Messrs M. Kihira, I. Kobayashi, M. Ōshima and K. Yoshida on Socrates; and Doctors Katō Hiroyuki and Miyake Setsurei and Messrs. T. Tanimoto, J. Sugura and T. Arima on Confucius.

Dr. Inoue opens the discussion with a longish essay on the leading characteristics of the four great men, to which he gives the title *Seijin jinkaku no shin kwanseisai* (A New Study of the Personalities of Great Sages). Dr. Inoue's views on this subject were given at considerable length in one of our Summaries a few years ago and, though he has slightly modified them, we can find no space here for an account of these modifications.

It is noticeable that the writers on Christ all belong to what is known as the rationalistic section of Protestant Christendom. Dr. Inoue no doubt had his reasons for not asking orthodox Christians to fill pages with statements of the well known view on Christ's supposed Divinity. The writers selected hold that Christ was no more than a very great man; some of them would no doubt pronounce him to be the greatest man that has ever lived.

Dr. Murakami maintains that Shaka displayed more will and more self-denial and enjoyed greater popularity the world over than any of the other great sages. He had more to give up in order to pass a religious life than the three other sages, and as regards success as a teacher, he has had far more disciples than either of them.

Dr. Maeda is of opinion that Shaka and Confucius are far more worthy of being considered great sages than Christ and Socrates.

Mr. Miwada Gendō, after going minutely into the respective characteristics of the four sages, reaches the conclusion that Confucius is entitled to a higher place in the world's hierarchy than the other three great men.

It is a case of *tot homines, quot sententiae*, so many men, so many minds. Each writer has his own special views, but where there is agreement, it shows itself in attributing unapproached pre-eminence to Confucius. The worship of Confucius has been on the increase in this country for some years past. To a very large number of Japanese educated men it appears that no other system of morality suits the Japanese mind as well as the teaching of this great Chinese sage. As far as Japan is concerned the doctrines of Socrates have hardly any influence at all. The admiration for Shaka has greatly declined and outside the limited pale of Japanese Christendom Christ's name stands for little in the native mind. But the precepts of Confucius and his personality are more influential to-day than they were 20 or 30 years ago. That is the real situation according to the most reliable and impartial Japanese investigators.

MODERN UNITARIANISM.

The January number of the *Rikugō Zasshi* contains a number of thoughtful articles contributed by the Rev. S. Uchigasaki, Rev. H. Minami, Professor Abe, Dr. B. Suzuki and others. Mr. Uchigasaki gives an account of the doctrines taught and the principles maintained by modern Unitarians. He says that during the three years that he spent in England he devoted himself to the study of religious thought in England and Germany. What struck him most was

the general dissatisfaction with orthodox teaching and the growth of sentiment in favour of union on broad lines. Dogmas and special doctrines taught by certain sects are being relegated to a subordinate place and religious earnestness, combined with brotherly love, are all that is required. Unitarianism to-day, Mr. Uchigasaki tells us, is no longer mere anti-trinitarianism as it used to be, but stands for union of various kinds, the union of East and West, the union of the World's great religions, the union of heaven, earth and man. (*Ten, chi, jin san sai no itchi*). Modern Unitarianism deprecates theological controversy. Arguments as to what God is and what he is not do no good. Of all mysterious things God is most mysterious and it is quite impossible for us to explain him to anybody. Mr. Uchigasaki goes into many of the differences of opinion between the Unitarians and orthodox Christians on the subject of sin, Revelation and other topics, but as our readers are no doubt familiar with this whole subject, it is not necessary to reproduce what he says.

Professor Abe writes on the Christian doctrine of equality, defending it against certain misrepresentations that have appeared from time to time in Japanese periodicals and showing that it is certainly not responsible for the anarchy into which Socialism has occasionally developed in Western countries.

THE RELIGIOUS POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

An article bearing the above title appeared in the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* on the 19th ult. which goes to confirm information that reached us privately a few weeks ago bearing on the attitude of the Saionji Government to the various religious sects whose agents are working side by side in this country. It was not expected that the present Cabinet would continue the narrow-minded policy adopted by the Katsura Government and officially patronize Shintoism only. Some sort of modification of that attitude was expected, but till quite recently nobody seems to have known exactly how radical the change made would be. Here is the gist of the *Asahi's* article, which is eminently fair to all parties concerned. Religion as it exists in this country to-day has lost all authority in the minds of the people to an extraordinary degree (*Waga kuni gensai no shūkyō wa kokumin no shisō jō ni ichijirūshiku kensū ushinarete*). For many years the Home Office adopted a *laissez faire* policy and seemed to regard religion as having no direct bearing on the life and thoughts of the people, but this policy was abandoned by the Katsura Cabinet, which held that religion should be used by the State as a means of controlling men's minds. They proceeded to put that idea into practice by installing Shintoism in a place of high honour. Orders were issued for the repair of Shintō shrines throughout the country and the Kannushi were henceforth to be regarded as Government officials. The present Government holds that no Government can afford to disregard religion altogether. It is in favour of giving the three historical creeds propagated in this country the same amount of patronage, of granting them the same facilities for imparting religious instruction to those who desire to receive it. In order to make arrangements for the carrying out of this scheme, representatives of the three sects are shortly to be summoned to the Home Office for consultation. If this policy can be successfully put into practice, it will at least free us from the charge of narrow-mindedness and insularity in our attitude to religion. But we must confess that we see considerable difficulty in the way of the adoption of the measure proposed. Christianity is essentially European and the two other creeds are essentially Japanese. All three creeds have associated with them a number of customs, rites, ceremonies and traditions that have grown out of their past history, and it is extremely questionable whether either of the three will be prepared to make such concessions as harmonious co-operation would necessitate. Our Governments have in past years failed to draft any law bearing on religion that has been deemed satisfactory by

the country. The Religious Bill introduced in the Diet a few years ago fell through owing to the opposition raised against it by Buddhist and Shintō priests. As things stand now the scales are held very unevenly. While Shintoism and Buddhism are officially acknowledged and the priests have special rights and privileges, neither the Christian minister nor his creed is officially recognised in this country. If the Government proposes to place the three creeds on an equality and to form an alliance with religious teachers with the object of realizing certain political aims, then the first thing that should be done is to raise the status of Christianity to a level with that enjoyed by Buddhism and Shintoism. Either the official control of Shintō and Buddhist priests must be abandoned and they must be treated as ordinary citizens of the empire, or Christian ministers must be brought under the same official supervision as is exercised over the priests of the two native creeds. If the representatives of the three creeds are to be asked to advise the Government in respect to the imparting of religious instruction, the status of each sect should be the same. Mr. Tokonami, the Vice-Minister, is said to be fully conscious that the existing inequality between the rank occupied by Christianity and that enjoyed by the other two sects if allowed to remain unaltered, is likely to wreck the whole scheme the Government contemplates putting into operation. We ourselves, says the *Asahi* side with neither of the three creeds, but it seems to us to be of great importance that the attempt to adjust the differences that exist between them in regard to the official status each enjoys should be made in a spirit of fairness and liberality.

THE GREEK CHURCH LITERARY ORGAN.

Judging from an article that appears in the Jan. 15th number of the *Seikyō Shimpō*, some Japanese members of the Greek Church have been complaining that this magazine is somewhat behind the times, that there is a great lack of variety in the material published from month to month and that the same writers express identical opinions year after year. This criticism seems to us not by any means uncalled for, as the editor, Mr. Ishikawa Kisaburō, admits. But what Mr. Ishikawa says in reply to the adverse criticism is that a literary organ of any religious sect is solely dependent on the articles sent in to the Editor by the members of the sect and that there are very few educated Greek Church Christians who take the trouble to write articles for the *Seikyō Shimpō*. So scarce is the material available for publication month after month that the rejection of articles that are poorly written is out of the question.* A religious organ that does nothing but publish the opinions of two or three writers has no claim to be regarded as the organ of a whole sect. If there is among our Greek Church Christians a real desire to see the *Seikyō Shimpō* fulfil the function of a representative literary organ, it is for them to give the editor the necessary assistance for the attainment of this end.

READING THE SCRIPTURES IN CHURCHES.

The Japanese, it must always be borne in mind, have very strict notions as to how solemn utterances, be they Imperial Rescripts or passages taken from holy writ, Buddhist or Christian, should be read. We have ourselves often listened to earnest comments on the way that some school Directors read the Imperial Rescript on Education. Certain Directors are singled out as past masters in combining impressiveness, culture and dignity, not only in the tone and modulation of the voice, but in respect of that solemnity of manner which befits the occasion. A Mr. Iwazawa says that in the Greek Church a Japanese father called Saitō, who died some time ago, was the most impressive reader of prayers and passages of scripture they have ever had in that Church and he relates how strongly influenced

was the sceptical Mr. Furukawa Tsuneichirō by a service he attended in the Surugadai Cathedral conducted by this father. Mr. Iwazawa is of opinion that a Society should be formed for the purpose of giving instruction in the art of reading liturgies and passages of scripture.

MORAL CULTURE IN SCHOOLS.

Writing in the *Shinri Kenkyū*, the well known psychologist, Dr. Fukurai Tomokichi ridicules the notion that enforced worship at shrines or temples will prove the means of raising the minds of school boys and girls to a higher moral level. Such worship is formal and meaningless. It is gone through perfunctorily as one of the school duties. There is no way of influencing the minds of attendants at Primary and Middle Schools, Dr. Fukurai holds, except through the teachers. The position of the Primary school teacher in this country to-day can not but excite pity. Not only is his salary miserably small, but he is subjected to all sorts of insults from village officials, who when he offends them in any way have no compunction in getting him dismissed. Not having a soul that he can call his own, it is any wonder that the duties of the Primary School teacher are performed in a mechanical, spiritless way and that his pupils never regard him as a model to be followed. The State should adopt measures for raising not only the salaries but the status of the Directors and the teachers of our Primary Schools.

THE MISSION OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE FAR EAST.

This is the title of an article of considerable interest which appears in the January number of the *Shinjin* (New Man), Dr. Ebina Danjō's organ. Dr. Ebina is by no means the only Japanese moralist who predicts that one effect of the Chinese revolution will be to sweep away the old Confucian system of morality root and branch as far as China is concerned. Not only will loyalty to lords and masters go, but filial piety, the respect hitherto felt for the old, existing conjugal relations and the like will cease to dominate the Chinese mind. *Tada ni kumaku no aida nomi ni todomarasu. fushi, sifu, chōyō no asidagara no jirai no mama nite wa hosen seraruru koto muzukashii no de aru*. The same thing took place here at the time of our Restoration to a considerable extent. Our old system of morals was broken up and we had to find a new basis for ethics. That we have not yet succeeded in doing so. We have now reached a time in which an entirely new system of morality is needed for Japan and China. Hitherto we have had class morality. Certain people have been relegated to a place of subjection and servile submission to the authority of others has been required of them. Fathers and sons, husbands and wives, elder brothers and younger brothers, have never been on an equality. Consequently general individual development has progressed very slowly. We want entirely new homes in this country, where each individual shall be appraised at a higher value than was possible under our old Confucian system of morals. Our mission as Christians is to establish a new system of ethics in the Far East. It is not the teaching of Christianity that Christ is God or that he is the Son of God in a sense in which other human beings are not sons of God, says Dr. Ebina. We and Christ are alike heirs of God. If this doctrine can be spread in China it will prove capable of effecting great things.

Dr. Ebina is of opinion that the great defect of the Oriental is want of will, lack of moral purpose. He says that this deficiency prevents young men accomplishing here what is being done in Western lands. He is of opinion that that special form of Protestant Christianity he preaches is capable of giving to the Far Eastern world all the light it needs.

THE FORMATION OF A NEW JAPANESE CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE.

According to a report of the proceedings pub-

* *Zasshi ga isune ni shippitushite* (water-) no ketsubō ni kumashimi, genkō no kumashō (scarcity of copy) ni kyū shi, yōyaku ni shūe bakuran no teisai wo matomuru gotoku jidai nite wa zabiyō no senjaku nado wa moto yori hi subekarau.

* *Nihon ni oite mo Ōsei ishū wa tashika ni jirai no datoku kiso wa kotondo kompon teki ni uketi-kowashita to itte yukaru. Shikōshite Meiji jidai wa arata ni kore ga kiso wo suten to kushin shōtoku aru ga, kore wo doko ni sadamubaki ka wa imada ichi daigunen to shite nobotte iru.*

lished in the January *Shinjin*, on Dec. 19th, an important meeting was held at the Y. M. C. A. Hall, Kanda, attended by 48 Delegates from eight Protestant sects, at which a new Christian Alliance was formed. Bishop Honda was elected President and Dr. Ibuka and Mr. Kozaki Vice-Presidents, and among the 20 Permanent members we observe the names of Dr. Ebina, Mr. Miyagawa, Mr. Hoshino, Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Hiraiwa. The Alliance is to hold a big opening Meeting in the Kanda Hall on Feb. 10th. This new Association is regarded as a great improvement on the Fukuin Dōmeikai. It is said to be better organized and it represents Protestant Christendom in a more thorough manner. The sects represented contemplate carrying on evangelistic work conjointly to a certain extent. But no sect sacrifices its independence or freedom of action by joining the Alliance. Church Government or control is not the object of the alliance, but the desire to show a united front to the world. The eight bodies represented have a total membership of about 60,000. Neither the Episcopalians, the Baptists, the Universalists, the Unitarians nor the Nihon Kyōkai are represented. Unlike the Evangelical Alliance, the new alliance has hampered itself with no doctrinal tests of any kind. The members are quite free to teach what they please. This accords with the progressive spirit of the age. Seeing that all shades of opinion are represented by the present members of the alliance, from extreme orthodoxy to extreme heterodoxy, the writer of the note on the Alliance in the *Shinjin*, Mr. Kiteyama, is surprised that all Protestant sects did not join the Association. But those who have kept aloof from the movement no doubt have excellent reasons for doing so, which will be given to the public in due time.

THE JAPANESE UNITARIANS ADOPT A NEW TITLE.

The term Unitarian having lost its significance, the Japanese representatives of this body have decided to call themselves the Tōtō Kirisutōkyōwai, the Union Church or the United Church. The *Shinjin* attaches little importance to the change. It says that, though as individuals many Unitarians have done good work in the development of liberal-mindedness, as a Church the Unitarians have effected very little, and it fails to see how a change of title can help to remove the obstacles to usefulness which have hitherto proved to be insuperable. What new kind of union the Mita Christians may be aiming at bringing about is unknown, says the *Shinjin*. The new name is somewhat vague and its real significance other Christians can only determine when the new developments in this body make their appearance.

WOMEN AMONG THE NEO-BUDDHISTS.

It would seem that for some years past it has been considered rather bad form for good class women among the Neo-Buddhists to attend public lectures. This is said to be largely owing to the character of the young men who are present at these lectures. They are described as *yaban-kararu-ron* (a set of roughs). Dr. Inoue observed some time ago that while Christian services attract "high collared" young men and young women, Buddhist lectures draw Bohemians. According to an article which appears in the January number of the *Shin Bukkyō*, the religious education of women proceeds very slowly in that sect. It is over 15 years since the establishment of a woman's Society called the Dōshikai. But up to to-day it has remained a very feeble institution, lacking adequate pecuniary support and wielding little influence. The Neo-Buddhists fully realize that it will never do to leave to Christian schools the religious training of most of the future mothers of Japan, and they are now reported to be devising measures for carrying on religious instruction among women of adult years by means of lectures and the like.

MR. TOKONAMI'S PROPOSALS.

Commenting on this subject, in substance, the *Kirisutokyo Sekai* says:—The proposal of the Government to confer with the representatives of three creeds respecting the action it is deemed wise to take in order to insure a wider

observance of religion, was the result of the policy pursued by the Katsura Cabinet when suffering from a fit of consternation caused by the discovery of the Kōtoku plot. Taking this incident as an indication that loyalty to the Throne must be on the decline, and attributing this to the neglect into which religious worship had fallen, orders were given by the Home Office that shrines and temples be repaired and that school children be marched to worship. This action gave offence to Christians and they protested against it as unfair to them. The present Government being indisposed to reverse the religious policy of their predecessors, has decided to extend Government support to two more sects. We have always maintained, says the *Kirisutokyo Sekai* that religion should not be interfered with by the State. We desire no Government patronage of any kind. Fair play and an open field are all we ask for.

The scheme put forward by Mr. Tokonami has been subjected to much adverse criticism in the daily press. The *Osaka Asahi* says that the idea of utilising religion for the purpose of education is most antiquated. It is like an attempt to make the Japanese world go back two or three centuries. Those people in the educational world who are suffering from nervous debility may welcome such a proposal, and worldly religionists in search of loaves and fishes will see in it an opportunity for adding to their incomes, but those religionists who really believe in their creeds and all earnest-minded educationists will certainly regard the project with extreme misgiving.

RELIGION REGARDED FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF COLONIZATION.

Mr. Uchigasaki, who only returned from Oxford last autumn, has taken to writing magazine articles with great zest. The January numbers of the *Shinjin*, the *Shin Nihon*, the *Tō-A-no-Hitari*, and the *Meiji* all publish articles from his pen. The one on Japan's colonies which appears in the *Meiji* we purpose epitomizing as follows:—The nations that have made successful colonists have all relied much on religion for controlling men's lusts and passions and for enabling the settlers to endure hardships when opening up new territory. To begin with the Greek Church, nobody who has visited the sparsely populated parts of the great Russian Empire can fail to have been struck by the service rendered to the cause of good government by religion. Of course there is much superstition everywhere, but it is in most cases true to say that the Greek Church superstitions are an improvement on those they have replaced.

Next to the Greek Church in regard to the influence wielded, stands the Roman Catholic Church. In all the world's great colonies this church is strongly represented. It takes the lead in education and in works of charity, and though it too propagates many superstitions, on the whole it exercises a humanizing influence on the minds of those who submit to its teaching.

Protestantism lacks the organization of the Roman Catholics and suffers much from the liberty and independence claimed by each of its numerous sects and sub-sects, but in respect of activity and general push it has never been equalled in any of the great colonies.

Now compared with what has been done among European and American colonists by the representatives of these great Christian Sects, our Japanese efforts appear to be very insignificant. The propagation of our superstitions in the Christian countries where our labourers are settled can only do the cause of Japanese emigration much harm. This I found being done in Honolulu when I was there. One of the reasons why the 80,000 Japanese in Hawaii constantly occupy subordinate positions is because their minds do not develop under the Japanese educational system. And such Buddhist priests are there do nothing towards filling the heads of their converts with progressive ideas. Japanese business in Hawaii is mostly confined to small enterprises. They are satisfied with small profits and when they have saved a little money, they either

go off to Japan or spend it in self-gratification. The religious teaching imparted to our colonists to day in Hawaii, America, Canada, Mexico and elsewhere is of no use at all as a means of qualifying our colonists to compete with Europeans and Americans. In California there are settled a number of Buddhists from Hiroshima and Fukuoka, and these men being well-to-do farmers, have erected a fine Buddhist temple there. What doctrines are preached in the temple? Nothing but loyalty to our Emperor and patriotism. This creates a bad impression in America and it is not to be wondered at that Mr. Roosevelt should have complained in the pages of the *Outlook* that the Japanese in America are not becoming assimilated to American civilisation (*Nipponjia wa Beikoku no bummiei ni dōkwa shinai*). Japanese are naturally loyal and patriotic, almost too much so when settled in other countries, and so they do not need this Buddhist preaching at all, but they do need to be reminded of their duties to the people among whom they are settled. While in California I delivered some 20 addresses, in which I recommended the Buddhist priests to teach Buddhism to the Americans and urged Japanese laymen to study Christianity. Much of the existing friction between the Californian Japanese and Americans would disappear if our people were to show more sympathy with American ideals and American religion.

Mr. Uchigasaki strongly holds that the preaching of Christianity to Japanese living in Western countries is an urgent necessity. The evangelistic work now being carried on by various Christian sects is too disjointed and ill-supported to accomplish much good. He is in favour of forming a big new Missionary Society among Protestant Sects to undertake this work.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR.—The Vice-Minister of Home Affairs is a brave man. He is attempting to handle a big question, and he shows more wisdom than some who have gone before him. But while he is the mouthpiece in this big undertaking there are evidently others behind him higher up. I think there can be no doubt of that for no one under-official in Japan would attempt to carry through such a scheme without a good backing. Those who invite this conference of religions as well as those who take part in it need to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves if any great good is to come of it. And I do not doubt but that the movement has much potential good in it. But above all things, the Vice-Minister should not allow the initiative Conference to be made up of a few selected oligarchs, for among educated, progressive people an oligarchy in the realm of morals and religion is as distasteful as it is in the government of a nation. By all means let the first Conference be a fairly representative one. Unless this is done, general co-operation will be an impossibility, and without this the whole scheme will come to naught. There should be enough representatives from all parties to give wide and varied views on moral questions.

I am glad to see that the Vice-Minister is wise enough to announce beforehand that no attempt will be made to do the impossible by trying to unite the three religions or to make a new one. He shows prudence here more than some sentimental religionists themselves show. What the Conference can do however, is to search out the moral and religious defects of the nation and decide upon some definite course of action to be taken. To deal in generalities or to pass indefinite, polite resolutions will have just about the same effect as blowing soap bubbles in the air. Let them appoint a competent committee to make thorough scientific investigation into the question of the effects of cigarette-smoking and sake drinking upon the brains, the lungs, and the hearts of the people, with a consequent lowering of vital force and moral stamina. Let them study the effects of the growing power of the *grisha* in social functions, and the Yoshiwara system, upon the family and social life of the nation, and especially upon students. Let them raise a voice against the growing custom of living beyond one's income, and indulging in luxuries of food, drink, and clothes

which one cannot afford. Even poor Christians get up Societies now at fifty *sen* or a *yen* per person where a decade ago ten *sen* for a little cake and tea satisfied them. These questions have a vital relation to the morals of the individual, and of the nation as a whole, and if Buddhists, Shintoists, and Christians can agree on some united plan of crusade against these and kindred evils, much good can be done. And last of all don't let some hypocritical viliate and nauseate the whole movement by trying to prove that in all these things Japan is no worse than the nations of the West. This Conference has nothing to do with that question of comparison in morals of nations; its business is to deal with the facts at home. And they need to deal with facts and not with theories and threadbare theological doctrines, lest the whole programme should fall through as absolutely *dame*, if you will pardon a strong Japanese colloquial for that which means useless or vain.

Yours truly, WILL PATILLO.
January 28, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF FIFE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 29.
The Duke of Fife, who is at Assuan, south of Cairo, is suffering from pleurisy and congestion of the lungs, as the result of a chill.

Later.

The Duke of Fife, according to a bulletin issued, passed a restless night. His condition causes the gravest anxiety.

London, January 30.
The Duke of Fife died peacefully at 6 o'clock yesterday evening.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 30.
The death of the Duke of Fife was undoubtedly due to the exposure he underwent when wrecked in the *Delhi* off Cape Spartel. The Duke's death has cast a gloom over the festivities arranged to celebrate their Majesties' homecoming on the 5th of February.

GREAT STRIKE AT LISBON.

BUSINESS IN PORTUGAL'S CAPITAL AT A STANDSTILL.

MARTIAL LAW AT LISBON.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, January 31.
A general strike has started at Lisbon in sympathy with the agricultural strike.

Despatches from Lisbon indicate a grave situation, but the censorship obscures realities.

The streets are practically deserted and the shops and theatres are shut.

Soldiers are posted everywhere.

A Council of the Ministers was held to take steps to prevent a bread famine.

The British flag is hoisted over the electric tramway buildings.

Troops are reinforcing the garrison.

The strikers attempted to assemble, but were easily dispersed by cavalry.

There have been some dynamite explosions, but the details are not stated.

London, January 31.
Martial-law has been established at Lisbon. The troops were ordered to make a clean sweep of the streets and to make arrests *en masse*, with the result that 115 persons were

arrested yesterday evening and sent on board the warships.

London, February 1.

At a Cabinet sitting at Lisbon, the Ministry of War telegraphed that the Provincial Governors announced that the strike had broken down, owing to the railway men refusing to join.

The ex-Foreign Minister Castello Branco has been arrested and charged with endeavouring to overthrow the Republic.

There have been a thousand arrests. The city is now becoming normal, and the papers are being again published.

THE "MANOUBA" INCIDENT.

London, January 25.

It is announced that the *pourparlers* over the *Manouba* incident are proceeding favourably.

London, January 26.

The Italian official inquiry corroborates the statement that there are several civil doctors and hospital attendants among the *Manouba* prisoners.

Others are stated to be treasury clerks.

The preliminaries as to their liberation are now being discussed.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO MALTA.

London, January 25.

Their Majesties landed at Malta and inspected the French battleship *Danton*.

The British and French flags were conspicuous in the decorations.

Their Majesties lunched with Sir H.H. L. Rundle, Governor of Malta, at the Palace and received a great ovation from the crowds *en route*.

Their Majesties dined with Admiral Poe in the evening, later attending a gala performance at the opera.

London, January 26.

The King's attention to the French at Malta is warmly appreciated by the Paris papers.

THE POLITICAL MEETING AT BELFAST.

London, January 25.

The Master of Elibank will accompany Mr. Winston Churchill to Belfast.

Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., Baron Pirrie, and Mr. J. Devlin, M.P., will also speak at the meeting.

London, January 26.

Mr. Winston Churchill has written to a London daily paper that as the main objections of the London daily and its friends are directed against his holding a meeting in Ulster Hall, he has offered to hold the meeting elsewhere.

THE CONNAUGHTS' VISIT TO THE STATES.

London, January 26.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught called on President Taft at White House.

London, January 27.

The Connaughts have left New York on their return to Ottawa.

CAPTURE OF TURKISH OFFICERS.

London, January 26.

A telegram from Massowa says that the Italian Gunboat *Volturno* has arrived with 26 Turkish military officers captured on board the steamers *Africa* and *Bregenz*.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 26.

In the 33 final second ballots yesterday the Socialists won ten.

The combined parties of the Right finally

number 190, and the combined Left 206, including 110 Socialists.

As the Middle party, the Liberals hold the balance of power.

The other parties of the Left are 46 Liberals and 50 Radicals, and of the Right, 68 Conservatives, 93 Centre, 19 Poles, and 10 Alsations and Guelphs.

A feature of yesterday's elections was the Socialist victory at Potsdam.

BRITISH VISITORS TO ST. PETERSBURG.

London, January 26.

There is much stir in St. Petersburg over the visit of a British deputation of 21 prominent men.

Special trains conveyed the party from the frontier to St. Petersburg, where they were warmly welcomed by the authorities.

London, January 27.

The Emperor and Empress received the British visitors at Tsarskoe Selo and they afterwards had luncheon in the Palace.

THE GORDON ANNIVERSARY.

London, January 27.

The Bishop of London has consecrated Khartoum Cathedral on the 27th anniversary of the death of General Gordon.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

London, January 27.

The Franco-Italian incident has been settled to mutual satisfaction.

ANOTHER FRENCH STEAMER SEIZED.

London, January 27.

The French steamer *Travignano* has been seized by Italian torpedo-boats on the coast of Tunis and taken to Tripoli.

London, January 28.

The *Travignano* has been released after being searched.

THE OPIUM CONFERENCE.

London, January 27.

Sir Clementi Smith, interviewed by Reuter's representative, stated that the opium question has been finally dealt with by the Conference and no further conference on the matter would be necessary.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO MALTA.

London, January 28.

Despite the threatening weather immense crowds bade farewell to the *Medina*.

The warships in harbour were all manned and fired royal salutes.

CHINA RELIEF FUND.

London, January 28.

Mr. Taft, as President of the American Red Cross Society, appeals for contributions to relieve the awful destitution in China.

HOLT LINER ASHORE.

London, January 29.

The Holt liner *Bellerophon*, from Yokohama, has grounded on a sandbank in the Mersey.

Her position is favourable.

London, January 30.

The *Bellerophon* has been floated, apparently undamaged.

COUNT VON AEHRENTHAL.

London, January 29.

It is semi-officially announced at Vienna that Count von Aehrenthal verbally tendered his resignation for reasons of health, but the Emperor decided to retain him at his post, hoping that a long leave of absence would enable him to recuperate.

THE ROYAL PROGRESS.

London, January 30.

A special Moorish Mission, sent by the

Sultan of Morocco, including the Foreign Minister and the Grand Vizier, has arrived at Gibraltar to greet King George and Queen Mary.

A Spanish squadron has also arrived.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL HAY.

London, January 30.

The death is announced of Admiral Sir John Charles Dalrymple Hay, P.C., G.C.B. THEIR MAJESTIES HOME COMING.

London, January 31.

By the King's wish no alteration is to be made in the arrangements for their Majesties' reception at Portsmouth or London, or the service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

London, February 1.

Parliament resumes its sittings to-morrow.

U. S. IMMIGRATION LAWS.

London, February 1.

At the request of the U. S. State Department the Senate Committee has modified the Billingham Bill, revising and codifying the Immigration Laws, so as not to offend Japan.

The modification consists of the addition of the words "unless otherwise provided by treaty" after the proviso excluding persons "ineligible to become citizens by naturalization."

Japan argued that Japanese immigration had been already restricted by treaty and it was humiliating to be declared inadmissible

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 26.

On the Stock Exchange, Chinese bonds are flat and Japanese are active and unaltered.

FREDERICK THE GREAT.

London, January 26.

The bi-centenary of the birth of Frederick the Great has been solemnly celebrated in Berlin, which was imposingly decorated.

The Emperor deposited laurels on the tomb and statue, and delivered a eulogistic historical address at the Academy of Sciences.

THE HOME RULE CAMPAIGN.

London, January 26.

The public is preoccupied with the possibility of desperate rioting at Belfast. The Unionists show a rising determination to prevent Mr. Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking in favour of Home Rule.

Both parties are resolved to carry out their programmes. The Government is embarrassed in view of the curious reckless attitude of the population.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

London, January 26.

The *Times*, while favouring the British visit to Russia, points out that this does not imply full approval of Russian policy or an anti-German demonstration.

The gloomy outlook in China and Persia, says the London journal, necessitates co-operation between Great Britain, Russia and Japan.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

London, January 26.

The Socialists have captured Potsdam and now have 110 seats in the Reichstag, compared with 93 seats held by the Centre, 43 by the Conservatives, and 44 by the National Liberals.

The reactionaries and the parties of the

Left are practically level, and except in cases where the National Liberals vote with the Right, it is practically impossible for the Government to count on success one way or another in a division in the new Reichstag.

THE BELFAST POLITICAL MEETING.

London, January 26.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has abandoned his intention of speaking in Ulster Hall, Belfast.

The Government apparently realises the danger of provoking the loyalists.

Mr. Churchill has intimated that he will speak elsewhere.

THE COST OF LIVING IN NEW YORK.

London, January 29.

With a view to counteracting the high cost of living in New York, some prominent clergymen have opened a shop whereat groceries and vegetables are to be sold to the poor at cost price.

The dealers are vigorously protesting against the movement, which, however, is influentially supported.

COUNT VON AEHRENTHAL.

London, January 29.

The health of Count von Aehrenthal is now in a very serious condition and he is no longer capable of conducting foreign affairs.

THREATENED STRIKE AT LISBON.

London, January 29.

The Portuguese Government has taken extensive naval and military precautions to cope with a threatened general strike at Lisbon.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 29.

On the Stock Exchange, Chinese bonds are higher and there is renewed buying.

UNIONIST DEMONSTRATION.

London, January 27.

Mr. Bonar Law, leader of the Opposition, speaking before a great Unionist demonstration at Albert Hall last night emphasized the growing weakness of the Government, the inefficiency of the administration, the blunders and neglect of public interests.

The Unionists, he said, were looking forward to the opening of the fight on Home Rule.

THE BRITISH DEPUTATION IN RUSSIA.

London, January 27.

The British deputation was received yesterday by the Tsar and Tsaritsa and subsequently attended a sitting of the Duma.

There was great enthusiasm at the gala performance at the Opera, where the National Anthem was repeated four times before a brilliant assemblage.

The Empress Marie expressed a wish to receive the deputation.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

London, January 27.

France and Italy have settled their dispute and the Turks captured from the *Manouba* have been handed over to the French Consul at Cagliari and taken to an island near Marseilles pending the decision of the Hague tribunal.

COPPER.

London, January 29.

Copper is fluctuating and is quoted at 16½—62½.

THE FRANCO-ITALIAN TROUBLE.

London, January 30.

The French and Italian Governments con-

template the appointment of a Commission to devise rules for preventing the recurrence of the incidents in connection with the seizure of steamers.

THE CHINA QUESTION.

London, January 30.

The *Times*, referring to the Chinese debate in the Japanese Diet, says the desire China shows to enter on the path of progress gradually is entirely natural and reasonable.

The journal repeats that the revolution must be promptly terminated.

THE U. S. PRESIDENCY.

London, January 31.

Colonel Roosevelt has announced at Chicago that he does not want and does not seek the Republican nomination to the Presidency, but that he will accept it if the party offers it to him spontaneously.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, January 31.

Japanese bonds are steady and in request.

TROUBLE IN BULGARIA.

London, January 31.

Turkish troops have attacked and sacked a Bulgarian monastery near Uskub, where they decapitated nine persons and desecrated the church.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

THE ITALIAN BLOCKADE.

FROM THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

Rome, January 22.

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me the following circular letter, with a request for its transmission to the Home Government:—"In view of war existing between Italy and Turkey, his Italian Majesty's Government hereby publishes the following declaration in conformity with the rules of International Law:—

"That after January 22nd, the Turkish dominions on the coast of the Red Sea, located between 15° 11' and 14° 30' North Latitude, stretching from Rurisa on the north of Hodeida to Ras gonbaifac on the south of the above port are under the effective blockade of his Majesty's navy. Vessels of neutral Powers enjoy the period of grace that may be fixed by the Commander-in-Chief of the blockading fleet to leave the blockaded region. Vessels attempting to infringe the blockade will be dealt with by the rules of International Law as well as the treaties existing between Italy and the neutral Powers."

CHANGE OF MINISTRY AT SANTIAGO.

Santiago, January 22.

There have been Ministerial changes in Santiago. A new Cabinet in which all the political parties are represented, was organized on the 23rd instant with Ismael Tocorunal as Premier and Minister of Home Affairs, and Renato Sanchez for the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ARGENTINE AND PARAGUAY.

Santiago, January 26.

The diplomatic relations between the Argentine Republic and Paraguay were severed on the 25th instant. A belief obtains that an amicable settlement is possible without going to war.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Berlin, January 25.

Brilliant celebrations have been held throughout Germany on the occasion of

the 200th anniversary of the birthday of King Friedrich the Great, who was born on January 24th, 1712.

THE NEW ARMAMENT BILLS.

In all parties of the Reichstag the opinion prevails that the new armament bills will receive a majority of votes in the new German Reichstag.

GERMANY STRICTLY NEUTRAL.

The German Government and Press are maintaining strict neutrality with regard to the seizure of a French mail-boat by an Italian cruiser.

FINAL PROTOCOL SIGNED.

The Opium Conference has been closed and the final protocol signed by the powers. QUEEN WILHELMINA IMPROVING.

Queen Wilhelmina is still confined to her bed. Her condition, however, is reported to be improving.

MORE ALARMIST REPORTS.

The *Novoye Vremya* publishes new alarmist reports from Mongolia.

CHINESE BONDS WEAKER.

Chinese Loan Bonds are slightly weaker.

ITALY STOPS AUSTRIAN LINER.

Italian warships have stopped an Austrian Liner in the Red Sea.

THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Berlin, January 26.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birthday of King Friedrich the Great, the Kaiser has announced to the members of the philosophical and historical faculties in the Academy of Science, that means would be provided for the extension of the study of the German language.

FINAL BALLOTS.

The final results of the elections for the German Reichstag are now known, the last 33 second ballots have been concluded on January 25th. The state of the parties is as follows, the increase or decrease in comparison with the last Reichstag being given in parenthesis:

Conservatives	43	(losses 19)
Reichs Party	15	(losses 9)
Economic Union	11	(losses 7)
(Agrarians)		
Reform Party	3	(losses 3)
Centre	93	(losses 12)
Poles	19	(losses 2)
National Liberals	44	(losses 7)
Progressive Liberals	42	(losses 7)
Peasant Union	3	(gains 2)
Socialists	110	(gains 67)
Alsatian Lothringians	7	(losses 5)
Guelphs	5	(gains 3)
Independents	3	

At Potsdam the Socialist Deputy, Herr Liebknecht, son of the former well-known leader of the Party, has been elected.

The Conservative Deputy, Herr Elard von Oldenburg Januschauf, who has been member of the Reichstag for many years, has been defeated.

The majority in the Reichstag, has, as a result of the last second ballots, been transferred from the Conservative and Centre parties to the Liberal parties, including the Peasant Union. The Liberal parties now command 89 seats and the Socialists 110, which gives them a majority of one vote in the total of 397 votes in the Reichstag.

The German Press, commentign on the composition of the new Reichstag, says that

the position of the Government is not weakened as a result of the majority having gone to the Liberal Parties, a government majority being possible by a readjustment of parties.

The Socialists intend to elect the Deputy Herr Dietz of Hamburg, as Vice-President of the Reichstag.

Berlin, January 26.

Herr von Kiderlen Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has arrived at Berlin.

"COLORADO" COLLIDES WITH "CLEVELAND."

The Hamburg American Liner "Cleveland" now on a round the world tour, has collided with the American cruiser "Colorado" at Honolulu, the latter being damaged. The "Cleveland" did not suffer any damage. The cause of the collision is somewhat remarkable. The pilot on board the "Colorado" was seized with an apoplectic stroke as a result of which the cruiser swung with the tide.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

The German Government has given orders that 500 men of the garrison of Kiautschou and Tientsin, who were to have been sent home after the arrival of the relief troops in the month of February are to be retained. This order has been evoked by the present unsettled condition in China, and for the protection of German interests.

COUNT AEHRENTHAL ILL.

Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, being still in ill health, has been advised to go to Sevic for recuperation. In the event of his resignation his successor, at the special desire of Emperor Franz Joseph and of the Minister himself, will be entreated to maintain the present friendly policy towards Italy.

MORE TRIBES SUBJUGATED.

The Netherlands-Indies Government has succeeded in subjugating 17 of the 19 native Atjeh tribes in Sumatra.

ROOSEVELT AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Ex-President Roosevelt has agreed to accept the candidature for the Presidency, in the event of this being offered to him.

THE MOROCCO CONVENTION.

The Committee of the French Senate has finally passed the Franco-German Morocco Convention.

MINISTRY RESIGNS.

The Portuguese Ministry has resigned. GERMAN COLONIAL SECRETARY'S VISIT.

Dr. Solf, the new German Secretary for the Colonies, has paid a visit to London, where he held conferences with well-known City business men with regard to the diamond trade.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to January 11th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on January 26th.

THE KAISER'S BIRTHDAY.

Berlin, January 27.

The whole of the German Press this year comments on the Kaiser's birthday in a very enthusiastic manner; all papers expressing full confidence that an improvement of home and foreign affairs will be witnessed.

KAISER OFFERS AEROPLANE PRIZE.

The Kaiser, on the occasion of his birth-

day, has offered a prize of 50,000 Marks for the best German aeroplane, the prize to be distributed on his next birthday.

AUSTRIAN SUCCESSOR IN BERLIN.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Austrian Successor to the Throne, has arrived at Berlin, where he will attend the christening ceremony of the youngest son of the Crown Prince.

THE LATEST CANARD.

A Paris report spreads the rumour that a naval base has been conceded to Germany at Trieste. Although it is quite certain that it is absolutely impossible to divide the German Fleet at the present time, some of the English papers express themselves in a very excited manner at this baseless rumour.

MORE TURKISH REFORMS PROMISED.

The Turkish Government is dispatching a special committee to Albania for the preparation and carrying-out of far-reaching reforms.

NEW LOAN GREATLY OVER-SUBSCRIBED.

Berlin, January 29.

The Consols of the new internal loan of the Government have been over-subscribed one and a half times.

THE ROYAL CHRISTENING.

The youngest son of the German Crown Prince has been christened with the name of Friedrich.

NEW ARMY UNION.

General Keim, the well-known former President of the Navy League, has founded a new Army Union for the propagation of the army movement.

COUNT VON AEHRENTHAL.

The condition of Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has become worse; he is suffering from fever and intestinal troubles. Emperor Franz Joseph has, however, declined to nominate a representative owing to the imminence of the nomination of his successor, who will be obliged to continue the former Austrian Triple Alliance and Balkan policy.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to January 14th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on January 29th.

GERMANY.

Berlin, January 30.

The Kaiser will personally open the new Reichstag. The first Bill to be presented will contain the new increment of the army and navy and the provision of funds for these projects.

THE KRUPP WORKS.

The Kaiser will attend the centenary celebrations of the Krupp Works at Essen, which will be held in August.

COUNT AEHRENTHAL SERIOUSLY ILL.

Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is very seriously ill from pneumonia.

THE RUMOURED CESSION OF COLONIES.

The Portuguese Government, in full agreement with the German Government, states that, contrary to all press reports, no cession of Portuguese Colonies to Germany is intended at present.

GENERAL STRIKE AT LISBON.

A general strike has broken out at Lisbon.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency re-

ports that Japan is negotiating with the Korean Railway and the Postal Administration in Kwantung for the institution of the shortest postal routes between Japan and Europe.

CORDIAL EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS.

Berlin, January 31.

Very cordial telegrams have been exchanged between President Taft and the Kaiser on the occasion of the latter's birthday. The Kaiser, replying to President Taft's congratulations, said that he would assist in all efforts aiming at the further cultivation of friendly relations between both nations.

NEW GOVERNOR OF CAMEROON.

Dr. Gleim, the Governor of the German Cameroon Colony, has resigned owing to ill-health, his successor being Dr. Ebermeier, Privy Councillor in the Colonial Office.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

ENGLAND defeated Wales at Rugby football at Twickenham on the 20th ult. by eight points to nil. Scotland defeated France at Edinburgh by thirty-one points to three.

A New York despatch reports that General Pedro Montero, leader of the defeated Revolutionists in Ecuador, has been decapitated at Guayaquil, and his body burned by a group of rioters.

At the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Frederick the Great, during a parade of the troops at Potsdam the German Emperor said, "I expect the German army, on the day of crisis, to fight as it did then."

A BALLOT of the employees of the Thames Iron works shows that ninety-five per cent. of the men are against the fifty-three hours a week which the Government has made a condition of awarding the contract for the two men-of-war.

THE railwaymen in the Argentine on the 22nd ult. seemed disposed to resume work immediately on condition that the entire personnel shall be reinstated. The Government decided to request the companies to settle the crisis without delay.

THE trouble in Lancashire has not subsided in spite of the agreement with the cotton operatives, who are mobbing non-members of the Union, and in some cases even using personal violence, and are thus forcing them to join the Union.

THE amalgamation of the Underground Railways with the General Omnibus Company in London has been accomplished. The amalgamation involves properties of upwards of £35,000,000, and will greatly facilitate the traffic in London.

A COLLISION took place on Sunday morning last between the N.Y.K. steamer *Bingo Maru* and the sailing vessel *Kinyei Maru* off Chofu, Nagato province. The *Kinyei Maru* sustained serious damage, and foundered in a few minutes, but the crew were saved by the steamer.

MR. N. BRAUN, of the Yokohama Ice Works, has withdrawn the suit brought against Messrs. Stanton, Schoene and Hood, No. 51, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, claiming the sum of 1,350.26 yen and the recovery of certain shares deposited in the above firm, valued at 2,700 yen.

A LARGE number of people travelling between Tokyo and Yokohama and intermediate stations under season ticket held a social gathering on Thursday evening last at the Hoyokan restaurant in Shiba. Mr. Takahashi, the station-master at Shimbashi, was amongst the guests invited.

MR. SUN FO, son of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, with several other Chinese students, arrived at Yokohama on

Saturday morning last by the steamer *Chiyo Maru*, on his way home from America. He visited Tokyo the next day and was to leave here Sunday for Shanghai on board the same steamer.

A LAD named Mayeda Tsunezo and four men have been arrested in connection with some missing tickets of the Yokohama Electric Tramway Company. It is alleged that the lad picked up thirteen books of these tickets on the 4th ultimo and sold them to the four men at a remarkably cheap rate.

VIOLENT storms continued in Europe last week. The Cunard liner *Veria* came into collision with an unknown steamer which sank. It is believed that eleven persons were drowned. It is feared that the collier *Frederick Snowden*, on her way from the Tyne to Aberdeen, has foundered. She carried a crew of fourteen men.

THE freedom of the City of London has been conferred upon Earl Grey in the presence of a brilliant company at the Guildhall. In his speech he said that all parties in Canada were equally loyal to the Empire and were conscious of their power to fulfil an inspiring rôle in their splendid destiny. He believed that the United Kingdom would welcome the Dominions into its councils.

A PERFORMANCE of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, adapted by Mr. Iwaya Shoha, is being given every evening at the Hagoromo-za Theatre, Yokohama, commencing at five o'clock, by members of the Tokyo Home Dramatic Club. The proceeds are to be contributed towards the funds of the Aisei Asylum, a charity establishment organized by Madame Kaneko Sadako for the purpose of caring for those unfortunate women and their babies in need of such assistance.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF CHINA?

Whatever the result of the present intervention of the Powers to reconcile the rulers and ruled in China, there are still those who believe no peace will be permanent till one side is thoroughly whipped and the other indisputably supreme. Any compromise will lead to bickering, it is predicted, and revolts, small or large, will continue till one or the other party shows its ability to hold the whip hand. The radical divergence of views, even among the best-informed, about which party will finally rule, is seen in two articles that reach us at the same time, one showing that China must become a republic, and the other proving that no such thing can possibly happen. The republican side is presented in a highly optimistic manner by "A Chinese Republican" in an interview with a representative of the *Paris Liberte*. This Celestial lives in Paris and has married a Parisian wife. Owing to some differences with the Manchu Government he exiled himself and became as far as possible a Frenchman. He wore, on the occasion of the interview, "an elegant suit of occidental cut. His hair was pomaded and parted in the middle, and he had no pig-tail." "He still keeps up communication with the revolutionists and is up to date in the news from China." When asked about the probable result of the reform movement he replied:

"The Chinese revolution is sure to prove the finest, the easiest, and the least sanguinary that history has ever recorded. There are in it no complications resulting from the existence of cliques or parties. One unanimous sentiment prevails—the sentiment of nationality!"

"Now understand me. The Chinese people, having become conscious of their strength, as of their distinct existence, are rising against the domination of a foreign race, a barbarous race, who have seized and held the throne for three centuries.

"China is patient. She has endured the Manchus, their régime of eff, their government of corruption and treason."

The mandarinat was not a Chinese social order, but "Manchu," declares the Chinese Parisian—"a régime of ignorance," and he continues:

"The degrees of the mandarinat are not conferred for merit, but bought for cash. The lower officials are recruited through favoritism and nepotism. I must repeat to you that 4,000,000 Manchus, indolent and uneducated, have established their domination over 400,000,000 of Chinese, by keeping them in the most absolute illiteracy. The Manchus have no intellectual or moral superiority over the Chinese, quite the contrary. The Manchu Govern-

ment has always shown itself opposed to the spirit of reform."

On declaring that "the explosion of national sentiment will compel the army to coöperate with the Chinese patriots," this speaker was asked: "And the consequences?" He answered in "enthusiastic accents":

"The consequences? Why, a republic, of course. A republic means peace and order, it means the opening up to China of European progress; it will prove the Chinese torch of civilization in the Far East."

Very different are the opinions of some English statesmen who know China and the Far East, and in the *Nineteenth Century* and *After* Sir Henry Arthur Blake, who has been Governor successively of Hong-kong and Ceylon, avers that a republic is an impossibility in China. One great obstacle is presented by the religion of the country, for we read:

"There are certain observances connected with the religious worship of China for which an emperor is required, except China at large is prepared to change her religious customs at the bidding of the 'Intelligents,' to my mind a far-fetched assumption. These considerations impress me with the view that with whatever seeming enthusiasm the flag of rebellion has been raised, the leaders are face to face with stupendous difficulties if a compact army of well-drilled Imperial troops remain faithful."

This writer thinks that much graver difficulties are to be found in the ingrained character of the people, who have had all ideas of liberty ground out of them by years of violence and oppression. He says:

"The idealists picture a settled and law-abiding community aglow with patriotism and burning with a desire to record their vote. The facts of Chinese life do not, unfortunately, quadrate with these ideals. China has for all these centuries been controlled by violence and financed by 'squeezes' modified by bribery. These ugly principles are crystallized by custom until a working system has been evolved that almost neutralizes the pinch of the executive shoe. The working agriculturist having paid his very modest rice tax has no fear of any further interference from the Government, but, on the other hand, he enjoys no protection from robbery, which is frequent, and is usually carried out by armed gangs. The traders and merchants afford the hunting-ground for the forced benevolences for viceroy-governor, magistrate, or other official. Those who can afford it secure a guard for their houses. China is accustomed to violence. If a district becomes too bad a force of 'braves' is sent there, who relentlessly destroy those whom they are satisfied are bad characters. In the towns the pawn offices, which are really the storehouses for valuables, are strongly fortified buildings, with every precaution for defence. All the great cities contain a large proportion of turbulent people ready to take the fullest advantage of disturbance, political or otherwise, by violence and pillage."

"Upon communities such as these the dogs of war have been let loose. Hankow and Wuchang are in ruins, and in Nanking the Manchu garrison have repaid in kind the Manchu massacre of 1853."

Moreover, he concludes, the different provinces of China are divided by antipathies and are different in manners, religion, and to some extent in language, and even "a successful revolution of discordant states would assuredly result in chaos."

GERMAN VOICES AGAINST WAR.

A startling light on the very real danger of war between Germany and England was seen during the recent tiff over Morocco, when the British fleet were assembled in ports on the German Ocean, ready to strike or ward a blow, and the German Navy kept to the open sea, not daring to enter any home port, for fear of being "bottled up." So the war-scare is evidently more than idle talk, and the war-lords stand ready for hostilities at the drop of the hat. In the midst of these alarms calm thinkers in both countries are asking what is to be gained by war. In England Norman Angell has brooded war as "The Great Illusion," in his book and in newspaper articles. Whether consciously or unconsciously, many German publicists are adopting this principle, and railing against all that "rattling of the sabre" which delights so many Pan-Germans. It is trade and wealth, and the safe and profitable distribution of industrial products, carried on without bloodshed and the assumption of serious administrative responsibilities, that should be the aim of governments, says Mr. Max von Brandt, ex-ambassador to China, in the *Deutsche Revue* (Berlin). To quote his words:

"The Pan-German political bawlers and patriotic phrasemongers take a cheap delight in appealing to the sword in speeches and newspaper articles. But

the matter is a much more serious one to the head of the State, in whose hand the sword has been placed. It is his duty firmly and unhesitatingly to withstand the opinions and utterances that rage around him, to stick to justice, and to maintain it unwaveringly. What he has accomplished in this matter should win the recognition and gratitude of all. The foreign campaigns carried on by Rome were actually ruinous to the empire of the old Caesars, and the modern German Empire has really nothing to seek for in Morocco but trade and a right of way for its subjects and the principle of right which it cherishes, and its good sharp sword can guarantee these peaceful privileges to them."

This point is enlarged upon at some length by one of the keenest of German journalists, the Socialist Max Harden, who writes in his *Zukunft* (Berlin) that England and Germany should "get together" and come to the conclusion that not the acquisition of new territories, but the maintenance of the open door, should be the object of their agreement. Thus we read:

"How does England stand with regard to this vital question? She; rants us the open door in the widest sense, as no other civilized Power has done—in her colonies and in all her spheres of influence. What vast advantages do German banks, trade, and industry derive from the territories under English power? Ask the German business man in England, India, South Africa, or elsewhere—everywhere you will hear what the tariff policy of England means to us in hard cash. How many regions has England first opened up through her colonial expansion, and then with no ill feeling granted a free market to the German goods that have followed this growth!"

The business agreement proposed will be the best solution of the disarmament problem, declares the semi-official *Koelnische Zeitung*, whose authoritative pronouncement runs as follows:

"There has been much talk in the press of the need of coming to a business understanding with Great Britain, and to a compact, especially in colonial matters, which will render future disputes impossible. Such an agreement is the forerunner of an understanding on naval armaments in order to set bounds to the present international competition. At present the German has to overcome a natural reluctance before he can come to a friendly understanding with England, and yet, perhaps, that is the only way to dissipate the mistrust which poisons the relations between the two countries, for the increase in naval armaments on both sides must finally lead to the goal for which armaments are intended—namely, war."

"In the end," proclaims the Liberal *Vossische Zeitung* (Berlin), "we shall be able to agree with England instead of fighting."

Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, speaking recently in Parliament, expressed his wish to improve Anglo-German relations, but regretted that it was impossible for a statesman in either country to compel "a favorable breeze of public opinion." "Does Sir Edward Grey realize," asks the London *Daily Chronicle*, "that so far as this country is concerned a favorable breeze is already blowing?"

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, February 3.
The market of Raw Cotton is somewhat firmer. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON.	PER PICUL.
American Middling ...	32.00 to 33.00
Indian Broach ...	31.00 to 32.00
Chinese (Old crop) ...	—
Chinese (New crop) ...	30.00 to 31.00

COTTON YARN.	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed ...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ...	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 3/100, Gassed ...	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.	PER PIECE.
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in ...	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/4-44 in. Common to Good ...	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. Ordinary to Good ...	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches ...	7.80 to 8.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ...	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians ...	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians ...	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches ...	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches ...	2.50 to 3.65

RID OF HORRIBLE ITCHING PAIN

Sores on Arms, Legs and Toes.
Could Not Sleep at Night for the Pain. Gave It Up as Incurable.

Used Cuticura Treatment and Has Never Seen Any Sores Since.



"Sores first commenced on my arms about January, 1908, and I thought they would go away as they came, but they still got worse. The next part they affected was my legs and toes, and I could not sleep at night for the pain, especially when I got warm. About July, I saw a chemist whom I was well acquainted with, and he gave me some pills and ointment, and also a powder. After about a month the spots still remained, and were as bad as ever, so I went to the Hospital, and they also gave me some ointment to use. After using four boxes of this, I gave it up as incurable.

"One night I saw what the Cuticura Remedies had done for someone. After using a Little Cuticura Ointment, I felt the itching be less painful. I then obtained a box of Cuticura Ointment and a tablet of Cuticura Soap, and after using one box, I felt a great deal better. I had altogether three boxes of Cuticura Ointment, and have used the Cuticura Soap regularly since then. Altogether I was a month using the Cuticura treatment, and have great pleasure in saying I have never seen a sight of any of the sores since. I do not know what the spots were but I thought they were scabies. I am overflowing with joy to think I have gotten rid of such a horrible itching pain." (Signed) Peter Barrow, 38, Ivydale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, England, Nov. 5, 1909.

Cuticura Remedies are sold throughout the world. Depot: London, 27, Charterhouse St.; Australia, R. Towns & Co., Sydney; India, B. K. Paul, Calcutta; So. Africa, Lennox, Ltd., Cape Town, etc.; U. S. A., Peter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole From Boston. For Post-free, Cuticura Book on the skin.

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ...	1.25 to 2.60
Flannellette ...	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere ...	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels ...	0.44 to 0.70
Union Italians ...	—
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium ...	0.27 to 0.39
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best ...	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilot, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches ...	—
Cloths—Army Cloth ...	—
Cloths—All others ...	—
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs ...	0.90 to 1.00

METALS.

Prices on the home side are firm, and the market is dull.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square ...	Y. 4.10 to 4.20
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate ...	4.95 to 5.10
Sheet Iron ...	6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel ...	6.50 to 6.70
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated ...	10.20 to 10.40
" Flat ...	11.20 to 11.30
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ...	6.50 to 6.55
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. ...	8.50 to 8.55
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar" ...	2.25 to 2.30

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.	
Chester ...	Y. 3.0
Victory ...	3.60
Nompareil ...	4.80
Sonatra ...	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo ...	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu ...	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon ...	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura ...	3.30
Todai ...	—

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.	
Brown Manila ...	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China ...	—

Brown Java ...	9.90 to 10.50
White Java ...	14.40 to 17.25
White Refined (German) ...	15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong) ...	14.80 to 20.85

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first ...	Y. 240.00
" second ...	200.00
Java, first ...	320.00
" second ...	280.00
Madras, first ...	—
" second ...	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand ...	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin" ...	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.00
Flag ...	10.95 to 11.00
Royal ...	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.90
Red Seal ...	10.95 to 11.00
Lion ...	11.65 to 11.70
Portland ...	11.15 to 11.20
Premier ...	11.35 to 11.40
Japanese:—	—
Rising Sun ... 6 swames ...	2.80
Takasago ... 6 " ...	2.75
Fuji ... 6 " ...	2.85
Pine ... 6 " ...	2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.

White Walls Walls, 100 lbs ...	4.95
Red ...	4.90
Blue Stem ...	5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On January 23rd stocks were: Filatures 21,934 bales; Re-reels, 2,346 bales; Kakedas, 689 bales.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ...	930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ...	880
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ...	900
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ...	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den ...	900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den ...	885
Filature—No. 1-1 1/2, 13-15den ...	845
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den ...	875
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyelsha ...	835
Re-reels—Extra ...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 ...	865
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2 ...	850
Re-reels—No. 2 ...	890
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...	870
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ...	850
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ...	840
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ...	830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

January.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
26th ...	8.37	—	8.52
27th ...	8.39	8.45	8.50
28th ...	—	—	—
29th ...	8.41	8.47	—
30th ...	—	—	—
31st ...	—	—	—

WASTE SILK.

Market continues active at unchanged prices. On January 13th stocks were: Noshi, 16,575 bales; Kibiso, 10,502 bales; Sundries, 988 bales.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best ...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good ...	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium ...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior ...	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ...	100 to 115
Rereel—Fair ...	—
Rereel—Best ...	—
Rereel—Good ...	—
Rereel—Medium ...	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.
Kanazawa:—There has been a general decline in prices for all qualities.
Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINK-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	8.15	7.95	7.95	7.85	7.80
27"	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.60	7.70
36"	8.05	7.80	7.75	7.60	7.65

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/4 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.85	7.70	7.65	7.50
27"	7.65	7.60	7.55	7.55
36"	7.55	7.55	7.50	7.50

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.80	7.70	8.60	9.40
23"	7.40	8.30	9.50	10.00
27"	8.90	10.20	11.10	11.80
36"	12.00	13.40	15.30	16.30

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of February 1st the quotation was £62 17/6.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen	43.50—45.00
Essence per 100 kin	"	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	"	47.00—50.00
Ore...	"	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	734.018
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	89.103
Delivery.	Closing Price.
February	18.20
March	18.27
April	18.37
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
February	18.54
March	18.18
April	18.13

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per bush.
Superior	Yen	19.70
Medium		18.60
Common		16.00
Average		18.43

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.

	Yen.
Delivery.	
January	132.45
February	131.90
March	130.85

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till January 31st, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Feb. 2

London silver 1/4 @ 1/2 higher, China sterling quotations not yet received and no change is made in local rates on China but all other rates are 1/4 higher.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— Bill on demand	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	2/1
— 6 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/4 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	258
— Private 4 months' sight	262 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2 @ 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2 @ 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51 1/2 @ 1/2
Germany—Bank sight	208 @ 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	213 @ 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	95 1/2 per 100
— Private 10 days' sight	94 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	77 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	78 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	26 1/2 @ 1/2

Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong...	C. P. R.	Em. of India 1	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong...	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Su. Feb. 4
Europe	N. D. L.	Derfflinger	M. Feb. 5
Hongkong...	P. M.	Siberia 2	M. Feb. 5
Tacoma...	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	W. Feb. 7
America...	P. M.	Mongolia 3	F. Feb. 9
Jeant's	N. Y. K.	Kamakura M.	4 Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong...	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	4 Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong...	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. Feb. 13
America...	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	F. Feb. 16
Vancouver...	B. L.	Orteric	Sa. Feb. 17
Vancouver...	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23
Hongkong...	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Su. Feb. 25
Hongkong...	B. L.	Luceric	M. Feb. 26

- 1 Left Hongkong on the 27th ult.
- 2 Left Hongkong on the 27th ult.
- 3 Left Honolulu on the 31th ult.
- 4 Left Seattle on the 27th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M.	Sydney	Sa. Feb. 3
Australia	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Feb. 3
Tacoma	B. & S.	Protesilau	Sa. Feb. 3
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Chikugo Maru	Th. Feb. 4
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Su. Feb. 4
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	M. Feb. 5
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu. Feb. 6
America	P. M.	Siberia	W. Feb. 7
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Feb. 8
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	F. Feb. 9
Europe	N. D. L.	Derfflinger	Sa. Feb. 10
Hongkong	P. M.	Mongolia	Sa. Feb. 10
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	W. Feb. 14
Europe	N. Y. K.	Kamo Maru	W. Feb. 14
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Feb. 16
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Feb. 18
Hongkong	B. L.	Orteric	Su. Feb. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23
Seattle	B. L.	Luceric	Tu. Feb. 27
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. Feb. 27

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,853, I. Noma, 26th Jan.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 26th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, W. W. Greene, 27th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Takeshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,657, T. Kuwabara, 27th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 3,047, W. L. Daniel, 27th Jan.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Taiyoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, I. Sato, 28th Jan.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 28th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, F. Baetins, 28th Jan.,—Liverpool via Batavia, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Fukushu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,090, N. Kira, 28th Jan.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 29th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kamo Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,284, F. L. Sommer, 29th Jan.,—London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,413, K. Soyeda, 29th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Idomeneus, British steamer, 4,299, A. G. Paddle, 29th Jan.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, K. Sudzuki, 29th Jan.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sagami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,140, H. Yada, 30th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Taito Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246, Y. Kawazumi, 30th Jan.,—Taipei, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 31st Jan.,—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Saishu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 31st Jan.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tategami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,574, T. Hori, 31st Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Shinchiku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 31st Jan.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Awaji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,155, S. Nagaya, 1st Feb.,—Dairen, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 1st Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Nippon, Austrian steamer, 3,999, E. Tarabocchia, 1st Feb.,—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Bentley, British steamer, 2,510, H. W. Bee, 26th Jan.,—Sourabaya, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.
Glenlogan, British steamer, 3,740, J. McGregor, 26th Jan.,—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Kiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,757, S. Togo, 26th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, T. Noguchi, 26th Jan.,—Dairen via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Pathan, British steamer, 3,176, E. A. Chaplin, 28th Jan.,—New York and Boston via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Mai Rickmers, German steamer, 2,563, H. Baum, 27th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Goeben, German steamer, 5,151, A. Thilborn, 27th Jan.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 27th Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Invicta, British steamer, 3,114, D. Mansfield, 28th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Silesia, German steamer, 3,138, Reuss, 28th Jan.,—Havre, Hamburg and Antwerp via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Kichirin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 28th Jan.,—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 28th Jan.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Takeshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,657, T. Kuwabara, 28th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Fukushu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,090, N. Kira, 29th Jan.,—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, W. W. Greene, 29th Jan.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Annam, French steamer, 3,899, Ve Zial, 29th Jan.,—Antwerp via ports, General.—M. M. Co.
Taiyoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, I. Sato, 29th Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurozumi, 30th Jan.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 30th Jan.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Tategami Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,574, T. Hori, 31st Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 31st Jan.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Higo Maru, Japanese steamer, 871, K. Sudzuki, 31st Jan.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tango Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,627, K. Kawara, 31st Jan.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 3,047, R. L. Daniel, 31st Jan.,—Vladivostok, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
No 8 Tamon Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,162, J. Tsuda, 31st Jan.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Saiki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, K. Higo, 31st Jan.,—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chikyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 31st Jan.,—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Diomed, British steamer, 3,005, F. Baetins, 1st Feb.—Sourabaya via Kobe, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Navarino, British steamer, 3,330, Semple, 1st Feb.—Mojil, Ballast.—Safe & Frazer Ltd.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423. ■ Soyeda, 1st Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taiko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246, Y. Kawaizumi, 1st Feb.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Chesfoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 1st Feb.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yawala Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. Alan Owston, Mr. S. J. Bartlett and Mr. A. Yoshioka in cabin, Mr. Y. Takatsu and 3 Chinese in second class; 3 Chinese in intermediate; 11 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakui Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. A. V. C. Maher and 7 Japanese in cabin; 10 Japanese in second class; 11 Japanese, 10 Chinese and 3 children in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Penza* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Julius Bryner and Mr. Fridrich Gilbert in cabin; Mr. Von Vikken and Mr. K. Mizoguchi in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Rev. D. M. Perleg in cabin; Mr. S. Kurato and Mr. K. Matsuye in second class; 16 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru* from Kobe:—Mr. K. Fujita. For Victoria:—Mr. Gabella Page and Mrs. Isaac Page in cabin; 1 Japanese in steerage. For Seattle:—Mr. W. Mayers in cabin; Mr. B. N. Charterje and Mr. K. Nakano in second class; 11 Japanese and 2 Russian in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamo Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mrs. H. Shimamura and 2 children, Mr. P. Enticknap, Mr. Geo. D. Clarke, Mr. F. K. Ritson, Mr. H. Bridges, Mr. S. Fernhoogh, Mr. T. Furusawa, Mr. S. Otake, Mrs. S. Souter, Dr. C. Henry and Mr. Yoshioka in cabin; Mrs. J. F. Ross, Mr. Ishida, Mr. Nakamura, Mr. Horiuchi and Mr. Nakajima in second class; 3 Japanese in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Poltava* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Z. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Healey, Mr. Odaira, Mr. Tererro, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Pisuka, Mr. Furuya, Mr. Minami, Mr. Yoshida and Mr. Isomi in cabin; Mr. Mironoff in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Inaba Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mrs. Z. G. Dunn, Master C. Z. Dunn, Mr.

and Mrs. J. R. Wolf, Mr. R. Ishii, Mr. R. R. Ray, Mr. M. Fukushima and Rev. W. H. Gale in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Y. Otsuka and Mr. S. Tsuda in second class; 5 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. A. H. Gaston, Dr. H. E. Coe, Rev. N. L. Ward, Rev. A. J. Williams and W. M. Tiivett in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Wm. Mercer and Mrs. F. Hamilton in cabin; 1 Indian and 5 Chinese in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. Wm. Alexander in second class; 11 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. J. W. Cranston and Mr. E. Condict in cabin.

Per British steamer *Nyanza* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—Capt. J. E. H. Cockburn, R.G.A., Mrs. Cockburn, Miss J. M. Monglas, Mr. W. E. Crowe and Mr. W. L. Lane (E. R. A.) in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Sinbirsk* for Vladivostok:—Mr. A. Frank and Professor and Mrs. Flohr in cabin; Mr. Kihara in second class.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Penza* for Vladivostok:—Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Tsutsui, Mr. Y. Uyeno, Mr. R. Nakamura and Mr. S. Nishimura in cabin; Mr. S. Midzuno in second class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Silk per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai:—

RAW SILK.

	London	Marseilles	Lyons	Moscow	M'seilles
Jewett & Bent	10	15	—	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	10	—	—	—	—
F. Strahler & Co.	—	10	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kai	20	—	—	—	—
Hara Yushutsuten	35	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	11	—	—	—	13
Bavie & Co.	—	—	—	—	112
Cornes & Co.	—	—	—	36	—
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	136	25	36	201

Per British steamer *Nyanza* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—

Waste Silk.

	Marseilles	Moscow	Trileve
Cornes & Co.	68	4	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	—	—	59
C. Eymard & Co.	102	—	—
Pila & Co.	17	—	—
Bavie & Co.	125	—	—
Total	312	4	59

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Shinyo Maru* for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 31st ult.:—

TEA.

	S. F.	N. Y.	Chicago	Montreal	New York	Osaka	O City	Total
Shanghai	13,979	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,979
Kobe	—	—	—	—	—	552	—	552
Yokohama	—	—	—	—	—	164	—	164
H'kong	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Total	13,981	—	—	—	—	716	2	14,699

SILK.

	S. F.	N. Y.	Holyoke	Easton	Total
Shanghai	60	272	—	—	332
Hongkong	—	123	—	—	123
Yokohama	—	1,080	75	25	1,180
Total	60	1,475	75	25	1,635

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Sep. 9th, 1911.

S. 19.

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YOKOHAMA, FEB. 10TH, 1912.

明治廿五年三月十日
第三千三百四十四號

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA, SATURDAY, FEB. 10TH, 1912.

DEATH.

THORN.—At Manila, P.I., EDGAR VOORIS THORN. (By Cable).

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of Sir Henry Trentham Butlin, F.R.C.S., D.C.L.

CONSUL GENERAL Okuda Takematsu has been appointed to Hamburg.

THE Tsar has granted a pension of Rls. 10,000 per annum to Count Tolstoy's widow.

On Tuesday night a fire occurred at the Sapporo Middle School. Three class-rooms and two other

buildings were reduced to ashes. The cause is still under investigation.

KING GEORGE has conferred the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order on the Infante Carlos.

THE trouble between Messrs. Helm Bros. and their lightermen has been amicably settled.

THE deaths are announced of Lord Stanmore, G.C.M.G., and Miss Florence St. John, the actress.

LIEUT.-GENERAL BADEN-BOWELL received a great welcome from the Boy Scouts at New York on the 31st ult.

WE have received two telegrams from Paris signed "Lanston." The owner can have them on application.

MR. IJURN, Japanese Minister at Peking, who has been ill for some time, is reported to be in a serious condition.

THE German Emperor has created two new decorations, namely the Royal Prussian gold and silver crosses for merit.

MR. JOHN HENNIKER HEATON, Conservative Member of Parliament for Canterbury, has been created a Baronet.

THE ceremony in connection with the completion of the Gusan Branch Line of the Hunan Railway was held on the 7th instant.

AN aviator named Guilich and three passengers flew for an hour and thirty five minutes at Berlin on the 25th ult. This constitutes a record.

DR. OHRT, the German Consul at Nagasaki, has been decorated by his Majesty the Emperor with the Fourth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

It is reported that the launch of the battleship Kongo, which is being built by the Vickers Company in England, will take place on the end of April next.

ACCORDING to statistics published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the rice harvest last year in Japan amounted to 51,638,221 koku, showing an increase of 5 1/2 per cent. as compared with a normal year.

On Monday afternoon a passenger train from Nijori on the Central Railway was approaching Mitomeno Station, when a large rock fell on the engine from the embankment, causing some damage. No casualties are reported.

ACCORDING to statistics published by the Yokohama City Office, the population of the city proper at the end of last year was 444,039, the number of houses being 87,918, showing an increase of 13,885 and 1,500 respectively, as compared with the preceding year.

SOME rioting has occurred at Brisbane. The police were stoned, but they dispersed the crowd using their batons. A shot that was fired narrowly missed an inspector of police. Several arrests were made. The Government has decided to take strong measures and to employ military if necessary.

MR. T. F. BUTLER, ex-Mayor of Barrow, has had bestowed upon him by the Emperor of Japan the Third Class of the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure, in appreciation of the kindness extended to Admiral Togo and his officers and men on the occasion of the visit of the Japanese warships Kurama and Tone to Barrow last summer. On

that occasion a reception was held at the Barrow Town Hall in their honour by Mr. Butler. The guests also visited the Lake District, besides taking part in other festivities.

KING GEORGE when at Gibraltar on the 31st ult. presented colours to the Staffordshire regiment. He also conferred upon Lieut. General Sir Archibald Hunter, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order.

THE Tientsin steamship service of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, which has been suspended on account of the cold weather, will be re-opened towards the end of this month. The Fusen Maru will leave Yokohama on the 9th instant to connect with the Taichi Maru, which leaves Kobe on the 21st idem.

REUTER'S Agency learns that the report that it is intended to ask the Persian Government to recognize British and Russian protectorates over Persia, is totally unfounded. Russia and Great Britain, however, are exchanging views in reference to proposals for assisting Persia to establish a more stable government.

PRIVY Councillor Baron Sufu, former Governor of Kanagawa prefecture, gave a farewell dinner on Friday evening last at his former official residence, entertaining some twenty prominent foreign residents. Mr. J. C. Hall, I.S.O., British Consul General, made a farewell address, to which Baron Sufu replied.

THE Tsar of Russia has pardoned the German Captain Stuentzner who was sentenced at Warsaw to three years' imprisonment for espionage. The German Emperor has reciprocated by pardoning the Russian Lieutenant Vinogradoff, who was recently sentenced to three years' confinement in a fortress for espionage.

THE Tokyo Municipality has decided to present Mrs. Taft with two thousand young cherry trees grown in the ground of the Agricultural College of the Tokyo Imperial University. Preparations are now being made to forward them to Washington by the N.Y.K. liner Awa Maru, which leaves Yokohama on the 15th inst.

THE Duke of Connaught, while at Washington, visited the National Press Club and delivered the first speech of his visit. He said that he hoped that the press-men would use their power for the good of the world. He trusted that Great Britain and the United States would always be the best of friends. The Duke was received with an uproarious ovation.

At 10.35 p.m. on Tuesday, fire broke out at No. 46 B, bluff, in a house occupied by Messrs. W. G. Crockam, W. R. Elton, and D. H. Etheridge, and resulted in the complete destruction of the house. The outbreak is said to have originated in the drawing-room. The house and contents were insured with the Phoenix and Yokohama Fire, Marine and Transit Companies for 5,500 yen.

STATISTICS published regarding the foreign population of Kobe show that the figures at the end of last year were 1,753 males and 827 females, a total of 2,580. This is a decrease of 337 persons,—336 males and one female. The number of families has decreased by 122. The sole reason for this decrease is to be found in an exodus of Chinese, 460 of whom appear to have left during the year. On the other hand, the Portuguese show the extraordinary increase of 185. British and American residents have dropped by 51 and 13 respectively.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Friday, February 2.

A list of conditions, said to have been agreed to by both sides, Insurgents and Imperialists, was transmitted by the Cabinet in Peking to the Throne on the 31st ultimo. These conditions were that the reigning Sovereign should retain the title of Emperor of Great China, but should be required to stand completely aloof from all administrative functions. These two items of the schedule are to have permanent effect. In other words, the title referred to is to be hereditary and the abstention from administrative functions is to be perpetual. The document goes on to say that Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet, and the regions inhabited by Mohamedans, are to be included in the arrangement. Moreover, as the proposed change is a matter of amicable agreement, it is not to be confounded with the forcible abdication of the Throne by the previous Dynasty, but is to be considered as a measure taken in the interests of peace and progress. The second condition is that the worship of the Imperial Tombs and Tablets is to be continued on precisely the old lines. The third is that ample allowance will be given for the maintenance of the Imperial Family. The exact sum is not mentioned, but it will probably be three or four millions annually. The fourth is that the new Government shall carry to completion the temple erected to the memory of the late Emperor, Kwang-su. The fifth, that the new government shall undertake to protect the private property of the Imperial Household. The sixth, that all officials of the Imperial Household and all persons forming part of the corps of the Imperial Guards shall be retained in office. The seventh, that there shall be no increase in the numbers of Court officials, but—here there is some obscurity—this rule shall not be inviolable in cases of distress. What is the nature of the distress alluded to, we have no indication. The ninth, that the new Government shall undertake the responsibility of protecting the property of the Imperial Princes. The tenth, that any distressed members of the Imperial Family shall be granted hereditary pensions. The eleventh, that the members of the Eight-Banner corps shall retain their position as before, and that if, in the sequel of administrative reforms, any reduction of numbers is effected, care shall be taken that no Bannermen shall be exposed to hardship. The twelfth, that all the civilian and all the military officials throughout the length and breadth of China, including Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet and the Mahomedan territory, shall be continued in office. Finally, the thirteenth condition is that every person now recognized as a Chinese subject, whether of the outlying or the home provinces, shall be regarded as a citizen of the new Republic, and shall enjoy all personal rights on an exactly equal footing.

It must be confessed that if the above schedule of the conditions be correct, the Insurgents have shown great moderation. The arrangements may be said to amount to absolute conservation of existing posts and institutions. Nothing is effected except the elimination of the Throne for governing purposes. If this programme can be carried out, there will be practically no change in the

existing state of affairs. That would be very satisfactory to the lovers of law and order, but on the other hand, it will deprive the Insurgents of all credit as reformers. Besides, what guarantee can be given for the permanence of such arrangements? No sooner do the revolutionists come to hold the reins of power than they may repudiate each and every one of the above conditions. Who will venture to say that the opportunity for such iconoclasm is not already foreseen by the Insurgents?

We do not, for our own part, place any reliance on the accuracy of the details here given. Even Tokyo journals which publish the news, do not venture to fix the date for promulgation of the Decree embodying the thirteen conditions, and inasmuch as the public cannot have been taken into the confidence of the Chinese Cabinet thus prematurely, we are inclined to suspect that the document embodies a great deal that is imaginary. One authority wires that the decree was to be reconsidered by a Cabinet Council on the 2nd instant, preparatory to its promulgation on the 4th.

Shanghai telegraphs that nothing whatever has yet been settled as to the matter of the abdication of the Throne, and that it has simply been agreed to preserve the administrative *status quo* as closely as possible. Other authorities say that the thirteen conditions will not be promulgated until the executive machinery shall have been restored to a state of fully efficient operation, and until preparation has been completed to quell any military disturbance that may occur.

Where the interests of the Insurgents enter into this scheme we cannot perceive. The whole of the negotiators' efforts seem to have been devoted to discover a solution which shall disturb the Court and impair its prestige as little as possible.

Saturday, February 3.

There was no special change in the situation yesterday. It is confidently believed that the surrender by the Emperor of all his administrative functions has been definitely decided, and the theory is that discussion now centres solely upon the amount of the maintenance allowance of the Imperial Family, its source and the method of its collection. This is indeed a knotty problem, for the maintenance allowance can scarcely be secured permanently to the Throne. Its payment might at any moment be repudiated, and in fact, repudiation would be the most probable issue. After all is said and done, the Manchu are simply alien usurpers from the Chinese point of view, and to require that the nation must pay in perpetuity a large sum of money for the support of a Manchu Sovereign, is a proposition to which the citizens of a republic would be the last to agree. Nobody has as yet suggested any exit from this perplexing situation, and until the problem is solved there appears to be little chance of the public abandonment of his governing functions by the Emperor.

Then there is the other question as to the means available for providing against any disturbance so soon as the abdication is proclaimed. It is believed in some quarters that such a proclamation will certainly provoke fighting, and the work of collecting a sufficiently numerous force of trustworthy troops to deal with any attempt in the shape of an armed protest, requires time and care. In this context we find a piece of

intelligence which, if true, should go far towards removing all apprehensions on this score. It is alleged that General Feng Kuochang, who commands the Imperial Guards, and who has the reputation of being strongly in favour of a limited monarchy, assembled all the officers of his corps, and invited them to pronounce, for or against, a monarchical policy. Out of the whole number of officers, only two are said to have shown any predilection for a monarchy, and these two did not attempt to obtain currency for their opinions. They simply retired from the meeting. Meanwhile, Premier Yuan is reported to have carried out his declared programme of moving to places outside the city region the whole of the old troops, as well as the Banner-men. Nothing is said as to the exact localities chosen for these troops, but they are sufficiently far from the metropolis to render a military coup d'état difficult, if not impossible.

Viceroy Chao is reported to have changed his mind; or rather, to have recognized that his views are opposed to public opinion. He has been figuring of late as a staunch supporter of a monarchical polity, but he is now reported to have addressed to Peking a long telegram interpreting Manchuria's frame of mind. He declares in the document that the trend of public opinion and the force of circumstances make it quite clear that a republic must be introduced, and he conjures the statesmen in Peking not to show any fruitless opposition to the inevitable. Considering that Viceroy Chao has hitherto been a staunch supporter of the Throne, we can only interpret his present change of mood as proving that the Three Eastern Provinces have really fallen into the condition described recently by telegrams from Mukden and elsewhere.

With reference to the measures taken by Yuan and his Cabinet to avert bloodshed when abdication is proclaimed, rumour has it that 15,000 thoroughly trustworthy soldiers have been assembled in the capital, and are prepared to preserve peace and order. At first the number of these troops was put at 8,000; the next day the number fell to 5,000, and now, on the third day we are told that there are 15,000. This is a kind of men-in-buckram story.

As to the proposal said to have been formulated by Yuan that an entirely independent tribunal shall be convened at Tientsin to settle finally all the preliminaries, it is now stated that the plan has received the approval of the Insurgent leaders in the south, and that the only difficulty is to choose suitable members of this Commission. At first the idea was that there should be four Commissioners, Yuan and Hsu representing one side, and President Sun with Mr. Wu representing the other. But this plan offered obvious objections, and it is said to have been now decided that statesmen of lesser prominence shall be appointed to sit on the Commission. The names are not yet given, but the principal duties assigned to them will be the formation of an *ad-interim* Cabinet and the nomination of the President. Subsequently a genuine National Assembly will be convened to decide the question of polity and other matters. Such is the gist of reports telegraphed this morning, but we are inclined to doubt their accuracy. Evidently the clause providing for the election of the President of the Chinese Republic must be a mere conjecture, for it remains to be seen whether the National Assembly

will cast its vote finally for that form of government.

The Government officials in Peking are said to have let it be known that at the Cabinet Council on the 31st ultimo a document containing thirteen provisions with regard to abdication received the approval of the meeting, and after further examination it was to be forwarded by the hands of an envoy on the 2nd instant to Nanking where it was expected to have a good reception. There may be some unimportant changes, but on the whole, an agreement is confidently expected.

President Sun and Mr. Wu Ting-fang seem to be exerting all their influence in the cause of peace. The former has addressed a memorandum to the Insurgent troops, saying in so many words that Yuan may be trusted to bring about abdication, and that there is no reason whatever for more bloodshed. He reminds his adherents that north or south of the Yangtze is a merely geographical expression; that both regions form part of China and that anything like dissensions among their inhabitants will certainly imperil their national independence. In short, it is now evident that Sun and Wu are acting frankly in the cause of peace, but our readers will observe that in all these arrangements there is no talk of Field Marshal Hwang and General Li. There are some apprehensions that the former of these two may insist upon recourse to arms. In fact, Hwang seems inveterately hostile to Yuan, whom he thoroughly distrusts, and unless he can be influenced by the representations of Sun and Wu, it is feared that he may take the field again rather than subscribe to any agreement to which Yuan is a principal party. In this context we note a powerful article in the *Fiji Shimpō*, on the subject of the relations between Premier Yuan and the Insurgent leaders. The line of argument taken by our Tokyo contemporary is that Yuan has virtually surrendered to the Insurgents. At the outset he was entirely an advocate of monarchical government, but when he found that the forces arrayed against that polity were too great for him to manipulate easily, he went over to the Republican side. Is it conceivable that the Insurgents will be content to set up such a trimmer as President of the new Republic? This question is answered in the negative by the *Fiji*, and the answer is based upon observing all the scheming and plotting which is going on at present in China. Out of such a situation, nothing stable can emerge—in the *Fiji's* opinion. Indeed the tone of the Japanese press may be said to be hostile to Yuan Shih-kai. He seems in the eyes of a Japanese samurai to be a man of many wiles and much trickery, but to lack the quality essential in a great leader, namely, straightforward resolution. They draw a sharp contrast between the officer who saved the situation in the days of the Taiping rebellion and the politician who is now seeking to raise himself to permanent eminence on the ruins of the Throne which he was appointed to protect.

Sunday, February 4.

There is nothing special to report this morning except that to-morrow, the 5th instant, is expected to be the date of proclaiming abdication. The Decree in which this is to be done is said to contain no explanation of reasons whatever. It merely says that from this day, "The Throne ceases

to exercise administrative functions, and hands over those functions to a Provisional Government." Thus the final act of the drama does not abolish the Throne but merely strips it of its State functions. Where the Provisional Government is to officiate now remains the only question undecided between the Insurgents and the Imperialists, and that being merely a problem of detail, it will not cause any difficulty. Yuan Shih-kai appears to have refrained from attending any Court Council until the 3rd instant, when he put in an appearance, everything, doubtless, having been previously settled. He was escorted by no less than 300 soldiers, and the utmost vigilance was exercised to prevent any murderous attempt.

It is now stated positively that Yuan has 12,000 troops upon whom he can thoroughly rely in Peking and he has made arrangements for placing at the service of peace and good order in the capital another body of 8,000 under the command of General Tuan. Meanwhile, the Manchu troops have been entirely removed outside the city, and in the neighbourhood of Yuan's residence a large force is encamped. All the avenues of ingress and egress are said to be strictly guarded, and nobody except armed constables or soldiers, is to be seen in the streets of the city after nightfall. Altogether there is a strong feeling of apprehension as to the probable consequences of abdication. Among the police, all those of Manchu origin are alleged to have been sent to Tientsin, of which city they will be allowed to take charge.

With reference to the negotiations between Peking and Nanking it seems to be well understood that the thirteen conditions enumerated in our last issue as having been incorporated in the document providing for abdication have not been accepted in their entirety by the Insurgents and are not likely to be accepted. This is especially true with regard to the provisions that the entire official personnel shall remain in office and that the building and repair of the Imperial Tombs shall be undertaken by the country, not by the Court. The idea is that Yuan caused these to be inserted simply because he wished to deserve well of the Throne. He knew that the Insurgents would object, but he preferred to impose upon them the onus of seeming to treat the Court harshly. The Emperor's advisers will, as a matter of course, urge his Majesty to accept half a loaf as better than no bread, and upon the Insurgents will rest the stigma of having treated the Throne with severity.

Monday, February 5.

It was confidently reported in Tokyo on Sunday night that on Saturday the Empress Dowager had summoned Yuan Shih-kai to the Palace and had handed to him a document decreeing the abdication of the Manchu Sovereign so far as administrative duties are concerned. But Monday's intelligence showed that this belief was premature. What happened on the 3rd instant was that Yuan received a document authorizing him to make preparations for abdication.

There seems to be little room for doubt that an agreement has been reached between the leaders of the Insurgents and those of the Imperialists on all cardinal questions relating to abdication, but there appears to be considerable apprehension about the effect produced by the Decree of abdication if it be promulgated without due precaution.

That apprehension is based on various facts, which, taken one by one, look insignificant, but which, collectively, constitute a considerable menace. One factor of uncertainty is the Chief of Police in Peking. His influence is very powerful; he has a large number of men under his orders and he is understood to be implacably opposed to a republican form of government in China. Then there is the Viceroy of Mukden. His attitude has become a perplexing feature. Originally he declared himself a staunch advocate of a limited monarchy as against a republic, then we find him addressing the Throne in the sense that nothing short of a republic would satisfy the people, and now he is represented as tenaciously clinging to the doctrine that China must have a monarchy. In connexion with this there is a rumour that Peking has decided to remove Viceroy Chao from office, and it is even stated that the Viceroyalty has been offered to two high officials, both of whom, however, have refused to accept it, and the Throne has determined to have recourse to Chang Hsi-lan, now Governor of Shansi. Yuan is to-day said to have 18,000 soldiers under his direct command in Peking, and the Imperial Guards are spoken of as no longer constituting a menace to public peace in the sequel of abdication. How the force under Yuan's order can thus increase by thousands day after day we are unable to conjecture, and the impression conveyed is that an appreciable part of this force is unreal. The important fact, however, is that a date has not yet been fixed for the promulgation of a Decree of abdication and that much anxiety is still felt as to the reception likely to be accorded to the Decree in pro-Imperial quarters. It is also plain that full powers are now vested in Yuan Shih-kai, and that the duty of providing against dangers contingent on abdication has been entrusted entirely to the Premier. A very notable part is that General Feng, the victor at Hanyang, whose services were so substantially eulogized on that occasion by the Throne, has had an audience with the Empress Dowager and has informed her in the plainest terms that the troops cannot be relied on to fight for a new lease of Manchu life.

On the 4th instant a long telegram was addressed from Peking to Nanking. It is supposed to have stated in detail the points of the agreement arrived at between the Throne and the Prime Minister and a prolongation of the armistice for seven days, namely, from the 4th to the 10th, was announced. Considering that the previous series of armistice came to an end on the morning of the 29th ultimo and that, in spite of this fact, the fighting was not renewed at any place in the Valley of the Yangtze, the plain inference is that neither side had any real desire to recommence fighting, nor any confidence in the result if fighting were recommenced. During the period of the renewed armistice not only have the affairs of the Throne and the Imperial Princes to be settled, but also the complications in Manchuria and Mongolia must be dealt with one way or the other. It is therefore by no means beyond the range of possibilities that fresh troubles may ensue, but we may take it for granted that there is an earnest desire on both sides to effect a pacific settlement.

In this context we observe that the *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent wires in a reassuring strain as to the probable attitude

of the Imperial Guards. These number 10,000, and being well trained and well equipped, they represent an important feature of the situation. Recently they were spoken of as not unlikely to protest by force against abdication, and in view of that danger they were moved away from the city to a place not easily accessible. But it now appears that this force need no longer be regarded with anxiety. The Peking Government has received assurances from the officers of the corps that no apprehension whatever need be entertained, as the Guards are resolved not to attempt any recourse to violence.

Tuesday, February 6.

We suspect that Reuter is for once not absolutely accurate when he telegraphs that an Imperial Edict has been issued in Peking directing Premier Yuan to form a republic with the help of the southern Insurgents. Judging by news received from other quarters we gather that no Decree as to the formation of a republic had been actually issued as yet. What has happened is that, on the evening of the 3rd instant, the Empress Dowager handed to Yuan a document authorizing him to conclude an agreement with the leaders of the Insurgents for the organizing of a republican form of government under the conditions enumerated in this rescript. That version of the facts differs from Reuter's version in that the latter declares that a republic has been actually ordered from the Throne, whereas what has really happened is that Yuan is authorized to come to an arrangement contemplating a republic under certain conditions. Those conditions are published elsewhere in our columns, and it will be recognized at once that abdication is still contingent on the demeanour of the Insurgent leaders towards the terms now enumerated in Peking. It may be presumed, however, that those terms had been submitted previously to the Insurgent leaders, and had received their general assent. Briefly stated, the arrangement is that the Manchu Sovereign retains his title and his dignities; that he receives an annual allowance of 4 million *taels*, and that the maintenance of the Imperial Shrines is undertaken by the nation. There are other minor matters, but we do not apprehend that they will give rise to any special difficulty after the main points have been settled. In effect, China remains a monarchical country, since, although the Sovereign will not interfere with the administration of affairs, he nevertheless retains the title of Emperor and is free to live wherever he pleases, whether in Peking, in the Summer or Winter Palace, in Jehol, or in Mukden or anywhere else.

Another important point is that the Imperial Princes, whether Manchu or Mongolian, have now practically pledged themselves to submit quietly to the new order of things provided that the terms enumerated in the document mentioned above be accepted and observed by the nation. Considering the great importance that has hitherto been attached to the possible demeanour of these Princes, it is evident that their mood must have undergone a considerable change, or, and this is more likely, that they never were disposed to be so obstructive as rumour alleged.

It is related that the Empress Dowager, when handing to Yuan the Rescript of the 3rd instant, informed him verbally that the Court could not endure the idea of throwing the whole nation into

a state of war and suffering for the sake of upholding a single Imperial House. Her Majesty could not have chosen a better way of winning the hearts of her people. It is perhaps only in China that incidents of this kind can be looked for.

The conditions embodied in the rescript are said to have been immediately communicated by Yuan to the leaders in the Yangtze Valley, who are expected to accept them without serious difficulty, especially as they are reminded by the Court, that, in the event of their refusal, the responsibility for further bloodshed will rest solely on the Insurgent leaders.

So soon as a definite agreement has been come to by the two sides, the fact will be notified by Imperial Decree. This event is expected to take place on the 8th instant, and with that idea the 10th instant was fixed as the date of the expiration of the prolonged armistice. A Provisional Government will then be organized, and will remain in authority until a National Assembly can be convened, and until all the details of the new system can be elaborated.

As for Yuan himself, some accounts state that a proposal to make him President is still under serious consideration but we fail to see how such a question can be discussed intelligently until the opinion of the National Assembly is taken.

Messrs. Wu Ting-fang and Tang Shao-i left Shanghai on the 4th instant for Nanking, the intention being that the conditions formulated by Peking shall be considered by the Insurgent leaders in full conclave. Some journalistic correspondents write in a not too hopeful strain. They think that it will be found impossible to get the Insurgent leaders into line with Peking's conditions. But, as we have more than once stated in these columns, the strong probability is that before the conference meets at Nanking the question of acceptable terms will have been finally disposed of. Otherwise the proceedings of the conclave will certainly end in confusion and disagreement.

One interesting feature of the situation is that the officials present at the Palace Council on the 3rd instant were so profoundly moved by the Empress Dowager's demeanour that on leaving the Council Chamber, Generals Feng and Chiang addressed a joint telegram to Wu Ting-fang, conjuring him to use all his influence with the Insurgent leaders in the cause of the Imperial Family, and further, that the two generals dwelt strongly on the spirit of self-sacrifice displayed by the Court, a spirit to which it behoved the nation to respond with equal magnanimity.

It is suggested in more than one quarter that not sentiment but practical necessity will force the hands of the Insurgent leaders. Their coffers are quite empty, and the various small loans contemplated by them do not mature satisfactorily.

Wednesday, February 7.

It may now be taken for granted that a final agreement between the Insurgents and the Imperialists has definitely come into sight. It will be remembered that Mr. Wu Ting-fang was reported, two or three days ago, to have left Shanghai for Nanking. This journey was evidently undertaken for the purpose of conferring about the attitude that should be assumed towards the terms formulated by the Court in Peking. Very little time appears to have been lost by the Insurgents. They speedily accepted all the conditions forwarded

from the capital with a few exceptions, the most important of the latter being that the Court's maintenance allowance should be four million *yen* instead of *taels*; that the Emperor, instead of being free to choose his own place of residence, must perforce live at the Summer Palace near Peking, and that his title of Sovereign should be limited to one generation instead of being continued for all time. This last amendment will probably evoke considerable opposition from the Throne, but on the whole, acquiescence may be counted on. There are other minor points of difference, but they are so trifling that no apprehension need be entertained as to their proving crucial.

It remains to be seen, of course, whether the modifications proposed in Nanking will carry greater weight in Peking than they do in the eyes of the world. Meanwhile, the Generals commanding the Imperial troops in the north are said to have addressed to the Insurgents a document in which they, the Generals, pledge themselves to preserve public peace and good order in the capital at the time of, and after the promulgation of, the agreement, but in consideration of this engagement they ask the Insurgents to deal liberally with the Imperialists and to endorse their conditions as far as possible. It now remains only for the Court to declare its attitude towards the amended terms but although there may be some hesitation, there will probably be no absolute negation.

Nevertheless Premier Yuan's newspaper organ in Peking speaks in very resolute tone about the changes proposed by the Insurgents. It says in effect that there can be no deviation from the Court's programme that the maintenance allowance must be four million *taels*; that the title of Emperor must be permanent, and that the Sovereign must sign all patents of nobility. The journal goes on to say that the consummation of an agreement of such magnitude without bloodshed will be an infallible proof of the sincerity of the contracting parties, whereas an appeal to the arbitrament of the sword will convict the recalcitrant side of want of good faith and will involve outside Powers in losses of the heaviest description. But it will occur to any one that these comments apply equally to both parties. The margin of disagreement has now been reduced to such petty dimensions that whichever side insists on disagreeing will have to bear the whole responsibility. No sane publicist can seriously contemplate the contingency of a great internecine combat about such trifles as the difference between four million *taels* and four million *yen*; the perpetuity of an empty title and the little act of endorsing a patent of nobility.

It does not at all follow, however, that the adoption of a republican polity will meet with the pacific acquiescence of the Chinese nation. Yuan Shih-kai, in his capacity of Premier, is reported to have addressed enquiries to the Chief Magistrates of all the provinces, the question put to them being what attitude they, the local officials under their jurisdiction, and the people of the province, would be likely to assume towards a republican form of Government. Ten replies are reported to have been received, and the results are as follow:—

ADVOCATES OF A REPUBLIC.
The Governor of Kilin.
" Honan.
" Shensi.
" Shantung.
" Shanhai.

OPINIONS OF A REPUBLIC.

Viceroy of Chili.
Viceroy of Manchuria.
Viceroy of Shien-kan.
Governor of Hainkiang.
Governor of Amur.

It will be seen from this list that the opinions of the high provincial officials are almost equally divided between the two polities of a Republic and a limited Monarchy. Of course allowance must be made for the fact that in replying to such a question the Viceroys and Governors could be under no mistake as to the kind of answer that would be welcomed in Peking. Still, even when full allowance is made on that account, such a collision of views cannot be ignored as a factor of the new system.

Thursday, February 8.

The Court's answer to the amendments proposed by the Insurgent leaders in the terms of agreement has not yet been published, but it appears that the only question which now really holds the two parties asunder is the choice of an administrative capital. Yuan and the Imperialists in general are said to be strongly in favour of Peking, and his Excellency has the support of the foreign *chefs de mission*, who naturally object to transfer their Legations from Pechili to the Yangtze Valley. But the Insurgent leaders appear to be equally obdurate in insisting that Nanking must be selected, and it is not extravagant to suspect that this divergence of views arises mainly from pecuniary reasons. It is openly hinted that the principal Insurgents have contrived to get possession of large blocks of land at Nanking, which, of course, would acquire a very high value if that city became the metropolis of China. We are very reluctant to entertain this suspicion, but after all human nature is not to be denied.

It is expected that Messrs. Wu Ting-fang and Tang Shao-i, who are now in Shanghai, will proceed very shortly to Tientsin in order to arrange for the organization of a Temporary Government which shall officiate during the interval that must elapse before the convention of a National Assembly. The programme of moving the capital at once does not seem to have the support of these two officials, and it is not unlikely that a compromise will be effected by making Tientsin the administrative centre for the time being and leaving the *Waivupu* in Peking. People talk glibly of moving the metropolis of China, but a moment's reflection will show the real dimensions of such a plan.

It is confidently stated now that there will be no Imperial Decree directly announcing abdication. Everything relating to that part of the situation will be done on the avowed authority of Yuan Shih-kai.

On the 6th instant, a Cabinet meeting was held in Peking to discuss the Insurgent leaders' amendments of the abdication proposals, but we do not yet know how the meeting resulted. Among various topics considered on that occasion, is said to have been the time during which the Temporary Government should hold office. By that we understand the time that is expected to elapse before the convention of a National Assembly. The period spoken of is four months.

It stands greatly to the credit of the Insurgents that they are making every effort to put a final end to the armed conflict. Thus President Sun is said to have addressed a letter to Yuan Shih-kai,

proposing that instead of brief periods of armistice fixed once after the other, both sides shall definitely agree to lay down their arms finally. Moreover, Wu Ting-fang has sent to all the Generals of the Imperial forces and to the Manchurian and Mongolian Princes a strongly worded despatch, pointing out that the amended terms accepted by the Insurgents are much more lenient than anything previously contemplated. The time has therefore come to abandon all idea of fighting, and the addressees of the despatch are conjured to use all their influence in the cause of peace. This phase of the situation has involved a disagreement between Premier Yuan and Field Marshal Hwang, who commands the Insurgent troops. The Field Marshal strongly objects to any laying down of arms so long as the vital question of abdication remains in abeyance. He points out that the Throne has it in its power to put an end to all hostilities forthwith by the single step of abdication. So long as the Sovereign shrinks from that measure of self-effacement, the responsibility of keeping thousands of men under arms must rest entirely on the Court. The Field Marshal explicitly states that Yuan Shih-kai himself is prepared to make any reasonable concession, but that a final adjustment is prevented by the action of a handful of interested personages. In these circumstances, the Field Marshal suggests that both sides muster their forces and march together to the capture of Peking, thus solving the problem once and for all.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

The Popular Party, in conjunction with the Centre Party, appear resolved to embarrass the Government as far as possible. They have decided that the expenditures under the Budget must be lessened by 50 million *yen*. At one time they spoke of 65 millions, but they have now reduced their proposal to 50 millions. They do not attempt to explain how such a wholesale measure of retrenchment can be accomplished, and in view of this delightfully vague method, some of the journals in Tokyo accuse them of talking into their hats (*tempihi-ron*). Their idea is to devote a large portion of the money to naval increment, and to use the remainder for the purpose of lowering the income-tax. The whole scheme is such a visionary fabric that even the politicians of the Popular Party itself hesitate to give it their support.

THE QUESTION OF RELIGION IN JAPAN.

On the 2nd instant there was held at Kanda in Tokyo a meeting of journalists who adhere to the Buddhist faith. By whom the meeting had been called and by whom organized there is no public information, nor does it appear that any definite programme was followed at the outset. Over thirty journalists were present, and they are said to have unanimously agreed to a resolution that the conference of religious representatives proposed by the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs could not fail to be injurious to public morality and must be opposed. They further recorded their view that the policy advocated by the Vice-Minister would constitute an incursion of religion into the realm of education.

THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

It is still fresh in the memory of our readers that when the original ambitions of the Insurgents were published, and when their proposal for a National Assembly which should choose the Empire's polity was made known, great misgivings were expressed in many quarters as to the feasibility of such a scheme. It was pointed out that months must elapse before an assembly could be organized, and its members collected at one central place, and it was also pointed out that in the interval of waiting, no effective machinery for the preservation of law and order would be available. Finally, there was always the possibility that the assembly might agree to differ, or that the minority would decline to accept the ruling of the majority. In fact, the whole of this part of the programme was impractical and ill-judged. The difficulty now promises to be completely overcome. The so-called National Assembly is to consist of four men only, namely, Prime Minister Yuan, and Mr. Hsu, formerly Viceroy of Manchuria, and now Grand Tutor to the young Emperor, on the one side, and President Sun and Mr. Wu Ting-fang on the other side. These four are to meet in Tientsin and settle the whole question after due debate. Such at least is the intelligence sent over the wires by the *Chuo's* Peking correspondent. But it is evident that a tribunal thus constituted might very well fail to come to any decision whatever. Yuan and Hsu must be expected to stand shoulder to shoulder in every dispute, and the same may be predicted of Sun and Wu. The project does not look very practical, but, on the other side of the account, we have to set the fact that if the Chinese have resolved to compromise, they will certainly find some satisfactory means of doing so, whatever be the composition of the assembly to which the dispute is to be referred for settlement. One cannot but query whether some such arrangement may not have been contemplated from the outset by the leaders of the movement.

ENGLISHMAN IN A BALL-ROOM.

In her farewell to her Shanghai pupils and friends, Mrs. E. S. Patton frankly declared that Englishmen are the worst dancers in the world. We do not question the justice of the verdict, but we do venture to doubt whether she was right when she attributed the defect, as she seemed to attribute it, to some innate lack of balance and brains on the part of young Englishmen. It is impossible to endorse that judgment. One thing is certain, namely, that no nation can excel the English in athletic pastimes, and that to be a good cricket-player, a good racquet player, or a good tennis player, demands the possession of precisely the faculties that go to make a good dancer. Why, then, do the results fall so far short of the capabilities? The answer simply is that Englishmen are seldom taught to dance, whereas in America, for example, the dancing-class forms an integral part of the ordinary curriculum of study. The truth is that a young Englishman who is addicted to outdoor games despises dancing altogether, and is more than content if he simply knows the steps, though as a matter of fact, he is then only on the threshold of dancing.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Saturday, February 3.

Premier Yuan has, it is said, addressed a strong protest to President Sun with reference to the operations in Manchuria by troops sent thither from General Lan's forces in Shantung. Yuan points out that that this action on the part of the Insurgents is obviously inconsistent with the pacific negotiations now in progress in the Yangtze Valley. Moreover, it is easy to foresee that dangerous complications may at any moment be caused by converting Manchuria into a battle field. The Japanese, who have large vested rights in the Three Eastern Provinces, will certainly interfere if these places become a scene of bloodshed, and will insist upon undertaking with their own hands the duty of preserving peace and good order throughout Manchuria. What that will involve there is no occasion to explain at length, but Yuan points out that events in Manchuria may easily constitute precedents for Russian interference in Mongolia. Sun's answer to this very reasonable document is not yet announced. It will be observed that Yuan in his protest makes no allusion to a feature of the affair which must strike every foreign onlooker; namely, the fact that the transport of the Insurgent troops to Chefoo took place while the armistice was nominally in full force. We fail altogether to see how such a breach of good faith could be defended.

In this context it has to be noted that the German Government has protested against the action of General Lan's troops in capturing Chimo-hsien, which is within the treaty limits of a hundred Chinese *li* from Kiaochow. Germany calls upon China to see that this treaty obligation is duly fulfilled.

Evidently one of the results of this crisis in Chinese affairs will be to increase the people's desire for the abolition of Consular jurisdiction. If every place where a foreign community is living on Chinese territory is to be regarded as lying in the centre of a large neutral zone, the inability of the Chinese to manage their own affairs within their own territory will be sharply accentuated.

It will be remembered that a rumour was received two or three days ago to the effect that the Insurgents contemplated a landing at Pitszwo, but that the Japanese Government had strongly protested. It now appears, however, that 600 men were actually landed on the morning of the 3rd instant; that 400 more are about to land, and that 300 of the people in the locality have joined the Insurgents' colours. We learn from telegrams that a thousand Imperial troops were marching to the attack of the invaders at the date of latest advices. The programme of the Insurgents would seem to be the fomenting of petty disturbances here and there throughout Manchuria, to create the impression that the whole of the Three Eastern Provinces is honeycombed with disaffection towards the Manchu Government.

The *Fiji Shimpō* quotes an anonymous military officer as explaining that the Japanese Government has long foreseen something of the kind, and that in consequence of these eventualities the time-expired troops in Manchuria have been kept with the colours, which policy was commenced in November last. The same authority alleges that the

orders recently issued to the Twelfth Division to hold itself in readiness for over sea service, pointed to this precise series of events.

Tuesday, February 3.

News comes from Chwangho-chin that an engagement between the insurgent invaders and the Imperialist troops has taken place in that region, and that the invaders won a victory. The telegram adds that General Ma, who is in chief command on the Imperialists' side, is moving his entire force towards the coast, his idea being to crush the insurrection before it can develop any serious strength. His advance is further dictated by an apprehension, said to be well founded, namely, that the Imperial troops at Chwangho-chin are showing signs of disaffection.

There is another but very obscure piece of intelligence, to the effect that two transports, escorted by a warship, reached an unnamed place in Manchuria on the evening of the 2nd instant; that about a thousand men landed from these transports and that a march has been commenced having for objective Liaoyang and Manchuria.

So far as we can make out from somewhat confusing telegrams, the Insurgent forces in Manchuria are following exactly the routes taken by the Japanese in the war of 1904-5. Their left wing at the date of latest advices, had reached Hsu-yen, and was to direct its march to Kaiping and Tashichiao, moving up each side of the railway, but keeping, we presume, beyond the limits of the neutral zone. Their centre is advancing *via* Chwangho-chin and their right is moving *via* Takushian. The three corps will converge upon Mukden, where they expect to receive substantial assistance from the mounted bandits.

There are various telegrams about the attitude of Viceroy Chao, but, on the whole, they agree in representing him as clinging tenaciously to his monarchical hopes. It would seem, however, that Chao's attitude at this crisis is not crucial. Much greater influence has General Chang Tso-ling, who commands the Imperial forces and can at any time muster an army of about 10,000 men.

The destruction of a bridge on the railway five miles north of Shanhai-kwan is now said to have resulted in the death of seven persons and the wounding of seventeen. Little doubt is entertained that the act was perpetrated by the Insurgents or their emissaries for the purpose of severing railway communication between the Metropolitan Province and Manchuria.

The news published yesterday about a victory won by Chinese troops fighting against Mongolians at Manjuli turns out to be true. One feature of the affair was that a Captain in the Russian army was killed by a stray bullet, and this incident appears to have created the impression that Russian troops were aiding the Mongolians. There is not, however, sufficient warrant for such a belief.

With regard to the imminent probability that Japan may be obliged to increase her military force in Manchuria, no definite move in that direction seems to have been taken yet. An officer, whose name is not given, points out wisely and conclusively, in the columns of the *Nippon*, that if any such step is to be taken while the Diet is in session, no secrecy can be maintained, inasmuch as the Diet will have to be asked for a monetary grant.

THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

According to a telegram received from the *Asahi's* Peking correspondent, the location of the Chinese capital is likely to cause much dissension. The Insurgents are willing that Yuan Shih kai should be the President of the new Republic, that Sun Yat-sen should be the Prime Minister and that Tang Shao-i should be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but they insist that Nanking, not Peking, must be the future capital. They are understood to claim that if the chief offices in the State be allotted according to the above programme, nothing short of transferring the capital to Nanking, will remove the impression that the fruits of the insurrection fell mainly into the laps of the monarchists. They do not appear to attach serious importance to the relative superiority of the two places geographically and commercially. On the contrary, they seem to approach the problem entirely from a sentimental point of view. Yet very little reflection is needed to show that the material interests at stake are immense, and that the proposed transfer would spell ruin to hundreds of thousands of people. It must be confessed that already when the dawn of a Republic has barely appeared upon the horizon, the impediments to its diffusion are already assuming very large proportions.

In connexion with this we note that on the 5th instant Premier Yuan invited all the *chefs de mission* and the seniors of their staffs to a meeting at which the terms of compromise were clearly announced. The guests asked where the capital of the future Republic was to be situated, and Yuan replied that Peking would remain the capital. His Excellency seems to have spoken on this topic with every semblance of assurance. Naturally all the inhabitants of the Yangtze Valley would rejoice to see Nanking elected to the rank of metropolis.

FINANCIAL.

Some prominence has been given within the last few days to the question of investing Japanese capital in certain enterprises in the Yangtze Valley. The most important of these is connected with the Taiya iron-mine, the Pinghsien coal-mine, and the Hanyang factory. The Taiya mine, being the source whence Japan obtains her supplies of iron ore, is of great importance to this country, and already through the agency of the Wakamatsu Foundry, eight million *yen* of Japanese money is invested in the Company's shares in the form of a loan. It is now said to be proposed that the Company shall be made a Sino-Japanese concern with a capital of 20 million *yen*. This would be intelligible enough as it stands, but there is a rider attached which induces doubt. That rider is that four million *yen* of the additional capital is to be paid over to the Insurgents in consideration of their promise to abstain from molesting the Company's enterprises. Of course the idea of such spoliation by the Insurgents is quite intolerable; nor has the reason assigned by them any validity. They allege that Mr. Sheng, who is now a fugitive in Japan, is the principal owner of the Chinese Company's shares, and that to confiscate his property is a perfectly legitimate transaction. Until this feature of the situation is cleared up, we must decline to believe the story.

A TRAITOR.

Those that have followed with any care the confused and frequently inaccurate story of the fighting in the Yangtze Valley, observed that at one stage the situation developed an inexplicable feature. It was during the last and the most prolonged period of the armistice, when a great deal of talk made itself audible about an act which could not be reconciled with any rule of good faith. The Insurgents, under the command-in-chief of General Li Yuan-hung, had their headquarters at Wuchang and were supposed to be lying quietly within their lines, while the Imperialists, under Tuan Chih-jui, having captured Hanyang, were occupying that place. Tuan had succeeded General Feng Kuo-chang, who had directed the operations that ended in the fall of Hanyang, and who had subsequently been recalled to Peking to receive a title of nobility and a reward of a million taels in recognition of his eminent services. In spite of the armistice, a large body of Insurgent troops moved down the river from Wuchang, keeping well inland, so as to mask their march, until they reached a convenient place down stream, where they crossed the river, and heading north-west, obtained possession of Hwampai, subsequently placing themselves in such a position as to menace the Lu-Han Railway at Hsiaokan and points still further north. This was obviously a violation of the truce which bound both sides to remain quietly within their lines, but the strangest part was that the Imperialists under General Tuan made no attempt to check this very dangerous advance and did not even protest strongly against it, but on the contrary, retired before the Insurgent army to a point higher up the line. This mysterious page of history is now explained. It appears that the Insurgent General Li and the Imperialist General Tuan were working hand in hand, and that so far from opposing the Insurgents, Tuan had pledged himself to Li to march to the attack of Peking at the head of the two armies. If this be credible, and it is very confidently related by men that ought to know, we begin to understand the apparent reluctance of the Imperialists to resume the campaign. Moreover, Tuan's conduct, supplanted by the spurious manifesto of the forty-six generals, furnishes an indication of disloyalty and chicanery which augur ill for the success of Republican institutions, and justify the suspicions entertained in Peking as to the invalidity of any promises made in the preface to abdication.

THE IMPERIAL FAMILY OF CHINA.

The break up of the Imperial Family in Peking is said to have commenced. Prince Hsu has withdrawn to Mukden and Prince Kung is about to start for Jehol. Other Princes also are busily preparing to follow Hsu's example, but what their destination will be has not yet become clear. Prince Tsai-tse, Minister of Finance, has been allowed to resign his portfolio, and it is thought that he will make Tientsin his place of retreat.

The Mongolia Princes, however, are maintaining a firm front. They say that if the Emperor of China surrenders his administrative prerogatives, Mongolia will declare its independence, will take the *Gegen* for

spiritual leader, and will have the Chinese Emperor for King.

In these circumstances it is evident that the agitation which commenced in Peking a few days ago at the instance of a newly-formed monarchical party, is futile so far as concerns China proper. The leaders of the movement have, therefore, resolved to transfer their basis of operations to Manchuria, where they will work strenuously to bring about the union of Manchuria and Mongolia as an independent Kingdom under the protection of Russia and Japan. It is expected that Prince Tsai-tse will be a leader in this movement and that he will soon leave Tientsin for Mukden to assume the leadership at the latter place. He will be joined in Mukden by their Highnesses the Princes Tsai-tao and Tsai-hsun, and in fact, the present forecast is that many of the Manchu and Mongol Princes will decline to acknowledge the new Republic.

One of the greatest difficulties to be overcome will be the future of the Banner Troops. There are many thousands of these men, and like the Japanese *Samurai*, their sole metier hitherto has been the discharge of military duties. These men cannot serve the new Government even though the latter are willing to find posts for them; and the reserves of the Imperial Chinese Household would not suffice to support the Banner men if they follow the Court to Jehol or to any other comparatively remote place. They themselves wish, it is said, to leave Peking, which city must become an almost intolerable place of abode for them after the inauguration of the new regime. But the Imperial Household recognizes that its income will not suffice to maintain these troops in anything like comfort; and if they are driven to despair, the consequences may be very serious.

THE IMPERIAL PRINCES.

Prince Ching is said to have applied for a fortnight's leave on the ground that all the business of State is now in the hands of Yuan Shih-kai, and that his (Ching's) services are not required. Another telegram says that Princes Su, Kung and Na have all entered Mukden, and that other Imperial personages are importuning the Court for permission to leave Peking. The Empress Dowager has issued a Decree censuring this tendency to abandon the sinking ship, but the telegraph does not explain the ground upon which her Majesty bases her appeal. The Empress Dowager is a very tragic figure of the present situation in China. The world cannot but sympathize with her.

It was originally supposed when the Imperial Princes began to leave Peking, that they were taking steps to organise some kind of efficient resistance to the course which events were taking in the capital. But this analysis has now to be discredited altogether. It does not appear that among all the Princes there is to be found so much as one heroic supporter of the Dynasty whose favour they have so long enjoyed. It is now seen that their movements are animated by considerations of personal safety only. Prince Ching himself has not yet left the metropolis, but he has sent his family to Tientsin. They will there wait until a safe retreat has been found for them in Shantung, and when they

have passed definitely under the wing of Germany, they will be joined by the aged statesman. Prince Hsu is evidently contemplating retirement to Mukden. He has already sent the members of his household thither, but his own journey was interrupted by the injury recently done to the railway north of Shanhaikwan. He therefore travelled by the branch line to Port Arthur whence he is expected to set out for Mukden in a few days. It is thought that all the other Princes will carry out a similar programme by retiring within the foreign settlements or spheres of influence. This is a spectacle which proves very revolting to the Japanese. They do not understand the spirit, or rather lack of spirit, which leads these Princes to abandon their cause incontinently, and to hold life so much more precious than honour or gratitude. This criticism seems to us to be somewhat emotional, but there can be no denying the fact that the Imperial Court in Peking has shown itself a very weak vessel on this occasion.

PEKING.

Side by side with the placable demeanour of the principal statesmen concerned, there is said to be in Peking a strong under-current of resistance to the new regime. Generals Chiang Kwei-ti and Chang Hsun are at the head of a large number of troops who are expected to violently oppose anything like abdication. The former of these two officers is well remembered by foreigners in connexion with the Boxer riots twelve years ago, when, rightly or wrongly, he earned the reputation of being thoroughly anti-foreign. The other general is the officer who talked so much at first about the invulnerability of Nanking and made such a poor resistance at the moment of fighting. These two officers are reckoned to be the head and front of opposition to a republican polity, and it is feared that nothing will prevent their recourse to arms at the supreme moment. The troops under their command are said to be the best drilled and best armed of any in the Chinese army, and there is proportionately great uneasiness in the capital as to the results of an outbreak fostered and headed by them. It will indeed be surprising if an event so far-reaching and so radical can be consummated without any further bloodshed.

A PERPLEXING ENCOUNTER.

On the evening of the 4th instant, a telegram reached the *Asahi Shimbun* from Peking to the effect that in the Hsuechow district of Anhui province a signal victory has been won by the Imperialists, five thousand Insurgents having been utterly defeated and decimated, whereafter they had been obliged to abandon their headquarters, so hot was the pursuit by General Chang's troops. But on the following day a flatly contradictory report reached Tokyo in the sense that so far from expelling the Insurgents from their position, General Chang had surrendered Hsuechow into their hands. We can make no attempt to reconcile these glaringly contradictory announcements, but since we reproduced the news of the alleged victory, we now give space to its contradiction.

MANCHURIA.

Saturday, February 3.

The operations of the Insurgent force, whose landing at Takushan has just taken place on a small scale, are evidently much hampered by Japan's resolve not to allow any military movement within the neutral territory in Manchuria. General Lan obviously contemplated putting a part of his troops ashore at Takushan and another part at Pitszwo, where the Japanese landed in both of their great wars. But the Japanese Government appears to have let it be known that no operation of the kind would be permitted at Pitszwo, which is in the immediate neighbourhood of Pulantien on the South-Manchuria Railway, or at Takushan, unless the landing party refrained from passing north of the Taiyang. This obviously means that Mukden could not be attacked by the invaders, and thus the whole operation assumes a somewhat farcical character. Another account however, represents the Insurgents,—whose numbers are variously placed at from 1,500 to 5,000 men,—as having already commenced their march against Liaoyang and Mukden and they are expected to reach the latter place in three or four days.

Monday, February 5.

There appears to have been a fight of very small dimensions on the 3rd inst. between the Insurgents who had landed at Pitszwo and an Imperialist force which had moved down to oppose the former. After a conflict of a few hours, the Imperialist troops withdrew and the casualties on their side were four killed and seventy prisoners, who seem to have surrendered without difficulty. Another petty engagement is said to have occurred on the same day at a place called Shuimeng and to have terminated in a similar manner as far as the general result was concerned, but nothing is said as to the casualties. The Insurgents are alleged to have formed themselves into three parties, all of which are moving towards Mukden where they expect to form a junction with a large force of mounted bandits. It is evident, in short, that the Three Eastern Provinces are falling into a state of great disorder, so great as to defy any efforts on the part of the Viceroy to maintain public peace and good order. It would not be at all surprising to learn that a Japanese military force had been ordered to proceed thither at any moment.

Wednesday, February 7.

There is no very decisive news from the three Eastern Provinces this morning, but a telegram suggests that Viceroy Chao has completely forfeited popularity. We do not wonder that such should be the case if the news hitherto received as to his vacillating methods be counted credible. General Lan, who commands the invading forces of the Insurgents, has issued a proclamation declaring that he holds the nomination of Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces, that that office was conferred on him by President Sun, and that all persons refusing to recognize it shall be subjected to extreme penalties. Meanwhile, the headquarters of the Imperialist troops appear to be at Fenghwan-cheng, which will be remembered as the first strong position on the road from Antung to Mukden. Lan is said to have despatched an envoy to the Imperialist camp, demanding immediate surrender and promising extermination as the alternative. We do not hear anything

more about the landing of troops in Manchuria, though some intelligence of that nature may be received before we go to press.

Thursday, February 8.

The nebulous element in the demeanour of Viceroy Chao towards the insurrection has been removed. It appears that he is staunchly opposed to the overthrow of the Manchu, but what rankles still more in his mind is that he himself was never consulted until an agreement had been virtually reached between Premier Yuan and President Sun. He complains in bitter terms that the Three Provinces under his administration have thus been launched upon a sea of uncertainty, and have become a regular seed plot of all kinds of outrages, incendiarism, theft, violation of women and murder. The responsibility for these unhappy events lie places entirely on Yuan's shoulders. His own mood is sufficiently proclaimed by the fact that he has refused to hand over to the Peking Government the Manchu heirlooms now stored in Mukden. It is understood to have been the intention of the Central Government to hypothecate these treasures as security for a loan. An appraiser had already been appointed, and two German merchants were reported to have arranged the preliminaries of the loan. Viceroy Chao has now peremptorily refused to sanction any such arrangement. The world knows little about these Mukden heirlooms. They have often been spoken of, and it is alleged that Lord Kitchener was allowed to view them on the occasion of his recent visit to Manchuria, but the impression carried away by the English General has not, so far as we know, become public property.

It appears that the column of Insurgents who had landed at Pitszwo, is under the command in-chief of General Ku Jen-i. This force is moving north-west upon Kaiping, and is expected to collide shortly with the Imperial forces under General Ma. But another telegram speaks of an engagement having actually taken place at Wafang-tien, which is on the road to Kaiping and was the scene of a battle in the Russo-Japanese war. The telegraph alleges that this encounter resulted in a victory for the Insurgents, two hundred of the Imperial troops having gone over to the invaders. The strength of the Insurgents now marching upon Kaiping is put at from 1,500 to 1,600 men. They intend to make their headquarters at Kaiping, as they would thus command the line of railway between Mukden, Tientsin and Peking. According to present appearances, the capture of Kaiping will not prove difficult.

The Insurgents are said to be despatching another force of 2,000 men to join in the Manchurian campaign, and they have sent emissaries to all the important points in the Three Eastern Provinces for the purpose of fomenting insurrection. They explain that these war-like movements will cease immediately on the abdication of the Throne. It will be observed by our readers that the Manchurian drama is being acted in open defiance of the armistice. Fighting has ceased in the Yangtze Valley, but in the Manchurian region there is not the smallest semblance of respect for the truce to which the Insurgent leaders have pledged themselves. This is one of the strangest features of the whole history.

The crucial question of the right of the Insurgents to land a force at Pitszwo has

now come to the front. Pitszwo is held to be within the neutral zone guaranteed by treaty, and when the Insurgents landed there they were immediately warned that the act was illegal, and were invited to withdraw. They have neglected this warning and are now marching inland with Pitszwo as a basis of operations. The Japanese Government, in these circumstances, is said to have repeated its warning, and if the Insurgents persist in neglecting it, a very difficult situation will be created.

At Newchwang the feeling is said to run very high in favour of monarchical institutions, and unless the situation changes in the course of the next few days, trouble is expected to arise there. It is for this reason that the Japanese Consul has warned all his fellow countrymen to adopt some means of establishing their national identity.

A PESSIMISTIC VIEW.

It is noticeable that the *Fiji Shimpō*, whose opinions deservedly command respect, takes a very pessimistic view of the outlook. Speaking editorially, it says that the Insurgents are to be heartily congratulated on having accomplished their purpose after more than twenty years of apparently abortive effort. But looking at the matter closely, one is compelled to admit that, if the seed was sown by the Insurgents, the fruit is reaped by Yuan Shih-kai. Does Yuan possess the qualifications necessary for the discharge of the high and difficult duties that will devolve on the first President of the Chinese Republic? Is he, in short, a second George Washington? The *Fiji* answers this question unhesitatingly in the negative. Without reference to the events of past years, the *Fiji* finds that Yuan's recent actions have marked him as a man of ability but not of virtue. It is impossible for such a character to win and hold the respect of an immense nation like the Chinese. The Insurgent leaders will inevitably feel that the issue of their own perseverance and courage has been simply to place Yuan and his partisans in the seats of power. Is there the smallest chance that such an arrangement will have any stability? The *Fiji* thinks not.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE OF CHINA.

For some days past Peking has been discussing the question of a suitable place for establishing the Provisional Government which is to officiate in the interval that must elapse before a National Assembly can be convened, and before things can be placed on a permanent basis. The Prime Minister and his supporters are understood to have been in favour of Peking, a very natural choice seeing that Peking has been the capital for centuries, and that its equipment for administrative purposes is complete. To select Peking, however, would have looked too like a victory for the Imperialists, and in deference to that consideration Tientsin was chosen. But it appears that the Insurgent leaders are now advocating the claims of Nanjing in preference to either Peking or Tientsin, and the impression is that some new centre will be selected. All this shows that the situation is more or less complicated by sentiment. Such minor details ought to be settled and dismissed in very brief order.

PRESIDENT SUN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY.

In a recent issue Mr. Ike Kokichi was spoken of as serving President Sun in the capacity of Private Secretary, and Mr. Homer Lea, the distinguished author of "The Valour of Ignorance," as holding the position of Sun's Adviser. Mr. Ike is now in Japan, where his declared object is to induce the Japanese Government to recognize the Insurgents as a belligerent State. He held a meeting in Osaka on the 4th instant, and it appears to have obtained the attendance of many of the leading men of business in that city. The gist of Mr. Ike's speech has been telephoned to Tokyo. He claims that in the spring of last year, he, being well acquainted with the trend of events in China, informed the Japanese Government of the insurrection then in the process of preparation in the Yangtze Valley, and endeavoured to enlist Japanese official aid for the Insurgents. But the Foreign Office in Tokyo, then under the direction of Marquis Komura, replied that as no intimation whatever had reached it from official sources in China, the action suggested by Mr. Ike could not be taken. Thereafter the insurrection broke out and Mr. Ike conveyed to the Japanese Government news that in spite of its apparent impregnability, the city of Nanking would fall into the hands of the Insurgents within twenty days. No attention was paid to this warning, and on the nineteenth day the flag of the insurrection was floating over Nanking. Further, Mr. Ike informed the Japanese Authorities that Dr. Sun Yat-sen would be the President of the first Chinese Republic, but the Foreign Office in Tokyo maintained that either Hwang or Li was a more probable candidate for that post. The inference to be drawn from these events was that the sources of information on which the Tokyo Cabinet relied were superficial and defective. Mr. Ike then went on to allege that the Foreign Office in Tokyo had allowed itself to be made a cat's paw of by Premier Yuan when the latter sought to create jealousy between the Insurgent leaders Hwang and Li. Finally he asserted that before leaving America Dr. Sun had waited upon Messrs. Carnegie and Morgan, and had received from them assurances that in the event of a Republic being established in China on a firm basis, they would gladly undertake to float a loan of 200 million *taels* for the new Republic. After the addresses had been delivered an association was formed calling itself the *Kyōwa-shōnin kisei dōmei kai* (Society for the recognition of the Chinese Republic.) Steps were then taken to approach the Foreign Office in Tokyo and the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking for the purpose of furthering the cause espoused by the Party.

Mr. Ike, President Sun's Private Secretary, is now sojourning at the Seiyoken in Tokyo. He is, of course, undergoing the usual ordeal of being interviewed, but it must be confessed that in his case there is good reason, for not only does he speak plainly and to the point, but also he is in a position to discourse authoritatively on the subject of the rebellion. He finds fault with the Japanese Government for having let other Powers get ahead of it in its relations with its neighbouring State, and he openly admits that his own coming to Japan has for motive to bring about the recognition of the Insurgents as belligerents. We cannot find that he adduces any proof of the

justice of this censure. He does not show or attempt to show that any foreign Government has anticipated Japan by recognizing the Yangtze Republic. More interesting, therefore, is what he says about the future of Yuan Shih-kai. He denies in the most emphatic terms that the Insurgent leaders will ever consent to act under or in concert with the Prime Minister Yuan. There can be nothing in common between Yuan and Sun. The former, according to Mr. Ike's view, is nothing better than a trickster. He attempted to discredit Sun in the eyes of the Insurgents by setting on foot a rumour that Sun had done nothing substantial for the cause he espoused, whereas the truth is that one of the first incidents of the insurrection was the despatch of 500,000 *taels* by Sun to General Li. Of course these details are not vital, but they have profound significance if they illustrate a conviction on the part of the Insurgents that Yuan is not to be trusted, and if they thus show that, even after abdication, no successful *ad interim* Cabinet can be formed by representatives of both sides unless Yuan or Sun or both of them resign.

THE INCOME TAX.

A rather interesting situation has presented itself in connexion with the question of the income tax. It will be remembered that a bill for reducing this tax was introduced by the Katsura Cabinet, but on that occasion it encountered fatal opposition from the *Seiyukai*, who preferred a reduction of the land-tax. The problem has again come upon the tapis. A Representation advocating a diminution of rates has been presented by the *Seiyukai* in the Lower House, and a bill for achieving the same purpose has been introduced by the three parties forming the Opposition. But the *Seiyukai* leaders have now asked their followers to desist from agitation in favour of the proposed reduction. It is pointed out that to adopt a measure involving a loss of seven or eight million *yen* of revenue is quite out of the question at present, and that the Cabinet can only pledge itself to effect the desired change during the fiscal year of 1913-14. Not unnaturally the members of the *Seiyukai* who do not hold official positions were inclined to be censorious of their leaders who, at one moment, approved of the above Representation, and at another, declared it to be impossible. For a moment this discrepancy between promises and results threatened the solidarity of the *Seiyukai*, but the crisis has been tided over by a formal promise that the reduction shall be effected next year, and that, in the meanwhile, the Representation shall be adopted by the Lower House.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

The *Chuo Shimbun* publishes information said to have been furnished by a member of the Foreign Office in Tokyo with reference to the bill now before the Senate in Washington. The real object of this bill is to exclude Chinese immigrants, and it was originally framed so as to cover Japanese immigrants also, inasmuch as its provisions were to be applicable to everyone not possessing the right of naturalization. The bill has been amended, however, in the sense of excepting the subjects or citizens of States having treaties with America. Thus its provisions ceased to be irksome to the Japanese.

YUAN AND JAPAN.

It is alleged that Premier Yuan is making full use of the Press to strengthen his political position. No one would complain of such action, so long as newspapers are not utilized to circulate false impressions or to foment international disputes. But telegrams received in Tokyo indicate that the Chinese Premier is organizing a diplomatic campaign against Japan, and is employing the newspapers to which he has access for the purposes of that campaign. His Excellency is represented as making much capital out of the orders issued to the Twelfth Division to hold itself in readiness for over-sea services. Mr. Yuan appears to regard that step as indicating very evil intentions on Japan's part, and it is said that he will endeavour to induce foreign Powers to share his views on the subject. It must be frankly confessed that the Japanese press has been disposed to regard Yuan's conduct of affairs in the Chinese crisis with not very lenient eyes; for Yuan, while certainly possessing great capacities, lacks some of the attributes which in Japanese opinion are essential elements of greatness. But that he should interpret in a hostile light the order issued to the Twelfth Division is extravagant in a degree. He must be fully sensible of the great material interests that Japan has in Manchuria, and, as a statesman, he must appreciate the Tokyo Government's necessity to protect those interests thoroughly and effectually. The Japanese nation would be justly indignant if its rulers sat with folded hands in the presence of such complications as those that confront Japan in the Three Eastern Provinces. A simple measure of precaution like ordering troops to hold themselves in readiness would elicit the applause rather than the censure of Occidental States, and if the Chinese Premier misconstrues the situation so greatly as this rumour suggests, he will be merely inviting the ridicule of the nations.

FOREIGN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

A news-agency—for such we judge the source to be—has informed the press of Tokyo that a substantial increase of their forces in China has been made, or is on the verge of being made, by the foreign Powers in China. England heads the list. She is alleged to have sent two regiments from India to Hongkong, whence one of them is to assume the duty of protecting life and property in Canton, and the other is to proceed to the north. Russia in Mongolia, Germany in Shantung, and France in Yunnan are all said to have taken similar steps. Experience shows that generally these news-agency's reports have largely to be discounted, if not rejected altogether.

AN ABLE OFFICIAL.

Friends of Mr. Teinosuke Harada, the well-known N.Y.K. official, will be interested to know that he has been transferred to the Tokyo Head Office of the Company as Assistant Manager of the Foreign Service Department. Mr. Harada was in the Kobe Branch of the Company for nine years up to February last year when he was transferred to their Yokohama Branch and he made many friends in both places. We wish Mr. Harada every success in his new position.

MONGOLIA.

Recently we were hearing about a Mongolian Prince called "A," who is supposed to be visiting Mukden in the interests of pro-Manchurian propaganda. We now read of another Prince, Na, to whom President Sun has addressed a strongly-worded injunction, that if Manchuria, Mongolia, Thibet and the Mohammedan country do not join hands heartily at this juncture, they will be offering a premium to Russian aggression. Prince Na is invited by President Sun to urge upon all the other Mongolian potentates, as well as Thibetan, that their only wise course is to throw in their lot resolutely with China. Naturally, President Sun does not attempt to explain the disadvantages which will fall to the lot of these outlying Principalities if they attempt to invite aggression by working independently of each other at this crisis.

At this point it is necessary to refer to a telegram addressed from Harbin to the *Asahi Shimbun*. The sender of the message professes to repeat the opinions expressed by a Russian diplomat in Harbin. The anonymous Russian is quoted as saying that Russia has ample confidence in herself, and that she has made up her mind as to the policy to be pursued in Mongolia. Japan is the only Power with which she has to reckon. She must anticipate a Japanese protest, but any complication in that direction can be averted by recourse to exchange, which would bring to Japan much more than it would take from her. Therefore Russia will proceed to build railways in Manchuria, and to push on generally without any hesitation.

Mongolia seems destined to occupy an important place in the present crisis. Dr. Sun is alleged to have addressed to Yuan Shih-kai a despatch which contains a very disquieting proposition. Sun is said to insist that the Manchu Dynasty must be held responsible for any untoward event that may occur in Mongolia. In other words, if the Mongolian Princes insist on asserting their independence towards the Chinese Republic, the rank and maintenance fund of the retired Sovereign shall be forfeited. Adequate steps must therefore be taken to provide for this contingency. The Mongolian Princes must be required to solemnly declare their adherence to the Republican cause, and to consider themselves an integral part of the Chinese State. Failing this acquiescence, preparations must be made to enforce the Chinese authority. Further, Sun insists that both Russia and Japan must be firmly and resolutely approached with regard to their policy in Manchuria and Mongolia.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS' S.N. COMPANY.

The shareholders of this Company held a general meeting in Shanghai on the 1st instant, and decided to place their fleet at the disposal of the Insurgents, in order that the ships might serve as security for a loan of ten million *taels*. One of the Directors, Mr. Ting, reported to the meeting that originally only forty-eight hours had been allowed for the Company to accept or reject the demand of the Insurgents. But the representatives of the shareholders pointed out that it was unreasonable to impose such narrow limits of time in a transaction of such magnitude. Some further time had then

been obtained, and delegates of the Company had waited upon President Sun and upon Mr. Wu Ting-fang, from both of whom they received explicit assurances that it was not contemplated to inflict any loss on the Company. The latter's ships might continue to carry out their duties in connexion with the various services maintained by them, and so soon as ever the cause of republicanism won the day, some other form of security would be found to pay off the debt incurred by hypothecating the Company's stock. The Directors and shareholders were conjured to observe that upon their decision rested the partition or the integrity of China. Mr. Ting further explained that a sum of 1½ million *taels* had already been borrowed by the Company from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the money had been handed over to the Insurgents' war-chest. On the strength of these engagements made by Messrs. Sun and Wu, the Directors invited the shareholders to agree to the Insurgents' demand, and a decision in that sense has been taken by the Company.

THE MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE.

We can well credit a telegram which says that the problem proving most difficult to solve is that of the maintenance allowance for the Sovereign and the Imperial Family after abdication. This is not a mere matter of amount, although the figures quoted from time to time have varied within such large limits as to suggest an exceedingly different estimate on both sides as to the expenses that may be considered an irreducible minimum in such a case. A more serious difficulty now spoken of is that the Insurgent leaders are inclined to oppose any grant prior to the meeting of a National Assembly. If such an objection has any validity, it must mean that not alone the amount of the allowance but also liability to pay it must be decided by the National Assembly. The Assembly, therefore, may vote and is not at all unlikely to vote, that either no allowance whatever need be granted, or that its amount may be very trifling. The Imperial Court, and indeed Yuan himself, will have to strenuously oppose such a surrender of what is regarded by the Imperialists as a *sine qua non*.

YUAN'S PREPARATIONS.

Elsewhere we reproduce a statement to the effect that Prime Minister Yuan has gradually brought together in Peking a force of eight thousand men in whose good faith and loyalty his Excellency places full reliance. This number is now put at five thousand, but the fact is not impugned. Indeed, Yuan would be very culpable had he failed to take that measure of precaution at least. He has also informed all the foreign Representatives in Peking that fully efficient measures for the preservation of life and property have been organized, and that he does not anticipate any difficulty in preserving peace and order on the morrow of the inauguration of the new Government. Each day that passes and each page of history that is turned over bears evidence of Yuan Shih-kai's power of prevision, his organizing capacity, his strength of purpose, his acumen and his confidence in himself. If he succeeds in carrying through his present programme the world will have to follow his countrymen in recognizing his greatness.

CHINESE ETIQUETTE.

One of the leading Tokyo dailies, namely, the *Chuo Shimbun*, which is generally regarded as an organ of the *Seiyukai*, tells a story which, if it be credible, bears witness to the extreme courtesy shown by the Chinese in the affairs of life. The Imperial Court, having agreed to divest itself of all administrative capacity, is said to have invited Yuan Shih-kai to counter-sign the Decree announcing the act of self-effacement. But Yuan strenuously objected to have his name associated with such a page of history. On the contrary, he asked the Throne to embody in the Decree an explicit statement that Prime Minister Yuan had objected to the abdication of the Throne's duties and prerogatives, but that his loyal counsels in this matter had been set aside by the Empress Dowager and the Imperial Princes. Yuan further claimed that the Decree should be counter-signed by the Empress Dowager and all the Princes of the Blood. This places Prince Ching and Prince Chun in a very invidious position, since it exposes them to the charge of having taken the leading part in bringing about abdication. They object strenuously to any public acknowledgment of the kind, and if Yuan holds out, a difficult situation may arise. On the whole, it must be confessed that Premier Yuan has been playing a little of the game of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

It appears that President Sun has for private Secretary Mr. Ike Kokichi, who, as his name indicates, is of Japanese origin. This gentleman has just arrived in Japan, charged to convey some private instructions to President Sun's son who is sojourning in this country. At Nagasaki, Mr. Ike was of course taken in hand by the reporters, and is said to have explained that the Emperor of China, immediately after abdicating the Throne, will proceed to Mukden to acknowledge his own shortcomings and to seek forgiveness for having been the means of forfeiting the Throne of China. After this act of confession and repentance, the Emperor will probably proceed to Jeliol to take up his residence there permanently. Mr. Ike adds that this matter has been privately discussed and arranged by Yuan and Sun.

PRESIDENT SUN AND THE JAPANESE.

It appears that President Sun is showing the cold shoulder to the Japanese adventurers who are flocking to the Valley of the Yangtze hoping to pick up some crumbs at the great revolutionary orgy which is soon to be carried out. Sun has dismissed all these adventurers and has kept only Messrs. Terao, Soyejima, Ike and Kayano. These four cannot possibly be included in any catalogue of "adventurers," but all accounts agree that not a few of their countrymen have crossed to China purely on speculation, just as men of similar stamp flocked to Formosa, Manchuria and Korea, to the great detriment of their country's reputation. It will be unquestionably a subject of congratulation if Sun has got rid of all these men.

THE LAW COURTS AT HONGKONG.

One of the most salient features of English colonial methods is the very palpable distinction attaching to the administration of justice. Whatever else may have been neglected, a place of worship and a seat of justice are always provided on a conspicuous scale. Hongkong offers a notable example of this principle. Its Law Courts were from the outset imposing and commodious buildings. But the colony was not satisfied with them. Eight years ago it set itself to build in their stead edifices on a scale almost magnificent; and these have now at length been completed. The new Courts were formally opened in the middle of last month, his Excellency the Governor presiding and a number of distinguished personages being present. It was almost a historic incident that the Chief Justice on this occasion was Sir Francis Piggott, who may with confidence be said to be the greatest jurist that has ever presided over the administration of justice in Hongkong. He is almost equally famous as a writer, an artist and a musician, and he is, in truth, one of those rare men who seems capable of mastering any subject to which they choose to apply their minds. That the new Law Courts should have been opened by such a Chief Justice was almost more than a coincidence. We reproduce from the *Hongkong Press* a verbatim report of the speech delivered by Sir Francis on the occasion. His Lordship said:—

Your Excellency: There are so many of us who have watched the progress of the building for so long, some of us for three years, yourself for five, I for seven, and some, so history relates, for ten years, that we have come to be somewhat critical about it. Progress has been so slow, the time of observation has been so long, difficulties have become so palpable, have obtruded themselves so much upon our attention, have so persistently attracted our attention during our daily walks, that there is not one of us, with however little architectural knowledge, but has had his fling of criticism, and no detail has escaped the sharp edge of sarcasm. The curve of the dome, every detail of the internal arrangements, have all been subjected to this criticism. But to-day, when you are, in the name of the King, present to give it its inaugural benison, I think our criticisms should be less truculent. To its blemishes we should be somewhat blind, and in its virtues very kind. For indeed this building has many virtues, chief among them the solidity of the fabric. I think the Colony must be very proud of the very famous masonry which has been put into it, and I make bold to prophesy that in the years when Victoria has ceased to be, when the harbour has silted up, and when even the Hongkong Club has crumbled away, this building will remain, like the Pyramids, a monument to the genius and energy of our race. Then, Sir, there are the dimensions of the Courts. The great Court, and even the two smaller ones, are among the largest courts in the Empire, and from these two virtues I deduce a third, that the Government, in devoting so much time and energy and money to the erection of this building, has come to realise the truth of the belief to which I am never tired of giving utterance, the prominent position which the Supreme Court of Hongkong holds in the galaxy of courts in the British Empire. In the wealth and commercial importance of the suitors who come before it; in the intricacy of the legal problems which they set for our solution, this Court is second to none, and that is so, especially with those problems of international law which the ubiquitous British tribunals are perpetually raising, and which our learned colleagues in England know only from the dark pages of text books. Those problems we here meet face to face, and have to deal with in practice every day of our judicial life. It is inevitable on an occasion like this, that I should refer to a question of peculiar interest to suitors. What I have just said with regard to the ubiquity of the British jurisdiction leads me especially to refer to the manner in which Your Excellency has identified yourself with the administration of justice. For the Courts have to deal with the rights of property and obligations of Chinese, not merely subjects of the King of Chinese origin, but natives of

China who live or trade in the Colony, and hitherto, in dealing with the question of succession and other questions relating to the family law of the Chinese, this Court has been almost entirely ignorant of the principles which underlie Chinese law and custom. It has allowed the law, so to speak, to fulfil its end in a somewhat haphazard fashion, but in issuing a commission to consider that law and to draw up a series of principles based upon it, which the Court will be able to refer to, the Court will in future be able to administer those questions with great certainty, and you, Sir, in doing this, have earned the gratitude of every Chinese suitor. It is fitting, therefore, that on such an occasion, I should thank you for so readily assenting to the proposition of the Judges. I have also to thank you for coming here to-day to open these Courts in the name of the King.

AMERICA AND CHINA.

The Secretary of State in Washington is telegraphically alleged to have made a new departure. He is described as proposing that the six great Powers, namely, Germany, England, France, Russia, Japan and the United States, should pledge themselves solemnly and collectively to abstain from everything in the nature of an aggressive act at China's expense, whatever complexion the political situation there may assume. An invitation in this sense is said to have been addressed by Washington to Berlin in the first place, but the reply made by the German Government, if indeed any has yet been made, is not public property. We very greatly doubt the truth of this telegram. It seems to us that even the neutralization proposal of two years ago was more practical and less romantic. Surely it is extravagant that Powers whose interests are comparatively petty, and whose absence from the scene is measured by thousands of miles, should venture to dictate a policy to countries which have almost vital interests, and whose territories march side by side with those of China? Russia and Japan occupy towards the present crisis a situation quite apart, and we cannot think it possible that the Governments of these two Empires should pledge themselves to abstain totally from a course which circumstances might imperatively dictate at any movement. We are prepared to hear, therefore, that no such proposals have been formulated by Washington or submitted in the first place to German scrutiny.

THE CHINESE COURT'S TERMS.

PRICE OF ABDICATION.

The Tokyo papers publish the full text of the conditions alleged to have been demanded by the Empress Dowager of the Revolutionists as the price of abdication. They are as under:—

Treatment of the Emperor.—(1) The title of "Emperor of Great China" shall be hereditary and the same honour shall be accorded to the Emperor as is accorded to foreign sovereigns. (2) A civil list of not less than 4,000,000 taels shall be granted, and the expenses incurred in special ceremonies shall be borne by the nation. (3) The Emperor shall have the liberty of residing at the Imperial Palace or Wang Shoushan Palace as he pleases, and the Palace shall be guarded by the Imperial Guards as before. (4) The Ancestral tombs and shrine shall be conserved in perpetuity, and guarded by the Imperial troops, and the expenses incurred by Imperial visits thereto shall be borne by the nation. (5) The cost of completing the work of the tomb of the late Emperor

shall be borne by the nation. (6) Court officials shall be appointed by the Emperor. (7) The property of the Emperor shall be fully protected. (8) The celebration of Imperial felicitations shall be duly observed by the nation. (9) Salaries shall be paid to the Imperial guards as heretofore.

Treatment of the Imperial Princes and Princesses.—(1) The titles of the Imperial Princes and noblemen shall be hereditary, and the Emperor shall have the right to sanction the succession and to confer honours. (2) The Imperial Princes and Princesses shall stand on equal footing with the people in regard to the public rights of the State. (3) The private property of the Imperial Princes and Princesses shall be fully protected. (4) The Imperial Princes shall be exempt from conscript service.

Treatment of the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans, and Tibetans.—(1) These people shall be treated on an equal footing with the Chinese. (2) Their property shall be fully protected. (3) The titles of Princes and other nobility shall be hereditary. (4) An hereditary estate shall be created to relieve the difficulties of livelihood. (5) Allowances shall be granted to the Banner-men as heretofore. (6) The restrictions placed on their business and residence shall be removed and they shall be allowed to reside in any of the provinces. (7) Freedom of religious faith shall be granted them.

The Empress Dowager has directed Yuan to send official notes to various countries of these conditions and also to forward a note to the International Peace Conference at The Hague through the Chinese Minister accredited to the Netherlands.

CONFIRMATION.

If any confirmation were needed of the facts related above with reference to the proposals formulated by the Chinese Court it is furnished by a telegram to the Tokyo press. The message relates that on the 3rd instant, after his return from the Palace, Yuan Shih-kai invited the Japanese Legation to send a member of its staff to his *yamen*. To this member he explained that the Empress Dowager had just commissioned him to arrange terms of settlement with the Insurgents, as set forth in a document of which he handed a copy to his visitor. The Premier explained that minor modifications might have to be made in the sequel of conferences between the two sides, but that it might be accepted with considerable confidence that a working basis of agreement has now been found. We presume that this information has been supplied by the Foreign Office in Tokyo to the Japanese press.

AN IMPERIALIST VICTORY.

News comes from Anhui that on the 27th and 28th of last month a force of Insurgents numbering 5,000 infantry, with a considerable park of artillery, made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Yingchow. The Imperialist troops immediately marched out of the latter place, attacked the Insurgents, and defeated them signally. The casualties on the Insurgent side are put at 1,000 killed, whereas the Imperialists lost only 100. The telegram adds that the Imperialists pushed on and seized the camp of the Insurgents, so that the route of their retreat was entirely cut off.

THE HANYA-PINGHSIEN CORPORATION.

JOINT CONTROL BY JAPANESE AND CHINESE.

A rumour has for several days past been current that a provisional agreement was signed in Tokyo on the 28th ult. for the transfer of the Hanyang-Pinghsien Coal Mine and Steel Foundry Company to the joint management of Chinese and Japanese capitalists. The rumour is confirmed by a Nanking telegram which reached Tokyo on the 4th instant, so that the scheme, which originated several years back, has now, it appears, been finally consummated.

Reviewing the history of the Company, the *Tokyo Asahi* says that it is formed by the amalgamation of the Hanyang Iron Foundry, the Taya iron mine, and the Pinghsien coal mine. Some years ago, a discovery was made by the late Chang Chi-tung of the existence of rich iron ore in Taya. The mines were worked with the assistance of Sheng Huan-huai and a foundry was established at Hanyang. Subsequently the coal mines at Pinghsien were worked to supply the foundry with coke, capital being raised by public subscription. The Company afterwards passed into the sole management of Sheng Huan-huai, who amalgamated the three concerns with a capital of 20 million *taels*, when the enterprise was converted into a purely private undertaking.

The Taya iron mines are located on the right bank of the Yangtze, 67 miles below Hankow, and consist of Tieh-shan, Shihze-shan and Lantao mines. The annual output totals 1,000,000 tons and the mines are so rich that it is estimated they will last some two hundred years. A railway has been built for twenty miles to the river bank to facilitate transportation. The ore is said to contain 62.3 per cent. of iron. The Hanyang foundry is located at the foot of Tapieshan, and is equipped with thoroughly modern appliances capable of turning out 140,000 tons of pig iron and 70,000 tons of steel. The pig-iron turned out in 1910 reached a total of 130,000 tons. The Pinghsien coal mine is located at Pinghsien in Kiangsi province. A colliery railway runs to Chuchow to facilitate transportation. Over three thousand miners are employed and the annual output amounts to some half a million tons. The quality is also fit for the manufacture of coke.

In early days, Chang Chi-tung raised a 3,000,000 *taels* loan from Germany for the working of the iron-mine and the business was entrusted to the management of Germans. Subsequently the loan was repaid and the business was transferred to the hands of Chinese. About ten million *taels* of Government money were invested in the enterprise, but owing to unskillful management the concern was run at a loss. Sheng Huan-huai then paid to the Government half a million *taels* and secured the business. The Pinghsien coal mine was also worked jointly by Chang Chi-tung and Sheng Huan-huai with one million *taels* of Government funds, but a 3,000,000 *mark* loan was raised from Germany and German experts were employed. The capital was increased until the sum invested eventually reached 6,000,000 *taels*. Simultaneously with the transfer of the Taya iron mine and the Hanyang foundry to Sheng Huan-huai, the coal mine also passed into his hands. The

three concerns were then amalgamated. According to the estimate of a foreign expert, the Hanyang foundry is appraised at 12 million *taels*, the Taya iron mine at 11 million *taels* and the Pinghsien coal mine at two million *taels*, altogether amounting to 40 million *taels*.

Japan has contributed not a little to the present prosperity of the gigantic enterprise. When the Government Steel Foundry was first established in Wakamatsu in 1902, a contract was signed for the purchase of iron ore for a period of fifteen years. Two years later, that is, in 1904, three million *yen* was advanced to the Company by a certain bank and since that time advances have repeatedly been granted by the Specie Bank, Industrial Bank, the Mitsui Ginko, Okura Gumi and others, until the outstanding loans now amount to some nine million *yen*. In fact all the working capital had been and is still being supplied by Japanese capitalists. Sheng Huan-huai had a desire to transfer the business to joint enterprises with Japanese capitalists, but the Chinese law then in force obstructed the scheme. When Sheng's political enemy, Yuan Shih-kai, came into power, Yuan attempted to charge Sheng with embezzlement of Government money, so as to confiscate the enterprise. Yuan's downfall saved the Company from the impending danger, and when Sheng rose into power, he enacted a law enabling commercial companies to introduce foreign capital to the extent of one-half of their authorized capital, and thus a path was paved for the joint enterprise. The sudden outbreak of the Wuchang insurrection compelled Sheng to take refuge in Japan. The Revolutionists are now attempting to accomplish what Yuan Shih-kai left undone, that is to confiscate the company's property in order to raise war funds. Sheng's property was thus again imperilled. As this was calculated to affect the interests of the Japanese creditors, the parties concerned met in conference, and as a result it was decided to pay to the Revolutionists the sum of 5,000,000 *yen* to get the distraint removed and at the same time to place the company under the joint enterprise of Chinese and Japanese capitalists.

The conditions of the joint enterprise are not yet known, but it is not very difficult to guess at the terms. The authorized capital of the Company is 20 million *taels*, of which 18 million *taels* is paid-up. Of the latter sum 5,000,000 *taels* is to be paid to the Revolutionists, so that the actual capital invested will be 13 millions *taels*. Japan's loan amounts to nine million *yen* as stated elsewhere, and 5,000,000 *taels* payable to the Revolutionists will in all probability have to be paid by the Japanese capitalists, which brings up the total loan to about 15 million *yen*. The Chinese capitalists will, therefore, pay in two million *yen* to bring up the total capital to 30 million *yen*, each side thus contributing one-half of the capital.

Marquis Saionji, the Prime Minister, who has been confined to his bed at his villa at Oiso, returned to the capital on the 6th instant, when Prince Katsura and Marquis Inouye visited him. Marquis Inouye again called on the Premier on the 7th and had an interview lasting several hours. Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, and Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, were also present. It is believed that

the proposed loan to the Taya coal mine was discussed at the conference.

The *Fiji Shampo* reports in this context that prior to the outbreak of the insurrection in Central China, there had been some talk between Sheng Huan-kwai and Japanese capitalists of a loan on the security of the property of the Hanyang Pinghsien Corporation. The negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion only recently, the loan agreed upon being between two and a half to three million *yen*. A provisional contract has already been signed. A belief obtains that the loan is a prelude to the future transfer of the concern to joint enterprise of Chinese and Japanese capitalists.

COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

STATEMENT BY WU TING-FANG.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires the text of a telegram sent by Wu Ting-fang to the Provisional Government at Nanking on the 30th ult. The telegram reads:—

"On the 28th of October (Chinese calendar) I entered into peace negotiations with the plenipotentiary dispatched by Yuan Shih-kai and came to an agreement on the following points:—1. That hostile actions shall be suspended in Hupeh, Shansi, Shensi, Shantung, Anhui, Kiangsu, and Mukden provinces. 2. That a national Assembly shall be convened to decide the future polity by popular vote. An election law was accordingly framed on consultation. Yuan then abruptly revoked the credentials of the plenipotentiary, and entered into telegraphic negotiations direct with me, when he attempted to cancel the agreement to which his plenipotentiary had set his hand. I insisted that the agreement did not admit of cancellation. In the meantime the period of armistice expired and the chance to arrive at a solution of the situation was lost. Yuan then asked for a renewal of the armistice. I consented to a fortnight's extension with the consent of the Provisional Government, as I was then in receipt of advices from the foreign community in Shanghai of the desirability of a peaceful settlement. At the same time I announced that I would not consent to a further extension, as it would upset the strategical programme. Before the expiration of the period of armistice there arose a proposal for abdication. I officially notified the Peking Government of the terms of treatment of the Imperial House after abdication and also that Manchus, Mongolians and Tibetans would receive treatment similar to that accorded to Chinese. President Sun also subsequently intimated to Yuan that he would relinquish the presidency in favour of Yuan Shih-kai, who would be elected President by the State Council on the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu Emperor. All these facts show clearly that the Republican Government sincerely desired a peaceful settlement of the situation. A minority of the Imperial princes persistently opposed the abdication; and various disquieting reports continued to arrive from Peking. The blame for the delay in the conclusion of a peaceful settlement must lie with the Peking Government. The latest intelligence is that General Tuan Chih-jui and forty-two army officers have presented to the Throne a memorial recommending the proclamation of a republic."

lica government. General Tuan has the First and Second Divisions under him and holds command of the Imperial forces in the direction of Wuchang. I have repeatedly telegraphed to Li Yuan-hung urging him to come to terms with General Tuan, to prevent the resuscitation of war in that direction. The Imperial army in Shensi, Anhui and Haichow have on many occasions broken the terms of armistice, but nevertheless, have tried to lay the blame on the Revolutionists. I refuted their accusations and vindicated our action. Yuan consented to instruct Chang Hsun and other commanders to refrain from any breach of the terms of armistice and also to dispatch a special envoy to Shensi with a message to the commander of the Imperial army there to stop his advance. I do not know if the promise has been faithfully performed. The period of armistice has now expired, but we ought not to take the initiative in the resumption of hostilities, and the Provisional Government should issue a declaration in that sense. I hereby submit the progress of the negotiations for the consideration of the Provisional Government."

REPUBLICAN TERMS.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Nanking correspondent wires that the Revolutionary Government forwarded to Yuan Shih-kai on the 5th inst., a telegraphic reply to the proposed conditions for the Emperor's abdication. According to the telegram the conditions accepted by the Revolutionists are as under:—

- (1) The annuity of four million *taels* shall be altered to four million dollars.
- (2) The Emperor shall reside in Hanyuen after his abdication.
- (3) The Emperor may continue to employ his eunuchs, but shall not engage any new ones.
- (4) The Emperor may continue to retain the Imperial guards.
- (5) The Emperor may continue to assume the title of Emperor.
- (6) The tomb of the late Emperor shall be built at the expense of the Republican Government and the religious services at the Imperial ancestral tombs shall be conducted and the sepulchres guarded by the Republican Government.
- (7) The private property of the members of the Imperial family shall not be interfered with.
- (8) An official note shall be issued to the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Tibetans, guaranteeing freedom of religious faith.
- (9) The Imperial Princes and nobility may retain their titles and property intact, as long as they accept the republican polity.
- (10) The present salaries shall be paid to the Bannermen as long as they accept the republican polity. These terms shall be notified to the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking through Wu Ting-fang.

THE "FURI-KAE CHOKIN."

The Department of Communications has made public in the *Official Gazette* a revision of the regulations of the "Furi-kae chokin." The chief points of the revision comprise the reduction to 10 *yen* of the deposit to be made for participation in the *furikae* account; the reduction to 5 *sen* of the fee for each withdrawal; and provisions for the money sent by *furikae* being paid over to the receivers at their addresses. On the whole, the revision dispenses with much cumbersome procedure. The revised regulations come into operation on and after March 1st next.

THE KIANGSI RAILWAY COMPANY.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR LOAN.

It has been frequently rumoured that the Kiangsi Railway Company had applied to foreign capitalists for a loan to tide over its financial difficulties, and, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, negotiations for a loan are now in progress between the company and certain Japanese capitalists. The company acquired a charter in 1904 for laying lines throughout Kiangsi province. According to the original scheme, a trunk line was to be built from Kiukiang to the Kwantung frontier *via* Nanchang, the distance being 460 miles, with branch lines running to Fukien, Chekiang and Yuanchow, making a total length of 740 miles, the cost being estimated at about 4,070 million *taels*, which was to be raised partly from *likin* and partly from foreign loans. At the outset an attempt was made to construct 79 miles of trunk line between Kiukiang and Nanchang, the construction of which was estimated to cost about 90,000 *taels* per mile, the total cost thus amounting to some 70 million *taels*. The capital raised by subscription to the shares did not exceed 200,000 *taels*, while the *likin* collected amounted to only 350,000 *taels*. The railway authorities then raised a loan of one million *taels* in Japan. The services of Mr. Oka and several other Japanese railway experts were also retained, and the Okura Gumi received the contract for the construction of the railway, the locomotives and rolling stock being supplied by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. The subscriptions for shares proved unsuccessful and the revenue from *likin* also fell short of anticipation. The company thus fell into financial difficulties and was not able to pay the Okura Gumi more than 160,000 *yen* against a contract price amounting to 360,000 *yen*. The company also owed several hundred thousand *yen* to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha for the rolling stock supplied. Owing to the carelessness of the Chinese expert working under the superintendence of Mr. Oka, a railway bridge collapsed shortly after its completion, and Mr. Oka was compelled to resign, taking the moral responsibility on himself. All the other Japanese experts also resigned and returned home, and a breach was thus created between the company and the Japanese capitalists. The financial difficulties of the company then grew more acute, and only 32 miles of the line between Kiukiang and Tean was completed, leading 46 miles unfinished. The company was even unable to run any traffic on the finished portion, owing to the collapse of railway bridges and tunnels, and yet had to pay workmen's wages and interest on loans. In the circumstances the railway authorities decided to relieve the financial difficulty by raising a foreign loan. The capital raised by the subscriptions to shares and *likin* up to date amounted to about two million *taels*, whereas the total outlay aggregated about three million *taels*. The construction of lines between Tean and Nanchang involved at least four million *taels* while the outstanding debts to the Okura Gumi and the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha stood at about 700,000 *taels*, so that the Company had to raise four or five million *taels* to tide it over the crisis. The company accordingly entered into an agreement with a Chinese bank for a loan of four million *taels*, but the loan was vetoed by order of the Department

of Communications on the eve of its successful conclusion. The Company had no alternative but to submit to the injunction. Since the outbreak of the revolutionary disturbance in Central China, the authority of the Peking Government has fallen to the ground, and the Company has again entered into negotiations with Japanese capitalists. Our contemporary adds that a certain foreign Power is making strenuous efforts to advance capital to the company to the exclusion of the Japanese capitalists.

JAPAN AND THE REVOLUTION.

QUESTION OF OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

An association recently organized by the Popular Party for the recognition of the Republican Government of China decided to make it a national movement and approached the standing committee of the *Seiyukai* with the proposal. The standing committeemen are said to have joined in the movement in their private capacity. The Executive Committee of the association meet on the 2nd inst., those present including several members of the *Seiyukai*, when the following resolution was adopted:—

"When the peace conference first met in Shanghai, Great Britain, Russia, France, Germany, the United States and Japan sent a *Note Identique* to the peace plenipotentiaries, expressing a desire for a speedy restoration of peace, and thus unofficially recognized the Revolutionists as a belligerent body. The result of the peace conference remains yet obscure and the desire of the six Powers is unrealized. There can no longer be any doubt, however, that the time is now ripe for officially recognising the revolutionists as a belligerent body. The situation in China is so rapidly evolving that the Association feel convinced that the time will soon come when Japan will be called upon to recognize a new government before she has had the opportunity of recognizing the Revolutionists as a belligerent body. The relation of neighbours exists between the Empire and China and the necessity of maintaining cordial relations cannot be gainsaid. In view of the peculiar position Japan occupies and the development of the situation in China, it is hoped that the Government will seize the first opportunity to give official recognition to the new Government of China."

It was also resolved to approach the Genro statesmen, the Ministers of State, and the leaders of the political parties with the proposal. Over twenty delegates have been appointed. The delegates met again on the 3rd instant and afterwards paid a visit to Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and laid before them the resolution.

OFFICIAL LOAN RATES.

The Nippon Giako officially announces a revision of the loan rate, the interest on loans being raised by one-tenth of a *sen* all round. The revised loan rates are 1.6 *sen* per diem for discount of commercial bills; 1.6 *sen* or over per diem for loans on national securities; and 1.7 *sen* or over for loans on securities other than national bonds, and for discount of commercial bills secured by negotiable documents other than national bonds. The revised official loan rates came into operation from the 7th instant.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

EFFECT OF REVISION OF IMMIGRATION LAW.

The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain diplomat as saying that the revision of the Immigration Law now before the U.S. Senate affects Japan, and therefore the progress of the debate is being closely watched in this country. The revision of the Law is owing to the recent influx of undesirable immigrants from Italy, Russia and other countries, who are detrimental to the morale of the country. A few years ago Congress appointed an Immigration Commission to investigate the subject, and the Immigration Law Revision Bill has been drafted by the Immigration Committee of the Senate on the basis of the report of the Commission. The most important conditions are that immigrants must be able to read and write one language and must be those who are entitled to naturalization. The first condition has for its object the exclusion of inferior immigrants arriving from Italy, Russia and other European countries, who can not read and write even in their own language. The second condition is manifestly for the exclusion of Asiatic immigrants. Though the revision is no doubt tinged with party politics, it is also framed with a view to improving relations with China. Everybody knows that the United States is doing her best to curry favour with China. The Chinese themselves know it, but they still maintain a reserved attitude towards the United States owing to the Chinese Exclusion Law. Some Americans advocate the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Law to pacify popular feeling in China. Conditions in the United States, however, render the abolition of the Exclusion Law impracticable, and it is now proposed to continue the exclusion of Chinese without having recourse to an Exclusion Law exclusively applicable to the nationals of that country. Consequently, an attempt is being made to repeal the law, but at the same time to practically enforce exclusion under the clause which prohibits the entrance of immigrants who are not entitled to naturalization. The clause would also apply to Japanese immigrants.

The first of the above conditions seems reasonable, but Italian and Russian immigrants settled in America found it detrimental to their own interests and induced the committee to strike it out. The second condition is diametrically opposed to Articles 1 and 4 of the Commercial Treaty existing between the United States and Japan, and the latter country would certainly not have passed it over in silence. The United States also recognized that it was unreasonable to enforce such differential treatment calculated to hurt the natural pride in defiance of the efforts made by the Japanese Government to regulate Japanese immigration to the United States, and therefore modified the condition by the proviso "except in cases specified by Treaty." The Revision Bill has thus been shorn of its essential elements.

The present Immigration Law has undergone revision after revision and has become so complex and cumbersome, that it requires thorough overhaul. The United States commercial treaties with Japan and other countries recognize freedom of residence and travel of the subjects of the treaty Powers, so that the restriction, especially when it is modified by the said clause, has no practical effect. Inasmuch, however, as the American-

Chinese Commercial Treaty does not recognize this freedom, the said restriction is applicable to Chinese immigrants. The United States evidently intends to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Law, and though the repeal can have no practical value, it can not fail to allay the bad feeling of the Chinese people, as the cancellation of the proviso of Article 2 of the old American-Japanese treaty did in the case of the Japanese, though the restriction of immigrants continues to exist by virtue of a Memorandum.

The present Immigration Law contains a proviso whereby the President may prohibit transmigration of Japanese and Korean immigrants in the Hawaiian islands to the American continent when he deems it to disturb the condition of the labour market in the United States. As a matter of fact the transmigration of Japanese labourers in Hawaii to the continent is prohibited by virtue of the provision. The argument is, nevertheless, raised that this clause constitutes a breach of the freedom of travel guaranteed by the American constitution and it is also asserted that the clause conflicts with the freedom of residence specified by the American-Japanese treaty. Under the old treaty it was interpreted that Japan had given an implied consent to such a restriction, because of the presence of the proviso of Article 2. Now that the proviso has been struck out from the new treaty, the prohibition of the transmigration from the Hawaiian islands must be pronounced as an infringement of treaty rights. The brief telegram to hand give no information on this point, but presumably the clause has been struck out in the revision. According to information the committee of the Senate has in view the cancellation of all such clauses relating to differential treatment and will make an arrangement to prohibit transmigration to the American continent not only of Japanese but of all other alien immigrants in the Hawaiian Islands. In that case a question will naturally arise as to whether this is not a breach of the American Constitution. Further comment must be reserved until after receipt of full information.

FIGHTING IN MONGOLIA.

ALLEGED ACTION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires under date of the 7th instant that at dawn on February 1st, some 300 Mongolians attacked Lupincheng near Manjilie station, but were repulsed by the Chinese garrison and retreated towards 9 o'clock the same morning, leaving a large number killed and wounded. Amongst the corpses were found a Russian officer and several privates, in Mongolian dress. This gives conclusive evidence to the fact that many Russians are taking part with the Mongolians. It is also evident that arms have been supplied by the Russians, since the Mongolian residents in Russian territory are forbidden to have arms in their possession. The Russian Government may probably not be aware of such a fact, but the action of the Russians clearly constitutes a breach of neutrality. The Peking Government is about to present a protest to the Russian Government in connexion with the affair.

From Tientsin also comes the news that according to a Tsitsihar telegram the two armies collided at Manjilie. There were many Russian soldiers amongst the Mongolians, and over a dozen of these Russian

officers and men were killed in the battle. The Russians mobilized the garrison and assumed the offensive against Lupincheng.

The Commander of the Chinese guards, finding it impossible to resist, delivered to the Russians their arms and surrendered the local *yamen*.

The report is corroborated by the Changchun correspondent of the same journal, who wires that about 600 Mongolians renewed the attack on Manjilie on the 2nd instant and laid siege to the prefect's *yamen*, when about 400 Russian soldiers took up positions on the frontier of the leased territory. The Chinese soldiers were compelled to surrender to the Mongolians all their arms and the prefect and about 150 men withdrew into the leased territory. The Mongolians took possession of the prefect's *yamen* and then the Russian soldiers were withdrawn.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

With reference to the Tokyo Municipal bonds, the *Tokyo Asahi* writes that when the issue of the bonds was approved by the Municipal Council, it was arranged to issue £9,175,000 sterling worth of bonds at £96 per £100 face value, to cover the purchase price of the tramways, which amounted to 86,038,518 yen. By the conditions of the loan now agreed upon, the net proceeds are put at £92½ per £100 face value, so that the deficit on the original estimate amounts to about 3,500,000 yen. The electric business budget already voted for next fiscal year by the Council, aggregates about 9,760,000 yen. This sum will have to be raised by the issue of a Municipal loan. When the tramway purchase value is added to this, the total outlay reaches about 74,340,000 yen. Again when the decrease of 3,500,000 yen in the net proceeds is added, the total outlay amounts to about 78,000,000 yen, leaving a balance of only 8,000,000 yen of the 86,000,000 yen originally voted by the Council. This balance barely covers one-fifth of the estimate for the extension of the lines and electric lighting, which involve an outlay of 43,000,000 yen. The Municipality has therefore had to alter the original plan and limit the amount of issue to £9,000,000 and to appropriate the proceeds to the purchase price and the allotment for next fiscal year of the contemplated extension of the lines and electric lighting. Any further outlay will have to be met by means of a Municipal loan. The period of redemption of the loan is likely to be altered to 40 years to meet the wishes of the foreign capitalists, the unredeemed period being also extended to 10 years.

PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT SIGNED.

Telegraphic advices received by the Japan Industrial Bank on Tuesday morning reported the successful conclusion of the Tokyo Municipal loan, amounting to £9,175,000 sterling. A provisional agreement was subsequently signed between Mayor Ozaki and the Industrial Bank. The publication of the conditions of the loan is still reserved, but the Tokyo papers learn that it bears five per cent. interest and is to be issued in Paris, London and New York, being apportioned at the rate of 40 million yen to Paris, 30 million yen to London and 20 million yen to New York, the net proceeds being 92, 92½ and 93½ respectively.

The *Fiji Shimpō* states in this context that at first sight the net proceeds

of that portion of the loan to be issued in Paris would appear too small, but according to the present arrangement the *abonnement* is to be borne by the subscribers, so that the net rate of interest stands at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and is, therefore, rather advantageous to the Municipality. The bonds heretofore issued in London bore full coupons, but the present issue will not carry full coupons. The terms are considered as a success on the whole, in the present economic conditions abroad.

With reference to the issue of the Tokyo Municipal loan reported in our last issue, the *Tokyo Asahi* further learns that the provisional contract will be submitted to the Municipal Council on the 12th inst for confirmation. The allotment of the bond is four million pounds to Paris, £3,175,000 sterling to London, and two million pounds to New York, the total amount of issue being £9,175,000 sterling. The Municipal authorities state that the net proceeds all round are £92½ sterling per £100 face value, but the Industrial Bank asserts they stand at £92.66. The unredeemed period is four years, the loan being redeemable in the forty-one succeeding years. The proceeds will be paid over to the Municipality in the early part of March next. Mayor Ozaki calculates the first instalment will reach over 60 million *yen* and will cover the tramway purchase price, which amounts to 64,584,854 *yen*.

A DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PARTICLES.

Under the title of "A Dictionary of English Particles and Other Grammatically Important Words," Professor S. Katsumata, who teaches English at Waseda University, has issued a volume which speaks eloquently of the great progress that has been made in Japan during the past few decades in the matter of linguistic instruction. The writer of this note can easily recall the days when an English student studying the Japanese language or a Japanese student studying English, had one aid, and one aid only, namely, Dr. Hepburn's dictionary. Much as it left to be desired, that book did incalculable service during several years after its publication, and it earned for its indefatigable author an undying title for assiduity and scholarship. Now, on the contrary, it would take quite a long time to name all the books accessible to a Japanese student of English or an English student of Japanese. We are greatly mistaken, however, if Professor Katsumata's work does not prove one of the most valuable published. He has only given us one volume as yet, and though it contains 384 pages, it does not take us beyond the letter *G*. He must have spent many years on the compilation of such a work, but that it will meet its reward there can be no doubt. The main object of the Professor seems to have been to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge of the use of prepositions, which branch of English is considered by many good judges to present almost insuperable difficulties to foreign students. But his work is by no means limited to a discussion of prepositions. He has extended his labours to practically all the difficult English idioms and expressions, so that students will find their toil immensely lightened. There could be no more practical

method of learning a language than to study its idioms, illustrated by their almost exact equivalents in the language of the teacher. There is nothing else to be said about the Professor's achievement, but we desire to offer him our hearty congratulations on having compiled a work which will shed a flood of light on the road along which many and many a student is now wending his perplexed way. To show that this eulogy is not excessive, we quote a few examples taken at random from the pages of the work, and rendered into *rōmaji* :—

There was nothing innately bad about the boy, but there was about his surroundings.

Imitation cannot go above its model.

The sadness that had come across him was gone.

Do you doubt that I am your friend after so many proofs of devotion?

I cannot very well ask him to do it against his will.

Self reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, these three alone lead life to sovereign power.

I don't suppose you like it any better than I do.

There is a kind of vanity in wearing old and untidy clothes, just as there is in wearing the most showy and fashionable ones.

Your father was only a sleeping partner, as the commercial phrase goes.

This last phrase would, we venture to think, be more correctly rendered by changing the last word into "*datta*." These few examples taken at random will suffice to show what a remarkably useful book Professor Katsumata has given us. We trust that it has received due acknowledgment from the public.

A NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUM.

We have received a copy of a very beautiful photographic album, entitled "Japan, her Country and People." The publishers are Messrs Tomoe & Co. of Sukiya-cho, Nihonbashi-ku, Tokyo. The subjects of the pictures are well chosen, and excellently photographed, but the album has one defective feature from a foreign point of view, namely, that the descriptive text is entirely in the ideographic script. We doubt, therefore, whether it will find any large number of purchasers among those acquainted with Occidental languages only. The publishers offer to send the album post free to any part of Japan proper, but they charge 20 *sen* for its transport to Formosa or Saghalien and 30 *sen* in the case of Korea or China. The book is well worth the price charged, in spite of the defect which we have here noted.

THE BOY SCOUTS IN YOKOHAMA.

Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the originator and founder of the British Boy Scouts, who is now on a tour round the world, is expected to arrive at Yokohama by the *Minnesota* about March 20th next; and it is beyond doubt that he will receive a most hearty and enthusiastic welcome. Mr. C. Griffin, the organiser of the Boy Scout movement in Yokohama, is quoted by the *Kokumin* as stating that Sir Robert was born in 1859, and was always endowed by a fine chivalrous spirit of a most remarkable character. During his long and honourable career in the British Army, he served with high honours in the Indian and Afghanistan wars and particularly distinguished himself in the last South African campaign by his brilliant defence of Mafeking. After his triumphal return to England on the conclusion of the war, he devoted his efforts to the formation of a body known as the Boy Scouts. His idea was to catch the youngsters of Britain when they were young and impressionable and, instilling into them a rigid code of honour and discipline, develop their powers of observation and so form the nucleus of a fine army by the time they reached manhood. Almost simultaneously, similar bodies were organised in the United States, which was quickly followed by European states; until it is now computed that over 400,000 boys are enlisted, Britain alone numbering about 250,000. Mr. Hind, an American who founded an English school in Yokohama, tried to organise a Japanese Boy Scout Company, but only six joined. On Mr. Hind's departure to Tokyo, the little detachment was dissolved. Mr. Griffin has now actively taken the matter in hand, and has enlisted a number of foreign children as Scouts; they muster twelve English, three American, two Danish, and one Norwegian. They are well trained and drilled and their conduct is regulated by an excellent set of rules. In short, the members of the Boy Scouts are educated and trained on a moral code that resembles all that is best in the Bushido of ancient Japan.

A copy of the excellent laws for the Yokohama Boy Scouts lies before us as we write, and one is only too pleased to frankly admit that they are excellent. We learn that "The Boy Scout movement is to make lads honourable, chivalrous, helpful and brave;" that "A Scout's honour is to be trusted;" that he must be loyal; be useful and help others; be a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs; be courteous; a friend to animals; obey orders; smile and be cheerful under all circumstances; be thrifty and pure in thought, word and deed; and solemnly promise on his honour—(1) To be loyal to his God and his country; (2) To try to do good actions daily to others; and (3) To obey the Scout Law.

It will be evident to all that if healthy youngsters loyally act up to these instructions, they will turn out fine specimens of manhood. We wish Mr. C. Griffin every success in the movement he is so ably engineering and trust that when the General visits the Port, there will be a goodly number of vigorous boys to welcome him and do him credit.

THE QUESTION OF RELIGIONS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, February 7.)

A VALUED correspondent writes as follows:—

In his letter of January 28th, your correspondent, "Will Patillo," with his usual good sense, indicates what should be done to remedy a state of affairs which perturbs the Japanese Authorities. But is it that alone that the Authorities desire? The Vice-Minister of the Interior proposes a conference which will unite the representatives of the different religions and sects. If the object of this conference were simply what Patillo indicates, there is no doubt that all the sects would immediately agree to exercise their influence and redouble their efforts in view of the salutary object to be reached. On the other hand, Mr. Tokonami affirms that the conference which he desires has not for object an attempt to amalgamate different religions. What is it then, that he desires in reality, and whence comes it that the religious prelates make a difficulty about union? Could not you explain it clearly to your readers, who would be very grateful to you for doing so. The Japanese journals tell us that *Shintō* and Buddhism are *kōnin* (officially recognized) and that Christianity is *hikōnin* (not officially recognized). Would you, therefore, tell us exactly what constitutes the practical difference between these two situations, whether in the matter of Government control, or in the matter of the internal administration of the sects, the nomination of their chiefs, etc. What advantage does the fact of *kōnin* give to a religious sect? For there must be some advantages since it is said that the followers of *Shintō* and Buddhism would not be willing to see Christians put upon the same footing as themselves. Otherwise, if the Government wishes that Christianity should be *kōnin* in order to control it more easily, there is no need of a conference of religions: a decree of the Department of Home Affairs would doubtless suffice. The whole question raised by Mr. Tokonami is thus up to the present enveloped in a most profound obscurity. That is why, if you will excuse me, Mr. Editor, I ask you for a little enlightenment in view of your wide information and of your ordinary lucidity. You would thus render a service to a great number of your readers.

It is evident from our correspondent's letter that the two questions to be solved are, first, the obligations and privileges that accompany official recognition in the case of religions in Japan, and, secondly, the ultimate purpose of the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs in summoning a conference of religionists. As to the former question, we have never been able to ascertain that either obligations or privileges arise out of the fact of official recognition in the matter of religion. In the days of the *Bakufu* the connexion between the Church and the State was very intimate, the affairs of the former being practically under the control of Commissioners of Temples and Shrines (*Jisha Bugyō*), who received their appointments from the Government and were, in fact, State officials. But this organization ceased to exist after the Restoration in 1867, and at present, there is only a Bureau of Shrines and Temples (*Shaji-Kyoku*), where the different religious sects are registered and where the head of each sect (*Kwancho*) is duly recognized. It will be observed that whereas the temple took precedence of the shrine in *Bakufu* days, that order was reversed under the *Meiji* Government. But it does not appear that to be borne on the books of the *Shaji-Kyoku* confers any practical advantage whatever. It is a mere question of prestige. To be associated with

officialdom in any manner is regarded as an advantage in Japan.

As to the purpose of the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs in summoning a conference of representatives of the three religions, the impression gathered by us is that Mr. TOKONAMI recognizes the difficulty of finding a really solid basis for morality without the aid of religion. Japan has tried to discover such a basis, and her attempt has been assiduous for the past half century, but she seems now to be awakening to the fact that a nation should not be content with intellectual progress only, moral progress being just as essential, and what Mr. TOKONAMI wants, so far as we can see, is to construct an ethical code which will have the approval alike of Buddhism, of *Shintō* and of Christianity. We express no opinion as to the feasibility of such a programme.

"A LECTURE ON DANCING."

(The Japan Daily Mail, February 7.)

THE late Mrs. PATTON, whose recent death this community sincerely regretted, has left us what she called "A Lecture on Dancing," being addressed originally to her Shanghai pupils and friends,—a farewell discourse in the veritable sense of the term. A little volume of only 44 pages, it tells us more about dancing, its uses and abuses, its solecisms and graces, than we have ever dreamed of in our philosophy. Mrs. PATTON was an eminently skilled teacher of dancing. She devoted a large part of her life to that profession, yet we greatly doubt whether she ever succeeded in imparting so much information to her pupils as she has done in this lecture. She tells us what to do and what not to do, what to aspire to and what to eschew, using throughout the plainest language and illustrating her subject with remarkable happiness. We sincerely recommend the little book to all that take an interest in this important social pastime, and with equal sincerity we wish that some Japanese could be found to accept the risk of translating and publishing Mrs. PATTON's work. Japan was once placed in a unique position towards this problem of foreign dancing, and many are the articles which found fruitless place in these columns on the subject. We have always maintained that the round dance, as practised in Europe, does not suit either the costume or the physique of Japanese ladies, whereas from the same repertoire could be taken delightfully graceful forms of dancing, like the minuet, the gavotte and the reel, which have close affinity with the "woven paces and waving hands" of the Japanese *odori*. By grafting certain specialties, a result might have been attained almost revolutionary in its character, which would have combined all the graces of the two schools without any of the glaring defects

now exhibited in the waltz, the galop, the lancers and the Caledonians, as these are now danced. Possibly Mrs. PATTON's voice might then be heard from the grave with sufficiently persuasive power to convince the Japanese of the error made by them when they accepted the European dance as one of the admirable features of Occidental civilization, and when they set themselves to imitate it slavishly.

BUDGET ESTIMATES.

According to an official statement laid before the Diet the estimates of revenue and expenditure from the 45th fiscal year onward are as under:—

The 45th fiscal year (April 1912-March 1913):		Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Yen.	Yen.	
Ordinary	502,555,805	411,965,864	
Extraordinary	55,261,483	160,926,002	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	2,981,983	
Total	557,817,287	575,873,849	
Balance (deficit)	—	18,056,562	
Surplus of previous Budget transferred	—	18,056,562	
The 46th fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	503,719,645	412,571,463	
Extraordinary	51,829,749	148,415,628	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	1,000,000	
Total	555,549,394	561,987,091	
Balance (deficit)	—	6,437,695	
The 47th fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,317,461	411,642,018	
Extraordinary	51,607,560	147,453,426	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	3,000,000	
Total	555,925,021	561,095,444	
Balance (deficit)	—	6,170,423	
The 48th fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,712,629	412,041,995	
Extraordinary	42,264,403	133,141,161	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	5,257,009	
Total	546,977,032	550,440,165	
Balance (deficit)	—	3,443,133	
The 49th fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,861,249	411,301,766	
Extraordinary	36,633,561	100,214,939	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	7,399,274	
Total	541,494,810	519,315,979	
Balance (excess)	—	22,178,831	
The 50th fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,868,749	411,132,500	
Extraordinary	35,423,835	90,483,535	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	7,399,274	
Total	540,292,584	509,015,309	
Balance (excess)	—	31,277,275	
The 51st fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,868,749	411,312,027	
Extraordinary	34,316,601	86,675,101	
Extraordinary war fund to be appropriated ...	—	7,399,274	
Total	539,185,350	505,386,402	
Balance (excess)	—	33,798,948	
The 52nd fiscal year:—			
Ordinary	504,868,749	411,339,190	
Extraordinary	34,353,229	85,700,606	
Extraordinary War fund to be appropriated ...	—	7,399,274	
Total	539,221,978	504,439,070	
Balance (excess)	—	34,782,908	

THE British Court has gone into mourning for five weeks for the late Duke of Fife. It is understood that the British cruiser *Suffolk* will convey the body of the late Duke to England.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

DISCUSSION IN BUDGET COMMITTEE.

The Seventh Sub committee of the Budget Committee sat at 1.30 on Wednesday afternoon last.

Replying to a series of questions on the administration of Chosen, Mr. Arai, parliamentary delegate of the Chosen Government, stated that no conservative estimate had been made in the Budget of the revenue for next fiscal year, and any such large surplus as was obtained in the 43rd fiscal year was not likely to occur in future. The Chosen Government contemplated the issue of works bonds until the total issue reach 56 or 57 million yen. The necessity for the introduction of immigrants from Japan to Chosen had long been recognized and everything was being done to give an inducement to immigration. The business result of the Oriental Development Company did not come up to expectations and several circumstances had rendered the prosecution of the original programme impossible. Now that the work of surveying had been completed, better success was expected in the company's business, more especially on the completion of the railways now in hand. The original programme of the Company of importing 50 thousand men annually, had, nevertheless, proved a miscalculation. Afforestation was a hopeful enterprise in Chosen. The Forestry Law was revised in 1910 and young plants are given to the peasants gratis to encourage the enterprise throughout the peninsula. The Government was also doing its best to encourage the improvement of the cultivation of rice and cotton, as well as sericulture. Satisfactory results had been obtained, though the crops were still small. North Chosen covered an area of 1,500 square miles, but the total population did not exceed 400,000. The region was eminently fitted for cattle breeding and there were good prospects for fishing enterprises. Roads were being cut and means of communication provided in order to accelerate the development of industries in that region.

Replying to a question relative to the Chosen railway, Mr. Oya, another parliamentary delegate of Chosen, stated that the railway bonds issued in 1917 totalled eight million yen, whilst the net profit in that year reached 600,000 yen. If the further loans contemplated in the Budget were raised, the Government estimated that the net profit after the 49th fiscal year would reach about two million yen a year. The traffic rates were slightly higher than those obtaining at home, but were by no means excessive when the facilities provided and the large capital invested in the enterprises were considered. The Government was, however, doing its best to effect a reduction of the traffic rates.

Mr. Arai, in response to a further question, explained that the cultivation of rice and cotton was hopeful, but not so hopeful as to satisfy the sanguine expectations entertained. In Mokpo and South Cholla in South Chosen the soil and climate are fitted for their cultivation, but this was not the case all over Chosen. The cultivation of rice had shown satisfactory results, and the crops had increased from 7,980,000 *koku* in 1908 to 9,880,000 *koku*. The Government had recently abolished the export duty on rice to encourage the production of this commodity.

The dividend of the Oriental Development Company in the previous business year was limited to six per cent. and a substantial sum was carried to the reserve fund in order to strengthen the basis of the Company. This had nothing to do with the annual subsidy, amounting to 300,000 yen, granted to the company.

The Committee rose at 4.40.

The third Sub Committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.30 on Thursday morning last.

Mr. Hayami brought forward an interpellation, and in the course of his remarks said that the Government proposed to redeem, in the course of the next fiscal year, 50 million yen worth of national

bonds, on the one hand, whilst raising a new loan of more than 50 million yen on the other. He pointed out that whereas the new bonds were issued according to the market price, the outstanding bonds must be redeemed at their face value. The difference meant a loss to the State.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, replying to the interpellation, stated that the annual redemption of 50 million yen worth of national bonds was not a new departure, and the railway enterprises at home and in Chosen, to be undertaken by the issue of new national bonds, were a part of the already fixed fiscal programme. There existed no new items in the Budget to be undertaken by the issue of new loans. It might seem more desirable to balance the credit and debit than to redeem bonds with one hand, whilst borrowing with the other. When new bonds were issued, the question naturally arose in the minds of subscribers as to how the loan was to be redeemed. An understanding already existed as to the annual redemption of national bonds. As a matter of fact a desire was expressed for the continuance of the bond redemption policy at the time when the 4 per cent. conversion loan was issued. The change in the Ministry would not be a sufficient reason for a modification of that policy.

Mr. Hayami remarked that the financial retrenchment now contemplated would justify its modification, as there could be no reason why the amount redeemable should not be either increased or decreased to suit financial convenience.

Mr. Yamamoto stated in reply that he did not mean to say that the redemption policy was an open promise binding the new Ministry, but that such a question would naturally rise in the minds of subscribers. The redeemable amount was not a fixed one and the Government would be ready to discontinue the redemption policy if some other means more beneficial to the creditors and the Government could be found. This matter would receive due attention at the hands of the Adjustment Investigation Committee.

Replying to a further question of Mr. Hayami, the Minister stated that though the proposed adjustment of the tax system had not for its sole object a lowering of taxation as declared by the Premier, a curtailment would naturally result from the adjustment. The adjustment signified, in a sense, a reduction of taxes. Any public statement at present would be unwise as the matter was in the hands of the Investigation Committee.

In response to a question by Mr. Furuno, the Minister explained that the national bonds purchased for redemption last year amounted to about 3,000,000 yen. In November last the rate of interest on Treasury notes was raised. This was followed by the raising of the loan rate by the Nippon Ginko, and the market price of national bonds fell in accordance. The Government, therefore, ordered the Nippon Ginko to buy up the national bonds found floating in the market and 3,000,000 yen worth of bonds were purchased, which formed a part of the total redemption, amounting to over 40 million yen. The Government would adhere to the lottery method in the redemption where there existed no apprehension of a radical depreciation in the market price of bonds.

The committee rose at noon.

The first Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.50 on Thursday morning.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kodera, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Justice, stated that the increase in the number of convicts serving terms in the prisons was due to the longer terms of imprisonment given under the new Criminal Law. The number of criminals did not show any increase. On the contrary there was a lower percentage of convicts than formerly.

Replying to a question by Dr. Uzawa, the Minister stated that the system of postponement of execution of judgment showed satisfactory results. The Department of Justice, acting in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, was doing its best to prevent

breaches of the law on the Stock and other Exchanges. The Department would put the judicial machinery in motion only in cases where the competent authorities are unable to exercise efficient control over these institutions by executive measures. Both corporal punishment and fines were provided for contravention of the Election Law. Either punishment was optional, and was left to the discretion of the Court. The Department had never issued private instructions for preference to be given to corporal punishment.

A few more questions were asked and answered before the Committee rose at 3.50 p.m.

The seventh Sub committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat on Thursday.

Mr. Uchida, parliamentary delegate of the Formosan Government, explaining the Formosan Budget in response to a question of Mr. Kato, stated that the estimated revenue for next fiscal year was 45,325,508 yen, showing an increase by 1,673,857 yen as compared with the previous fiscal year. The revenue of the island was steadily increasing. The revenue from the sugar tax this year, however, showed a decrease by 2,612,628 yen, owing to the devastation of over 30,000 *chobu* of sugar plantation by the disastrous storm experienced in August and September last, whilst the revenue from some other sources also showed a decrease by 311,521 yen totalling 2,924,449 yen in all. The decrease was more than offset by a large increase in the revenue from the monopoly business, railway traffic and saké tax, the increase altogether amounting to 4,598,566 yen, which resulted in an increase by about 1,690,000 yen when a balance was struck. The expenditure likewise showed an increase by 1,673,869 yen as compared with the previous year. The more important items in the expenditure were appropriations for the improvement of Keelung and Takao harbours.

Trade between the mother country and the colony showed satisfactory results. The turnover for last fiscal year amounted to about 80,000,000 yen. The capital invested in various enterprises totalled 70,000,000 yen. This development was the result of the Formosan Budget being placed to a special account. The financial basis of the local government has thus been put on a stable basis and there are bright prospects for the financial independence of the island in the near future.

The Seventh Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat on Friday morning last.

Mr. Nakagawa brought forward an interpellation concerning the administration of Formosa, in the course of which he pointed out the improper outlay in the 29th session of the Diet made from the revenue of the island, the special account under which Formosan finance was placed having facilitated this unlawful outlay. The inhabitants of Formosa are denied the right of appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the lower courts in the island. The people had thus to submit weakly to the autocratic rule of the Formosan officials, which was provocative of many evils. The Formosan natives had from time immemorial enjoyed freedom of cultivation of sugar cane for manufacture of sugar, but since the sugar consumption tax had come into operation, the natives have been required to send in reports. The Formosan officials refused, without good reasons, to accept these reports and in consequence the natives were compelled to sell their business to the sugar companies. The natives strongly resented the action and had lost confidence in the Japanese Government. The Governor-General of Formosa could not satisfactorily deal with the situation so that the Diet must assist the Governor-General in introducing radical reforms to rectify the evils.

Mr. Uchida, parliamentary delegate of the Formosan Government, replying to the interpellation, stated that the special account had nothing to do with the unlawful outlay pointed out. For

mosan finance was placed to special account to enable the local government to devise means for supplying its needs without imposing a burden on the general finance. The right of appeal to the Supreme Court was denied to the inhabitants because of the difference of race and customs. It was impracticable to provide an exception for Japanese residents in the island, because the unity of juridical administration must be maintained. The Government did not deny that there had been unlawful action on the part of the Formosan officials, but did not admit the existence of the alleged facts.

Mr. Nakagawa refuted the reply by citing copious practical examples.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kato, Mr. Uchida explained that the sugar production in the island this year amounted to 350 million *kin*, but the Government estimated the production in the next fiscal year at 450 million *yen*.

The Committee rose at 2.40 p.m.

The seventh Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee resumed its sittings on Saturday afternoon last.

Replying to a question by Mr. Miura, Mr. Fgi, parliamentary delegate of the Colonization Bureau, stated that the South Manchuria Railway Company was securing satisfactory results in its railway and mining business, but a loss had resulted from the heavy outlay on shipping and hotel business. The railway revenue, which stood at 3,600,000 *yen* in 1907, increased to 9,120,000 *yen* in 1910, whilst the mining revenue, which reached 550,000 *yen* in 1907, also increased to 1,500,000 *yen* in 1910. The Government expected a dividend of at least 1,500,000 *yen* on the Government's share of the 100 million *yen* in the near future. The business this year showed a loss, but some profit was expected in the next fiscal year. The Government was exercising full supervision over the outlay of the Company.

Replying to a question by Mr. Miura on the condition of Saghalien, Mr. Hiraoka, Governor of Saghalien, stated that the present population in South Saghalien numbered approximately 89,000, showing an increase by about 100 per cent. as compared with the census taken three years ago, the ratio of the increase of home immigrants, being about 12,000 a year. The immigrants are mostly engaged in farming and fishery enterprises, those engaged in farming occupying about 40 per cent. of the whole population. The Saghalien Government was doing its best to give the inhabitants some subsidiary employment during the winter season. The transportation of goods by means of rafts now formed the principal subsidiary work. The fisheries were a hopeful enterprise. The island was rich in coal, but a drawback was the inequality in quality. The cost of coal mining was 1.40 *yen* per ton, the market price being about 2 *yen* per ton.

The committee rose at 2.50.

The Sixth Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee sat at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning last.

Replying to a question by Mr. Nemoto, regarding the shipping subsidy, Mr. Komatsu, parliamentary delegate of the Department of Communications, stated that it was impracticable to discontinue or reduce the subsidy according to the financial circumstances of the subsidized companies, because even though they were in a prosperous condition, they were running the services on contract routes at some loss. The subsidy covered only a portion of such losses. As a matter of fact, the Shanghai service was run at a loss, despite the 450,000 *yen* granted as subsidy. The loss on the North China service amounted to over 200,000 *yen*, whereas the subsidy came to only 130,000 *yen*. Again, the Vladivostok service is run at a loss of 50,000 *yen* annually, whereas the subsidy granted on this route barely covers one half of the loss. The shipping company is not disposed to run the Aomori-

Muroran service because it can be run only at a net loss of 117,000 *yen* a year, but the Government could not discontinue the service as it would paralyse the mail service north of Iwamizawa. The subsidy on the Dairen service had been reduced to 100,000 *yen*, because of the increase of traffic on this route. The recent development of trade in the direction of Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the South Sea necessitated the granting of an adequate subsidy for the South Sea service. The services on all subsidized routes were generally run at a loss, the European service alone being an exception to the rule. In short the question of subsidy was to be decided solely on the revenue of a subsidized route and not by the financial circumstance of the subsidized companies.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Arakawa, Mr. Tugawa, parliamentary delegate of the Department of Communications, stated that the subsidy was granted either by the Deep-Sea Navigation Subsidy Law or by a special order. The subsidies on various routes thus stood on different bases, and it was impossible under the present law to appropriate one subsidy for another. Though the business of the various subsidized companies had of late shown great improvement, it was not sufficiently developed to warrant the reduction of the subsidies during the contracted period.

After a few more questions had been asked and answered, the Committee rose at 3.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on Tuesday afternoon. After various reports were submitted, Mr. Tagawa introduced an interpellation on the increase of criminals, in the course of which he remarked that the criminal statistics showed that the convicts, who numbered 54,006 in 1907, had increased to 72,420 in 1910. When the question was raised in the previous session the Government denied the increase, but the Budget provided for an increased outlay on prisons, etc. This was a contradiction. Would the Government admit the increase of criminals, and if so, what remedial or preventive measures did the Government propose to take?

Replying to the interpellation, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Justice, admitted the increase of convicts, but said the statistics given by Mr. Tagawa were erroneous. In fact, the convicts numbered 68,661 in 1907 and 67,518 in 1910. The increase of convicts did not, however, necessarily mean an increase of the number of criminals. The increase of convicts was due to the longer terms of sentence passed since the new Criminal Law came into force. The statistics of new convicts showed a decrease rather than an increase. Whereas the new convicts numbered 126,859 in 1907 the number had decreased to 107,495 in 1910.

Mr. Takeuchi of the Central Party then introduced an interpellation on Japan's policy, in the course of which he asked why the Government did not lay before the House a report on the progress of Chinese affairs; whether the Government had or had not committed a blunder in attempting to interfere with the polity of China; and what measures the Government had taken *vis à vis* Russia's activity in Outer Mongolia.

The reply to the interpellation was reserved.

The House then entered on the Order of the Day, when the Bill relating to the appropriation to meet the expenses incurred in connection with Chinese affairs was taken up for consideration.

The Bill was briefly explained by Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, who, replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka of the Popular Party, stated that the Government was ready to introduce a supplementary budget, and that the Government proposed to make use of the currency adjustment fund, which amounted to 11 million *yen*. If the fund was found insufficient, the Government intended to fall back on the Forestry fund, which amounted to about five million *yen*. The outlay up to the present totalled 840,000 *yen*. The Government estimated

the expenditure at about half a million *yen* a month at present.

The Bill was referred to a committee of eighteen. A few more Bills relating to the revision of the sake tax, sugar consumption tax, etc. were dealt with before the House rose at 4 o'clock.

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN CHINA.

A special committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.40 on Thursday morning to consider the Bill relating to the appropriation of funds for the Chinese affair.

Replying to a question by Mr. Oishi, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that in view of the great interest Japan had, both politically and economically, in China, the Government was paying close attention to the development of affairs. But the Imperialists and Revolutionaries had from the start shown great care in protecting the lives and property of foreign residents in China. The Powers appreciated their sincerity and refrained from interference. The Japanese Government had offered friendly mediation in co-operation with Great Britain, but without success, though the friendly advice was fully appreciated by the Imperialists and Revolutionaries. The Government sent a detachment of troops to Hankow and elsewhere, because the warships could not remain at anchor at Hankow, etc., during the winter season on account of the low water. The Japanese contingents in Tientsin, Peking and in North China generally numbered about 1,300. The Government had in no way interfered with the question of the Emperor's abdication, and was standing aside, together with other Powers.

Mr. Oishi remarked that a rumour had it that Yuan Shih-kai was watching Japan's action concerning the rumoured mobilization and dispatch of an additional Division with a large amount of suspicion. It is also rumoured that Russia was showing great activity in Outer Mongolia and also that Great Britain had dispatched troops to Tibet. Did any understanding exist between Japan and Great Britain in the matter?

Viscount Uchida replied that he learned through the columns of the newspapers that Yuan entertained some suspicion, but he did not attach credence to the report, as Yuan was in close touch with the representatives of the various Powers in Peking. The Government regarded the Russian action in Mongolia as a friendly action, and did not attach any importance to it. The Government was not informed of the alleged British action in Tibet.

Mr. Oishi again remarked that the 12th Division had actually been mobilized and was in readiness to start for China at short notice. Did the Government intend to dispatch additional troops in order to pave the way for interference or did the Government mean simply to give fuller protection to the Japanese and foreign residents in Manchuria, Hankow, etc.?

Viscount Uchida stated in reply that the Government would avoid the dispatch of troops as far as possible, but there was a necessity to prepare for emergencies that might arise according to circumstances to be encountered in future. As the two belligerent armies were in the neutral zone in Manchuria, the Government though it necessary to increase the guards.

Replying to further questions by Mr. Oishi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the Government would decline to undertake the transportation of the belligerent troops, if it were intended for hostile action. The Government could not exercise control over Japanese adventurers who joined either side and would not interfere with them.

Replying to a question by Mr. Oishi, Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, explained that the Japanese soldiers in Peking, Tientsin and Shanhai-kwan numbered 1,300, while those stationed in Central China numbered 500. The Chosen garrison had also been increased to a certain extent. The Government did not think it

necessary to increase the garrison in Manchuria present, unless something unexpected happened.

Mr. Fukuzoto of the Popular Party asked whether the Government included Mongolia in the pale of the territorial integrity guaranteed?

Viscount Uchida replied in the affirmative and added that the guarantee covered Tibet as well.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Fukuzoto, the Minister for War stated that the rumour of the dispatch of the Twelfth Division was a pure fabrication of the newsmongers. Japan would as far as possible not dispatch additional troops, and if circumstances necessitated it, would refrain from any actions calculated to lead to the final partition of China.

Mr. Oishi remarked that there was a report that Russia was assisting Mongolia in her movement for independence. Was not foreign interference likely to lead in the partition of China?

Viscount Uchida stated that the Government thought otherwise. There existed a thorough understanding amongst the various Powers.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the disbursement relative to the China Affair since October last totalled 847,000 yen. The supplementary budget the Government proposed to introduce amounted to 877,000 yen to cover the cost up to the end of March, that is the end of the present fiscal year.

The committee then rose.

THE SPHINX OF CHINA.

It is doubtful whether any man has loomed more prominently in history,—whether in the dim past or in the time that has elapsed until the arrival of to-day—as a giant, an enigma, and an unknown power, than does His Excellency Yuan Shih-kai in this twentieth century. Holding himself aloof, as did the great figures of old, trusting none and consulting few, taking his life in his hands and remaining imperturbably calm and unfurried, he stands out boldly in the sheer front rank of the singularly few very big men of the Earth. His sphinx-like attitude, his apparent indifference to rank or power, his unreality, so to say, combined with the trust and belief that have always been felt for him by the foreign diplomats at Peking, and the frank recognition of his remarkable attainments by both the Imperialists and the Revolutionists, bear ample testimony to his greatness. The simple fact that his qualities have never earned him the love of the people or the Court, is but another proof of his dominance of affairs; for it is the grim strength of the man, the ability of being able to wait for years—as he did in Hupoh on the death of the late Empress Dowager—that makes him the Sphinx of China and undoubtedly its greatest son. The world of to-day, with its usual cold-blooded cynicism, cannot conceive the possibility of any man, and especially an Oriental, being anything but an Opportunist imbued with the eternal craving for Power; and, it is curious to note, that it is another Oriental race—Japan—who are most denunciatory of Yuan's reputed Opportunism. Yet, when one looks for the proofs of their charges, one cannot but note that they are conspicuous by their absence. On the other hand, the enigma and aloofness of the statesman prevent his greatest believers from logically confuting the charges that are hurled continually at his head; which again brings us up suddenly against the solid rock wall of the unknown.

It is the principal assertion of his detractors that his great ambition is to be the first absolute President or Dominant Head of a United China. But, it must be remembered that the position has already been offered to him by the provisional Republican Cabinet at Nanking and has been declined. Also, that Imperial Edicts have been issued raising him to the highest Court rank of Grand Duke, and that on each occasion he has declined the high honour, pleading it is true, with proverbial Oriental hyperbole, that he was unworthy of the Emperor's graciousness. And

again, it must not be forgotten that his rank and wealth to-day is only the same as when the Prince-Regent and the Empress-Dowager summoned him a few months ago from his country retreat to attempt the Herculean task of restoring peace to a gigantic mixed Empire that was in the full throes of Revolution. It was an order that would have staggered any statesman of ordinary calibre and it was only a man of extraordinary ability who would have attempted such a colossal feat as was thus thrust upon him. In once more returning to the troubled domain of Peking politics in obedience to Imperial commands, accentuated to fever-heat as they were by the Revolution, His Excellency found himself placed—to quote an old proverb, "Betwixt the Devil and the Deep Sea." To please both sides was impossible; to fight without funds and with a rapidly dwindling disloyal army, was equally impossible; whilst to cynically abandon the Imperial Court without being certain of its Royal honour and maintenance, or else to continue hostilities and so accelerate a savage internecine war, was also against the direct instructions he had received to obtain an honourable peace. It does not require a man of over brilliant acumen to realise Yuan's extremely difficult position. That up to now he has done well for the Court, cannot be denied. That the Emperor is his Master, is equally irrefutable; and that his action, had he have gone over to the Revolutionists, would have been the action of a traitor, is also a fact. This being so, is it not more manly and honourable for his numerous detractors to give this great statesman, this enigma of the East, this Sphinx of China, credit for being a patriot and lover of his country, whilst at the same time permitting him to remain loyal to the Throne that he has so well served during his long and brilliant career?

MR. R. M. BEADON.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Beadon will be shocked to hear that their son, Mr. Richard Musgrave Beadon, died at the early age of thirty-four on December 24th of last year. The deceased held the Oxford degree of M.A. and was Inspector of Schools in the Indian Education Service. Mr. R. M. Beadon had been sick for a considerable time and the end came at 12.30 a.m. Mr. Beadon was conscious almost to the last and his death was perfectly peaceful and quiet.

MR. B. DENING.

Mr. W. Denning's son, Basil, has passed the examination for entering Woolwich Academy. He passed thirty-ninth among 140 successful candidates. Mr. Basil Denning's age is only seventeen, and the honour he has thus won is of a very high order, as the examination for Woolwich is competitive, and the subjects are the most difficult set at English examinations, always excluding, of course, the examination for the Indian Civil Service.

CHINESE BANK NOTES.

A certain Tokyo printing house is reported to have secured the contract for printing ten million bank-notes for the Hunan Bank, the monetary organ of the Revolutionary Government in Nanking. The notes are divided into six different denominations, 1 yen, 5 yen, 10 yen, 1 tael, 5 taels and 10 taels, the face value totalling 30 million yen in all. The work will be completed and the notes delivered to the Hunan Bank by the 20th instant.

DEATH OF M. PAUL COLOMB.

We regret to have to report the death of another old and respected resident in the person of M. Paul Colomb, the sad event taking place very suddenly on Monday afternoon. Death was due to heart disease.

M. Colomb was a resident of over forty years standing, and has carried on the same business on the same premises, in conjunction with his brother, ever since he arrived in the country. Although M. Colomb did not take a prominent part in the social activities of the community, he was always keenly interested in any movements and had a large circle of intimate friends who will feel his loss severely.

He leaves a widow and one daughter in Japan and a brother, M. Jules Colomb, who is at Geneva. To them we beg to offer our respectful sympathy.

The funeral of the late Monsieur Colomb, of the firm of J. Colomb & Co., took place on Wednesday morning. A great number of his friends assembled at his residence. The cortege was accompanied by the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., of Christ Church and many of the great friends of the deceased gentleman. The procession was a long one; and among those present, were noticed the following:—

Mr. F. de Salis, Swiss Minister; Mr. Albert Dubourg and Mr. B. Jamin; while the pall-bearers were Messrs. J. Favre-Brandt, P. Dourille, F. Straehler, J. de Cuers de Cogolin, H. Abegg, P. de Champmorin, G. Reiffinger and H. Deck. The attendance at the graveside comprised a full representation of the Swiss and French communities, besides members of other nationalities, including Japanese, who had known and respected the deceased.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, February 2.

The market opened strong, but speculators immediately began to unload and prices dropped.

Saturday, February 3.

The market was comparatively firm on Saturday, in spite of a moment of weakness in the afternoon session.

Monday, February 5.

A conviction that Chinese affairs will be settled without further difficulty produced a strong re-action on the market yesterday. Such a busy scene had not been witnessed for years.

Tuesday, February 6.

There were some sellers yesterday but, on the whole, the strong feeling was well sustained.

Wednesday, February 7.

The raising of its rate of discount by the Bank of Japan produced a very depressing effect in the share market.

Thursday, February 8.

Depression prevailed yesterday and all prices fell. Appended are the quotations.—

Feb. 7th. Feb. 8th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	52.35	52.10	—	.35
Yusen Kaisha.....	114.70	114.00	—	.70
Toyo Kisen.....	47.60	47.10	—	.50
Specie Bank.....	219.00	218.00	—	1.00
Tanko Kisen.....	25.10	25.45	+	.35
Tokyo Gas.....	74.25	73.90	—	.35
Tokyo Dento.....	71.30	71.15	—	.15
Fuji Gas Spinning....	87.70	87.15	—	.55
Tokyo Spinning.....	49.50	49.20	—	.30
Kanagafuchi Spinning...	109.25	108.95	—	.30
Beer.....	88.05	87.90	—	.15
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	62.85	61.80	—	1.05
Nippon Oil.....	73.60	72.95	—	.65
Rice Exchange.....	113.60	114.20	+	.60
Stock Exchange.....	168.95	168.00	—	.95

YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

A NIGHT WITH CHARLES DICKENS.

To quote W. S. Gilbert's tuneful phrase—"There is no possible probable doubt, no shadow of doubt whatever" that Charles Dickens lives in the minds of the English-speaking race as the greatest and most lovable novelist of the Victorian Era. This being so, it was a touch of inspiration on the part of some one connected with the Yokohama Literary and Musical Society—we know not who it was—to conceive the idea of giving a night with the great author. The suggestion being given, the members of the Society rallied in great force and with their ability, together with their love and veneration for that wizard of the pen, brought before our eyes in actuality the wonderful characters that are as real to-day as when they were created.

Thursday evening last at the Van Schaick Hall was a red-letter event in the annals of the Society and sincere and unstinted praise is due to all those who participated and who were connected with the delineation of several delightful scenes from the works of the man who held us in thrall in our youth, and who, in our middle-age, still exercises the same spell. We were given excerpts from "Pickwick Papers," "A Tale of Two Cities," and "Oliver Twist." There were readings from "Nicholas Nickleby," "David Copperfield" and "Dombey & Son"; and also Living Pictures from several other works of Dickens; whilst as a fitting prelude to the evening, Mrs. Harold Bell gave a short sketch of the Author's life.

When all were so good, it is a little invidious to praise one of the performers more than the others; but special praise is due to those who took part in the scenes from "Pickwick Papers" and "Oliver Twist." The stilted mannerisms of the mid-Victorian period were ably depicted and the actors looked the characters they were interpreting. This was particularly evident in "Bumble Proposes." The latter was an excellent character sketch and Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Miss Hall deserved the applause they received.

In connexion with the "Readings" from the author's works, the best was undoubtedly the selection from David Copperfield—"Barkis is willin'"—by Mrs. Douglas Adam. Her elocution was excellent, whilst her characterisation was beyond reproach. In fact, as far as elocution was concerned, she stood head and shoulders above everybody else.

The President and Committee of the Society must have congratulated themselves on the large audience that were present, for at nine o'clock, they could truly have put a notice outside the hall—"Standing Room Only!"

The following is the full programme of the evening.

PART I.

- 1.—Overture.....Prélude No. 17.....Chopin.
Miss L. Russell.
- 2.—Lecture.—Short Sketch of Dickens' Life.
Mrs. Harold Bell.
- 3.—Scene.—"The Bath Footmen entertain Sam Weller"—"Pickwick Papers."
Characters:—
"Harris" (a Greengrocer)...Mr. Harold Bell
"Mr. Tuckle".....Mr. R. H. Box.
"Mr. John Smaucker".....Mr. F. W. Rowbottom.
"Mr. Whiffers".....Mr. L. A. R. King.
"Gentleman in Blue Cloth".....Mr. A. Tippet.
"Coachman".....Mr. W. Blundell.
"Sam Weller".....Mr. P. F. Anderson.
Scene:—Mr. Harris' Back Parlour.
- 4.—Reading....."Dotheboys Hall".....
....."Nicholas Nickleby."
Mr. C. Griffin.
- 5.—Vocal Duet....."What are the
Wild Waves saying"....."Dombey & Son."
"Florence".....Miss Booth.
"Paul".....Mr. S. H. Somerton.
Accompanist Miss Moulton.
- 6.—Scene....."The Fellow of No Delicacy".....
....."A Tale of Two Cities."
Characters:—
"Lucie Manette".....Miss Box.
"Sydney Carton".....Mr. P. F. Anderson.
- Scene:—Drawing Room in Dr. Manette's in London.

PART II.

- 1.—Violin Solo.....
Mr. Charles H. Thorn.
Accompanist Miss Lippitt.
- 2.—Scene....."Bumble Proposes"....."Oliver Twist."
Characters:—
"Mrs. Corney" (Matron)...Mrs. Harold Bell.
"Old Pauper".....Miss Hall.
"Mr. Bumble" (Beadle)...Mrs. Harold Bell.
Scene:—Mrs. Corney's Parlour in the Workhouse.
- 3.—Reading....."Barkis is Willin'"
....."David Copperfield."
Mrs. Douglas Adam.
4. Living Portraits—
"Nicholas Nickleby."
1. "Smoke"—Mr. V. Dearing.
2. "Newman Noggs"—Mr. H. W. Rowbottom.
"The Old Curiosity Shop."
3. "Grandfather"—Mr. W. Blundell and
"Little Nell"—Miss Box.
"Barnaby Rudge."
4. "Dolly Varden"—Miss M. Cameron.
5. "Barnaby Rudge"—Mr. T. Blue.
"Martin Chuzzlewit."
6. "Sairy Gamp"—Mrs. W. M. Cumming.
7. "Pecksniff"—Mr. H. C. Simonds.
"Dombey and Son"
8. "Captain Cuttle"—Mr. R. H. Box.
"Our Mutual Friend."
9. "Lizzie"—Miss Hall. 10. "Riah"—
Mr. L. A. R. King.
"David Copperfield"
11. "Wilkins Micawber"—Mr. G. R. Box.
12. "Betsy Trotwood"—Miss Cameron.
The Author.
- 5.—Reading....."Captains Cattle & Bunsby"
....."Dombey & Son."
Mr. C. Griffin.
- 6.—Scene....."The Only Way"
....."A Tale of Two Cities."
"Sydney Carton"—Mr. P. F. Anderson.
- 7.—Apotheosis.

CHRIST CHURCH, YOKOHAMA.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of seatholders in Christ Church took place in the vestibule of the Gaiety Theatre on Monday afternoon Mr. Edisson occupied the Chair, being supported by Messrs. L. J. Healing, H. E. Metcalf, G. Miller, R. N. Varnum, H. M. Arnold and H. E. Hayward. The Chaplain, the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., was also present.

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary, the Chairman stated that the first business of the meeting was the confirmation of the last annual minutes. This being proposed by Mr. Healing and seconded by Mr. Arnold, was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then stated that the chief business before them was the adoption of the Report and Accounts. There being no questions from those present, it was moved from the Chair, and seconded by Mr. G. Miller, that the report and accounts be adopted. This was also carried unanimously. The Chairman remarked that in his opinion, it was now an excellent opportunity to express the great thanks they owed to the Rev. Mr. Field for the fine work he had done during the time that he was Chaplain of the Church.

A question was put as to whether the list of "seatholders" as printed in the report, was fully up-to-date. The answer was to the effect that the list was for the year 1911. As far as 1912 was concerned, there would be deletions, seeing that some residents had gone home; but, there would be other names to be added.

The final business of the meeting was the election of the new Committee. The old members being willing to stand for re-election, they were proposed and seconded by Messrs. A. R. Catto and R. J. Kirby *en bloc*. The motion was carried unanimously.

The concluded the business. The report and accounts submitted to the meeting were as follow:—

The accounts for the year which are submitted herewith shew a debit balance of 2,668.02 yen against a debit balance of 166.40 yen brought forward from 1910. The change in the Chaplaincy is responsible for this large increase in the debit

balance, the amount paid for travelling expenses of the late and present Chaplains to and from England was 2,700.00 yen and for the necessary renovations of the Parsonage 667.41 yen. In view of this considerable debit balance the Committee earnestly hope that all members of the Congregation will do their utmost in all ways possible to effect its reduction.

In April the Rev. W. P. G. Field tendered his resignation of the Chaplaincy, which was accepted, and the Trustees offered the position to the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., who is already well known in Yokohama residents for his earnest work during past years in Japan.

A farewell reception was given to Mr. and Mrs. Field by the Church Workers' Society on the 28th November, after which they left for England, and Mr. and Mrs. Weston arrived on the 19th December.

Mr. Weston was formally instituted to the Cure of Souls in Christ Church on the 22nd December. This service was impressively conducted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cecil, assisted by the Revs. H. H. Walton and W. F. France.

The services on Sunday, 3rd December, were kindly taken by the Ven. Archdeacon King; on Sunday, 10th December, by the Rev. H. B. Walton; and on Sunday, 17th December, by the Rev. Geo. Wallace, to each of whom the Committee extend their sincere thanks and hearty appreciation for their help.

The Committee also gratefully recognise the sympathetic work of the Rev. H. B. Walton, who preached a series of Sunday evening sermons, and also conducted week-day Bible Classes for Men; and of the Rev. W. F. France, who has been conducting the Sunday School with such good results.

Early in December a Committee of Ladies interested in the welfare of Christ Church, presided over by Mrs. Stuart Eldridge, organised a Bazaar for the purpose of raising funds to build a Parish Room, which will be a great boon to the Congregation. The Bazaar was opened by H. E. Lady Macdonald, and the thanks of the Congregation are due to all who helped by their untiring efforts to achieve the success of raising a sum of no less than 1,859.00 yen.

The thanks of the Committee are extended to Mr. L. B. Hannaford for kindly auditing the Accounts.

INCOME.	
To Pew Rents collected.....	1,745.00
To Collections.....	3,255.14
To Donations towards reduction of Debt.....	40.50
To Rev. W. P. G. Field, Special Offerings Account.....	158.45
To Interest Account.....	23.03
To Balance carried forward.....	2,668.02
	9,890.14

EXPENDITURE.	
By Balance due The Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, on 31st December, 1910, as per balance sheet of that date.....	166.40
By Incumbent's Stipend and Income Tax.....	3,615.20
By Organist's Honorarium.....	480.00
By Repairs and Furnishings.....	990.56
By Fuel, Lighting and Heating.....	182.47
By Momban's W. ges, Labour and Pension.....	389.00
By Fire Insurance.....	331.15
By Ground Rent.....	73.30
By Printing and Stationery.....	62.95
By Flowers and Decorations.....	9.00
By Sundries Account.....	182.47
By Chaplains' Travelling Expenses.....	2,700.00
By Disbursements from Collections, St. Andrew's Mission, Hinode-cho, 420.77	
Dr. Barnardo's Homes.....	20.57
Home for Walls and Strays.....	20.57
Society for Promotion of Christian Knowledge.....	30.58
Rev. W. P. G. Field (Easter Day Offerings).....	224.75
	707.24
	9,890.14

YOKOHAMA UNION CHURCH.

ANNUAL MEETING.

(COMMUNICATED)

The annual meeting of the Church and Congregation of Yokohama Union Church was held on Monday evening in the Lecture-room, and was largely attended. The Pastor (Rev. T. Roseberry Good, B.A.) presided, being supported by the following members of the Consistory:—Rev. E. S. Booth, M.A., Rev. J. L. Dearing, Messrs. D. H. Blake, L. Pollard and A. W. Sherriff. Other officers present were Messrs. H. Geddes, K. Wallace, and D. MacKenzie (of the Board of

Trustees), W. Graham (Deacon), Miss Loomis (Superintendent of the Sunday School), and Mr. S. H. Somerton (organist).

The reports of the various organizations—the Sunday School, Board of Trustees, Ladies' Auxiliary, Choir, Building Committee, Men's League, and the Consistory—were presented by the respective Secretaries.

The Sunday School, notwithstanding several changes in the teaching staff during the year, had registered an attendance of between seventy and eighty, and there had been several additions since the New Year.

The report of the Building Committee, presented by Mr. D. H. Blake, showed that during the year 2,558.19 yen had been raised towards paying off the debt on the new building, the sum still owing amounting to 11,368.89 yen.

The report of the Church Trustees, presented by Mr. H. Geddes (Hon. Treasurer), showed that the year ended with a credit balance of 22.03 yen. Offerings during the year (by envelopes and loose collections) amounted to 3,634.12 yen.

The Ladies' Auxiliary reported having handed over during the year the sum of 1,000 yen to the Building Committee towards the liquidation of the debt on the new Church. Regret was expressed at the death during the year of Mrs. A. L. Bagnall, who for some years had been actively identified with the work of the organization.

The Consistory's report reviewed at some length the spiritual work of the Church during the year. Since the early autumn the congregations at the morning services had increased, while the attendance in the evening had fluctuated. Appreciation was expressed of the faithful interpretation of the Word of God by the Pastor; also of the co-operation of the Choirmaster and Choir in making the services bright and helpful. The Consistory expressed regret at the loss from the Board, through removal to Tokyo, of Mr. F. G. Sale, whose wise counsel and active interest had been of invaluable service to the Church; and of the departure during the year of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Macfarlane, active workers in the Sunday School; Mr. F. W. Holt, a member of the Board of Trustees and for some time Hon. Treasurer of the Church; and Mr. S. H. Stetson, for a time a member of the choir. The constant changes taking place in a community such as this had their effect upon the Church, but new friends had taken up the work, and with continued loyalty on the part of all, the Consistory look forward to another year of useful and helpful service.

As officers for the ensuing year the following were elected:—Elders—Rev. E. S. Booth, Rev. J. L. Dearing, Messrs. D. H. Blake, L. Pollard, and A. W. Sherriff; Deacons—Messrs. F. S. Booth and W. Graham; Sunday School Superintendent—Mr. F. D. Burroughs; Choirmaster—Mr. S. H. Somerton; Trustees—Messrs. H. Geddes, R. Wallace, L. Pollard, D. MacKenzie, D. H. Blake, J. L. Graham, and A. L. Bagnall.

It was decided to send a letter of condolence to Mr. C. H. Thorn on the loss sustained by the death of his father (the late Mrs. Thorn was for some years interested in the work of the Church and up to the time of her death last year was a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary). It was also agreed to send the fraternal greetings of the Church and Congregation to the Rev. Walter Weston, Chaplain of Christ Church, wishing him God-speed in the work which he has just commenced in the community.

After the business meeting, which came to a close at 10.30, refreshments were served by the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, and a pleasant hour was spent in social intercourse.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, KORE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of All Saints' Church Association was held in the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade Rooms on the 5th inst., with Mr. G. J.

Melhuish, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presiding.

The following report was submitted to the meeting:—

The Directors present herewith their Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st Dec. 1911.

The property of the Association is in good condition. During the year under review the Church and Chaplain's Residence were thoroughly inspected and overhauled, and some considerable repairs and alterations effected in both buildings, and furniture to the value of about 1,000 yen purchased for the Chaplain's residence. The property is fully covered by insurance.

The Rev. H. J. Raymer, M.A., whose appointment to the Chaplaincy of All Saints' Church was announced at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 10th May, arrived in Kobe at the beginning of October and entered immediately upon his duties. The services up till Mr. Raymer's arrival were conducted by the Rev. Charles Foxley, M.A., to whom the warmest thanks of the Association are due for this kindness during more than two years whilst the Church was without a Chaplain.

The vacancy on the Board of Directors created by the resignation of Mr. F. S. Shaw has been filled by Mr. Geo. J. Melhuish, who also re-assumes the position of Chairman which was occupied by him prior to his departure from Japan in 1907.

The hearty thanks of the Association are due to Mr. W. G. Feast, Choir-master, to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Choir, and to Mr. Newton for their services. Thanks to their efforts the choral service at All Saints' Church has now attained a higher standard of excellence than has been known since its inception.

The Directors regret that owing to the extraordinary expenses incurred during the past year it has not been found possible to effect any reduction in the loan on the property of the Association beyond what has been received from All Saints' Church Ladies' Guild, to whom the Directors take this opportunity to express their deep sense of obligation. The loan, together with interest accrued, now stands at 15,170.26 yen as compared with 14,711.19 yen at the beginning of 1911, an increase of 459.07 yen. Since the month of October, however, the improved attendance at the Church, with its consequent increase in the offerings, give much encouragement, and the Directors believe that it may be possible to make more substantial reductions in future until the debt is finally extinguished, and in this they earnestly solicit the aid of every member of the Association. A fund called the Special Appeal Fund has been opened to defray in part the expenses incurred in connection with the appointment of the Chaplain—viz., passage money, furniture for the Chaplain's residence, etc., which amount to some 2,000 yen. The sum of 278.70 yen has already been collected, and a further 100 yen subscribed, and it is hoped that all members will see their way to making some contribution to the Fund, which will be kept open during the current year.

On the 20th June an official Service was held to celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King George V. and Queen Mary. The Service was conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Foss, D.D., assisted by several other clergymen and was attended by His Excellency the Governor and Madame Hattori, members of the Consular Corps, and the leading Japanese Officials, admission being otherwise restricted to British Subjects on account of the limited accommodation of the Church.

The Directors desire to acknowledge the courtesy and kindness of the Press, and to thank Mr. J. E. Drummond, who has kindly audited the accounts.

The Directors tender their resignations, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

The report and attached accounts were passed, and Messrs. Melhuish, Feast, Cabeldu, Cook and Crane Williams were elected Directors.

DEATH OF MR. E. V. THORN.

Yokohama residents will be pained to hear of the unexpected death of Mr. Edgar Vooris Thorn, which took place at Manila last Sunday. He had not been well for some time, suffering from stomach trouble and Bright's disease, and it was thought that a sea-voyage might do him good. He left here on the 22nd ultimo by the *Manchuria* for Manila, and word had been received from Kobe and Nagasaki that he was a little better, although from Shanghai came the news

that he should not go ashore there as he feared the cold trip up the river. Nothing further was heard concerning his health until yesterday morning, when his son received a cable from the Internal Revenue Department, Manila, acquainting him of his father's death. The late Mr. Thorn is survived by his son Mr. Charles H. Thorn, in Yokohama, and a married daughter, Mrs. Arthur E. Dowler, in England. To both of them the sincere sympathy of the community will be extended in their great loss.

Mr. Edgar Vooris Thorn was the son of the late Captain Charles Thorn, and was born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1847. He went to California in 1852, and was a graduate of the University of the Pacific. He joined the firm of Haviland & Hooper, San Francisco, merchants, and in 1873 went to Santa Clara, where he was appointed Manager of the Santa Clara Bank. He was a prominent member of the I. O. O. Fellows, being District Deputy Grand Master in 1874 and attaining the highest degree in that order. In 1887, after having been several years with the firm of Castle Bros., of San Francisco, he came to Japan and became Manager in Tokyo for the Japan and American Trading Co. A few years later he came to Yokohama, where he started a small advertising sheet "The Box of Curios," which developed into a permanent weekly and the establishment of the present firm, The Box of Curios Printing and Publishing Co. He was the first to form in Yokohama the I. O. O. F., receiving the appointment of Grand Fire of Asia, and also was instrumental in opening the first Lodge in Kobe. He was 65 at the time of his death.

POST OFFICE DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Department of Communications was held at the Chitose Restaurant on Thursday evening. The guests were received by Mr. H. Kawai, and dinner was served in the main room at 6 o'clock. The repast was sumptuous and included items such as Grilled Fish, Boiled Luck, Oysters, Stewed Chicken, Eels, Rice and Fruits.

The *geisha* dances were superb. The Butterfly dance made one think only of gorgeously colored butterflies flitting about on a summer's day. The international dance was performed by young dancing girls in their multi-colored *kimono*s, each carrying two or three national flags, and was danced right between the rows of guests, who afterwards were presented with the flags as souvenirs.

Mr. Kawai, in welcoming the guests, spoke as follows:

I wish to express my sincere thanks for the honour and pleasure you have given me with your presence this evening. I am afraid that owing to the lack of accommodation, I am not able to afford you much comfort, but I trust that you will enjoy yourselves as if at your own home.

M. Enrique, the Mexican Consul-General, replied in French, thanking Mr. Kawai for the sumptuous banquet and expressing the gratification of all the foreign guests at the hospitality shown them.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The figures of Japan's foreign trade during the eleven days ending the 31st ultimo were as follow:—

Exports	13,173,000
Imports	17,100,000

Excess of Imp ts.....	3,933,000
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The returns from January 1st to 31st idem are:—

	Compared with 1911.	
	Yen.	Yen.
Exports	30,946,000	83,000
Imports	45,269,000	188,000
Excess of Imports..	14,319,000	

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ATTITUDE OF JAPAN IN THE
PRESENT CHINESE CRISIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Every student of Japan's history knows well that the wonderfully advanced and perfectly developed ancient civilization of the Island Empire, whether in the domain of religion or of ethics or of the Arts and the Sciences, owed greatly to the civilization of the Middle Kingdom. But since its recent Reformation, Japan has not only not tried to requite even a small portion of her debt of gratitude to China; but to a certain extent she has been the direct cause of its recent troubles. The writer knows well that this is a debatable statement and that many a Japanese scholar and statesman will deny its accuracy and truth. Indeed, for weeks Professor Niobe has been struggling hard in America to prove that China was the aggressive party in her late war with Japan! Japanese must evidently possess a very queer notion of western credulity and stupidity. However, Japan's past conduct can be discerned, in my opinion, with considerable accuracy from her attitude towards the present momentous crisis in China's history. Acts convince more than words.

China is confronted now with three alternative problems, or rather conditions of existence. The first of these is a continuation of her monarchical institutions and traditions under one form or another. The second is her forced metamorphosis into a republican form of government; the third and last, her disintegration and distribution amongst the Powers concerned. It is quite plain that in the case of realizing either one of the first two alternatives, still we shall have remaining an independent and integral China, subject to the inherent laws of human evolution and progress. But if the third condition happens and China shares the destiny of Poland, it would be better for Japan to pause and study minutely the infinite perspective of the future events which such an eventuality is bound to create in the confused and disturbed household of her next-door neighbour, before it is too late.

The attitude of the Great Powers towards the present Chinese crisis appears to me something as follows. Russia is very anxious to have possession of Mongolia at once, leaving the rest of China for a future "bite." But this is, of course, an impossibility, simply because the moment she moves in her game of dispoilment her numerous adversaries will move instantaneously and almost automatically. Of these "Adversaries," Japan and Germany would move first, followed by England and France. If this perspective is accurate, then it will be plainly seen that America alone is sincerely anxious to preserve the integrity of China; but being alone I am afraid she cannot accomplish much.

But before the partition of China is an accomplished fact, every Japanese should consider deeply two points, namely, the portion which his country is going to acquire out of this international robbery; and the future influence of such a redistribution upon Japan herself.

Now as to the first point it is quite evident that in case of partition, beyond her present zone of influence in Manchuria, Japan cannot expect much outside. England very likely will try to get the Yangtze valley, leaving Tibet's destiny to be settled in the future. Germany and France would be left to skirmish in the South and South-West. It is true that from a military view-point Japan is the best prepared Power to seize the lion's share of the spoils, but the trouble is that there are many other hungry lions standing round the carcass and growling. Japan knows this very well.

As to the second and still more important point, the question is—"Will a sudden transshipment of the whole of Europe into that vast area of geography and humanity commonly known as 'China' be beneficial or prejudicial to the future development of Japan?" That such a violent transformation of China is *per se* bound to reflect forcibly on the life of Japan in one form or another it cannot be gainsaid; and this "reflection," from the very motive of the militating circumstances, cannot, we are afraid, be advantageous to Japan. The preservation of the integrity and independence of the Chinese Empire we consider in every respect far more conducive to a healthy and free expansion of Japan than the immediate possession of a small slice of ill-gotten territory. It is true that Japan has been very fortunate hitherto in reaping a ripe harvest in the Far East because of the blind and irrational European international jealousies. But these "blind and irrational European jealousies" oftentimes act in a capricious manner, and are subject to whimsical combinations. Therefore their

close approach to the shores of the Island Empire is not by any means a salutary omen. The lesson of Turkey should never be forgotten by Japan.

The attitude of Japan in the present Chinese crisis is rather difficult to understand. Indeed all complex attitudes have to be studied scrupulously before reaching any conclusion. However, this seems certain to me, namely, she has been running with the hare, pursuing with the hounds, and watching with the hunter. But this triplicate attitude cannot alter materially the fatalism of the future events if once China is annexed to Europe. Therefore, an independent and progressive China in our opinion is the salvation of Japan herself. She can accomplish this now if she joins hands with the United States, and they together endeavour to pull England, which has been hitherto pausing hesitatingly like Lot's wife between the damnation of Sodom and the salvation of Zor, to their side. France as a matter of course will follow them and China will be saved. Will she do this?

A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The political upheaval in China has for the present over-shadowed the awful suffering caused by the floods in Central China. President Taft has appealed to the American people through the National Red Cross Society for funds to relieve these starving thousands. A greater opportunity for doing good has not presented itself in recent years. There is not only charity to your neighbor, but far-sighted political wisdom in doing what Mr. Taft has done. Such an act, of course, is first of all for humanity and not for any political or contending party, but coming at this time of China's political distress, it is sure to make a deep and lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of the Chinese people.

As a life member of the Japan Red Cross Society I appeal to the officers and leaders of this society to lose no time in doing some real thing for the famine sufferers in China. Thousands are actually starving and tens of thousands are homeless because of the floods. It would be doing the Japanese people great good, while helping a suffering neighbor. The Japanese Red Cross Society is the richest in the world, and is prepared at once to do a great work for China without calling upon the people for any special gifts. Her Red Cross Society has a capital fund of over fourteen million yen and large equipment of materials and organizations and ships ready for immediate work. The present financial strength of the Red Cross Society here is about twice as great as the best in the West, and I hope she will not allow this great opportunity to slip by. Japan should act at once and thus, while doing a great work for humanity, help to build up lasting ties of friendship with the Chinese people. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Yours truly,
Hiroshima, Feb. 1, 1912.

W. P. TURNER.

TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH NAVAL ACCIDENT.

A SUBMARINE IN COLLISION.

FEARED LOSS OF ALL ON BOARD.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, February 3.

Submarine No. A-3 has sunk owing to a collision with the gunboat *Hasard* east of the Isle of Wight.

A cruiser is standing by.

It is feared that all those inside the submarine are drowned.

Lieutenant Ormand was in command, with Lieutenants Ernest Thornton, Donald Colin Campbell, Leonard Richardson and ten men.

The submarine was engaged in practising torpedo-firing with six others. The collision occurred when the vessel was partly submerged, and she disappeared in a few minutes.

Those on the *Hasard* were horrified to see a large escape of air, indicating that the submarine was completely flooded.

Later.

Submarine A-3 has been located at a depth of six fathoms.

The Admiralty has received messages of sympathy from the King and Kaiser.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM)

FROM CAPTAIN IDE, NAVAL ATTACHE TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

12 a.m., February 3.

The position of the sunken submarine has been located but it has not so far been refloated. Four lieutenants and ten officers and men have been drowned.

(In answer to a condolatory message sent by Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, Mr Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has telegraphed expressing his profound appreciation of the sympathetic message as to their misfortune in the loss of the lives of the gallant sailors of the British Navy.)

THE ROYAL PROGRESS.

THEIR MAJESTIES ARRIVE IN
ENGLAND.

GREETING IN LONDON.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, February 5.

H.M.S. *Medina* quitted Spithead this morning, passed close to the spot where the submarine sank, traversing the lines of war-ships, which dipped their colours, and was moored at the jetty.

Queen Alexandra, the Prince of Wales, Princess Mary, and Prince Arthur of Connaught greeted their Majesties affectionately when they landed.

An imposing Royal procession was then formed, which drove through the decorated streets in open carriages, despite the hard frost, amid the cheering of vast crowds.

London, February 6.

Their Majesties looked very happy as they drove through the streets of London, where they had a splendid greeting.

The King was dressed in an Admiral's uniform, and the Queen was in sables.

After their arrival at Buckingham Palace, their Majesties came out upon the balcony in response to cheers from the great crowd and remained bowing for five minutes.

They received a wonderful ovation, hats being flung in the air and sticks and handkerchiefs waved incessantly.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 6.

Their Majesties have returned to London from their Indian tour in the midst of the severest winter weather, whereto the warmth of the public greetings formed a most remarkable contrast.

Cheering thousands lined the route from Victoria Station to Buckingham Palace, where their Majesties appeared on the balcony in response to the outburst of cheers of welcome.

On Wednesday their Majesties attend a State Thanksgiving service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

THE THANKSGIVING
SERVICE.THEIR MAJESTIES RECEIVE
GREAT OVATION.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, February 7.

A thaw has set in and it was misty when

their Majesties drove to St. Paul's Cathedral in open carriages.

They received a splendid ovation throughout.

The Thanksgiving Service was conducted with impressive ceremonial before a great assemblage.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 7.

St. Paul's Cathedral presented a most brilliant scene at the Royal Thanksgiving service, being filled with hundreds of glittering uniforms.

The Choir was a blaze of light, showing up the gorgeous canonicals of the Archbishops and 19 Bishops.

An orchestra of drums and trumpeters from the Guards supplemented the usual organ music.

Vast crowds in the streets chanted the National Anthem.

(HEATER'S SERVICE).

ITALIAN NAVAL ACTIVITY.

London, February 1.

Italian warships on the 30th ult., took ten Turkish prisoners from a native pearler off the coast of Yemen.

Two Turks were killed while trying to swim ashore.

Hoba was bombarded by the Italian warships on the 24th ult. and Djebbanab on the 27th.

BOMB-FACTORY IN LISBON.

London, February 1.

The bomb factory at Lisbon has been discovered in the Trade Union headquarters.

A bomb was thrown this evening in the Flores Square, and three persons were killed.

THE STRIKE AT LISBON.

London, February 2.

It is officially announced that the strike at Lisbon has everywhere ended, and the Government is now master of the situation.

The Chamber has adopted a motion prolonging martial-law in Lisbon for a month, and has approved a bill providing for the summary court-martialing of the prisoners in batches of 25.

The Premier in his statement, reiterated his former assertion that the reactionaries had engineered the strike.

THE TURKS FROM THE "MANOUBA."

London, February 2.

It is semi-officially announced that 27 of the Turks taken from the *Manouba* are undoubtedly nurses of the Red Crescent. They will be allowed to proceed.

The twenty-eighth is seriously ill and the identity of the twenty-ninth is obscure.

They will not be allowed to go to Tunis.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

London, February 3.

A telegram from Urga states that the Mongolians intend to leave to the Russians the exploitation of Mongolia's mineral wealth in return for compensation.

Russian contractors have already arrived at Urga.

AVIATION IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

London, February 3.

M. Millerand has introduced bills into the French Chamber providing for an expenditure of £20,000 sterling on aviation and the establishment of an aeronautic regiment.

SENTENCE FOR ESPIONAGE.

London, February 4.

Captain Steward, a Yeomanry Officer, has

been found guilty at Leipzig of espionage and sentenced to three years and six months' imprisonment.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

London, February 4.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech in London yesterday, made an important statement on Britain's foreign policy.

He emphasized the fact that Britain was never better able to face an emergency than at present. (Cheers.)

He also dwelt on the growth of armaments and pointed out that economy was impossible until international envy, jealousy and fears were removed.

COLD WEATHER IN ENGLAND.

London, February 5.

This is the coldest February that has been experienced in England since 1895. In some parts the thermometer has sunk to zero. Skating is universal.

Blizzards in the north are blocking the railways and the roads.

H.M.S. "MEDINA" AT SPITHEAD.

London, February 5.

H.M.S. *Medina* has arrived at Spithead.

THE DALAI LAMA.

London, February 5.

The Dalai Lama is leaving shortly for Kalimpong and is proceeding to Thibet in March.

THE STEWART CASE.

London, February 6.

The Conservative afternoon papers vehemently comment on the sentence passed on Mr. Stewart, which is characterised as a disgraceful miscarriage of justice, calculated to embitter relations.

The papers add that British subjects now visit Germany at their peril.

LAUNCH OF A SPANISH DREADNOUGHT.

London, February 6.

Queen Victoria of Spain has launched at Ferrol the Dreadnought *Espana*.

Decorations have been conferred on the representatives of Messrs. Vickers, Armstrong Whitworth and John Brown and Co., who were associated in the construction of the vessel.

BAVARIAN ELECTIONS.

London, February 6.

In the elections for the Bavarian Diet the Catholics have lost eleven seats and the Conservatives ten.

The Liberals have gained eleven seats, the Socialists nine, and the Peasants' Union one.

THE "MANOUBA" AFFAIR.

London, February 6.

The Turks taken from the *Manouba* have arrived at Stax.

PRINCE WALDEMAR.

London, February 7.

Prince Waldemar, the son of Prince Henry, has left for Genoa, to embark on the 8th inst. for Ceylon, whence he will proceed to East Asia.

He will be absent about five months.

BRITISH POLITICS.

London, February 7.

The Cabinet sat 3½ hours yesterday. Some of the papers declare that the Ministers are still drafting the Home Rule Bill.

THE EX SHAH OF PERSIA.

London, February 7.

The British and Russian Ministers at

Teheran have suggested that the Government should pension the ex-Shah and grant an amnesty to his partisans on the condition that they leave Persia without delay.

BRITISH TRADE.

London, February 8.

The increases in imports are £4,309,161 and in exports £2,655,981.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE INSURANCE BILL.

London, February 2.

British doctors maintain their hostility to the Chancellor's Insurance proposals.

The Council of the Medical Association and three other bodies have declined to attend the conference of insurance commissioners.

THE COTTON OPERATIVES.

London, February 2.

By repeated displays of hostility in several cotton weaving centres, the Union operatives are creating a serious position.

The employers contemplate the possibility of renewing the lock-out.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, February 2.

On the Stock Exchange Chinese bonds are strong.

The Continent is buying Russian bonds.

PRUSSIAN FRANCHISE.

London, February 2.

The German Government does not intend to introduce a bill for the reform of the Prussian franchise, although it is a most permanent cause of public discontent and a most useful asset for the Socialists, its injustice swelling their ranks.

The Government prefers to do nothing rather than accept a bill which would disunite all the non-Socialist parties.

ROBBERIES IN PARIS.

London, February 2.

Public alarm has increased in Paris owing to numerous robberies with violence, the perpetrators of which have not been detected.

Revolvers are used by the thieves with the utmost freedom.

THE STRIKE AT LISBON.

London, February 2.

The Workmen's Federation premises at Lisbon, where the strikers' committee was sitting, were surrounded by troops early in the morning and six hundred strikers were arrested and sent on the warships.

The lower quarters of the City have been scoured and scores of disreputable characters seized.

The strike is practically over.

ITALY AND TRIPOLI.

London, February 2.

Under the auspices of the Peace Society 124 leading jurists have published throughout the world a signed protest, on purely juridical and legal grounds, against the Italian attack on Tripoli, as inconsistent with national good faith and calculated to discredit the treaties formed between the Powers.

THE ASTON LIBRARY.

London, February 2.

Cambridge University Library has secured the collection of nearly 2,000 valuable Japanese books on every topic made by the late Mr. Aston.

A DESTROYER FLEET.

London, February 2.

Great interest is taken in the announce-

ment that the Admiralty intends to build immediately a fleet of modern destroyers.

This is regarded as a practical reply to the German proposed additions to the Fleet. Any amount of money will certainly be cheerfully voted for this purpose.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, February 3.
Chinese bonds are buoyant.

COPPER.

London, February 3.
Copper is quoted at 61½—62½. The tone is quieter and steady.

DOCK STRIKES.

London, February 3.
The strikes at the Tilbury and Glasgow docks continue.

THE COTTON SPINNERS DISPUTE.

London, February 3.
The Manchester Cotton-masters have refused the men's application for an advance of 5 per cent. on their wages until peace is completely restored, in accordance with the recent agreement.

TROUBLE IN CROATIA.

London, February 3.
Owing to the repressive methods of the new Governor of Croatia, the situation is daily becoming more strained.

The Diet has been dissolved, the University is closed, and the non official journals have been confiscated.

The students have barricaded themselves in the University and prepared for a siege.

PERSIA AND ANGLO-RUSSIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

London, February 3.
Well informed quarters anticipate an early and favourable issue of the Anglo-Russian negotiations for the drawing up of a joint policy for strengthening Persia, including the immediate issue of a loan.

THE CASE OF STEWART.

London, February 5.
The British public is most indignant at the heavier sentence passed by the Supreme Court of Leipzig upon Mr. Forester Stewart for attempting to obtain military secrets.

Mr. Stewart, who emphatically protested his innocence, was tried secretly and convicted on the sole testimony of a Belgian of infamous character.

The Times declares that no Englishman can accept the sentence as justified.

The public demands the intervention of the Foreign Office.

THE CHANCELLOR AND THE FINANCIERS.

London, February 5.
City financial experts are thoroughly irritated at the speech made by Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on Saturday, because he failed to offer the slightest suggestion for improving the price of consols, but confined himself to jeering at the previous administration and only vaguely promised an inquiry.

The Chancellor is thought to be incapable of separating national finance from party politics.

WEDDING PARTY IN BULGARIA.

London, February 5.
Bulgarian brigands attacked a wedding party at Smilac, murdered two of the guests and cut off the ears of three others.

GERMAN NAVAL INCREASE.

London, February 5.
The German Secretary of the Navy is

urging increased naval expenditure with unceasing vigour.

The total naval and military increases are estimated at five to eight millions.

AIRSHIPS IN WARFARE.

London, February 6.

The International Arbitration League has issued a protest against the use of airships in warfare, and demand an international agreement thereon.

NEW FRENCH NAVAL PROGRAMME.

London, February 7.

The new French naval programme proposes to build by 1920, 28 battleships, 10 scouts, 2 battle cruisers, 52 sea-going destroyers, and 18 submarines, at a cost of about sixty million pounds.

MR. CHURCHILL AT BELFAST.

London, February 6.

Mr. Winston Churchill has decided to speak at Belfast on Wednesday, but not at Ulster Hall.

The City is guarded by four thousand troops.

It is not expected that the Unionists will now attempt to interfere with the Liberals. The only danger is from street rioting by hooligans.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, February 7.

The recent British manifestations of goodwill towards Germany have not produced the desired impression on the continent.

Some critics attribute them to a cunning British desire to deprive the German Government of a pretext for warlike allusions when recommending the naval and military increases in the Reichstag.

A BOMB-FACTORY BLOWN UP.

London, February 8.

A Bulgarian bomb-factory at Sintimitza has been blown up and eleven killed and injured.

THE COAL-MINERS' TROUBLE.

London, February 8.

The outlook in the coal trade has become much more serious owing to the failure of the national conference in London between the owners and the men on the minimum wage question.

A general strike is regarded as inevitable.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

KAISER PLEADS FOR AN UNITED NATION.

Berlin, February 1.

The Kaiser, thanking the German people for their congratulations on the occasion of his birthday, directs very earnest advice to the whole nation to always remain united and firm in its national strength.

POSADOWSKY DECLINES LEADERSHIP.

Herr von Posadowsky, the well-known German politician and member of the Conservative Party, has refused to stand as candidate for the Presidency of the German Reichstag.

CHANCELLOR BLAMED FOR SOCIALIST SUCCESSES.

The Conservative Press, in its comments on the result of the elections for the new German Reichstag, makes the Chancellor responsible for the enormous increase of the Socialists. The position of the Chancellor is, however, still unshaken owing to the Kaiser having full confidence in the

Chancellor's policy. The Kaiser is not alarmed by the increase of Socialists.

MORE TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS.

Great uneasiness is reported to be making itself felt in the Balkan States.

AMBASSADOR TO THE PORTE RECALLED.

M. Bompard, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, has been summoned to Paris for a conference.

GERMANY.

Berlin, February 2.

The Prussian Prime Minister, speaking in the Landtag, stated that a Bill for the reform of the Election Law would not be presented by the Government owing to the continuance of last year's differences of opinion of the various parties.

The German Crown Prince and Crown Princess and the Austrian Successor to the Throne and his Consort have gone to take part in the winter sports at the Engadine.

PROPOSED NAVAL VISIT.

The German Government has asked the American Government, if, on the occasion of this year's voyage of Prince Adalbert of Prussen, a countervisit of a German Squadron to last year's visit of the American Fleet to German ports would be agreeable.

HIGH PRAISE FOR GERMANS.

The Burgomaster of Rotterdam, speaking on the occasion of the birthday celebration of the Kaiser held by the German Colony, said that the Kaiser was the best and true friend and neighbour of Holland. He further emphasized the big share of the German Colony at Rotterdam in the marvellous improvements effected at the port.

JAPANESE TROOPS FOR MANCHURIA.

It is officially reported from St. Petersburg that Japanese troops have been dispatched to Mukden for the protection of Japanese life and property.

THE MONGOLIAN PRINCES.

It is also officially reported that the conference of Eastern Mongolian Princes at Mukden for the purpose of considering participation in the independence movement of Northern Mongolia has passed without any result, most of the Mongolian Princes having not put in an appearance.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN SPHERES IN PERSIA.

The *Novoye Vremya* reports that negotiations are going on between Great Britain and Russia as to the limitation of mutual spheres of interest, the payment of an indemnity to the ex-Shah and a common loan to Persia. An occupation of the country is not intended and the Russian troops have commenced their march back from Tabriz.

LISBON QUIET.

All is quiet at Lisbon.

GERMANS ABROAD.

Berlin, February 3.

A Bill providing for the maintenance of German nationality by Germans living in foreign countries will be presented to the new Reichstag. The loss of nationality by the neglect of formalities will not be possible as hitherto. A person will only lose his nationality if he acquire the nationality of another State or continually declines to fulfil his military obligations. Better facilities will be created for carrying out the latter, complete suspension of the serving with the colours or the later regular practices being

eventually allowed. The formation of special offices for military service of Germans will be provided in foreign countries and the German Colonies.

The recovery of national rights by former German subjects or their descendants will in future not depend on the return to and settlement in German territory. Widows or divorced women, who by marrying other nationals have lost their nationality, will be permitted to recover their former nationality.

PRINCE WALDEMAR.

Prince Waldemar of Prussen will start on a private visit to Colombo and Tsingtau, from Genoa, on February 8th.

NO NEW TAXES.

Berlin, February 4.

It is now reported that for meeting the new army and navy expenses the introduction of a tax on capital is not intended. On the contrary, it will be met principally by the surplus of former taxes, no new taxes being up to now proposed to the Bundesrat.

MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR.

The Tsar, in a personal letter to Count Osten Sacken, the Russian Ambassador at Berlin, expressed his warmest congratulations on the occasion of the latter's sixtieth birthday. He especially emphasized his great merits for the maintenance and consolidation of the old and traditional good relations between Russia and Germany.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

Berlin, February 3.

The visit of English parliamentary members to St. Petersburg is rumoured to have been followed by the conclusion of a military convention by both States. The rumour is strictly denied by the Russian authorities.

PRINCE BORIS OF AGE.

The coming of age of the Bulgarian Crown Prince has been enthusiastically celebrated at Sofia. The European Press is commenting on the event in a friendly manner. Prince Leopold of Prussen has gone to Sofia to present to the Prince the High Order of the Black Eagle. Grand Duke Andreas was sent from St. Petersburg to present in the name of the Tsar a sabre as an emblem of Russo-Bulgarian military brotherhood.

RUSSO-CHINESE RELATIONS.

M. Korostowetz, the former Russian Minister at Peking has been nominated second Russian plenipotentiary for the negotiations now pending between Russia and China as to the revision of the treaty of commerce.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN ACTION.

Russian military guards are protecting the Manchurian Railway against the violation of its neutrality by Chinese troops. An attack, on which occasion a Russian officer was killed, was repulsed.

THE VATICAN ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Dutch Minister of Justice, speaking in the Chamber, stated that the last Motu Proprio of the Pope on the exclusion of Catholic Priests from Civil Courts is not effective in Holland. The Chamber has passed a Bill providing for the increase of the army to 23,000 men.

STRIKE ENDED.

The general strike in Portugal has been concluded.

RUSSIA OBTAINS "CONCESSION."

The St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency

reports that the Mongolian Government will cede to Russia the district of Urga for the exploitation of its natural resources. Russian speculators have already arrived at Urga.

FIGHT BETWEEN CHINESE AND MONGOLS.

The Chinese Military Governor at Kuldsha, after an indecisive battle between his troops and the Mongolians, has declared himself willing to open peace negotiations.

DENIAL OF A RUMOUR.

A report of the *Daily Mail*, according to which Portugal is said to have offered her colony of North-Eastern Timor to Germany, is officially contradicted at Lisbon.

THE SUBMARINE DISASTER.

An English submarine boat has been sunk owing to a collision with a cruiser. The Kaiser has sent a telegram of sympathy to the British Admiralty.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian mails, with dates up to January 18th ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on February 2nd.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

Berlin, February 4.

The *Koelnische Zeitung*, in a leader on the Chinese revolution, says that the Chinese have given proofs of political wisdom and prudent moderation up to the present. It further emphasizes that intervention of the Powers should be avoided if possible, and only be carried out if absolutely necessary, after common deliberation of all Powers. A one-sided intervention of single Powers or groups of Powers would be very undesirable.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turks have declined to accept a proposal of Russia, suggesting that Italian and Turkish troops should evacuate Tripoli, after which mediation should be attempted by a group of Powers.

THE TSAR AND THE EMPEROR FRANCIS.

Berlin, February 5.

Grand Duke Andreas has been ordered by the Tsar to pay a visit to Emperor Franz Joseph, which is the first effort towards the reopening of good relations between both sovereigns since the Bosnian crisis.

POSITION IN MANCHURIA.

The Viceroy of Manchuria has directed a strong warning to the people at Kirin and Tsitsihar to remain faithful to the Dynasty, otherwise a partition of Manchuria cannot be avoided.

MONGOLIAN PRETENDER.

Berlin, February 5.

It is reported from Urga that the Mongolian Pretender to the Throne, Prince Tashetukan, is dead, leaving an heir who is only four years old.

AMERICAN TROOPS ON MEXICAN FRONTIER.

The American Government is concentrating troops on the Mexican frontier.

BAVARIAN LANDTAG ELECTION RESULTS.

Berlin, February 6.

The Liberals have won a striking victory in the elections for the new Bavarian Landtag, having gained 13 seats; the gains of the Socialists were 8 and those of the Peasant Union 3. The Agrarians lost 12 and the Centre 12 seats; the latter, however, still maintain the majority.

The Bavarian Cabinet resigned before the results of the elections were known.

The former Premier, Freiherr von Podewils, was entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet.

OPENING OF THE REICHSTAG.

Berlin, February 7.

The Kaiser, in opening the first session of the new German Reichstag, read his speech. It was to the effect that the principal tasks of the Government are the maintenance of the firm basis of order in the State, the further development of social legislation, and the improvement of the finances of the Empire. He further emphasized the increasing efficiency of German industry, commerce and agriculture, and announced the continuance of Germany's policy of commercial treaties. The interests, in all respects, of German nationals in foreign countries will be specially protected. For the further completion of German armaments, new army and navy bills will be presented, and the Kaiser appealed to the Reichstag to aid the Bundesrat in providing proper means to carry out the new demands.

The references in the speech concerning the foreign policy of the German Government, touched on the Franco-German Morocco Convention, which must be regarded as certain proof of the mutual willingness to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the question, as far as was permitted by the national prestige and commercial interests of both States.

The Triple Alliance would be firmly adhered to and friendly relations maintained with all other Powers on the basis of mutual regard and good will.

The speech concluded with an expression of confidence in the steady progress of the people and the hopeful future of the Empire.

The speech was received with much applause by the Reichstag.

Later.

The Liberal Press in Germany, commenting on the speech of the Kaiser, emphasizes its very popular tone in connection with internal policy and the stress laid upon the desire for maintenance of good relations with the Powers, in spite of the new Armament Bill.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.

As a counter-visit to the present visit of Grand Duke Andreas to Emperor Franz Joseph, the Austrian Successor to the Throne will probably be sent to St. Petersburg.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Ministerial Council has decided to maintain the independence of Tripoli and the Cyrenaica, so that the Russian proposal for mediation must be regarded as rejected by Turkey.

IMPORTANT MEETING AT BERLIN.

Lord Haldane, the British Minister for War, has been received in audience by the King and will pay a visit to Berlin on February 9th, where he will be received by the Kaiser. He will be accompanied by Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, who has been invited by the Kaiser to lunch with him.

AMERICA'S SUGGESTION APPROVED.

A note will be dispatched to-morrow to the American Government as a reply to an interpellation of the latter as to the attitude to be taken with regard to events in China. The German Government fully agrees with America and all other Powers, that, if possible, any interference should be avoided. If, however, interference should prove absolutely necessary, all the Powers should act unitedly, to exclude any misunderstanding.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

On Monday morning a fire occurred at a fishing-village of some 200 houses in Kii province, resulting in the destruction of one-third of the village.

At Strumnitz on the 29th ult. a bomb exploded, killing an officer and five gendarmes and wounding the commandant of the gendarmerie and seven of his men.

It is reported that some 130 lightermen in the employ of Messrs. Helm Bros., Ltd., of this city, threaten to go on strike, being dissatisfied with the present rate of wages.

It is officially reported that the flagship *Aki* of the First Squadron, with the *Katori*, *Mikasa*, *Shikishima*, *Ibuki*, and *Tsukuba*, entered Dairen on Saturday afternoon last.

The U.S. Steel Corporation has filed a reply to the allegations contained in the Government suit. The reply denies that the Corporation's object is to restrict trade in any way or to prevent competition, and contends that its operations have not had that effect.

The steam-launch *Take Maru*, of the Yokosuka Fortification Department, ran aground on a shoal off Sarushima on Saturday afternoon last. The vessel sustained serious damage to her bottom. The crew were saved by the steamer *Kannon Maru* which was passing by.

A CAUCUS of Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives, in pursuance of its policy of economy, has voted against any increase in the Navy during the present session, thus interrupting the programme of two battleships a year initiated in the time of Colonel Roosevelt's Presidency.

A TAIHOKU despatch reports that severe cold is experienced in the district of Giran, snow covering the mountain tops to the depth of several inches. The expeditionary force is in a painful position, fighting against the cold and the desperate aborigines. In skirmishes on the 27th and 28th ultimo three policemen and five native followers were killed, and over twenty men more or less seriously wounded.

EARLY on Saturday morning last the steamer *Katsulata Maru* (3,400 tons), owned by the Hara Shoten of Osaka, arrived at Keelung, Formosa, from Manila, and dropped anchor close by the lighthouse. Almost immediately the vessel was seen to be on fire. Strenuous efforts were made by the crew to extinguish the flames, which were at last got under control. The amount of damage is still under investigation.

Mrs. W. B. LEEDS, who is described by a London paper as the most popular of American hostesses in town, has arranged a trip for the party of friends she is taking with her on the *Semiramis*, the Marquess of Anglesey's beautiful yacht, which she has chartered for some months. The ultimate destination is Yokokama, but on the way there the *Semiramis* will make a stop, probably at Bombay, for big-game shooting. Among those who will be Mrs. Leeds' guests are the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Lady Sarah Wilson, Lord Lascelles, and Lord Falconer.

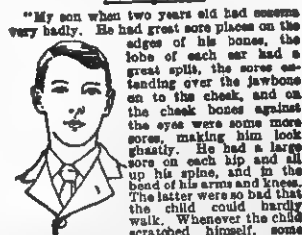
An ordinary general meeting of the Japan Industrial Bank was held on the 5th instant, when the following accounts were adopted:—

Profit for present term	Yen. 830,476
Balance brought forward from previous term	61,713
Total	892,189
Reserve fund for making good deficit	105,000
Reserve fund for equalization of dividend	20,000
First dividend (5 per cent. per annum)	437,500
Bonuses for directors	25,000
Second dividend (3 per cent. per annum)	262,500
Balance carried forward to next term	42,189

TORTURED DAY AND NIGHT BY ITCHING

And Burning. Sore Places on Baby's Cheeks, Hips, Spine and in Bend of Arms and Knees. Could Hardly Walk. Was Ill for Want of Rest.

Got Cuticura Remedies and Now has Not the Least Sign of Eczema.



"My son when two years old had eczema very badly. He had great sore places on the edges of his bones, the lobe of each ear had a great split, the sores extending over the jawbone on to the cheek, and on the cheek bones against the eyes were some more sores making him look ghastly. He had a large sore on each hip and all up his spine, and in the bend of his arms and knees. The latter were so bad that the child could hardly walk. Whenever the child scratched himself, some watery matter would come from the places like great drops of perspiration. He was tortured day and night with the awful burning and itching sensations. I had tried several remedies, and then I went to the doctor but the stuff I had from him made not the slightest impression. The child was getting quite ill for the want of proper rest. "I gave up going to the doctor, as a friend, a nurse, gave me some Cuticura Ointment to try and see if it would relieve my boy. I used it for a week, and by that time the places were looking decidedly less angry, and were not nearly so irritable. I got some Cuticura Ointment and Soap, and persevered with them. He was in such a state I could not make a tin of Ointment last ten days. I used to smear the places over two or three times a day. The eczema kept coming back, but as soon as it showed I used Cuticura Ointment. The boy is now thirteen and not the least sign of eczema." (Signed) Mrs. A. Oliver, The Gardens, Egerton House, Egerton, near Ashford, Kent, Eng., May 11, 1910. Cuticura Remedies afford most economical treatment for skin diseases. Sold throughout the world. London Depot, 27, Charterhouse Square.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, February 10.

The market of Raw Cotton is steady. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	31.50 to 32.50
Indian Broach	31.00 to 32.00
Chinese (Old crop)	30.50 to 31.50
Chinese (New crop)	30.50 to 31.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43½-44 in.	5.20 to 6.20
Common to Good	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in.	6.20 to 8.00
Ordinary to Good	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches	7.80 to 8.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	Y.
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Fifths, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

Cloths—Army Cloth	—
Cloths—All others	—
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs	8.90 to 1.00

METALS.

The market is firm, but with little business doing.	
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	PER PICUL. Y. 4.30 to 4.70
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	3.20 to 3.40
Sheet Iron	6.30 to 6.50
Sheet Mild Steel	6.80 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.90 to 11.20
Flat	11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	8.60 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar"	2.35 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.	
Chester	Y. 3.20
Victory	3.60
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	3.70 to 3.85
Nurneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyesu	3.00 to 3.35
Nippdn	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura	3.30
Todal	3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported refined.	
	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.50
White Java	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.00
(Hongkong)	14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	3.05
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Yen.	
Gold Drop	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.05 to 11.70
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40
Japanese:—	
Rising Sun	2.80
Takasago	2.75
Fuji	2.85
Pine	2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.	
	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 lbm	4.95
Red	4.90
Blue Stem	5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On January 31st stocks were: Filatures 20,624 bales, Re-reels, 2,297 bales; Kakedas, 509 bales.

Yen.	
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	925
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	875
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	880
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	865
Filature—No. 1½, 9-11den	890
Filature—No. 1½, 10-12den	880
Filature—No. 1½, 13-15den	835
Filature—No. 1½, 11-13den	870
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha	825
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	870
Re-reels—No. 1½	855
Re-reels—No. 2	835
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	865
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	830
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	820
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	810

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

February.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
1st	yen. 8.47	yen. 8.52	yen. 8.57
2nd	8.52	8.55	8.60
3rd	8.54	8.60	8.69
4th	8.54	8.57	8.65
5th	8.55	8.59	8.68
6th	8.59	8.65	8.74

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet.
On January 31st stocks were:—Noshi, 2,200 piculs; Kibiso, 4,800 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	135 10 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	135 10 135
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	135 10 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	100 10 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	85 10 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	70 10 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	90 10 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	80 10 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 10 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	115 10 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	100 10 115
Rereel—Fair	—
Rereel—Best	—
Rereel—Good	—
Rereel—Medium	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.
Kanazawa:—There has been no change in prices, and the market is in a quiet condition.
Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2	8.15	7.95	7.95	7.85	7.80
27	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.60	7.70
36	8.05	7.80	7.75	7.60	7.65

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/4 ms.	5 1/2 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2	7.85	7.70	7.65	7.50	7.50
27	7.65	7.60	7.55	7.55	7.55
36	7.55	7.55	7.50	7.50	7.50

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20	7.10	7.70	8.60	9.40	9.40
23	7.40	8.30	9.50	10.00	10.00
27	8.90	10.20	11.10	11.80	11.80
36	12.00	13.40	15.30	16.30	16.30

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of February 8th the quotation was £62.12.6.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.50—45.00
Beeswax per 100 kin	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	" 47.00—50.00
Ore	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	707.114
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	83.584
Delivery	Closing Price
February	18.42
March	18.51
April	18.58
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
February	February
March	March
April	April

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen 20.40	
Medium	19.30	
Common	17.80	
Average	19.17	

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.	
Delivery	Yen.
February	131.00
March	132.55
April	130.85

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till January 31st

amount to 53,868 piculs, against 53,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

London silver 1/4 higher and Hongkong sterling quotations 1/2 higher; local rates on China are easier but all other unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/1
— 6 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257 @ 8
— Private 4 months' sight	262 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2 @ 3/4
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2 @ 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51 1/2 @ 3/4
Germany—Bank sight	208 @ 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	213 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 97 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 95 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	77 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/2 @ 26 1/2

MAIL STEAMERS.

From	Line	Steamer	Date.
America	P. M.	Mongolia I	Sa. Feb. 10
Hongkong	P. M.	China 2	Su. Feb. 11
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kamakura M. 3	Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	Tu. Feb. 13
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	Th. Feb. 15
America	T. K.	Nippon Maru	F. Feb. 16
Vancouver	B. L.	Orelic	Sa. Feb. 17
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	M. Feb. 19
Europe	N. D. L.	P. E. Friedrich	Tu. Feb. 20
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	Th. Feb. 22
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Su. Feb. 25
Hongkong	B. L.	Luceric	M. Feb. 26
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Su. Mar. 3

1 Left Honolulu on the 30th ult.
2 Left Hongkong on the 2nd inst.
3 Left Seattle on the 27th ult.

For	Line	Steamer	Date.
Europe	N. D. L.	Derfflinger	Sa. Feb. 10
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Yamaguchi M.	Su. Feb. 11
Hongkong	P. M.	Mongolia	M. Feb. 12
America	N. Y. K.	China	Tu. Feb. 13
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	W. Feb. 14
Europe	N. Y. K.	Kamo Maru	W. Feb. 14
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Feb. 16
Europe	M. M.	Ernest Simons	Sa. Feb. 17
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Feb. 18
Hongkong	B. L.	Orelic	Su. Feb. 18
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	W. Feb. 21
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Feb. 22
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	F. Feb. 23
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. Feb. 23
Seattle	B. L.	Luceric	Tu. Feb. 27
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. Feb. 27
Tacoma	B. & S.	Keemun	Sa. Mar. 2
Australia	N. Y. K.	Nikko Maru	Sa. Mar. 2
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Su. Mar. 3
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Tanba Maru	M. Mar. 4

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Protestants, British steamer, 5,800, D. P. Campbell, 2nd Feb.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Socotra, British steamer, 3,896, G. J. Coldwell, 2nd Feb.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Sfesia, German steamer, 2,659, Faass, 2nd Feb.—Glasgow via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Thesens, British steamer, 4,299, J. Barwise, 3rd Feb.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Meinam, French steamer, 3,513, Vidal, 3rd Feb.—Antwerp and Marseilles via ports, General.—M. M. & Co.

Oronsay, British steamer, 2,416, E. Taylor, 3rd Feb.—Sfax, Phosphate, Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,625, A. Muir, 3rd Feb.—Nagahama Quarantine Station, Ballast.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 4th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 4th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimidzu, 4th Feb.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 4th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 5th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Bendoran, British steamer, 2,587, A. W. S. Thomson, 5th Feb.—London via ports, General.—Carnes & Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, M. Abe, 5th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ambrisa, German steamer, 3,288, Ernst, 5th Feb.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Uni Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 5th Feb.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Derfflinger, German steamer, 5,241, F. Proesch, 6th Feb.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 7th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 7th Feb.—Tacoma, Wash. Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Girard, 7th Feb.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Cie.

Shokwa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,332, M. Takahashi, 8th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,617, Y. Yamanaka, 8th Feb.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,500, T. Takeuchi, 8th Feb.—Keelung, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,625, A. Muir, 2nd Feb.—Nagahama Quarantine station, Ballast.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.

Hydra, British steamer, 2,625, A. Muir, 3rd Feb.—Milke, Ballast.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.

Kenan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 3rd Feb.—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Protestants, British steamer, 5,800, D. P. Campbell, 3rd Feb.—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Yawato Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,366, J. Sekine, 3rd Feb.—Sydney and Melbourne, Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sydney, French steamer, 2,077, Costa, 3rd Feb.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 4th Feb.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Nippon, Australian steamer, 3,999, E. Tarabocchia, 4th Feb.—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 5th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sfesia, German steamer, 2,659, Faass, 5th Feb.—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Idomeneus, British steamer, 4,299, A. G. Paddle, 6th Feb.—Genoa, Marseilles and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Socotra, British steamer, 3,896, G. J. Coldwell, 6th Feb.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 6th Feb.—Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Thesens, British steamer, 4,299, J. Barwise, 7th Feb.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shima, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeefer, 7th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, R. Swain, 7th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimizu, 8th Feb.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 8th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Uma Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 8th Feb.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS, ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Siberia* from Hongkong via ports.—Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Trueholtz, Mr. J. J. Keegan, Mr. H. J. Rosencrantz and native servant, Mr. A. Talavera, Mr. Ng Ming Chee, Mr. Man Foo Tin and Mr. Lue Fat. For Honolulu:—Mr. J. M. Dyer. For San Francisco:—Mr. Chas. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. E. Beck and infant, Mrs. F. Colton, Mr. H. H. Caldwell, Mr. T. Gribayedoff, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hapna, Mr. Hanford, Dr. J. F. Kemp, Mr. K. Dangebeck, Miss M. E. McLellan, Miss M. L. Nelson, Miss A. M. Todd, Miss K. N. Van Buskirk, Mr. F. White, Sarath Kumar Ghosh and Mr. Lin Chung in cabin.
 Per Japanese steamer *Yamaguchi Maru* from Shanghai via ports.—Mr. K. Soyeda in cabin; 10 Japanese and 1 Portuguese in cabin.
 Per R.V.F. steamer *Poltava* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Benaben, Mrs. Hjorth, Mr. Collier and Chaderion with wife and child in cabin.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Mishima Maru* from Europe via ports.—Mrs. W. M. Smith, Master K. Smith, Master K. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Gillon, Mrs. F. O. Stuart, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. E. Hiroyama, Miss A. L. Hadley, Mr. and Mrs. D. Matsuda, Master K. Matsuda, Miss A. Matsuda and Col. H. Hongkinson in cabin. For Kobe:—Mr. K. Ito, Mr. I. Ikeda, Miss T. Masuda, Miss M. Otani and Mr. I. Ishibashi in second class.
 Per French steamer *Sydney* for Marseilles via ports.—Mr. J. W. Graham in cabin.
 Per R. V. F. steamer *Sibirsk* for Vladivostok:—Mr. K. Watanabe, Mr. A. Chaboud, Mr. R. Motley, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hutton Poits and Miss A. Hutton Poits and Mr. Gyobu in cabin; Mr. C. Machard in second class.
 Per American steamer *Siberia* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. R. A. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. E.

Beck and infant, Mr. Chas. Bond, Mr. H. H. Caldwell, Mrs. L. F. Colton, Mr. J. M. Dyer, Mr. T. Gribayedoff, Dr. J. F. Kemp, Mr. Lin Chung, Miss M. E. McLellan, Miss M. L. Nelson, Mr. Sarath Kumar Ghosh, Miss A. M. Todd, Mrs. K. M. Van Buskirk, Mr. F. W. White, Miss Harriet S. Alling, Mr. E. C. Andrews, Mrs. C. Adelaide Brown, Mr. Reginald Gorham, Mr. H. E. Plumer, Miss Hellen Robinson and Mr. F. M. Sah in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS. Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer Sydney:—

	Raw.	Waste.
Merino	—	—
Opima	—	—
Lyons	—	—
Moscow	—	—
Milan	—	—
France	—	—
Italy	—	—
Turin	—	—
Genoa	—	—
Hara Yushitsuten	115	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	74	—
Nabholz & Co.	69	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	57	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	14	—
W. Pestalossi	10	—
F. Strahler & Co.	10	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	28	—
C. Eymard & Co.	25	—
Pila & Co.	—	35
Bavie & Co.	—	38
Jewett and Bent	—	33
Dell Oro & Co.	—	10 161
Bretschneider & Co.	—	9
Comptoirs Soles	—	5
Total	349	53 35 — 286 161 — 7

Per British steamer *Empress of India* for Vancouver, B.C., on the 4th inst.:—

	Raw Silk.	Waste.
N.Y. Eton	—	—
C'cago	—	—
H'yoke	—	—
Whitehall	—	—
Jardine Matheson & Co.	456	—
Mitsui Bussan Kai	178	—
Kito Gomei Kaisha	156	—
China Japan Trading Co.	54	—
L. Motet and Bar-mont	—	8 103
Jewett & Bent	136	—
Vivanti Bros.	120	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	115	—
F. Strahler & Co.	55	—
P. Dourille	30	—
Total	1,315	20 23 103 6

* Waste Silk.

Per Japanese steamer *Tacoma Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 6th inst.

Japan Villa-Stearns Co.	41
Bavie & Co.	20
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	199
Kito Gomei Kaisha	120
Yanagisawa Shokai	10
Cornes & Co.	68
Total	458

* Waste Silk.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of India* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

TEA.						Total
From.	Canada	Chicago & West.	New York	Pacific Coast.	Other Cities.	Fin- ances.
Hongkong	1,311	—	—	1,427	—	2,738
Shanghai	138	910	—	1	—	1,049
Yokohama	478	—	—	—	—	478
Total	1,927	910	—	1,428	—	4,265

SILK.

	From	New York.	Boston.	Spring Valley.	Montreal.	Hol.	Total.
H'kong & Canton	145	—	—	—	—	—	145
Shanghai	406	—	—	—	—	13	419
Yokohama	1,315	20	8	15	103	1,461	1,461
Total	1,866	20	8	28	103	2,025	2,025

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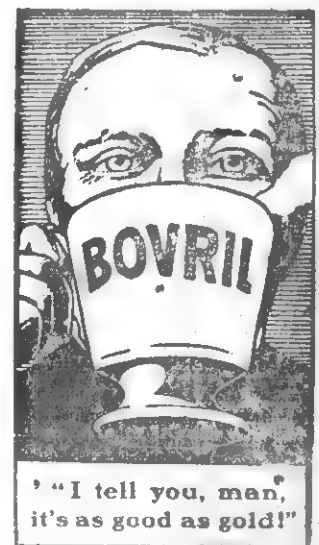
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.
Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 17TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

HORNE.—At Dairen, Manchuria, on the 15th inst., to Mr. and Mrs. H. HORNE, —a Son.

MARRIAGE.

HUTCHINSON—STRATTON.—On Feb. 9, at H.B.M. Consulate, and afterwards at the English Church, Nagasaki, by the VEN. ARCHDEACON HUTCHINSON, C.M.S., father of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. S. Painter, C.M.S., Kumamoto, ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL HUTCHINSON, B.A., C.M.S., Kagoshima, to CONSTANCE CLARA AUDEN, youngest daughter of FREDERICK STRATTON, Esq., of Mount Pleasant House, Newport, Isle of Wight.

DEATH.

ELWIN.—On Tuesday, the 11th inst., at Saogaya-cho, Koishikawa, the beloved son of W. H. and E. S. ELWIN, Funeral at all Saint's Church, Misaki-cho, Kanda, at 2 o'clock on Wednesday, the 14th and afterwards at Zoshigaya Cemetery. Friends will please accept this, the only intimation.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced at Capetown of Major-General Scobell.

THE death is announced of Major-General the Hon. Arthur Henry Henniker-Major, C.B.

THE Interport Rugby football match will be played at Kobe at the beginning of March.

THE natives of Timor have rebelled and the Governor has asked that a man-of-war be sent.

MR. Carlos Munoz Hurtado, Chilean Consul at Christiania, has been promoted to be Consul-General at Yokohama.

QUEEN Wilhelmina drove out on the 7th inst. for the first time since her indisposition. She has been keeping to her bed for a week.

MR. SHIMAUCHI, Aide-de-camp to His Majesty, has been sent to Yokosuka to inspect the work of equipment of the battleship *Kawachi*.

THE Turkish Cabinet has decided to enforce the closing of all Italian institutions in Turkey, including private banks and insurance companies.

PRESIDENT TAFT in a message to Congress asks for funds to enable him to summon an international conference on the question of the cost of living.

THE intensity of the cold in Britain at the beginning of this month is indicated by the fire zing of Loch Lomond for the first time in seventeen years.

THE British War Office has issued elaborate and stringent orders that British officers travelling in Germany shall report themselves everywhere to the authorities.

KING FREDERICK VIII. of Denmark was suddenly taken ill when out walking on the 6th inst. It proved that he was suffering from slight inflammation of the lungs.

THE Peerses' School, which has been closed since the fire on Sunday, is to be opened on Thursday, use being made of the kindergarten and other remaining buildings.

A VERY successful reception was given in honour of Mr. K. Oshima, the new Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, at the Yokohama City Office on Wednesday afternoon.

THE British and Russian Ministers have suggested that the Government pension the ex-Shah of Persia and grant an amnesty to his partisans on condition that they leave Persia without delay.

PRINCE Tokudaiji, the Grand Chamberlain, who has been confined to his house for the last few days, is now convalescent. A surgical operation, however, will probably be necessary to effect a complete cure.

IT is understood that the Governor of Queensland, Sir W. MacGregor, has communicated with Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding the refusal of Mr. A. Fisher, the Premier, to send troops to Brisbane to keep order during the strikes.

THURSDAY having been appointed by the Nanking Government as the occasion for the celebration of the new Republic of China, the Chinese residents in Yokohama expressed their joy by a great display of the new Republican flag and the discharge of salvoes of crackers. The

new flag is simple and certainly distinctive. It consists of five stripes running longitudinally, coloured white, blue, yellow, red and black.

ROSE-TINTED snow fell in the northern part of Omi province on the 9th instant. It is a tradition handed down from old times that the harvest is abundant in a year in which coloured snow falls.

A KURE despatch reports that two experts of the Kure Naval Arsenal, with several purveyors, have been arrested. They are charged with being involved in the bribery case reported some time ago.

Mrs. KOKU, the new Councillor to the Japanese Embassy in London, will leave Shimbashi by the 8.40 a.m. train on the 14th instant to embark on the *Kamo Maru*, which is to leave Yokohama the same afternoon.

THE Sydney correspondent of the *Daily Mail* states that the Commonwealth of Australia is protesting to the Admiralty concerning the condition of the Australian squadron. It is alleged that some of the vessels are unfit for service and are liable to break down.

A NAGANO despatch reports that on Tuesday night and the next morning large quantities of ashes from Asamayama fell in the district of Komoro and its vicinity. It was so cloudy that the volcano could not be seen from a distance, but no rumblings were heard.

ACCORDING to the returns published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the export of Japanese silk last year amounted to 34,334,865 yen, showing an increase of 1,538,186 yen as compared with the preceding year. *Habutae* showed an increase of 1,409,972 yen.

THE Japanese art exhibition organised in Paris this winter by the Union Centrale des Arts Decoratifs, is devoted to the engravings of the well-known master Utamaro, who devoted his talent almost exclusively to feminine subjects. An interesting collection has been brought together.

GREAT floods are being experienced in France, Spain and Portugal. King Alfonso and Queen Victoria when returning to Madrid from Ferrol, where the Queen launched the Spanish Dreadnought *Espana*, had their car blocked at Leon for several hours. The floods have caused widespread devastation.

THE *New York Herald*, according to a Washington telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, reports that American missionaries will present a protest to President Taft, in regard to the report that the Japanese Government is persecuting Korean converts with a view to stamping out Christianity in the Peninsula.

ON the recommendation of the Development Commission, the Board of Agriculture is about to establish a national testing station where British cattle will be tested before exportation. The idea was first suggested to the Government by Mr. Louis Botha, Premier of the South Africa Union. Subsequently the South American Republics made representations on the matter.

REUTER'S Agency learns that there is no truth in the statement that negotiations are progressing between Great Britain and Germany regarding the partition of the Portuguese Colonies in Africa. The Anglo-German Treaty of 1898, with regard to which there is so much speculation, refers purely to a hypothetical situation and only comes into operation when Portugal of her own free will agrees to dispose of her Colonies.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Friday, February 9.

Disputes with regard to details continue to occupy official attention in Peking. Foremost among the subjects of discussion stands the amount of the maintenance allowance to be made to the Imperial House after abdication. There are three propositions. One is to reduce the amount of 4 million *taels* by 50 per cent, making it two millions; another is to write *yen* for *taels*, which change would mean a diminution of a million *taels*, and the third is to leave intact the originally proposed sum. It need hardly be said that the Peking Cabinet favours this last course, and is reported to have addressed to the Insurgent chiefs a note setting forth that as the surrender of sovereign power is entirely a voluntary act on the part of the Manchu Dynasty, no proposal to reduce the maintenance allowance can be properly entertained. This last view of the case is said to have been shown to the Empress Dowager and to have received her approval before being communicated to Nanking.

Another question which is receiving attention is that the Insurgent leaders have proposed to Yuan Shih-kai that he should repair in person to Nanking, where he would be invested with the post of President of the first Chinese Republic. Yuan naturally objects to receive investiture at the hands of the Insurgents, since such procedure would plainly signify that the supremacy of the Insurgents had received recognition from the Authorities in Peking. Problems of this nature have special significance in China, where, ever since the days of Confucius, points of etiquette have received the highest consideration.

This matter of a visit to Nanking by Yuan is a side issue of the much larger question, namely, the place of administration of the temporary Ministry. Here both sides seem to be assuming a very resolute demeanour, and since large material interests are concerned, it is not unlikely that the discussion may involve some very acute phases. Premier Yuan is standing resolutely to his guns. He demands that the temporary Government shall have its administrative centre in Peking, and that the extraordinary National Assembly convened for the purpose of fixing a national polity shall sit in Tientsin. But to this programme Dr. Sun Yat-sen objects strongly, and insists upon transferring everything to the Yangtze Valley.

Yet another point of dissension is connected with the claim of the Imperialists that even after the surrender of the Throne's administrative functions, its occupant shall receive the same regal recognition as is extended to Occidental Monarchs. Nanking cannot bring itself to be so magnanimous as that arrangement contemplates. Then again Dr. Sun and his fellow leaders are hostile to the proposition that the judgment of the Hague Tribunal shall be taken and its guarantee obtained by submitting to it the whole agreement arrived at by the disputants. Of course it is not implied that the Powers represented on the Hague Tribunal could be expected to assume any responsibility for the discharge of the obligations devolving upon the signatories of the agreement. What is thought is evidently that the signatories would place themselves under a specially marked obligation to implement their engagements if they subscribe them in the pre-

sence of the world's highest tribunal. That is Peking's view, but Nanking objects strongly. Of course the objecting party in such a case is suspected of want of good faith, and that is precisely what the Imperialists apprehend on the part of the Republicans. At any rate, it will remain to be seen whether the Hague Tribunal could be induced to undertake such a function. The great Powers might not unreasonably contend that an appeal to The Hague about a question of purely domestic politics would be to invest that Tribunal with functions which were never contemplated. On the other hand, an appeal to The Hague would amount to a *de facto* recognition of the belligerent status of the Insurgents, and from that point of view Sun and his colleagues should be ready to comply with the proposal.

It is observable that no less than three dates have been consecutively fixed for the promulgation of a Decree of abdication. First, this was to have been effected on the 5th instant; then the 8th was named, and now the 12th has been substituted. Such vacillation seems to indicate that neither party trusts the other, and indeed, that conviction seems to prevail largely. The Yangtze leaders are convinced that Yuan seeks to become President of the new Republic; that he keeps that aim in the forefront of all his manoeuvres; and that he contemplates the disbandment of the Yangtze forces, and the subsequent summoning of Sun and his Insurgent colleagues to Peking, where they would all be slaughtered, leaving Yuan undisputed master of the situation. Yuan himself, on the contrary, is said to be persuaded that the Insurgent leaders keep constantly in view the dethronement of the Manchu Dynasty and the recognition of their own party as a belligerent State, whereafter they would proceed to follow the bent of their own ambitions, so that the only thing effected would have been the sacrifice of the Throne on the altar of Republican self seeking. How far this analysis of the two parties' moods may be accurate, no outsider can pretend to affirm, but the fact that such telegrams are sent to Tokyo confirms the theory that China, if the new polity be adopted, will not be thereby emerging from a state of anarchy, but will rather be entering upon a condition of affairs not to be contemplated without the greatest misgivings. Peking correspondents of leading Japanese journals continue to argue that all this delay, in spite of the cardinal points having been mutually agreed upon, must be construed as evidence of selfish dissensions between the leaders of both sides. Even the personnel of the temporary Cabinet is producing an acute stage of discussion. Yuan seeks to have the portfolios distributed among his staunchest supporters, whereas the southern leaders are equally anxious to have the seats of power occupied by their own partisans. It is altogether a gloomy outlook, and we are obliged to confess that self-seeking appears to sway the situation unduly.

Saturday, February 10.

Just when the final agreement between the Imperialists and the Insurgents seemed to be imminent, fresh impediments have presented themselves. Foremost among these, though not by any means the most important, is the question of money. Whether the proposed maintenance allowance shall be cut down, and, if so, by how much—that is a problem capable of eternal discussion, but as

the margin of difference between the negotiating parties is small, no permanent difficulty suggests itself here. Something of the same kind may be said about the Imperial Sepulchres, the maintenance of which the Throne proposes to place upon the nation's shoulders, whereas the Insurgents object, with considerable show of justice, that the Imperial Family should defray all expenses connected with the preservation of its own tombs. To the outsider these things present themselves as mere details capable of immediate adjustment if the negotiators are in earnest. Much more important is the question of the Sovereign's rank. Yuan Shih-kai insists that there shall not be any question of abdicating the Throne. He would have the abdication limited to administrative functions, leaving the Emperor still the head of the Chinese nation. But the Insurgents assert that there cannot be a sovereign in a republican polity, and as their prime purpose is to establish a republic, the conservation of the title of Emperor cannot possibly be admitted. Here it would appear that there is a ground for renewed and protracted dissension. Yuan has remained steadfast throughout in the matter of the Sovereign's title, and if he abandons that vital part of his programme, the fruit of all his delay and the outcome of all his arguments will be practically nil. It must be confessed, however, that as part of the strange experiment upon which the Chinese nation is now to embark, the existence of a faineant sovereign might be grafted upon a new constitution without greatly shocking any one. So many incongruities present themselves in connexion with a Chinese republic that this particular feature might be condoned. Finally, the Insurgent leaders insist that Yuan must proceed in person to Nanking to confer direct with the Cabinet assembled there. Yuan declines the invitation, the ground taken by him being that if he absent himself from the capital anarchy will ensue. That is very likely. Even Yuan's worst enemies must admit that he is the governing figure in the situation and that his presence in Peking alone preserves public peace and good order.

It is alleged that the Empress Dowager has given her consent to the proposal that the title of Sovereign shall continue to be used during the reign of the present Emperor only, and shall thereafter be abolished. But her Majesty objects resolutely to allowing the Imperial Guards to form an integral part of the national army; and she further insists on the reservation which invests the Throne with the right of granting Princely rank. Rumour alleges with regard to the reduction of the maintenance allowance from 4 million *taels* to 4 million *yen*—a difference of fully 25 per cent.—that her Majesty has signified her consent.

Meanwhile Canton is reported to have assumed a very stalwart demeanour. The politicians in that city have utterly denounced as illogical and impractical the idea of having an Emperor guarded by a special army corps while his entourage is nominally republican. It seems quite monstrous in the eyes of the politicians that the State should be obliged to disburse a large sum every year for the preservation of such a pageant. In the history of the world there cannot be found any instance of a republic presenting a feature so inconsistent with the spirit of such a polity. The Canton leaders, who are nothing if not

extremists, declare that if such an arrangement be agreed to, all the blood that has been shed in the cause of this revolution will have been wasted completely. They therefore threaten that if Nanking accepts to these terms, Canton will draw the sword and fight for a genuine republic.

Sunday, February 11.

It cannot be said that this morning's telegrams convey any definite information as to the termination of the present period of suspense. The wires are busy with petty details, and do not deal with the great questions at issue. Messrs. Wu Ting-fang and Tang Shao-i were expected to reach Tientsin on the 10th instant, travelling from Shanghai by a man-of-war. They were to have been met at Tientsin by Premier Yuan, who, during his sojourn there, will reside within the foreign settlement. It is plain from these facts that an important conference is to take place in Tientsin, but, judging from past events, some time must be expected to pass before a final decision is arrived at. Meanwhile, the difficulty is to reconcile the views of both sides with regard to the title of the Sovereign; the perpetuity of that title; the nature of the abdication, and the right of the Court to make free use of the Imperial Guards. These issues seem to be the most perplexing, but it is evident that they are beginning to be regarded with impatience by the bulk of the people. Yuan is charged with manoeuvring simply for the purpose of giving empty satisfaction to a lady, and voices are heard declaring that the only really honest man on either side is General Hwang, who has acted the part of a genuine soldier from the first.

As to the rumour recently circulated that President Sun had asked Premier Yuan to agree to a perpetual armistice, it is denied strenuously by Sun. The Insurgent leaders continue to maintain that their prime object is the abdication of the Throne, and that so long as that is in abeyance, there can be no settlement. Of course the great question of the site of the future capital remains to be discussed. It is expected to give much trouble and the southern leaders have afforded some index to their mood by sanctioning the publication of the statement that they have not by any means consented to Peking remaining the metropolis.

Mr. Wu Ting-fang's ideas of a republic, having been formed by actual contact with republican administration during many years, are naturally difficult to reconcile with the notion of an emperor who shall at the same time be a citizen of the Chinese Republic. Wu contends, rightly as it seems to us, that a sovereign bearing the name of a ruler and maintaining the state of an Emperor would be a wholly incongruous feature of a genuine republic, and he peremptorily refuses to entertain such a project.

We mention the above facts, not because they are conspicuously novel, but because they show how far the two sides are still separated from each other. Unless the meeting of the three statesmen, Yuan, Tang and Wu, now presumably taking place in Tientsin, leads to some understanding, the situation may be unsettled for a long time to come.

Monday, February 12.

There is nothing definite to be recorded this morning in the way of progress. It is confidently alleged that the Court and the

Cabinet have come to an understanding, but there is obvious apprehension about the effect of any precipitate announcement as to the terms. At first, the 5th was spoken of as the probable day for promulgating the momentous Decree; but subsequently this date was changed to the 8th, and then to the 12th, yet it does not appear that even the last-named day will find things in complete readiness, and the 25th is now spoken of as the nearest feasible date. Meanwhile rumour alleges that the Court and the Cabinet are at one as to the wisest order of procedure. Their purpose is, first, to promulgate the Decree relating to the adoption of a republican form of government. Then this will be followed by an Edict announcing the Throne's abdication of all administrative functions, and there finally will follow an exposure of the terms of agreement. Such is the programme said to be now contemplated. But it will at once occur to our readers that as the question of the State's polity is to be decided, not by the Court or the Cabinet, but by an extraordinary National Assembly, no Imperial Decree can dispose of that part of the programme until the vote of the National Assembly has been formally taken. The three evident topics of keenest discussion continue to be the amount of the maintenance allowance; the title and place of residence of the retiring Sovereign, and the site of the capital. The Yangtze leaders are insisting obstinately that Yuan himself must repair to Nanking, thus, by construction, recognizing that place to be the administrative centre; and Yuan is equally resolute in declining to fall in with that scheme. Meanwhile Messrs. Wu and Tang are expected to proceed immediately to Tientsin to meet Premier Yuan at that place, but it is observable that, whereas the former two statesmen were stated by a telegram received on the 11th instant to have already left Shanghai, their departure is now said to be merely imminent. But we observe that the *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram from Peking alleging that this problem of place has been solved by Yuan's acquiescence in the Insurgent plan, and that Nanking will presently witness a conclave of the principal figures on both sides. In other words the Insurgent leaders, according to this telegram, have won a signal victory. To show the hopelessly contradictory nature of the intelligence reaching Tokyo, we may mention that a Peking correspondent of one leading journal (the *Chuo Shimbun*) writes that, in a day or two at the latest, the Decree of abdication, accompanied by a succinct statement of reasons, will be promulgated, whereas another and still more important journal (the *Asahi Shimbun*), quotes its correspondent as definitely alleging that no settlement appears to be in sight, and that a renewal of hostilities may be anticipated.

In our last issue we alluded briefly to two incidents which seemed to constitute serious difficulties in the way to a settlement. One was the action of the Canton leaders in denouncing as preposterous the existence of a sovereign in a republican form of government. History shows that the Cantonese are nothing if not extremists, and they are true to that record in this matter, for they declare their intention of taking violent steps if any attempt be made to disfigure the Chinese polity with such an anomaly. The other incident was that the three Local Assemblies in the

Three Eastern Provinces had informed the Peking Cabinet that they would have nothing to do with a republic, and that they were resolutely bent upon having a constitutional monarchy. We now learn that the duty of pacifying the Cantonese has been entrusted to Wu Ting-fang, whose despatch for that purpose we translate elsewhere in our columns. But it does not seem to us at all probable that Wu's explanation will accomplish its purpose. All the points that he makes must have been patent to the people of Canton before the latter adopted the above resolution. As for Yuan's reply to the Manchurian Chambers of Commerce, it virtually amounts to the negation of his own responsibility. He says in effect that the Monarchy which the Manchurian Chambers are anxious to support is precisely the source from which the measures now under discussion emanated. He therefore advises his correspondents to exercise patience, and he reminds them that anything like precipitancy on their part will certainly involve the interference of foreign Powers. The Occidental States have virtually pledged themselves to stand aloof so long as China shows herself capable of managing her own affairs, but they will assuredly not exercise such a measure of forbearance should the Chinese house become divided against itself.

Looking at all these things, we are obliged to confess that a final settlement of China's troubles seems still remote. There are four distinct centres of action; namely, Canton, Nanking, Peking and Manchuria.

Tuesday, February 13.

It appears that the final decision announced by Edict on the 12th instant, was the immediate sequel of an authoritative message from Shanghai to the effect that the Insurgent leaders would not entertain any project for the abdication of the administrative power only. They declined to admit the distinction between sovereign functions and administrative functions. One must go with the other, and if Peking attempted to insist upon such a distinction, the Republican Leaders would decline any further negotiation. No doubt the announcement of this decision was part of a previously arranged programme, but however that may be, Premier Yuan conveyed Shanghai's message at once to the Empress Dowager, without apparently making any attempt to controvert it. The Empress appears to have forthwith decided upon abdication in the sense of the Shanghai ultimatum. Her Majesty expressed full confidence in Yuan's fidelity, and entrusted to him the task of making all necessary arrangements for a temporary administration. Yuan is said to have suggested that the concurrence of the other members of the Imperial Family in such a momentous step might be desirable. But the Empress Dowager replied that the Princes had consulted their own convenience by leaving the capital and taking refuge in various localities, so that to refer to them now would entail inconvenient delay and might lead only to indecision. Her Majesty felt that it was incumbent upon her to act at her own discretion, and she conjured Yuan to adopt the best measure in the circumstances. On the day following this audience and its momentous decision, the Imperial Edict was issued, as briefly reported in Tokyo on the afternoon of the 12th. The Rescript, which will of course take its place in history as one of the most momentous events in the annals of the nations, has not yet been telegraphed

in detail, though possibly that defect will be remedied before we go to press. It is understood, however, that the three leading features of the arrangement are, that the Sovereign is henceforth divested of all administrative power and that the title alone remains, namely, the Great Tsing Emperor. Secondly, that the fullest possible consideration will be given to the ranks and properties of the Imperial Princes. And, thirdly, that all the Viceroys and Governors throughout the Empire shall be conjured to recognize that in approving of this important measure, the Throne is actuated solely by solicitude for the welfare, content and prosperity of the nation. Finally, Yuan is to consult with the southern leaders as to the organization of a temporary republican Cabinet.

It is impossible to escape the conviction that a republican polity has now been definitely fixed for China, without any reference to the voice of a special National Assembly. Such an Assembly will doubtless be convened, but its decision will carry weight only so far as it is confirmatory. The Insurgents have won all along the line, and the next scene of the drama will be the election of a President.

As for the questions that have been occupying public attention of late, the telegraph says that the maintenance allowance for the Imperial Family has been fixed at four million *taels* annually, so that the attempts to cut down the amount were apparently abandoned by way of compromise. The Imperial residence is to be at the Summer Palace, but whether that arrangement is to be permanent or only temporary we cannot tell. As for the important question of the choice of a site for the metropolis, it seems to be still unsettled, but in Tokyo an opinion begins to prevail that the faces of both sides will be saved by choosing neither Peking nor Nanking but Tientsin.

No time has been lost in announcing the complete cessation of hostilities. An order in that sense has been issued over the signatures of President Sun and Premier Yuan. The result of this order will naturally be observed with keen attention. If practically complied with, it will involve the disbanding of large numbers of soldiers, who accepted service for purely pecuniary reasons and who will look to be now substantially rewarded for the victory they have won. But the Insurgent leaders have no means of rewarding them, and the State will have to take that obligation upon its own shoulders, or run the risk of a reign of terrorism and disorder.

It is stated that formal notice has not yet been given to the various Legations in Peking, but the foreign Ministers are said to be persuaded that trouble is now at an end. We are inclined to doubt whether any such optimistic view is entertained.

Wednesday, February 14.

The great metamorphosis which the Chinese polity has undergone will evidently be consummated with as little change as possible. That is to say there will be alterations of nomenclature but not of personnel. Thus the officials who have hitherto been serving as Cabinet Ministers, are now to become Heads of Departments for administrative purposes, and therefore the work of the State will be carried on by the same men as before, but holding slightly different titles. What is specially notable, however, is that as yet

no step has been taken to organize the united Ministry which is to officiate pending the decision of a National Assembly. None of the Insurgent Leaders has been included in the new body of officialdom. Such inclusion has to be now arranged, and, of course, it may prove a troublesome matter, though the interests of both sides will be concerned in averting dissensions. Indeed it is more than probable that the general preliminaries of all these things have already been made the subject of conferences between the leaders on both sides. But as no country has hitherto been called upon to organize an *ad-interim* government in such circumstances, there are no precedents to guide the Peking and Nanking Authorities, and their procedure will be watched with much curiosity.

The foreign relations of the country also present some difficulty. The Foreign Representatives in Peking are actually accredited to a Court which may be said to have ceased to exist for diplomatic purposes, and the Chinese Representatives at foreign Courts hold their commissions from a Sovereign who has ceased to be a legitimate source of such credentials. In these circumstances the foreign Powers will be unable to extend immediate recognition to the new Government in Peking, and will be obliged to wait at all events until the newly organized Cabinet fulfils the condition of becoming a united body such as the Imperial Rescript contemplates. All these things, however, are merely technical problems which will doubtless be solved without serious trouble. The first duty of Yuan and his colleagues will be to confer with the Insurgent leaders for the organization of a Ministry by which the duties of the State can be discharged legally. Premier Yuan has issued an instruction which may be briefly summarized by saying that it directs the continuance of everything in the groove where it has hitherto worked. It is obvious that he must contemplate immediate association with the Insurgent leaders, but it is equally obvious that some time will be required to effect the combination, and that during that time administrative affairs cannot be suffered to drift anarchistically. Yuan's only course, therefore, is to exercise the authority conferred on him by the Throne by legalizing the procedure of all his former colleagues until he is in a position to supplant or supplement them.

Yuan has also addressed to military and police authorities throughout the country instructions to exercise the powers hitherto delegated to them for the preservation of public peace and good order. It is observable that in this instruction he refers to a republican form of government as having been already established.

Meanwhile, everything is quiet and apparently peaceful in Peking. All the commotions that were predicted in the immediate sequel of the Manchu abdication remain still matters of pure conjecture. Even the Imperial Guards, who were confidently spoken of as inevitable disturbers of peace, seem to be taking things quite calmly and to be showing no inclination whatever to offer forceful opposition to the new order of things. It is evident that either Yuan has managed to perform his difficult task with consummate skill and foresight, or else that the partisans of the Manchus are much fewer and less resolute than was supposed.

The Empress Dowager has chosen the

wise course of bowing gracefully to the inevitable. On the 13th instant, a solemn ceremony was performed at the Imperial shrines in Peking; namely, the ceremony of formally communicating to the spirits of the deceased Emperors the effacement of their Dynasty. Before enclosing in the cenotaph the notice of this momentous fact, her Majesty declared that the peaceful progress and development of the country under republican institutions would be joyfully observed by the Manchus in their retirement from public duties. Thereafter, Mr. Hsu Shih-chang, in his capacity of Chief Tutor to the ex Emperor, read an eloquent eulogy of the self sacrificing patriotism of the occupant of the Throne, whose magnanimous conduct he declared to be more admirable than even the celebrated episode in Chinese history, namely, the abdication of Yao in favour of Shun.

But although everything seems to be working smoothly in Peking, ominous voices are heard from Shanghai and Nanking. It is there asserted that the retiring Court must not be allowed to have any voice whatever in the new arrangements; it is insisted that Nanking, not Peking, must be the new metropolis, and it is affirmed that the President of the Republic must be chosen by popular election. It may turn out that some agreement on these points exists already,—indeed, they are so vitally important that one can scarcely imagine their having been left entirely open to controversy. The southern leaders, however, are represented as declaring that Yuan himself must proceed to Nanking to consult about the necessary steps for forming a temporary coalition government, and that if he cannot proceed thither in person, he must send a fully authorized plenipotentiary. Nevertheless we observe a confident telegram published by the *Chuo Shimbun*, to the effect that Yuan, so soon as the necessary formalities *vis à-vis* the foreign Representatives have been complied with, will summon the Yangtze leaders to dissolve their Republican Government, and to come to Peking for the purpose of arranging a coalition Ministry, Peking continuing to be regarded as the administrative metropolis of the country. This is borne out by a telegram in the *Asahi Shimbun*, which professes to give a literal transcript of a despatch addressed by Yuan to President Sun and the other members of the Yangtze Cabinet. In this document Yuan performs a remarkable pirouette. He declares that according to the experience of the nations of the world, there is no form of government so good as a republic, and he expresses profound satisfaction that China has reached that polity at a single step. How such a statement can be reconciled with the attitude assumed by the same Yuan when he was fighting for a constitutional monarchy, one is perplexed to conceive. The telegram goes on to represent him as saying that he would gladly repair to Nanking to consult about the new organization. But the state of affairs in the Metropolis and Provinces renders it impossible for him to absent himself for even a day, and he therefore invites the Yangtze statesmen to proceed to Peking or to send delegates thither. On the other hand, there is talk of a compromise being made by choosing Tientsin as a place of meeting, and yet another rumour alleges that Sun and Yuan are in agreement about the place of the future metropolis, but

that the chief Insurgent leader, Hwang, resolutely declines to consider Peking's claims and declares that a republican form of government cannot be satisfactorily established at any place but Nanking. Further, it is confidently rumoured that General Li writes in strong terms from Wuchang maintaining the necessity for dissolving the Nanking Cabinet and holding the organization meeting at Wuchang. In short, the three Yangtze leaders are apparently losing their mutual touch in the presence of success. Judging from everything that has passed we should not be surprised to find the field ultimately occupied by two combinations, one a Li-Hwang and the other a Yuan-Sun.

Thursday, February 15.

No time has been lost by Premier Yuan in commencing arrangements for the united administration indicated in the Imperial Decree on the 12th instant. He has notified President Sun that the Nanking Cabinet should be immediately dissolved, preparatory to forming a joint administration; and that, as complete order now exists in Peking, that city seems to be the most suitable place for a conference to bring about the above result. To these directions, no explicit answer has been made by the Yangtze statesmen, but much dissatisfaction seems to have been caused by the fact that the sole power of administration is entrusted to Yuan Shih-kai; that no notice whatever is taken of the southern administrative machine, and that no attention has been paid to the contention which appeared in the forefront of the Yangtze leaders' conditions, namely, the proviso that the title of Emperor was to be held for one generation only. As to this last point, the Insurgents seem to be somewhat unreasonable. It is true that the title of Emperor is not explicitly declared hereditary, as it was in the original memorandum of terms demanded by the Insurgents, but the fact that the statement as to heredity is expunged altogether from the Imperial Rescript, and that the living Emperor alone is designated as rightfully succeeding to that title, plainly indicates that the name of Emperor is intended to die with its present holder. The Insurgent leaders, however, are not disposed to take anything on trust, and they are talking of renewing the armed conflict. Naturally the question of the metropolis is exciting vehement discussion. Even in Japan, prominence is given to this point of the dispute, and the *Jiji Shimpō* publishes a cartoon in which Yuan stands among the ruins of the old Palace beckoning the advent of Sun, who is represented as holding aloft a representation of the White House in Washington. An impression evidently prevails, however, that had this question of site constituted a *sine qua non*, greater stress would have been laid upon it in the early stages of the discussion, and there is a belief that a compromise will be found by choosing Tientsin as neutral ground.

It is evident that flatterers are busily at work in Peking. We have seen how the Grand Tutor Hsu seized the occasion of the issue of the Abdication Decree to warmly eulogize the virtuous solicitude of the Empress Dowager for the peace and welfare of the people. Others among the *entourage* of the Throne have been telling the same tale and embellishing it with additions depicting the nation as in a state of profound admiration and gratitude. Her Majesty has accordingly

been moved to transfer a part of these panegyrics to Yuan Shih-kai. She has addressed to him a Rescript couched in very warm terms and accompanied by handsome presents. Yuan must recognize the fact that nothing succeeds like success.

It will be well remembered that General Chang, who talked so largely and acted so weakly in connexion with the fall of Nanking, has, since that event, been residing at Hsuehchow, where he has been regarded by certain persons as a not improbable saviour of the Manchu Dynasty. But this gallant officer has now capped his career by addressing Yuan in terms of extravagant eulogy, and declaring that the latter has placed himself in a position of perpetual creditor of the Chinese nation. Japanese journals may well lament the absence of anything like a really loyal hero upon the stage of Chinese politics at this juncture.

Yuan Shih-kai has addressed to the Viceroy and Governors throughout the country a note explaining his own conduct in connexion with the recent crisis. He sets out by stating that he had been for three years suffering from ill-health which necessitated abstention from public duties, but in deference to repeated calls from the Throne, he had emerged from his retirement and accepted the duty of restoring peace and order to the realm. He had set out with the idea of a limited monarchy, but the trend of the times had been obviously in the direction of a republican form of government. It had become incontrovertible that under no other kind of polity could tranquility be secured at home or safety abroad, and he had therefore been obliged to fall in with the national wishes so plainly expressed. That is the gist of the note. It amounts to a kind of apology, but in the margin can be read a note of admiration, and the document bears the signatures of all the members of Yuan's Cabinet.

The Empress Dowager has signified her intention of remaining in Peking until the Spring of the year, and taking her final departure for the Summer Palace when the flowers begin to blossom. In the meanwhile, all the affairs of the Peking Palace will be duly settled.

NANKING'S TROUBLES.

It appears that the Insurgent leaders in Nanking have fallen into a state of great nervousness about the possibility of foreign intervention. The news that the Twelfth Division has been placed under orders to hold itself in readiness for over-sea service created a moment of extreme alarm in Nanking, and all the newspapers controlled by the Insurgents treated the incident with marked moderation. President Sun and his colleagues are said to be fully sensible of the fact that if the inchoate state of affairs now existing be suffered to continue much longer, the foreign Powers will certainly not remain idle spectators. Immense commercial interests are menaced, and nobody recognizes the fact more clearly than Mr. Wu Ting-fang, whose long diplomatic experience specially qualifies him to form an estimate. Thus the Insurgent leaders are represented as keenly anxious to form a united Ministry at the earliest possible moment, and they are said to be endeavouring to establish close contact with the foreign Powers so as to avoid all misconstructions in the event of any crisis.

A WILD RUMOUR.

Saturday, February 10.

When we recall the error, accidental or intentional, into which Premier Yuan was betrayed when he undertook to interpret the utterances of his Excellency Mr. Ijuin as to Japan's attitude towards a republic, we are not at all surprised to find the Chinese Minister's name associated with a still more flagrant canard. Yuan is said to have learned from the United States Legation in Peking that Japan has landed 17,000 men as Liushu-tun near Dairen. Yuan communicated this intelligence to Mr. Wu Ting-fang at Shanghai, and by the latter it was transmitted to Nanking, whence it has found its way to Tokyo. Of course the American Legation never made any statement of the kind, but we cannot be equally certain, in view of the Ijuin misinterpretation, that Yuan did not communicate to Shanghai some imaginary version of an American utterance.

Sunday, February 11.

With regard to the rumours busily circulated, within the past few days, to the effect that 13,000 Japanese soldiers had landed at Liushu-tun near Dairen and that the Russians had attacked and taken possession of Luping-fu near Manjuli, there can be little doubt that the canard-monger is responsible. No definite news has been received from Russian quarters, but so far as the Japanese are concerned, the story is declared to have been made out of whole cloth, and to have been concocted for the purpose of alarming Peking. In fact, the object was to prove the imminence of foreign complications, and thus to force the hands of Yuan and his partisans.

BOMBS.

Explosives seem to have played quite an important part in the Peking complications. In addition to the bombs which were employed with fatal effect, three others are now described. One was thrown into the residence of Prince Su. It did not cause any injury to life or limb, but it induced the Prince to take his departure from the capital, and adopt Mukden for his place of abode. Another of these deadly missiles was used against Prince Tsai-tse's residence, and in this case also the Prince is said to have decided upon a change of habitation. But the most dramatic incident in the whole story, occurred in connexion with an almost incredible scene which is said to have taken place at Prince Kung's house. Emissaries of the Insurgents repaired thither, and on being admitted to audience, exposed bombs with which they had come armed. They censured the Prince for advocating a limited monarchy and they let it be clearly seen that unless his Highness gave some satisfactory explanation, he would be slaughtered then and there. This is the Prince who distinguished himself in connexion with the crisis by openly advocating an appeal to force rather than abdication of the Throne. He is said to have astonished his bomb-bearing visitors by a display of absolute fearlessness. In fact, they were constrained to admire his conduct so greatly that they carried away the bombs and left the Prince in unharmed possession of his opinions.

MANCHURIA.

Friday, February 9.

Premier Yuan is said to have addressed a document couched in strongly persuasive language to the Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces. Yuan points out that Chao now stands virtually alone as a supporter of Imperialism, and that to maintain an unyielding attitude will be simply to invite disaster. The Viceroy is invited to consider the inevitable effects of his troops' defeat in an engagement with the Insurgents now moving northward. For all the bloodshed and disaster which would certainly ensue, the blame would be laid at Chao's door, and Premier Yuan earnestly invites him to abandon his fruitless opposition so as to restore public confidence. In this as in all his other acts, Yuan is showing himself more liberal than loyal.

General Lan, who commands the Insurgent invaders of Manchuria, has taken, or been given, the title of Great Viceroy of the Extra-Mural Regions. His first exercise of authority in that office has been to address to all the Consuls throughout Manchuria a warning that in a few days the Insurgent forces will enter Liacyang and Mukden, and that, in order to avert all danger of untoward consequences, the Consuls would be well advised if they ordered their nationals to withdraw temporarily from the settlements. This, we take it, is merely a menace. Troops do not move at lightning speed. General Lan cannot disregard all contingencies by marching a column of troops at breakneck speed in mid-winter over enormous distances. Neither has he the field altogether to himself. He has to reckon with at least some resistance, and his advance must be proportionately slow.

The *Fiji Shimpō* states in most explicit terms that the invaders of Manchuria, have neglected Japan's warning not to land troops at any point on the neutral coast-line, thereby introducing a state of war into regions which ought to have been guaranteed against such trouble. Accordingly a still more decisive step has been taken by the Japanese Authorities. They have addressed an order to General Viscount Oshima, Commander-in Chief of the neutral territory, requiring him to convey formally to the invaders Japan's protest against such conduct. This does not of course necessarily mean that anything like a conflict will be witnessed. General Lan has been interviewed by a representative of the *Fiji Shimpō* at Dairen, and has explained in effect that in sending a small body of troops to Manchuria, the Insurgents did not contemplate anything in the shape of a regular campaign. They are well aware of the enormous difficulties of marching a body of troops from the coast inland to Manchuria just as the cold season is approaching its close. Thus, in despatching the present corps of a few hundreds of men, their main object is to consolidate the situation for their followers in the Three Provinces and put an end to the 'dissension and disgrace which disfigure the cause of the Insurgents, and which in reality are the act of lawless associates. Lan laughs at the idea of being himself nominated Viceroy of a region where he wields no authority, but all the same he appreciates the uses of the expedition.

Saturday, February 10.

Rumour confidently alleges that a scheme is on foot to establish a limited monarchy in

Manchuria and to proclaim the independence of the Three Eastern Provinces. The names of four Imperial Princes are connected with this enterprise. They are Prince Kung, Prince Su, Prince Na and Prince Tsai-tse. With these Princes are joined General Tielh Liang and Viceroy Chao. Prince Kung would be elevated to the rank of Sovereign. His Highness is already in Mukden, and rumour says that he has been accompanied thither by Prince Na, while Prince Su is at Port Arthur. What forces these Princes and their partisans have at their disposal we do not yet know definitely, but it is evident that if Manchuria be erected into a limited monarchy with Prince Kung for Sovereign, the sympathies of Peking and Nanking would both be alienated.

From Mukden comes news that a patrol of 400 men guarding the eastern gate of the city have deserted their posts and gone over to the Insurgents with arms in hand. Their example was about to be followed by the city patrol of an equal number and by a company of fifty constables, but in each of these cases, the plot was discovered and defeated by timely action on the part of the authorities. Meanwhile 800 Insurgents are said to have started from Tashichiao for Liaoyang.

With regard to General Lan's notification, asking the Japanese Consuls to advise their nationals to move into the settlements in view of Insurgent operations, it would appear that this warning has received some respect at Tielhling, a town of which a good deal was heard in the last phases of the great war. The Japanese Consul has announced that the extra-mural settlement will be guarded by Japanese troops, and that all Japanese subjects residing within the town had better move to that settlement. Considering that Tielhling is on the line of railway, we fail to see why the place should be in any danger of attack from the Insurgents. At any rate it is far remote from the region where General Lan's handful of men are operating.

In the south, the force commanded by General Lan has joined hands with General Ku Jen-i's troops, and the combined force is said to be receiving large accessions strength from partisans of a republic.

Sunday, February 11.

Two of the Imperial Princes, namely, Su and Na, are now sojourning on the premises of the Nobles' School in Mukden, where they are preaching a propaganda of a monarchical polity for China. Premier Yuan is said to have addressed a strongly worded despatch to Viceroy Chao, calling upon him to put a stop to these proceedings and to insist upon the return of the two Princes to Peking. What answer Viceroy Chao has made to this despatch we have as yet no information. Meanwhile, it is stated that the resignation of Chao himself has been accepted by Peking, and that he has resolved to repair to Tsingtao in Shantung, whence he will watch the progress of events. Chao's resignation is said to have been not altogether voluntary. It was suggested from Peking, where his recent conduct has made him anything but a *persona grata*.

The three Local Assemblies of Manchuria are said to have addressed to the Throne a document of much importance. They declare that they are willing to endure any hardships in the cause of a limited monarchy, and that if the Chinese system of government is to be republican,

then it will be absolutely essential that some special arrangement should be made for the administration of Manchurian affairs, inasmuch as the conditions existing in the Three Eastern Provinces differentiate those regions from the rest of the Empire.

If the above representation has really been made, a new and troublesome element has been added to the situation.

Meanwhile various news of more or less petty character comes from the field in Manchuria. We read of Insurgent successes and discomfures, but everything is on too small a scale to have any influence on the final result. All that can be said is that parts of the Three Eastern Provinces are in a very disturbed condition.

From Changkiakow on the Kulong road, there is news of disturbance but no particulars are given except that the Insurgents are pillaging and murdering without compunction.

In eastern Mongolia, the movement in favour of independence is said to be gaining strength, and of course it is believed that Russia is supporting the Insurgents. At Hailar also the same movement has reasserted itself and the *Tsotai* is said to have withdrawn.

Monday, February 12.

Very alarming reports reach Tokyo from Mukden. The shocking story of things perpetrated by Imperial troops against Japanese life and property at Kalping, has naturally produced a feeling of profound indignation in Japan, and may lead to serious consequences. From Peking a high official has been nominated in the place of the retiring Viceroy, but the monarchists declare that they will have nothing to say to this official and that he will be driven out if he attempts to show his face in Mukden. Meanwhile, there is talk, which grows daily louder, of uniting Mongolia and Manchuria into a single independent principality under Russian protection, a measure which might lead to endless trouble. The idea of setting up such a principality is said to have been directly urged by the highest Lama prelate in Mongolia, who is in direct communication with the Manchurian prelate. Viceroy Chao, however, since what he favours is a constitutional monarchy under the Manchu Dynasty, not an independent principality under Russian protection, has refused to entertain the Buddhist proposal.

With regard to the violation of the neutral territory by the Insurgents under General Lan in Southern Manchuria, it is stated that the Government in Tokyo has instructed General Oshima, Governor-General of Kwantung, to communicate directly to the Insurgent General the necessity of withdrawing his troops immediately beyond the hundred-li limit. This is equivalent to placing the management of the affair in the hands of the military, which means, of course, that unless the Insurgents withdraw speedily, steps would be taken to expel them. It is to be sincerely trusted in the interests of peace that this complication may be settled speedily. General Oshima may be expected to use all possible moderation in carrying out his orders, but whatever he does will surely be misconstrued by either the Insurgents or the Imperialists.

The Amur and Kilin provinces are seriously disturbed by mounted bandits. It appears that in Kilin these marauders had their ranks swelled by a flying column from the Imperial army which threw in their lot

with them. A strong and fully-equipped column of the 30th battalion, which has its headquarters in Kilin, has been despatched to deal with these gentry.

From the distant town of Tichling also comes news that Insurgent delegates are working hard to foment disturbance. The Authorities are doing everything in their power to preserve order, but at present their efforts are not apparently successful. There has not been any actual collision between the two sides, but the situation may be compromised at any moment if the Insurgents succeed in organizing themselves.

As a matter of course the despatch of a Japanese military force to Manchuria is regarded in Tokyo as among the imminent contingencies of the situation. Some critics object that Japan has already a sufficient force to meet any emergency. But that is a mistaken view. The Japanese military establishment in Manchuria at present is the minimum force required for guarding the railway. She has no immediately available materials for organizing an expeditionary column, especially at this season of the year. If she is found unprepared in the presence of necessity, she will be internationally rated just as vehemently as she will be if she takes any premature step.

[Wednesday, February 14.]

There is no improvement in the condition of affairs in Manchuria. At Kaiping further outrages have been perpetrated against Japanese life and property by the Imperial troops, who appear to be completely out of hand. Moreover, the corps of Insurgents who landed at Pitswo have not paid any attention to General Oshima's summons that they should quit the neutral zone. Nevertheless the Japanese Authorities have determined to refrain from sending any additional troops to the Three Eastern Provinces for the present, at all events. We doubt whether equal forbearance would be exercised by any other Power in the circumstances, but Japan cannot always afford to herself the indulgence of obeying sanctions which her Occidental friends regard as conclusive. It has been decided, however, that in order to give practical weight to the remonstrance about violating neutral territory, the Twenty-second Regiment and two battalions of infantry shall be moved up from Port Arthur to the zones that have been violated.

Mukden has not become reconciled even to accomplished facts. Generals Chang, Nieh and Feng are all said to be obstinately bent upon supporting the monarchical form of government, and as they have considerable force at their back, they may succeed in giving trouble. As for ex-Viceroy Chao, nothing more is heard of him, and until his successor, Chang Shih-lan, has taken over the duties of his office, the situation may be said to be in abeyance.

Thursday, February 15.

The Three Eastern Provinces appear to be the only part of the Chinese realm from which congratulatory messages were not forwarded to Peking in connexion with the Rescript of the 12th instant. Evidently the Three Provinces adhere to their recently expressed views in favour of a limited monarchy. Yuan found the attitude of these provinces sufficiently disquieting to warrant the despatch of a special envoy (Tuan Chih-kwei) to whom was entrusted the duty of preaching a propaganda in favour of the new system and

reporting any attempts that had been set on foot by its opponents. Mr. Tuan, however, is said to have found very few evidences of a disquieting state of affairs. There may be much disaffection throughout the Three Provinces, but there is evidently no machinery for giving material effect to it.

Meanwhile, news comes from the Taku-shan district that the corps of Imperial troops who recently marched out of Fengchwang-chu to resist the Insurgent advance, have suffered a signal defeat at the invaders' hand. There is said to have been much loss of life and one of the Imperialist leaders, General Ma, was among the killed. The exact date of this fight is not given but it was evidently before the 12th instant.

CHINA'S FINANCES.

It is confidently asserted this morning that considerable progress has been already made in the monetary transactions reported during some days past to have been under consideration in the Yangtze Valley. We learn however from Tokyo journals, with regard to the China Merchants' S. N. Co.'s fleet, that it is already mortgaged for a sum of 15 million yen to a British syndicate, and that if Japan lends to millions more, she cannot count on anything better than a second lien upon the property. This, of course, must have been well known to Japanese negotiators when they first entertained the proposal for a loan, and in point of fact, no embarrassment appears to have been caused on that account. The discussion of terms is said to be going on steadily and the transaction seems to have been brought within easy distance of conclusion. Whether the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is actually to lend money out of its own coffers or whether it is merely acting in the capacity of negotiator on account of private creditors, the public does not know for certain, but we ourselves incline to the latter view.

Other transactions are mentioned elsewhere in our columns, and they appear to be progressing favourably. Japan, in short, seems not unlikely to emerge from this complication as the possessor of a tolerably substantial sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley.

An anonymous director of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is quoted by the *Yanato Shimbun* as explaining that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's functions are limited to the navigation of the exterior and the interior waters of the Middle Kingdom, and that it cannot officiate in the role of money-lender. It has, in fact, been acting in the capacity of go-between. In the event of the China Merchants' S. N. Co. offering ships for sale, the Japan Mail S. S. Co. might prove a ready purchaser, but there are, at present, no signs of anything of that kind. On the contrary, the general meeting of the Chinese Company's shareholders recently held decided on the raising of a loan only.

A high authority in the province of Hupeh, who represents that province in the conclave at Nanking, is said to have addressed to President Sun and his colleagues a strong protest against the unwisdom of the methods resorted to for obtaining money. Objection is taken in the first place to the arbitrary hypothecation of the China Merchants S. N. Co.'s ships as security for a loan;

in the second place, to the issue of unsecured war-notes in large quantities, and in the third place, to the raising of money on the security of the Taiya mine and the other property of its owners, as such a transaction would mean amalgamation of Chinese and Japanese enterprises.

It has always been foretold that finance will prove a serious stumbling block in the path of the Insurgents, and in that fact is to be found some justification of Peking's tardiness in coming to a settlement. Every day's delay means so much augmentation of the Insurgents' perplexity. They talk now of moving an army of 80,000 men against Peking under Field Marshal Hwang unless a speedy settlement is made, but where can they possibly hope to obtain supplies for the purposes of such an operation? Tens of millions of dollars would be needed, and nobody can see whence they could be obtained.

In this context, the *Chuo* publishes an interesting telegram from its Peking correspondent. He relates that a loan of 50 million taels to the Insurgents' cause had been virtually concluded so far as preliminary arrangements were concerned, the lenders being a syndicate of foreign Powers, including Japan. Had this money come into their hands, the Insurgent leaders would have obtained complete control of the situation, and it was by way of preliminary that the Manchurian expedition was undertaken. But the contingencies connected with that operation were such that the Powers drew back at the eleventh hour, and the Insurgent leaders are now correspondingly embarrassed.

JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION AND HIS EXCELLENCY YUAN.

It must be admitted that on the whole the Japanese newspaper press harbours no friendly feeling toward Prime Minister Yuan. To put the matter bluntly, this Chinese statesman is regarded as a trickster playing solely for his own hand. The latest utterances on this subject come from Mr. Toyama Mitsuru, formerly a *soshi* leader in Japan, who is now living in the house of Professor Terao, Legal Adviser to the Insurgent Cabinet in Nanking. Mr. Toyama denounces Yuan as being swayed by selfish ambitions solely. The Insurgent leaders, Sun and Hwang, have never shown the slightest solicitude on account of their own personal prestige or safety. Again and again they have voluntarily placed themselves in positions of deadly peril to promote the cause they have at heart, and the idea of becoming President of the proposed Republic has never constituted a motive of their conduct. But it is very different with Yuan Shih-kai. He is working uniquely to be the first President of the Chinese Republic. Everything may go to the wall provided that that end is attained.

We suppose that, on the principle of some fire necessarily existing where there is so much smoke, these repeated charges against Yuan must have some foundation. But we have never seen any attempt to prove their justice impartially. Large assumptions are required to establish even anything like a *prima facie* case, and it is just as easy to eulogize Yuan without violating the truth as it is to denounce him.

ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, being in point of fact identical with the *Osaka Mainichi*, writes editorially in the sense which inspired the latter journal's recent remarkable article with reference to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Our Tokyo contemporary is convinced that the visit of the British Secretary of War and that of Lord Charles Beresford to Berlin must be taken as indicating the cementing of an alliance between England and Germany that would bring into the same camp, England, Germany, France and Russia, to which powerful conclave the United States of America would certainly adhere. Japan might be expected to form a sixth unit of this great alliance, but the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that Japan would be excluded by racial prejudice. In its English column the *Nichi Nichi* writes as follows:—

By strange coincidence the editorial comment of the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun* on the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is causing some sensation in London just at a time when Lord Haldane is paying a visit to Berlin. The suddenness of the War Minister's visit to Berlin is proved to be the centre of all kinds of surmises, some going so far as to allege that the visit, though officially denied to have any political sense, will be the first step for an Anglo-German *Entente* in some concrete form.

The first Lord of the Admiralty, speaking in Glasgow, calls the German navy a sort of luxury. How the Germans will receive this remark is not difficult to surmise. We would like to include in the same category the United States navy and our own army. Japan as an island Empire, with only a small continental territory, has no need of so large an army as eighteen divisions, and the Government has repeatedly pledged themselves to the non-aggressive policy of this Empire. The existence of such a large army, which is proving to be a very great drain on the productive capacity of the country, is the cause of suspicion on the part of other Powers.

We are pleasantly surprised with the outspoken expression of Mr. Winston Churchill, and this example, which is very rare in the expressions of the British Ministers of State, may be understood as heralding the advent of something very important in the British relations with Germany. It might be understood as an introduction of a policy which will include Germany in the future international activities and not isolate her as before. This phenomenon, taken in conjunction with the weakness introduced in the revised Anglo-Japanese Alliance as exposed by the *Osaka Mainichi Shimbun*, may be considered as a prelude to a new epoch in the international relations concerning the problems of the Far East. Nobody in Japan fears that there will be a war with the United States and the national sentiment in this respect is unanimous in feeling that it is an utter impossibility, but the amendment introduced in the new Alliance, whereby England is exempted from the obligation of coming to our assistance in case of war between Japan and America, certainly makes the compact a rather empty document. It is generally felt that if there be no fear of a war between Japan and the United States it would have been quite safe to have left the clause of the alliance without the amendments as contained in the revised compact.

The *Tokyo Asahi* takes a different view. It considers that no such alliance is possible unless England sets out by severing her *entente* with France and Russia. That she certainly will not do, and therefore, the only result of the visit paid by the British Secretary of State to Berlin will be the cementing of a good understanding between Germany and England. There will be nothing like leaving Japan out in the cold.

THE JAPANESE PRESS ON THE ABDICATION.

The leading Tokyo journals naturally make the momentous events in China a topic of editorial comment. But they do not treat the matter in much detail. All may be said to agree in expressing condolences

with the Manchu Dynasty, which has been deprived of power after nearly three centuries of unbroken rule. But all are equally unanimous in congratulating the Chinese nation on the comparatively bloodless consummation of such a great change. Hitherto the overthrow of a dynasty in China has invariably been marked by fierce conflict, and by large loss of life as well as destruction of property. But the present momentous change has been effected without any of those disfiguring features. There is one point, however, which appeals strongly to a people like the Japanese. It is the utter absence of anything like heroic loyalty among the partisans of the Manchu Dynasty. That Dynasty, having been originally a semi-savage tribe of alien origin that men of the pure Chinese race should not struggle to uphold it is comprehensible, though such an explanation takes no note of the ties of gratitude that must have been formed during the course of centuries, irrespectively of racial differences; but surely among the Manchus themselves some leader loyal to the death should have been forthcoming. From the point of view of a people like the Japanese, who, in all ages have been willing to sacrifice life on the altar of loyalty, this page of Chinese history reads very strangely. Finally, the Tokyo journals agree in thinking that the future of the neighbouring country includes many germs of uneasiness, and that the peaceful and orderly conduct of affairs will greatly tax the capacities of Chinese statesmen. It may be that in this forecast of difficulties by our Japanese contemporaries, they include the obvious reflection that to leap at one step from a despotic form of government to a republican is a feat scarcely conceivable without endless complications. But for the moment silence is maintained as to that point.

PEKING.

Although there is no actual fighting as an operation of war in Peking, it appears that the soldiers who have been assembled there in great numbers to provide against riot, are behaving in a very lawless manner. Frequent collisions take place among men of different corps, and outrages of various kinds are constantly perpetrated. The officers in command of the various bodies had a meeting on the 8th instant, for the purpose of devising more efficient means of control. But the citizens evidently have no great faith in the efficacy of these measures. A feeling of much anxiety is said to exist, and it is suggested that if such lawlessness prevails in present circumstances, the immediate sequel of abdication must be anticipated with great uneasiness.

We may here mention that the obduracy of the southern leaders in the matter of the future capital is said to have gravely alarmed Premier Yuan. Such immense material interests are at stake that it seems to have hitherto been taken for granted that no transfer of the capital would be seriously contemplated. It is evident, however, that many of the partisans of the Insurgents are counting on the elevation of Nanking to the position of metropolis, and are looking to reward themselves out of the immense appreciation of values that real property would acquire in the Yangtze city. But on the side of the Imperialists there is an equally strong objection to a change that would spell ruin for many thousands of persons.

THE CHINO AND MANJULI AFFAIRS.

It is worthy of special note that the two first European Powers to draw the sword at this juncture in Chinese history are Germany and Russia. A few days ago the telegraph informed Tokyo that a portion of the troops engaged in the northern expedition undertaken by the Insurgents had landed in the Chino district and had taken possession of the town of that name. The message went on to say that a German force of troops had joined the Imperial corps, and that the Insurgents had been driven back with heavy loss, ten of their number being captured and put to the sword. This story was received with considerable incredulity, but it has been confirmed by later intelligence. The fact is that Chino lies within the radius of 100 *li* fixed by treaty as neutral territory. The German may therefore plead that in joining the Imperialist forces they were merely taking warlike action against an illegal proceeding on the part of the Insurgents. A similar motive inspired the Russians at Manjuli. They joined the Mongolians to expell the Chinese, on the ground that the latter had invaded neutral territory. The Japanese are similarly circumstanced in Southern Manchuria. But the Japanese have not taken any armed steps in vindication of their treaty rights. The Governor-General of Kwantung has formally warned both the Insurgents and the Imperialists that there must be no fighting within the neutral limits, and that care must be taken not to use artillery or rifles at ranges which would endanger the safety of Japanese life and property within the neutral regions.

All these things may be regarded as a foretaste of the anarchy that would prevail if the Central Authority in Peking were no longer efficiently exercised.

MONGOLIA.

Elsewhere it is stated that the Mongolian Princes have decided to declare themselves independent and to establish their seat of Government at Kulon. This news is now supplemented. It appears that the Princes have addressed simultaneously to the *Waiwupu*, to the Cabinet and to the Senate in Peking, a despatch recalling the fact that for more than two hundred years Mongolia has been subject to China. During the greater part of that time the relations between the two countries were satisfactory. But in recent years the Mongolians have suffered much injustice at the hands of the Chinese, and owing to unskilled diplomacy on the part of Peking, the danger of foreign interference has constituted a serious menace. In these circumstances and in view of the crisis that has now arisen in China the Mongolian Princes have decided to proclaim their independence and to form a Government under the guidance of their great religious pontiff. They therefore make this formal intimation, but they supplement it by saying that when China has definitely settled her own affairs, which are now in considerable confusion, Mongolia will be prepared to take into consideration the advisability of renewing its old relations with its neighbour.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Of course there has not yet been time for the Japanese press to formulate its views about the issue of affairs in China. Two newspapers only refer to the matter this morning. One is the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*; the other, the *Asahi*. The former occupies itself by chiefly discussing the conviction that China is only at the beginning of her troubles. The fate of her Dynasty may be said to have been decided by the Taiping rebellion. The Manchu rulers would inevitably have been driven out of Peking at that time had they not secured foreign assistance. They may be said, therefore, to have been reigning on sufferance ever since the Taiping rebellion, and it is noticeable that they failed to reap the fruits of their victory on that occasion owing to dissensions among their generals. The new Republic is menaced by a similar fate. Already it presents symptoms of becoming a house divided against itself, and careful onlookers can scarcely fail to take a pessimistic view of the immediate future.

The *Asahi Shinbun*, commenting on the situation, makes a novel statement. It says that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, before paying his last visit to America, sought the permission of the Japanese Government to make Japan his headquarters, and to conduct from this country a campaign in favour of a republican form of government in China. At that time, however, the Japanese Authorities, being convinced that Yuan Shih-kai was loyal to the cause of a constitutional government, refused to sanction Sun's programme, and he accordingly proceeded to the United States. Thence he opened negotiations with Yuan, when the two came to a definite agreement about the future long before Sun set out for Shanghai. Thus, Yuan and Sun may be said to have been working hand in hand throughout the whole crisis, and their American proclivities are paramount. Therefore they may be called anti Japanese. But Sun does not carry with him the whole of his party. At heart, Hwang, is opposed to him, and will never work in harmony with him. Hwang has the sympathy of the nation with him, and moreover, he is pro-Japanese. Therefore the outlines of future trouble are clearly traced.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

There can be no doubt that Japan must be sorely tempted, at this juncture in Chinese affairs, to abandon her role of impartial observer and to enter the arena in the capacity of arbitrator. A word from her spoken officially would practically decide the situation in China. The shallowest intelligence must see plainly that whatever Power takes the lead in recognizing the belligerent status of the Insurgents will confer on the latter an obligation of the most solid character. The borrowing of money on a virtually unlimited scale would then become easy, and what that would mean there is no occasion to discuss here. Whispers are coming across the wires in the sense that this country or that is beginning to display a strong disposition to sell its assistance to the Yangtze leaders on condition that special commercial and industrial privileges accompany acceptance of the offer. It need scarcely be pointed out that so long as the most-favoured-nation clause stands in the treaties, such bargains are out of the question if they are openly made.

But there is always back-stairs influence, and it would be easy to indicate the particular Powers whose history in the Far East during the past half-century warrants the world in pointing the finger of suspicion at their doings. We may assume that China would prefer to get assistance from Japan at this crisis. Japan is not only the best equipped for purposes of combined naval and military operations, but she has also had such intimate relations with her big neighbour for the past two thousand years that the two are specially fitted for companionship. Whether Peking or Nanking is to be the metropolis, Japan's connivance would be equally valuable, and judging from the tone of the Tokyo press, as well as from that of statesmen who are quoted anonymously in its columns, a continuance of the present attitude of neutrality must be very difficult. Happily Japan has never made a cardinal mistake in her foreign policy, and we are confident that she will not break her record now, strong as are the temptations to do so. Happily also, she has special means of feeling the pulse of her great neighbour.

A JAPANESE SOCIETY.

It was reported recently in these columns that a number of Japanese had formed a society for the purpose of inducing the Government to recognize the belligerent status of the Insurgents in the Yangtze Valley. On the 10th instant, several representatives of this Society, headed by Mr. Kuroiwa, Mr. Hosono and others who enjoy the reputation of Japanese extremists, waited on Marquis Saionji and made a long representation in favour of the Chinese Insurgents. Exactly what arguments they adduced in support of their project we have not yet learned, but it appears that they were listened to with sympathetic attention by the Prime Minister, who put many questions to them, and who finally stated that Japan could not yet recognize the Insurgents, single-handed and at her own discretion alone. It was essential that she should act in cooperation with other Powers for such a purpose, and the most that could be promised was that she would not neglect any opportunity of legitimately working to secure the end in view. We may add here that the members of the above deputation by no means enjoy an immaculate reputation as agitators. Mr. Kuroiwa is the proprietor of the *Yoruzu Choho*, which, whatever it may be now, was formerly anything but a reputable organ; and Mr. Hosono Jiro was at one time distinguished in connexion with the Portsmouth riot.

KOREA.

Quite a large conspiracy has been discovered in Seoul. The object of the conspirators is the assassination of the Governor-General, and fifty-nine are already said to have been apprehended. The conspirators seem to have pretended Christian propagandism as a means of obtaining adherents, and doubtless this fact is responsible for some extraordinary telegrams addressed to American newspapers. In these telegrams the Japanese police are represented as resorting to torture to elicit confession, and an anti-Christian feeling is attributed to official action.

THE CONDUCT OF THE INSURGENTS.

It would appear, although concrete facts have not yet been adduced, that the behaviour of the Insurgent troops, if not of their leaders, is open to the gravest criticism. General Li, who commands at Wu-chang, has addressed a circular note to all the chiefs of the Insurgents, to the officers commanding in the Yangtze Valley and to the newspapers published there. The document is couched in strong terms. It represents that all sorts of outrage and injustice are freely perpetrated in the name of the new Republic, so that the latter is coming to be universally discredited, and regarded as an instrument not for safe-guarding but for violating the rights of individuals. The General dwells much upon this point. It is evident that he has ample testimony before him in the shape of complaints from the people, for he declares that the road of humanity has ceased to be trodden by its self-professed guardians, and that the cause which the Insurgents had originally in view is rapidly falling into total discredit.

It seems strange that Li should have been the particular person to formulate these accusations, and to address them even to his superiors in rank. That suggests a little rift within the lute of the Insurgents, which may presently grow to large dimensions. We cannot forget, however, that from the very outset the ranks of the Insurgents were recruited from the lowest dregs of the people, who took up arms, not in defence of any noble principle, but simply as a means of getting daily bread. That it would be difficult to preserve order among these mercenaries must have been foreseen by the Insurgent leaders, and they ought to have adopted the fullest precautions.

AN APPRECIATION OF YUAN.

While the Japanese newspapers are distinguishing themselves by expressing want of belief in Yuan's probity, and are declaring him to be lacking in the genuine sentiment of loyalty, he is winning golden opinions among some sections of the foreign community in Peking. Thus the German representative in the Four-Powers Syndicate is quoted by the *Asahi Shinbun's* correspondent as expressing the highest admiration of Yuan's methods and the utmost confidence in their ultimate success. In fact, according to this estimate, Yuan is the man competent to deal with the immensely difficult situation now existing in Peking, and were he removed from the scene, the results would be disastrous. Of course this appreciation will be interpreted in some quarters as merely a bid for the Chinese Premier's good will, but we notice that, according to the same authority, many foreigners in Peking entertain similar views. It cannot be denied by any impartial observer that Yuan's great adroitness and resourcefulness have succeeded in extricating China from a dilemma which threatened at one moment to be catastrophic. The end is not yet in sight, but every onlooker must see plainly that if Yuan's adroit hand were removed from the direction of affairs, anarchy would at once prevail.

THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES IN PEKING.

The correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shim-bun* in Peking claims to have succeeded in obtaining interviews with several of the foreign Representatives in that city. He begins by quoting the French Minister, who eulogizes Yuan; attributes to him a thorough knowledge of his own countrymen; declares that the arrangement now reached has been singularly rapid from the point of view of outsiders, and concludes by expressing the opinion that full diplomatic relations will not be opened with the new Government until it has given clear evidence of its stability. The German Minister informed the interviewer that the Powers would act in concert as to the renewal of full diplomatic intercourse with China, and that Germany would not be found making any special difficulties. His Excellency was at a loss to estimate the qualities or aspirations of Yuan Shih-kai. It was difficult to find in Occidental history a figure corresponding to him, but on the whole, Napoleon I. seemed to be the closest parallel. Napoleon had entered the field as a republican and had emerged from it a Monarch, but Yuan Shih-kai seemed to have reversed the programme. At the Russian Legation the correspondent was received by the Secretary, who showed a disposition to greatly belittle Yuan's achievement. From an Occidental point of view, he found it nothing remarkable. At all events, China was, for the moment, without a Government and when the new Russian Representative arrived in March, he would have to keep his credentials in his pocket for lack of somebody to receive them. The United States Representative merely remarked that China would henceforward be busier than ever; and the British Representative had a convenient guest whom he could not leave for the purposes of a newspaper interview, but the correspondent ventures to allege that Sir John Jordan is pleased at the result.

Summing up the above opinions, as well as the views held in other quarters of the Chinese capital, the *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent describes the general feeling as one of surprise at the celerity with which things were managed. But no one is found to predict that the future problems awaiting discussion will be solved as expeditiously as the main question of a change of system has been.

THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

There appears to be a belief in some Japanese circles that the immediate outcome of the Chinese embroglio will be a marked increase of trade and commerce between the Middle Kingdom and the outer world. The idea is that the wall of Chinese conservatism has been broken down, and that the high-water tide will now sweep over the ruins, inundating every phase of business. Foreign habiliments, foreign comestibles, and foreign fashions will come into vogue with the Republic, and an era of marked commercial development will set in. This was not the impression that existed when the question of a republic and a monarchy was in active dispute. On the contrary, the impression then conveyed was that the inauguration of a republican form of Government suggested grave apprehensions of dispute and disorder throughout the country. We must confess that

to us the situation presents itself in anything but an optimistic light. The site for the capital is the first knotty point that has to be decided and it is quite possible, nay even probable, that material interests of a very substantial nature may be concerned in the solution of this problem. Then there is the choice of President, which operation may induce much excitement and even bloodshed, and there is the still greater question of State rights under the new system. It is evident that any one counting on a speedy and pacific settlement of all these problems must be singularly optimistic. Three or four months ago, if any one had seriously suggested that a nation like the Chinese, which for tens of hundreds of years had lived under an autocratic Sovereign, could suddenly be remodelled on republican lines, he would have become an object of ridicule. Yet as that is the task that still awaits the ingenuity of Chinese statesmen, we can discover no valid reason for foreseeing a happy end because a bare beginning has only just been made.

DOMESTIC DISSENSIONS IN THE CAMP OF THE INSURGENTS.

Already, while their main objects cannot yet be said to be accomplished, the Insurgents seem to be disputing among themselves. Rumour alleges that they have become divided into three sections, namely, the original troops under General Li; the extremists led by the students' party, and a number of men who insist that they themselves must be entrusted with the duty of choosing the Chief Magistrate. Dissensions of this nature have always been regarded as a probable outcome of the situation, but even the most pessimistic observers did not predict such disruption at so early a period.

In this context mention must be made of a protest said to have been addressed by General Li to the Cabinet in Nanking. The General says that if newspaper comments be credible, the representatives of the Chinese Republic are indulging in an extravagant and luxurious style of living. Considering the object of the insurrection is the abolition of an Imperial Court which squandered the resources of the nation to indulge the passions of a corrupt and effete oligarchy, it is intolerable that the same abuses should be suffered to come into existence by the avowed enemies of such excesses, even before the aims of the revolution have been fully attained. Speaking in the names of the men who have already sacrificed their lives on the altar of good government, as well as in the names of their surviving comrades and himself, General Li solemnly calls upon the Cabinet in Nanking to adopt suitable measures for controlling these abuses.

A CHINESE VISITOR.

It is announced in Tokyo that Mr. Sung Chiao-jin will shortly set out from Nanking for Tokyo. This statesman occupies a high position in the Nanking Cabinet, and our readers may remember that a visit from him to Japan was said to have been imminent some time ago but to have been temporarily abandoned in consequence of the necessity of Mr. Sung's presence in Nanking for the purpose of consummating the organization of the new administrative system. Mr. Ike, Private Secretary to President Sun, was accordingly despatched to Japan, but the

original intention is now about to be carried out. Various purposes are given for Mr. Sung's visit, but the most credible is that he hopes to persuade Japan to take some step in support of the insurgents' cause. The most efficacious step would probably be the acknowledgment of the Insurgents as a belligerent State. If Japan, among all the Powers, took the lead in making such acknowledgement, the effect on the fortunes of the Insurgents would be signal, and it is stated that to attain such a result, Mr. Sung is authorized to make tempting offers to Japan in the matter of commercial privileges in the Yangtze Valley. But when we consider the responsibilities that would have to be shouldered by Japan in adopting such a cause, it seems to us highly improbable that she should fall in with Mr. Sung's views.

THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY OF PEHCHILI.

The Local Assembly of the province of Pehchili is said to have taken two very wise steps. One is to memorialize Premier Yuan in the sense that not a moment should now be lost in openly proclaiming the adoption of a republican form of government. The Assembly is evidently of the opinion that further reference to a National Assembly or any other source of sanction is quite superfluous and would probably have the mischievous effect of bringing about an interval of anarchy. The other step is that the Assembly has addressed itself to the three corresponding bodies in the Eastern Provinces, pointing out to them that the great problem of the State polity having now been practically decided, all opposition would be futile, and would surely lead to disorders which would present an opportunity for foreign interference. On the other hand, if all join forces to bring about the peaceful establishment of a republic, the result will tend immensely to the credit of the Chinese nation, which will thus have shown the world that China is able to decide a momentous national issue in accordance with the dictates of reason and without any appeal to force.

KWANG YU-WEI.

Kwang Yu-wei, of whom so much was heard a few years ago, and whose attempted reforms were ruthlessly destroyed by the late Empress Dowager at the instance of Yuan Shih-kai, the Viceroy of Pehchili, is evidently regarded by the Japanese as a very picturesque figure. He happens to now sojourning at the Ashinoyu Spa near Hakone, and Tokyo newspapers describe him as profoundly grieved by the intelligence received from China on the 13th instant. He abstained from all food for twenty-four hours, and was observed several times to assume an attitude of worship and sorrow towards his country. Kwang Yu-wei was discredited at the time of the celebrated *coup d'état*, when his plans were defeated by the defect of prematurity. But he seems never to have wavered from his views, and the fall of the Manchu Dynasty, as well as the substitution of a republic for a limited monarchy such as he himself had contemplated, are evidently the source of profound pain to him. Such a man is precisely a model of what the Japanese admire,

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

ATTACK ON CHINESE BARRACKS.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Shanghai correspondent wires that Wu Ting fang has telegraphed President Sun Yat-sen informing him that he has received from Tang Shao-i a telegraphic dispatch sent to the Peking Government by the Deputy of the Amur Province, with a special desire that the same be transmitted to him. The dispatch reads:—

"Chang Shou-tseng, prefect of Lupingfu, reports that at 8 a.m. on the 4th instant over 800 Russian infantry, cavalry and artillery, and over 400 Mongolian mounted and foot soldiers, threatened to lay siege to the barracks of the Chinese garrison. The prefect hoisted a signal asking for a truce, and also demanded the representatives of the Mongolians to call at the *yamen* to enter into negotiations. About an hour later the commander of the Mongolian army came to the *yamen* accompanied by two Russian officers and demanded immediate surrender of all the arms and horses in the barracks, the demand being accompanied with a threat to bombard the town if the demand were not complied with within four hours. Inasmuch as there was no force to resist the demand, the prefect was compelled to accede and surrender all the arms and horses. If the prefect and others had resisted the demand at the sacrifice of their lives serious diplomatic complications might have happened. For this reason the prefect chose to comply with the demand. He withdrew from the *yamen* at 4 o'clock the same afternoon, and returned to Tsitsihar.

"According to a later dispatch from the Deputy Viceroy the Bannermen in Colombale (?) mutinied and threw in their lot with the Russians and took part in the siege of the *yamen*. The prefect, thus isolated, could do nothing but yield. Lupingfu once taken by the enemy there is no means of defending the frontier. The *Taotai* in Colombale is now in the custody of the Russians. An inquiry is now being made into Russia's instigation of the Mongolians to open revolt. It is hoped that the Peking Government will take measures of restoring order in the town, and instruct the Deputy Viceroy of the Amur as to the steps to be taken in connexion with the matter."

THE HATRED OF CHINESE RULE.

The attack on Luping-fu by a band of Mongolian soldiers, assisted by Russian troops, and the subsequent protests of the Chinese and Russian Governments, are likely, the *Tokyo Asahi* thinks, to lead to diplomatic complications, which will threaten the fate of Eastern Mongolia. The incident may be amicably solved when the circumstances attending the Mongolian invasion become clear, but at present it seems to indicate a stoppage of Russo-Mongolian trade and danger to the goods and property of Russians. The Russo-Mongolian trade was originally conducted along the route leading from Kiachta to Kalgan *via* Urga, but since the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway the centre of the trade has shifted to the route leading from Manjuli to Anchimiao, *via* Hailar. Manjuli is located to the north of the Chinese Eastern railway, where the Chinese Government has established Luping-fu. The Chinese residents in that town number only 200, while the Russians number 8,000, and thus the whole town is practically under the Russian

regime. Hailar is located about 45 *li* to the south-east of Manjuli, and is an important town, inhabited by Chinese, Manchus, Mongolians and Russians. The native merchants number about 800, while the Russians total 90. Anchimiao is located in the midst of a vast desert about 30 *li* to the south-west of Hailar, and here there exists a Lama cathedral. Religious services are held from the 1st to the 15th of August, every year, when Mongolians, Manchus and Chinese traders come from all directions to exchange their products in the market. A large business is transacted by barter. Drays carrying the merchandise to the market from Tsitsihar and elsewhere are said to number over 6,000, which fact gives an idea as to the volume of trade. From the time of the completion of the Chinese Eastern Railway the Russians began to cast their eyes on the town, and commenced to take part in the trade, organizing caravans in Manjuli and Hailar. The Russian traders from Irkutsk, Blagovestchensk, Za-Baikal, Nelnchinsk and elsewhere also come there with their woollen and cotton cloths and other daily necessities to barter for cattle, meat, furs and hides, etc. Before the opening of the railway the Russo-Mongolian trade in Anchimiao totalled 2,000,000 roubles a year. This has now increased to 3,000,000 roubles in the Russian market near Hailar alone. The trade is so prosperous that Irkutsk merchants are making over 25 per cent. profit. The disturbances in Luping-fu will therefore greatly affect Russian trade interests and are calculated to endanger the safety of Russian traders in those regions. The Russians will naturally not pass them over in silence. Some weeks ago the Mongolians took possession of the town of Hailar and they have now attacked Manjuli. Considering the rampancy of the mounted bandits in this region, even in peaceful times, it is not difficult to imagine the state of anarchy that now prevails. The Russians will probably take drastic measures to deal with the situation.

Moreover, there is a danger of the Mongolians proclaiming their independence under the protection of Russia, following the example set by Outer Mongolia. The Mongolians have a deep rooted grudge against the Chinese, and Prince Tarahan has openly asserted that Eastern Mongolia will declare its independence if a republican polity be adopted in China. The people of Eastern Mongolia are inclined to lean on the protection of Russia, which fact is evinced by their recent attack on Manjuli and Hailar by the aid of the Russians. There are several causes leading them to throw off the Chinese yoke and to seek Russian protection. Among these are the immigration of the Chinese. Eastern Mongolia is contiguous to Chihli province and its fertile soil has induced Chinese immigration, which the Chinese Government has of late encouraged in order to check Russia's southward movement. The immigrants have gradually increased until they now number approximately 700,000. These immigrants have obtained concessions of land at cheap rates through intimidation or persuasion, and the Mongolians, thus deprived of their hereditary pastures, experience great difficulty in gaining a livelihood.

Another cause for throwing off the Chinese yoke arises from the administration. The Chinese Government has placed the southern

part of Mongolia under the administration of the Viceroy of Chihli and the north-eastern part under that of the Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces, with a view to assimilating the Mongolians.

Not only have the Mongolian Princes and people thus been subjected to maladministration and humiliation, but also a heavy burden of taxes has been imposed upon them. The abdication of the Manchu Emperor is another cause of trouble. The princes of Eastern Mongolia have owned allegiance to the Manchu dynasty from time immemorial, and have been cordially treated by the Manchu Emperors. Inter-marriages have taken place between them and the Imperial House, so that blood relationship exists between the Imperial House and many Mongolian princes. They have therefore always assisted the Manchu dynasty in time of trouble. When the question of the abdication was raised in connexion with the present disturbances, the Mongolian princes persistently advocated the retention of the dynasty and adopted a resolution in opposition to a republican polity, further announcing their intention of declaring Mongolian independence if the Emperor abdicated the Throne. This declaration cannot be considered a mere threat, and it seems clear that they will carry it into practice after the abdication of the Manchu Emperor under the protection of Russia. The attack on Luping-fu has given Russia a plausible pretext for the dispatch of troops to Mongolia. In the event of Russia being entrusted by the Mongolian Princes with the protection of the country, the fate of Mongolia will be sealed.

THE FUTURE POLITY OF CHINA.

STATEMENT BY YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Replying to a joint memorial recently forwarded to Peking by various Bodies in Mukden, Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to Viceroy Chao, under the date of the 11th instant, wires the Mukden correspondent of the *Tokyo Asahi*, that the Ministry had no power to decide the future polity of China. Imperial conferences had repeatedly been held for consideration of the question. At present the Government is in negotiation with the Southern Government concerning the terms of the treatment to be accorded to the Peking Court. The contents of the negotiations, which are conducted in strict consonance with the Imperial wishes, have already been made public, but some particulars which could not conveniently be published are still reserved. No Imperial Edict has so far been issued concerning the future polity, so that he is unable to decide the question at his own discretion. This has debarred him from answering at an earlier date. Yuan adds:—"In my opinion it behoves the Three Eastern Provinces to act in consonance with the Imperial wishes in order to ensure the safety of the situation. If the Three Eastern Provinces take the initiative in the agitation, it will lead to serious consequences. The foreign Powers will not interfere if the various provinces remain tranquil. The Southern people are all in favour of a peaceful solution. It would be regrettable, indeed, if the Three Eastern Provinces started an agitation calculated to defeat that end. I must, therefore, desire you to do your utmost to dissuade the people of the Three Eastern Provinces from any precipitous and unwise action."

THE IMPERIAL EDICT OF
ABDICATION.

FULL TEXT.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires the full text of the Imperial Edict of Abdication issued on the 12th instant. The Edict reads:—

We hereby announce, in obedience to the wishes of the Empress Dowager, that some months ago Revolutionists rose in arms, when all the provinces threw in their lot with the movement, causing an agitation among the public and great suffering among the populace. We commanded Yuan Shih-kai to dispatch delegates to exchange views on the situation and to decide the future polity by convening a national assembly. Two months have elapsed without the negotiations being brought any nearer to a conclusion. North and South stand face to face. Business is paralysed and the soldiers have to bivouac in the open. A day's delay in the decision of the polity means a day's uneasiness to the populace. The minds of the nation are for a republican polity. South and Central China advocated this polity and the northern provinces have now asserted in its favour. The turn of the people's minds indicates the Divine Will. Why should we go against the wishes of the whole nation for Our personal considerations? In view of the general current of external affairs, as well as the consensus of public opinion at home, We propose to delegate the sovereignty to the people, and to convert the polity to a constitutional republic in consonance with the popular desire for a speedy restoration of peace. Yuan Shih-kai, who was elected Minister-president by the votes of the Senate, is hereby directed to bring about the unity of the South and the North at this stage of transition. We direct him to organize a temporary Republican Government and to conclude peace with the Revolutionists in order to set the popular mind at rest. We also direct him to unite the Manchu, Chinese, Mongolian, Mahomedan and Thibetan races to thus maintain the territorial integrity and create a great Republic of China. It would afford us great joy to see good government in our retirement, with cordial treatment guaranteed by the nation.

We have, in consonance with the wishes of the Empress Dowager, directed Yuan to negotiate with the Revolutionists as to the terms of treatment of the Imperial House with a view to averting a national crisis by a peaceful solution of the situation. The terms now submitted to us provide for the perpetuation of the ancestral sepulchres, the construction of the tomb of the preceding Emperor, and the retention of the title of Emperor after abdication. The agreement also contains eight articles for the treatment of the Imperial House, four articles for the treatment of the Imperial princes and princesses, and seven articles for the treatment of the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Thibetans. We find the terms all satisfactory. We therefore specially decree to the members of the Imperial family, Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Thibetans, to lay aside their hostile sentiments towards the revolutionists and thus to enjoy the blessing of peace and happiness under a republican polity.

The conditions of treatment of the Imperial House:—

Article 1.—The Emperor of China shall

retain his title after abdication and be treated by the Republic of China on an equal footing with foreign sovereigns.

Article 2.—The maintenance allowance shall be fixed at 4,000,000 *taels* a year until the new currency is coined, when it shall be altered to 4,000,000 dollars, payable by the Republic.

Article 3.—The Emperor shall reside for a time in the Forbidden City after abdication and then remove to the Summer Palace. The present Court attendants shall be retained.

Article 4.—The Imperial Sepulchres shall be held sacred in perpetuity after abdication and duly protected by the Republican Government.

Article 5.—The sepulchre of the preceding Emperor, work on which is still unfinished, shall be completed according to the original plan at the cost of the Republican Government and all the established ritual observed.

Article 6.—All the Court officials shall be retained intact, but the number of eunuchs shall not be increased.

Article 7.—The Imperial property shall be fully protected by the Republican Government.

Article 8.—The present Imperial Guards shall come under the command of the War Office of the Republican Government, but their number and allowance shall remain intact.

Conditions of treatment of members of the Imperial family:—(1) The titles of the Imperial princes shall be hereditary. (2) The Imperial princes shall enjoy all public and private rights enjoyed by the people. (3) The property of the Imperial princes shall be protected. (4) The Imperial princes shall be exempt from conscript duty.

*Conditions of treatment of the Manchus, Mahomedans and Thibetans:—*The under-mentioned special treatment shall be accorded to the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Thibetans, provided they accept the republican polity:—

The private property of the Manchus shall be jointly protected. The titles and allowances of the Mongolian princes shall be hereditary. Destitute princes shall receive an adequate maintenance to be fixed by law. The present allowance shall be granted to Bannermen, and the restrictions placed on their business and residence shall all be removed, and they shall be allowed to fix their domiciles in the provinces of their adoption. Freedom of religious faith shall not be interfered with.

The conditions of the treatment shall be notified by telegram to the Governments of the treaty Powers through their representatives in Peking by the plenipotentiaries of the Peking and Nanking Governments.

We also hereby announce, in consonance with the wishes of the Empress Dowager, that the ancient Sovereigns of the State laid importance on deciding the polity, and always made it their principle to adopt such polity as was calculated to ensure everlasting peace. If the situation be unduly protracted against the popular wishes, it will lead to an endless disaster. Murder will follow murder. The Imperial Shrines will shake with terror, and woe will befall the nation. We have taken the situation and popular wishes to Our hearts and decided to adopt the wisest course. We exhort the people to try to act in conformity with Our wishes and consider their common interests, and refrain from circulating any seditious statements, which can only bring

calamity on the State and people. We direct Generals Chian Kueti and Feng Kuo-chang, commanders of the troops, to exercise strict vigilance and make known the Imperial wishes to the people. The State appoints various functionaries in central and local governments to promote the welfare of the people. You, Government officials, great and small alike, are hereby commanded to take the situation to heart and try to faithfully discharge the functions assigned to you in order thus to conform with the loving care with which we hold the multitude of people under our rule.

The Foreign Office officially announces that the Imperial Edict was issued in Peking at 4 o'clock on the 12th instant and that the full text, identical to the one translated above, has been telegraphed from Peking.

COUNT OKUMA ON CHINESE
POLITICS.

A PESSIMISTIC VIEW.

Commenting upon the course of events in China, Count Okuma is quoted by the *Jiji Shimpō* as saying that Yuan Shih-kai has shown wonderful tact in inducing the Peking Court to abdicate, but he may still have a mass of difficulties to surmount. The terms of peace concluded by the Revolutionists contain a clause as to the election of a President by a national assembly. The leaders of the Revolutionists will no doubt keep good their promise and endeavour to elect Yuan to the first presidency of the Chinese Republic in order to accelerate a peaceful solution of the situation; but it still remains doubtful whether Yuan, who is not very popular amongst the Revolutionists, can easily win the coveted position. Even if he obtain the presidency, he will find it difficult to organize a ministry in which Southerners and Northerners are fairly represented, and in which he can establish a firm footing. The decision of the place of convocation of the National Assembly will present another difficulty, as the matter will radically affect his influence.

The republican age now seems to belong to past history, and it is very doubtful if China, emerging by a leap and a bound from a monarchical polity, can handle a republican administration with any degree of success. Do the political and moral ideas of the people of China and the present condition of the means of communication bfit China for a republican administration? The origin and progress of the situation, especially the declaration of independence by each province and the lack of unity in military action, all indicate the existence of circumstances unfavourable to the execution of a republican administration. Even if a central Government come into existence, it is doubtful if it can centralize the power and maintain the unity of the various component provinces. How can the Government exercise its sovereignty in Mongolia, Ili and Thibet? The difficulties that the Republican Government has to surmount are well imaginable. A radical reform of the administrative system, the supply of armaments, and improvement of the means of communication, etc. will entail considerable expense and labour. Above all it will be no easy task to renovate the popular ideas relating to political morality. In short, extraordinary exertions will be required before China can lay claim to rank amongst the Powers of the world.

AMERICAN CAPITAL FOR CHINA.

THE YUH-HAN RAILWAY LOAN.

Under the heading of "Yuh-han railway loan," the *Tokyo Asahi* writes that it would seem as though the attention of the various Powers is now distracted from the disturbances in China and turned on the loan question. It might well be imagined that the United States, which is bent on the acquisition of rights and interests in China, would not stand with folded arms. True to anticipation, a telegraphic advice has brought the news that the United States is about to lend 10 million dollars on the security of the Yuh-Han railway. The United States has had a long connection with the railway. About thirteen years ago, when railway enterprises were rampant in China, the Yuh-Han railway, from Hankow to Canton, was mooted by Chinese capitalists, and a 40 million dollars loan was raised in the United States on the security of the property and management of the railway. The American capitalist, however, transferred the bonds to a Belgian syndicate in breach of agreement, and also failed to complete the construction in the stipulated period. This caused great indignation on the part of the Chinese and the agreement was finally cancelled by paying 11 million yen to the American capitalists, it being decided through the efforts of the late Chang Chih-tung to build the railway with funds from the people of Hupeh, Hunan and Kwantung provinces, which the railway was to traverse. It was, nevertheless, found impossible to raise sufficient money in those provinces, so that Chang Chih-tung decided to build the railways in Hupeh and Hunan provinces by raising a foreign loan. English capitalists were approached without success, but Germany succeeded in raising a loan. This aroused great indignation among English capitalists and they were supported by French capitalists. The complication was, however, amicably settled by the mediation of Minister Ijui, the Three Powers agreeing to jointly under take a loan for 55 million yen. The United States stepped in and claimed participation in the loan, and it was eventually decided the four Powers should contribute 15 million yen each to the loan. The Cantonese jeered at the Hunan and Hupeh people undertaking the construction of the railway by the aid of foreign capital contrary to stipulation, and opposition was also raised to the loan in Hupeh and Hunan provinces. The matter was smoothed over by the mediation of Sheng Huan-huai, and the Four Powers loan contract was signed on April 22nd, 1911. The sudden outbreak of the insurrection at Wuchang rendered the performance of the contract impracticable.

It seems highly improper that the United States should now attempt to accept the Yuh-Han railway loan single-handed to the exclusion of the other Powers interested, but there is reason to believe that the telegraphic advice is not wholly groundless. The Four Powers loan concerns that portion of the railway to be built in Hupeh and Hunan provinces. The railway which is to form the security of the American loan is limited to that portion existing or to be built in Kwantung province. The Yuh-Han railway in Kwantung province consists of 213 miles of trunk line stretching from Canton to Pingli, and 30 miles of branch line reaching Samshui from Canton. The Cantonese formed a Company with a

paid up capital amounting to 44,080,780 dollars, the shares numbering 8,827,562. Work was commenced and 30 miles of the branch line between Canton and Samshui, and 58 miles of the trunk line between Canton and Hwangshichiao have so far been completed.

It would seem rather a hazardous adventure to advance 10 million dollars on 30 miles of railway, but the United States has sufficient reason to accept the loan to aid the Revolutionary Government, which is organized by parties who are on intimate terms with Americans. The loan may be regarded as a prelude to the future acquisition by the United States of greater interests in China and therefore demands close attention on the part of the Japanese nation.

DEFENCE OF THE MANCHU.

OPINIONS OF DR. HATTORI.

Dr. Hattori, who was long-connected with educational work in China, is quoted by the *Jiji Shimpō* as saying that the Emperor of China having at last been compelled to abdicate, the brilliant Manchu dynasty has come to an end. It is needless to dwell on the merits or demerits of the Southern and Northern Governments. It is, nevertheless, regrettable that no one has dared to advocate the maintenance of the dynasty at the critical moment. General Tieh Liang is a gallant soldier to all outward appearance, but he proves to be a coward. Some years ago a section of the revolutionists sent to Yuan Shih-kai a threatening letter in which the name of Tieh Liang was mentioned. Tieh Liang is said to have trembled with fear. Chang Hsun was also powerless to deal with the situation. Much was expected of Liang Pi, but he fell by the hand of an assassin and his loss is much lamented.

Chinese siding with the Revolutionists are wont to accuse the Manchu Government of imposing heavy taxes, but this is not the case. Taxes were heaviest under the Ming dynasty. The rulers of the present dynasty introduced many needed reforms. The manifesto issued by Dr. Sun Yat-sen attacked the Peking Government for the seclusion of the country, diplomatic failures, expulsion of the Chinese, restriction of the freedom of speech, and other things. The seclusion policy is, nevertheless, a traditional one handed down from the Ming dynasty. The manifesto accused the Government of excluding Chinese from responsible posts, but this is untrue. All the great statesmen who held power in the central Government, such as Tso Kao-pan, Li Hung-chang, and Chang Chi-tung were Chinese. The Peking Government was Manchu in name, but the majority of the great officials were Chinese. The Imperial Edicts were drafted by Chinese. Many Chinese also held Viceroyalties in the local governments. The manifesto also charged the Manchu Government with the expulsion of aliens, but the anti-foreign sentiment is an inherent characteristic of the Chinese. In ancient times China suffered from the invasion of northern tribes. The Chinese, who are endowed with literary culture but make poor soldiers, consoled themselves by calling the invaders Northern barbarians, priding themselves on their civilization and looking down on their neighbours with contempt. While it is true that the Manchu Government punished with severity writers

of seditious articles, the Government always made endeavours to promote the material prosperity of the Chinese and to lessen the burden of taxation. The Revolutionists might, however, say that the Manchu Government, however fair its intentions, lacked the sincerity to put them into practice. In short Dr. Sun's manifesto, while exposing the weakness of the Manchu Government on the one hand, also revealed the defects of the Chinese themselves. If both Manchu and Chinese had taken up political reforms with more discretion the desired renovation might have been effected without bloodshed.

A CHINESE RAILWAY LOAN.

BRITISH OBJECTIONS.

With reference to the Shanghai Hungchow Railway Company's loan of three million taels, recently contracted with the Okura firm, one half of which has already been paid over, the Tokyo papers report that the payment of the balance has been abruptly suspended owing to a protest made to the Japanese Government by the British Minister in Peking.

The *Chugai Shogyo* reports, on the authority of the Foreign Office, that British capitalists are interested in the railway. When the loan was negotiated, the Okura firm took the trouble to make inquiries, but on receiving a reply from the railway Company that British capital had nothing to do with the railway, the loan was concluded and one half was paid over. The British Minister then made a protest to the Peking Government. The Peking Government replied that there was an agreement for the investment of British capital in the railway when the railway was under Government management four years ago, but since the railway had passed into the hands of private capitalists, the agreement must be considered as cancelled. The British Minister contended that the change in the management would in no way affect the legality of the agreement, since the railway itself and the British interests therein remain substantially unchanged. As a result of the diplomatic complication, the British Ambassador in Tokyo about a week ago demanded from the Japanese Government an explanation concerning the Okura loan. The Japanese Government fully explained the circumstances and pointed out that the fault rested entirely with the Chinese Government. The Okura firm may demand the refundment of the advance made and cancel the loan contract, but this depends on future developments.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET.

The Government yesterday introduced to the House of Representatives a Supplementary Budget in connexion with the China affair. The Budget asks for the following appropriations:—

	Yen.
Foreign Office account	200,000
War Office account	144,500
Naval Office account	196,000
Communication Department account.....	336,593
Kwantung Governor-General's office account	49,700
	926,793

The money is to be drawn from the currency adjustment fund.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

Mr. Yoshiwara Saburo, Vice-President of the Oriental Development Company, who arrived at Tokyo on the 11th instant, has been interviewed by the *Kokumin*, to whose representative he gave some information on the present condition of the Company.

Some critics assert, said Mr. Yoshiwara, that whereas the Company has for its object to send out to Chosen seventy or eighty thousand emigrants a year, the work is making tardy progress, contrary to anticipation. Chosen, however, is not a wilderness like Hokkaido. In fact the larger portion of the area is under cultivation, so that it is impossible to send there a great number of emigrants at one time without ousting the Chosenese. This would naturally provoke strong opposition and impede the Japanese regime. The late Prince Ito took exception to the sending of a large number of immigrants at one time, and an arrangement was made to introduce settlers gradually when arable land could be found for allotment. The Company then undertook the adjustment of the cultivated land in order to find room for immigrants. To this end it has already purchased over 26,000 *chobu* of land, and it began to introduce immigrants from the year before last.

An annual subsidy of 300,000 *yen* has been promised to the Company for eight years, subject to a reduction when the Company is able to declare an 8 per cent. dividend. The Company was able to declare a 6 per cent. dividend last year and to carry 400,000 *yen* to the reserve fund. It is argued in some quarters that in view of the satisfactory business result obtained, the subsidy may be withdrawn. In granting the subsidy, however, the Government was no doubt impelled by a desire to consolidate the basis of the Company in order to ensure the development of colonization work. The Company, therefore, must carry as much as possible to the reserve fund to consolidate its financial basis during the subsidized period, and in striking a balance last year, the Company decided to limit the dividend to 6 per cent. and carry a substantial amount to the reserve fund. The rent of the Company's land is paid in kind, that is in unhulled rice, and thus the income varies. The crops last year were exceedingly good, and high prices ruled in the market. The income was, therefore, phenomenally large. The income of the Company is always influenced by the state of the harvest. It is, therefore, necessary to carry to reserve a substantial sum in good years to offset any loss in bad years.

As already stated the Company has acquired over 26,000 *chobu* of land, and altogether 760 families have been introduced and distributed broadcast amongst the Chosen peasants in various districts. The result has proved satisfactory. Everywhere the Japanese farmers are giving guidance to the Chosenese and the latter have begun to place high confidence in the ability of their Japanese confères and to cooperate with them in the development of agriculture. In some parts of the country the Japanese farmers had no harvest owing to floods, but they never experienced any hardship in getting a livelihood. The Japanese immigrants are

divided into two classes. To Class A the Company grants capital at 6 per cent. interest, re-payable in twenty-five annual instalments, while to Class B the Company grants accommodation at 7 per cent. interest, repayable in seven annual instalments.

The immigrants are divided into two classes according to certain qualifications. Last year the Company invited 1,000 families, but only 600 families were found to fulfil the qualifications, while the Company had to reject many applications. Some critics assert that the Company pays a commission on the purchase of land and thus enhances the price to the detriment of the immigrants. The accusation is unwarrantable. The Company purchases land at a standard price and pays 3 per cent. commission to the land agents to cover their expenses, but it by no means increases the price. There have of late been many Japanese capitalists who have purchased land in Chosen, not for cultivation but simply on speculation, to profit by the margin when the price rises. This is the real cause of the enhancement of the price of land. A false rumour was recently circulated for some sinister purpose that the Company would expel the Chosen peasants if they sold their land to the Company. The rumour gained some credence and the Company experienced great difficulty in the purchase of land. The Company, nevertheless, succeeded in acquiring about 1,500 *chobu* of land near Gensan, so that it is in a position to introduce a number of home immigrants this year. Unlike in South Chosen, the land in North Chosen is mostly barren waste and is more fit for cattle breeding than agriculture. The region is comparatively poor and lacks facilities of communication. A large amount of capital will be necessary for its development. If monetary organs and means of communication be perfected, North Chosen will form a prosperous breeding-ground for the supply of meat to Vladivostok and the mother country.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

TEXT OF REGULATIONS.

The Tokyo Municipal Aldermen's Council sat on the 9th instant to consider the Tokyo Municipal Electric Business Loan Bonds Regulations. The Regulations were adopted with some amendments. The amended Regulations read as under:—

Art. 1.—Bonds of £9,175,000 sterling face value shall be issued in the 44th fiscal year to cover the expenses for Municipal electric enterprises.

A portion of the bonds may be converted into French currency bonds. In that case a pound sterling shall be computed at the rate of 25 francs and 22 centimes of French currency.

Art. 2.—The Municipality may invite banks or syndicates to accept and undertake the issue of the bonds.

Art. 3.—The interest on the bonds shall be fixed at 5 per cent. of the face value.

Art. 4.—The certificates of the loan shall be unsigned bonds with coupons.

Art. 5.—The interest on the bonds shall be paid in two instalments every year, each instalment being the interest due for the preceding six months.

Art. 8.—The interest on the bonds shall be paid and the principal redeemed out of the special account for Municipal electric

enterprises. The principal of the bonds shall be redeemed by an amortization of one per cent. after 1916, by lottery, so as to complete the redemption by 1952. In the event of the market price of the bonds falling below their face value the redemption shall take place by means of purchase.

The Municipality reserves to itself the right of redeeming the whole or a part of the bonds, after ten years succeeding the date of issue.

In that case six months' notice shall be given to be holders.

Art. 7.—Payment of interest on the bonds and redemption of the principal are guaranteed preferentially by the net profits of the electric enterprises.

Art. 8.—The description of the bonds, the method of payment of interest, the redemption of the principal and other procedure shall be determined by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the Aldermen's Council.

It is stated the amendments were drafted on consultation with the Financial Department. Mayor Ozaki is of opinion that now that the Regulations have been adopted by the Aldermen's Council the procedure of submitting the terms of the loan to the Municipal Council can be dispensed with.

The prospectus of the bonds is to be issued on the 10th and the bonds will be placed on the market in London, Paris and New York simultaneously on and after the 12th inst., the first instalment being £1,000,000 sterling in London, £4,000,000 sterling in Paris and £2,000,000 sterling in New York. The net proceeds of the first issue are calculated to amount to about 65 million *yen*.

The Tokyo Municipal Council met on the 13th instant to consider the Tokyo Municipal Electric Business Bonds Regulations, a translation of which was given in Monday's issue of the *Japan Mail*.

Mayor Ozaki, explaining the Regulations, stated that originally the Municipality reckoned the net proceeds at 96 *yen* per 100 *yen* face value, the calculation being based on the net proceeds obtained in the one million *yen* Municipal loan issued in 1906, but the present loan showed the net proceeds to amount to only 92.50 *yen* per 100 *yen* face value, owing to the present condition of the economic market abroad, coupled with the large amount of the loan. They decided to accept the terms, feeling convinced that delay would not prove advantageous to the Municipality, as Chinese loans were likely to be issued on terms more favourable to subscribers.

Mr. Aoki stated that he heard that more favourable terms had been offered by a bankers' syndicate and asked why the Municipality did not accept the offer.

Mayor Ozaki replied that as a matter of fact the Municipality received many offers, but decided to decline them as it was thought the tenderers were unreliable.

After a few more questions had been asked and answered, the Regulations were unanimously approved.

THE two daughters of Dr. Chappell, of the Aoyama Gakuin, after an absence from Japan of six years, during which they have been pursuing their studies at Wyoming Seminary, Pa., Lasell Seminary, Mass., and the University of Mt. Allison, Canada, have returned to Japan on the *Mongolia*.

HANYA-PINGHSIEN CORPORATION.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR LOAN.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a responsible authority as saying that the demand for iron ore from Taya and pig-iron from the Hanyang Steel Foundry, from which the Wakamatsu Steel Foundry draws its material, is annually increasing, but the equipment of both the iron mine and the steel foundry is inadequate to meet the increased demand. The management of the Hanyang-Pinghsien Company decided to obtain monetary accommodation from Japanese capitalists for the extension of the business, and negotiations for this purpose were entered into with the Specie Bank in April last. The negotiations were satisfactorily concluded, the Specie Bank agreeing to advance over 10 million *yen* in the course of several years. In view of the strong opposition then raised in China to the so-called Four-Powers' loan, the agreement was kept secret, lest its disclosure might defeat the end in view. Inasmuch as the agreement was not explicit in the amount of the annual instalments and other details, it was proposed to revise it so as to bring the Chinese and Japanese capitalists closer together on more profitable terms, and Mr. Nishizawa, director of the Taya branch, returned home last autumn and entered into further negotiations with the parties interested. Before they were brought to a successful conclusion, the present revolutionary insurrection broke out and thus the negotiations remained at a deadlock. In the meantime the Company has had recourse to temporary loans to meet the expenditure, until it now finds it impossible to continue work unless it raises a loan of two or three millions *yen* in a lump sum. As the result of a conference of the shareholders, Mr. Sheng Huan-huai, president of the Company, approached the Specie Bank with a proposal for the loan as previously agreed. The Bank decided to accede to the proposal, and preparations have been made for cash payment.

The Tokyo papers report that the loan for the Hanyang-Pinghsien Corporation has been successfully concluded and the contract was signed by the parties concerned on the 12th instant. The amount of the loan is said to be 2,500,000 *yen*, but strict secrecy is maintained by the parties concerned as to the conditions and other particulars.

JAPAN AND THE NEW CHINESE POLITY.

A certain diplomat is quoted by the *Tokyo Asahi* as saying that, simultaneously with the issue of the Edict of abdication, Yuan Shih-kai sent to the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking an official note announcing the abdication, and on the 13th instant the Chinese Minister in Tokyo officially notified the fact to the Japanese Government. As an outcome of this the Chinese Minister loses his necessary qualification to represent China until the Japanese Government gives its official recognition to the new Republican Government to be organized. Inasmuch as the Southern and the Northern Governments have still failed to come to an agreement as to the seat of the new Government, and the election of the President is to take place after a national assembly is convened, a considerable time must elapse before the new Government comes into existence.

THE TERMS OF ABDICATION.

MESSAGE FROM WU TING-FANG.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires that on the 9th instant, Wu Ting-fang dispatched to various provinces a telegraphic communication stating that a telegram received from the magistrate of Kwangtung says:—"The terms of peace formulated by the Peking Court comprise the items that the Emperor shall remain in Peking and retain the title of Emperor, and that the titles of the Imperial Princes shall be hereditary. This makes the blood of the whole of Kwangtung boil with strong indignation." Wu Ting-fang adds:—"The northern army is now in favour of a republican polity and abdication of the Throne by the Emperor is imminent. I am in negotiation with Yuan Shih-kai as to the terms of treatment of the Peking Court after abdication, but nothing definite has so far been settled. The publication of the terms of peace is, therefore, reserved. Since I have been appointed peace plenipotentiary, I have invariably consulted the views of the Provisional Government on any question of importance, but am unable to consult the views of each individual province. In the negotiations, I have insisted that the Emperor should issue an Edict in favour of a republican polity, when the Republican Government would consent to accord the Emperor cordial treatment. The entity of the Chinese Republic will then be secured. No possible harm can result from according the Emperor and his family cordial treatment. Though the Emperor retains his title he will be treated like a foreign sovereign residing in China, and even if the Imperial princes and nobility retain their hereditary titles, they will stand on an equal footing with the common people in respect to public and private rights. All these things will not prevent China being a republican country. In republican France, titles of honour are still retained. The title of Emperor will be an empty name after abdication. You can hardly appreciate the difficulties that I have experienced in the peace negotiations. I can assure you all that I shall take great care not to leave anything which may prove detrimental to the republican polity."

COLOURED TEAS.

In reference to the inspection of coloured tea, Mr. Ito, Director of the Agricultural Bureau, is quoted as saying that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce issued an order last year, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of coloured tea. Nearly nine months have now elapsed since the order was enforced, during which time the coloured tea manufactured prior to the issue of the order has nearly all been disposed of, and it is expected that the balance remaining unsold will also disappear in the course of a few months. As there is a danger of the coloured tea being mixed with unadulterated tea by unscrupulous traders, the Government has decided to prohibit the sale of coloured tea, no matter whether it was manufactured before the order came into operation or after. The new order was promulgated in Wednesday's issue of the *Official Gazette*, and comes into force on and after July 1st next. The prohibition will have the effect of enhancing the credit of Japan tea in the foreign markets.

OSAKA SAVINGS BANK.

Internal trouble is reported to exist in the Osaka Chochiku Ginko (Osaka Savings Bank). The Bank was first started some twenty years ago with a capital of 100,000 *yen*, four-tenths of this being subscribed by Mr. Konoike, two-tenths by Mr. Yamaguchi, and the remainder by Mr. Toyama and several other prominent capitalists. The business has since made a marvellous development, until the Bank has now about 1,000,000 *yen* on reserve, while the deposits reach a total of nearly 27,000,000 *yen*. Mr. Konoike resigned the presidency in 1900, being succeeded by Mr. Toyama, when Mr. Konoike transferred to Mr. Toyama 20,000 *yen* worth of shares at their face value, on condition that the shares should be transferred to Mr. Toyama's successor on his resignation. Towards the close of last year Mr. Toyama abruptly intimated his intention of resigning, at the same time recommending Mr. Hirose, managing director, as his successor. Messrs. Konoike and Yamaguchi took exception to the nomination and urged Mr. Toyama to remain in office, but the latter was persistent in his resolve. As a result of a conference it was decided to transfer the deposits to the Post Office Savings Bank and dissolve the bank, and official approval is said to have been obtained to the measure. Just at this juncture some financiers stepped in with an ambitious design and prevailed upon Mr. Toyama to oppose the dissolution. Whereupon Mr. Konoike demanded the return of the 20,000 *yen* worth of shares conditionally transferred to Mr. Toyama, who flatly refused to comply with the demand. There matters at present rest.

The internal trouble which threatened to lead to the dissolution of the Osaka Savings Bank, reported in a previous issue, has now been amicably settled as a result of a conference held by the shareholders on the 14th instant, when Mr. Toyama, President of the Bank, consented to recall his resignation.

THE FIRE AT THE PEERESSES SCHOOL.

As already briefly reported, on Sunday morning at about 9.40, a disastrous fire broke out in the Peereses School in Kojimachi-ku, Tokyo, and the whole building was totally gutted before the flames were brought under control towards half past eleven. The detached buildings used for elementary classes and Kindergarten alone escaped the disaster. At one time the flames threatened to spread to Prince Kanin's residence on the adjoining lot, but this disaster was fortunately averted by the efforts of the fire-brigades, who were assisted by troops dispatched from the Third Regiment in Akasaka. The fire is believed to have originated in a stove. Had the fire broken out an hour earlier there might have been serious consequences, as the pupils were assembled in the lecture hall to celebrate the national holiday. Fortunately no casualties occurred, as the ceremony was over when the fire started. The main building, which was of brick, contained about thirty class rooms for the middle and higher class pupils, and was built about 1885 at a cost of over 150,000 *yen*.

THE FIGHTING IN MONGOLIA.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires that on receipt of the intelligence that Russian soldiers had participated in the recent attack on Lupingcheng near Manjuli station by the Mongolians, Yuan Shih-kai lodged a protest with the Russian Minister in Peking. The *Chargé d'Affaires* of the Russian Legation was interviewed by the *Tokyo Asahi's* correspondent on the 7th instant, to whom he stated that he had lost no time in issuing to the Russian Consul at Hailar a telegraphic instruction to investigate and report on the alleged incident. No reply has yet been received, but he believed that as the region lies in close proximity to the leased territory, the Russian railway guards were molested by the Chinese troops. If so, Russia must present a protest to China instead of *vice versa*. He confidently believed that the Russian army would not take any action calculated to infringe neutrality.

From Vladivostok comes a different version of the incident. According to this account, at dawn on the 2nd instant, Mongolian horsemen attacked Lupingcheng. The Chinese garrison offered a stubborn resistance. A Russian officer and several petty officers and privates were watching the battle at a distance of about 30 paces, when the officer was shot dead by a stray bullet and two petty officers were wounded. Thereupon the commander of the Russian troops attacked the Mongolians and compelled them to suspend the battle. A report has it that the bullets that killed and wounded the Russian soldiers were fired by the Chinese, and not by the Mongolians. The Mongolians' raid thus ended in failure, and a portion of them fled into Russian territory, where they were disarmed by the Russian authorities.

BORROWING MONEY.

The property of the Chinese Merchants Steam Navigation Company, which forms the security for the proposed 10 million yen loan, comprises a share capital amounting to 4,000,000 taels, which is computed at 5,900,000 yen in Japanese currency, exclusive of warehouses, lighters, piers and other land accommodation, which are valued at four or five times the amount of share-capital. According to the latest investigation the company's liners number twenty-nine in all.

The representatives of foreign syndicates appear to be flocking into the field in search of investments which bear more or less a political character. Several transactions are said to be upon the tapis, but the details given are so vague that we hesitate to reproduce them. Of course, the possibility of the China Merchants' S.N. Co.'s fleet falling into Japanese hands is viewed with something like consternation in certain shipping circles, but the outcome of this rivalry is obscure. Meanwhile English and American syndicates are said to be working through Mr. Straight to conclude a loan of 200 million taels to the new Government, but the nature of the security is not mentioned.

It is said that very keen competition continues to exist among the would-be creditors of China, especially between the American and the German syndicates which

are seeking to underwrite a loan on the security of the China Merchants S.N. Co.'s fleet. The American syndicate is reported to be offering 15 million taels and to be willing to leave the management of terms at the creditors' option; while the German syndicate is offering 10 millions at 6½ per cent. One would suppose that from the moment of the publication of the Edict of the 12th instant, all transactions of the above nature would be held in abeyance, but such does not seem to be the case.

DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTY IN CHINA.

Elsewhere we refer to the fact that the foreign Representatives in Peking are placed in a somewhat embarrassing situation, since the Throne to which they are accredited has ceased to have any practical existence, and the diplomatic machinery created by that Throne has lost its competence. It appears that on the day following the Edict of abdication, a conference of the foreign *chefs de mission* was held in Peking, and the decision adopted was that the Representatives should continue to discharge their duties, but should assume an individual attitude, each acting on his own authority, and all refraining from any written communication with the Chinese Government. It is a curious state of affairs, but the Powers concerned are said to have signified their approval of the course agreed upon by their Representatives.

CAPTAIN SWAIN.

This able navigator and universally popular master will end his sea-going days on the 20th instant when he returns from Shanghai commanding the S.S. *Kasuga Maru*. Captain Swain is in his sixty-third year, and more than thirty years of his eminently successful career have been devoted to seafaring life. The Japanese Government has shown its appreciation of his conduct by conferring on him an Order, and it is said that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, many of whose ships he has commanded in all parts of the world without an accident of any kind, has decided to present to him a sum of 30,000 yen in recognition of his eminent services.

"KIGENSETSU."

STATE BANQUET AT THE PALACE.

The 11th inst. being Kigensetsu, the day of the foundation of the Empire, one of the three great national holidays, the occasion was duly celebrated in the Imperial Palace and the customary banquet was given in the Home Chamber. His Majesty was present in person and delivered an address. Admiral Saito, Minister of War, in the absence of Premier Satonji, responded on behalf of the Japanese subjects, and the Italian Ambassador on behalf of the members of the *Corps Diplomatique* and other foreigners who received the Imperial command to attend the banquet.

An explosion of gunpowder took place on Wednesday afternoon at the Military Arsenal near Oji, a suburb of Tokyo. One workman was seriously injured. Fortunately the damage was limited to one workshop.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

On the 8th instant, the Parliamentary members of the *Seiyukai* held a meeting in Tokyo and decided to pass the Budget without the smallest alteration. Some proposals for economy may be submitted to the House of Representatives, but not one of them will receive the *Seiyukai's* support. This resolve was submitted to a general meeting of the Party yesterday and received endorsement. There is consequently some merriment among political critics at the expense of the Popular Party and the Centre Party, both of which associations have been talking largely during the past few days of saving many millions of yen by retrenchments and reductions.

The *Chugai Shogyo* reports that since the enforcement of queue-cutting in China the demand for hats has shown a remarkable increase, so much so that the exports from Osaka, Kobe and Yokohama during November and December last reached a total of 24,426 dozen, valued at 219,278 yen, whereas the exports in the corresponding period of the preceding year amounted to only 770 dozen of 2,756 yen in value. The brisk demand has forced prices up by twenty or thirty per cent.

On Tuesday's issue of the *Official Gazette* announced the promotion of Lieut.-General Baron Uyeda, commander of the Chosen garrison, to the rank of General. Simultaneously with the promotion, the General has been placed on the reserve list, being succeeded by Lieut.-General Baron Ando, Commander of the 12th Division.

Lieut.-General Baron Yamane, Commander of the 8th Division, has been transferred to the command of the 13th Division, he himself being succeeded by Lieut.-General Hoidzumi, Commander of the 10th Division. Major-General Matsukawa has been promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General and appointed Commander of the 10th Division.

The death is announced in Tokyo, from paralysis, of Dr. Shimoyama, Professor of Pharmacy in the Medical College of the Tokyo Imperial University, the sad event taking place on the 12th instant. He was sixty years of age. The deceased Professor was sent to Germany to prosecute his studies in 1883, after graduating at the Medical College, and on his return was appointed Professor of Pharmacy in the Medical College, which post he retained until his death. He also started a private school of pharmacy which turned out over 1,500 graduates. The funeral took place on the 16th instant, the cortege leaving his residence at Shimonegishi at 1 p.m.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* reports that the Home Office has decided to convene the religious conference on the 25th instant. Each Shinto and Buddhist sect will be represented by one delegate, and the Christian sects will be represented by only five delegates. There are now 13 Shinto sects, 56 Buddhist sects and 23 Christian sects in Japan, so that the delegates taking part in the conference will number seventy-six in all.

The *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking sat in conference on the 13th instant, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, and decided to reserve their answer to the official note addressed to them

by Yuan's temporary government; also, they resolved that, in case of need, the present Ministers of the Foreign Powers should enter into negotiations with the Temporary Government in their private capacity. The resolution has been telegraphed to their respective Governments for approval.

The Tokyo papers state that Professor Terry, of the Tokyo Imperial University, will leave for home next summer and take up his permanent residence in New York.

An official dispatch received at the Foreign Office says that the Empress Dowager of Siam will visit Japan, starting from Bangkok in March next.

It is telegraphed from Nagasaki that in view of the gradual decrease in the output of the well-known Takashima coal mine, the Mitsu Bishi firm has been making strenuous efforts to discover new mines in the neighbourhood. Their labours have now been crowned with success, a new vein having at last been discovered. It is said that the new vein is over 18 feet in depth and very rich, so that it will form an additional source of wealth to the firm. It is stated in this context that the monthly output of the Takashima mine now amounts to over 20,000 tons.

A disastrous fire broke out at about 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning last at an electro-plating factory in Honjo, Tokyo. Fanned by a strong breeze, the flames spread in all directions with alarming rapidity and over eighteen houses were gutted before the fire was brought under control. Eight operatives employed by the factory were burnt to death.

A QUADRUPLE ENTENTE.

(COMMUNICATED.)

A dual *entente*, a triple *entente*, a dual alliance and a triple alliance in Europe are things known to us as actualities; for we first had the dual *entente* of Britain and France, and later, of Britain with France and Russia; whilst the triple alliance of Austria, Germany and Italy is of long standing. But, a quadruple *entente* in Europe, as is now being seriously discussed by the British and European Press, opens up vistas and possibilities that make one "furiously to think"; for it is suggested that Germany should be tenderly invited to join the family of Britain, France, and Russia,—not in the form of an alliance, but in that of a perfect understanding and agreement on all subjects liable to dispute; and also, to extend to one another their moral support in external differences. This suggestion, is, to use a colloquialism, most emphatically "a tall order"; and whilst it is open to all to admire the pluck and optimistic temperament of the advocates of such an *entente*, the majority, we are afraid, will shake their heads and still believe that the millennium is as far away as ever. That the realization of such a dream would be to the advantage of one and all concerned, is without doubt; but that such a dream is likely to rapidly become an actuality, seems to the student to be beyond the bounds of modern practical politics. It may be argued by some that as it was possible to form an *entente* between Britain and France, and then for the former to make a similar arrangement with Russia, why should it not be possible to come to an equal understanding with Germany and so welcome her into the fold of these turtle-doves. The reason is very simple. Prior to any *entente*, there existed a properly signed alliance between France and Russia; whilst also, all outstanding differences between Britain and France had been honourably and amicably settled in such a complete manner that on no point were

these two Powers likely to meet in opposition. Hence, the road for an *entente* was wide open; and through the wisdom of their respective statesmen, brilliantly assisted by the tactful diplomacy of the late King Edward and his love for *la belle France*, it became an accomplished fact. Then came the Russo-Japanese war and its result effectually removed the menace from the northern frontier of India. What is more, it became more and more evident to the foreign chancelleries of Britain and Russia that the few outstanding differences between them were of a nature far too slight to quarrel over. Slowly but steadily, and with perfect harmony, these points of difference were discussed and thrashed out, until there was eventually arrived at a series of agreements effectually removing all causes of probable dispute. Certain lines of action were mapped out and agreed to, and certain spheres of influence were mutually allotted, and considered outside the domination of the other. By the last agreement, the final bone of contention, viz. Persia, was dealt with; and a warmer and better feeling sprung up between the old antagonists. Whilst one cannot describe it as an *entente cordiale*, such as that between France and Britain, it is nevertheless an *entente* in every sense of the word.

Now let us survey the situation respecting the inclusion of Germany in this combination. One might go so far as to willingly admit that such a state of affairs already exists between her and Russia, as their respective interests are so apart that there is practically no probability of them clashing; added to which is a long friendship that has lasted for many, many years and which shows no signs of even being strained. We can therefore assume that an *entente* between Germany and Russia may be taken as a fact. It therefore follows that only Britain and France have to be considered. Let us commence with Britain and Germany. Owing to commercial rivalry—for the two Powers are the greatest commercial rivals in the whole World—an unpleasant and unwise antagonism has arisen. This is only natural and should not carry any malice. Unfortunately, it has. And what is more, both countries are equally to blame. Consequently, both great Powers are openly, avowed, commercial enemies. If it only remained for this question to be fought by finance until the call for *surrender* was made, not a very extra amount of harm would be done, barring the loss of a huge sum of money—which both Powers would survive and forget. As it so happens, however, the two Empires have allowed their feelings to sink very far deeper than mere commercial competition. These feelings have got down close to the bed-rock of solidity, strength, and supremacy. Britain justly points to her great Empire that is flung to the four points of the compass and for whose safety she stands responsible. She also openly states that she, herself, depends upon her Navy for protection; and upon her army only as a second line of defence. She further states that Germany is increasing her Navy against one Power only—Britain, as her present naval strength is not solely required for the protection of her commerce. Britain goes even further. Not once, but more, has she offered to curtail her armaments if Germany will promise to do so. The result has always been the same: Germany has declined.

This being the condition of affairs, it does not seem an easy matter for these two great Powers to come to a genuine and sincere understanding. It is an incontrovertible fact that Great Britain—"two small islands off the coast of France"—as the French geographical primers term them—would be swallowed up by somebody within twelve months were it not for her great Navy. Consequently, this huge fleet of fighting machines is the very life blood of the United Kingdom and the Empire. But with Germany, it is not so. She depends upon her Army for protection; and what is more, can depend upon it with assurance. But her Navy is,—as Mr. Winston Churchill said at

Glasgow on Saturday last,—in the nature of a *luxury*. While admitting that his remark was flagrantly indiscreet, it must also be acknowledged that it was remarkably true. That an honest attempt is being made by the British Government to bring about a better understanding between Britain and Germany is obvious by the visit of the British Minister for War, Lord Haldane, to Berlin; and his interviews with the German Emperor and his Ministers may perhaps bear fruit, although it is very, very doubtful. The mere fact that the Socialist Party in Germany scored great victories in the recent elections, will not have the slightest iota of effect on Germany's foreign policy. It is the Kaiser and his Ministers who dictate; not the People. This assertion is admitted by the Germans themselves; and is confirmed by every student of German politics. Looking at the situation as impartially as is possible, one is forced to the reluctant conclusion that an *entente* between the two Powers is impossible at present. Germany's pride will not permit her to cry "halt" in the piling up of naval armaments. The vast expenditure of money by both sides must continue and will continue, until there comes the day when the exchequer can no longer stand the strain, or relief is found by the arbitrament of War. We all devoutly hope that the grim arbitration of the latter may never take place; but whether it does, or whether it does not, rests solely with Germany. Let her make the offer of the olive branch, and she will find it willingly accepted. But if she continues her present policy, as she seems determined to do, the chances of a sincere *entente* are as remote as those of universal peace. The same can be said of the possibility of such a complete understanding between France and Germany. The old wound of 1870 is not yet healed and the latter Power has not attempted to assist its closing. Its action in the Moroccan Affair last year is evidence of this and has not tended to any better feeling. A quadruple *entente* would be a splendid feat of diplomacy and a blessing to Humanity; but its eventuation depends on Germany and Germany alone.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, February 9.

Depression was persistent yesterday.

Saturday, February 10.

Prices were steady on Saturday, but there is no optimism.

Monday, February 12.

Yesterday was a busy time. All shares rose appreciably. Latest quotations were:—

Tuesday, February 13.

Great business marked the forenoon session, but the market broke in the afternoon.

Wednesday, February 14.

The market is again falling. Evidently the Chinese imbroglio is not thought to have yet been settled.

Thursday, February 15.

The market is still dull. Appended are quotations:—

	Feb. 14th.	Feb. 15th.
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	51.50
Yusen Kaisha.....	119.00	118.05
Toyo Kisen.....	47.75	47.95
Specie Bank.....	218.95	218.50
Tanko Kisen.....	25.10	25.10
Tokyo Gas.....	73.35	73.75
Tokyo Dento.....	70.25	70.40
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	88.00	87.95
Tokyo Spinning.....	50.25	50.05
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	110.00	108.65
Beer.....	89.00	88.30
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	63.05	62.45
Nippon Oil.....	72.60	72.05
Rice Exchange.....	114.80	114.00
Stock Exchange.....	169.40	167.60

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

ABDICATION EDICT AGAIN.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 9.

A letter from the U.S. Secretary of State, replying to an inquiry from Germany regarding America's attitude towards events in China, explains his views.

He hopes that strict respect will be paid to the integrity and administrative entity of China, and that absolute neutrality will be maintained, none of the Powers acting except in concert with all the others.

REDUCTION OF PAY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Hankow, February 8.

The Honan soldiers have heretofore been paid 7.02 taels, but owing to the war being now in a state of suspension, their pay has been decreased to 5.02 taels. The reduction has given rise to some trouble.

THE DALAI LAMA.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hongkong, February 8.

According to reliable information the Dalai Lama will leave Darjeeling in the middle of this month and return to Lassa, after breaking the journey at Calimbon. It remains obscure how far the British Government is moving in this matter.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Canton, February 8.

The Canton Government has decided to dispatch the fourth infantry regiment, the second artillery battalion and the second pioneer company, as the Canton Third Northern Expedition. This time one half of these troops are being sent. The Expedition commenced embarkation from the 7th instant. A transport is to leave Canton to-day, carrying one infantry battalion.

FEELING AT PEKING.

Peking, February 3.

It has now been decided to issue an Imperial Edict of abdication shortly. The monarchists are down-spirited and the Imperial Body Guards and the First Army Division no longer show a staunch attitude. The Emperor and the Imperial Princes seems to be satisfied with the terms accorded them by the Revolutionists. The so-called "dare-to-die" party of the Manchus is now extinct. A curious phenomenon is that the Fire Brigade is now the only advocate of the monarchical polity. The Manchu Court still survives, but the Manchus are already spiritually dead.

AMERICAN CIVILITIES AT NANKING.

Nanking, February 8.

The commander of the United States fleet in Nanking paid a formal visit to President Sun Yat-sen and Field-Marshal Hwang Hsing on the 8th instant, in company with the United State Consul. Afterwards the Commander invited Hwang Hsing to dinner, but Hwang declined owing to illness.

RUSSIAN VIEW OF JAPAN'S POLICY.

St. Petersburg, February 8.

The *Novoe Vremya* says in a leading article that Japanese business circles are trying to induce the Tokyo Government to give official recognition to the Republican Government of China. In view, however,

of the present conditions in the Far East, especially as Japan's Navy can never hope, either now or in the future, to cope with that of the United States, who is building every year two more Dreadnoughts than Japan, the Government will perforce adopt a policy of non-interference.

THE BRITISH TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, February 8.

The guards in the English settlement in Hankow were withdrawn on the 8th instant and the settlement is being guarded by the police. It is stated that the English troops will be withdrawn from the town ere long.

ANTI-GERMAN FEELING.

Shanghai, February 8.

The German Consul in Shanghai has put before President Sun Yat-sen a demand for the pacification of the anti German feeling prevalent throughout South China.

THE ABDICATION EDICT.

A Peking despatch to the *Chunuo* report that the Imperial Edict announcing the Emperor's abdication is now in the hands of Yuan Shih-kai, and will be made public on the 12th instant, as the negotiations for the terms of treatment have been successfully concluded.

A WILD REPORT.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, February 9.

The Shanghai authorities are said to have received telegrams reporting the landing of 13,000 Japanese troops in Liaotung peninsula and also an attack on Lupingfu by a joint force of Russian and Mongolian soldiers. The report has probably been concocted by some news-mongers to insinuate the imminence of foreign interference, for the purpose of bringing the situation to a speedy solution.

REVOLUTIONISTS GUARD RAILWAY.

Hankow, February 9.

The Wuchang revolutionists have completely taken possession of the railway between Hankow and Hsiakensien, and detailed guards along the railway lines.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

Shanghai, February 10.

According to a rumour current in Shanghai the abdication of the Emperor will take place on December 31st (Chinese calendar). The China Merchants Steam Navigation Company has put in the newspapers an advertisement that it has decided to issue a 10 million dollars loan in obedience to the order of the Nanking Government, but all the directors have resigned and there are only three clerks remaining in the office, they can not decide anything. It is, therefore, desired that each province shall elect representatives of shareholders with a view to holding a conference in Shanghai in order to look after the loan business.

TRANSPORT AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 9.

The revolutionary transport *Tunan* arrived in harbour at 1 o'clock this afternoon. The new magistrate Huiying arrived by the transport. The warship *Tungtsi* was to come here as escort of the transport, but she has not yet arrived.

EASTERN MONGOLIA.

Mukden, February 9.

Eastern Mongolia is making strenuous

efforts to declare its independence at the instigation of Russia, and Mongolian delegates have arrived at Mukden to purchase arms and munition of war. The Russian merchants are also making an active movement in their favour.

THE TWO ARMIES MEET.

Hankow, February 9.

A detachment of the Wuchang Northern Expedition marched northward as far as Hupeli and Hunan frontier, where their further northward movement was checked by the Imperialists stationed at Macheng-hsien. The two armies are encamped face to face.

MERCHANTS ROBBED AND MURDERED.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJI.

Peking, February 9.

According to a Changchiakan dispatch rioters are rife in Chilitun, a town lying to the east of that town. Travellers are being plundered with impunity. The latest report has it that several merchants were plundered and massacred the day before yesterday. Tumult reigns in the district.

INDEPENDENCE OF HAILAR.

Tsitsihar, February 9.

The declaration of independence of Hailar, which was once revoked in consequence of the Manchuri affair, has been re-asserted. The Chinese Taotai in Hailar has withdrawn to Tsitsihar.

PLOT AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, February 9.

A section of the local guards in Mukden attempted to desert the camp on the night of the 8th instant, and to assemble and rise in open revolt at Liaoyang, but the scheme was frustrated, owing to the strict watch kept. The disclosure of the plot led to the arrest of the commander and fifty soldiers. They are now being subjected to close examination.

ATTACK ON JAPANESE.

Yinkau, February 9.

The chief of the Tashihchao branch Consulate wires that a Japanese named Mori Shuichi, resident in the settlement at Kaiping, was assaulted and severely wounded by Chinese soldiers on the 8th instant. He was removed to the prefect's *yamen* for protection. Chinese soldiers frequently visit the Japanese houses and commit excesses on women and other inmates. The chief of the Tashihchao branch is to proceed to Kaiping. The Japanese residents in Kaiping now number about forty.

RUSSIAN TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Nanking, February 11.

A Russian steamer with over 100 soldiers on board went up the river past Nanking last night. The soldiers will either relieve the Russian guards at Hankow or reinforce them.

TROOPS LEAVE PEKING.

Peking, February 10.

The Fourth Division is being transported back to its old barracks at Wachang in Chihli province. The transportation of the larger portion of the troops has already been concluded. Two battalions of the Fourteenth Regiment alighted at Paoting this morning. General Tuan, commander of the Division, arrived at Paoting this morning.

CONFERENCE AT TIENSIN.

A Peking despatch to the *Chunuo* reports that the Empress Dowager intimated to

Yuan Shih-kai her readiness to remove to the Summer Palace to expedite the solution of the situation, but Yuan told her Majesty to remain in the Forbidden City until after he shall have had a personal interview with Wu Ting-fang, Wang Chao-ming, Tang Shao-i and Yang Tse-chi, who are expected to come to Tientsin to conduct the negotiations. Yuan will proceed to Tientsin on the 12th instant to meet Wu Ting-fang there.

REVOLUTIONISTS' TERMS ACCEPTED.

THREE EDICTS TO BE ISSUED.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 12.

Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, telegraphs that the Peking Cabinet, the Emperor's guardians, the Empress-Dowager and the Princes have accepted the terms of the Nanking Republicans as to the treatment of the Manchus after abdication.

Three Edicts will appear on Monday, approving the terms and exhorting the people to remain quiet and abide by the Imperial will regarding the new form of Government; approving the establishment of a Republic; and ordering Yuan Shih-kai to establish a Provisional Republican Government in conjunction with the Nanking Republicans.

Yuan Shih-kai hopes the Powers will recognise the new system as constitutional.

[A telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that at 2.30 p.m. on the 12th inst. the Emperor of China issued a Decree abdicating the administration and directing Yuan Shih-kai to organise a Temporary Government.]

FIRE AT CHANGKING.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Hankow, February 10.

According to intelligence reaching a reliable quarter, a great fire has occurred at Changking in Szechuan province, and nearly the whole city has been burnt down. The cause of the conflagration is now under investigation.

MONGOLIA AND THE REPUBLIC.

Hankow, February 10.

The Mongolian Princes are averse to a republican polity but the new Government does not desire to leave Mongolia out of the pale of its regime. As a means of manipulating Mongolia, President Sun has caused the Mongolian students in Nanking to forward to the Mongolian princes a joint memorial urging upon them the adoption of a republican polity.

POPULAR SYMPATHY WITH REVOLUTIONISTS.

Hankow, February 10.

As a reaction against the outrages committed by the Imperialists in Wuchang and Hanyang, popular sympathy is now with the revolutionists, who are obtaining supplies of war funds with comparative ease.

WAR FUNDS.

Hongkong, February 10.

The Chinese merchants in Hankow, who were some weeks ago burnt out by the Imperialists, continue to go to Hongkong. They hold the Imperialists in abhorrence, and are contributing portions of their property to the revolutionists. Some of these merchants propose to make over their whole property to fit out the Northern Expedition.

WARSHIP AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 10.

About 500 soldiers under the command

of Linchi left here for Tengchow at 2 o'clock this afternoon by the transport *Hsinming*. The warship *Tungtsi* arrived at Chefoo at 9 o'clock this morning and is unloading arms and munitions of war.

PEACE NEGOTIATION CONCLUDED.

Peking, February 12.

The peace negotiations which have for several days past been at a deadlock, have now been successfully concluded, both parties having come to an agreement as to the treatment of the Peking Court after abdication and other accessory conditions. The abdication of the Emperor is now undisputable.

CHINESE PAPER CURRENCY.

Hankow, February 11.

Chinese paper currency has been put out of circulation since the outbreak of the revolutionary disturbances. The amount in the hands of the foreign merchants in Hankow aggregates about 7,000,000 taels. The Hupoh Government mint notes are circulated in Wuchang at a discount.

THE MANCHU PRINCES.

Peking, February 11.

The Imperialists have under consideration a scheme for declaring independence jointly with the Imperial and Mongolian princes under the protection of the foreign Powers, in opposition to the republican polity. The leaders of the movement have already left Peking for the Three Eastern Provinces and Prince Tsaitse is to leave for Mukden shortly.

HWANGHSIEN OCCUPIED.

Chefoo, February 11.

The Imperialists took possession of Hwanghsien in Shantung province at 8 o'clock this morning, and the revolutionists retreated to Tengchow. The transport *Tunan* left for Tengchow this morning with 150 soldiers as reinforcements.

MONGOLIAN EMPIRE.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJI.

Mukden, February 11.

An opinion is gaining footing amongst the staunch Mongolian princes of the advisability of establishing in Kulon an independent Government with the *Gegen* as religious ruler and the Chinese Emperor as the Sovereign of Mongolia.

THE PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Hankow, February 11.

The revolutionists have sent out many detachments of soldiers to destroy the line of the Peking-Hankow railway by dynamite. The trains transporting the troops are being run at great peril.

THE AMUR PROVINCE.

Tsitsihar, February 10.

Deputy Viceroy Chao of the Amur-Province has obtained three months leave of absence through illness, and Sun, Director of the Civil Administration, has been appointed Acting Deputy Viceroy.

TRANSPORTS LEAVE CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 11.

About 300 soldiers, twenty cases of rifles and 100 cases of powder, transported from Shanghai by the revolutionary transport on the 10th instant, have been landed. A transport carrying about 130 soldiers left for Tengchow at 11 o'clock this morning under the escort of a warship. The transport *Hsinchang* also left for Tengchow shortly after.

REVOLUTIONISTS ATTACKED.

Chefoo, February 11.

When Wenleughien had fallen into the

hands of the Revolutionists, the Director of the Civil Administration attempted to impose a land-tax to raise war funds. The land-owners, strongly resenting the action, mustered 1,000 volunteers in forty-eight neighbouring villages. The contingents pressed on the town on the 8th instant and collided with the Revolutionists, which resulted in seven or eight casualties on the volunteers' side, while the revolutionists lost over ten men killed or wounded. The villagers continue to join the contingents. About 170 soldiers were despatched thither from Chefoo on the 10th instant to reinforce the guards.

OFFICER EXECUTED.

Hsinmintun, February 11.

An officer who arrived in command of over fifty new recruits enlisted at Chinantsien was arrested and summarily beheaded at one o'clock this morning, on a charge of collusion with the Revolutionists.

THE EDICT OF ABDICATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chu* reports that the projected meeting at Tientsin of Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang has been postponed owing to the postponement of Wu's departure from Shanghai due to stormy weather.

A Cabinet Council was held at Yuan Shih-kai's residence on the 12th instant. The *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking anticipate the issue of the Edict of abdication every moment.

THE EDICT OF ABDICATION.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 13.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs from Peking that the three Edicts have been issued.

The Emperor retains the honorary title of Manchu Emperor, but it is obviously intended that the title shall not be hereditary.

THE PEACE TERMS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, February 12.

Yuan Shih-kai brought forward a counter-revision of the terms of peace formulated by the Nanking Government, as under:—

The Nanking Government proposes that the Emperor may remain in the Palace for a time after abdication, but must eventually remove to the Summer palace; but so long as the Nanking Government admits the retention of the sepulchre of the Imperial ancestors, the conditions should be modified so as to make it voluntary for the Peking Court to reside either at the Palace or the Summer Palace as originally proposed.

The maintenance allowance shall be fixed at 4,000,000 dollars.

The Court will agree to the proposal for not registering the terms of peace before The Hague Tribunal.

The words "after the abdication of the Emperor" shall be altered to "after the abdication of the present Emperor."

Imperial sanction having been obtained to the revision, the counter-revision was telegraphed to Wu Ting-fang on the 8th instant.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.

Chefoo, February 12.

The revolutionary warships *Haitan* and *Taishun* left for the Gulf of Pechili on the 11th instant. Presumably they are destined for Lienshan Bay at Chingwantao. The warship *Haiyung* also left the harbour later,

probably for the same destination. The coast of Chinwantao is now free of ice, and thus admits free passage.

THE GUNS AT HANYANG.

Hankow, February 12.

The heavy guns mounted on Tapien-shau batteries in Hanyang have all been removed by the Revolutionists.

DISORDERLY SOLDIERS.

Port Arthur, February 10.

About twenty soldiers of the Chinese guards who arrived at Kaiping yesterday proceeded to a restaurant kept by a Japanese named Yamaguchi, where they created a disturbance and struck the proprietor and waitresses. A Japanese named Mori, who speaks Chinese, attempted to mediate, when he was dragged outside and beaten with the butt-ends of the rifles, sustaining severe injuries.

The soldiers then proceeded to the Japan Hotel kept by Kashima and one of the unruly soldiers went into the house with his boots on, and attempted to assault the wife of Kashima, afterwards striking both her and a Chinese servant.

REFRACTORY GENERAL.

Port Arthur, February 12.

In response to an inquiry of the Central Government, Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern provinces submitted a report in which he states that Chang Tso-lin, the commander of the local guards, refused to recognize his authority. Chang Shih-lan telegraphed that he would recall to Mukden the detachment now sent out from the Mixed Brigade, and he himself will return to Mukden and endeavour to bring Chang Tso-lin to obedience. If Chang Tso-lin be still obdurate he will be placed under observation, bringing the entire force of the Mixed Brigade into requisition.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that Yuan Shih-kai is about to send to the various Powers an Official Note announcing the organization of a temporary Republican Government in Peking. On its recognition by the various Powers, the Republican Government in Nanking is to cease to exist and Wu Ting-fang and others will come up to the capital to take part in the organization. Peking will thus continue to be the political centre of China.

The city is tranquil. The Manchus generally welcome the new Republican administration.

ORGANISATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

THE ABDICATION EDICTS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

Peking, February 13.

It appears that the Edicts arranged by Yuan Shih-kai are regarded as a wonderful compromise and a profound relief to every one, as it is hoped they will satisfy all parties.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

ATTACK ON JAPANESE.

Hongkong, February 12.

A Japanese named Aoki Eitaro, a pedler of medicine, who has been doing business in the interior of Kwantung province since last year, was attacked by bandits on the 10th instant in Chinese territory about thirty Chinese li to the north of Shenchow and robbed of medicine valued at 70 dollars,

together with thirty dollars in cash, and then shot. Two bullets entered his body, but he was still alive when he reached Hongkong on the 12th inst. He is now in the Hospital.

THE BRITISH TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, February 12.

The British troops have been relieved of duty in the English settlement, which is now guarded by police. The British Consul stated that the troops would not be withdrawn from Hankow, so long as the situation remained unchanged. No order has yet been received concerning their withdrawal.

POSITION AT NIUCHWANG.

Niuchwang, February 12.

The Revolutionists in Manchuria are disposed to make the town their financial basis and will, therefore, not use armed force. The foreign residents are quiet, but great anxiety is being felt by the Chinese banks and merchants.

ORGANISING THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Peking, February 14.

The public in Peking are tranquil. The administration of State affairs is conducted by the existing Departments. Yuan Shih-kai assumes several titles, such as Premier of the Chinese Government; Chief of the Peace Plenipotentiaries, and Chief-Magistrate of the Temporary Republican Government; while the other Ministers of State are known as Chiefs of State Departments. Negotiations have been entered into with the Nanking Government to prepare for the organization of a new Government. Yuan insists on establishing it in Tientsin, while Sun advocates Nanking. Both sides show an unyielding attitude and the controversy is likely to be protracted. A belief nevertheless obtains that the new Government will eventually be established at Tientsin.

VIEWS OF LI YUAN-HUNG.

Hankow, February 13.

Li Yuan-hung holds strong opinions regarding the Edict of abdication and telegraphed them to Dr. Wu Ting-fang on the 13th instant.

Li advocates that the existing Republican Government shall forthwith be abolished and also that the delegates of the Southern and the Northern Governments shall be sent to Wuchang to negotiate the organization of a new government.

YUAN WELCOMES REPUBLIC.

Peking, February 13.

In consonance with the Edict of abdication, Yuan Shih-kai has dispatched to the leaders of the Revolutionists in Nanking a telegram, stating that it will be conducive to the happiness of the nation that China should adopt a republican polity. The situation at Peking and in North China generally did not admit of his departure for the south, but he had definite ideas on the new administration and was ready to enter into a conference on the method of organization of the new Government.

DISQUIETING SITUATION.

Mukden, February 13.

A disquieting situation has developed near Tieling. Unexpected events threaten to occur every moment.

THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

Nanking, February 13.

The Nanking Government telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai on the 13th instant, proposing

to establish in Nanking a temporary Government on the basis of the present Nanking Government.

YUAN AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Canton, February 13.

The Canton Revolutionists have telegraphed to the Nanking Government that Yuan Shih-kai must not be elected as president of the new Republican Government.

CHEFOO TERROR-STRICKEN.

Chefoo, February 13.

The "Assassination Party," organized by Chang Tso-lin, strongly opposes a republican polity and it is rumoured that many assassins have entered Chefoo to assassinate the Revolutionists. Terror reigns in the town.

JAPANESE TROOPS IN SOUTH MANCHURIA.

The Governor-General of Kwantung wires to the Home Government that, in view of events in Manchuria, the whole of the 22nd regiment and two infantry battalions belonging to the regiment in Port Arthur have been ordered to proceed to the neutral zone in South Manchuria to prepare for emergencies.

CONFERENCE AT TIENTSIN.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* says that the delegates of the two Governments will meet in the English Settlement at Tientsin on the 16th instant. Wu Ting-fang, Wang Chao-ning and Tang Shao-i are to arrive there by the 15th and Yuan Shih-kai was to start for Tientsin on the 14th instant, accompanied by Hu Wei-to. General Tuan Chi-kuei has already left for Tientsin. In the conference the matter of the organization of a new Government will be considered.

After the conference is over, Wu Ting-fang and other southern delegates are expected to visit Peking.

Importance is attached to the Tientsin conference in Diplomatic circles, and it appears that the British Minister is mediating between the two Governments. A rumour has it that the British Minister will start for Tientsin on the 16th instant.

THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

FEELING IN PEKING.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHINBUN.")

London, February 14.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs from Peking that the Edicts have been well received and are regarded as reorganising the situation without changing the actual administration of Government.

The Waiwupu has notified the Legations that the conduct of business will continue unchanged.

Everybody is praising the foresight and sagacity of Yuan Shih-kai.

GERMAN TROOPS FOR TSINGTAU.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Hongkong, February 14.

A German steamer carrying 1,900 soldiers called at Hongkong on the 12th instant and left there for Tsingtau on the following day.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Nanking, February 14.

The Nanking Government has issued to Lan Tien-wei, commander of the Northern Expedition, a telegraphic instruction that now that the Northern Army has accepted the republican polity, hostilities have ceased, but those who oppose the new

polity are the enemies of the Chinese Republic and must be suppressed. He is therefore instructed to discontinue the use of the name "Northern Expedition," but to keep the troops in their present positions and continue their training.

SITUATION IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, February 14.

Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces is making preparations to start for Tsingtau shortly for the benefit of his health. He is reported to be suffering from illness, and to be very weak.

The 77th and 78th regiments in Mukden will start for the extra-mural districts for the suppression of the Imperialists.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

Nanking, February 13.

A Cabinet Council of the Nanking Government has sat to consider the Presidential question. It seems that the Council has consented to the election of Yuan Shih-kai as the first president of the Chinese Republic.

THE TROUBLE AT CHIMO.

Tientsin, February 13.

The rioters who rose in Chimo in Shantung province have been suppressed by the German troops. Two German infantry companies are stationed in the town for the maintenance of peace and order.

PEKING WAR OFFICE.

Peking, February 13.

The Peking War Office has forwarded over 200 cases of powder to Jehol.

PRINCE CHING'S GUARDS.

Peking, February 13.

Prince Ching's residence has heretofore been guarded by the army, but the guards have now been replaced by troops of the Third Division, at the request of Prince Ching, lest they might rise in revolt in opposition to the abdication of the Emperor.

IMPERIAL DESERTERS.

Peking, February 13.

On the receipt of the news of the Emperor's abdication the troops under Chang Hsun have begun to disperse. Many deserters are now arriving at Kucitefu in Honan province.

THE KAIPING COAL MINE.

Tientsin, February 13.

The Kaiping coal mine, which was placed under British protection at the time of the Boxer trouble, subsequently passed into the permanent possession of Great Britain. Great Britain has long been casting a covetous eye on the Lanchow coal mine, located near the Kaiping mine, and has at last succeeded in obtaining the management of the mine, taking advantage of the revolutionary disturbances.

CELEBRATING THE REPUBLIC.

Chefoo, February 14.

The Northern Expedition at Chefoo has received from the Nanking Government the following telegram:—

"The Chinese Emperor has abdicated the Throne and China has been unified. The Government proposes to celebrate the occasion on the 15th instant. The fleet is therefore ordered to fully dress at eight o'clock on that morning and fire a salute of twenty-one guns at noon. The order shall be transmitted to the revolutionary warships in various ports."

Shanghai, February 15.

An official note has been issued to the warships of the various Powers that the

revolutionary warships will be fully dressed on the 15th instant from eight o'clock in the morning till sunset, and that a salute will be fired at noon to celebrate the organization of the Republican Government.

The Japanese, British and German warships in Hsiakwan refused to take part in the celebration.

Hankow, February 15.

Four revolutionary warships at Wuchang were fully dressed at noon on the 14th instant. Li Yuan-hung sent to the Consular Body a note requesting that the warships of the various foreign Powers should follow suit. Reply was reserved.

THE MAGISTRATE OF KWANGTUNG.

Mukden, February 15.

Lan Tien-wei, Commander of the Northern Expedition, has telegraphed to the Japanese authorities in Mukden as under:—

"Now that the Chinese Emperor has abdicated the war is considered at an end. I have been appointed magistrate of Kwangtung by the Provisional President of the Chinese Republic, and will proceed to Mukden shortly to organize a military government. It is desirous that you should make this known to the public."

THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

Shanghai, February 14.

According to a newspaper report Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other chiefs of the various administrative Departments of the Nanking Government have tendered their resignation and have sent to the State Council a letter recommending Yuan Shih-kai for the first presidency of the Chinese Republic. The revolutionary leaders in Nanking have gone or are about to go over to Yuan's side, and thus Sun's and Hwang's parties are being isolated.

YUAN'S PARTY.

Peking, February 15.

Yuan Shih-kai has succeeded in gaining Li Yuan-hung to his side and set him against Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and others. Internal rupture has been created in the ranks of the Revolutionists and their influence is thereby waning. Both South and North China will be unified under Yuan's administration.

THE SAFETY OF MANCHURIA.

Nanking, February 14.

The Nanking Government has received a telegram from Lan Tien wei asking for instructions on the administrative policy in Manchuria, at the same time stating that in his view it was impossible to maintain the safety of Manchuria unless an armed force be brought into requisition. For this reason Lan asks that 2,000 soldiers now in readiness for departure at Shanghai should speedily be sent to Manchuria with a stock of powder.

ATTACK ON NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Tientsin, February 14.

Last night a large number of the Imperial troops attacked the vanguard of the Northern Expedition at Hwangshankan jointly with the Manchurian bandits, and inflicted a heavy loss on them, but were eventually repulsed.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

A Peking despatch to the *Chuo* says that the public evidently does not welcome Yuan's new Government though the situation in Peking is quiet. The southerners do

not show good will towards Yuan, resenting that no reference whatever was made to the Nanking Government in the Imperial Edicts of Abdication. Dr. Sun's party is disposed come to terms with Yuan, but Hwang Hsing and others show a strong front. An internal split is thus created in the ranks of the Revolutionists.

Yuan is making strenuous efforts in the organization of a Temporary Government, but unexpected difficulties are being experienced.

The latest intelligence reaching Tientsin reports that the conference has again been postponed owing to the strong opposition raised by the Nanking Government. Yuan Shih-kai is very popular in Tientsin and the Imperial princes taking refuge in that town are being held in contempt, the citizens welcoming the republican polity.

SIR EDWARD GREY, K.G., P.C., M.P.

The signal honour that His Majesty King George has conferred upon his Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Sir Edward Grey, by making him a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, will be deeply appreciated by the very great majority of His Majesty's subjects; for they, like their Sovereign, realise the splendid attributes of this quiet, reserved English gentleman who, at the head of the Foreign Office, guides and directs British foreign policy. An aristocrat to his finger tips and a man whose greatest horror is self-advertisement, he possesses qualities that have caused his colleagues and friends to look upon him as almost apart from themselves; for there is an aloofness about him, a touch of "wintry air," a substance of bed-rock solidity, that has not only earned him the respect of his own Party but also the full confidence of the Opposition. The honour is all the greater owing to the fact that Sir Edward is the first commoner to receive the coveted Order since Sir Robert Walpole, who became Prime Minister in October 1715 and again in April 1721, which post he held till February 1742. Since the days of Sir Robert, the Order has never been conferred upon anyone below the rank of Earl, whilst it now includes within its ranks fifteen reigning Sovereigns. This special and remarkable gift of the King to his Foreign Secretary can be interpreted as a unique mark of appreciation of Sir Edward's brilliant services during the Moroccan crisis of last year, and, as such, will be warmly welcomed by all parties. Sir Edward Grey is only fifty years of age and is a widower, Lady Grey having died in 1906. He is an enthusiastic fisherman and in 1899, published a book entitled "Fly-Fishing."

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The figures of Japan's foreign trade during the ten days ending the 10th instant were as follow:—

	Yen.
Exports	11,575,000
Imports	23,401,000
Excess of Imp. rts.....	11,826,000

The returns from January 1st to February 10th are:—

	Yen.	Yen.
	1911.	1912.
Exports	42,521,000	802,000
Imports	68,666,000	4,445,000
Excess of Imports..	26,145,000	

THE Y.C. & A.C. sent two Rugby football teams to Tokyo on Saturday last to play against Keio first and second fiftens. Yokohama lost both games, not securing a point. In the match between the second fiftens Keio scored 8 points, and in the other match 5 points.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY.

The special committee of the House of Representatives resumed its sitting at 10.40 on the 9th inst. to consider the Bill relating to the appropriation of funds from the special reserves for the expenses incurred by the China affair.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that the Government proposed to appropriate the Currency Adjustment fund and Forestry fund to this purpose for the present fiscal year, but might fall back on the Deposit Bureau and Sinking fund next fiscal year, if the first named funds were found insufficient. The Government could not foresee the probable amount of the total appropriation, nor had it at present any definite idea as to the method of replenishing these reserve funds. Replying to a further question the Minister said that the monthly outlay did not at present exceed half a million yen, so that the appropriation would amount to only four million yen, even if it lasted until September next. The appropriation of the reserve funds would, therefore, not seriously impede the public works to be undertaken with them.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka, Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, stated that in time of peace it cost about 4,500,000 yen a year to keep one Army Division on foreign service, but it would of course cost more when it was called upon for active service.

Replying to a further question of Mr. Kataoka, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that the Government knew that a disturbance would happen some day or other in China, but did not expect the sudden outburst witnessed at present. As the disturbances had arisen, they were under the necessity to be fully prepared for emergencies. The circumstances, however, did not admit of single-handed action on the part of this Empire. The Government had by no means neglected to extend Japan's rights and interests in China, but the loan questions concerned private capitalists, in which the Government had no direct concern, though the Government was prepared to back up private capitalists. Any attempt at the expansion of the rights and interests of this country at the present juncture was calculated to lead to a breach of neutrality. The Government would, therefore, refrain from any such attempt.

The Committee then rose.

THE TOKYO KANAGAWA BOUNDARY.

The House of Peers sat at 10 o'clock on the 9th inst. After various reports had been submitted, the Bill relating to the revision of the special account of the Imperial Universities was taken up for first reading.

Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, explained that the increase in the outlay consequent on the creation of the commercial college necessitated a revision, which increased the budget to 1,380,000 yen, the increase being about 21,000 yen.

The Bill was referred to a committee of nine.

Count Matsuura, chairman of the committee appointed to investigate the Bill relating to the change of the boundary of Tokyo and Kanagawa prefectures, reported that the committee had decided in favour of the Bill.

Replying to a question by Viscount Maeda, Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated that the change of boundary would, of course, affect directly or indirectly, the interests of the local inhabitants, but in the present case the effect would prove beneficial to the people concerned. The proposed revision only affected Yaguchi-mura, which contains 482 houses, of which only 26 houses are to be incorporated into Kanagawa prefecture. Before introducing the Bill, the Government consulted with the communal community, when the majority expressed themselves in favour of the revision.

The Bill was unanimously adopted.

The House rose at 11.19 a.m.

REDUCTION OF THE INCOME TAX.

The House of Representatives sat at 1 p.m. on the 10th instant.

After the Bill relating to the revision of the prefectural system and other minor bills had been discussed and referred to committees, the Bill introduced by Mr. Sano and others, relating to the revision of the organization of the law-courts, which recommended a reduction of the number of judges sitting in the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal, was discussed and rejected.

The Bill for the revision of the Income tax, introduced by Mr. Saito and six other members of the Popular Party, as well as the Representation introduced by Mr. Sugita and other *Seiyukai* members relating to the same subject, were taken up, when Mr. Oku, chairman of the special committee, reported that the Committee had decided to reject the former owing to the lack of suitable financial sources to fill the deficit resulting from the revision. As to the Representation, the Committee decided to adopt it, as the Minister of Finance had given a pledge that the Government would revise the tax in the 46th fiscal year with a view to its reduction.

Mr. Sugita expressed a desire that the Minister of Finance would renew the pledge before the Committee.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that the Government had, after mature consideration, decided to consent to the motion. The Adjustment Investigation Committee had the matter in hand, and he could give a solemn pledge that the Government would revise the income tax, along with other taxes, in the 46th fiscal year.

Mr. Fukuda stated that in the course of his report Mr. Oku said that the Committee had obtained the pledge of the Minister of Finance because of the Representation, whereas the Minister had just stated that the Government had taken the initiative. The two statements were irreconcilable.

Mr. Oku rose and announced the withdrawal of the Representation. He believed that the Minister of Finance gave the pledge because of the Representation. He must oppose the introduction of a Bill which did not show the financial sources available, and he would give preference to a public revision of the income and other taxes upon the conclusion of the investigations now in progress, not to such a make-shift Bill as that introduced by the members of the Popular Party.

The announcement led to an animated discussion, but finally the withdrawal of the Representation was adopted.

Mr. Tomita, a member of the special committee, then submitted to the meeting the minority view.

Mr. Yoshiyue of the *Seiyukai* rebutted the minority's view and strongly attacked the Popular Party for joining hands with the Centre Party in the introduction of the Bill, to curry favour with the public.

Mr. Hayami and Mr. Moriya spoke in favour, and Mr. Saito against the Bill.

On the motion of Mr. Tsunematsu the Bill was put to the vote, when it was rejected as anticipated.

A few more minor Bills were considered before the House rose at 4 o'clock.

THE BUDGET.

The Third Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.30 on the 10th instant to consider the budget of the Finance Department.

Mr. Taketomi of the Popular Party stated that he would reserve his opinion until the general meeting of the Budget Committee, but he would take this opportunity of signifying his opposition to the Budget as a whole.

Mr. Asano of the Centre Party also signified his opposition to the Budget, while Mr. Hayami of the Centre Party briefly stated that he was in favour of a reduction of 7,500,000 yen in the revenues from general taxes and income tax, and 9,000,000 yen in the textile consumption tax, the abolition of the transit tax and kerosene oil consumption tax, together with a reduction of 20 million yen in the sinking fund.

Mr. Inouye of the *Seiyukai* stated that the

revision of the Budget suggested by Mr. Hayami had been moved in the previous session of the Diet, when he opposed it as impracticable. He would now oppose the proposed revision on the same ground. Although he was not quite satisfied with the Budget, the Government had given the House a pledge that a thorough overhaul of the fiscal programme would be made on investigation, the work of which was in progress. The Government also promised to introduce a revision of the income tax. The Committee would do well to place confidence in the good faith of the Government and approve the Budget.

On a division being taken the Finance Budget was passed.

The Committee rose at 11.30.

The second Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee also sat at 11 o'clock to consider the Home Office Budget.

Mr. Sakaguchi of the Popular Party opposed the Budget as it was framed on the lines of the fiscal programme of the Katsura Ministry, which he had strongly opposed.

Mr. Hashimoto of the *Seiyukai* stated that the House might rely on the Government's pledge regarding the administrative and financial adjustment, the work of which was now in hand. Any irresponsible arguments must be deprecated.

On a division being taken, the Budget was passed.

The Committee rose at 11.30.

The first Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee also sat at 11 o'clock the same morning to consider the Budgets of the Departments of Foreign Affairs, of Justice and Education.

Mr. Kadera of the Popular Party stated that the party opposed the Budget in its entirety and Dr. Uzawa of the *Seiyukai* signified his support of the Budget. Both reserved their arguments until the general meeting of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Kadera pointed out that a certain professor in the Tokyo Imperial University, who was sent to Europe, stayed all the time in Switzerland and thus saved some 5,000 yen out of his travelling allowance, and also pointed out that the official examiners of the Mombusho's Fine Art Exhibition had of late neglected to exhibit their own works in order to conserve their own reputation, and argued that steps must be taken to put an end to such evil practices.

Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, promised that the matter would be inquired into with a view to rectification.

The Budgets were then put to the vote and adopted.

The Committee rose at 11.30.

The fourth Sub-Committee also sat at 11 o'clock the same morning to consider the Budgets of the War and Naval Departments.

Mr. Oishi of the Popular Party said that the party to which he belonged desired a general curtailment of the Budget to relieve the financial difficulties and was also in favour of a radical adjustment in the War and Naval budgets in order to strengthen the national defence.

Mr. Ogawa of the *Seiyukai*, in defence of the Budgets, stated that it was impossible to expect the present Ministry to thoroughly overhaul the military and naval scheme, considering that it had been in power only two months. The Ministry was pledged to introduce adequate adjustment on investigation, and the Committee would do well to approve the Budgets on condition of future adjustment.

On a division being taken, the Budgets were adopted.

The Committee rose at noon.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

The fifth Sub-Committee also sat at 10.45 the same morning, when the Budget of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce was taken up for discussion.

Mr. Kataoka of the Popular Party said that he thought the Budget was impracticable without bringing pressure to bear upon general economics. It was clear that the enforcement of the Budget would cause a deficit in the revenue in several succeeding fiscal years. He maintained that it

was necessary to effect a radical curtailment in the Budget throughout. He would, however, reserve further comment until the general meeting of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Miura and other members of the *Seiyukai* spoke in favour of the Budget, but expressed a desire for the introduction of a measure calculated to foster the development of domestic industries, which was the most urgent need of the times.

The Budget was adopted and the Committee rose.

The sixth Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee sat at 1.15 the same afternoon to consider the Budget of the Department of Communications.

Mr. Ogawa of the Centre Party signified his opposition to the Budget, while Mr. Nemoto of the *Seiyukai* moved a revision of the shipping subsidies, proposing to terminate the subsidy contracts in the 45th fiscal year instead of the 48th or 49th fiscal year as shown in the Budget, in order to maintain the unity of the subsidy policy.

Mr. Ogawa moved as an amendment that the period of subsidy contracts be all made terminable in one year. The amendment was lost, and Mr. Nemoto's motion was carried.

The Budget was adopted with this amendment. The Committee rose at 1.45.

COLONIAL BUDGETS

The Seventh Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee sat at 10.30 the same morning, when the Colonial Budgets were taken up for discussion. The Chosen Budget was first dealt with.

Mr. Kato of the Popular Party signified his opposition to the Budget *in toto*, and moved its rejection, but the motion was lost.

Mr. Midzushima stated that while he was in favour of the Budget as a whole, he desired the House would give a warning to the Oriental Development Company for the faithful performance of colonization work, which the Company had for its prime object in its inception.

Mr. Midzushima also moved an amendment in the shipping subsidy contemplated in the Chosen Budget. The amendment was approved and the Chosen Budget was adopted with this amendment.

The Formosan Budget was next taken up for discussion, when Mr. Midzushima moved that the period of the shipping subsidies should be cut down to three years. The motion was adopted.

The Saghalien and Kwantung Budgets were then dealt with and adopted without amendment.

The Committee rose at 11.50.

DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.30 on Monday morning.

After the Chairmen of various Sub Committees had laid their reports before the house, the Budget was taken up for discussion.

Mr. Taketomi, representing the Popular Party, moved the rejection of the Budget in its entirety and the appointment of a special committee to frame a new Budget on consultation with the Government. The broad lines of the fiscal programme he proposed was to strike out sixty million *yen* from the general account and frame the Budget with the balance. The items to be curtailed could be decided upon on consultation with the Government. The State finances stood in a perilous position unless a radical curtailment were made. He believed this view was shared by the Government. Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, had stated in the House that the Government was in favour of a reduction of the Income tax, Business tax, the price of salt, etc. He advocated a reduction of the income-tax by about seven or eight million *yen* and the reduction by 150 per cent. of the war tax imposed on the business tax. The Government was in favour of naval increment, but it was doubtful if it were practicable under present conditions. The Budget showed a deficit of about 30 million *yen*. It was, therefore, impossible to get along unless fifty or sixty million *yen* was deducted. The Government was also conscious of this. The only difference was the question of time. Whereas the Government

proposed to effect the curtailment from the 46th fiscal year, he advocated the curtailment should be effected from the 45th fiscal year. More delay involved greater difficulties. Now was the time for a radical curtailment. The Government placed too much confidence in the work of the Adjustment Commission. The composition of that Commission did not inspire confidence in its success. A close study of the Budget would show that it was impossible to make both ends meet for several years to come unless a 200 million *yen* loan be raised. A radical curtailment of the Budget must be effected without further delay, as it would become more and more difficult to effect as time passed.

Mr. Inouye, interrupting, said he would explain the Budget so as to dispel that illusion.

Mr. Taketomi rejoined that any explanation was unnecessary as his motion referred to an overhaul of the Budget.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, opposing the motion, stated that Mr. Taketomi moved a curtailment by sixty million *yen* without showing any items. He must oppose such a vague motion.

The Committee then went into recess.

On the sitting being resumed in the afternoon, Mr. Kachi of the Central Party moved the curtailment of the Budget by fifty million *yen*, and spoke in a similar strain to Mr. Taketomi.

The two motions were put to the vote and lost and the Budget was then passed by an overwhelming majority.

The Budget is to be submitted to debate in the House of Representatives to-day, but there can no longer be any doubt as to its passage without amendment.

JAPAN AND THE CHINA AFFAIR.

The Special Committee appointed by the House of Representatives to consider the Bill relating to the appropriation in connexion with the China affair sat at 10.40 on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Takeuchi asked as to Japan's mediation.

Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that the full explanation would be given with closed doors.

Mr. Ozaki brought forward an interpellation in the course of which he remarked that the Anglo-Japanese alliance formed the backbone of Japan's diplomacy. The Japanese Ambassador in London was now at home on leave. Did this not impede the satisfactory working of Japan's diplomacy at the present moment?

Viscount Uchida replied that an experienced diplomat was in charge of the Japanese Embassy in London and besides that, there was in Tokyo the British Ambassador, so that there was no impediment.

Mr. Fukumoto asked about the diplomatic relations with China after the abdication of the Chinese Emperor.

Replying to the question, the Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that a telegram had been received from Minister Ijima that morning announcing that he had received an official note from the Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that the Emperor had abdicated and that Yuan had been directed to organize a temporary government. The Ministers of State will remain in office, but they will assume the denomination of chiefs of State Departments, and the existing treaties will be observed by Yuan Shih-kai. It remained yet unsettled whether the new Government will take the forms of a new republican Government organized on consultation with the Nanking Government or whether it will be purely a temporary government organized by Yuan Shih-kai himself. A great deal of discretion was needed in giving official recognition to the new Government. The Government will decide the matter on further development of the situation.

The subsequent proceedings were held with closed doors, when Viscount Uchida explained the progress of Japan's mediation.

The committee rose at 12.20 p.m.

THE BUDGET.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m.

on the 13th instant, when the Budget was taken up for debate.

Mr. Noda, Chairman of the Budget Committee, laid a report before the House, in the course of which he stated that the Committee had adopted the Budget without any amendment. The Popular and Central Parties moved the curtailment of the Budget by fifty and sixty million *yen*, but the motions were lost.

Mr. Hayami of the Independents brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which he asked whether the Government had any prospect of a successful working of the Budget and also what relief measure the Government would propose regarding the abnormal increase in the prices of commodities.

Mr. Hayami was called to order for digression, and the Opposition protesting, a rather stormy scene ensued. Mr. Hayami succeeded in concluding his speech despite the interruption.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, replied that he could assure the interlocutor that the Government could not introduce to the House an impracticable Budget, and that the increase in the price of commodities was not engineered by any artificial manipulations. The Nippon Ginko had the liberty to either increase or decrease its official loan rates.

Mr. Kohashi, of the Central Party, then brought forward an interpellation, but was shouted down by the *Seiyukai* members.

The debate was still in progress at the time the latest news was received from Tokyo.

THE BUDGET IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

As already reported, the House of Representatives sat on the 13th instant, when the Budget was taken up for discussion.

After Mr. Kobashi had brought forward an interpellation, Mr. Taketomi, of the Popular Party, ascended the rostrum and said that the Budget, taken as a whole, showed an increase rather than retrenchment, and was unworkable unless a loan of 200 million *yen* were raised to fill the deficit. The Minister of Finance had stated in the House that the Government would not introduce an impracticable Budget, but could the Government execute the Budget without having recourse to a loan? A Budget which was only practicable by means of a loan required radical amendment. He would therefore move the curtailment of the Budget by sixty million *yen*. The Government took refuge in the Adjustment Committee against attacks on its fiscal policy, but it was rather doubtful whether that Committee could effect any satisfactory retrenchment unless pressure be brought to bear by the House. The House should therefore, approve the curtailment of sixty million *yen* in the Budget in order to force the Government to reframe the Budget with the balance.

Mr. Asano, of the Centre Party, who spoke next, advocated a curtailment by fifty million *yen* to make both ends meet in the Budget.

Mr. Ogawa of the *Seiyukai*, speaking in support of the Budget, said that the motion of Mr. Taketomi was inadmissible, as it amounted to a breach of the power with which the House was vested by the Constitution. Mr. Asano had also introduced a similar motion, but he could not understand how the Centre Party could bring forward such a motion, since the Budget was framed on the fiscal policy pursued by the Katsura Ministry. It was better to give the Government time to effect an adjustment, instead of forcing on it what was impracticable.

Mr. Ishibashi of the Independents spoke in support of the motion of Mr. Taketomi and pointed out the practicability of the proposed curtailment.

Mr. Kataoka of the Popular Party, speaking against the Budget, said that the Minister of Finance had announced that the Budget was framed on a so-called negative fiscal policy, but the special accounts all showed an increase. After dwelling on the post-bellum finance at some length, the speaker emphatically asserted that in the present economic conditions it was absolutely impossible to issue an enormous amount of

Exchequer notes or to raise a large loan without bringing pressure on general economics. He could not understand how the motion introduced by Mr. Taketomi constituted a breach of the Constitutional rights of the House as argued by a *Seiyukai* member. Mr. Kataoka concluded by fully explaining the possibility of curtailing the Budget by sixty million yen.

Mr. Inouye of the *Seiyukai*, speaking in support of the Budget, vehemently attacked the fiscal policy of the Katsura Ministry and said it was impossible for any Ministry to frame a more satisfactory Budget than the one before the House in the present conditions of finance.

At this stage Mr. Endo, who seemed very excited, picked a quarrel with Mr. Saito and struck him with his fist. This evoked strong denunciation and the unruly member was expelled from the Chamber.

Mr. Saito moved that Mr. Endo's conduct be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee.

A stormy scene ensued, and a short recess was ordered. On the sitting being resumed a division was taken, when the motion was carried.

Mr. Inouye again ascended the rostrum and spoke at great length in support of the fiscal programme.

The motions of Mr. Taketomi and Mr. Asano were then put to the vote in turn, when they were lost and the Budget was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

The House rose at 8.20 p.m.

POLICY IN CHINA.

The Committee of the House of Representatives appointed to consider the Bill relating to the appropriation in connexion with the China affair, resumed its sitting at 10.40 on Wednesday morning.

Replying to a question by Mr. Oishi, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that he had laid before the House the official note received from China concerning the abdication of the Chinese Emperor and the contemplated organization by Yuan Shih-kai of a temporary government, with a request that the present members of the *Corps Diplomatique* be stationed in Peking as temporary plenipotentiaries of the respective Powers. None of the foreign countries had yet forwarded a reply to China, since the status of the Provisional Government remained undefined. From a practical point of view it was necessary to enter into some arrangement with the Provisional Government verbally or by some other unofficial means. The Government would see that some adequate measure was taken at this stage of transition on consultation with the Governments of the various Powers.

Mr. Oishi remarked that the abdication radically altered China's position and Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen now stood on an equal footing. If the Government recognized, officially or otherwise, Yuan's Government, it must also recognise Sun's Government. If the present members of the *Corps Diplomatique* remained in Peking to conduct diplomatic business and the consuls only were accredited to the Southern Government, great resentment would be caused among the Chinese. What did the Government propose to do in the matter?

Viscount Uchida stated that what Mr. Oishi remarked was quite true, but the difficulty lay in this, that the recognition of the Nanking Government, even if unofficial, would amount to the admission of two Governments in China, which might in turn give rise to the final partition of China. The Government would take proper measures to tide over the transition stage on consultation with the various foreign Powers, but in the meantime it intended to let matters rest where they now stood. The dispatch of plenipotentiaries to the two Governments required careful study, and he was not yet at liberty to lay before the House the Government's views on the matter.

After a few more questions raised by Mr.

Kataoka on the financial aspect of the Bill, it was put to the vote and passed.

The Committee rose at 11.30 a.m.

BUDGET IN THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.05 on Wednesday morning. After various reports had been submitted, the Budget was taken up for consideration.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, in explaining the Budget remarked that it was framed with a special desire to maintain an equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure in order to consolidate the basis of the finance.

Mr. Kimura brought forward an Interpellation, in the course of which he remarked that the Budget was unsafe. The Government proposed to effect a reduction of taxes from the 86th fiscal year on the conclusion of the investigations of the Adjustment Committee, but he was afraid the reduction in income, business and other taxes would become more difficult owing to a big deficit in that and subsequent fiscal years.

Mr. Yamamoto stated that although he could not say anything definite until the conclusion of the investigations he could assure the House that the Government would carry out in the 46th fiscal year an adjustment of the tax system with a view to a reduction of taxes.

Viscount Soga asked if the Government had not an idea to increase the taxes if it could not find any suitable financial resources to fill up the deficit.

Mr. Yamamoto stated that the Government intended to adjust the taxes in order to effect a reduction, but until the conclusion of the investigations he could not say whether new financial resources would be found or some taxes increased to make both ends meet.

It was decided that the House would conclude the examination of the Budget not later than March 5th next.

Amongst other minor bills discussed was the revision of the special amount of the Tokyo University Budget, which was passed without discussion.

The House rose at 11.05 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on Thursday afternoon. At the outset the Bill relating to the revision of the boundary of Tokyo and Kanagawa prefectures, which was passed by the House of Peers, was taken up for discussion and after it had been explained by Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, was referred to a special Committee.

The Bill relating to the revision of the Railway Law, dealing with the Government proposal to commence from next fiscal year the construction of the five lines contemplated in the railway programme, was next considered.

Mr. Yoshinoye, chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Bill. An amendment was moved, but the Government opposed the motion, which was eventually lost and the Bill was adopted.

The Bill relating to the appropriation in connexion with the China affair was then came up.

The Chairman of the special committee reported that the Committee had decided in its favour.

Replying to a question of Mr. Hinata of the *Seiyukai*, Baron Ishii, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that the abdication of the Chinese Emperor radically altered the situation, but the Government considered the time was not yet ripe to give the new Republican Government official recognition. The matter would be decided on consultation with the other Powers.

The Bill was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Bills relating to the control of juvenile drinking, etc. were next considered and referred to a special committee of nine.

The revision of the annuities for police and prison officials, which was introduced by the House, was passed.

The House rose at 3.20 p.m.

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting of the American Peace Society of Japan was held at the Board of Trade Rooms at 5 o'clock on Thursday. Mr. D. H. Blake, President of the Society, was in the Chair, supported by H.E. Col. Bryan, the American Ambassador, Mr. Gilbert Bowles, the Hon. Sec., Mr. J. R. Geary, Treasurer, and Messrs. S. Imazu and H. E. Cole.

The President in opening the meeting spoke as follows:—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is not my purpose to make any lengthy remarks at this meeting. One reason for this decision is that the time can be better occupied by more important matters, and another that our worthy and energetic Secretary, Mr. Bowles, will shortly present a report detailing the activities of the Society during the first year of its existence.

I feel justified, however, in making a few general observations. Some of us will remember that when we organized a year ago, there were some adverse criticisms as to the necessity or even advisability of such a society being formed. The idea was advanced by the objectors that the American community was stultifying itself, and that it was pandering to the Japanese, and that more harm than good would be the result.

After a lapse of twelve months, I feel that these criticisms have not been substantiated, and I believe that this view will be endorsed by the great majority, if not all, of our members. It is certainly a fact that our Society received a most cordial welcome from the Japanese Peace Society, and it is likewise true that similar organisations in America and elsewhere gave emphatic approval to our addition to the ranks of Peace Workers.

The work we have accomplished may not have shown itself in any tangible form, and I believe that even the most enthusiastic and sanguine among our workers hardly expected that it would do so, but the mere fact of such an organization being in existence has had a beneficial influence.

If we have succeeded even in the slightest degree in convincing the Japanese that the American community in Japan is sincere in its desire to cultivate friendly relations, and in anxious to assist in relieving misunderstandings, we have accomplished something that is well worth the effort.

If on the other hand we have been instrumental, even in a small way, in assisting our own countrymen in America to a better knowledge of the Japanese Government and people, and of their attitude towards us, we have fully justified our existence.

We are really in the unique position of being able to accomplish something along the lines indicated, and I feel that we have not failed to take advantage of our opportunities.

As to the future of the Society, I believe the outlook is most promising. Our members are increasing: the scope of our work is enlarging; and our knowledge and experience is expanding. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of, and thanks for, the hearty co-operation received from each and every member of the committee with whom I have had the honour and pleasure of being associated, and of wishing the new President and Committee the fullest measure of success in the furtherance of the work which they will undertake.

The Hon. Secretary then read his report on the work of the year, from which it appeared that the membership of the Society is now 238, with seven corresponding members in America. The work of the year in all its various branches was given in great detail, and showed that the Society is not an academic, but a live organisation under the able direction of its energetic secretary. Among the subjects touched upon in the report are the publications of the Society, the relations to kindred organisations in Japan and abroad, the visit of Dr. Jordan, conferences with leading

Japanese, mediation in the China trouble and the social functions of the year.

The report was listened to with profound attention.

Mr. J. R. Geary, the Treasurer, then read his report, from which it appeared that the Society's total receipts for the year were 710.62 yen, 300 yen of which consisted of special contributions made by six members of the Society, and the total disbursements 693.39. After deducting the Bank overdraft of 350 yen the actual balance in hand is 17.23 yen.

Mr. T. Sammons proposed and Rev. Mr. Booth seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried.

Mr. Geary moved that the subscription be raised from 1 yen a year to 2 yen.

Mr. Keane seconded the motion, which was duly carried.

Rev. T. Roseberry Good referred to the 300 yen donated by six members of the Society. These members had done most of the work and were also contributing more than the others, and from mere self-respect he thought they should not allow them to do all the work and pay all the money.

Mr. Blake said that had it not been for outside assistance they could not have carried on the work of the Society and he hoped the motion would receive the support of the meeting.

On being put the motion was unanimously carried.

Dr. Clay MacCauley proposed Mr. E. W. Frazar for the next President of the Society. Mr. Frazar was one of the most active business men in Yokohama and closely in touch with affairs in America. He was also a frequent visitor to the homeland and would thereby be a link between the Society and those interested in the work at home.

Mr. Sammons seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Dr. MacCauley then proposed the re-election Mr. Gilbert Bowles as Secretary and Mr. Geary as Treasurer.

Mr. Sammons seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. MacCauley then proposed for Vice-Presidents, Messrs. D. H. Blake, T. Roseberry Good, Prof. H. T. Terry, Tokyo; Mr. H. L. Wheeler, Kobe; Dr. S. L. Gulick, Kyoto; Rev. W. R. Weakley, Osaka; Prof. W. A. Venable, Kusan, Korea; Dr. D. B. Scheneder, Sendai; and Mr. J. M. J. Gardiner. The reason for the large number of Vice-Presidents was that they wanted representatives of the Society outside of Yokohama, and even in Korea.

Mr. Sammons seconded the motion, which was duly carried.

Rev. Mr. Booth moved the following resolutions:—

WHEREAS,—There is a growing demand on the part of the various classes of foreigners for better facilities for studying the Japanese language, the lack of knowledge of which has been a barrier to mutual understanding, and

WHEREAS,—The Board of Directors of the Japan Peace Society has indicated its willingness to co-operate with this Society in endeavouring to meet this need:

BE IT RESOLVED,—That the incoming Executive Committee be empowered to confer with the Japan Peace Society and other organizations relative to the establishment of an institution of international standing, whereby all classes of foreign residents, also persons closely associated with Japanese in other lands, may obtain a working knowledge of the Japanese language, and an insight into Japanese life.

RESOLVED,—That the American Peace Society of Japan hereby declares its approval of and sympathy with the Statutes of the International Peace Bureau at Berne, Switzerland, and that the Secretary of the Society be authorized to report this action to the Bureau.

RESOLVED,—That we hereby express to the Japanese Government and people our appreciation of the many courtesies shown to the various groups of American visitors to Japan and of the assistance

given them in the pursuit of the objects which brought them here.

WHEREAS,—The decision of the Senate of the United States of America concerning the General Arbitration Treaties with Great Britain and France has an important bearing upon the progress of the Peace Movement in Japan and in the whole Orient.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,—That the American Peace Society of Japan authorize the President and Secretary to dispatch to Senator Burton, President of the American Peace Society, Washington, D.C., the following cable:—

"Annual Meeting American Peace Society Japan urges ratification General Arbitration Treaties."

RESOLVED,—That the Secretary be authorized to furnish copies of these resolutions to the Foreign and Japanese Press, and to send copies to leading periodicals in America.

Mr. MacKenzie seconded and the resolutions were duly carried.

Mr. Isaacs moved and Mr. Gibbs seconded a motion adding another member to the Executive Committee, which was duly carried.

Mr. H. E. Cole moved that the Executive Committee have power to fill vacancies in their ranks.

Mr. Happer seconded and the motion was carried.

Rev. T. Roseberry Good then proposed a resolution that they give some practical help in the way of funds to the sufferers from the floods in China. The damage done by these floods had been lost sight of in the greater interest aroused by the revolution, but three millions of people were in a very serious condition and unless immediate help were given, thousands would die from hunger.

Mr. Schwarz seconded the motion, which was also duly carried.

The President then introduced H. E. Col. Bryan, who addressed the meeting as follows:—

Mr. President and Members of the American Peace Society of Japan:—Peace! Word of welcome sound. Few there are possessing such charm. Home perhaps,—but what is home without peace? Love, maybe,—but love cannot exist without peace. There is no phrase in all the inspired books which conveys more of infinite and even mystical beatitude than the "Peace of God which passeth all understanding." Then, too, the emblems of peace and of the Holy Spirit are similar,—the white dove hovering above the God-head. In all its combinations, as peace-maker, peace-harbinger, Calumet of peace, there is fascination. The painter and illustrator have pictured peace in many attractive phases. I must, however, confess, that I never had much confidence in the proverbial lion lying down with the lamb. Any whiff of mint would start his appetite, unless controlled by satiety or a tamer. The picture of the lamb resting amidst wild flowers at a disused cannon's mouth is a more probable situation, and appeals to our gentler nature.

All these are the sounds and portrayals of peace that speak to our imaginations. They are the sentimental conceptions of peace. It is the practical side of the question that interests us whose mission it is to promote good will among men and hence between nations.

How to avert misunderstandings that may culminate in war is to day the chief aim of our greatest minds. Arbitral tribunals and treaties, Carnegie benefactions, peace envoys, have all wrought much good. To abet every such effort and prepare the way for the peace propaganda, those sympathizers with the movement who are in active pursuits should bend their earnest endeavours towards creating a substantial basis of common interest and good feeling between the nations. Of course commercial and other business investments create relations that cannot be shaken by passing whims or disturbed by Jingo alarmists.

Exactly what is meant in this country by describing a foreigner as "pro-Japanese," I cannot comprehend, especially as applied to an American. Any one of us representing the interests of others

would be as recreant to duty, were he not inclined to seek the favourable side of conditions wherever he happens to be, as he neglected to challenge wrong and condemn evil. By such a policy immigrants have built up our mighty nation, where over nine-tenths of the population are at the same time pro English, pro-German, pro-Japanese, pro-Brazilian, pro every nationality with which reciprocal relations of benefit can be cultivated. Hence, we seek to help our feebler neighbours, like Cuba, so that with their development and independence we may ultimately reap benefits such as one can look for from prosperous neighbours.

The conquests we seek are the good will of all, not unmindful that therefrom we have future gains to expect. But greater far than this I believe is an international altruism which inspires the stronger to help the weaker nations by giving them the benefits of our experience, power and resources. This seems to us Americans a practical form of peace-propaganda. Even if universal peace become assured, I doubt whether we can entirely dispense with navies. They must always remain schools of patriotism and good citizenship. While adventurous youth is attracted by the life of a sailor, military training soon calms undue ardour, conquers unruliness, and prepares well disciplined apprentices for every department of life. Navy service in time of peace dampens rather than whets a war spirit in the young, and entirely disenchantments the embryo knight-errant.

Whatever may become of our warships in future eventualities, commercial marines must survive and increase. They will prove the pride commensurate to their size and perfections of each nation, and will supply in many particulars the training referred to as now existing in our navies. During long service in seaport capitals, I have hailed the advent of our squadrons and single warships with satisfaction, as American Navy officers have almost universally by their tact greatly helped to promote the *entente cordiale* with the peoples with whom we have sought peace and a thorough understanding.

A review of the work of your organization for the last year surely speaks for its usefulness. I am especially impressed by the practical ideas that you have put into effect, such as the bringing into closer touch different groups of Americans with a view of prompting a united effort by business and professional men, missionaries and our government officials, to further the patriotic ends of your society. It is an admirable plan to furnish material to American periodicals, and give their readers a clear conception of the Japanese attitude towards peace work, and a better understanding of this nation's ideas on kindred subjects. The co-operation with Japanese societies is a capital arrangement providing for joint conferences and lectures.

The visits of prominent Japanese, like Professor Shimada, to America, and of eminent Americans to Japan, have, as Viscount Uchida lately remarked in the Diet, made a desirable impression in both countries. The exchange of professors contemplated by the Carnegie endowment will further promote this reciprocal educational benefit. Nothing further seems needed than such work as yours to ensure that perpetuation of the cordial relations which have existed between America and the Empire of the Rising Sun, since in 1860 a committee in New York welcomed a Japanese Embassy by expressing the hope that "for ages to come Japan and the United States will be bound together by friendly relations; that peace, unfettered commerce, and the offices of benevolence, will mark their intercourse."

Let us, of all races, in order to hasten the advent of the millennium of universal peace, continue the good work, so that in the golden age ahead the beneficiaries of our labours may look back and in true oriental fashion bless their ancestors, who began the noble endeavour to effect a complete concord among nations, with a universal brotherhood of mankind.

Mr. Happer moved a hearty vote of thanks to

the Chairman, which was given with great good will.

Rev. T. Roseberry Good explained that the reason their present President had not been re-elected was that he would be absent most of the year.

Mr. Bowles also said that though not now President it did not mean that Mr. Blake was not going to continue to work for them.

No further business remaining, the President declared the meeting closed.

THE LAW OF INVECTIVE.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT)

Apart from the wrong of the matter, we would consider the phenomenon itself, and Korea's relation to it. What governs it? What does it indicate? and what does it accomplish?

An Arab Sheikh is said to have as wide a range of invective as any mortal living. The compass of the desert has developed in him a pair of stentorian lungs that are a marvel, as compared with his dry cinder of a body. These lungs, coupled with an ungoverned vocabulary of abuse, make him a master of the craft.

We are not acquainted with the sheikh, however, and so shall confine our note to this portion of the Far East and its relation to the law of invective.

The writer had for secretary, once upon a time, a young Korean who worked for years with him in the same office, meeting all sorts and conditions of men. Five years of unexampled disturbance and distress they were; wars went on, suicides took place, men were consigning each other to eternal perdition, but the young man in question never seemed to be ruffled. He never showed heightened colour, never looked unkind.

Was he a wooden man or made of cork? asks my friend the sceptic. Not at all; on the other hand he was quite alive, read all the news, kept tab on everything, was a trained master of the Classics, could translate and explain references in a way most refreshing, was sympathetic to a degree, and had not lost, in the hard grind of study, his touch on the fountain of tears.

What then was the secret of his calm while worlds were going to pieces under him? This: He had been taught by his old father in all the dignified ways of Confucius, especially to curb his feelings, to be master of the minor impetuositates that are ever ready in the ungoverned man to break forth as a flood. The irregularities of his soul were battered down; all the banging and clattering loose tailends of impulse and misguided inspiration were hauled in and made fast. He was little, would hardly weigh a hundred pounds, was wise, was learned, but no invective ever crossed his lips. He and the sheikh were at the antipodes.

But there is another class in Korea who know nothing of self restraint but who have mastered a vocabulary of invective that is perfectly astounding. It rolls off the tongue in finished paragraphs,—no halt or irregularity of speed noticeable anywhere,—paragraphs that for volume, range, and appropriateness of sound would stand with the best of Burke and Daniel Webster. It has always been a surprise to the writer to think where the men learned it. There is no school, as such, for the teaching of the art, and yet here it is in full bloom and worthy of a post graduate decoration.

The most prominent word in Korean invective is *nom*. We translate it "fool," but it is that and much more. *Nom* is applied in a playful way to children, but when thrust upon a grown-up person it is a very offensive term indeed. The usual accompanying word is *manng hae*, the participial form of "to condemn," "to damn." Scattered through the paragraphs is this never failing combination.

Another word heard frequently is *chastik*, which means "offspring" or "young." This is varied at times with the word *sakki*, which properly only

applied to the young of animals. These names, combined with dog, pig, etc., furnish another variety.

Another word frequently heard in the most heated and violent of all invective is *emi*, the root form for "mother." This unfortunate parent is lugged in and treated in the most insulting way, the father, for some reason, escaping.

Another set of terms are those that apply to prison life and torture, like *hyong-chil*, which refers to the beating of the shins, *churi-teul*, which has to do with the torture-chair, and *oragil*, which is the red rope by which criminals were bound and led away to punishment.

This is the common range as to vocabulary. The name of God is never used.

As manner, invective has usually the accompaniment of a fiercely red face, distended veins, keyed-up body and high, far-reaching voice. The sentences conveying it have no periods, but continue on till the whole burden of material on hand is blown off. Then the storm subsides, not little by little, but instantaneously and there is an end of it.

Invective is used for the enlightenment and benefit of the public in general. No Korean would ever think of pinning his opponent quietly in a corner, and there reading him off his opinion in firm denunciatory phrases. He must have hearers and sightseers. It will not go otherwise. When these have congregated he is ready. He does not regard his foe straight in the eye, but corners him with a look sideways or across the shoulder. Often he gazes at the house top or the sky while the cataract of abuse has its way.

But the low-class woman of Korea when once aroused is the worst of all. When she gets under sail, men quietly take themselves off to the four corners of the earth till it is over. Frequently she has a fit at the close from which she at last awakens, sore but satisfied. Could the modern suffragette but adopt her method even the First Lord of the Admiralty would have to succumb.

In answer as to what governs swearing, we would say that the ungoverned spirits of the land swear. Those who have been taught carefully from childhood the law of Confucius do not swear; in fact they are better governed as to soul and spirit than the average Westerner. Ungoverned swearing indicates an ungoverned spirit that requires some new and better law to set it right than even the governor's paddle.

As to what it accomplishes I am at a loss to say. It seems to square up accounts in some way or other. After a thorough blow out of the kind a wonderful calm prevails. The air is cleared and a fresh start seems the order of the day. Yet it is threadbare and worn out as a method. No new oaths are ever made or heard in Chosen. It is said that the American soldier at Peking in Boxer days surprised his international comrades by swearing new oaths never heard before. Korea has no new oaths to swear, they are all old.

The law of invective may be said to demonstrate to the world the wilful expression of an ungoverned spirit and the possession of a feeble mentality. SPECTATOR.

SHIPPING ACCIDENTS.

On Saturday night a collision took place between the steamer *Ryoun Maru* (177 tons) of the Tsushima Unyu Kaisha, and a steamer of 1,000 tons, near an island off Tsushima. The *Ryoun Maru* was so seriously damaged that she immediately sank. Some thirty or forty persons on board are supposed to have been drowned. The loss of cargo is estimated at over 17,000 yen. The name of the steamer with which the *Ryoun Maru* collided is not stated.

Another accident occurred the same night near the Eboshi Lighthouse on Iki Island, when the *Moji Maru* (178 tons), a collier of the Akita Shokai, Shimonoseki, sank with a full cargo. Eleven of the crew, 21 in number, are missing. The loss sustained is estimated at 85,000 yen.

THE U.S. CONSULAR BUILDINGS.

A bill drawn up by Consul-General Sammons has been introduced into the United States Congress by the Hon. Ernest W. Roberts, of Massachusetts, appropriating 200,000 yen for the building of suitable new American Consular buildings at Yokohama. The Bill was ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The appropriation provided is to be available until June 1914.

Consul-General Sammons is of the opinion that Americans having either friends in Congress, or, more particularly, having friends at home who might be interested in earnestly urging their Senators or Representatives to actively support this worthy measure, may render valuable assistance by writing, pointing out the urgent requirements for a modern structure to replace the present building, which is so old as to require constant repairs.

The splendid site was donated by the Imperial Japanese Government, and is one of the very best in Yokohama. It is believed there is no other instance of this kind, where such a suitable plot of land has been donated to the United States Government for Consulate grounds, and for that reason it is hoped that this port may be the first to secure suitable recognition under a recent Act of Congress providing that funds, not to exceed 1,000,000 yen per annum for a stated period, may be appropriated for the United States Consular and Diplomatic service in providing suitable buildings throughout the world.

Modern, re-enforced concrete earthquake-proof buildings have been recommended for Yokohama, and provisional plans and specifications have been forwarded. The Roberts bill will undoubtedly be sent to the Department of State for report. Assuming that a favourable reply will follow, the Committee on Foreign Affairs will report the measure back to the House of Representatives and recommend its passage.

Major W. H. Wiley, a prominent New York publisher and ex member of Congress, who recently visited Japan, kindly volunteered, after examining the buildings now in use, to request his friend Mr. Roberts to introduce the required Bill, provided Consul-General Sammons would prepare it.

THE CLAIM FOR PAYMENT OF SALARY.

The hearing of the action instituted in the Yokohama District Court by Mr. G. B. McCormack, of Yokohama, against Mr. S. Hirayama, Proprietor of the *Japan Magazine*, Tokyo, claiming payment of the sum of 600 yen due as salary for May and June 1910, which was to have been resumed on Monday afternoon, was postponed *sine die*.

FIRES IN YOKOHAMA.

On Monday evening, fire broke out in the one storied foreign-built house occupied by Mr. M. Ostwald, No. 2,261, Negishi, resulting in the entire destruction of the building.

The same afternoon another fire occurred at Okano-cho, near the Yokohama Girls' High School. The flames, however, were got under control before they became serious.

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended February 11th are as follows:—

Yokohama—	Small Pox.	Dysentery.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Paratyphoid.	Typhus.
New cases...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Districts:—							
New cases...	—	—	1	7	—	—	—
Died	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

TELEGRAMS.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

LORD HALDANE'S VISIT TO
BERLIN.GERMAN PRESS ON CHURCHILL'S
SPEECH.

(REUTERS SERVICE)

London, February 8.

Lord Haldane, Secretary of State for War, who had an audience with the King on Tuesday, left for Berlin yesterday.

His sudden departure has occasioned much speculation.

The *Daily Mail* says the visit is connected with the most important political business and associates it with the speech of Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 3rd inst. and the audiences which Sir Edward Grey and Lord Lansdowne had with the King yesterday.

London, November 9.

Lord Haldane's visit to Berlin is purely a private one.

London, February 9.

The people of Berlin are agog with unsatisfied curiosity at Lord Haldane's visit, and interest in the opening of the Reichstag has been suspended.

The hotel where Lord Haldane is staying is besieged by journalists, who refuse to be content with the explanation that the object of the visit is a private one, namely an inquiry into the organisation of the universities.

The *Daily Telegraph* is authorised by the Foreign Office to state that Lord Haldane, as President of the Royal Commission on University Education, has gone to Berlin to inquire specially into scientific education in the universities, but that, as he is well known to many leading people in Germany, he will doubtless have a general conversation on the political situation of the two countries.

Lord Haldane has lunched with Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, at the British Embassy.

The *Daily Chronicle* is convinced that the visit, even if private, is a step towards an *entente*.

London, February 10.

Lord Haldane has lunched with their Majesties, sitting next to the Kaiser.

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial Chancellor, General von Heeringer, Minister of War, Admiral von Tirpitz, Minister of the Navy, and Admiral Mueller were present.

Reuter's Agency learns that Great Britain has notified France and Russia that if Lord Haldane discusses political questions at Berlin, they will be kept informed.

Baron von Stumm, the Director of the Political Bureau of the Foreign Office, has conferred with Lord Haldane.

London, February 11.

Lord Haldane returns to London to-morrow.

He lunched to-day with Baron von Stumm.

London, February 12.

The German Press considers that Mr. Churchill's speech is little calculated to lighten Lord Haldane's task of preparing an *entente*, and declares that the description of Germany's Navy as a luxury exemplifies the incurable wrong-headedness of the British point of view.

The *Liberal Boersen Courier* says that if

Mr. Churchill intended to destroy the possibility of Lord Haldane's visit having a good effect he could not have achieved his object more adroitly.

London, February 12.

Lord Haldane and his brother left Berlin yesterday.

There was nobody at the station to see him off but a handful of journalists, the private character of his visit being thus emphasized to the end.

More speculation is aroused in the German papers by the fact that Sir Ernest Cassel arrived at Berlin by the same train as Lord Haldane, and left on Saturday after prolonged conferences with him.

London, February 13.

Lord Haldane has told the journalists who interviewed him that he found the friendliest feeling everywhere in Berlin.

It is semi-officially stated that he went to ascertain whether anything might be done, and, if so, what, to mitigate the undoubted tension between the two countries.

It is unlikely that any definite agreement was reached, and it is quite certain that the question of armaments was not raised.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO AS HI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 9.

The *Times* views Lord Haldane's visit to Germany with misgiving, as resembling overtures for German favour.

London, February 10.

The idea that Lord Haldane's visit to Berlin is due to educational matters has been dropped.

It is generally understood that he is engaged in authoritative, theoretically non-official negotiations to explain British policy and ascertain German policy with special reference to armaments.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL AT
GLASGOW.

(REUTERS SERVICE)

Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at Glasgow said he was able to give a very good account of the Navy.

He believed the Navy was in a high state of preparedness for any sudden call. (Cheers.)

The rumours of its unpreparedness last year were absolutely baseless.

Mr. Churchill also affirmed that Great Britain had never any thought of aggression nor attributed such thoughts to other of the great Powers.

There was, however, one difference between the British naval power and that of the great friendly Empire—and he trusted it would long remain a great friendly Empire—of Germany. (Cheers.) That difference was that while the British Navy was a necessity, from some points of view the German Navy was of the nature of a luxury. "It is existence to us; expansion to them."

It was the British Navy which made Great Britain a great Power. Germany was a great Power, respected and honoured all over the world, before she had a single ship.

The British Government was resolved to maintain the naval supremacy which the country enjoyed.

There was no need, however, to raise an excited panic or disparage the resources of the country. They might face the situation

with great composure, as at every point, in every detail, they had it well in hand.

From the organs of both the great parties one might gather that Great Britain was financially in a very tottering, weak and parlous condition. "It is to be hoped," added Mr. Churchill, "that our foreign friends will realise that this is only talk." (Laughter.)

The resources which the British Chancellor can command are amply equal to all State requirements.

The First Lord, continuing, said he believed that there was a considerable body of opinion which favoured the flotation of a great naval loan.

Such a loan could be floated at once with perfect ease on very good terms, but what would the use be to the Navy? Great Britain had to build enough ships to secure effective command of the sea and it was sheer waste to build any more than was necessary for that purpose in any one year.

There was no chance of Great Britain being overtaken in naval construction, while the money available for ship-building left no occasion for alarm.

Mr. Churchill concluded:—"We would be the first Power to welcome a retardation or slackening of naval rivalries, and we would meet any such slackening not with words but with deeds. (Cheers) But if there are to be increases on the Continent, we will have no difficulty in meeting them."

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

London, February 15.

Their Majesties had a splendid reception as they drove in state from Buckingham Palace to Westminster to open Parliament.

The Speech from the Throne mentioned forthcoming legislation for Home Rule in Ireland, for disestablishment in Wales, electoral reform and certain social and industrial reforms.

Relations with the Foreign Powers continue friendly.

The state of war between Italy and Turkey unfortunately still exists. "My Government is ready, whenever a favourable opportunity occurs, to join the other Powers in any mediation to terminate hostilities."

THE KAISER'S SPEECH FROM THE
THRONE.

London, February 8.

The Kaiser has opened the Reichstag.

In the Speech from the Throne he emphasized the necessity for the continuance of social reforms and said he was confident the Imperial finances would soon be in a sound condition.

The Government would adhere to its fiscal policy in preparing and concluding commercial treaties.

The prosperous development of works of peace at home and overseas depended upon the Empire remaining powerful enough to defend her honour, her possessions and her just interests. Therefore they were constantly solicitous in strengthening the land and sea forces of the nation, which should not be lacking in men able to bear arms.

The Kaiser announced that a Bill to this end would be introduced, the passing of which through the Reichstag would render a great service to the fatherland.

The Kaiser also referred to the Franco-

German Agreement as the best proof of Germany's willingness to settle international disputes amicably wherever such settlement was in consonance with her dignity and interests.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, February 9.

Mr. Winston Churchill, in addressing the Home Rule meeting at Belfast, said that the Government's plan fitted in with a general scheme of devolution, with the ultimate object of federation.

The safeguard would be provided that the Crown could refuse consent to any unjust law, by which religious freedom would be secured.

FRENCH NAVAL PROGRAMME.

London, February 10.

In the French naval shipbuilding programme it is announced that three battle-ships are to be built in 1912; two each in 1913, 1914, 1917; four in 1915; and two fast cruisers annually in 1917, 1918, and 1919.

The estimated cost is fifty-six millions sterling.

KING ALFONSO.

London, February 11.

King Alfonso of Spain has arrived at Seville, where he received an ovation. His Majesty is touring Andalusia.

FORTIFYING THE PANAMA CANAL.

London, February 11.

The U.S. War Department has ordered the immediate commencement of the construction of a great fortress on Flamenco Island at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal.

The fortress is to be armed with 14-inch guns and the heaviest mortars.

Similar fortifications are to be constructed on the Atlantic side.

THE MOROCCO AGREEMENT.

London, February 12.

The French Senate has ratified the Franco-German Treaty.

SIR EDWARD GREY'S GARTER.

London, February 13.

Sir Edward Grey, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been created a Knight of the Garter, and the Earl of Durham a Privy Councillor.

The papers point out that the presentation of the Garter to Sir Edward Grey is a signal mark of royal confidence, as he is the first commoner to be so honoured since Sir Robert Walpole.

BRITISH CABINET CHANGES.

London, February 14.

It is officially announced that Earl Carrington has resigned his appointment of Lord Privy Seal and has received a Marquessate.

Lord Crewe has been appointed Lord Privy Seal, retaining his appointment of Secretary of State for India.

Lord Pentland has resigned his appointment as Secretary for Scotland, his place being taken by Mr. McKinnon Wood, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Later.

It is officially announced that Lord Pentland has been appointed Governor of Madras.

THE FRENCH NAVY PROGRAMME.

London, February 14.

The French Chamber has discussed the Naval programme already announced.

The speakers generally agreed it was the minimum compatible with national safety.

The programme was adopted by 453 votes to 73.

M. Delcassé dwelt upon the naval activity

of Austria, Italy and Germany, and said that France might content herself with destroyers and submarines, to keep on the defensive in the Channel and the Atlantic, but such a policy would be disastrous in the Mediterranean.

The French Navy must be ready to attack any fleet threatening her communications with North Africa.

FRENCH AERONAUTICS.

London, February 14.

In the debate in the French Senate on the Bill for the appropriation of £20,000 for aviation and the establishment of an aeronautical regiment, M. Millerand explained that while fifteen dirigibles would be constructed, attention would be concentrated on aeroplanes.

M. Millerand added that it was hoped before the end of the year to mobilise thirty-two air squadrons, each having eight aeroplanes, carrying several passengers, and sixteen motor-cars.

There would be thirty aviation centres with flying grounds.

TURKISH DECORATION FOR KING GEORGE.

London, February 14.

The Sultan of Turkey has conferred on King George the Order of Hamedani Aliosman, the highest Turkish decoration.

COAL STRIKE.

London, February 14.

Many thousands of miners are handing in their notices to-day.

FIGHTING AT DERNÄ.

London, February 14.

The Italians at Derna on Saturday night repulsed three violent attacks, after desperate fighting and heavy loss.

The Italian casualties were three killed and 12 wounded.

The Turks abandoned sixty dead.

RUSSIAN NAVAL ESTIMATES.

London, February 14.

The Russian Budget Committee has fixed the Navy Estimates at £14,903,000 sterling, an increase of £5,077,000 as compared with 1911.

NIGERIAN PROTECTORATE.

London, February 14.

The Government announces that Southern and Northern Nigeria will be amalgamated under the Governorship of Sir Frederick Lugard, who will shortly leave Hongkong for England.

THE TREATY WITH DENMARK.

London, February 14.

The Commercial Treaty and Tariff Convention between Denmark and Japan has been signed at Copenhagen.

BRITISH CONSOLS.

London, February 14.

British Consols are buoyant upon the hopes of an Anglo-German rapprochement and German buying.

OBITUARY.

London, February 14.

Mr. Lindsay, the Engineer of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, has died at Grindelwald.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, February 9.

There are excellent reasons to believe that the presence of the British War Minister at Berlin is due to a desire to dispel the German belief that Great Britain entertains aggressive designs.

Lord Haldane will state that, while the

increases announced in the German estimates must necessarily be reflected in the British programme, Great Britain has no desire to intensify international rivalry in armaments or carry British armaments beyond the margin of security automatically defined by her neighbours' preparations.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, February 9.

The Government's Home Rule Bill proposes that the Irish House of Commons and Senate should be fairly representative of the Protestants and Catholics.

The Crown can refuse its assent to any unjust Bills, and the military forces will be under Imperial control.

Ireland is to be given a fair financial start, on a system consistent with the finances of the United Kingdom.

There are to be fewer Irish members of Parliament.

MR. CHURCHILL AT BELFAST.

London, February 9.

Despite the profound exhibition of Unionist hostility, Mr. Winston Churchill delivered his Home Rule speech at Belfast and then drove through the back-streets to the railway-station and hurriedly left the city.

The city is full of troops and police detectives, but up to now there has been no rioting.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

London, February 10.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at Glasgow, characterised Great Britain's Navy as a necessity; Germany's as a luxury.

The *Times*, in a leading article, says it is evident Mr. Churchill's speech and Lord Haldane's conversations with the Kaiser and other officials were deliberately planned.

The assurance of greater pressure and a greater margin of naval superiority was endorsed by the country. The policy was not intended to be provocative, but Great Britain intended to keep her position at whatever cost.

THE GLASGOW DOCK TROUBLE.

London, February 12.

The Glasgow shipowners and dockers have effected an arrangement.

Work will be resumed on Monday.

COPPER.

London, February 10.

Copper is firm at 62½—63½.

DEATH OF LORD LISTER.

London, February 12.

The death is announced of Baron Lister, F.R.S., D.C.L., LL.D., D.Sc., O.M., P.C., F.R.C.S., Sergeant-Surgeon in ordinary to his Majesty, and discoverer of the antiseptic system in treatment in surgery.

Lord Lister was 85 years of age.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, February 13.

On the Stock Exchange, Chinese bonds are notably strong.

MAHOMEDAN TROOPS AT TRIPOLI.

London, February 13.

A contingent of black Mahomedan troops from Erytrea has arrived at Tripoli.

It is hoped that their presence with the Italian army will have a salutary effect on the Arabs.

SIR EDWARD GREY.

London, February 13.

Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received the Order of the Garter.

Particular significance attaches to the

bestowal of the Order on the Foreign Secretary, as it is regarded as a strong assertion of the nation's approval of his conduct of British foreign policy during the recent critical period.

Only one commoner has previously received the Order.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

London, February 13.

The British Parliament opens on Wednesday.

The Government's programme includes Welsh Disestablishment, Irish Home Rule, the Naval Prize Bill and the Trade Union Bill.

FLOODS IN SPAIN.

London, February 13.

Floods have made thousands destitute in Seville and many houses have fallen.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, February 14.

There is general disappointment in Ireland over the financial proposals of the Government in the Home Rule Bill.

MYSTERIOUS CASE AT MALTA.

London, February 14.

A magisterial inquiry is being held at Malta on the case of three heavily chained Arabs who were discovered aboard a ship going to Tripoli from Sicily, with an Italian police escort.

It is alleged the Arabs were being repatriated after deportation.

The Arabs were not aware where they were going, and prayed to be set a liberty on British soil.

THE FLOODS IN SPAIN.

London, February 14.

The floods in Spain are worse and many deaths have occurred.

The Seville Town Council is feeding 36,000 homeless people.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.)

TREATY WITH DENMARK.

Copenhagen, February 12.

The new Japan-Danish commercial treaty was signed on the 12th instant.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

Berlin, February 8.

The American Note on China, which has been presented to various interested Powers, says that the Powers, in conformance with the mutual assurance of the integrity of China, had, up to the present, recognised the sovereignty of the Empire. According to the latest news interference would be also unnecessary in the future. Loans, which were provided by nationals of the various Powers to either Chinese parties, should only be advanced on absolutely neutral security.

GENERAL APPROVAL OF KAISER'S SPEECH.

The German Press, commenting on the speech from the Throne in the Reichstag, expresses itself on the whole very favourably. The European Press also recognises the calm tone of the speech with regard to the maintenance of peace in Europe.

NEW SECRETARY AT PEKING LEGATION.

Freiherr von Maltzahn, the second Secretary at the Legation at St. Petersburg, has been nominated First Secretary at the Legation at Peking as successor to Count

Luxburg, the present Secretary, who will go home on furlough.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, in an interview, expressed himself very satisfied with his reception by the Kaiser. At a meeting with Herr von Tirpitz, the German Secretary of State for the Navy, Lord Charles, as well as the German Secretary, expressed themselves in no measured tones against the war-mongers on both sides.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA.

Grand Duke Andreas, after his return to St. Petersburg, reported to the Tsar his reception by Emperor Franz Joseph, with which he was very satisfied. Both Courts are said to be now absolutely reconciled.

QUEEN WILHELMINA.

Queen Wilhelmina has so much recovered from her recent illness that she is able to undertake carriage drives.

THE INDIES BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

The Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Chamber, stated that the regulation of the Portuguese and Dutch territories at Timor, one of the Sunda Islands, which question had led to local and diplomatic difficulties, was imminent. He also expressed his confidence in the assurances given by the Powers as to the strict maintenance of neutrality and inviolability of the Netherlands. The defence of the country should, nevertheless, not be neglected.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to January 25th ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on February 8th.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT POSTPONED.

Berlin, February 9.

As a result of deliberations between the different parties, the election of the President of the Reichstag has been postponed until to-morrow.

KAISER'S AIDE DEAD.

General Field Marshal von Halnke, the personal adjutant of the Kaiser, is dead.

RUMOURED ABDICATION OF PRINCE LUITPOLD.

All rumours, according to which Prince-Regent Luitpold of Bavaria is reported to have abdicated, are unfounded. The Regent has summoned the leader of the Central party, Freiherr von Hertling, to München, to form a new Ministry.

LORD HALDANE IN BERLIN.

Lord Haldane, the British Minister for War, visited the Chancellor yesterday. After the visit, both statesmen were entertained at luncheon by Sir W. E. Goschen, the British Ambassador at Berlin.

Press rumours as to Anglo-German political negotiations being the outcome of the English Minister's visit are stated to be premature.

REICHSTAG'S PRESIDENCY.

Berlin, February 11.

The Reichstag, after three ballots on the election for President, has elected Herr Spahn, the leader of the Centre party, with 196 votes. Herr Bebel, the leader of the Socialists, received 175 votes. Herr Scheidemann, a Socialist Deputy, has been elected Vice-President, and Herr Paasche, a National Liberal Deputy, second Vice-President.

Later.

Herr Spahn, who has been elected President of the Reichstag, has, as a result of a

special decision of his party, declined to accept the post. New ballots for the chair will be held on February 13th. The ballot is being looked forward to with the greatest interest by the whole Press. The Socialists, National Liberals, and the Radicals have agreed to propose Herr Paasche, the National Liberal Deputy, Herr Scheidemann, the Socialist, and Herr Kaempf, the only Radical Deputy of Berlin, as candidates for the ballot.

NEW BAVARIAN PREMIER.

Freiherr von Hertling, the leader of the Centre Party in the Bavarian Landtag, has been entrusted with the formation of a new Ministry after the resignation of Freiherr von Podewils, the former Premier, had been accepted by the Prince Regent.

NEW DUTCH BATTLESHIP.

Berlin, February 11.

An additional estimate has been presented to the Dutch Chamber in this year's budget for the construction of a new battleship for Netherlands-India.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

The Russian Government has ordered the disarmament of all Chinese or Mongolian detachments in the event of their entering the Chailar railway zone.

MOROCCO CONVENTION.

The French Senate has passed the Franco-German Morocco Convention with a majority of 212 votes against 42 votes.

KING AND TSAR TO MEET.

French papers publish the rumour that the Tsar and King George V. will meet in March.

SUGAR CONVENTION PROLONGED.

The Brussels Sugar Convention has been prorogued till 1918.

MINER'S STRIKE.

Excesses on the part of striking miners have taken place in Belgium.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to January 28th ex-Yokohama arrived at Berlin on February 11.

LORD HALDANE'S VISIT.

Berlin, February 10.

The visit of Lord Haldane, the British Minister for War, to Berlin has been carried out, as stated officially in London, by special desire of the British Government. Pending political questions have been discussed at Berlin; special conventions, however, have not been concluded.

Berlin, February 11.

Lord Haldane has paid a visit to Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, after which both dined with the Chancellor.

Certain well-informed papers on both sides speak of signs of a dissolution of the tension between Germany and Great Britain. They, however, warn the public against premature expectations of certain conventions as to colonial questions or disarmament proposals.

THE REASON OF LORD HALDANE'S VISIT.

Berlin, February 12.

It is stated in well informed international circles, that the idea of the visit of Lord Haldane to Berlin was to sound certain circles in that capital as to an eventual understanding with Great Britain. The result of the interviews will be the basis for more detailed and extended proposals

which are to be suggested by Great Britain to Germany.

ROYAL VISITS TO BE EXCHANGED SHORTLY.

It is further expected that the King and Queen of England will pay a visit to Germany in the course of the present year.

The rumour of a visit of the Kaiser to England next autumn is not yet confirmed.

COUNT AEHRENTHAL'S SUCCESSOR.

It is strongly believed in well informed circles that Baron Enrian will be appointed successor to Count Aehrenthal.

MORE FRENCH RUMOURS DENIED.

Berlin, February 13.

The French journal "Mouvement Geographique" publishes a report to the effect that negotiations are now going on between Germany and Great Britain concerning the cession of North Timor and Kambing by Portugal, in exchange for compensation. The report also states that Germany has decided to construct a naval base on the latter island. Negotiations are reported to have been opened by Dr. Solf, the new Colonial Secretary, with the Governments of Great Britain and Holland, for the purpose of securing their consent to the arrangements.

The authorities at London and Amsterdam, however, state that the report is absolutely without foundation.

THE DISTURBANCE NEAR TSINGTAU.

The following official report of events which have recently occurred at Tsimo (Kiautschou) has been received in Yokohama:

Rumours as to revolutionary unrest in the town of Tsimo, and corresponding apprehension on the part of the people owing to the near approach of a revolutionary force, have been circulating since the 28th ultimo. So insistent had these rumours become, that the Governor-General of Kiautschou deemed it wise to dispatch a company of mounted troops to Tsimo for the purpose of ascertaining the facts. This company arrived outside Tsimo on the 30th ultimo. No fighting, however, took place, nor did the troops enter the town. It was afterwards ascertained by the commander of the German troops that the town had been taken by a small force of 50 revolutionaries which surprised the town on the night of the 27th or 28th January. This small force intimidated the populace, deposed the resident mandarin, and forcibly levied a tax on the people for the purpose of adding to their war funds. A republican government was proclaimed and 150 young men were forced to join the revolutionary colours.

The commander of the German company, in accordance with his instructions, reminded the leader of the revolutionaries that, in accordance with the terms of Article 1 of the Kiautschou Treaty, the presence of armed troops within the 50 kilometre zone is not allowed.

The revolutionary leader thereupon promised to vacate the zone. Owing to the circulation of a rumour to the effect that a force of Imperial troops was advancing, the leader, however, failed to perform his obligations. This, however, was not known to the German force, which returned to Tsingtau on the 31st ultimo. Immediately afterwards, a protest was lodged by the Government of Kiautschou with Wu Tingfang against the presence of armed Chinese troops in the neutral zone.

Tsimo was re-taken by the Imperialists,

without any fighting whatsoever, on the 1st instant, the revolutionary forces having vacated the town on the previous night on learning that a large force of Imperial troops was approaching. Before departing, however, the revolutionaries collected a large amount of valuables in the city.

A new mandarin has since been elected, and entrusted with the maintenance of order in the district. The Imperial troops have since vacated the town.

PRESIDENT OF THE REICHSTAG.

Berlin, February 13.

The final election for the President of the new Reichstag will be held on February 14th. It is expected that the Liberal parties will support the election of Herr Scheidemann, the Socialist deputy.

Berlin, February 14.

Herr Kaempf, the only Radical Deputy of Berlin, has been elected President of the Reichstag, polling 195 votes. In this ballot no less than 175 members refrained from voting. The Socialist deputy Herr Scheidemann, member for Hamburg, has been elected Vice President and another Radical member, Herr Dove, as second Vice-President.

The elected members have accepted.

OPTIMISTIC VIEWS ON CHINA.

The German Press comments on the proclamation of the republic of China in very optimistic terms. It congratulates Yuan Shih-kai on his solution of the difficult question and recognises the statesmanlike attitude of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The policy of the Powers must in the future remain one of non-interference. The journals finally express the hope for a further development of the former commercial relations between the East and the West under the new regime in China.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPUBLIC.

Berlin, February 14.

The Chinese Minister at Berlin has officially announced to the German Government the institution of a Chinese Republic.

RUMOURS DENIED.

Rumours according to which a meeting of the Tsar, the Kaiser and Emperor Franz Joseph is being planned for 1912, are officially denied at St. Petersburg.

HERR ANGERMANN MURDERED.

Herr Angermann, a well-known German mining engineer in Mexico, has been murdered by his employee with a sword. At the time the engineer was searching the house of his employee for stolen rubber. The murderer is being searched for by the police and diplomatic interference is not necessary.

LORD HALDANE'S VISIT.

Berlin, February 13.

The British Government will make an official declaration concerning the mission of Lord Haldane, the British Minister for War, to Berlin, at the opening of the session of Parliament.

Lord Haldane was presented by the Kaiser with a bronze bust before leaving Berlin.

Berlin, February 14.

It is reported from London that Mr. Winston Churchill, the British Minister for the Navy, intends on the basis of information gleaned by Lord Haldane at Berlin, to extend the new English naval construction programme over a longer period of years, so that the annual excitement in England and Germany concerning the construction of

battleships will be avoided in the future. The report of Lord Haldane on his visit to Berlin has been presented to the Ministerial Council. The King is greatly in favour of the relaxation of the tension existing between Great Britain and Germany.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO RESIGN.

Berlin, February 13.

Le Temps, of Paris, reports the resignation of M. Crozier, the French Ambassador at Vienna, to be imminent. His successor will probably be M. Deschanel, the former President of the Chamber.

SKIN IRRITATION MADE HER WALK FLOOR ALL NIGHT

Came on Hands and Arms Like Little Blisters. Was Dreadful. Would Break and Spread. Eased at Once and Quite Cured by Use of Cuticura Ointment and Soap.

Cured Baby of Rash and Sores, Too.

"Whenever I can recommend Cuticura Soap and Ointment, I shall be pleased to do so, as I consider them a household treasure. My hands and arms were covered with tiny small spots which caused me great irritation, and I had to walk my bedroom floor sometimes all night. Then I got a little Cuticura Ointment which eased the irritation at once. My husband got me some Cuticura Soap and more Cuticura Ointment from the chemist, and now I see nothing of the rash at all. I think the Cuticura Soap and Ointment should be kept in every home." (Signed) Mrs. Annie Bingley, 60, Victoria Rd., Woking, Notts., England, Apr. 17, 1910.

In a later letter, Mrs. Bingley adds: "The eruption used to come at first like little white blisters, and the irritation was dreadful. Then they would break and spread, but by the use of the Cuticura Soap and Ointment I have got quite cured. I have also recommended to a friend of mine both the Cuticura Soap and Ointment for her baby. He was covered with rash and sores from his teeth. She is delighted with them, for they have cured her baby."

The Cuticura Remedies are the most economical treatment for the skin and scalp of infants, children and adults, a tablet of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment being often sufficient. Sold throughout the world. London depot: 27, Charterhouse Sq.; U. S. A., Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston. Send for free Cuticura book, an authority on treatment of skin diseases.

LATEST COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS.

Saturday, February 17.

The market of Raw Cotton is steady. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling ...	31.50 to 32.50
Indian Branch ...	31.00 to 32.00
Chinese (Old crop) ...	—
Chinese (New crop) ...	30.50 to 31.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed ...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ...	345.00 to 365.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed ...	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in ...	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/2-44 in. Common to Good ...	5.20 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. Ordinary to Good ...	5.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches ...	7.80 to 8.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ...	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians ...	0.25 to 0.35
Cotton Venetians ...	0.40 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.	
30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards,	
32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ...	1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	Y.
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine, 120-140 yards,	
30-32 inches Common to Medium ...	0.27 to 0.39
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,	
30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union,	
54 to 56 inches	—
Cloths—Army Cloth	—
Cloths—All others	—
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs	0.90 to 1.00

METALS.

The market is firm, but with little business doing.	
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and	PER PICUL.
square	Y. 4.30 to 4.70
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.20 to 5.42
Sheet Iron	6.30 to 6.50
Sheet Mild Steel	6.80 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated ...	10.90 to 11.20
Flat	11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ...	6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	8.60 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar"	2.35 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.	
Chester	Y. 3.80
Victory	3.60
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura	3.30
Todai	3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.	
PER PICUL.	
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.50
White Java	14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions	
have been done in artificial dyes.	
Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand ...	2.05
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.	
Yen.	
Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy ... 4 sacks ...	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—	
Rising Sun ... 6 kwamme ...	2.80
Takasago ... 6 " ...	2.75
Fuji ... 6 " ...	2.85
Pine ... 6 " ...	2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.	
Yen.	
White Walla Walla, 100 ktn ...	4.95
Red " " " ...	4.90
Blue Stem ... " " ...	5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done
On February 10th stocks were: Filatures 16,182
bales, Re-reels, 1,722 bales; Kakeda, 46 bales.

Yen.	
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ...	925
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ...	875
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ...	880
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ...	865

Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den ...	890
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den ...	880
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den ...	815
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den ...	870
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha ...	825
Re-reels—Extra ...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 ...	870
Re-reels—No. 1½ ...	855
Re-reels—No. 2 ...	835
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...	865
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ...	830
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ...	820
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ...	810

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

February.	January delivery.	February delivery.	March delivery.
9th	8.65	8.70	8.78
10th	8.73	8.79	8.87
11th	—	—	—
12th	8.78	8.81	8.90
13th	8.72	8.74	8.85
14th	8.72	8.76	8.85
15th	8.74	8.81	8.89

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet.
On February 10th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,912
bales; Kibiso, 6,170 bales; Sundries, 940 bales.

QUOTATIONS.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best ...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushuu, (or Joshu) Good ...	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushuu, (or Joshu) Medium ...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushuu, (or Joshu) Inferior ...	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...	115 to 125
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ...	100 to 115
Rereel—Fair ...	—
Rereel—Best ...	—
Rereel—Good ...	—
Rereel—Medium ...	—

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.
Kanazawa:—There has been no change in prices,
and the market is in a quiet condition.
Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet
and prices have declined.

	6 ms.	6½ ms.	7 ms.	7½ ms.	8 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22½"	8.15	7.95	7.95	7.85	7.80
27"	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.60	7.70
36"	8.05	7.80	7.75	7.60	7.65

According to a London telegram of February 15th
the quotation was £63.

Refined per 100 kin ...	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemers per 100 kin ...	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin ...	" 47.00—50.00
Ore	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm	
Domestic rice in Fukagawa ...	bags.
Foreign rice in Fukagawa ...	73.560
Delivery	Closing Price.
February	18.52
March	18.53
April	18.57

	(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
February ... 19.34	February ... 19.04	
March ... 18.88	March ... 18.56	
April ... 18.60	April ... 18.41	

	per koku.
Superior	Yen 20.50
Medium	19.40
Common	18.00
Average	19.30

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.	
Delivery.	Yen.
February	139.55
March	139.00
April	137.55

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at
Yokohama from May 1st till February 10th,
amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the
corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Feb. 16.

London silver ½ lower, China sterling quotations	
not yet received but local rates on China are lower	
and sterling credits can be negotiated rather easier	
London—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— Sight	2/0½
— 60 days	2/0½
— 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0½ @ 1/4
— 6 months' sight	2/1½ @ 1/4
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1½
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257½
— Private 4 months' sight	262
America—Bank sight	49½
— Private 30 days' sight	50½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208½
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 98½
— Private 10 days' sight	do 96½
Shanghai—Bank sight	75½
— Private 10 days' sight	77
Bar Silver (London)	27½ @ 1/4

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada,	
9th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.	
—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Teucer, British steamer, 5,855, W. Yarwood, 9th	
Feb.,—Tacoma and Vancouver, Mails and General.	
—Butterfield & Swire.	
Preussen, German steamer, 5,114, Bahle, 10th Feb.,	
—Hamburg via Manila, General.—C. Illies & Co.	
Inaho Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, J. Sumita,	
10th Feb.,—Ocean Island, Pho-phate.—Mitsui	
Bussan Kaisha.	
China, American steamer, 3,186, Emery Rice, 10th	
Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—	
P. M. S. S. Co.	
Pabclus, British steamer, 3,348, Bailey, 11th Feb.,	
—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—	
Butterfield & Swire.	
Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, Henry E. Morton,	
11th Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails	
and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.	
Nile, British steamer, 4,197, E. F. Daldy, 12th Feb.,	
—London via ports, General.—P. & O. N. M. Co.	
Aki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,995, K. Homma,	
12th Feb.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.	
—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi,	
12th Feb.,—hanghai via ports, Mails and General.	
—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Iritawa,	
12th Feb.,—Hongkong via port, General.—Nippon	
Yusen Kaisha.	
Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798, B.	
Kon, 14th Feb.,—Seattle, Mails and General.—	
Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Karanga, British steamer, 2,932, H. C. Elford, 13th	
Feb.,—New York via ports, General.—Sale &	
Frazar Ltd.	
Coblenz, German steamer, 2,001, H. Raegener, 15th	
Feb.,—Melbourne, Sydney and Manila via ports,	
Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.	
Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W.	
Garlick, 15th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails	
and General.—G. N. S. S. Co.	

DEPARTURES.

Bendoran, British steamer, 2,587, A. W. S. Thom-	
son, 9th Feb.,—Manila, General.—Comes & Co.	

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 9th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Meinam, French steamer, 3,513, Vidal, 10th Feb.—Marseilles and Antwerp via ports, General.—M.M. & Co.

Taucer, British steamer, 5,805, W. Yarwood, 10th Feb.—London and Liverpool via ports, General. Butterfield & Swire.

Ambria, German steamer, 3,288, Ernst, 10th Feb.—Marseilles, Rotterdam and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Derfflinger, German steamer, 5,241, F. Poesch, 10th Feb.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.

Baron Napier, British steamer, 3,159, H. C. Goudey, 11th Feb.—Manila, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, M. Abe, 11th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 13th Feb.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, Henry E. Morton, 12th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Irizawa, 14th Feb.—Seattle via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamo Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,284, F. L. Sommer, 14th Feb.—London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Patroclus, British steamer, 3,548, Bailey, 14th Feb.—Marseilles, Havre and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Preussen, German steamer, 5,114, Bahle, 14th Feb.—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 15th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.
Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, FEB. 24TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

DAVIS.—At Yokohama, Japan, the wife of G. H. DAVIS, —of a daughter.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Argentine Congress has passed a law making it compulsory for all citizens to vote.

A MEMORIAL service in honour of the late Lord Lister has been held in Westminster Abbey.

EARL SPENCER, the late Lord Chamberlain, resigned, it appears, on the ground of ill health.

THE death is announced of Mataafa, ex King of Samoa, who resisted the Treaty Powers in 1898.

A HEAVY snowstorm was experienced on Thursday last in the district of Karuizawa and its vicinity. Telegraphic service between Karuizawa and

Takasaki is suspended on account of the wires having become entangled.

It is reported that the Prince Imperial will probably visit Formosa in March or April next year.

Two pupils at an aviation school at Sevastopol fell and were burned to death by petrol on the 9th inst.

SIR WALTER EGERTON, Governor of Southern Nigeria, has been appointed Governor of British Guiana.

THE Argentine Government has authorized Messrs. Vickers and Son to establish a shipyard at La Plata.

THE death is announced of the French engineer, Delamuy Belleville, the inventor of the well-known boilers.

MANY persons perished in a snowstorm at Ishim in Siberia on February 1st. Sixty-three bodies have been found.

THE yellow Dragon flag has been hauled down and the new Republican flag hoisted at the Chinese Legation in Tokyo.

MR. EDGAR MAYNE will replace Mr. C. Hill, South Australia, on the Australia Selection Committee for the Test matches.

A BALLOT among the miners in the Loire basin shows that they are overwhelmingly in favour of a general strike on March 1st.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL MATSUNAGA, Commander of the Japanese Army Division stationed in Chosen, passed away on the 16th instant.

A NEW YORK despatch reports that \$10,000,000 of the Tokyo Municipal Tramway loan has been taken up by a certain company in the city.

MR. NUMANO, former Japanese Consul at Hamburg, who has been promoted as Consul-General at New York, started for his post on the 14th instant.

MISS ANN RYLANDS, of Grange-road, Ramsgate, Kent, who died on Dec. 30, left £500 to the British and Foreign Bible Society for work in Japan.

A NAGANO despatch reports that Yakegadake was in a state of great eruption on Sunday night last. Ashes fell thickly in the district of Suwa and its vicinity.

THE representatives of 16,000 transport workers in Australia have declared the Brisbane strike to be illogical and have prohibited a strike in sympathy.

PROFESSOR GAUCKET has reported to the Académie de Médecine that the famous remedy 606 has produced numerous deaths which have been hushed up.

MR. P. F. WARNER has completely recovered from his illness. He has been allowed to practise at the nets, but it is not likely that he will play in any match.

A TELEGRAM received in an authentic quarter says that Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, who is at present staying at Nanking, has been appointed Chinese Minister to Tokyo by H. E. Yuan Shih-kai.

A SERIOUS snow slide took place at Shikunohi, near Otaru, on Friday night last. Two dwelling houses were destroyed and the inmates, twelve in number, were all crushed to death.

SOME 200 students of the University of the Higashi Hongwanji in Kyoto, are reported to have gone on strike, petitioning for the dismissal of six instructors of the University. The strikers

showing a firm attitude, it appears that the Principal will grant their petition, as otherwise the University may be temporarily closed.

AT 11.25 a.m. on the 21st instant a slight earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, lasting only 32 seconds. The oscillations were principally in a northerly and southerly direction.

A SECOND large tourist party, comprising 525 persons from various countries, is expected to arrive at Yokohama on the 26th inst. from America on board the H.A. liner *Cleveland*.

A BRITISH Red Crescent party, consisting of four doctors and three dressers, was to leave Marseilles for Tripoli on February 15th. The Turkish and Italian Governments have been informed.

MR. VAUGHAN NASH, C.B., C.V.O., Private Secretary to Mr. Asquith since 1908, has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Development Commission in succession to Sir Francis Hopwood, G.C.M.G.

SIR THOMAS GIBSON-CARMICHAEL, who was appointed Governor of the Presidency of Bengal in January and raised to the Peerage, takes the title of Baron Carmichael of Skirling, Peeblesshire.

MR. MITSU SABUROSUKE, President of the Mitsui Mining Company, who is critically ill, has had the honour of receiving the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure from His Majesty the Emperor.

BARON CHINDA, the newly appointed Japanese Ambassador to Washington, with Baroness Chinda, arrived at San Francisco on the 15th instant, and met with a warm welcome from the Japanese residents.

It was originally fixed that the British Parliament should meet again on February 13th; but the Nationalists feared the unlucky thirteenth, consequently the re-opening was postponed until the fourteenth.

HIS MAJESTY the Emperor has been pleased to grant the sum of 50,000 yen to the family of the late Marquis Komura, in recognition of the great services rendered to the State by the deceased Minister.

COUNT REX, the German Ambassador to Tokyo, returned to Japan from a trip to Germany by the *Prins Eitel Friedrich* on the 18th inst. Mr. Thiel, the German Consul at Kobe, and Dr. Fuehr travelled on the same steamer.

MR. E. A. BENDALL, dramatic critic of the *Daily Mail* and the *Observer*, has been appointed joint examiner of plays with Mr. Charles Brookfield, who was appointed assistant to Mr. G. A. Redford, lately dramatic censor, in December.

THE *Aso* and *Soya* of the Training Squadron are officially reported to have arrived at Batavia on the 15th instant. The remains of Uchida Fukuji, a marine of the *Aso*, who died a few days before, were interred in the cemetery there.

MR. NAKAYAMA WAKICHI, Manager of the Motomachi Savings Bank of this city, was arrested on the 15th instant. It is alleged that he has since 1908 misappropriated some 128,000 yen of the bank's funds for private purposes by forging several promissory notes.

THE deaths are announced of Field-Marshal General von Hanhke; Dr. A. C. Martin Fairbairn, Principal-Emeritus of Mansfield College, Oxford; Sir Henry Oakley, Director of the Great Northern Railway; and Mr. William McCannell, the Glasgow shipowner.

part to break up the strength of the southern combination, by separating its most popular member, namely, Field Marshal Hwang. Meanwhile, there is a rumour that Hwang has declined to accept the high office proposed for him. Altogether it would seem that even at this early stage of proceedings personal rivalries are beginning to assert their influence. That is a bad outlook for the new Republic. On the new slate it need hardly be said that Mr. Wu Ting-fang's name appears as Minister of Foreign Affairs, his great experience in that line recommending him to both sides, though we shall not be surprised to learn that in consideration of his legal knowledge he receives the additional office of compiler of the new Republican system. As yet, no place is assigned to General Li, though it might have been expected that he would have been among the very first nominees alike of the north and the south.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen seems to be setting a fine example of unselfishness. Having stepped aside to make room for Yuan, he is effacing himself effectually. It is said that he has intimated to Peking that he, personally, has no choice whatever for this place or for that as the site of the Provisional Government. This is obviously the logical course for Sun to pursue, but selfishness is generally more cogent than logic in shaping men's careers.

Yesterday, the 21st, was fixed as the date of the departure for Peking of the delegates who are to confer with Yuan as to the details of the Provisional Government. It was proposed, at one time, to entrust this duty to a very small number of delegates, but opinions have changed in that respect, and a body of delegates numbering more than twenty was to start northwards in a steamer of the China Merchants' S.N. Company on the 21st instant.

Congratulations are reaching Yuan from all parts of the country, and Yuan, on his side, has addressed to the retiring President, Dr. Sun, and to the Nanking Cabinet, despatches of thanks couched in the most courteous language, and acknowledging frankly that the foundations of the Chinese Republic were laid by the Yangtze leaders.

Thursday, February 22.

Things seem to be moving quietly in China now. The number of Commissioners sent from the south to confer with President Yuan in Peking is twenty-one, and there is a rumour that after the conference Yuan will make a visit to Nanking, proceeding to Hankow by rail and taking ship thence to Nanking. General Li has quietly accepted the office of Vice-President, but no arrangement seems to have yet been made about the position that Field Marshal Hwang will hold in the new Government. So long as this point remains doubtful, the public will not feel at ease as to the coöperation of the northern and the southern leaders.

Peking seems determined to accord a most hearty welcome to the Yangtze Commissioners mentioned above. They are expected to arrive in the metropolis on the 25th instant, and a reception committee of eleven Chinese high officials has been appointed to welcome them. The President, Yuan Shih-kai, is evidently determined that no pains shall be spared to restore the friendliest relations between the recent combatants.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* publishes a telegram from Peking to the effect that Dr. Sun

Yat-sen considers his part to have been now fully acted. He would retire into private life and enjoy a season of peace and prosperity to atone in some degree for the existence of harrowing anxiety hitherto led by him. It is affirmed that Field Marshal Hwang also entertains a similar project, and that President Yuan, well informed as to Hwang's disposition, has presented to him a sum of money sufficiently large to enable him to pass the remainder of his days in ease and opulence.

Rumour has it that the immediate purpose of the Imperial Family's transfer to the Summer Palace is that President Yuan desires to appropriate a part of the present Court buildings for the use of the new Government. In fact, he wishes to administer affairs with regal pomp, though amid republican circumstances.

THE CORPS DIPLOMATIQUE IN PEKING.

It will have been noted with much interest that the foreign *Chefs de Mission* in Peking adopted a very circumspect attitude after the Edict of Abdication on the 13th instant. They unanimously decided that their relations with China for the present should be of a purely personal character, no documents whatever being exchanged. A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* from its Peking correspondent indicates that this attitude of aloofness has not been long maintained. Our Tokyo contemporary's correspondent wires that the Representatives of two of the great Powers called on Yuan immediately after the issue of the Edict with reference to a republic, and offered him their hearty congratulations. The telegram says that Yuan was much gratified by this evidence of good-will, and that he lost no time in returning the visit. Thereupon the other members of the foreign *Corps Diplomatique* followed the example of their astute colleagues, and not only called to offer congratulations to Yuan, but also let it be seen that he might command their good will. In short, quite a competition of friendly offices is taking place in the Chinese capital, and the astute statesmen of the Flowery Middle Country will know how to turn this mood to profitable employment. Alone, the Japanese Representative is standing aloof on his dignity. It is a forcible telegram and we reproduce it to show the foreign Representatives what sort of construction their acts invite.

On Wednesday it was reported in these columns that the *Chefs de Mission* in Peking, with the exception of the Japanese, had all waited upon Yuan Shih-kai to offer him their personal congratulations. This news is confirmed to-day, and the correspondents who telegraph it are at some pains to indicate the order in which the Representatives made their calls. The idea entertained by the purveyors of this intelligence is evidently to suggest that the Occidental Powers are endeavouring to make political capital by a display of courtesy to the new President. That is likely enough, but we do not see the slightest reproach attached to it. The first aim of foreign diplomats stationed in Peking must be to see law and order restored, and from that point of view it is their plain duty not to do anything calculated to discredit the new

Government. Indeed, we are at a loss to understand why the Japanese Representative should distinguish himself by isolation from the company of his confrères, and if anything of the sort has really happened, we feel confident that an ample explanation will be forthcoming. We note in this context that in returning the visits of the foreign Representatives, President Yuan observed ceremony of an almost regal type, but that, too, may be explained on the hypothesis that exceptional precautions were considered essential to avert any untoward event.

Our last issue reported that with the exception of the Japanese Representative, all the foreign *Chefs de Mission* had paid congratulatory visits to the new President in Peking. This requires to be modified. The first interchange of civilities was inaugurated by the British Minister, who, however, is now said to have visited Yuan, not for congratulatory purposes, but to discuss matters of business. It will be remembered that immediately after the issue of the Decree of Abdication the foreign *Chefs de Mission* agreed that for the time being their intercourse with the new Government should be entirely of a personal character and that all written communications should be avoided. In compliance with this arrangement, Sir John Jordan, having some imperative business to discharge, visited Yuan for purposes of conference. But Yuan at once appreciated the use to which this visit might be put. He hastened to return it, and at the same time he contrived that the eleven vernacular journals published in Peking should announce the event as a formal visit of congratulation by the British Representative to the new President of the Chinese Republic. Thereafter, all the other *Chefs de Mission*, with the exception of the Russian and the Japanese, hastened to follow their colleague's example, which was just what Yuan had hoped. In fact, the telegram makes it appear that President Yuan has practised a very pretty deception, of which the foreign Representatives were the victims. But no one with any knowledge of diplomacy will be prepared to credit the narrative. Sir John Jordan's real motive in visiting Yuan's *yamen* would most assuredly have been ascertained by his colleagues before even one of them took the step described. As for the Representatives of Japan and Russia, who are now said to be maintaining an attitude of haughty aloofness, it will be wise to await fuller developments before arriving at any conclusion. One thing is plain, however, namely, that in the present anomalous state of affairs in the Chinese capital, the foreign Ministers have a most difficult part to act and are entirely without precedence for their guidance. It is observable, too, that Yuan has made full use of the foreign menace from first to last, and that the recognition given by the *Chefs de Missions* may well have seemed of sufficient importance to justify a small misconstruction. It will probably be found, after all, that this interchange of visits to which so much importance is attached, was nothing more than a part of the New Year's ceremonial, which took place just at that time according to the old almanac.

It is reported that the official residence of the Mayor of Yokohama at Tsukioaka-cho being greatly dilapidated, the building will be disposed of. The Municipality bought it for 7,500 yen several years ago, and some 9,200 yen has been spent on repairs.

FINANCIAL.

One of the first authoritative acts of the new President Yuan has been a peremptory order to the China Merchants S. N. Co., vetoing any appeal to the foreign money-market. This has naturally caused the Directors of the Company to hesitate in carrying out the transaction to which they had almost pledged themselves. It might be supposed that as this loan was under negotiation, at the suggestion of the Insurgent leaders, its veto by Yuan would give offence in Nanking. But, on the contrary, the veto has received the approval of Mr. Wu Ting-lang and Mr. Chang Chien, the so-called Shibusawa of China.

It is now positively alleged that the loan of ten million *taels* by a Japanese syndicate to the China Merchants' S. N. Co. has ceased to be possible, and a transaction involving accommodation to the extent of four millions will be substituted. This latter transaction also will be arranged with Japan, and it is said that no security will be required. The Yangtze leaders are in dire straits for funds, and unless some means of replenishing their coffers be quickly forthcoming, they will cease to be able to maintain discipline among their troops.

It is plain that many capitalists of Europe and America see in the present Chinese crisis a unique opportunity for establishing spheres of influence in the Far East. Fragmentary rumours reach Tokyo from all directions indicating that keen competition for the honour of lending money to China is going on in the Occident. Fortunately or unfortunately for herself, Japan's impetuosity incapacitates her to engage in this rivalry. She wants for her own purposes all the money she can command. Meanwhile, the world may at any moment hear of a loan of 200 million *taels* or more to the provisional government by England and America in combination or by the resuscitated Four-Powers Syndicate. Money China must get; and her people will soon discover what the experience of other nations has amply demonstrated, namely, that a Republic is the most costly kind of Government ever yet conceived by human intellect. Doubtless, ninety-nine out of every hundred average Chinese support a republican polity under the conviction that such a form of government will gradually ease them materially from the weight of taxation. When they discover, as they undoubtedly will, that the opposite is the truth, their disappointment may take a seditious shape.

It seems very evident that in the presence of such keen competition as is now engaged in by foreign capitalists, it will be very difficult to achieve any transaction in the shape of a trustworthy loan. As for the China Merchants' S. N. Company, negotiations appear to have been interrupted by an instruction from Yuan Shih-kai desiring that things should remain unsettled until a provisional government is established. Japanese journals say that even though Yuan had not taken this step, it would have been difficult for foreign capitalists to conclude any loan on the security of the Company's property, inasmuch as great uncertainty exists as to what belongs or does not belong to the Company.

The struggle to have the honour and profit of meeting China's monetary needs continues

to be as vehement as ever. It does not appear likely, however, judging from the telegrams reaching Tokyo, that the so-called Four-Powers Syndicate will accomplish anything, nor indeed, do the labours of the Syndicate appear to be very strenuous. Mr. Straight is said to be working wholly in the interest of American capitalists, and another agent is endeavouring to push the cause of Austrian and German money. As for Great Britain, she does not appear to be at present in the run, but of course that proves nothing, for England has a way of leading the world in such matters whenever an opportunity presents itself. Mr. Straight is said to be leaning upon Sun Yat-sen, whose influence now is certainly not in the ascendant for such purposes, and therefore the Austro-German syndicate, whose agent has established relations with Mr. Wang, Head of the Foreign Department of the Viceroyalty in Tientsin, is thought to have brighter prospects. The telegrams add that Japan's cause is not progressing favourably. Nevertheless, to any one familiar with conditions in the Far East, the fact must suggest itself that an ideal arrangement would be a combination of Occidental and Japanese financiers for this purpose. The Japanese have a knowledge of Chinese affairs much more intimate than any Western people can possibly claim, and are therefore in a specially favourable position to be associated with outside capitalists in Chinese transactions. The difficulty is that the Japanese cannot spare sufficient capital to work on anything like an adequate scale. They can, however, take their full share of the risks, and it is understood that they are altogether prepared to do so. That is a form which the Anglo-Japanese alliance might very well take, although there seems to be much reluctance to do so.

It is alleged that the China Merchants S. N. Company's loan has not by any means dropped out of the field of Japanese possibilities. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha obtained a promise of the loan, and contemplated the use of its own capital for the purpose. But although the property of the Chinese Company would form ample security, there is one difficulty in the way of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, namely, that the business management of the Chinese Company's fleet could not form a part of the security. This precludes the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's direct financial aid, but other Japanese capitalists are said to be not unlikely to effect the transaction. These particulars are given by the *Nippon* and we do not vouch for their accuracy.

SHANGHAI.

Shanghai seems to be just as indignant as Nanking. It declares that the retiring Sovereign had no manner of right to rule out of existence the Republican organizations in either Shanghai or Nanking. In short, the Shanghai politicians think that the last act of the Emperor was wholly inconsistent with his avowals, and that he had no manner of competence to dictate anything to the Republicans. These politicians decline, apparently, to recognize that there was any element of compromise in the settlement arrived at. They would have had a state of complete anarchy established in the northern metropolis before they themselves set to work to rebuild the ruins.

YUAN.

Yuan Shih-kai's adroitness in extricating himself from difficult positions has been demonstrated in the past, and no one can seriously doubt that he will find some exit from the present dilemma. Rumour alleges that he is determined to proceed in strict accordance with the powers vested in him by the Imperial Edicts of the 12th and the 13th instant; that he will not be deterred from his purpose by any arguments either academical or practical, and that he will leave the Insurgents to assume the initiative in any measure of resistance. His hand has been strengthened by memorials from men in high positions in Peking, and it would seem that he has won over to his cause many of the important personages belonging to the Republican party in the north. One can easily understand his reluctance to place himself in the hands of the Republicans. The whole of the press in Peking is telegraphically reported to be loud in its applause of his ability and resourcefulness, and he has the openly avowed support of the military men in Tientsin; of the Local Assembly of the Metropolitan Province; of the Governor and Provincial Assembly of Shansi; of the officials at the capital of Honan; and of all the officials of Shantung.

Yuan has manifestly scored a great success. Even the Three Eastern Provinces are hastening to send in their congratulations accompanied by professions of loyalty to the new regime. Up to the last moment it had been expected that Manchuria would give much trouble, and indeed some desultory fighting, followed by decapitations of southern partisans, was reported even after the formal abdication of the Emperor. But such incidents seem now to be at an end. Viceroy Chao, whose attitude long remained enigmatical, can now claim that he merely followed the example of Yuan himself. Yuan figured as the champion of a limited monarchy so long as the Throne continued to possess any vestige of stability, whereafter he threw in his lot frankly with the Republicans. Viceroy Chao paid him the honour of following his example from point to point, though at a slight distance, as became their relative positions. The Viceroy and all his subordinate officials have now addressed to the new President a warmly congratulatory note acknowledging his capacity for the new office and tendering implicit allegiance.

PERSONALITIES.

Collating the news received from China, we are constrained to think that two antagonistic cliques are in the process of formation. One is headed by Yuan and General Li, the other by Hwang and Sun. General Li's singular announcement that Wuchang must be the place for discussing the details and personnel of the new Government, looks very much like breaking away from Hwang and Sun. At first sight it may appear that Sun is working in harmony with Yuan. But Sun's conduct lends itself to a different interpretation. His resignation of the Presidency may be deliberately intended to augment Yuan's embarrassment by challenging the latter to display similar equanimity and to repair to Nanking.

ARCHBISHOP NICOLAI.

We greatly regret to have to announce the death of his Grace, Archbishop Nicolai, which took place at his residence in Surugadai. His malady had long been recognized as hopeless, and when he lately left St. Luke's Hospital in Tsukiji the gravity of his case was not underestimated by the able physicians on duty there, Doctors Teusler and Bliss. The Archbishop, however, though fully persuaded that the end was in sight, insisted on returning to his residence, so as to be able to devote the remaining days of his life to completing the translations of the Old Testament and a hymnal, upon which work he had long been engaged. He finished the task on the 14th instant, and on the evening of the 16th, he breathed his last, in spite of the best medical aid. The deceased Archbishop was in his seventy-sixth year, and had spent fifty years in Japan. No words of ours could suffice to convey anything like an accurate idea of the good wrought by this great man in the country of his adoption. It was wholly owing to his exertions that the Greek Church in this country was raised to a place of power and prosperity. Never was a life better spent, and Japan will always remember as its three greatest secular benefactors, Dr. Hepburn, Dr. Verbeke and Archbishop Nicolai. Japanese leading journals devote whole columns to the story of his noble life, and mention the fact that he alone, by his unaided strength, built up in Japan a Church numbering 30,000 converts, 200 places of worship and 200 priests. The date of the obsequies is not fixed.

Tokyo newspapers fill much space with tales of the late prelate's career. They note his extraordinary power of self-sacrifice, making everything subservient to the cause he had at heart. Thus his rule was to break his fast only once in twenty-four hours, and he limited his diet to a little rice and fish. He had immense difficulties to handle, for in Japan the Greek Church was always regarded as an instrument of imperial aggression, and its propagandists were counted enemies of their country. The imposing aspect and position of the cathedral buildings at Surugadai offended the susceptibilities and awakened the suspicions of many Japanese patriots. These feelings were particularly accentuated when the war broke out eight years ago. The Archbishop was then urged to leave the country, but he never for a moment wavered in his resolve to remain at his post, and the end justified his decision, for during the past few years of his life, he won the reverence, the affection, and the confidence of multitudes of Japanese. His life was one long interval of self-sacrifice and untiring zeal. He never left Tokyo during the hot weather, but remained always steadfast at his post, his conviction being that charity should absorb every *sen* he could save by self-denial. Some papers refer to the Sawayama incident, when the late Archbishop's absolute fearlessness and his acute appeal to reason converted his would-be assassin into a disciple. Undoubtedly his was a great career. He must be admitted to the ranks of the world's heroes. Other men regard their bodies as instruments of pleasure, to be nurtured and respected as much as possible, but with the late Archbishop it was a constant subject of complaint that he had a body at all. He received a high order

from his Sovereign and he esteemed it fully as a mark of approbation but he never wore it. The *Fiji Shimpō* in a long leading article laments the fact that not until his precious life was drawing to a close could the Archbishop feel that he had overcome all the prejudice and suspicion under which he once laboured.

The funeral of the late Archbishop Nicolai took place on Thursday in the Yanaka cemetery, the cortege leaving the Greek Cathedral at Surugadai at 1 p.m. A number of floral tributes were borne before the coffin, conspicuous amongst them being wreaths sent by their Majesties the Emperor of Japan and the Emperor of Russia. Several thousands attended the funeral and the procession stretched out for nearly a mile.

YUAN AND JAPAN.

The latest intelligence from Peking, for which the *Kokumin Shimbun's* correspondent is responsible, represents President Yuan as having expressed himself very plainly about the great difficulty of coordinating the various sections of the immense Chinese dominions for purposes of Republican government. These difficulties are considered to be much augmented in the case of Manchuria by Japan's attitude. The Chinese President is quoted as expressing his opinion that Japan is deliberately fomenting trouble in the Three Eastern Provinces with the ultimate object of justifying her own armed interference. If President Yuan has made any such statement, he shows great lack of appreciation. The action hitherto taken by Japan in Manchuria has been of the most exemplary character. The deliberate indifference shown by Chinese troops, whether northern or southern, to the observance of the treaty obligation as to neutral zones, would have amply justified Japan in taking immediate steps to enforce her rights. She might also have adopted strong and prompt measures to take into her own hands the direct duty of protecting the life and property of her people who found themselves menaced by something like a state of anarchy. But she has carefully abstained from anything in the nature of armed self-assertion. In fact she merits applause, not suspicion, and it is hardly credible that President Yuan can have uttered the unjust charges attributed to him by the *Kokumin Shimbun's* correspondent.

ILI.

Confused intelligence comes from Ili. The gist of it, however, is plain enough; namely, that the Chinese officials stationed there are in favour of a monarchical form of government, whereas the local inhabitants are for a republic. The opposite state of affairs might be expected to exist, but the telegraph conveys the information here set down. Fighting seems to be going on, and the pro-Republicans are winning the day. Distant as Ili is from the administrative centre, it is not likely that much difficulty will be experienced in restoring order, seeing that the dispositions of the two parties lead themselves to easy adjustment. Now that Ili, Mongolia and Manchuria seem to have been removed from the region of political commotion, the international danger and complications recently spoken of as imminent are likely to be postponed *sine die*.

AN APPRECIATION.

The opinions of a politician like Mr. Shiba Shiro are always deserving of attention. For many years he has occupied a leading position in politics, and his family name derives added *clat* from his younger brother Major-General Shiba, who distinguished himself so much during the siege of Peking. Mr. Shiba Shiro has just returned from a visit to China and has arrived at certain conclusions which he publishes without reserve. He thinks that of the three Yangtze leaders, Dr. Sun Yat-sen is least fitted to act the part of a great statesman. Mr. Shiba does not enter into any detailed statement of the defects that he discerns in Dr. Sun, but he unequivocally places him on a lower intellectual level than either of his two colleagues, Field Marshal Hwang and General Li. Of the latter two, he entertains the highest possible opinion. Li, he says, is a born leader of men, and will stand out conspicuous as a military captain in the complication that may be looked for hereafter. As for Hwang, he has the gift of winning friends and using them worthily, so that his influence grows day by day. Thus, though for the moment an agreement may be arrived at for locating the capital at Peking, and appointing Yuan to the post of President, keen rivalry will ultimately arise between Yuan on one side and Li and Hwang on the other, and when that day arrives, Mr. Shiba is evidently persuaded that the sometime Yangtze leaders—Sun excepted—will come out at the top of the ladder.

"THE JAPAN MAGAZINE."

Number ten of the second volume of the "Japan Magazine" has just been published, and we offer our sincere congratulations to the writers whose work fills the Magazine's interesting pages, and to the editor, Dr. J. Ingram Bryan, who has achieved the by no means easy feat of bringing all the essays into consonance with the rules of English grammar and syntax. Perhaps the most interesting articles in the number are one on the "Chinese Revolution" by Count Okuma; one on the "Headhunters of Formosa" by Mr. Y. Nakatsuka; one on "Americans who have helped Japan," by Dr. J. Ingram Bryan, and above all, one on "Fifty Years in Japan" by the late Archbishop Nicolai. We ourselves have derived sincere pleasure from the perusal of this number of the Magazine, but we must adhere to our original conviction that the field for such a publication is too narrow to be lucrative. In order to constitute a paying property, a magazine should appeal to a wide circle of sympathies whereas this Tokyo publication can scarcely interest anyone not connected directly or indirectly with Japan and its people. We sincerely trust that our pessimism may now be verified by facts.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

There is a persistent rumour in Peking that the Empress Dowager has committed suicide by drinking poison. No particulars are known, and considering the quiet state of the city, it is more than probable that the rumour is a mere canard. Still it may be true and we therefore mention it.

THE FOUR PER CENTS.

This month sees the termination of the existence of the syndicate formed two years ago under the auspices of the Katsura Cabinet for the purpose of maintaining the market-price of the 4 per cent. State bonds. Practically all the leading bankers of the country joined the syndicate, and pledged themselves not to place upon the market any large quantity of these bonds, so that their depreciation might be avoided. Of course, if the present Government chose to raise its finger, the syndicate would continue in existence. But Marquis Saionji and his advisers are said to be indisposed to encourage any artificial measure of values and the syndicate will soon go out of existence. It appears to be thought that the market-price of the four per cents. will fall rapidly after the syndicate ceases to operate, but our own opinion is that such a result need not be apprehended. It will be in the interests of the banks to avert anything like a heavy fall in the market, and if they consider such an event probable, they will of their own accord and without official intervention preserve their organization.

When Prince Katsura was in power, he caused a syndicate composed of the Specie, the Mitsui, Mitsu Bishii, Dai-ichi, Daisan, Dai Jugo, Dai Hyaku, Yasuda, Sunimoto, Konoike, Yamaguchi, Naniwa, Dai Sanjuchi and Kitahama Banks to be organized for the acceptance of the 4 per cent. conversion loan and also for the maintenance of the market-price of four per cent. bonds. The prescribed term of the syndicate was two years, which expires with the present month. Shortly after the formation of the syndicate, one of the Osaka banks unloaded four per cent. bonds on the market at a high price in breach of the agreement, but all the other banks faithfully observed the agreement throughout. The irrational bond policy of the Katsura Ministry, however, bore fruit, and the four per cent. bonds are now quoted at 87 or 88 yen in the market, that is seven or eight yen below the issue value, so that the necessity of the syndicate is doubted. Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, is said to be indisposed to continue it. Some of its banks are in favour of its continuance to facilitate the investment of capital in China at the present moment, when Chinese loans are much talked of, but others advocate its dissolution at the expiration of the prescribed period, as the matter of the investment of capital can otherwise be arranged amongst the bankers interested. The dissolution or continuance of the syndicate will be fully discussed at a meeting of the clearing houses to be held on the 10th of next month.

JAPANESE IN CHINESE EMPLOY.

Professors Terao, Soyejima and Hara-guchi, who were engaged by the Nanking Government in the capacity of advisers, have returned to Japan, their services being no longer required. Meanwhile Mr. Inukai Ki, whose comments on the conditions existing at the time of his first visit to the Yangtze Valley attracted much attention, has set out again for China. Nobody seems to have any explanation of his second visit, but he occupies such an important place in the political world of Japan, that his movements attract much attention.

SUN AND THE SOUTH.

At 4 p.m. on the 14th instant a grand ceremony was held in Nanking to mark the resignation of the Presidency by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. One of the members of the Cabinet, speaking in the name of himself and his colleagues, pronounced a glowing eulogy on the conduct of Sun, and on his admirable unselfishness in sacrificing the great honour that the country would have paid to him on the altar of the national good. Nothing is said as to Sun's reply, but it is evident that his self-effacing conduct is strongly approved and appreciated.

Another ceremony was held on the 15th instant with great pomp and *eclat*. It consisted of a celebration, the main part of which was the solemn conveying to the spirits of the Ming Emperors the fact that their country had now at last been freed from alien despotism, and that the people had reasserted successfully their right to govern themselves. Dr. Sun Yat-sen read the document embodying these statements, and all worshipped at the tombs of the Ming Emperors, which stand in Nanking where they had their capital. All the Chinese ships in the river were gay with bunting; enormous crowds of citizens in gala costume thronged the streets; a royal salute was fired from the ships in port; there was a grand review, and the proceedings wound up with a torch-light procession.

JAPAN'S ATTITUDE.

It will be observed by readers of the Diet's proceedings that Baron Ishii, in reply to a inquiry by Mr. Hinata, in the House of Representatives on the 15th instant, stated explicitly that the Japanese Government was determined not to take any step in the Chinese imbroglio without the co-operation of the Western Powers. This, in fact, amounts to subscribing to the proposal recently formulated by the Secretary of State in Washington, when America invited all the leading States of the world to pledge themselves to act in strict concert for purposes of dealing with the Chinese crisis. This puts the coping stone to the edifice of circumspection and good faith constructed by Japan from first to last in a difficult situation. The inclination of her statesmen was plain enough. They desired to carefully abstain from any act which might lend itself to aggressive construction, and they doubtless welcomed America's proposal with hearty approbation. If solid facts had any weight with newsmongers, nothing more should hereafter be heard about Japan's lust of conquest in the Far East.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The *Japan Statistical Review* publishes some statistics for the past three years, that is, since the issue of the railway purchase bonds, of the national loans standing unredeemed at the end of each year.

The Review gives the following figures.

	1909.	1910.	1911
Domestic Yen.		Yen.	Yen.
bonds...	1,419,894,689	1,182,943,949	1,118,189,024
Foreign bonds...	1,165,676,036	1,447,217,669	1,437,449,396
Total...	2,585,570,725	2,630,161,618	2,555,638,420

When apportioned to the population the outstanding loans amount to 51 52, and 50 yen per capita respectively.

THE BUDGET.

It is now practically certain that the House of Peers will pass the Budget unchanged — it went up to them from the Lower Chamber. Not that there has not been a difference of opinion among the Peers, for the *Saiwai Club* put forth its whole strength to obtain a vote of the wholesale character given by a section of the Representatives, who sought to have 50 or 60 millions cut off the estimates incontinently. But when this project was brought before the *Kenkyu-kai*, they declined to have anything to do with it, mainly because such treatment cannot properly be extended by the Peers unless when sent up by a convincing number of the Representatives. All politicians of whatever complexion wish to see administrative economies exercised, and corresponding diminutions made in the people's fiscal burdens. But all recognize that there has not yet been time to elaborate such a scheme satisfactorily, and all are content to wait until the Financial Committee shall have completed the labour upon which they are now engaged.

THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

Each day that passes adds to the probability that Peking will remain the seat of the Chinese Government. From all quarters, except the rival city of Nanking, memorials are said to be reaching the President in favour of maintaining Peking as at present. Even Shanghai, where a different opinion might be expected to prevail, is said to have forwarded a petition in favour of Peking, and what is even more remarkable is that Mongolia too has followed suit, on the ground that if the centre of Administrative Authority were transferred to Nanking, Mongolia will be so far removed from the seat of authority as to be isolated dangerously in the face of foreign aggression. By the twenty-one southern delegates now on their way to Peking, the Nanking project will doubtless be urged, but according to present appearances, Yuan's party will have no difficulty in winning over these objectors. The situation is said to be have been considerably influenced by the British Representative, who has expressed himself in favour of Peking.

THE ELECTORATES.

Some time ago we briefly explained the purport of a measure under official consideration for altering the present electorates from large to small, the ultimate result being that the House of Representatives would consist of 431 members in place of the present number, 381. The measure has now obtained the approval of the Privy Council with slight modifications, the effect of which will be to fix the superior limit of members at 450. It is expected that the amended law will be embodied in a bill for submission to the House of Representatives on the 26th instant. It is understood that this measure has the approval of Mr. Hara Kei, Minister of State for Home Affairs. The political prophets predict, however, that it will encounter considerable opposition in the Lower House and that it will be rejected by the Upper.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN THE LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

The loan arranged between the China Merchants S.N. Company and Japanese capitalists has provoked strong opposition on the part of Great Britain, the United States and Germany, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, but the Japanese capitalists interested are making strenuous efforts to push the loan to a successful conclusion.

The Nanking Government caused the China Merchants S.N. Company to convene a general meeting of shareholders on the 1st instant and pass a resolution in favour of raising a loan on the security of the company's property. The Nanking Government then entered into negotiations with a few Japanese bankers and concluded a provisional agreement for a loan of ten million yen. This news provoked the opposition of the foreign Powers, Germany and the United States taking the lead in the movement, the former having had the intention of purchasing the Company's concern itself. After the Boxer trouble, Germany caused the Hamburg-Amerika Steamship Company to put forward a proposal for the purchase of the concern for ten million *taels*. The negotiations, however, fell through, as Germany insisted on setting off the purchase money with the indemnity payable by China. Germany, therefore, is taking the initiative in opposing the loan, and has been joined by the United States, who is bent on the acquisition of economic interests in China. Great Britain has also long been casting a covetous eye on the Company and some time ago caused the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to advance the Nanking Government one and a half million *taels* on the security of a portion of the Company's property, thus looking forward to the day when the Company's concern would eventually fall into her hands. The news of the conclusion of the provisional loan agreement came to them like a bolt from the blue. Great Britain lost no time in starting strong opposition and is offering the Nanking Government to negotiate a loan of ten or even fifteen million *taels*. The competition gives evidence of the important position the Company occupies in the shipping trade in China.

The Company was first formed some forty years ago by the late Li Hung-chang, with Government capital amounting to 400,000 *taels*. Subsequently one million *taels* were raised, chiefly by Government officials, for the extension of the Company's business. A loan was also raised from private capitalists and the Government capital refunded, the Company being thus converted into a private concern. The Company was, nevertheless, placed under the supervision of Li Hung-chang, who appointed Sheng Huan-huai, as president. Business prospered under his able management, and the capital was later increased to 4,000,000 *taels*. Sheng made an attempt to make the concern a purely private corporation, independent of Government supervision, but failed to obtain official sanction. With the change of the official organization in the Central Government, the Company was transferred to the supervision of the Communications Department, in which a Board of Directors was created, the directors being chosen and elected by the shareholders. The Company, which has its head office in Shanghai with branch offices in twenty-four important

ports on the China coast, possesses twenty-nine liners and a large number of steamboats and junks, together with warehouses in Shanghai, Hankow, Hongkong, and elsewhere. It also possesses a large number of store boats on the Yangtze. The Company is also doing marine insurance business with a capital of 300,000 *taels*, and thus occupies a unique position in shipping circles in China. The accounts for last year show the Company's assets to amount to 9,342,929 *taels*, which is more than double the amount of its capital, and a belief obtains that a very conservative estimate was made in the appraisement of the assets. For instance, the liners are valued at 2,230,000 *taels* in the statement of accounts, while British experts estimate their value at 3,870,000 *taels*. The Company's property is considered to be worth more than 15 million *taels* and therefore forms a good security for a 10 million yen loan.

The Company thus constitutes an object for international competition. If the Japanese bankers shrink from competition and abandon the provisional agreement, the Company must fall into the hands of either one of the foreign competitors, which will render fruitless the special efforts made since the China-Japan war to foster Japan's shipping business. The Government policy on the matter is unascertainable, but it is unlikely that the Government will compel the Japanese bankers to abrogate the provisional agreement; it will rather leave the matter to free competition among the parties concerned. It is believed that the Japanese capitalists will resolutely force the competition for the attainment of their object.

FAILURE OF JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS.

A Nanking telegram received in Tokyo reports that Japan's loan to the China Merchants S.N. Company has ended in failure.

As already reported, the contemplated loan originated in a demand of the Revolutionary Government, says the *Jiji Shimpō*. The British, American and French capitalists were first approached by Wu Ting-fang with the proposal. Thereupon, representatives of the foreign capitalists flocked together in Nanking and keen competition was started for the acceptance of the loan. Prior to this, Japanese capitalists had also been approached and the proposal was made for consideration amongst home capitalists. The British capitalists had already advanced the Company 1,500,000 *taels* through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shortly after the outbreak of the insurrection, and the whole property of the Company was hypothecated for the loan. In the circumstances the foreign capitalists could do nothing but negotiate the loan with the Revolutionary Government. In the meantime, it had been reported that the directors of the Company had resigned *en masse*, leaving a few clerks in charge of the company's business. The Company recently issued an advertisement declaring that the remaining officials had no authority to make any disposition of the Company's property, but this is not the case. Not only did the directors all remain in office, but they recently held a secret meeting when they adopted a resolution that "the contract concluded between the Company and the Shanghai and Hongkong Bank regarding the 1,500,000 *taels* loan should not be shown to a third party without the consent of the

creditor Bank." It is also a fact that half a million *taels* out of the total proceeds had been made over to the Revolutionary Government. Moreover, the latest Shanghai telegram reports that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company have made overtures to the Company to advance 5,000,000 *taels* through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The Company's loan is thus almost monopolized by British capitalists. In the circumstances it would seem to be impossible for other foreign capitalists to undertake the loan for the Company.

INTERNATIONAL LOANS TO CHINA.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a well-informed authority as saying that it would seem as if the international understanding relating to loans to China had practically ceased to exist, since keen competition is now going on in regard to the loan to the China Merchants S.N. Co. When the Chinese Government attempted to raise an international loan last year, the Powers concerned entered into an agreement that no loan should be accepted until the settlement of the trouble. The agreement was respected and no loan came into existence, but the British and Japanese loans that have been concluded since leave room for some doubt. A loan of one and a half million yen granted to the Chinese Merchants S.N. Company by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank last winter was used, with or without the knowledge of the British Government, as war funds for the Revolutionists. No criticism was aroused, because the strictest secrecy was maintained in the matter. The Okura loan recently concluded had to be revoked, however, owing to a protest raised by the British Government, which pointed out that the revenue of the Suchow railway, which formed the security for the loan, had already been hypothecated to Great Britain. The Japanese Government in reply pointed out that a large portion of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's loan to the China Merchants S.N. Company was actually placed at the disposal of the Revolutionists. While the Government respected the international agreement, the Government could not interfere with private capitalists accepting a loan on their own responsibility. The Okura loan was a purely economic investment in a railway company and not a loan to supply the Revolutionists with war funds, and the Government had no means of knowing if the proceeds of the loan would go into the coffers of the Revolutionists after delivery. The British Government again wrote that the trouble between the Chinese railway company and Great Britain remained unsettled and Japan's participation would complicate matters. It was therefore desirable that the Government should endeavour to suspend delivery of the loan until the relations between Great Britain and the railway company had been defined. The Government accepted the proposition and agreed to suspend the payment of the second and subsequent instalments of the loan.

These two incidents indicate that the international agreement as to loans stands on rather a weak basis, although no Government has yet attempted to ignore it. The China Merchants S.N. Company's loan, now being negotiated, is based on a resolution adopted by the shareholders to hypothecate

the Company's property for a loan to be raised by the Revolutionary Government, so that it is an indisputable fact that the loan is intended for the benefit of the Revolutionists, no matter what form the loan may assume.

Great Britain, the United States, Germany and France (and also Japan) are vying with one another for the acceptance of the loan in defiance of the spirit underlying the international agreement, and it is presumable that the agreement will be revoked ere long. This fact also indicates a change in the China policy of the various Powers concerned, and the Powers will find it difficult to act in concert in future. An international struggle for the acquirement of economic interests in China will thus be inevitable.

It is clear that China must have recourse to foreign loans to adjust her finances, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, and the various Powers are also conscious of the profitable nature of investments in China. It thus seems more than probable that large loans will be negotiated by China after the recognition of the new Government, and keen competition is already witnessed amongst the various Powers. The British, United States, French and Belgian Ministers paid a visit to Yuan Shih-kai immediately after his election to the presidency, to offer their congratulations. There can be no doubt that their action is open to blame, or they were impelled by the desire to smooth the path for future loan negotiations. Some countries are trying to use the recognition of the new Government as a bait for securing contracts for loans, well knowing that Yuan's policy is to connect the loans with the recognition of the new Government. As a matter of fact, international competition has already started.

Inasmuch as the recognition of the Chinese Republic is calculated to complicate international relations, the American Government, jointly with Germany, put forward to the various Powers a proposal that they should take concerted action on the question of China in which they had common interests. The Powers accepted the proposal, as they could not well raise any objections to the principle. It is evident that the American-German proposal is a hit at Japan in connection with the Okura loan, which constituted a breach of the international agreement that money shall not be lent to the belligerent parties, and is a device to restrict future activity. In view of the compact, any one of the Powers could give official recognition to the new Government of China ahead of the other Powers. The Foreign Office authorities have repeatedly announced in the House that the Japanese Government will act in perfect accord with the foreign Powers in the matter of recognition of the new Government, and it cannot be doubted that the final decision as to recognition rests with Great Britain, who occupies a pre-eminent position in diplomacy in China. It naturally follows that Great Britain will occupy a pre-eminent position in regard to China loans also.

Although the Okura firm denies the rumoured failure of its loan, it is a fact that the Government had ordered Messrs. Okura to suspend payment of the loan, owing to the protest lodged by Great Britain. Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, corroborated the statement in the Budget Committee of the Upper House. The proportion of the loan already paid by the Okura firm is uncertain, one report putting it at 2,500,000

yen, while others estimate it at 2,800,000 yen, but it is indisputable that the matter is now at a deadlock. This fact tends to impair Japan's credit in China, and has given rise to a belief that Japan can do nothing without the concurrence of Great Britain. Not only does this seriously impede Japan's diplomacy in China, but it hampers Japan's activity in regard to China loans.

DR. SUN AND THE CHINESE PRESIDENCY.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires the full text of the letter of resignation tendered by President Sun Yat-sen. The Provisional President writes:—

The popular desire of the nation was for the overthrow of despotic rule and the establishment of a Republican Government. Righteous men rose for this cause and the whole nation threw in its lot with them. In view of the general trend of affairs the Emperor felt convinced of the futility of maintaining the monarchical government and decided on abdication. Now a Rescript has been issued announcing abdication and thus the Republic of China is recognised. Monarchical rule has ceased to exist in China and our object has been attained.

On the foundation of the Republic, I was chosen by the people to serve as a public servant, and issued a declaration in which I avowed my intention to overthrow the despotic rule and establish a Republic to promote the welfare of the people. I also affirmed that on the overthrow of the despotic government and the restoration of peace, when the Republic had obtained the official recognition of the foreign Powers, I would resign my appointment. Now that the Emperor has abdicated, with the end of despotic rule peace has been restored, and the Republic being about to receive official recognition of the outside Powers I think it is time that I should tender my resignation in fulfilment of my declaration. I desire you, members of the State Council, to speedily choose a capable man in consonance with the popular wishes and induce him to come to Nanking to take charge of State Affairs, in order to enable me to relinquish the Presidency, subject to the following conditions:—

- 1.—A Temporary Government shall be organized in Nanking in conformity with the resolution adopted by the delegates of the various provinces.
- 2.—The State Council shall elect a new President after my resignation, I myself and other Ministers of State to retire when the new President comes to Nanking to receive his appointment.
- 3.—The new President shall observe the provisional Constitution and all other laws enacted by the State Council.

President Sun Yat-sen also forwards to the State Council a memorial which reads:—

I have tendered my resignation to-day, asking the Council to elect a capable man in my stead. The right of election is vested in the nation, which leaves no room for interference; but some time ago I caused Wu Ting-fang to telegraph to Peking that I should recommend Yuan Shih-kai as the first President of the Chinese Republic if he induced the Emperor to abdicate and he himself

supported a Republican polity. I have no doubt that this proposal has been approved by the Council. The abdication of the Emperor and the unity of North and South China is greatly due to the exertions of Yuan Shih-kai, and Yuan unequivocally supports a republican polity. I confidently believe that Yuan, if elected to the Presidency, will faithfully serve the Republic. Yuan is a man of great experience, and the unification of the Republic requires constructive talent. I recommend him to the Council as a capable man. I earnestly hope that the Council will not pass over one whose services may prove beneficial to the future of the Chinese Republic.

THE BANK OF CHOSEN.

GENERAL MEETING.

Speaking at the general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Chosen held on the 20th instant, President Ichihara stated that at the beginning of the business period, under review the market was quiet and easy, owing to the floods that visited a part of the peninsula. Transactions in cereals were, however, somewhat brisk. With the recovery of fine weather, coupled with the progress of the work of construction of the Seoul-Gensan and Honan railways and the harbour improvements in Fusan, Chemulpo and Chinnampo, a brisk demand was called forth for capital in those districts. In September last a large amount of capital was laid out for the purchase of cotton yarn and cloth and the replenishment of winter stocks, as well as for the new harvest. The Bank also purchased a large number of Municipal Bonds. Monetary stringency later set in, owing to the demand for capital for the early settlement of the China trade in consequence of the civil commotion in China, and the loan rate rose by two-tenths of a *sen* per *diem*. Towards the close of the year, there was a sharp demand for capital for the completion of public works and the importation of goods before ice formed on the coast. The farmers, nevertheless, showed hesitation in putting their stocks on the market in anticipation of a further increase in the price of cereals, so that the money laid out for the harvest did not find its way back to the bank's coffers. This, coupled with the demand for funds for the annual settlement, occasioned some monetary tightness.

SUN YAT-SEN ON THE REPUBLIC.

Ex-President Sun Yat-sen has issued a declaration to the Magistrates, Commanders of the army and Deputy-Viceroy of all the provinces, to the effect that the unity of the Republic of China is already completed. The creation of the Republic has for its object to protect the liberty of the people; the unification of the Chinese, the Manchus, Mongolians, Mohamedans and Tibetans; to establish perfectly harmonious relations between them in order thus to make them coöperate in the development of commerce, industry and education; to maintain the peace of the world, and to bring all countries into closer friendship so as to attain the brotherhood of mankind. Various discriminations should be removed and the whole nation should unite to promote the public interests in order to enhance the glory of the fatherland and to enjoy the blessing of everlasting peace.

YUAN AND THE PRESIDENCY.

MESSAGE TO THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to Tang Shao-i under date of the 15th instant, requesting him to transmit the message to the Nanking Government. The telegram reads:—

The Emperor of China has abdicated the Throne, directing me to effect the unification of China and so avert a crisis. The existence of the Republic now hangs on a thread. President Sun telegraphed me intimating his resignation and urging me to come to Nanking to accept the nomination to the Presidency, appointing a capable man to take charge of business in North China.

Field Marshal Hwang Hsing also sent a lengthy telegram to the troops to urge me to come to Nanking in response to the call. I am sensible of my own incompetence for the onerous duty forced upon me. I have already declared my intention to proceed to the South, but the crisis in the North, where half the lives and property of the whole of China is at stake, forbids me responding to the invitation at present. The troops of the Northern provinces and the representatives of Mongolia now recommend me to accept the provisional presidency, but I hesitate to act in consonance with the desire expressed. The difference of views still existing between the South and North renders unification very difficult. If I quit the North and proceed to the South, it would lead to endless calamity. Opinion is still divided amongst the Northern army and the Imperial princes resent the humiliation. The *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking has also advised me to stay here. Unrest exists in Mukden and Amur provinces and warnings repeatedly come from outer Mongolia. In view of these external and internal troubles, North China would surely be thrown into turmoil if I left the capital. Unfortunately I can not find a man capable of controlling the situation in my stead. If China remains long unconsolidated, the foreign Powers will withhold their recognition of the new Government, which will accelerate the crisis. It is expedient to elect a President for the new Government to effect the unity of China. The most urgent need of the time is to effect an understanding between the South and the North for the restoration of order. Now that the Republican polity has been decided upon, the whole nation should unite for the attainment of its object. It is undesirable that the Presidential question should be allowed to involve a split between the South and the North which might eventually lead to the partition of China. I desire you to transmit this telegram to the Nanking Government and also to proceed to Nanking to enter into negotiations on the matter.

EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Sun Yat-sen to the effect that although the polity of China has now been settled, many latent evils still exist. The nation should co-operate in promoting the common weal. He is conscious of his incompetency to discharge this heavy responsibility, although he has had the honour of being recommended to the Presidency, and feels ashamed of his own incompetence to succeed in the grand work inaugurated by the mighty hands of Sun Yat-sen. He would always have the common good of the people at heart.

In the present critical moment, when all the people are called upon to undertake a difficult task for the good of the country, he should certainly not shrink from serving the country as a public servant. The difficulty lay in the actual condition of affairs. They would discuss the matter more fully by letter after the arrival of the envoys at Peking. He desired to be informed by telegram of the names of the envoys and the date of their departure.

Yuan Shih-kai also dispatched to the State Council at Nanking a telegram which reads:—President Sun telegraphed me yesterday, intimating his resignation and the recommendation of myself for the Presidency. I telegraphed back, declining to accept the offer and also asking your Council to elect a capable man to the post. I have also fully explained the impending crisis in the North which prevents me proceeding southward. I have now again had the honour of receiving a telegram from your Council. The general situation has just been settled. I feel myself unequal to the onerous duties, but I have had the honour of receiving the unanimous vote of your Council. My desire is to consult the common interests of the people. At this critical moment, when the nation is called upon to face great difficulties for the sake of the country, I feel constrained to respond to the popular wishes at the sacrifice of any personal considerations. The difficulty lies in the natural state of affairs. Upon the arrival of special envoys from Nanking, I shall consult with them on the matter and further report to your Council by telegram.

THE KAIPING AND LANCHOW COAL MINES.

AMALGAMATION EFFECTED.

A Shanghai telegram reports the conclusion of the amalgamation of the Kaiping and Lanchow coal mines through the mediation of Tuan Chi-kuei. There was an understanding between Great Britain and China in regard to the amalgamation, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, and it may be regarded as the natural sequence of events. The Kaiping coal mine is worked by the Anglo-Chinese corporation, having a capital of one million sterling, and is the largest coal mine in China. At the initial stage the output totalled only 70,000 tons a year, but it has since greatly increased, until the total output is now estimated at 35,000 tons a week. A harbour has been constructed at Chinwangtao to facilitate the transportation of the product, and four colliers are now placed on the Chinwangtao-Shanghai service. The Corporation has branch offices in Tientsin, Taku, Chefoo, Shanghai and other important seaport towns, and its product is monopolizing the coal markets in North China. The Corporation was first started by the late Li Hung-chang some three decades ago with native capital of 1,200,000 taels. At first the business was run at a loss, so that a loan of 700,000 taels had to be raised to make good the deficit. After that the enterprise gradually began to prosper, and the Corporation was reaping considerable profit at the time of the Sino-Japanese war. At the crisis of the great upheaval in North China owing to the Boxer trouble, Chang I, the president of the Company, converted it into an English corporation and had it registered at Hongkong in order

to prevent its seizure by a foreign Power. The total capital was increased to £1,000,000, of which £625,000 was subscribed by English capitalists, and the corporation thus passed under English management. After the restoration of peace, the Chinese capitalists made a futile attempt to recover the mine from the English capitalists, and the dispute led to a law suit in the English law courts at Hongkong, when a decision was given in favour of the English capitalists. With a view to minimize the profits made by the Corporation, the Chinese capitalists established the Lanchow Coal Mine Company in the immediate neighbourhood of the Kaiping mine, with a capital of 2,000,000 taels, 500,000 taels of which was subscribed by the Viceroy of Chihli province and the remainder raised by public subscription. Thus a semi-official corporation came into existence. The Lanchow coal mine covers 3,300,000 square Chinese *li* in Lanchow district, and its output is of excellent quality. Its business now compares favourably with the Kaiping mine. Later a dispute arose between the two Companies regarding the boundary of their coal fields, and the rights-recovery fever then running high amongst the people of Chihli province, relations were strained for a time. Viceroy Chen of Chihli province then proposed to purchase the Kaiping mine at £1,500,000 to put a stop to the international dispute, but the insurrection broke out before the negotiations were brought to a conclusion. Yuan Shih-kai tried to raise ten million taels in England on the security of the Lanchow mine, but the proposal was eventually dropped owing to the opposition of the people of Chihli province. Yuan Shih-kai then dispatched Tuan Chi-kuei to negotiate the amalgamation of the two corporations, increasing the capital of each Company to £1,000,000 sterling. Tuan succeeded in his mission and it was decided to raise in England a loan of 2,000,000 taels to bring up the capital of the Lanchow coal mine to £1,000,000 sterling, the proceeds to be appropriated to the finances of the new Government. Thus the two richest coal mines in China have practically fallen into the hands of English capitalists. The output of the mines is destined to monopolize the coal markets not only in North China but also in South China in time to come.

THE STOCK EXCHANGES.

ADDRESS BY BARON SAKATANI.

Baron Sakatani, speaking at the meeting of the Economic Association held on the 17th instant, said that not only Japan but all the Governments and nations of the world misunderstood the nature of Stock Exchanges, and believing their erroneous notions to be right, endeavoured to correct the supposed evils by means of legislation. Thus, not fully understanding the nature of the institution, they yet attempted to interfere with it by legislation, and made other repeated blunders. In 1896, the German Reichstag, in which the Agrarian party commanded a clear majority, adopted a law enforcing the registration of the names of those dealing on the Exchange. Naturally persons did not care to have their names registered and thus be branded as speculators, with the result that the Berlin bourse was deserted and transactions radically de-

creased. The Bourse was then the monetary centre of Europe, but it lost its place owing to the enactment of that law. The evil of unnecessary interference became clear in 1898, when the law of 1896 was repealed, but the Bourse has not yet fully regained the important position it once held in European economics. The Japanese Government, too, had a mistaken notion about the Exchanges, and was imposing on them a heavy tax. It had also repeatedly attempted to interfere with them, but each time had failed. It was not too much to say that the history of the Japanese Exchanges was a chronicle of blunders committed by the Government. He quite agreed with the Professor of Yale College who said that transactions on Exchanges should not be interfered with by legislation.

The Exchanges were governed by a special law founded on commercial usage, and business there was necessarily transacted in anticipation of future prospects, and was therefore speculative, unlike the bargains in the ordinary market. The Government, and a majority of the nation, regarded this speculative nature of the transactions as an evil, and this notion often led to palpable blunders in policy. Speculation was in itself not a crime, and shorn of this element the Exchanges would lose their significance.

It went without saying that the function of the Exchanges was to set up a true market price. To enable the Exchanges to faithfully discharge this function, care must be taken to regulate the method of transactions. The true market price could be ascertained by enquiring whether the business was transacted with the intention of actual delivery or on mere speculation, and also whether the business was being done by parties with financial capacity and experience. These points were overlooked in the Stock Exchange Law now in force. A study of the Stock Exchange laws abroad would show that provisions are made to enhance the unity of transactions and to prohibit minors and women dealing on the Exchanges, in order to maintain public morals and also to enable the Exchanges to set up a true market price. In some countries, the clerks of the stock brokers, managers of banks, and officials of joint-stock companies were prohibited from dealing on Exchanges for a similar reason to that above indicated. No such provisions existed in the Stock Exchange law in this country and it was, therefore, defective. The prescribed business period of the majority of the existing Exchanges expired in 1913, and the time was due for a revision of the Exchange Law. The first question to be decided was the nature of their organization—whether it should consist of a joint-stock system or membership. The speaker was in favour of the latter system. If a large number of bankers became members, as in the case of the New York Exchange, he confidently believed that the position of the stock-brokers would be raised. In adopting this system, some measure would have to be devised to protect the vested rights of the shareholders of the Exchanges. Long time-bargains were not necessary, but it was against good policy to regulate the method of transaction by legislation. The matter should be left to the discretion of the Exchanges. There were too many Exchanges in this country, and it was necessary to reduce the number.

Some Exchanges were licensed to deal in stocks as well as merchandise, but as this was productive of much trouble, the system should be discontinued. The Exchange tax also was too heavy and should be materially decreased.

BARON SHIBUSAWA'S REMINISCENCES.

Baron Shibusawa has been interviewed by the *Tokyo Economist*, to whose representative he gave an interesting account of the origin of the Stock Exchanges in this country. In the early years of Meiji, says Baron Shibusawa, he felt convinced of the necessity of concentrating funds in order to develop domestic industries and made an endeavour to inaugurate Kabushiki Kaisha or joint stock companies, which did not then exist in Japan. He held that the shares of such companies must be made transferable and that there must be a market for transactions in stocks. He thus took the lead in the movement for the establishment of Stock Exchanges, and filed with the Government an application for permission to establish such institutions. Count Okuma, then the Minister of Finance, approved the scheme, but the celebrated Judge Tamano, the then President of the Court of Cassation, opposed it on the ground that the establishment of Stock Exchanges, which the Judge regarded as rendezvous of gamblers, was detrimental to good morals. In view of the strong opposition the application was eventually rejected.

A few years later the Government engaged the services of the famous French jurist, M. Boissonade, for the codification of the Japanese laws. In the course of an interview with the French Jurist, Judge Tamano remarked that Stock Exchanges were gambling dens and that the Government had rejected the application previously filed for the establishment of such institutions. Professor Boissonade refuted the idea and pointed out that Stock Exchanges existed in all civilized countries and that they were important financial and economic institutions which should not be vetoed by the Government. Judge Tamano became conscious of his error and paid a visit to Count Okuma and Baron Shibusawa to acknowledge his mistake, promising to endorse the application. The Tokyo Stock Exchange thus came into existence.

As even Judge Tamano had a misconception of the nature of Stock Exchanges, it is not very difficult to imagine the public sentiment then prevalent concerning such institutions. The nature of Stock Exchanges is now so well known to the public, however, that very few entertain such fallacious notions. Stock Exchanges now occupy a unique position in the economic world, but they are not free from attendant evils, and it is very important to investigate these evils with a view to their elimination. Very careful study is needed to effect desirable reforms in order to remove all the recognized evils without loss of time.

THE INCREASED PRICE OF COMMODITIES.

BARON TAKAHASHI ON AN ECONOMIC FALLACY

Baron Takahashi's recent statement in the Nippon Ginko Club, that it is an old fallacy to attribute an increase in the price of commodities to the over-issue of convertible notes, has elicited some criticism in economic circles, and the Baron has been interviewed

by the *Chugai Shogyo*, to whose representative he gave his views on the subject.

Many publicists, he said, attributed the recent increase in the price of commodities to the increase in convertible notes, but it was impossible to solve a complex economic problem by a simple statement. The reasons for the increase in the price of commodities were so complex that they could not be wholly attributed to an increase in the convertible notes in circulation. In the course of his after dinner speech at the Nippon Ginko Club he gave his views on the question and drew attention to the need of profound study of the various circumstances that went to cause the increase. He confidently believed that the increase in prices resulted from an increase in demand, and that the increase in demand led to an over-issue of convertible notes, or, in other words, that the over-issue of convertible notes was a natural sequel of the increase in price. If the increase in the price of commodities were due to over-issue, as argued by some publicists, the prices of all commodities would rise. As a matter of fact, some kinds of commodities had not risen, but, on the contrary, had shown a fall. This fact disproved the idea that the increase in prices was due to an over-issue of notes. Some publicists also argued that the increase in the production of gold caused an increase in the price of commodities, but this theory had been discarded by modern economists. The accepted opinion is that prices are governed by demand. In England, where the credit system is highly developed, cheques were taking the place of currency, so much so that 95 per cent. of the transactions were settled by means of cheques. The credit system was not so highly developed in Germany as in England, and there the currency continued to increase every year. In a country like Japan, where credit transactions were limited to a small circle and little use was made of cheques, it was sometimes unavoidable to increase the amount of issue of convertible notes. Cheques partake of the nature of convertible notes and are used as substitutes for them. If the argument against the increase of convertible notes were true, it would lead to the logical conclusion that the use of cheques must be minimized. It is fallacious to attribute an increase in the price of commodities to an over-issue of notes and then to attempt to bring down the prices to a normal level by reducing the notes in circulation. At present the demand for various commodities was increasing in this country, and the increase in demand naturally caused an increase in prices. All the circumstances must be taken into consideration before passing final judgment, and it was to be hoped that publicists would study the causes of the increase in prices with greater care.

RIFLES FOR CHINA.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that General Tuan Chi-jin, the new Minister of War, who commanded the First Army, introduced to the Army Council a report on an investigation made by him into the comparative merits and demerits of German and Japanese rifles. The General came to the conclusion that the Japanese rifles were superior, and recommended the engagement of Japanese experts in the Hanyang and Shanghai arsenals to manufacture a rifle modelled on the Japanese arm.

THE PROSECUTIONS IN KOREA.

ACTION OF THE MISSIONARIES.

With reference to the statements made by American missionaries as to the alleged persecution of Christians in Chosen, Major-General Akashi, the chief of police of Chosen, is reported to have stated to an interviewer that a crime of a heinous nature was discovered in September last and over seventy men have now been submitted to the Public Procurators for prosecution, while several other accomplices are being examined by the Governor-General's office. The crime with which they are charged is very grave and a large number of Chosenese are implicated in it. Great care is being taken by the police authorities in the apprehension of the criminals and the collection of evidence, which is being undertaken in strict conformity with legal procedure. The majority of the accused are either Christian converts or students of mission schools. A certain mission school has had to suspend instruction in consequence of the arrest of a large number of its teachers and students. Some foreign missionaries regard this as Government persecution of Christians and have made an attempt to injure the credit of the authorities and impede the progress of the prosecution, to enable the criminals to escape punishment. Certain American missionaries have gone so far as to concoct a false rumour that the police authorities had forced criminals to make confession by torturing them. These parties will become conscious of the fact that their protégés are guilty of a serious crime when they are brought up for public trial and the nature of the offence proved against them is published. It is regrettable that there should exist amongst foreign missionaries men of dubious character whose conduct proves harmful to the interests of the State.

STATEMENT BY DR. HARRIS.

Dr. Harris of the Methodist Mission in Chosen was interviewed by the *Nichi Nichi*'s Seoul correspondent on the 19th instant, to whom he is quoted as having stated that the Methodist Mission under his supervision in Chosen has nothing to do with the allegations published by the *New York Herald* that the Governor-General of Chosen is subjecting the Chosenese converts to decapitation and other persecutions for the purpose of extirpating Christianity in Chosen. He heard that an American Bishop recently paid a visit to the Governor-General and then forwarded a report to the Mission Board at home, but he could hardly believe that the Bishop had reported that the Christian converts were being persecuted in Chosen. The Governor-General's Office had always shown profound sympathy with the foreign missionaries and a readiness to accord them every facility in their work. Since the annexation, the native converts had enjoyed the blessing of good government and highly appreciated the sincere desire of the Japanese Government to promote the safety and happiness of the Chosenese. It is very regrettable that a large number of students of the Mission Schools should have been found implicated in the conspiracy. If these converts really planned a conspiracy, their action was inexcusable from a humanitarian point of view. Crimes punishable by law are also forbidden by Christianity, and it is only proper that the offenders should be dealt

with by the law. The missionaries placed implicit confidence in the Governor-General and desired that the accused should be speedily submitted to a fair and impartial trial in the law courts.

There were amongst the accused some converts who had been expelled from the church. The presumption was, therefore, that they had made exaggerated reports to the authorities. Rumours may prevail amongst the Chosenese of the alleged cruel torture of the converts at the hands of the authorities, but he did not attach any credence to such rumours. He would rather believe that the authorities had not resorted to such barbarous measures. The police in all civilized countries had recourse to various methods to elicit confession of crime, and they should not be blamed on that score. A few days ago he paid a visit to Mr. Komatsu, chief of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, and exchanged views with him on the matter, and he then dispatched to the Mission Board at home a report that they could rely on the fair and impartial dealing of the Governor-General's Office in the matter. Under the old Korean regime, there were Chosenese who attempted to utilize Christianity for political purposes, to ventilate their grievances against the administration, but such elements have been eliminated since the annexation. Faithful and earnest converts had increased. The pessimistic opinion expressed in some quarters as to the future of the Mission was unwarranted.

ARREST OF FOREIGN MISSIONARY.

A Seoul dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that while there are many respectable foreign missionaries in Chosen who are faithfully and earnestly engaged in the propagation of the Gospel, there are also some dishonest missionaries, who make it their business to issue exaggerated reports. These missionaries not only discredit the honest missionaries, but they utter seditious statements to inspire anti-Japanese sentiments amongst their native followers, so that over one hundred converts are now being prosecuted in connection with the plot. Baron Yin, an influential member of the converts, has been apprehended, and the incident has given a great blow to Christianity in Chosen.

The latest intelligence reports the arrest of an American missionary named George Yokkan (?) as implicated in the plot. The converts under detention are all teachers and students of a mission school conducted by this missionary, and the middle school, the closure of which was reported by the *New York Herald*, is no other than this mission school. The locality where it is situated is in the centre of the Christian Mission in North Chosen and the converts number some three thousand. Since the prosecution started, the true converts have begun to sever their connection with the mission so that there remain only about 300 members, most of them being women. The drastic measures adopted by the Governor-General's Office have struck the foreign missionaries with terror and placed them on their guard.

The Portuguese Minister in London, Senhor T. Gomes, has informed Reuter's Agency that Portugal was never less disposed to part with her Colonies, and that even to mention such a thing was harmful to Portuguese patriotism. There have been no negotiations with or advances by any Power with regard to such a matter.

JAPANESE TEA.

EXTENSION OF THE MARKET.

Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, speaking at the meeting of the Central Tea Traders' Guild on the 15th instant, said that the total export of Japanese tea was valued at about 13 million *yen*, and when the domestic consumption was added, the value of the total production amounted to over 20 million *yen*. The best customer for Japanese tea was the United States. The United States was the largest coffee-drinking country in the world, but the demand for tea there was also by no means small. During the five years following 1897, in which an import tax had been imposed on tea in the United States, the tea trade had suffered a decrease, but since the repeal of the tea tax, the export to that country had shown a steady increase. The United States also demanded black tea in addition to green tea, but the demand for the latter always predominated. Of the green tea imported to that country, Japanese tea headed the list, so much so that it occupied 60 per cent. of the total green tea imported. Japanese tea possessed a quality which the product of other countries could not imitate, and the future of the trade was, therefore, bright. Canada also afforded a promising market, and it was hoped that the traders interested would study methods of extending the market in that direction. When the importation of coloured tea was vetoed by the United States last year, grave anxiety was entertained as to the effect on Japan's tea trade. China tea continued to be coloured and therefore a large quantity of it was rejected, but inasmuch as Japan had prohibited the manufacture of coloured tea and the tea traders' guilds were doing their best to ensure the effectual enforcement of the prohibition, Japanese tea had won a high place in the Canadian and American markets, which had led to a large increase in the exportation. This was a matter of congratulation, and gave scope for the extension of the market. It was therefore desirable that every precaution should be taken to exercise a strong control against the manufacture of adulterated tea, in order to improve the quality and minimize the cost of production, great care being also taken to widen the market. He would call the special attention of those present to the need of improvement in quality and an increase in the annual production. The improvement of quality was the best means for the extension of the market, as any development of the tea trade was hopeless if inferior or adulterated tea continued to be exported. Special care must also be taken to improve the quality of the product in Shikoku, Kyushu and other districts, which had won a bad reputation for producing inferior tea. It was regrettable to note that increase in the production did not always keep pace with extension of the tea trade and increase in the demand for home consumption, due to the increase in population. Pessimistic views at one time obtained as to the tea business, but he did not doubt it would prove a profitable undertaking if it were carried on as subsidiary work by the farmers utilizing the mountain slopes and other less productive land for tea plantations. It was desirable that great efforts should be made to increase the production in those districts fitted for the cultivation of tea.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The last number of the Asiatic Society of Japan's Transactions, that is to say, Part 4 of Volume 38, contains two remarkable articles, one entitled "Ancestral Worship in Japan" by Mr. R. J. Kirby; the other, "Japanese Feudal Law," by Mr. Consul-General J. C. Hall. The purpose of Mr. Kirby's article is to give an insight into ancestral worship in Japan, for which purpose he translates portions of the lectures delivered by Hirata Atsutane, whom he styles "the great exponent of the national religion of this Empire." Hirata flourished about a century ago. He wrote on many subjects but principally religion. With Buddhism and Confucianism he had no sympathy. Indeed, he despised everything alien, his conviction being that Japan had nothing to learn from foreign countries in the matter of religion; for although the gods, creators of the world, "belonged primarily to Japan, they had condescended to construct foreign countries on an inferior scale to Japan." Mr. Kirby justly says that it was by Hirata and his fellow-thinkers that the way was prepared for the restoration of the Emperor's administrative power after the advent of foreigners in the middle of the nineteenth century. This fact may be commended to the attention of those who have recently been writing of a "new religion in Japan." We ourselves, when that curious notion was mooted, pointed out that it could not possibly be reconciled with the history of the great movement that took place in this country about a hundred years ago, a movement which Sir Ernest Satow has described as the "revival of pure Shintō." Mr. Kirby gives copious and excellent translations to show the faith that underlay ancestral worship in Japan; a beautiful faith so far as it went, but scarcely worthy to be regarded as a satisfactory religion. At all events, if the ritual indicated by Hirata and his fellow-thinkers was observed, the life of every Japanese from birth to the grave would have been rich in acts of worship, and certainly such a life is impossible to reconcile with the theory that the Japanese are a non-religious people. But it must be confessed that the *Shintō* cult, as enunciated by this group of ethical teachers, leaves much to be desired in its conception of a future life, for no attempt is made to solve that great mystery. The souls of the dead are believed to be always present wherever they are worshipped, but as to their own happiness or unhappiness there is nothing said. Scholars like Mr. Kirby, who bring to the solution of these profoundly interesting questions, competence to translate the ancient books and patience to decipher them, deserve the grateful thanks of all students of Japan and the Japanese.

Mr. Consul-General Hall's article to the same number of the Society's Transactions is the third essay on the subject which he has contributed. His purpose is to bring within reach of the English-reading public a clear exposition of the law-codes which were in operation during the days of the Tokugawa *Shogunate*. It is scarcely necessary to observe that the legislation of a given era constitutes an accurate mirror of its ethical condition. Prior to the times of the Tokugawa, the codes in use in Japan were very elementary in character, as was not unnatural in a country where the central

Government exercised so little control throughout the provinces, and where, moreover, the Confucian dictum was generally observed, namely, that the people should be made to obey but not taught the reason why. From the days of Tokugawa Ieyasu, however, codes more or less complete were enacted, and their provisions were made operative in the case of all classes of Japanese, from the Imperial Court and the feudal nobility down to the commonest subject who formed a unit of the nation. Mr. Consul-General Hall brings to his task not only a thorough knowledge of the Japanese language, alike written and spoken, but also deep acquaintance with Occidental law. He is thus quite exceptionally equipped, and he has done his work in a manner consistent with his gifts. It is impossible within our narrow limits to convey anything like an accurate impression of these feudal codes and of the manners and customs as well as the morality they illustrate. We must leave that task to readers of the Asiatic Society's Transactions, already a mine of wealth to all students of Japan—a mine in which new veins are perpetually discovered when men like Messrs. Kirby and Hall approach it.

THE DRAMA IN CHINA.

VIEWS OF A JAPANESE M.P.

Mr. Shiba Shiro, M.P., who recently returned from a tour of inspection in China, has laid before a meeting of the Central Party a report on his observations. The most noteworthy feature in Hankow, he said, was the condition of trade. The price of commodities had risen considerably, and the Chinese city being demolished, business was at a standstill. The city should have been preserved by an armed force, but the Japanese commander of the united contingent had no power beyond the limits of the foreign settlements. The disaster might have been averted, if he had warned the belligerent parties against making the city the field of battle, but this step was not taken. The blunder was attributable to the lack of a thorough understanding between the military officers and the Foreign Office authorities.

Public confidence in Li Yuan-hung remained unshaken and his actions were beyond reproach. The discipline of the troops in Wuchang left much to be desired, however. The revolutionary soldiers were of all ages, ranging from fifteen to sixty, and many of them were of the coolie class.

The peace negotiations in Nanking were conducted merely for display. Hwang Hsing alone had sound views. Dr. Sun Yat-sen desired that Japan should forthwith give official recognition to the Southern Government, since otherwise she would provoke a hostile feeling amongst the people of South China. Dr. Sun had no strong determination and had betrayed weakness in his demeanour. The imposition of taxes by the Revolutionary Government had aroused opposition and collection would be impracticable for some years to come.

An understanding had been concluded between the South and North at an early stage of the peace negotiations, and all the subsequent pourparlers were merely for show. Yuan and his partisans had long been inclined to the republican polity, but not knowing this the Japanese Government expressed itself in favour of a monarchical

polity. Wu Ting-fang told Mr. Shiba that had Japan then resolutely advocated a monarchical polity, the South might have been done for, but Japan did not insist on it. When Mr. Shiba met Sun on January 24th last and told him that he was going to Peking, Sun told him that the Peking Government would have ceased to exist by the time he arrived. On his arrival at Peking on February 2nd, he found Sun's statement verified by fact. The drama was most cleverly planned.

The Mongolian plan seemed to have ended in failure. The population of Outer and Inner Mongolia was only three millions and Mongolia could not place more than ten thousand soldiers in the field. Russia's plan in Mongolia was so cleverly laid that Japan could hardly hope to imitate it.

Yuan Shih-kai had seven Army Divisions at his beck and call. His cunning diplomatic tactics were proving successful, so that his influence was now established. He had succeeded in inducing the Emperor to abdicate and had concentrated all the power in himself. The dispute as to the location of the capital would eventually end in the selection of Peking.

It would seem that there existed some understanding between Japan and Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern provinces. It had been planned to declare the independence of Manchuria to start with, but the scheme was frustrated by the invasion of the revolutionary army. Some attempts were made to dispatch troops there, while in other cases independent action was adopted. Conflicts and lack of unity were thus fully betrayed. An unreserved exposure of China's policy would bring to light many contradictions and failures. The true nature of the drama planned by Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen had now been disclosed, but past events were beyond recall.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, February 16.

Prices are dropping slowly but steadily.

Saturday, February 17.

There is no sign of anything like steady improvement in the share-market. The tone on Saturday morning showed some buoyancy but prices fell in the afternoon.

Monday, February 19.

There is nothing to report. Stagnation still continues.

Tuesday, February 20.

The morning session was very dull but some slight improvement was witnessed in the afternoon.

Wednesday, February 21.

Prices all fell yesterday.

Thursday, February 21.

The fall continues without check. Latest quotations are:—

	Feb. 21st.	Feb. 22nd.
Kel-Hin Railway.....	51.80	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	119.05	119.00
Toyo Kisen.....	48.30	48.10
Specie Bank.....	218.20	217.70
Tanko Kisen.....	25.00	24.85
Tokyo Gas.....	73.40	73.15
Tokyo Dento.....	70.40	70.15
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	88.00	87.55
Tokyo Spinning.....	51.40	52.00
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	108.65	109.00
Beer.....	88.50	88.30
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	62.75	63.45
Nippon Oil.....	72.45	72.60
Rice Exchange.....	112.50	112.90
Stock Exchange.....	166.00	165.80

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, February 17.)

THE conflict which has hitherto been waged between the Insurgents in the Yangtze Valley and the Imperialists in Peking has not been terminated by the abdication of the EMPEROR, but has merely entered a new phase. To put the matter briefly, the Republican leaders refuse to acknowledge the authority exercised by the retiring Sovereign in his final Edicts. They say, in effect, that while his Majesty was competent to divest himself of his regal functions, he had no competence to invest another with powers to be exercised after the abdication. This evidently amounts to saying that the EMPEROR had no right to give a mandate to YUAN SHIH-KAI for the purpose of forming a new Cabinet. YUAN must be duly elected and his functions entrusted to him by the Government at Nanking. He cannot organize any new Government of his own authority or in accordance with the instructions of the retired Sovereign. In short, the Republicans insist that from the moment of the Emperor's abdication the right to manage State affairs devolved upon the Nanking Government, and the fact must be definitely recognized. President SUN himself sets a good example. In strict adherence to his previous declarations he announces his retirement from the post of President of the new Republic. When, some time ago, he declared his determination to take this step, he qualified the promise with so many provisos that the public became sceptical as to the practical validity of the engagement. People understood SUN to pledge himself that so soon as ever a republican form of government was established, and so soon as it had received the recognition of foreign Powers, he himself would step aside in deference to another President duly chosen by the people. Neither of these cardinal provisos can yet be said to have been settled, nevertheless SUN thinks himself obliged to interpret his promise thus liberally. He resigns his position as President. Thus far a spirit of peace prevails. But he accompanies his resignation with a logical demand, namely, that the Nanking Government must be regarded as the depository of administrative power, and that YUAN must either come there for his mandate or send somebody duly qualified to represent him. It will be observed that from the Republicans' point of view this is mainly a question of etiquettes. It makes no practical difference from what source the mandate proceeds. But YUAN will certainly not be willing to recognize and bow to Nanking's supremacy, since such procedure would amount to depriving him of all the administrative attributes conferred on him by the late EMPEROR. Thus a new source of dissension has been found. It will be observed that

SUN recommends YUAN as the new President of the Republic, but that concession cannot suffice to win YUAN's complacence.

The members of SUN's Cabinet in Nanking are said to be even more determined than their leader as to the impossibility of recognizing the source of the authority which YUAN is claiming. These statesmen vehemently repudiate the notion that a retiring sovereign can delegate his prerogatives to a subject. That, they say, would be a direct contradiction of the act of abdication. In short, they repudiate altogether that portion of the Imperial Decree which delegates full powers to YUAN and they insist that powers thus derived can have no validity in practice. YUAN is said to be appealing for foreign assistance in this matter, but it is difficult to see how any practical assistance can be rendered.

It will have been observed that one of YUAN's first acts after the abdication of the EMPEROR was to issue an instruction to all the Viceroys and Governors throughout the country, enjoining upon them the duty of maintaining the *status quo* in a peaceful and orderly manner until a new system could be duly organized. Against this message, also, the Republican leaders protest vehemently. They regard it as altogether *ultra vires*. Thus, in a word, a state of sharp discord between the North and the South has been developed, and both sides are said to be talking of a fresh appeal to arms. But however Chinese statesmen may stickle for etiquette, it is scarcely possible that they should draw the sword to cut such a petty knot as that described here. The southern leaders are understood to make a great complaint about the fact that whereas abdication took place on the 12th instant an Imperial Decree was issued on the 13th. But surely the Republicans must recognize that some anomaly could not be avoided in carrying out such an unprecedented measure as that which has just been handled in Peking. If there be any sincere desire to find a working basis of agreement, and if the real cause of dissension be not personal ambition, there should be no difficulty whatever in arriving at an understanding.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, February 21.)

THERE can be no question that the attitude of the principal Japanese newspapers is not friendly to YUAN SHIH-KAI. From the outset, the sympathies of a large section of the Japanese nation were with the Yangtze Insurgents, evidently because the latter were believed to be fighting sincerely for the overthrow of the Manchu Dynasty, and its replacement by a form of government in which the ruled would have a voice as well as the rulers. So long as that prospect was in sight, the leaders of the Popular Party in Japan supported SUN,

HWANG and LI in their insurrection. But now things have assumed a very different character. It has become patent that even the combined strength of these three leaders could not make head against the force of intellect and of resource possessed by YUAN SHIH-KAI. In fact, the whole movement has insured to the advantage of YUAN, who may now be said to be the King of China and to be standing with his foot planted on the heads of the men who planned and started the revolution. In these circumstances, Japanese sympathy, or at any rate the sympathy of a section of the Japanese people, has been eliminated from SUN and his colleagues, and these politicians are disposed to abstain from all future interference. Meanwhile, however, Mr. INUKAI KI has started on a second visit to China, and that step does not suggest that he has abandoned his interest in the drama of the Middle Flowery State. Nevertheless, there is another party which, we venture to think, represents the sentiment of a large number of the Japanese people. This party strongly deprecates the idea of sitting in judgment on the political ethics of a neighbouring country. However defective may be the conduct of certain Chinese from the point of view of chivalry, they are, after all, the men to whom their country is willing to entrust the management of its affairs. That fact should suffice to determine the attitude of the Japanese nation. Leave the Chinese untrammelled to deal with Chinese affairs. Their right to a free hand in that respect is undeniable, and must be deferred to, until Japanese vested interests are threatened or assailed. The fact is that a tinge of romance lingers in the background of all Japanese politics. The people of this country think that YUAN SHIH-KAI should have fought for the monarchical principle which he originally espoused, and that by transferring his allegiance to the Republican side, he forfeited all title to the sympathies of really loyal persons. But if the Chinese themselves are content to entrust their destinies to the hands of YUAN SHIH-KAI and his lieutenants, it is not for an alien State to place any obstacle in the path. Ideas of political morality must be suffered to differ in different circumstances and in the practices of different people.

CHINA'S PROBLEM.

(The Japan Daily Mail, February 22.)

IT may be presumed that the leaders of the Chinese nation look to have a republic which will take the form of a federation of states somewhat after the model of the great American prototype. But by whom is the system to be constructed? Did China possess several scores of jurisconsults equipped, as is Mr. WU TING-FANG, alike with exceptional ability and wide knowledge, she might look to emerge from her semi-chaotic condition of

provincial make-shift Government into an orderly and well coördinated polity. But we doubt whether any one will be found so sanguine as to seriously look for such a result. Yet it is not inconceivable that if China utilized her opportunity with exceptional adroitness she might come into possession of a scheme of government superior to that of any Republic in existence. Plenty of literature is available for her guidance. Such works as the recently published volumes from the pen of Mr. PAUL S. REINSCH, Professor of political science in the University of Wisconsin, should be quite invaluable to her statesmen as setting forth in full the defects and incongruities of a system which, after all, is the best that human genius has hitherto succeeded in elaborating for the government of the people by the people. But the great question is will she have time to utilize this voluminous library; to sift the good from the bad, and to prepare her intricate machinery fully, or anything like fully, before she begins to apply it to the problems of civic existence. If she could arrest her national and international life at this stage, and lay herself upon a shelf, as it were, until complete preparations had been made before she entered once more the arena of general activity, there might be some hope of success. But years, several years, would be needed for such a task, and in China's case weeks alone will be available. The outer world will not leave her the leisure to work out her huge problem carefully and quietly. She will have to shoulder all her responsibilities and fulfil all her obligations just as though no fracture had occurred in her body politic. Already more than a week has passed since she lost the authority by which her affairs had been managed during nearly three centuries, and she has not yet made up her mind as to the place where her jurisconsults should come together to discuss the situation. Even those among us, and there are many, who repose large faith in the Chinaman's sobriety of judgment and respect for order, must review the existing situation with something like consternation. As for the Japanese, they evidently regard the events of the past three months as nothing more than the prelude to a long drama of political intrigue and personal rivalry in the neighbouring State.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It is stated that Mr. Takenouchi Tsuna, a member of the House of Representatives, has donated a sum of 800,000 yen for the purpose of establishing an industrial school in Tosa. It was not generally known that Mr. Takenouchi's fortune warranted such munificence, but coal-mining at Karatsu has made him a very wealthy man. For several years he has maintained seven graduates of the Imperial University in foreign countries to serve as a staff for the proposed college. These

scholars have now returned, and steps will at once be taken to establish the school in Tosa which is Mr. Takenouchi's native place.

Some excitement is being caused in Tokyo by a municipal plan to construct from Hongo to Oji a public road 24 yards wide, which would cut right through the middle of Asuka-yama. The cost would be 80,000 yen, and no advantages are stated to atone for the destruction of one of the most beautiful spots in the suburbs of Tokyo. Four hundred fine trees would have to be sacrificed, and we are sincerely glad to perceive that a strong party has been organized to oppose such an act of vandalism as this seems to be; in the absence of any valid reasons.

The Privy Council met on Wednesday afternoon when Baron Hosokawa, Chairman of the Committee appointed to investigate and report on the proposed revision of the Election Law, reported in favour of the revision. The Bill was approved with a slight amendment.

As already reported, a religious conference is to be held under the auspices of the Home Office at 3 p.m. on the 25th instant in the Peers' Club, and invitations have been issued to 79 delegates of various Shinto, Buddhist and Christian sects. The representatives of the Christian sects invited are reported to be as under:—Bishop Everard (Catholic), Mr. Miyagawa Tsuneteru (Kumiai), Mr. Ibuka Haginosuke (Nippon), Mr. Honda Yoichi (Methodist), Mr. Motoda Sakunoshin (St. Andrews), Mr. Chiba Yūgoro (Baptist), and Mr. Ishikawa Kisaburo (Harista).

Rear-Admiral Arakawa, Commander of the Second Destroyer fleet, wires to the Admiralty, under date of the 15th instant, that the fleet passed Cape Ose at 12.30 a.m. on the 15th and expected to arrive at Saseho that evening. During the voyage the fleet encountered a heavy storm which lasted over forty hours. The *Hibiki* and *Kamikaze* sustained some damage to their masts, while all the destroyers suffered minor injuries. The fleet was able to maintain its line throughout the stormy weather, which was a credit to the officers and crew of each vessel.

Later intelligence reports that the fleet safely arrived at Saseho at 7 p.m. on the 15th instant.

Mr. Nishino, Managing Director of the Imperial Theatre, is to start on a tour of inspection abroad, leaving Yokohama by the T.K.K. liner *Chiyo Maru*, on the 27th instant. Mr. Nishino will be accompanied by his wife. Mr. Tedzuka assumes the management of the theatre during his absence.

The Doshisha Daigaku, a private university recently inaugurated by the Doshisha College in Kyoto, having obtained the official recognition of the Department of Education, will be opened from April next. The University consists of three colleges—political-economy, English, and divinity, the regular course being three years, in addition to an eighteen months' preparatory course. In addition to the professors of the present Doshisha College, the University

will engage the services of Dr. Ukita of Waseda University.

The erection of the bronze statue of the late Prince Komatsu in Uyeno Park has been completed and the unveiling ceremony is to take place on March 18th. The statue represents the late Prince on horseback and is 12 feet in height. The designer is Mr. Okuma Ujihiro and the statue was cast by the arsenal. An area of sixty-four *tsubo* was chosen in front of the Toshogu shrine, where a bell tower formerly existed. The statue is on a granite base.

FIRES.

A San Francisco telegram reaching Tokyo reports that a disastrous fire broke out in the city of Galveston in Texas on the 21st instant. Eighteen blocks were burnt down and the damage is estimated at 5,000,000 dollars. Several thousands were rendered homeless. The flames spread in all directions with fearful rapidity and dynamite was freely used to destroy the buildings to check the spread of the conflagration.

A disastrous fire occurred on Wednesday night last at Matsuhara, Ibaraki prefecture, resulting in the destruction of some ten houses. The fire originated in a Japanese restaurant, and the inmates, four in number, were all burnt to death.

About half past eight o'clock on Sunday evening last, fire broke out in a workshop of the Yokohama Electric Wire Company, Takashimacho, Nichome. The flames rapidly spread to five other buildings of the Company and finally resulted in the destruction of the whole factory. The cause of the fire and the loss sustained are still under investigation. This is the second time that the factory has been destroyed by fire, the first disaster having occurred some six years ago.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The figures of Japan's foreign trade during the ten days ending the 20th instant were as follow:—

	Yen.
Exports	12,699,000
Imports	15,597,000
Excess of Imports	2,898,000
The returns from January 1st to February 20th are:—	
	Yen.
Exports	55,749,000
Imports	55,196,000
Excess of Imports	29,447,000

Compared with 1911.

	Yen.	Yen.
Exports	55,749,000	+ 3,009,000
Imports	55,196,000	+ 2,173,000
Excess of Imports	29,447,000	

THE PREVENTION OF STRIKES.

The petition filed in the Lower House by the Japan Branch of the International Peace Forum, calling the attention of the Government to the Canadian Industrial Dispute Investigation Act for the prevention of strikes, was unanimously passed for recommendation to the Government at the sub-committee meeting of the Petition Committee of the Lower House on Tuesday. The Committee recommended the petition for adoption by the House and also that a law be drafted by the Government in time for presentation during the present session. The Government delegate expressed his conviction of the necessity of such a law, but he did not commit himself as to the time of presenting the bill to the House. He assured the Committee that he was in full sympathy with the necessary measures to be taken for the prevention of strikes involving public losses and inconvenience.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S ELECTION.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

Nanking, February 16.

Yuan Shih-kai has been unanimously elected Provisional President by the representatives of seventeen provinces.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his Cabinet will lay down their offices when the President arrives at Nanking.

The Assembly insists that the presence of Yuan Shih-kai is essential in order that he may take the oath.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Peking, February 14.

According to Tsai Ting-kau, Yuan Shih-kai will organize a Republican Government in Peking, without the least regard to the Nanking Government, and preside over it himself before entering into negotiations with the Southern Government.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Hankow, February 14.

The third Northern Expedition, composed of about 1,200 men, has left Kueitinfu for Wuchang.

POSITION AT FUCHOW.

Fuchow, February 15.

News was received here on the 13th instant of the issue of an Imperial Edict recognizing the Republican Government. The town is quiet and business is expected to revive.

FEELING AT NANKING.

Nanking, February 14.

The Nanking Revolutionists greatly resent that the Imperial Edicts of abdication make no recognition of the Nanking Government and assign the sovereignty to Yuan Shih-kai; and also ignore the revolutionists' protest against making the title of Emperor hereditary. Great dissatisfaction is expressed and the sincerity of Yuan is much doubted. Some revolutionists advocate the continuance of the war. The State Council will meet to-day to consider the situation.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Mukden, February 15.

* The delegates of Outer Mongolia are now instigating Inner Mongolia to declare independence and are supplying them with arms and munitions of war for that purpose. The opinion of the Princes of Inner Mongolia is divided. A Mongolian Prince named A, now in Peking, is apparently brooding over a plan and has dispatched his secretary to Mukden to start a movement.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

Nanking, February 15.

The State Council to-day adopted unanimously a resolution in favour of the election of Yuan Shih-kai as the first President of the Chinese Republic and asked that Yuan Shih-kai should come to Nanking.

Nanking, February 15.

According to Thursday's issue of the Chinese papers, yesterday Sun Yat-sen and all other Ministers of State tendered their resignations *en bloc*. Yuan's telegram in favour of the republican polity has had the effect of alleviating the suspicions entertained towards him, but dissatisfaction it still expressed for the delay in his arrival at Nanking.

Nanking, February 16.

Tang Shao-i is to proceed to Peking as

special envoy of the Nanking Government to inform Yuan Shih-kai of his election to the Presidency of the Chinese Republic and to obtain his consent to the installation.

SITUATION AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, February 15.

The situation in Kaiyuan and Changtu is disquieting. The revolutionists in Tieling proposed to rise in arms on the 14th instant, when reinforcements were expected from Kaiyuan, but no uprising has yet taken place. Unrest, nevertheless, prevails. The revolutionists in Liaoyang and Hai-cheng are showing great activity, but they have not yet risen in arms. The Edict of abdication has not caused any tumult in Mukden, and the citizens trust to a peaceful solution of the situation. Viceroy Chao convened the commanders of the troops, Chief of Police and other officials in the *yamen* on the 14th and instructed them to induce the public to accept the Edict quietly as inevitable. Copies of the Edict were placarded in conspicuous places in the town.

Mukden, February 15.

Tuan Chi-kuei arrived at Mukden on the morning of the 15th instant. Another report has it that the General arrived on the afternoon of the 14th.

ATTACK ON HWANGHSIEN.

Chefoo, February 15.

The revolutionists in Shantung attacked Hwanghsien on the morning of the 15th instant and took possession of the town at noon, without the loss of a single soldier.

BRITISH TROOPS LEAVE TIENSIN.

Shanhaikwan, February 15.

A British infantry company left Tientsin for Weihaiwei via Chinwangtao on the 15th instant.

THE FUTURE CAPITAL.

Peking, February 15.

In response to an inquiry of the *Corps Diplomatique*, Yuan Shih-kai has asserted that the Republican Government will be organized in Peking.

TROUBLE IN THIBET.

Nanking, February 15.

According to a despatch from Thibet, great tumult and agitation prevails, and a large number of Chinese have been killed by the Thibetans.

MR. HOMER LEA.

Nanking, February 15.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Sun Yat-sen, refusing to appoint Mr. Homer Lea as Army adviser of the new Government.

THE ISOLATION OF NANKING.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuo* says that Yuan Shih-kai dispatched Tuan Chi-jin to Wuchang as a secret emissary to visit Li Yuan-hang. As a result of the conference it has been decided to nominate Li as candidate for the Vice-Presidency. The rumour of the isolation of Nanking is not wholly groundless. Tuan has returned to Peking and is in conference with Yuan Shih-kai.

YUAN ACCEPTS THE PRESIDENCY.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 17.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs from Peking that Yuan Shih-kai has sent a humble reply to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, accepting the Presidency. He trusts that he will fulfil the expectations of the nation and the friendly Powers,

and says he will await the arrival of delegates to confer regarding the seat of Government, as the question requires very careful consideration.

He adds that if he goes to Nanking it will be rather hazardous, as opportunities will be afforded for complications in international relations.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE REPUBLICAN FLAG.

Niuchwang, February 16.

The *Taotai* of Yinkow and Antung and the Chamber of Commerce received the following telegram from Lan Tien-wei, commander of the Northern Expedition, on the 16th instant:—

"President Sun has issued a telegraphic instruction commanding the magistracy and other *yamens* in Kwantung to haul down the Yellow Dragon flag and hoist the five coloured flag of the new Republic of China. If your institutions continue to fly the Yellow Dragon flag, you will be deemed an enemy of the Republic and forthwith bombarded."

SITUATION AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, February 16.

Tuan Chi-kuei had an interview with Viceroy Chao on the 14th instant, when he laid before the Viceroy a full report on the negotiations with the Revolutionists and the final abdication of the Emperor and urged him to issue a notification to set the public mind at rest. The Viceroy lost no time in intimating to the troops the Emperor's abdication and later issued a notification to the public. It is rumoured that Chang Tso-liu is feeling great uneasiness and contemplates seeking refuge in the Russian territory with the 100 soldiers under his command.

REPUBLIC PROCLAIMED AT TIEHLING.

Tieling, February 16.

In view of the disquieting situation in Tieling, a detachment of the Japanese guard was dispatched to the mixed residential quarter outside the town wall on the 15th instant.

Tieling, February 17.

The whole of the forces in Tieling have accepted the Republican polity, which radically alters the situation. The town fell into the hands of the Revolutionists at 6.30 p.m. on the 16th instant without further resistance. The revolutionary flag was thus hoisted in the *yamen*. The police force was disarmed and the citizens fired crackers to welcome the Republican regime. The revolutionists have learned that about 300 mounted and foot soldiers are on the march to the town from Mukden, and therefore remained encamped outside the town walls last night to prepare for an encounter.

Tieling, February 17.

Upon the entrance of the Revolutionists into the town yesterday the Japanese authorities preferred a demand that any fighting should take place 2,000 metres off the southern end of the Settlement to avert danger to lives and property in the settlement. The Revolutionists consented to the demand. About 200 Imperial soldiers arrived from Mukden to-day, when the Japanese authorities preferred a similar demand. Over 100 Imperial mounted soldiers are also expected to arrive to-day. The crisis thus remains unremoved. Not a single Chinese policeman is seen on patrol in

the town, which is guarded by the Japanese police force.

Later.

Tiehling has just fallen into the hands of the Revolutionists. All the Chinese officials fled, and order and peace are being maintained by the Revolutionists. The foreign residents are protected by the Japanese police force.

Port Arthur, February 17.

According to the dispatch received from the Superintendent of the Tiehling branch of the Police Office, the revolutionists entered the town at 10 o'clock last night. All the Chinese police force fled and over 130 convicts broke from jail and made good their escape. The town is vigilantly guarded.

THE MONGOLIAN PRINCES.

Peking, February 16.

The Mongolian Princes now in Peking met in conference on the 15th instant when they decided to reject Yuan Shih-kai's advice and not to accept the Republican polity.

BUSINESS AT HANGCHOW.

Hangchow, February 16.

The Imperial Edict of abdication has been issued. The Edict has produced a salutary effect on the minds of the people, and the internal trouble in the Military Government has been somewhat pacified. Business is visibly improving. The silk-textile firms have begun to stop throwing out their stocks in anticipation of future improvement.

RECEPTION AT YINKOW.

Yinkow, February 17.

Acting under instructions of the controller of the Chinese Customs, the Customs House at Yinkow hoisted the Republican flag from the 16th instant. The Taotai's yamen, Chamber of Commerce and the local self governing association also received a telegraphic note from Lan Tien-wei, Commander of the Northern Expedition, to hoist the Republican flag in place of the Yellow Dragon flag. The note was accompanied by a threat that these institutions will otherwise be regarded as the enemy of the Republic.

HANKOW QUIET.

Hankow, February 18.

The Customs House and other leading public corporations in Hankow all hoisted the new Republican flag. The town is quiet. The commander and officers of the warship *Chiyoda* were invited to a ball given by the Russian Club on the 16th instant. The Directors of the Foreign Affairs Bureau and the Civil Administration Bureau in Wuchang were also present at the function.

SITUATION AT PEKING.

Peking, February 17.

Since the promulgation of the Edict of abdication the situation in the city remains unchanged. The Government officials who fled from the city are gradually returning to the capital to attend to their respective duties to close the pending business at the end of the year (Chinese calendar).

AN OBSTINATE TAOTAI.

Port Arthur, February 18.

The President of the Chambers of Commerce in Yinkow demanded that the Taotai should hoist the Republican flag, but the demand was flatly refused. The Revolutionists in Kungchuling handed over to the Chinese Authorities the local administration at 9 p.m. on the 17th instant. The yamen is to hoist the new Republican flag from the

18th. The Taotai's yamen at Changchun hoisted the Republican flag from the 17th instant.

TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT AT TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, February 17.

Tien Wen-leh, commander of the Gendarmerie of the Tung-ying, has arrived here under the instructions of Yuan Shih-kai and is making preparations for the establishment of a Temporary Government. Of the southern Revolutionists Hwang Hsing's party alone offers any resistance to Yuan. It is presumed that all the Revolutionists will eventually accept Yuan.

Chang Hsun, who long advocated the principle of constitutional monarchy, has at last surrendered to the Revolutionists. The Three Eastern provinces still show a disposition to proclaim their independence.

CRISIS AT KILIN.

Kilin, February 17.

Owing to the rumour current that the Revolutionists have under contemplation the bombardment of the town, over one half of the soldiers of the 23rd regiment stationed here have deserted their barracks. The situation is critical.

RUSSIAN OPINION.

St. Petersburg, February 17.

The local papers report that the situation in China is now hopeless. Yuan, Li Yuan-hung and Sun Yat-sen will organize separate Governments.

THE ASSASSINS.

Mukden, February 17.

A rumour is current that about 2,000 soldiers under Chang Tso-lin will start a general slaughter after the return of the "assassination party," which has been dispatched to various localities.

THE SOUTHERN DEPUTATION.

A Peking dispatch to this *Chuo* says that Yuan Shih-kai is causing preparations to be made for the reception of the special envoys to be sent to Peking from Nanking and Wuchang. The names of these envoys are not yet made public, but Wang Chaoming, Tsai Yuan-pei, Wang Shang-ting and Tang Shao-i are to start from Shanghai on the 17th instant followed by Wu Ting-fang a few days later. Hwang Hsing will probably accompany the party. The envoys will embark on board a British warship from Shanghai. The warship will either proceed to Chinwangtao direct or call at Dairen. A belief obtains in Diplomatic circles that Yuan will give his final consent after the receipt of the official note announcing the election of Yuan to the presidency.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

YUAN AND THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

Peking, February 17.

Not only is Yuan Shih-kai instigating Li Yuan-hung to show strong opposition to the Nanking Government, but he has also succeeded in setting Tang Shouchen, Changchun and other influential revolutionist leaders on his side. He has also succeeded in prevailing upon Sun Yat-sen to join hands with him through Wu Ting-fang, Tang Shao-i and other Canton factions of the revolutionists, and is thus bringing pressure to bear upon Hwang Hsing and other revolutionists.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF MONGOLIA.

Peking, February 17.

Colonial of Mongolia has dispatched a

delegate to Kulon to confer with the *Gegen* regarding future action, with a view to a declaration of independence.

THE MONGOLIAN PRINCES.

Peking, February 17.

The Mongolian princes have resolved that they would rather come under Russia's protection than accept the Republican polity, and if Russia refuses to give them protection, they will appeal to Japan.

LI YUAN-HUNG.

Hankow, February 17.

When Yuan Shih-kai was in the South at the head of the Imperial Army, Li Yuan-hung called upon Yuan to join hands with the Revolutionists and exert himself for the Republican cause. Yuan consented to the proposal, but not only has he caused the solution of the situation to be unduly protracted through various devices, but also he has not yet brought the peace negotiations to a conclusion under different pretexts. Li Yuan-hung strongly resents Yuan's action and asserts that he will again rise in arms with eighty thousand men under his command, if Yuan attempts to delay further the solution of the situation.

THE CHINESE PRESIDENCY.

Kilin, February 16.

The Deputy Viceroy of Kilin telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai on the 14th instant that the various bodies in Kilin commend Yuan as President of the Republic of China.

YUAN AND NANKING.

Nanking, February 18.

The majority of the deputies in Nanking look forward to the arrival of Yuan. Sun Yat-sen and Hwang Hsing persist in Yuan arriving in a week's time. Drs. Terao and Soyeyima, Japanese legal advisers, are rather disappointed. They have resigned their appointments simultaneously with the resignation of Sun Yat-sen and have gone to Shanghai. Many Europeans and American visitors are arriving at Nanking for the purpose of sight-seeing.

REPUBLICAN FLAG AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, February 18.

All the people displayed the new Republican flag on the 18th by order of the Viceroy. All the yamens and private houses in Antung and Kungchuling also hoisted the five-coloured flag. The Taotai's yamen at Changchun also followed suit on the 17th, while inside the town an American resident hoisted the five-coloured flag along with the Stars and Stripes. The situation is pacific in the towns of Kaiyuan and Changtu. The revolutionists who entered Yinkow have dispersed.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS AT TIEHLING.

Tiehling, February 16.

The Self Governing Association and Chamber of Commerce in Tiehling pressed the local authorities to surrender to the Revolutionists to avert the damage that might be inflicted on the town. The local authorities were thus compelled to consent to the surrender, seeing resistance was futile. About 300 Imperial troops who are now to the south of Tiehling are making efforts to regain the town.

THE EASTERN PROVINCES.

Mukden, February 18.

Yuan Shih-kai, signing himself the new chief magistrate, telegraphed to Lan Tien-wei that the Republic has been proclaimed. The Three Eastern Provinces are important

regions where international relations exist. Any disturbance would, therefore, endanger the general situation, for which the Republic must hold itself responsible. It was therefore desirable that he should come to a peaceful agreement with the local authorities.

Lan Tien-wei wired back that his action was dictated by a desire to promote the welfare of the country and people. He would conduct affairs in a peaceful manner, and desired Yuan to make his intention known to the authorities and people in the three Eastern provinces.

REVOLUTIONISTS AT HARBIN.

Harbin, February 18.
The Revolutionists who have been lying concealed in Harbin started a movement on the night of the 16th instant and attacked the Chinese *yamen* in that town on the 17th, taking possession of Tienkiatien, the Chinese town. The police all surrendered and are on duty with a piece of white cloth round their left arms. Russia placed guards at twenty paces distant along the front of the Settlement, and a cavalry company was also placed on guard. The Russian town is quiet. The Revolutionists marched towards An Shih and Shuang-cheng-pao on the 16th to capture the town.

VICEROY CHAO.

Mukden, February 18.
Viceroy Chao invited the members of the Consular body to a banquet on the 17th instant in order to take the opportunity of explaining his own position subsequent to the issue of the Edict of abdication.

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

Peking, February 18.
It is reported that there exists a secret understanding between Yuan and Russia regarding Russia's action in Mongolia. China will, therefore, not put forward a protest.

POSITION AT KIAUCHAU.

Peking, February 18.
In compliance with the demand of the Governor-General of Kiauchau the German Minister has preferred to Yuan Shih-kai a demand that no fighting should take place within a radius of 100 Chinese *li* around the leased territory.

YUAN'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH.

Nanking, February 19.
It remains doubtful if Yuan will proceed to the South in response to the demand of the Nanking Government. The Government decided to despatch Tsai Yuan-pei and Wang Chao-ming, together with Wang Shang-tung, from Wuchang, and several other delegates of the revolutionary army, to Peking to urge Yuan to come to Nanking. The departure of Wu Ting-fang for the north has been postponed owing to the pressure of official business.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS LOAN.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that the China Merchants S.N. Company's loan will be postponed in consonance with the desire of Yuan Shih-kai until after the completion of the organization of the new Government.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

YUAN'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH.

Nanking, February 19.
The revolutionary leaders intend to settle everything on Yuan's arrival at Nanking, and have decided to send a deputation to

Peking to accompany Yuan to the South. The deputation will leave Shanghai for Peking by the sea route on the 21st instant in company with Tang Shao-i.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC.

New York, February 19.
The Chinese Association in the United States has presented to the President, as well as the Senate and Congress, a petition that the United States should take the lead in giving official recognition to the Republic of China.

THE TROOPS IN MANCHURIA.

Chefoo, February 19.
A Chinese steamer left Chefoo for Antung on the 19th instant for the conveyance of the troops to be withdrawn from Manchuria.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Peking, February 19.
The withdrawal of the Second Division has commenced since the 18th instant. The troops from Yingping have returned to their barracks in the town.

VICEROY CHAO.

Mukden, February 19.
Viceroy Chao Erh-sun of the Three Eastern Provinces has received Yuan's proclamation, dated February 18th of the First Year of the Republic of China, announcing the organization of a temporary government. The Viceroy has sent to the Consular Body in Mukden a circular note, stating that he would continue to transact the official business under the new regime and also that the Republic has decided to adopt the five-coloured flag.

YUAN AND MANCHURIA.

Mukden, February 19.
The various public bodies in the Three Eastern Provinces sent to Yuan a joint telegram on the 16th instant, which reads as under:—"The Republican Government has now come into existence. There is no more competent man than Yuan Shih-kai to assume the Presidency. We know that your Excellency has received a telegram from the South commending you to the Presidency and that your Excellency has consented to accept it. Where the popular wish is, there is the truth. We hope your Excellency will assume the Presidency and establish a new administration in consonance with the popular wishes."

TROUBLE AT FAKUMEN.

Port Arthur, February 19.
The superintendent of the Tieling branch of the Japanese police force reports that last night the revolutionists rose in arms at Fakumen and exchanged fire with the local guards. The town still remains in the hands of the Imperialists. All the Japanese residents there have taken refuge in the Fakumen sub-branch of the police office.

INSURGENTS VICTORIOUS.

Peking, February 19.
According to a telegram from Changkiakan a band of insurgents rose at Hoanchishan near Changkiakan. They are fully equipped with guns and rifles. Two infantry battalions were dispatched from the First Division, but the expedition was repulsed and Hecanchin district has fallen into the hands of the insurgents.

THE RIVAL CAPITALS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that the inexpediency of Yuan's leaving Peking is now generally admitted, but as the majority of the Chinese are in favour of

making Nanking the capital of China, Yuan cannot well ignore the demand. A belief obtains that the matter will be ultimately settled on the conditions that a temporary government be established in Tientsin and the national assembly be convened there; that the President and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and War shall reside in Peking, and that all other government offices shall be located in Nanking under the supervision of a Minister President.

Yuan purposes to appoint Tang Shao-i as Minister President and Hwang Hsing, as Minister of War.

Despite various rumours, the organization of the new Government is said to be making progress and the conflict of sentiment between the South and North is being smoothed away, owing to the efforts of Great Britain. This friendly mediation is highly appreciated by North and South alike.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

YUAN AND THE SOUTH.

Shanghai, February 19.
Tang Shao-i confidently declares that Yuan Shih-kai will come to the South.

ANARCHY AT TIEHLING.

Tieling, February 20.
The local Military Government was dissolved at 1 o'clock this morning and over 300 troops retired in the direction of Chungken. Since then, anarchy has prevailed. The town is, therefore, guarded by the Japanese police force.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Hankow, February 20.
Li Yuan-hung has declined to accept the Vice-Presidency, but the State Council to-day decided to re-elect him. The rumour of Hwang Hsing's acceptance of the portfolio of War under Yuan Shih-kai's regime seems not to be entirely groundless.

Peking, February 20.
According to a rumour, the composition of the new Ministry is as under:—

Vice-President	Li Yuan-hung.
Prime Minister	Tang Shao-i.
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Wu Ting-fang.
" " Justice	Wang Chung-bui.
" " Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun.
" " Finance	Hsiung Hsi-ling.
" " Communications	Liang Tsi.
" " Agriculture and Commerce	Chang Chien.
" " War	Tuan Chi-jui.
" " Navy	(Uncertain.)

Nanking, February 21.
Yuan Shih-kai is in consultation with Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the matter of the selection of the portfolio holders in the new Ministry. It has been decided to appoint Tang Shao-i as Prime Minister, Wu Ting-fang as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Chao Ping-chun as Minister of Home Affairs. Hwang Hsing was first nominated to the post of Minister of War, but he declined to accept it, and the post was assigned to Tuan Chi-jui. Both the south and north are pushing the negotiations, appealing to their patriotism.

THE DEPUTATION FROM THE SOUTH.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that the deputation of the Nanking Government to be sent to Peking to accompany Yuan Shih-kai to the south consists of Tsai Yuan-pei, Minister of Education, and eighteen other great officials of the Nanking Government. The deputation is to start from Shanghai on the 21st instant by the China Merchants *Hanyu*, proceeding direct to Chinwangtao.

stated the policy remained unchanged. The Government would foster a sound national spirit in consonance with the Imperial Edict.

Mr. Kuwada asked if the Government would or would not bring the Factory Law into operation from the 46th fiscal year.

Mr. Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated in reply that the matter was still under consideration. The Government intended to bring the law into operation, but the appropriation was not included in the Budget from lack of available funds.

Mr. Kuwada asked if the Government was ready to inaugurate Labour Insurance, which he understood met the Government's view. Rumour had it that there existed a difference of opinion between the Departments of Communications and Agriculture and Commerce on the matter, resulting in the postponement of the scheme.

The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce emphatically denied the rumour of a conflict of views, and stated that the two Departments were in consultation about the insurance scheme.

Mr. Kuwada asked about the method of control over Socialists.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated that the policy heretofore adopted was maintained intact, but at the same time efforts were being made to accelerate the development of a sound national sentiment.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 20th instant.

Mr. Kinoshita brought forward an interpellation concerning the proposed religious conference, in the course of which he asked what relation there could exist between religion and the dangerous thoughts which the Government desired to prevent by religion. Freedom of religion, as guaranteed by the constitution, implied not only freedom of choice in religion, but also freedom of non-religious belief. Does not the Home Office scheme constitute a breach of the spirit of the Constitution, and does it not lead to an alliance between politics and religion?

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated in reply that the Government had no such idea. The religious conference was the private scheme of the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Tokonami. The Vice-Minister had no intention to utilize religion nor to interfere with it in any way, his desire being to convene a conference with a view to exchange ideas on the subject.

Mr. Midzuno introduced an interpellation regarding the Saisei-kwai, in the course of which he stated that the organization of the Saisei-kwai was calculated to destroy the fine customs of the nation and defeat the very end which it had in view. What control would the Government exercise over the institution?

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated that the Home Office could not answer the question. Mr. Midzuno asked what control would the Government exercise over the institution, but the Saisei-kwai's business was not yet so advanced as to call for exercise of the right of supervision by the Home Office.

Replying to an interpellation introduced by Mr. Murakami concerning the Government policy for the development of the North Eastern provinces which were rather backward as compared with the other provinces, the Minister of Home Affairs stated that suitable harbours in the north eastern provinces were fewer than in Kyushu, but the improvement of the harbours was being studied by the Harbour Investigation commission.

The Supplementary Budget relating to the China affair was then taken up for discussion, Mr. Noda, chairman of the Special Committee, reported in favour of the Budget, which was passed unanimously.

The House then sat with closed doors to discuss the submission or otherwise to disciplinary punishment of Mr. Endo, who recently created a disturbance in the House. After the conference, Mr. Ooka, President of the House, announced

that the House had decided not to subject the member to disciplinary punishment.

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.

We learn that in the course of the debate held in camera, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee reported that the committee failed to obtain clear evidence of the alleged assault. The announcement elicited strong criticism by members of the Popular and Central Parties who all vacated their seats in disgust. The resolution was adopted by the *Seiyukai* members who remained behind.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10.30 yesterday morning to consider the Supplementary Budgets.

Replying to the question by Mr. Muriya on the Supplementary Budget concerning the China Affair, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that the Government had at no time attempted to interfere with the future polity of China, nor had it received a threat from the Revolutionists. The Government had no intention of replacing Mr. Ijuin. The Government had ordered Mr. Ijuin to continue to undertake diplomatic business in Peking, the Consuls in South China being under instructions to transact diplomatic business in the South.

Replying to a further question, the Minister emphatically denied the rumour of the Government having attempted to interfere with the polity of China and, therefore, did not think it necessary to report various idle rumours circulated in China concerning the alleged interference.

All the Supplementary Budgets were adopted without discussion and were later passed by the House as reported elsewhere.

JAPAN AND THE CHINA AFFAIR.

The second Sub-Committee of the Budget Committee of the House of Peers sat at 10.40 p.m. on the 21st inst.

Baron Ishii, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, explained the Foreign Office Budget.

Count Yanagisawa, brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which the Count remarked on the poor linguistic powers of Japanese diplomats and asked whether the Government adopted any measure to remedy the defect.

The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs replied that the Government was conscious of the defect and was taking care to give the diplomats every opportunity to improve their linguistic acquirements.

Viscount Iriye asked why the Government still withheld its official recognition from the Republican Government of China.

Baron Ishii replied that the time was not yet ripe.

Count Terajima asked if no Government now existed in China at all.

Baron Ishii stated in reply that practically there existed no government in China at present, but the fact did not cause any impediment, as diplomatic business was conducted through the old channels.

Replying to a further question by Count Terajima, Baron Ishii stated that diplomatic business in North China was conducted by the order of Yuan Shih-kai, whilst that in South China was conducted under the direction of the Revolutionary Government. Both were, however, of an unofficial character.

Baron Seki asked about the treatment of the Chinese Minister accredited to Japan.

Baron Ishii stated in reply that the present Chinese Minister was sent here under the credentials of the Chinese Emperor, but with the abdication of the Emperor, the credentials lost their validity. The Chinese Minister must, therefore, be regarded as a private individual and treated as such.

By the demand of Count Yanagisawa, the Committee then sat with closed doors, for an unreserved explanation regarding Japan's attitude in the China Affair.

The Committee sat in camera from 11.40 a.m. and rose at noon.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 on Wednesday morning. After various reports had been submitted, the House entered on the order of the day, when the Bill relating to the revision of the Railway Construction Law, which was adopted and forwarded by the Lower House, was taken up for discussion and referred to a special committee of five. The Bill relating to the appropriation in connexion with the China affair was next considered and also referred to a special committee. The revision of the law relating to the annuity to policemen and prison warders, originally introduced and approved of by the Lower House, was taken up for first reading and referred to a special committee.

On the motion of Viscount Soga, the Supplementary Budgets were taken up for discussion and referred to a special committee of nine, on the understanding that the Committee should conclude their work in a fortnight.

The House rose at 10.30 after sitting less than twenty minutes.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on Thursday afternoon. The Bill relating to the revision of the Pilot Law, which proposes to remove the age limit prescribed in the law, was taken up for consideration. Mr. Ando, who introduced the Bill, explained it and it was referred to a special committee.

Mr. Takagi then explained the Bill relating to postponement of the execution of judgment and said the proposed revision had in view the extension of the scope of the application of the provisions regarding postponement. The Bill was referred to a committee of nine.

The Bill relating to a revision of the law of Criminal Procedure was next dealt with and referred to a committee, after it had been explained by Mr. Ogawa.

The Bill relating to the control of juvenile drinkers, introduced by Mr. Nemoto, was then taken up for discussion. Mr. Nemoto, Chairman of the special committee, reported that the committee had decided in favour of the Bill.

Mr. Yokoyama opposed the Bill and stated that while he was in sympathy with its principle, he thought it useless to enact such a law, as human desires were beyond the control of the legislature.

A Division was taken, when the Bill was adopted.

A few other representations included in the order of the day were referred to committee.

The House rose at 3.30 p.m.

THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

At the Van Schaick Hall on Thursday evening last, an excellent programme was given to a fairly large audience by the above Society. The *piece de resistance* was the lecture by Mr. Karl Lewis, who, with the assistance of lantern slides, told us of the beauties of Holland. He described to us the customs of the people, their art, and their folk-lore. He dealt with these subjects in full, and afforded his hearers a very excellent hour. A capital musical programme followed the address by Mr. Lewis. There were songs by Mr. Leever, Miss Lilian Ruse, Mr. H. C. Gregory, and Mr. H. C. Huggins. The piano accompaniments were rendered by Mrs. Coggeshall and Miss Mendelson. Special praise must also be given to the Misses Landis for their excellent selections on the violin and the piano.

At the conclusion of the entertainment, the customary vote of thanks was passed to all of those who had so ably contributed to a charming evening.

We understand that the next lecture will be delivered by Dr. Gordon Munro on the 29th instant, and will be entitled "The Dawn of Humanity."

THE BIRD WORLD OF KOREA.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.)

The Korean has a keen appreciation of birds and bird life. The feathered inhabitants of his world have each a place in the social fabric, and each an idea associated with him, that all the world seems acquainted with.

The crowing cock, for example, is the national time-piece. He has sat and heralded the day for four thousand years and more, till he has a throat like a bugle, and to try to sleep anywhere in his neighbourhood after one o'clock in the morning is out of the question. He crows with chanticleer's keenest bell note, and when the deafening exercise is done, he adds "eh-h-h-h!" to the end; that is, he adds it, or his wife, or some other member of the family, for breaking in just at the end of his chorus is this response, that sounds as though it might come from another source.

Out over the wide reaches of the sea is the gull, especially beloved as a messenger from a world free from care. Here is a translation of one of their songs that has to do with the sea-gull:—

Ye white gull of the sea, so free!
What earthly care or rue,
Is there for a bird like you,
Swimming on the sea?
Tell of those happy islands where,
Poor mortals may resign their care,
And follow after thee.

The *tu-hyun* (杜鵑) bird, or goatsucker, is a melancholy creature, has in him the soul of some exiled king's son or other and so he cries and cries and cries. The echo of his imagined sorrow has been heard all the way from far off Sze-ch'wan to modest Tokyo.

The smoky-brown wren, or "chimney bird" as Koreans call him, might stand for the modern up-to-date militant socialist. Here is a verse that deals with him:—

"Very small, my little man,"
Said the ostrich to the wren.
But the wren, went on to say,
"I'll outfly you any day,
Size is nothing but a name,
Big or little, we're the same."

The oriole is the herald of spring, who thrings his shuttle and weaves his nest from the swinging bough.

The swallow is the yearly messenger from Kang-nam, old China. His world too is one of peace, expressed by him as he glides back and forth across the stream and kicks the placid water.

The white heron, honourable bird, standing on one leg with one eye open, is the beau-ideal of the idler. Clean clothes and leisurely habits are what he stands for. His dignity and correct appearance have held for him the place of a gentleman for four thousand years.

The crow, think of it is the model for the filial son. He is the bird, we are told, that feeds his mother when she is old and feeble.

But the bird of all birds is the goose. In the West he stands for conceit and folly, though he was, once upon a time, an honorable guard of the city of Rome. Still, to say to-day to the other person, "Oh you goose," would be little less than an insult.

In Korea he is the bird of wisdom, ceremony, faith, truth, and love. The wild-geese is a splendid far-travelling gentleman, who has won in the years of his peregrinations unmixed and distinctive honour. He is Love's letter-carrier, the bearer of faithful tidings, the herald of the true. Geese are the mail-carriers of the heavens. The love-lorn dreamer calls on the clanging goose speeding by to carry her message, to loan her his wings, to tell her love this and that, to come back in case of seeing him and bring the news. The wild-geese, too, is a bird of order, first the leader and then on each wing the extended ranks. He represents a properly organized military camp, where guards are on hand to give the word of signal. *An jin, goose-*

camp, means the head quarters of a general who has his forces in right and proper order.

"How many geese (*An haing*) are you?" meaning, How many brothers are you? is a right and proper question in Korea. How different from the West, where if we should say, How many geese do you and your brothers make? would create a coolness from the start.

Here is a message such as wild geese used to be asked to carry in Korea:—

Silvery moon and frosty air,
Eve and dawn are meeting!
"Widowed wild goose flying there,
Hear my words of greeting.
On your journey should you see,
Him I love so broken hearted,
Kindly say this word for me,
That it's death when we are parted."
Flapping off, the wild goose clambers,
Says she will if she remembers.

SPECTATOR.

THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY'S BALL.

A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING.

The Columbia Society, as represented by its Committee,—Messrs. H. E. Cole, President; D. H. Blake, Vice-President; M. Mendelson, Hon. Sec.; C. H. Thorn, Hon. Treas.; R. S. Cole, H. A. Rosworth, J. R. Geary, J. S. Happer, Dr. F. R. Irwin, Messrs. S. Isaacs, A. G. Kellogg, Lieut. G. E. Lake, Messrs. N. W. McIvor and W. H. McGowan, was responsible for a very charming evening at the Gaiety Theatre on Monday. The guests of the Society attended in large numbers, and were welcomed by the President and Mrs. Eldridge. The decorations were excellent, the theatre being practically transformed into a flower garden, whilst the stage had been converted into a most acceptable sitting room with cosy corners. The string orchestra from the Grand Hotel played excellently, and the floor was in capital condition. The success of the ball is amply proved by the fact that the congratulations extended to the President, Vice-President and the Committee during the evening, were sincere and hearty. It was not until the small hours of Tuesday morning that the guests of the Society wended their way homewards. Every compliment is due to those responsible for the best evening up to now of the year 1912.

Among those present was His Excellency the American Ambassador, Col. C. Page Bryan; Mr. Thomas Sammons, the American Consul-General; the Governor of Kanagawa Ken; and the Mayor of Yokohama.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR.—I am one of about 50 foreigners who come up to Tokyo from Yokohama every morning except Sunday by the 8.14 express; for the past few weeks, at least every other day, an inferior type of composite first and second-class carriage has been put on this train. The second and third class carriages in the same train have non-smoking compartments and are comparatively comfortable and roomy, but this first-class carriage has no non-smoker, and with so many travelling is always very much crowded. Certainly there is a small compartment holding six passengers in between the first and second class, but this has the full benefit of all the smoke from both the first and second-class ends. This small compartment is not heated in any way, and there is a large hole in the floor which lets in a strong draft which circulates all through it.

I noticed in a Japanese paper that the amount of the receipts of the Railway Department for the last 10 months of the fiscal year was over 80 million yen, and that this was about 10 per cent. more than for the same period the year before, so want of income cannot be an excuse for using such poor carriages.

Trusting that the Tariff Manager may see this letter and put on a better type of first-class car,

I remain, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

FIRST-CLASS SEASON HOLDER.

February 14, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE).

London, February 18.

In the Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament, referring to affairs in China, His Majesty said:

"I trust that the crisis in China will soon be satisfactorily terminated by the establishment of a stable form of government in conformity with the views of the Chinese people.

"My Government will continue to observe an attitude of strict non-intervention, while taking all necessary steps to protect British life and property. I fully recognise that the leaders on both sides in China have shown every desire to safeguard the lives and interests of foreigners resident in the Empire. Papers on the matter will be laid before you.

"I am glad to announce that the Opium Conference has arrived at an agreement."

The Lords have voted the Address.

The official Opposition amendment to the Address amounts to a censure of the Government for proceeding with legislation on great constitutional questions before carrying out its pledges to reform the House of Lords.

London, February 20.

Mr. F. Smith, in moving the amendment to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, which censured the Government for undertaking other legislation before reforming the House of Lords, recalled the various ministerial pledges and pronouncements made on the subject by members of the Government.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Bonar Law if the Unionist party intended to repeal the Parliament Act when the Unionists were returned to power.

Mr. Bonar Law answered, "We will not repeal the Act except simultaneously with the reform of the Second Chamber."

London, February 21.

Mr. Smith's amendment has been rejected by 324 to 241.

Mr. Asquith stated that the proper time to reconstitute the second Chamber was not before but after Ireland had been given freedom to deal with her own affairs on lines which in their main principles were followable in regard to other parts of the Kingdom.

Replying to an interjection that it would be more expedient in every way to specify the proposals, Mr. Asquith said he did not mean that the reconstitution of the House of Lords should be delayed till other parts of the Kingdom were dealt with.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 15.

The session of Parliament has opened stormily, Mr. Bonar Law, the leader of the Opposition, vigorously condemning the irregular character of Lord Haldane's visit to Germany, while Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, delivered a provocative speech.

Mr. Bonar Law also denounced the Government for failing to redeem its pledges to reconstruct the House of Lords, and expres-

ed the belief that the Insurance Bill would never be operative.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, declared that Lord Haldane's visit had given unmistakable evidence of a sincere and resolute desire on both sides to establish a better footing without sacrificing their relationships with other Powers.

Mr. Asquith also denied that the Government had been guilty of public corruption.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

FEELING ON MR. ASQUITH'S SPEECH.

STATEMENT BY SIR EDWARD GREY.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 16.

The speech of Mr. Asquith, the Premier, is generally welcomed by papers of all shades of opinion in England and Germany.

The hope is expressed that the statesmen of both countries will earnestly press on with their efforts to arrange a satisfactory settlement.

The *Taegliche Rundschau* says that Baron Stumm of the Foreign Office will probably proceed to London to assist Count Metternich, the German Ambassador, in further negotiations, while the King and the Kaiser will exchange visits and a British Squadron will call at German ports in the course of the year.

London, February 17.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, speaking at Manchester, pointed out that the language used by Mr. Asquith was reciprocated by the same tone at Berlin.

Although in both speeches there was considerable reserve and reticence, they must observe some restraint; but this did not imply any lack of cordiality.

He trusted that something would be achieved which would remain permanent and would dispel the mists of suspicion and distrust which were due to unfounded rumours.

Britain and Germany were great industrial nations and in the interests of the peoples of the two nations there must be peace.

Sir Edward Grey added that he did not fear any permanent estrangement in public opinion in the two countries, providing that truth gets a fair chance. Mr. Asquith had disposed of one great untruth and that was that "we last year meditated an unprovoked attack on Germany. There was never the least foundation for such suspicion."

THE FAMINE IN RUSSIA.

THREATENED FAILURE OF THE WINTER CROPS.

EVERYTHING SOLD FOR BREAD.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 19.

The famine situation in Russia is aggravated by the threatened failure of the winter crops in the European provinces, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The peasantry everywhere are sending pitiful appeals for help.

Typhoid and scurvy are raging, and horses, cattle, and even land, are being sold for bread.

The peasants in Busuluk district have set

fire to the properties of the wealthier people, shouting that all must be on the same level.

THE COAL STRIKE.

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION EXPECTED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 17.

The South Wales Coal Conciliation Board, on the casting vote of Viscount St. Aldwyn, independent chairman, has granted the miners a general increase in their wages.

The owners have intimated their willingness to rediscuss the crisis, but say they cannot grant a minimum wage.

The last batch of miners notices has been handed in to-day and show undoubtedly that every district is in favour of a strike.

The situation is very serious, as British trade is threatened with disaster, the full extent of which it is impossible to realise, as such a dislocation of trade has hitherto been unknown.

People of all shades of opinion insist upon Government action to avert the strike, which is due in a fortnight.

London, February 18.

After the decision given by Viscount St. Aldwyn, the Chairman of the South Wales Coal Conciliation Board, for a general increase in the men's wages, the men offered to meet the owners to discuss a minimum wage.

The owners refused and the men then replied that events must take their course.

London, February 20.

To-night there is no hopeful sign of the coal situation being improved.

Prices have so risen that in some districts business is at a standstill.

London, February 21.

Mr. Sydney Buxton, President of the Board of Trade, has had an important conference with Sir G. R. Askwith on the situation in the coal trade.

Afterwards a Cabinet Council was held.

It was expected that Mr. Asquith, the Premier, would make a statement after question time in the House of Commons, but this was not forthcoming.

Instead, another meeting of the Cabinet was held in Mr. Asquith's private room.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 15.

The deadlock in the coal-trade continues. Both sides are preparing for the national strike of the miners on the 29th inst.

London, February 20.

The Government is about to take action to relieve the coal crisis.

On the other hand, the National Transport Workers Federation has ordered the members to assist the miners to the utmost in the event of a strike.

London, February 21.

The conference of coal owners and men has failed, the men having rejected the masters' conditions attached to the principle of the minimum wage.

The Premier confers with the representatives on Thursday.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

LORD HALDANE'S MISSION.

London, February 15.

Mr. Asquith speaking in the House of Commons, explained that Lord Haldane's mission was in response to a desire of Ger-

many that a Minister should be sent to discuss the betterment of Anglo-German relations.

It is believed that good results may be realised.

London, February 16.

It is stated in official circles here that the work begun by Lord Haldane is now being continued in the usual channels.

In the debate on the Estimates in the German Reichstag, several members referred to the speech of Mr. Asquith.

Dr. von Bethmann Hollweg expressed himself in harmony with Mr. Asquith's views.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL SALMON.

London, February 15.

The death is announced of Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, V.C., G.C.B.

THE OPIUM CONVENTION.

London, February 15.

The *Times* says it is hoped that the signatures of all nations to the Opium Convention will be secured by the end of 1912, but there is good reason for thinking that another conference at The Hague will be necessary to deal with questions arising out of the present Convention.

The fortunes of the anti-opium movement in China depend henceforward on China alone, but *The Times* doubts whether an efficacious enforcement in China of the regulations against morphine and cocaine is possible.

SIR JOHN JORDAN.

London, February 15.

Referring to China in the House of Lords, Lord Crewe paid a tribute to Sir John Jordan, the Minister at Peking, who through difficult times had shown a tact and ability whereof it was impossible to speak too highly.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

London, February 15.

Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., G.C.S.I., P.C. has been appointed Lord Chamberlain in the place of Earl Spencer, and Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in the place of Mr. McKinnon Wood who has been appointed Secretary for Scotland.

ANOTHER TURKISH DECORATION FOR KING GEORGE.

London, February 16.

The Sultan has also conferred on King George the Order of Intiazet with brilliants. The simultaneous bestowal of two of the highest decorations is unprecedented.

GERMANY AND KIAUCHAU.

London, February 18.

Speaking in the Reichstag, Herr Ledebour, the Socialist, said he thought Kiauchau should be restored to the Chinese Republic.

DEATH OF COUNT AEHRENTHAL.

London, February 18.

The Emperor of Austria has accepted Count von Aehrenthal's resignation on the ground of ill-health.

Count Berchtold, ex-Ambassador to St. Petersburg, succeeds to the position.

Count Berchtold has been prominent in entertaining the Grand Duke Andrew recently.

Later.

Count Aehrenthal is dead.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

London, February 18.

Sir Edward Grey, speaking at Manchester, said that Great Britain had special relationships and friendships with certain Powers

which she meant to preserve, but in that there was nothing to show that she contemplated an unprovoked aggressive policy on other Powers.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN POLICY IN PERSIA.

London, February 20.

The British and Russian Ministers at Teheran presented a Note yesterday evening containing a joint declaration of policy.

COUNT BERTHOLD.

London, February 20.

Count Berchtold, the new Austro-Hungarian Minister, has taken the oath of office.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE TREATY.

London, February 20.

The Franco-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation has been finally passed by the French Parliament.

BIG COTTON FIRE AT BOMBAY.

London, February 21.

There has been a big cotton fire at Bombay, thousands of bales being destroyed.

The damage is estimated at forty lakhs of rupees.

The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha is among the heaviest sufferers.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

London, February 21.

Lord Haldane, Secretary of State for War, replying to criticisms of Lord Roberts and others in the House of Lords, said that taking their arms as a whole, the British Army was as well equipped as any in the world.

Tests were now being made with a view to the adoption of a new rifle, which, if it fulfilled all that was claimed for it, would be the finest in the world. It was not automatic, but opinions differed as to the advantage of an automatic rifle.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

FRANCO-SPANISH COMMISSION.

London, February 19.

Following on the French example, Spain has accepted the British proposal for the appointment of a mixed Franco-Spanish Commission to advise on the question of the control of the Customs in the Spanish zone in Morocco.

COUNT BERTHOLD.

London, February 19.

Count Berchtold, who is Count Aehrenthal's successor, is the first Hungarian to hold office since Andrássy retired.

The appointment is regarded as a sign that improved relations with Russia will be the immediate aim of the Austro-Hungarian foreign policy.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PORTUGAL.

London, February 20.

The British Minister at Lisbon has visited the prisons where the political offenders are incarcerated.

He says that they are not cruelly treated, but the prisons are old-fashioned and insanitary. The Government promises to make improvements.

Many prisoners are kept for months untried.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, February 20.

Chinese stocks are steadily supported and a fair business is being done in Japanese.

BRITISH POLITICS.

London, February 20.

The House of Commons has begun the

debate on the Unionist amendment to the Address censuring the Government for proposing to pass important measures before reconstructing the House of Lords.

Several supporters of the Ministry have threatened to desert the Government unless the Irish Home Rule proposals are fully explained.

London, February 21.

In the House of Commons in the division on the Unionists' amendment to the Address the Government majority fell 20 per cent. below the normal strength.

After solemnly announcing the reform of the House of Lords did not brook of any delay, the Premier has now evasively declared that a measure of reform will be introduced if time is available.

Meanwhile the country is dissatisfied with the introduction of various purely party and controversial measures.

TROUBLE IN SALONICA.

London, February 21.

The Revolutionists in Salonica have massacred eight Bulgarian mill owners at Seres.

The victims were unarmed.

Orders have apparently been issued to compel the Bulgarian villages to show hospitality to the revolutionists.

FLYING IN THE DESERT.

London, February 21.

An aerodrome has been built at Biskra in South Algeria by two officers, who intend to try to fly across the desert from oasis to oasis.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

ANGLO-GERMAN RECONCILIATION.

Berlin, February 15.

It is widely reported that Mr. Asquith, the English Premier, and Mr. Bonar Law, the leader of the Unionists, have both made declarations in Parliament to the effect that a further improvement in Anglo-German relations will be supported by the English Government.

ITALIANS TO BE EXPELLED FROM TURKISH TERRITORY.

A Turkish Ministerial Council has decided to expel all Italians from Turkish territory in the event of hostilities being transferred from Africa to the Aegean Sea.

AMBASSADOR TO RESIGN.

The Italian Ambassador at Berlin, Signor Pansa, will resign immediately after the settlement of the Tripoli question is in sight.

RUSSO-AUSTRIAN ENTENTE.

M. Von Giers, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, will go to St. Petersburg in the near future to hold a personal conference with M. Sazanoff, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which a diplomatic *rapprochement* between Russia and Austria will be discussed.

ARCHDUKE'S TOUR.

Archduke Franz Joseph of Austria will carry out a round-the-world tour, during the course of which he will pay a visit to the Far East, in the near future.

FRONTIER QUESTION SETTLED.

The Netherlands Government has received full assurance from Portugal as to a settlement of the Timor frontier question.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to February

1st, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on February 15th.

ANGLO-GERMAN RECONCILIATION.

Berlin, February 16.

The Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag, stated that the visit of Lord Haldane to Berlin has been ordered by the British Cabinet for the purpose of discussing mutual interests for the creation of better relations between both countries. The negotiations would be continued in the future. Further statements were, however, not opportune at present.

The attitude of the Reichstag parties is universally favourable, the press also expressing its great satisfaction at the declaration of the Chancellor as to the continuance of the efforts for an Anglo-German understanding.

TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

General Caneva, the Commander-in-Chief of the Italian troops in Africa, has returned to Tripoli from Rome for the preparation of an expedition to the interior.

GERMANY AND THE SOCIALISTS.

Berlin, February 17.

Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag, defended the Inheritance Tax Bill. He also regretted the refusal of the Socialist Vice-President, Herr Scheidemann, to sign the customary application to the Kaiser for an audience. The call for universal combination against Socialism, which remained the sworn enemy of the civil classes, would certainly sooner or later be heard from the people. The attitude of the Government towards Socialism and the demand for alteration of the Constitution remained unchanged. The principal thing which Germany needed is steadiness, not wavering, in her policy.

Berlin, February 18.

The Kaiser, in consonance with the desire of the Chancellor, has declined to receive the President and the second Vice-President of the Reichstag, who are both members of the Radical Party, as a result of Herr Scheidemann, the first Vice-President and member of the Socialist Party, refusing to sign the application for an audience, which is customary.

NEW BATTLESHIP LAUNCHED.

The battleship "Prinz Regent Luitpold" has been launched at the Germania-Dockyard at Kiel in the presence of the Kaiser.

NEGOTIATIONS AT MUKDEN.

General Tang has arrived at Mukden by order of Yuan Shih-kai to negotiate with the adherents of the Manchu Dynasty in Manchuria for the introduction of the republican form of Government.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

The English Press expresses its approval to the Anglo-German negotiations for an understanding. The naval question should be excluded and only an agreement on political differences effected.

INHERITANCE TAX AND GERMAN FINANCES.

The Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Dr. Wermuth, speaking in the Reichstag, said that the Inheritance Tax was the first necessary condition of a complete unification of German Finances.

MINISTER CONTRADICTS HIS OPPONENTS' STATEMENTS.

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the

Reichstag, contradicted the statement of the Pan-German party, according to which he was stated to have encouraged a policy of the acquisition of territory in Morocco by Germany.

NEW TURKISH MINISTER.

Djavid Bey has been nominated Turkish Minister for Commerce.

COUNT BERTHOLD TO SUCCEED COUNT AEHRENTHAL.

Berlin, February 17. Count Berthold, the former Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who is in great favour at the Russian Court, is quoted as successor to Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is critically ill.

DEATH OF COUNT AEHRENTHAL.

Berlin, February 18. Count Aehrenthal, the Austrian-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is dead. The Emperor Franz Joseph did not accept his application for resignation until the day of his death, when he was honoured with the Illusion's of the Order of St. Stephen. The deceased statesman was fully conscious during the last few hours of his life, when he took leave of all his family and many officials.

Count Berthold has been nominated his successor and will take the oath of allegiance to-morrow.

COUNT AEHRENTHAL.

Berlin, February 19. The German and Austrian Press are both full of appreciative articles on the merits of Count Aehrenthal, the deceased Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs. They also state that Count Berthold, his successor, will continue to favour a rapprochement between Austria and Russia on the basis of the policy inaugurated at the Potsdam Entrevue, and will also maintain his predecessor's Triple Alliance policy.

GOETHAL VISITS GERMANY.

Colonel George W. Goethal, the Chief Constructor of the Panama Canal, has arrived in Germany, where he will pay a visit to the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal. He will also be received in audience by the Kaiser.

BAGDAD RAILWAY.

Berlin, February 20. The Governments of Turkey and Great Britain have reopened negotiations on the construction of the Gulf Section of the Bagdad Railway, on the progress of which Germany will be kept informed by both Governments.

THE INHERITANCE TAX BILL.

The Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag, warned the parties not to reopen party strife on the Inheritance Tax Bill, the reintroduction of which is still uncertain.

ENTENTE WITH ITALY.

Count Berthold and Signor Giuliano, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Austria-Hungary and Italy, have exchanged very cordial telegrams, promising the continuance of a friendly policy between both countries.

HERR BEBEL AND COURT ETIQUETTE.

Berlin, February 21. Herr Bebel, the leader of the Socialists, speaking in the Reichstag, stated that no Socialist deputy would ever take upon himself obligations of courtly etiquette. Some National Liberal deputies, however, replied that Herr Bebel had formerly given other

assurances. The National Liberal Party, as a result, has withdrawn its promise of union with the Socialist Party for the new election of the President of the Reichstag.

COUNT BERTHOLD GOING TO BERLIN.

Count Berthold, the new Austrian-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, will go to Berlin to present himself to the Kaiser and to hold conferences with the Chancellor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs; he afterwards will also go to Rome and St. Petersburg.

FLAG TO FLY IN MANCHURIA.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary troops at Mukden has issued an order to all Manchurian towns to exhibit the Republican flag.

CHINESE BONDS RECOVERING.

Chinese bonds are showing signs of recovery on the Berlin Exchange.

COMPLETION OF JUNGFRAU TUNNEL.

The tunnel through the Jungfrau, undertaken by the Jungfrau Railway Co., has been completed.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

The Uruga Dock Company, the business of which has been at a very low ebb for some time, held its ordinary general meeting on Thursday afternoon last, when the following accounts were adopted:—

	Yen.
Loss for the present term	121,366
Loss transferred from the previous term	61,909
Loss transferred to next term	183,275

The Kobe Marine, Transport, and Fire Insurance Company held its ordinary general meeting on the 17th instant at the Kobe Chamber of Commerce, when the following accounts were adopted:—

	Yen.
Profit for present term	693,630
Balance brought forward from the previous term	35,934
Total	729,564
Reserve fund for liabilities	500,000
Reserve fund for payments	35,000
Legal reserve fund	10,000
Bonuses for officials and other members	15,000
Dividend (8 per cent. per annum)	107,000
Balance carried forward to next term	69,564

The Bank of Chosen held its ordinary general meeting on Tuesday, when the following accounts were adopted:—

	Yen.
Revenue	785,491
Expenditure	650,320
Balance	135,171
Reserve fund for making good deficit	15,000
Reserve fund for equalization of dividends	3,500
Bonuses and social expenses for officials	9,500
Dividend (6 per cent. per annum) for 70,000 shares, 50,000 shares possessed by the Government being excluded	105,000
Balance carried forward to next term	2,171

THE ALLCOT ESTATE.

The hearing of the action instituted in the Yokohama District Court by Mr. A. F. Haum, No. 63 A, Bluff, Yokohama, against Dr. W. S. Worden, No. 236, Bluff, Yokohama, Executor of the will of the late Mr. G. A. Allcot, claiming the transfer of a perpetual lease on Lot No. 65-A, Bluff, covering 353 *tsubo*, together with six buildings standing there, as well as the payment of a sum of 10,000 *yen*, which was to have been resumed on Wednesday, has been postponed *sine die*.

"SCRATCHED UNTIL I TORE THE FLESH"

Itching, Burning Skin Eczema, Body, Legs and Arms One Mass of Sores. Could not Sleep with Constant Itch. Tried Cuticura Remedies and in Less than One Week Skin was All Right.

"It was in the latter end of the year 1908 that a nasty itch came through my skin, and I scratched it until I tore the flesh. I tried several ointments to no effect. I went to a skin hospital. They advised me to go to the Hospital, but I refused. I could not sleep with the constant itch. I was that way until on or about the month of January. One day I chanced to see in the papers a singular case like mine, but I gave it no credence. At last I said, 'I will try the Cuticura Ointment I used. I found their effects. I got one box of the Ointment more, and in less than one week the skin was all right, and left no traces after it. I have not had a return of the same since, and I shall always praise the Cuticura Remedies as being the means of my cure.' (Signed) John Tyrrell, 64, Scotland Road, Liverpool, Eng., Apr. 9, 1910. In a later letter Mr. Tyrrell adds: 'The first appearance of my skin eczema was a burning itch which I tore and left my body, legs and arms one mass of sores. It caused sleepless nights, but now I can sleep as well as ever.' A single tube of Cuticura Soap and box of Cuticura Ointment are often sufficient, when all else fails. Sold throughout the world. Depots: London, 27, Chancery Lane; Sydney, N. S. W., 2, Towns & Co.; Calcutta, B. K. Paul; Cape Town, E. C. Lempson, Ltd.; U. S. A., Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston. Post-free, Cuticura Soap on skin and scalp diseases and their treatment."



LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, February 24. The market of Raw Cotton is firm, with prices showing an upward tendency all round. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	34.00 to 34.50
Indian Broach	33.00 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	31.00 to 32.00

COTTON YARN.

	PER RALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in. ...	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/4-44 in. ...	Common to Good
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. ...	Ordinary to Good
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches ...	7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ...	3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians ...	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians ...	0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—28 to 31b 24-25 yards, 30 inches ...	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—38 to 51b, 24-25 yards, 32 inches ...	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ...	12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ...	1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette ...	0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere ...	0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLEN MIXTURES.

Union Italians ...	—
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium ...	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best ...	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches ...	—

Cloths—Army Cloth
Cloths—All others... ..
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs ... 0.90 to 1.00

METALS.

The market is dull, with very little business doing.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square Y. 4.30 to 4.70
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate 5.20 to 5.40
Sheet Iron 6.30 to 6.50
Sheet Mild Steel 6.80 to 7.10
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated ... 10.90 to 11.20
Flat 11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ... 6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. 8.60 to 9.00
Mg Iron, No. 4 "Redcar" 2.35 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester Y. 3.80
Victory 3.60
Nonpareil 4.80
Somatra 2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo 3.00 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu 3.00 to 3.55
Nippon 2.78 to 3.35
Ogura 3.30
Toda 3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

Brown Manila Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China 9.90 to 10.50
Brown Java 14.40 to 17.75
White Java 15.50 to 18.00
White Refined (German) 14.80 to 20.65
(Hongkong)

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first Y. 240.00
" second 200.00
Java, first 330.00
" second 280.00
Madras, first
" second
Artificial "horse and lion" brand ... 2.05
Artificial "Kenshin" 2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ... 10.95 to 11.00
Flag 10.95 to 11.00
Royal 10.95 to 11.00
Trophy ... 4 sacks ... 10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal 10.95 to 11.00
Lion 11.05 to 11.70
Portland 11.15 to 11.20
Premier 11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—
Rising Sun ... 6 Awamume ... 2.80
Takasago ... 6 " ... 2.75
Fuji ... 6 " ... 2.85
Pine ... 6 " ... 2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.

White Walla Walla, 100 Ain ... 4.95
Red " " " " " " " " 4.90
Blue Stem " " " " " " " " 5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done On February 15th stocks were: Filatures 9,500 piculs, Re-reels, 500 piculs; Kakeda, 400 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ... 950
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ... 910
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ... 920
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ... 900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den ... 920
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den ... 900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den ... 875
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den ... 890
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha ... 865
Re-reels—Extra
Re-reels—No. 1
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2
Re-reels—No. 2
Kakeda—Gold Cup Chop Extra ... 890
Kakeda—Veiled Woman Chop ... 860
Kakeda—One Horsehead Chop ... 850
Kakeda—Two Horsehead Chop ... 840

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

February. January February March
delivery. delivery. delivery.
yen. yen. yen.
16h. 8.67 8.72 8.81
17h.
18h. 8.80 8.86 8.94
19h. 8.78 8.83 8.93
20h.
21st. 8.76 8.84 8.92
22nd. 8.72 8.84 8.92

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet.
On February 15th stocks were:—Noshi, 2,000 piculs; Kibiso, 5,000 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS. Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best
Noshi—Filatures, Good
Noshi—Oshiu, Good 155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium 135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior 115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good 100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium 85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior 70 to 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good ... 90 to 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium ... 80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior ... 60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best
Kibiso—Filatures, Good
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium 120 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior 115 to 120
Rereel—Fair
Rereel—Best
Rereel—Good
Rereel—Medium

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.
Kanazawa:—There has been no change in prices, and the market is in a quiet condition.
Kawamata:—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)
6 ms. 6 1/2 ms. 7 ms. 7 1/2 ms. 8 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" 8.20 7.95 7.95 7.60 7.75
27" 7.90 7.60 7.70 7.55 7.50
36" 7.95 7.70 7.70 7.55 7.70

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)
4 1/2 ms. 4 3/4 ms. 5 ms. 5 1/2 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" 7.70 7.70 7.65 7.55
27" 7.60 7.55 7.55 7.60
36" 7.55 7.50 7.50 7.45

KAWAMATA.
3 ms. 3 1/2 ms. 4 ms. 4 1/2 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
20" 7.00 7.60 8.50 9.30
23" 7.30 8.20 9.40 9.90
27" 8.80 10.70 11.00 11.70
36" 11.80 13.20 15.10 16.10

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of February 22nd the quotation was £64.
Refined per 100 kin Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin" 47.00—50.00
Ore 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa 646.541
Foreign rice in Fukagawa 68.496

Delivery. Closing Price.
February 19.00
March 19.05
April 19.05
(Osaka.) (Kobe.)
February ... 1978 February ... 1965
March ... 1938 March ... 1916
April ... 1920 April ... 1902

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.
(Tokyo.) per koku.
Superior Yen 20.80
Medium 19.70
Common 18.30
Average 19.60

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery. Yen.
February 140.35
March 139.20
April 137.00

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till February 15th, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Feb. 23.
London silver unchanged, China sterling quotations not yet received and local rates all the same as yesterday.
London—Bank T.T. 2/0 3/4
— Sight 2/0 3/4
— 60 days 2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight 2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight ... 2/0 3/4 @ 1/2
— 6 months' sight 2/1 1/2 @ 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days 2/1 1/2 @ 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight 257 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight ... 262
America—Bank sight 49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight 50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight ... 51
Germany—Bank sight 208 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight ... 213
India—Bank sight 152
— Private 30 days' sight 154
Hongkong—Bank sight per \$100. 97 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight 95 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight 76
— Private 10 days' sight 77 1/2
Bar Silver (London) 27 1/2 @ 26 1/2
* Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date
America	T. K. K.	Tenyo Maru	Sa. Feb. 24
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Su. Feb. 25
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru	M. Feb. 26
Hongkong	B. L.	Luceric	M. Feb. 26
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru 1	F. Mar. 1
America	P. M.	Persia 2	Sa. Mar. 2
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Su. Mar. 3
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	M. Mar. 4
Hongkong	P. M.	Nile	M. Mar. 4
Europe	N. D. L.	Yorck	M. Mar. 4
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	W. Mar. 6
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Mar. 15
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Empress of India	W. Mar. 23
Vancouver	B. L.	Suovic	Th. Mar. 28

1 Left Seattle on the 13th inst.
2 Left San Francisco on the 13th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date
Europe	N. D. L.	P. E. Friedrich	Sa. Feb. 24
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Tenyo Maru	Su. Feb. 25
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Chikusen Maru	Su. Feb. 25
Seattle	B. L.	Luceric	Tu. Feb. 27
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. Feb. 27
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru	W. Feb. 28
Europe	N. Y. K.	Aki Maru	W. Feb. 28
Europe	M. M.	Dunbea	Sa. Mar. 2
Australia	N. Y. K.	Nikko Maru	Sa. Mar. 2
Hongkong	P. M.	Persia	Su. Mar. 3
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Su. Mar. 3
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Tanba Maru	M. Mar. 4
America	P. M.	Nile	Tu. Mar. 5
Tacoma	B. & S.	Keemun	Tu. Mar. 5
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	W. Mar. 6
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Mar. 7
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	F. Mar. 8
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	M. Mar. 18
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	W. Mar. 20
Hongkong	B. L.	Suovic	F. Mar. 29

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, K. Soyeda, 16th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kina, Danish steamer, 2,749, Hansen, 17th Feb.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Rhesus, British steamer, 4,294, J. Pulford, 17th Feb.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Goldenfels, German steamer, 4,704, Diedrichsen, 17th Feb.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 17th Feb.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Yeddo, Swedish steamer, 2,503, C. H. Anderssen, 18th Feb.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Glamorganshire, British steamer, 3,623, Tomlinson, 18th Feb.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Prins Eitel Friedrich, German steamer, 5,011, E. Matchow, 16th Feb.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 3,047, R. L. Daniel, 18th Feb.,—Vladivostok, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Orleric, British steamer, 4,105, J. Findlay, 19th Feb.,—Vancouver, B.C., Portland, Ore., and Seattle, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kurozumi, 19th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Strathendrick, British steamer, 2,843, H. Brown, 19th Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., General.—American Trading Co.

Willesden, British steamer, 3,141, P. E. Cox, 19th Feb.,—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Muto, 20th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 20th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Jeteric, British steamer, 3,114, R. White, 21st Feb.,—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Dumbas, French steamer, 3,220, Sellier, 21st Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 21st Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tweeddale, British steamer, 2,874, James Fasper, 21st Feb.,—Safaga, Phosphate.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 21st Feb.,—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, R. Swain, 22nd Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,434, M. Yagi, 22nd Feb.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Coblens, German steamer, 2,001, H. Raegener, 16th Feb.,—Brisbane, Sydney and Manila via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 16th Feb.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—C. N. S.S. Co.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Girard, 17th Feb.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,796, B. Kon, 17th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oronsay, British steamer, 2,416, E. Taylor, 18th Feb.,—Mojji, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kasai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, K. Soyeda, 18th Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Karanga, British steamer, 2,932, H. C. Elford, 19th Feb.,—New York and Boston via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 19th Feb.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Orleric, British steamer, 4,105, J. Findlay, 19th Feb.,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Kina, Danish steamer, 2,749, Hansen, 19th Feb.,—Copenhagen and Gothenburg via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Carmarthenshire, British steamer, 3,047, R. L. Daniel, 19th Feb.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Nile, British steamer, 4,197, E. F. Dady, 20th Feb.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Tamou Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 20th Feb.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rhesus, British steamer, 4,294, J. Pulford, 20th Feb.,—London Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Strathendrick, British steamer, 2,843, H. Brown, 20th Feb.,—Kobe, General.—American Trading Co.

Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Muto, 21st Feb.,—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 21st Feb.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Willesden, British steamer, 3,141, P. E. Cox, 21st Feb.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yeddo, Swedish steamer, 2,503, C. H. Andersen, 21st Feb.,—Copenhagen and Gothenburg via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Goldenfels, German steamer, 4,704, Diedrichsen, 21st Feb.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Glamorganshire, British steamer, 3,623, Tomlinson, 22nd Feb.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kurozumi, 22nd Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 22nd Feb.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 22nd Feb.,—Manila and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Thompson, Mrs. C. E. Stevenson and daughter, Mr. C. A. Graham, Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Irwin, M. S. W. R. Wheeler and infant and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bentley. For San Francisco:—Gen. and Mrs. H. H. Bandholtz, Mrs. G. S. Baft, Miss M. B. Crans, Rev. A. W. Davies, Mrs. G. S. Derham, Mr. W. W. A. Derham, Mr. C. G. Eades, Mr. J. E. Eger, Miss E. M. Estey, Judge C. Evans, Mr. C. M. Hause, Miss C. Hartford, Miss A. E. Hauch, Miss S. B. Hollman, Mrs. E. K. Jackson, Mr. Kok Chang Chen, Mr. H. M. Logue, Rear Admiral A. E. Meris, Mrs. A. E. Meris, Mrs. S. W. Moore, Mr. C. F. Page, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Phillips, Rev. and Mrs. P. W. Fischer, Miss M. A. Picher, Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Ross and infant, Master A. Ross, Mrs. J. D. Seitz, Mrs. C. E. Seymour, Mrs. Seng Bo Shoo, Master Chan Sik, Mrs. F. Simpson, Mrs. E. C. Smith, Miss L. Trimble, Mr. E. E. Wagner, Mrs. E. H. Williams and infant and Miss M. L. Woodward in cabin.

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Sept. 9th, 1911. S. 19.

Messrs. The

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支店 橫濱 三井物産株式會社
支店 名古屋 三井物産株式會社
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支店 長崎 三井物産株式會社
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支店 下關 三井物産株式會社
支店 小倉 三井物産株式會社
支店 北九州 三井物産株式會社
支店 熊本 三井物産株式會社
支店 鹿兒島 三井物産株式會社
支店 那霸 三井物産株式會社

The Japan Weekly Mail.

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明治廿五年三月二日
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VOL. LVII.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAR. 2ND, 1912.

DEATH.

DONKER CURTIUS.—On the night of the 22nd inst. at his residence, No. 34, Nakamura, Bluff, JAN HENDRIK DONKER CURTIUS, aged 65.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Prince Imperial visited the warship *Kurama* at Yokosuka on Tuesday.

DR. TAKAKUSU has been nominated by His Majesty as a member of the Imperial Academy.

MR. SHIMADA SABURO, M.P., is suffering from bronchial catarrh. His condition is said to be serious.

AT the annual dinner of Sydenham College, held at the Café Monico, a message was read from Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of

Peers, Tokyo, who cabled good wishes to his old schoolfellows.

THE Glasgow dockers and shipowners have agreed upon arbitration through Sir George Askwith's intervention.

LORD HOWARD de Walden has been quietly married to Miss Margharita Van Raalte in Marylebone Church, London.

THE former coast defence ship *Heiyei* has been sold at auction at Maizuru, to Mr. Tanaka Bunzo of Osaka for 58,000 yen.

THE result of the trial run of the warship *Chikuma* at Nagasaki has been very satisfactory, a speed of 26 knots being obtained.

THE death is announced of Canon Sir James Erasmus Philipps, the father of Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G. and other distinguished sons.

MR. SHIMOSAKA TOTARO, Vice-President of the Bank of Formosa, is about to resign his post. Mr. Niqomiya Kisei will succeed him.

MARQUESS SAIONJI, the Prime Minister, who has been staying at his villa at Oiso, returned to Tokyo on Monday by the 12.40 p.m. train.

THE Russian War Department is contemplating the establishment of an aviation school at Vladivostok at an estimated cost of fifty thousand roubles.

THE Government light railway between Shimodate and Maoda, in Tochigi prefecture, a distance of ten miles, will be completed by the end of next month.

FORTY FIVE thousand bales of cotton, valued at 2,000,000, have been destroyed in a fire at Houston. Twenty-five blocks of buildings were demolished.

THE third trial run of the battleship *Kawachi*, which was made on Tuesday at Tateyama, is reported to have been even more satisfactory than the second trial.

ACCORDING to an official telegram reaching the Foreign Office, Ambassador Viscount Chinda paid a visit to the White House on the 27th ult. to present his credentials.

COURT ranks, ranging from the Junior Grade of the Third Rank to the Junior Grade of the Fifth Rank, have posthumously been conferred on 42 loyalists for distinguished services.

AN explosion took place in a pit of the Horonai Colliery, near Sapporo, on Tuesday night. Fortunately no casualties are reported. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

MR. RICHARD MCBRIDE, Prime Minister, has introduced in the British Columbia Legislative Assembly a resolution suggesting the enactment of a Natal Act to restrict the immigration of Orientals.

STRIKERS in Paris on the 23rd ult. placed bombs containing sulphuric acid and ether in taxi-cabs. A series of explosions followed all through the night. Ten cabs were burned in spite of the very prompt assistance which was forthcoming.

PRINCESS PRETIVA, the sister of the Maharajah of Kuch Behar, has been married in Calcutta to an Englishman named Lionel Mander, nephew of Sir Charles T. Mander. Picturesque Indian costumes were to be seen at the ceremony, which was conducted with Brahmo-Samaj rites. Lord and Lady

Hardinge, the Prince and Princess William of Sweden and other well-known persons attended the ceremony.

THE South Australian Cabinet has resigned. The Hon. A. H. Peake, leader of the Opposition in the late Parliament and Premier of the State from 1909 to 1910, is forming a Ministry.

AMONGST the candidates successful at the intermediate examination of the Law Society held on Jan. 17th and 18th was Man Kam Lo, and at the final examination Hangkam Kwintong Woo.

IT is officially announced that Sir Francis H. May, K.C.M.G., Governor of Fiji, is to succeed Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., who has been appointed to Nigeria, as Governor of Hongkong.

THE French Senate has voted upon and agreed to an article in the Finance Bill authorizing the issue of a loan of Fr. 300,000,000 bearing interest at four per cent, which may be redeemed at par, for the purpose of railway construction.

MAJOR-GENERAL F. C. AINSWORTH, U.S. Adjutant-General, is to be relieved of his duties and court-martialled for using language which Mr. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, considered impugned the integrity of himself and other officers.

FIELD MARSHAL COUNT OKU, Privy Councillor, Viscount Ito, and Court Councillor Marquis Nabeshima have been appointed Councillors of the Bureau of Decorations, to fill the vacancy caused by the deaths of Prince Iwakura, Count Higashikaze, and Viscount Tanaka.

ON the night of the 20th ultimo an attempt was made to wreck a railway train by setting fire to a bridge on the Yoshii and Tamioka section of the Kusake Line. Fortunately a railway employé discovered the fire before it caused serious consequences. The incendiary is still at large.

A TELEGRAM from Cairo states that there have been several encounters in the Yemen between the chiefs of the Imamyah, whom Turkey recently recognized, Imanuel and Duhiani. The former was compelled to take refuge in the fortress of Sanaa, the magazine of which blew up, resulting in a hundred casualties.

THE death is announced of Mr. T. Ross Reid, editor of the *Hankow Daily News* since 1906. Mr. Ross-Reid was taken ill with anthrax on the 13th inst., but he seemed to rally after a successful operation by Dr. J. A. Thomson at the Roman Catholic Hospital, Hankow. Later there was a change and Mr. Ross-Reid passed away in the evening. Deceased was well known throughout the Far East, where he had resided for many years. In Hankow he was very popular, especially in Club and sporting life. He was a native of Australia.

ONE of those fatal accidents occurred on Tuesday morning in the harbour of Yokohama that recently have become far too prevalent. It appears that the Japanese cable steamer *Okinawa Maru*, left with fifty coolies to do certain work in the harbour. As it so happened, however, one of the lighters on which these men were dispatched collided with the steamer; and the hot water from the latter vessel, swept over it. We regret to learn that two men were drowned whilst three were badly injured by the steam and the scalding water.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Saturday, February 24.

President Yuan is evidently quite decided that Peking must be the site of the Provisional Government, which may be taken to mean that it will be the site of the permanent Republican Government also. Experience shows that events generally shape themselves as Yuan Shih-kai wishes, and this important question is not likely to prove an exception to the rule. Yuan has forwarded to all the Viceroy and Governors throughout the Chinese realm, an intimation in the sense that both at home and abroad the public have declared in favour of Peking, and the Cabinet is also of the same opinion. This declaration may be taken to mean that Yuan and his advisers have definitely and irrevocably made up their minds, and it is a fair assumption that they see their way clearly to carrying their point. The fact is most important, for had the southern leaders insisted on the transfer of the metropolis to Nanking, it is more than probable that serious trouble would have ensued. The local assemblies in the provinces of Pehchili, Honan and Shansi have addressed a memorial both to Peking and to Nanking, urging that the former city is by no means sufficiently tranquillized to permit a transfer of the capital, and that attention at home and abroad is dangerously concentrated on this phase of the controversy. Altogether it may be assumed that the decision in favour of Peking is final. There is, however, one point to which attention must be drawn. It is that whereas, as stated above, Yuan, in his proclamation to the Viceroy and Governors, speaks of the Nanking Cabinet as having consented to the choice of Peking, equally positive telegrams from other sources represent the Nanking Cabinet as obdurately fixed in its resolve not to resign its functions or to entertain any further proposals unless Yuan visits Nanking in person. But there does not appear to be the slightest chance of Yuan leaving Peking before the Nanking Commissioners have reached that city and concluded their conference there. Thus the situation still presents one obscure feature.

Nothing has been heard from Canton for some time, though the vehemence of its previously expressed opinions suggested that it would make itself audible quickly and peremptorily. The telegraph now says that Canton is acting up to its reputation. The citizens have passed a resolution that the first President of the new Republic must be Sun, not Yuan, and that the seat of administration must be Nanking. These resolutions are accompanied by a genuinely Cantonese declaration, namely, that if the conditions mentioned are not fulfilled, Canton will send 100,000 men northward to ask the reason why.

There is a rumour that Wu Ting-fang and two other important members of the Commission sent to Peking for the purpose of discussing the preliminaries of a provisional administration, have declined to serve in that capacity. Their reasons for this step are said to have accompanied their resignation but the telegraph has not forwarded them to us.

During the past few days various rumours have been circulated with reference to the attitude of Field Marshal Hwang. It was suggested that he objected to the compromise effected between the north and the south, and the suggestion has now become a certainty. The Field Marshal disapproves of the arrangement and stands

aloof from it. But as he is now alone in his opposition, President Yuan is said to have decided that Hwang's isolation is not vitally important, and no further effort will be made to placate him. This, however, is evidently the beginning of personal dissensions which may lead to great trouble in future. One report has it that so soon as the preliminaries have been arranged, Sun Yat-sen will start upon a platform-tour throughout the whole of China. Having been partially instrumental in establishing a republican form of government in his country, he thinks it incumbent on him to do everything in his power towards educating the people's political ideas. Field-Marshal Hwang is believed to share this view, and the two men are likely to travel together on this lecture-tour.

Sunday, February 25.

A difference of opinion has developed itself between Messrs. Yuan and Sun with reference to the appointment of a Viceroy in the province of Shensi. But it is not yet apparent that this will lead to any serious result. On the whole it appears that some friction is developing itself with regard to the personnel of the officials nominated by Sun during the Yangtze tenure of power. This was of course to have been expected, and thus far the dimensions of the conflict are not formidable.

As for the question of the metropolitan site, public opinion seems to be crystallizing in the direction of Peking, and it does not appear likely that this problem will produce any dangerous friction unless it be on the part of the Canton men. Nothing more is heard this morning of the very vehement opposition which seemed to be developing itself in the latter quarter.

It is stated on apparently good authority, that at the suggestion of the Yangtze leaders a decision has been arrived at in the sense that the two Cabinets, namely, that of Nanking and that of Peking, shall both remain in office until the terms of a final compromise between the north and the south are arranged. Such a state of affairs seems certain to lead to conflicts of authority, but apparently neither side is sufficiently magnanimous, or perhaps we should say sufficiently rash, to trust the other implicitly. The *Chuo Shimbun*, however, has a very positive telegram which declares that a clear understanding has already been arrived at between Sun and Yuan, and that all the objections raised now or in the immediate future, have no other object except the saving of the southern face.

The steamer carrying the southern delegates to Tientsin is expected to be somewhat delayed by rough weather, and the 28th instant is now spoken of as the probable date of the arrival of the delegates in Peking.

Monday, February 26.

It was originally anticipated that the southern delegates would not reach Peking until the 28th instant, but their journey appears to have been performed with unexpected celerity, for they landed at Tientsin on the 24th instant and were to proceed to the capital on the following day. Orders had been issued from Peking that the five-colour Republican flag should be displayed at all places along the route of the delegates, and the latter, in turn, were instructed to formally announce the unanimous election of Yuan Shih-kai by the Nanking Commissioners to the post of

President of the Republic. Evidently some uneasiness is now felt about the time that must elapse before the appointment of a Provisional Government if the latter's election be postponed until the provincial representatives meet in Peking. It is, therefore, beginning to be questioned whether the safer and more practical course would not be for Yuan to choose and appoint the members of the Provisional Government by the exercise of his own authority. The advocates of this plan urge that President Yuan has an ample military backing to ensure the success of such a step. Undoubtedly he has, but if an arbitrary use of that strength is to be made from the very outset, the tranquil administration of affairs, as well as the republican character of the administration, will become more or less illusory.

As to the new Government it is stated that the principle of election to office will not be practised in its integrity. The systems of France, Germany and the United States of America will be collated, their best features being taken to form a principal stem on which will be grafted modifications suitable to the special features of Chinese civilization. Thus, the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister alone will be elected by the National Assembly, and these high officials will in turn be empowered to select and appoint all officials of ranks junior to their own. Under this system the Cabinet Ministers would be nominees of the Premier, and would not be directly responsible to the National Assembly. But another remarkable feature of the proposed system is that the power of the sword would be wholly vested in the President of the Republic. This is a vitally important point. It will be remembered that in the constitution of nineteen articles to which the Manchu Sovereign swore allegiance before the ancestral tombs, when the Chinese polity was expected to take the form of a limited monarchy, one provision was that the power of the sword should not be wielded by the Throne, but should be vested in the National Assembly. If the intention now attributed to Yuan and his partisans be accurate, the prerogatives of the President will be more extensive than those originally contemplated for the Throne. It must be understood, however, that this is only a proposal, and has not yet assumed the character of a practical issue.

The most interesting point is the instructions which have been given to the Nanking delegates for their guidance in the Peking council-chamber. These instructions are reported to be, the first that Yuan Shih-kai is to be the President of the Republic; the second, that the delegates shall submit the draft constitution compiled at Nanking, and shall ask that it be taken as the basis for building a Republic; the third, that the capital shall be either Nanking or Peking; the fourth, that to reform the finances of the country, a large loan shall be contracted; and the fifth, that Yuan Shih-kai shall be invited to proceed to Nanking.

As to this question of borrowing money, it will certainly form an interesting page of Chinese history. It was precisely because the rights-recovery fever received aliment from the Government's recourse to foreign loans, that the affairs of the Empire began to get out of hand, yet now that the people are on the verge of undertaking the management of their own affairs, one of their very first acts is to have recourse to the

money market. Nevertheless the measure is inevitable. The southern leaders claim that they have expended, from first to last, no less than 50 million *taels* upon the campaign, and they demand that the repayment of this money shall be undertaken by the Central Government. The latter, it may be assumed, has spent as much, if not more, and thus to square up the two accounts, at least 100 millions will be needed. Evidently this financial problem is going to figure prominently in the negotiations of Peking.

Some space is devoted by the correspondents of Tokyo journals to describing the reception given to the southern delegates on their arrival in Tientsin. A feature of this reception is said to have been the warmth of the welcome extended to Mr. Tang Shao-i in particular by the British, German and American members of the community. For the rest, the proceedings may be summed up as a great deal of dining and wining; so that unless the Commissioners have tolerably seasoned stomachs, the councils in Peking are not likely to be regularly attended.

It will be remembered that General Li was suspected of harbouring more or less discontent, and even of proving a stumbling block in the path of peace. These apprehensions are now dispelled. Li has agreed to accept the Vice Presidency, but he qualifies his consent by saying that if there is any prospect of the appointment becoming permanent, he will tender his resignation. In short, he does not consider that his own capacities are sufficient for more than an emergency.

The southern leaders evidently believe that Yuan will pay a visit to Nanking before long, for they have already begun to prepare a building for his reception.

Tuesday, February 27.

It would appear that the necessity of expedition in organizing the Provisional Government is fully appreciated by President Yuan, for he is said to have informed the British Representative in Peking that the principal posts in the Government will be filled within ten days. Moreover this looks as though an agreement had already been made between the northern and the southern statesmen as to the personnel of the Provisional Government.

The projected landing at Tientsin of the southern delegates met with an interruption. On the 24th instant, the steamer arrived at Taku, and a deputation from Tientsin boarded her and thereafter escorted a committee of ten officials from the vessel to Tientsin for the purpose of arranging the details of the reception. It was on this occasion that the shore officials and some of the Consular authorities greeted one of the new arrivals with marked *empressement*, believing him to be Mr. Tang Shao-i. But Mr. Tang had remained on board with the rest of the southern delegates, and he was deterred altogether from landing on that day by news that a plot was on foot to assassinate him. It was therefore decided that the formal landing at Tientsin should take place on the 26th instant. Another telegram reports that Messrs Tang and Wang preceded their confreres and reached Peking on the forenoon of the 26th so as to confer with President Yuan as speedily as possible. Thus far the only posts that appear to have been definitely filled are that of Prime Minister which falls to Mr. Tang Shao-i, and that of Vice-President, which,

as already reported, is given to General Li Yuan-hung.

As for the wearisome question of the site of the capital, the choice of Peking is evidently becoming more and more imminent. Tientsin is of course vitally interested in this question and is raising its voice correspondingly loud in favour of the northern city. In fact, it appears to be thought practically settled that Nanking will remain a mere provincial town as it has been ever since the fall of the Ming Dynasty. Everything goes to show that Yuan Shih-kai is completely master of the situation, and it is even alleged that the Provisional Government will consist entirely of his nominees.

Wednesday, February 28.

It would seem that the northern and the southern leaders in China are equally anxious to secure some semblance of a stable Government with the least possible delay; and it would seem also that their desire for expedition is prompting them to undertake an exceedingly difficult task. They propose, it is said, that the first National Assembly shall be held in Peking during the month of April, and obviously in order to attain speed sufficient for such organization it will be necessary to regard the Senate now in actual existence as the first National Assembly; for it would be extravagant to expect that all arrangements for a general election in an immense country hitherto without any experience whatever of the kind, could be achieved within the course of a month or six weeks. This would be to convert the first exercise of republicanism in China into something like a farce, yet it is confidently alleged that both the north and the south have agreed to the plan. Of course the idea is that the Nanking Cabinet shall remain in existence until the new Government is organized and until it has received the recognition of foreign Powers. Even this last condition would be extremely difficult to carry out in the proposed time. International machinery does not move with such celerity. If the projected Government had already been organized and if the National Assembly were already in existence, he would still have to be a very sanguine publicist who expected Occidental countries to come to a decision as to their attitude towards the Chinese Republic within the course of four or five weeks.

Evidently the prime reason for this bewildering haste is the urgent pressure of financial needs. Both the north and the south are overwhelmed by the weight of the debts contracted during the recent struggle, and not a moment can be lost in devising means to meet this exigency. Rumour insists on stating that the Four-Power Syndicate has again entered the arena, and has arranged for a loan of 50 million *taels* to the new Government so soon as the latter is organized and recognized. Ten millions of this total would be paid over immediately. We do not see how that is possible, however. The great Powers which endorsed the Washington programme of refraining from loans to China unless all the States were equally interested have not yet shown any sign of such unanimity in practice, and it is therefore incredible that the above syndicate, or any syndicate which lacks the mandate of the Occident and of Japan, can be engaged in negotiating alone.

There is evidence of still greater celerity in the organization of the new Government. That Yuan Shih-kai, General Li and Mr.

Tang Shao-i should fill the posts of President, Vice-President and Foreign Minister in the Provisional Government seems natural enough, but one would certainly have expected that all formalities would have been complied with in arranging for the election of the final holders of these important offices. But it is now reported on apparently good authority that the ceremonial of election will be greatly shortened, and that the National Assembly will be merely asked to extend *post facto* approval to these candidates. The same is true as to the greater part of the Nanking Cabinet. In other words, the power to nominate the holders of the highest offices of State will not be vested in the National Assembly at the outset at all events.

Another important abbreviation of the National Assembly's prerogatives is that the power of the sword will rest not in the Assembly's hands but in those of the President of the Republic. This is explained to be necessary inasmuch as the provinces are not yet in a tranquil condition, and more or less extensive military movements may be necessary from the outset of the new system. Then again, there are the questions of Mongolia, Manchuria, Sinkiang and other outlying regions. Disturbances connected with these places may have to be dealt with at once, and it would be unsafe not to make the military forces available in the quickest and most practical manner possible.

We hear nothing more about the alleged plot to assassinate Mr. Tang Shao-i immediately after his landing in Tientsin. On the contrary, so far from delaying his debarkation, Mr. Tang and three of his colleagues landed on the afternoon of the 26th instant and proceeded at once to Peking, whither they were followed on the following day by the remainder of his colleagues. Peking was to be *en fete* in honour of the arrival of these officials, and among other ceremonies arranged for their welcome, one is to be an audience with the Empress Dowager. This last fact is spoken of with some surprise, but for our own part, we do not see that there is anything to wonder at. So long as the title of Emperor exists in the Tsing Family, it is only proper that the mother of the Emperor should be treated as such.

The question of disbanded soldiers is causing much commotion to the north of the Yangtze as well as in Canton. The great majority of the Chinese troops are mercenaries in the most literal sense of the term, and where they are relieved of military duty, they have always been apt to turn to plunder. This experience is repeated in the case alike of the Insurgent and the Imperial troops, and a telegram says that various measures have been devised with more or less success for dealing with these unruly spirits.

Symptoms of revolt against Yuan Shih-kai's omnipotence are said to be making themselves apparent. Even in Peking his popularity is threatened and he is said to have assured his officials that in accepting the post of President, he had in view the permanence of their tenure of office rather than his own appointment to the Presidency. Indeed he is reported to have affirmed that he has no intention of retaining the Presidency after the Provisional Government goes out of power. Shanghai also is said to be in receipt of memorials, both official and private, from the provinces of Kwang-

tung, Kwansi and Fuchow, protesting against any government which has Yuan Shih-kai for President, and demanding that Sun and Hwang shall be the centres of the new administration. Thus early in the day symptoms of dissension are making themselves apparent. No wonder that Yuan Shih-kai desires to retain the power of the sword as a prerogative of the President.

The American Representative in Peking figures as the principal in an incredible story. His Excellency is said to have had a long interview with Yuan Shih-kai on the 22nd instant, when it was agreed that the United States of America should be the first to recognize the new Republic; that Russia undoubtedly entertains secret designs in Manchuria and Mongolia; that a Provisional Government should be organized with all speed so as to meet the requirements of the situation at home and abroad; and finally, that the Occidental Powers would not welcome an administration formed by the members of the Nanking Cabinet. We take this rumour from the telegraphic correspondence of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, but we attach not the slightest importance to it.

Thursday, February 29.

The arrival of the southern deputies in Peking on the 27th ultimo was marked by various demonstrations of rejoicing. The five-coloured flag was abundantly displayed and there were guards of honour and great crowds of officials and private men who, now, for the first time, can describe themselves as citizens, not as subjects. It is stated that all the southern delegates wore frock-coats and top hats. This is probably the first time in the history of China that the national costume has been discarded officially on a great State occasion. One result was that by onlookers it was found almost impossible to distinguish between Japanese and Chinese. Clad in Occidental habiliments both people looked exactly alike. Another feature of the ceremonial was that all the gates of the city, including those that give access to the Imperial Precincts, were thrown open in perpetuity to the great convenience of classes residing in the capital.

Not a moment was lost in getting to business. After the introduction of the southern delegates by Tang Shao-i, who seems to have acted as master of ceremonies, the representative of the southern delegates, Mr. Tsai Yuan-pel, presented a document embodying Nanking's views. These views, as verbally expressed, were that either Peking or Tientsin might be the site of a Provisional Government, but that President Yuan should repair to Nanking as soon as possible for the purpose of establishing friendly relations between that city and Peking; while as for the question of a permanent metropolis, it should be decided by the National Assembly after the latter's convocation. To this address Yuan replied by expressing a deep sense of gratitude for the honour that had been paid to him in electing him to the Presidency. He declared his resolution to be guided in everything by the interests of the nation and the happiness of the people, but as for visiting Nanking, he could not fix a date, the possibility of absents himself from Peking being still in the future. Evidently much importance is attached to this latter point. It is thought that Nanking will not be content unless Yuan pays to that city

the compliment of visiting it officially. The people of Nanking, not unnaturally, feel that having yielded all along the line, something must be done to save their face. They consider that if General Li proceeds north his presence will amply suffice for the preservation of peace and good order during Yuan Shih-kai's short absence. It is further stated that Yuan would make no difficulty about going to Nanking if it were possible for him to do so at the head of a Division of troops. But that procedure of course could not be expected to have a very tranquillizing effect on the Yangtze leaders.

Two of the southern delegates, Messrs Tsai and Wang, are said to have telegraphed to Nanking that they found everything peaceful and orderly in the metropolis. They compared the abdication of the Sovereign to the similar act in ancient times when Yao ceded the Throne to Shun; and altogether their report seems to have been most favourable. Speaking of Yuan Shih-kai, they said that nothing could exceed the zeal and diligence brought by him to the discharge of his official duties, and they did not hesitate to assert that to his astute management must be attributed the settlement of many affairs which would otherwise have proved most difficult. They concluded by pointing out the pressing necessity that exists for concord between north and south and for the formation of a Provisional Government without loss of time, in order to bring prosperity to the nation and avert the partition of the realm. Here, also, they let it be clearly seen that their hopes centred upon President Yuan. In fact, it may be confidently alleged that at the present time, Yuan is completely master of the situation. The twenty odd delegates from the south are absolutely at one in their applause of his statesmanship.

It has probably seemed strange to our readers that Tang Shao-i should be included among the southern delegates. He is not really so included, nor has he any official functions to discharge in connexion with the delegation. The fact appears to be that he is acting the part of a private peace-maker. The utmost confidence has always been placed in him by Yuan, and he seems also to have won the good will of all parties in the south during the conference with Wu Ting-fang. He will doubtless make an excellent Premier in the Provisional Government.

THE CHINESE HEIRLOOMS.

Peking appears to have fallen into a condition analogous to that which overtook it in the sequel of the Boxer emeute. The heirlooms of the Court are finding their way into the hands of foreign collectors, their custodians being tempted to take advantage of the confusion and of the high prices offered by foreign agents. An agitation has thus been set on foot in favour of making these precious objects the property of the State, and using them to furnish a national museum where they would be at once a testimony to Chinese art excellence and the means of attracting foreign tourists. We (*Japan Mail*) can answer for it that nothing would better please the majority of foreign collectors than to see such a museum established. It will be remembered that some time ago there was talk of hypothecating the Mukden heir-

looms for a loan to tide over the pressing necessities of the Imperial Court. No outsider can say exactly what objects are included in the Mukden collection, but it is commonly reported that much dishonesty has been practised during recent years. The method pursued has been to have copies made of the pictures and other copyable objects, and these copies being surreptitiously substituted for the originals, the latter have quietly been carried off. Indeed some people go so far as to allege that this process of substitution has taken place several times in the case of some specially celebrated objects. Still there are many *chefs d'œuvre* which do not lend themselves to the possibility of being copied, and we have it on the testimony of men who visited Mukden during the great war, that a noble collection of exquisite art objects still existed there seven or eight years ago. Peking has suffered even more than Mukden since the colossal pillage of the Summer Palace by the French troops something more than a cycle ago. But when one examines the interminable lists of objects of art requisitioned annually for the use of the Court all through the reigns of the Manchu Emperors, one recognizes that great quantities must still remain. These it should be the object of every patriotic Chinese to preserve intact, for they constitute an undying tribute to the genius of Chinese artists, and are quite independent of Manchu despotism.

CHINESE SOCIALISTS.

The public at large has hitherto heard very little about Chinese socialists—so little, indeed, that the very existence of such a party was unknown in many quarters. But now that government by the people for the people is the fashion of the hour in China, a socialist party has evidently considered it safe to proclaim itself. Its leaders have therefore addressed a memorial to Yuan Shih-kai, setting forth the defects of the twentieth century society and urging the necessity of reform. To this document Yuan has replied that, while not wholly disapproving of the Socialist doctrines, he considers that the social organization is, on the whole, fixed beyond the range of immediate change, and he therefore must decline to acquiesce in any drastic alteration. It will be indeed a dangerous novelty if the world has to reckon with socialism in a country like China where so much inflammable material is lying around everywhere.

THE CHINESE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

A few days ago it was reported that the Empress Dowager had committed suicide, and such an ending to her unhappy career seemed not unlikely in the eyes of her sympathisers, who were legion. But the latest news from Peking disturbs the continuity of this drama. Her Majesty is said to be enjoying exceptional ease of mind and body. She tells her child's Grand Tutors that she is profoundly grateful for the restoration of tranquillity to her people, and for the security obtained for the ancestral tombs of the Imperial Family. In fact, she is blessed with a feeling of peace and ease such as she has not experienced for years past. There is no talk of committing suicide or of any other catastrophe.

CHINESE LOANS.

Friday, February 23.

It is stated this morning that the proposed loan on the security of the China Merchants' S.N. Company's fleet has fallen through owing to opposition on the part of the shareholders. On the other hand, a German loan of three million *taels* has been effected on the security of the *sake* and tobacco taxes in Pechili. Opposition to this transaction was offered by the Local Assembly, but Yuan managed to placate the members. It is said that money is immediately needed in connexion with the reception of the Yangtze delegates, and also for rewards to military officers. There is an idea that this transaction presages the conclusion of a much larger loan by German financiers.

Several other items of news about loans are mentioned, but there is nothing conclusive.

Sunday, February 25.

Various complications seem to have arisen with reference to the projected loan on the security of the Han-Ya-Ping Company's and the China Merchants' S.N. Company's properties. It appears that the Nanking Cabinet could not lawfully conclude this transaction direct, and it became necessary that the companies themselves should borrow the money in the first instance, transferring it subsequently to the Nanking Government. That much is clear from the telegrams, but whether this manoeuvre will suffice to remove the technical difficulty is still uncertain. The whole matter has fallen into a confused condition, as might have been more or less anticipated seeing that the Nanking Government has no international status.

As to the Tung-kwan-shan copper mine in Hupeh, it is said that the negotiations with the East Asia Industrial Company (*To-A Kogyo Kaisha*) have fallen through, and that a similar fate has to be recorded in the case of the same negotiations with the Sumitomo Bank. English capitalists have, accordingly, been approached in Tientsin, and they are said to have signified their willingness to consent provided that some guarantee is given against future trouble in connexion with the rights' recovery agitation.

Wednesday, February 28.

In our last issue we published a report that President Yuan had negotiated a loan of 10 million *taels* with the so-called Four-Powers Syndicate, and that ex-President Sun had endorsed the transaction. This statement turns out to be apocryphal. It is not believed in Tokyo that Yuan's position is yet sufficiently secure to warrant Occidental capitalists in placing any considerable sum at his disposal. The *Asahi Shinbun* makes on this subject an interesting comment which it attributes to an anonymous diplomat. The gist of the statement is that the Powers have come to an agreement among themselves not to make any loan to China if the money is intended to promote belligerent operations. If, on the other hand, funds are needed to prevent insurrection or to preserve order, they will be lent by all the treaty Powers acting in conclave. It is evident, therefore, that no loan to China can be made without the co-operation of all the Powers concerned in that arrangement, and as Japan has not yet been consulted, it may be inferred that no loan is on the tapis. Nobody doubts,

however, that one of the very first acts of the Provisional Government will be to approach Occidental Powers with a proposal for a large loan. Alike in the south and also in the north, tens of millions of *taels* have been spent upon this political struggle, and the greater part of the money has to be repaid to the various sources from which it was borrowed. That is doubtless a principal reason for the haste shown by President Yuan in organizing a Provisional Government.

It is really very difficult to ascertain the truth about the China Merchants' S.N. Co.'s loan. Rumour after rumour has appeared, one confirming and the next contradicting. The latest story is that Field Marshal Hwang undertook the negotiation, and had carried it almost within sight of completion when Yuan interfered and vetoed the transaction. This statement may be contradicted presently. We give it merely for what it may be worth.

As for the Hang-Ya-Ping loan, a strong contradiction is published of the recently circulated rumour that an objection has been forwarded to Sheng on the ground that the articles of the Company do not sanction the contracting of foreign debts. This objection, it will be remembered, took the form of a threatening letter to Mr. Sheng who is now sojourning at Suma in Japan. He was peremptorily told that he had no power to arbitrarily set aside the provisions of the Company's articles. But as a matter of fact, the articles are said not to contain any such veto. Already, indeed, a considerable sum of Japanese money is invested in the enterprise, and as Sheng and Li hold between them more than one-half of the total number of shares, it is evident that they are competent to contract a further foreign loan if they consider such a course would be to the benefit of the Company.

Thursday, February 29.

The subject of China's loans continues to be widely discussed, and it is almost impossible to distinguish the true from the false. One of the latest rumours is that the Nanking Cabinet has concluded all arrangements for raising a sum of 15 million *taels* at 5 per cent., the issue-price being 97½, and the security being *nil*. This is said to be the sequel of a much larger debt which was in contemplation shortly after the outbreak of the war, but which was abandoned after the restoration of peace. Of course it will be seen that this rumour is not entitled to credence. Then there is confident talk of revived negotiations between the Peking Authorities and the Four-Powers Syndicate, but as to this, Japanese statesmen are quoted in the sense that under the provisions of the Washington Note, no loan is at all likely to be made without the participation of all the Powers. Rumour also adds that in reply to a note from President Yuan, the Japanese Representative in Peking stated that until some form of government had received full recognition from the foreign Powers, the Japanese Authorities would not be prepared to sanction any loan contracted by their nationals.

LATEST advices from England state that the Rev. Dr. Griffith John, the veteran Chinese missionary, has already benefited by his rest since his return home from China. The Rev. C. G. Sparham, his son-in-law, who took him home, is returning almost immediately to Hankow.

A CURIOUS MEETING.

On the afternoon of the 22nd ultimo an assemblage of men representing all the parties existing in Japan for the purpose of studying China, was held at the Seiyoken in Tsukiji. Over 200 persons were present. Two resolutions were passed unanimously. One was that the reality of China's progressive insurrection should be consummated; and the other, that the Japanese Government should assist to secure this result. It would have been difficult to construct vaguer pronouncements of policy, and beyond the fact of showing that there is a strong disposition in Japan to sympathise with China's progressive ideas, it would be hard to say what the meeting was intended to demonstrate. It was explained in these columns some time ago that there are in Japan several small associations whose objects are to investigate Chinese affairs; to promote intercourse and friendship with her; to further her reform and to develop her material resources. These small societies have been working quietly for several years, and have succeeded in equipping their countrymen and themselves with a knowledge of Chinese affairs and conditions incomparably more accurate than that possessed by any Occidentals. But their labours have always been marked by a certain measure of vagueness, and this was plainly shown at the meeting alluded to above. Two or three members showed a disposition to ventilate extreme views. Thus one speaker ridiculed the notion of a revolution by compromise, and another denounced President Yuan as lacking qualities essential in the leader of such a great movement. At any rate, if the meeting did not accomplish very much, it showed that Chinese affairs are close to the hearts of many Japanese publicists.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPALITY.

The question of electric light in Tokyo is beginning to cause some excitement. It is stated that the number of houses in the city is 400,000 and the number of electric lights now actually supplied is 1,300,000, being at the rate of little more than three lights per house. Taking into account the fact that a great quantity of gas also is burnt, it becomes evident that there cannot be much room for a further supply of electric light. Hence, when the privilege of supplying electric light was reckoned among the sources of additional income accruing in the future to the Tokyo Railway Company, a calculation was made which had no basis in reality. Already the Tokyo Electric Light Company supplies 600,000 lights, and thus the field for exploitation becomes still more restricted. These are said to be the reasons which induce the Governor of Tokyo to withhold his consent to an extension of the Tokyo Railway Company's electric-light plan. They also constitute cogent reasons for increasing the railway force, inasmuch as the citizens will have to be taxed heavily on account of the railway debt unless some means of augmenting the earnings can be found. Many people predicted from the outset that something of the kind would be necessary, but we strongly suspect that the figures which formed the basis of the municipalization of the Tokyo Railway were not such glaringly simple affairs as the above account suggests.

MANCHURIA.

Friday, February 23.

Public order has been restored at Tieling, and the Japanese troops have been relieved of the duty of specially guarding the lives and properties of their countrymen.

At Kaiyuan two hundred mounted bandits, proclaiming themselves to be Republicans, raided the town on the 22nd instant, and carried away a considerable sum of money from a local bank and from the Government offices. They also burned some official buildings; drove off the police, and are said to be now in possession of the place.

From Haiching, intelligence has been received of a small collision which occurred there a few days ago and which had no very decisive result. All the Japanese inhabitants retired within the railway zone.

Shocking cruelties are laid at the door of the successful Imperialist troops in Harbin. No attempt was made to succour the wounded, and their sufferings were such that they prayed to be at once relieved from the horror of living. Six prisoners were decapitated immediately and eight others are expected to meet the same fate.

The situation in Manchuria may be briefly summed up in saying that since the withdrawal of General Lan and his forces, southern Manchuria has been restored to order, but in the north, disturbance continues still.

Saturday, February 24.

Vague rumours continue to be circulated with reference to Russia's doings in regard to Manchuria. Now that a republican form of government has been decided on in Peking, St. Petersburg is alleged to have preferred an important demand on Peking, but nothing is stated as to the nature of the demand except that it refers to the Amur region.

In the southern quarter of Manchuria tranquillity may now be said to have been completely restored, and in the north, also, the only disturbers of peace seem to be the mounted bandits. These gentry, hoisting the colours of the some-time Insurgents, are taking advantage of the situation to commit various outrages.

All Chinese troops, whatever cause they serve, have now been withdrawn from the neutral railway zones.

Shantung, however, appears to be suffering severely at the hands of Lan's troops. These, having returned to Chefoo from the Liaotung Peninsula, are behaving in a most lawless manner. President Yuan has naturally protested in Nanking against such unjustifiable proceedings, but Nanking is probably incompetent to effect any peace-restoring change.

Sunday, February 25.

There has been a most unfortunate incident at Penhsihu coal-mine. On the 23rd instant a party of men calling themselves Insurgents, appeared at the office of the Local Authorities and demanded that the building should be handed over to them. Their demand being refused, they took their departure, and measures were adopted for guarding the offices. Presently, three Japanese, one a woman, were on their way back from a bath house, when a volley was fired at them by the garrison of the official buildings. The woman escaped unhurt, but one of the men was killed on the spot and the other severely wounded, though this last managed to struggle home. Later

in the same day, another Japanese subject was fired upon as he passed peacefully along the street. It is scarcely possible to believe that these incidents were due to mistake, and that the official garrison regarded the Japanese as Insurgents in disguise. At all events, on the following day (24th instant), the Japanese residents of Penhsihu held a meeting and decided that the Japanese Authorities must be requested to assume a strong attitude in this matter.

From Tieling it is reported that the Chinese constables on patrol duty are behaving with much violence and arrogance, and have provoked the anger of the Japanese and Chinese communities alike by their unruly conduct. Another report from the same place alleges that these patrol men assemble within the Japanese Settlement with arms, and behave in a most arbitrary manner. Official remonstrances have been duly preferred.

The news is confirmed that Kaiyuan has fallen into the hands of so-called Insurgents, who, in reality, are mounted bandits. Viceroy Chao has forwarded a quantity of arms and ammunition from Mukden for the use of the garrison.

There has been fighting at Haicheng also. There the Government troops, on the morning of the 22nd, attacked the so-called Insurgents and inflicted on them a signal defeat.

Viceroy Chao is said to have addressed to the Japanese Authorities a memorandum pointing out that an agreement having been come to by the northern and southern Governments, all distinctions between Insurgents and Imperialists have now disappeared, and everybody engaged in armed operations must be taken as a wilful disturber of the public peace. His Excellency therefore desired that the restrictions relating to neutral zones should be disregarded for the moment, as the operation of such a system tends only to supply asylum for marauders.

Talk is again heard about the resignation of Viceroy Chao. His Excellency is said to be really too ill to continue discharging the duties of his office, although he has hitherto held his post in deference to pressing requests from the Central Government. It will be remembered that President Sun, during his tenure of power, appointed General Lan to the position of Viceroy, but this nomination has not been confirmed by Yuan, who says that he considers Lan too young and too inexperienced for such a post. It is thought, however, that Viceroy Chao's state of health necessitates his relief.

Monday, February 26.

The man who was wounded at Penhsihu on the 23rd instant by a volley from the rifles of the police patrol at Penhsihu, died on the night of the 24th. Thus the deaths of two peaceful Japanese subjects, who were wholly innocent of any infraction of the law, lie at the door of the Chinese constables. It has been proved, however, that the incident was purely accidental.

Viceroy Chao preferred a complaint to Yuan Shih-kai with reference to the action taken by the Japanese troops in preserving public peace and order at Tieling. Our readers doubtless remember that when the commotion broke out in that city, Japanese railway guards undertook the task of protecting life and property, and withdrew when their services were no longer required. Viceroy Chao contended that this was altogether *ultra vires*, and asked President Yuan to investigate the matter. Yuan is said to

have replied, on the strength of information obtained from the Japanese Legation, that there was no intention whatever of encroaching upon Chinese jurisdiction, the whole object having been to assist in preserving order and protecting the lives and properties of the Japanese residents. President Yuan is said to have been entirely satisfied with the Japanese explanations.

The same Viceroy is said to have addressed another complaint to Peking with reference to the conduct of the Russian and Japanese Authorities in Manchuria. He claims that malefactors belonging to the mounted bandits, are shielded by the Japanese and Russian Authorities, who decline to hand them over for punishment; the consequence being that the efforts of the Chinese troops to restore order are rendered abortive. As to this complaint and its reception by the Japanese Government, we have no further information, but few people will be found to believe that Japanese officials are deliberately sheltering bandits.

From Kaiyuan in Manchuria comes confirmatory news that the capture of the place was effected by a body of one hundred men under the leadership of a captain called Liu. They claimed to be a Republican force, but in reality they were simply bandits, and they at once commenced a campaign of pillage and incendiarism. Four hundred soldiers with artillery moved out from Mukden and engaged these law-breakers on the morning of the 25th instant, but the result of the fight is not yet published. In connexion with this matter the Japanese railway guards took very decisive action. They expelled from the neutral zones of the railway all persons carrying arms, whether they claimed to belong to the north or the south, and by these means thorough security was ensured within the zones.

Tuesday, February 27.

The latest version of the Penhsihu incident leaves a good deal to the imagination. The public is asked to believe that two Japanese men and a woman, returning from a bath-house, were mistaken for Insurgents and shot down incontinently. It is even regarded as possible that one of the men in a mortally wounded condition, was dragged into the police station and severely beaten under the continued belief that he was an insurgent. The Chinese soldiers' account is that while they were engaged watching for the approach of the Insurgents the above three persons arrived upon the scene, and were immediately made the target of a volley without further query. Certainly it would seem that the credulity of the Japanese is largely relied on when they are asked to accept such statements.

Wednesday, February 28.

It is not surprising to learn that the firing of volleys by Chinese patrols at peaceful Japanese subjects returning from their baths, is not thought to be sufficiently explained by the simple plea of mistaken nationality. The question is evidently still open. Viceroy Chao seems to have been satisfied that the police acted in entire good faith, but Peking apparently, does not take that view, for it is said that the incident is not unlikely to lead to Viceroy Chao's resignation, and his replacement by one of the Nanking Statesmen.

Indeed it would seem that Yuan Shih-kai is making every effort to establish friendly relations with the Japanese in Manchuria, at all events. The telegram says that he has

recognized the propriety of employing Japanese troops to protect life and property within the walled city of Tiehling. The Viceroy of Mukden took a different view of this incident, and contended that the Japanese exceeded the proper limits of their power when they undertook such a duty within a walled city in Manchuria. Thus the matter came to be discussed in Peking, and the Japanese representations obtained Yuan's approval.

Thursday, February 29.

There continue to be disquieting incidents in Manchuria. The Local Authorities at Penhsihui insist that the catastrophe which recently occurred there is sufficiently accounted for by saying that the Japanese sufferers were mistaken for Chinese. When the rebels cut their hair and wear Occidental garments, as they habitually do, it is not possible to distinguish them from Japanese, and to that confusion the shooting of the two men as they were peacefully passing from a bath-house to their own dwelling is attributed. The Chinese find this explanation quite satisfactory from their point of view, but the Japanese are a little more difficult to placate. They are said to have replied that if such confusion exists in the Chinese mind, they, the Japanese, must organize means of self-defence, and they have accordingly sent a detachment of railway guards to protect life and property at Penhsihui. Against this measure the Chinese Local Authorities have lost no time in protesting. It is said also that Japanese subjects are suffering greatly from the violent demeanour of Chinese constables and soldiers elsewhere in Manchuria, and that if things continue in such a state, serious trouble is not unlikely to occur at any moment.

The situation at Kaiyuan caused some perplexity, but is not sufficiently comprehensible. It appears that the place was held by about a hundred so-called Insurgents, who were attacked by a strong body of Government troops. The assault had caused some deaths and had proved abortive, when a Japanese force appeared upon the scene, and persuaded the combatants to withdraw quietly. That is the whole story stripped of superfluous tales.

PEKING OR NANKING.

President Yuan is reported to have prepared five reasons for submission to the southern delegates who are now on their way to the north. These reasons are considered by Yuan to be conclusive in favour of choosing Peking as the seat of future Government. The first reason is that as the foreign Legations have all been in Peking for many decades, it would be necessary for the Chinese Government to buy up the lands and buildings of these Legations, if the transfer of the capital to another city were arbitrarily decided. The second reason is Peking's comparative propinquity to Mongolia, Manchuria and the other outlying sections of China's domain. The third is that all the buildings and equipments necessary for administrative purposes already exist in Peking, and the expense of establishing them elsewhere would be avoided by making no change. The fourth, that the proposed transfer of the metropolis to a distant city would certainly evoke vehement and probably riotous protests on the part of the citizens of Peking. The fifth and the final reason

is that Peking is conveniently situated for supervising the Imperial Family.

Meanwhile from various influential bodies and personages throughout the realm strongly worded protests against a change of the metropolitan site are being circulated broadcast. It is contended out that from the point of view of communications with the outer world, Peking is incomparably better situated than Nanking. The Panama Canal, the Trans-Baikal Railway and the other means of communication now approaching completion, are pointed to in support of this argument. It is further pointed out that a watch must be kept on the representatives of the Manchu Dynasty, who, however submissive they may seem at present, would be sure to organize some attempt to rehabilitate the Throne if they were left in a position isolated from military control. Another argument advanced is that the adhesion of the outlying portions of the realm is not very stable, and that the foreign Powers are only too likely to take advantage of this comparative inability to prosecute aggressive designs upon these territories. The framers of these documents further lay much stress on the great costliness of shifting the site of the capital, and thus wasting all the accommodation which has existed in Peking for long years. Yuan's argument as to the site of the foreign Legations is supported by these memorialists. In short, the movement against transferring the capital to the south is already quite convincing, and we do not see that the Yangtze leaders can find any adequate reply. Vehement voices are also beginning to be raised against the delay entailed by this dispute. The fact is recalled that great results, both administrative and financial, are constantly expected to accrue from the overthrow of the Monarchy and its replacement by a republic, yet the very first preliminary, namely, the site of the capital, has not yet been settled. This is a very disheartening preliminary to the successes that are to attend Republican institutions.

THE CHINESE ARMY.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* says that Yuan Shih-kai has under consideration the radical reform of the army system, on the model of the European and Japanese army systems. The General Staff Office will be created with Hwang Hsing for chief. Yuan is in favour of creating well trained soldiers and therefore proposes to cut down the present Divisions to fifteen; to introduce the universal conscript system, and to place the provincial armies under the direct control of the Central Government. The details will be arranged on consultation with Hwang upon the latter's acceptance of the appointment.

Important news is telegraphed from Peking with regard to China's military organization. President Yuan is said to entertain very positive and practical views on that subject. He thinks that the forces organized by Generals Tieh and Yin left much to be desired in point of physique, morale and equipment. They were, moreover, conspicuously weak in proportion to their nominal numbers. The first lesson that ought to be inculcated in the hearts of Chinese soldiers is that they form part of the army of the whole realm, not the army of this or that special locality. Yuan proposes, therefore, to reduce

the original scheme of thirty six Divisions to fifteen, but on the other hand, to obtain the units of these Divisions by recourse to conscription, so that not only shall the physically fittest men be obtained for service with the colours, but also the narrow idea of drafting conscripts into the forces of their locality alone shall be dispelled, the headquarters of the new army being in Peking and the various units being absolutely interchangeable. In fact, the systems adopted in Germany and Japan shall be followed in China, and thus it will be possible at any moment to march a powerful force to the subjugation of monarchical supporters in Mongolia, Manchuria or Tibet, or to deal effectually with Mohammedan uprisings. In a word, Yuan proposes to organize a powerful military force which shall serve to support the Republican cause throughout the length and breadth of China. His apprehensions are concentrated chiefly upon domestic requirements, and although he is much too clever a statesman to ignore the helplessness of a country not possessing a navy, it is not wonderful that after recent experiences, his thoughts should turn to an army at first. Fifteen Divisions would signify something like 150,000 troops of all arms on a peace footing, and if this military impulse becomes fashionable so that the army is supplemented by a navy, the Chinese tax-payer will discover that a republic is by no means the cheapest form of government.

KOBE AND CHINESE.

The Chinese residents of Kobe have quarrelled with the police of that place. From the accounts telephoned to Tokyo it appears that the residents planned a torchlight procession for the evening of the 27th ultimo, the idea being to celebrate the establishment of a Chinese Republic. They applied to the police authorities for permission but the latter were reluctant to grant it on the ground that the republican form of government in China had not yet received international recognition. Ultimately, however, permission was given under certain conditions. Among these conditions was one that no band should be employed. The Chinese, however, neglected to comply with this condition and the police accordingly interrupted the procession, thus exciting great anger among the Chinese, who insisted that they were treated with unfairness and contumely. Every effort seems to have been made to placate them, but they still harbour much resentment and talk loudly of a boycott of Japanese goods.

As might have been expected, a very meagre account of the Kobe affair has been telegraphed to Shanghai. The information furnished by the telegraph is simply that the Japanese police would not allow the Chinese residents of Kobe to organize a lantern procession in honour of the establishment of a republican form of government in China; and that the Chinese residents of that place have accordingly decided to boycott the Japanese. It is pretty plain that a boycott in this case would cut both ways and would be as irksome to the Chinese themselves as to their Japanese customers. The incident is very much to be regretted, but any attempt to construe it as evidence of anti-Republican feeling in Japan, or of a desire to interfere in China's domestic politics, would be extravagant.

PARTURIUNT MONTES.

The mountain-born mouse of the Latin saying, takes the form of a snake's tail with dragon's head according to Chinese aphorisms. That is what an anonymous statesman says of the present situation through the columns of the *Jiji Shimpō*, and it must be confessed that there is much reason in his criticism. The mountains of Chinese republicanism, he says, have been in travail and have brought forth a ridiculous mouse. When the commotion commenced at Wuchang, the ideals of the Insurgents were lofty and their programme was extensive. They were going to renovate China and to lead her to great achievements. But what has been the genuine outcome? The south has had to yield completely to the north. Its leaders have been engaged almost from the outset in a series of compromises and now they have a non-administrative sovereign bearing his own old title in his own old palace, while next door to him, a cabinet of Republicans are squabbling about the hundred details of their programme. The leaders of the insurrection have not even been able to occupy the seats of power partially, not to say wholly. The victory has been to the north from point to point. And who can predict what may not happen at any moment when the office of dictator is occupied by a man of such mutability as Yuan Shih-kai? A few weeks ago, he was moving heaven and earth to bring about the establishment of a limited monarchy. To day, he poses as the champion of a Republic. Who can tell with what laurels he will crown himself to-morrow? This Japanese statesman, whom we suspect to be a member of the *Jiji Shimpō's* staff, is a genuine Japanese in his belief that without any invincible strength of purpose nothing great can be achieved in this world of ours.

MESSRS. INUKAI AND TOYAMA.

Considering the prominence of the positions occupied by Mr. Inukai Ki and Mr. Toyama Mitsuru in the political world, their movements upon the stage of the civil strife in China naturally attract some attention. But that their arrival in Shanghai should seriously influence the great question of the site of China's future capital is scarcely credible. Nevertheless that is the latest story. These two Japanese politicians are represented by the Tokyo press as having had five hours' conversation with Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Field Marshal Hwang in Shanghai, the result being that the two Chinese statesmen were much strengthened in their resolve to insist on Nanking as the future capital. No details of the discussion are given, and we venture to doubt the correctness of the report in Tokyo. Neither Mr. Inukai nor Mr. Toyama, nor both together, can offer any assistance of a tangible nature towards such a project, and being both level-headed men, they cannot fairly be suspected of any such reckless advice.

The public had been informed that Professors Terao and Soyejima and Mr. Toyama, abandoning all idea of serving the southern leaders, were packing their portmanteaux and preparing to return to Japan when Mr. Inukai Ki appeared for the second time upon the stage of the Yangtze Valley. People wondered what difference Mr. Inukai's pre-

sence or absence could make in such a situation, and they are wondering still. The latest news is that the four men have turned their faces towards Wuchang where they will be received and commended with by General Li. The experience of the Insurgent leaders does not appear to have inspired them with much confidence so far, at any rate, as Sun Yat-sen is concerned. That noted revolutionist is too self-effacing to lead any great movement against projects directed by a statesman like Yuan Shih-kai.

A PRIESTLY TRAVELLER.

The celebrated Buddhist priest, Shaku Genkyō, who has passed twenty-eight years of his life in China and who probably knows more about the people and the Government of that country than any living foreigner, returned recently to his native land. Genkyō has his temple at Tung-hsuan in the province of Huuan, and as that is his permanent residence, his coming to Tokyo on this occasion is only for the purpose of a short visit. He is quoted as speaking of the events in Peking when the insurrection first broke out. It was immediately possible, he says, to distinguish the result of conflicts at Hankow by observing the attitude of the inhabitants in Peking. So surely as the news was unfavourable to the Government troops, hundreds of the inhabitants of the capital might be seen flocking to the railway station, laden with goods and household utensils, however cheap and common the articles were. In fact, nothing seemed to be so worthless, in Chinese eyes, as to be abandoned. On the other hand, if the intelligence pointed to an Imperialist victory, nothing of this commotion was observable. The same remark applies to the banks. Talk of an Insurgent victory had the immediate effect of flooding the banks with men who clamoured to have their balances paid over the counter. In fact, according to the story told by this priest, public confidence was entirely on the Imperial side at the outset of the trouble.

CHOSEN.

We have hitherto abstained from making any final comment on the conspiracy affair in Chosen because experience has taught us that very little reliance can be placed on stories circulated with regard to legal proceedings which have not yet emerged from the magisterial stage. The necessity of reticence in such matters is vividly illustrated in this instance, for it turns out that the statement as to a Christian missionary's arrest is baseless. Several of our contemporaries actually published the name of the missionary said to have been apprehended, but it now transpires that the gentleman in question was not arrested at all, the operations against him being limited to a search of his house. Japanese police observe the greatest strictness in withholding from the public all information about preliminary investigations and there has been no departure from the rule in this case. It may even be doubted whether the imagination of a newsmonger is not responsible for the statement published some days ago to the effect that the police predicted considerable surprise when the proceedings of the preliminary examination became generally known.

THE JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVE IN PEKING.

There has been much talk of late of a change of the Japanese Representative in Peking, and Mr. Ijuin is said to have actually tendered his resignation. Various mysterious rumours are circulated to account for this unexpected event, but none of them is sufficiently convincing to be worthy of detailed reference. Of course this may furnish an explanation of the fact that there has been no recent interchange of visits between the Japanese Representative and President Yuan, much as the latter desired that event. Mr. Ijuin has been the butt of many attacks, both political and journalistic, but we cannot imagine that these would have moved him much so long as he had the approval of his Government.

The Japanese Legation in Peking continues to attract much attention. The *Asahi Shimbun's* correspondent now wires that Mr. Ijuin seems to have lost his opportunity of exchanging a visit of congratulation with Yuan, and that the aloofness practised by the Japanese Legation is attracting much attention at Peking. We have no doubt that a full and satisfactory explanation will soon be forthcoming, but in the meanwhile strict reticence is observed. The Russian Legation is practising the same reserve, and the natural inference is that both St. Petersburg and Tokyo are influenced by some consideration quite apart from China's domestic struggle.

The latest news as to the attitude of the foreign Legations in Peking is that the Representatives of Italy and Mexico have paid congratulatory visits to Mr. President Yuan, but that the Japanese and Russian Representatives maintain their attitude of aloofness. It is evident however that this exceptional demeanour on the part of Japan and Russia does not excite any marked surprise in Tokyo. The obvious belief is that a sufficient reason will be forthcoming when the time passes for observing official reticence.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY.

The public has not heard the last of that interminable question, the Tokyo Railway Company. Its latest development is connected with electric lighting. The profits derived from this branch of the enterprise were taken into full account when fixing the price of municipalization, but now suddenly the Governor of Tokyo has vetoed the Municipality's application for permission to extend its electric-lighting enterprise. In the face of this veto it is claimed that the Tokyo Railway cannot be made a paying concern at present rates, and that it will be still more unprofitable after the suburban extensions of 32 miles have been completed. The Governor, however, is understood to take the position that although the 200,000 electric lights already in operation by the Municipality may be continued, to extend the service to a million lights, as the Company originally planned, would expose the two other electric light companies to undue competition. But, on the other hand, it is claimed that had this restriction existed at the time of the municipalization, the price paid for the tram company's property would have been much smaller. Thus the problem seems likely to cause fresh trouble.

MR. SUNG CHOU-JEN.

The above name is probably not familiar to many of our readers, though Mr. Sung has been much mentioned of late as the probable Representative of his country in Tokyo, and though at present he is a prominent member of the Nanking Cabinet. He has now come into sudden observation owing to a telegram addressed by him to Mr. Ogawa Heikichi, a well-known member of the House of Representatives. The telegram urgently suggests that the Japanese Government should dissociate itself publicly from the declaration of independence made by Manchuria. This declaration, Mr. Sung says, inspires much uneasiness in China, where it is suggested to be part of a Japanese and Russian scheme for separating Manchuria and Mongolia from the Chinese realm, preparatory to their absorption into the Empires of Japan and Russia respectively. Mr. Ogawa replied to this suggestion by denying that even the fact of such declaration having been made was officially known in Japan, and he added the most explicit assurances that nothing of the kind suggested by Mr. Sung was contemplated by the Japanese people. It should be stated that Mr. Sung's despatch disavowed any faith on his own part in the motives attributed to Japan, but at the same time he explained that the subject was causing much uneasiness in Nanking.

The interest of this incident consists in the evidence it furnishes that President Yuan or his lieutenants, acting under his orders, have been using Japan as a scarecrow to influence the Yangtze leaders. From first to last Mr. Yuan has placed in the forefront of his arguments the danger that menaced China's integrity on the side of the Foreign Powers if she allowed her strength to be crippled by intestine squabbles. We can all sympathize with Mr. Yuan in this matter, for the peril he contemplated was and is very imminent, and in nothing has he shown greater astuteness and tact than in his demeanour towards the foreign Powers throughout the disturbance. Indeed this chapter of Chinese history shows written in large letters between its lines, a very interesting fact; namely, that the people of China have at length recognized the imperative necessity of respecting foreign life and property. They have been taught the lesson without much show of mercy, but they have learned it all the more effectually.

MONGOLIA.

It is thought that very likely complications of a troublesome character will occur between Russia and China with regard to Mongolia, for President Yuan is not by any means disposed to allow this extensive region to become a Russian protectorate, as would inevitably be the case if the programme of so called independence, proclaimed recently by the Mongolian Princes, became an accomplished fact. Yuan has accordingly decided to despatch a carefully selected commissioner, who will explain fully to the Mongolians the risky character of the step they contemplate. It will be pointed out to them that Russian influence will be quite invincible under the proposed arrangement, and that even the religion to which they attach so much importance will be invaded by Christianity. We hear also of another element of the situation which has

not hitherto been openly discussed, and which derives much cogency from the fact that it is of a financial nature. It appears that Kulon, which has now been chosen as the capital of Mongolia, is financed every year politically and commercially by Peking to the extent of 10 million taels. Yuan's delegate will be instructed to point out that the payment of these loans must of necessity precede any assertion of Mongolian independence. It is thought, probably with justice, that this argument will have telling force.

The public is again asked to believe that the Principalities of Mongolia have planned to reinstate the Manchu Dynasty in Mongolia and Manchuria, and to set up these two districts as an independent monarchy. This is an old story. It has figured several times already on the menu of sensational news, and probably no more confidence is placed in it now than it received when it took exactly the opposite form, namely, that the Mongolian Princes had recognized the futility of such a scheme. Nevertheless it is not to be denied that Mongolia constitutes a source of great uneasiness to China, and that Russia's intentions with regard to the district are not as pacific as to justify Peking's indifference.

MISCHIEVOUS NEWSPAPERS.

It is to be apprehended that the vernacular Press of China is setting itself to create bad feeling between its fellow countrymen and the Japanese. The *Mingli-pao* of Shanghai has not only published a garbled account of the Kobe lantern-procession incident, but is also endeavouring to establish a charge of undue interference on the part of the Japanese capitalists in the case of the Tungkwang-shan copper mine; whereas the truth is that the overtures came from China and were rejected by the Mitsui and the Okura Companies, whence the proposal was passed on to the Sumitomo Bank, thus far without success. The same newspaper publishes a statement that under the pretence of protecting the railway zone, the Japanese have landed 16,000 men in southern Manchuria. It certainly does seem that the netter of the Press in its lower ranks is deliberate mischief making. The Japanese are not without experiences of this nature in their own country, and they will know how to discount them in China's case, but, after all, that is poor consolation.

THE QUESTION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.

An interesting question is said to have been preferred by General Li to Mr. Sun Yat-sen. It relates to the Customs' dues collected at Ichang, Chungking, Shasi and Hankow. These dues are hypothecated in part for a foreign loan. They are collected by the foreigners in whose hands is reposed the duty of administering the Chinese Customs. Since the insurrection broke out the Custom House officials have retained the whole of the dues collected, on the ground that a doubt had arisen as to their proper recipient. General Li contends that in thus acting these foreign officials exceeded their legitimate powers. They were doubtless right in holding back all moneys required to meet payments of principal and interest on the foreign debt, but beyond that their powers did not extend, and General Li presses for a decision of this question.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Two somewhat disquieting telegrams have to be recorded. One is from Dr. Morrison to *The Times*. It says that the Representatives of Japan and Russia have caused much conjecture and uneasiness by their abstention from the congratulatory visits paid to Yuan by the other members of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking. The second telegram is a replica of a message despatched from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok. It says that Japan's proposals to Great Britain in connexion with the Chinese complication were rejected incontinently in Downing Street, and the result was to bring Japan and Russia into much closer contact.

Dr. Morrison's message to *The Times* confirms the news received in Tokyo as to the attitude of the Russian and Japanese Representatives in Peking. No definite explanation has yet been furnished as to the reason of this abstention on the part of the two Representatives, but when the news was first received in Tokyo, our readers will remember that the attitude of Mr. Ijuin and his Russian colleague was approved, inasmuch as no international recognition had yet been extended to the Provisional Chinese Government. Still it cannot be supposed that any false step was taken in a matter of such importance by the Representatives of the foreign Powers, and we must only trust to time for an accurate analysis of the event. As for the alleged weakening of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, it may be dismissed, we venture to think, as a mere chimera.

RICE.

The question of rice is beginning to create a serious commotion in Japan. In Osaka this cereal is quoted at over 20 yen per *koku*, and it is rapidly approaching the same figure in Tokyo. Evidently the labouring classes cannot afford to pay such a price, and many persons are interesting themselves in the problem. Numerous questions have been asked in the Diet. It is suggested that some means of furnishing cheap capital to the farmers should be devised; that the rate of freight on rice carried over Government railways should be reduced; that the customs duties should be cheapened, if not altogether abolished, and so forth. Undoubtedly the lower orders are distressed by the high price of the cereal, but the chief cause, we imagine, is that many who in former days regarded rice as a holiday luxury, and were content with barley and millet in ordinary times, now consider rice a necessity, and serve it at their three meals.

AN ITEM OF NEWS.

Some news-agency has utilized its position to communicate to the whole of the Tokyo press a cryptic and disquieting item of news. It is to the effect that a certain Power virtually interested in the solution of the Manchurian problem, has decided that the time for solution has come, and that the necessary steps must now be commenced. The Power referred to is evidently Russia, and it is added that notice has been given to the Japanese Government. Truly these mystery-mongers are often very difficult to decipher. They generally appear upon the scene when items of legitimate intelligence are scarce, and possibly from that point of view their latest utterance may be welcomed.

THE FOUR-POWERS SYNDICATE.

Two or three days ago it was confidently announced that the chances of the so-called Four Powers Syndicate placing any loan in China had become very small. This morning the story assumes a different complexion. Among all the financial transactions spoken of during the past few days, a loan of 10 million *taels* by the Four-Powers Syndicate to President Yuan is now said to be the only one likely to take a practical form. Dr. Sun himself is alleged to have agreed, and very likely the transaction may be regarded as the foundation of a much larger operation on similar lines. Thus the Four-Powers Syndicate is coming out on top after all.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chunwa* reports that a provisional agreement has been signed by Yuan Shih-kai and the Four Powers' capitalists' syndicate (Austria and Belgium inclusive) for a 50 million *taels* loan. The agreement reserves to the syndicate the right of being first consulted on all foreign loans that the Chinese Republic may raise in future.

In connexion with the rumoured conclusion of the Four Powers loan, a Foreign Office authority is credited with the remark that whilst it is a fact that the loan is now being negotiated at Peking, the amount and conditions remain yet uncertain. The Government is confident that Japan will not be left out in the cold, but will be given an opportunity to participate in the loan. Yuan Shih-kai has issued to the Nanking Government a notice of remittance of 7,000,000 dollars, a portion of the loan, with a view to putting a stop to the loans contemplated by the Southern Government.

A STRONG-BACKED PROTEST.

The Nanking Cabinet has given evidence of the temper that will be displayed by China in dealing with foreign nations, when she puts on her republican armour. That Cabinet is said to have presented to the Dutch Government a memorandum which leaves nothing to be desired in point of peremptoriness. It consists of four counts. The first is that all Chinese citizens held in custody in Java jails shall be released forthwith. The second, that due compensation shall be paid by Holland to all Chinese who have suffered in property or person. The third, that sufficient monetary atonement shall be made to all Chinese citizens who were killed or wounded by Dutch constables or soldiers. And the fourth, that Chinese citizens residing in Java shall be placed exactly on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of other Powers. If this is a fair specimen of the spirit with which the Chinese Republic will be animated in its dealings with foreign States, there can be no doubt that the Flowery Middle Realm must provide itself with an army and a navy at short notice.

SHANTUNG.

To those that have watched events closely, the state of affairs at Chefoo has of late been somewhat perplexing. On the one hand we read of measures being taken with much care and foresight for disbanding the Insurgent troops in the Yangtsz Valley, and the Imperial forces north of Hankow. But another story, and that one of the latest,

speaks of the despatch of another body of Insurgents to Chefoo. With what object are we to associate this last movement? A place called Wengting in Shantung appears to be in a disturbed condition, and a force of British troops is said to have been sent thither. Wengting folks are showing an anti-Republican flag; but we gather that this is not a true evidence of their sentiment. The fact is that the first Insurgent troops which landed at Chefoo behaved in such an unruly manner as to excite the antipathy of the local inhabitants, so that the latter have taken up arms in their own defence. Thus far the incidents are intelligible enough, but how are we to interpret the despatch of a fresh force of Insurgents to Chefoo? The only credible explanation forthcoming is that the southern leaders deem it expedient to have a tangible force within striking distance of Peking so that if the negotiations in the metropolis reach a deadlock, an appeal to arms may always be possible.

THE BARLEY CROP.

Fears are entertained that the barley crop this year will prove very defective. There are two climatic conditions, either of which is fatal to a copious yield. One is a premature high temperature in the early spring followed by unseasonably severe frost and snow. The abnormal temperature causes the young plants to grow too rapidly, and they are thus exposed to the blight of the frost that follows. The other evil condition is when an unusually high temperature prevails throughout the spring, pushing the barley up so that the stalk is developed at the expense of the ear. The latter condition has occurred during the present year. Japanese farmers, to provide against excessive development of the barley straw, made it a habit to take a precaution known as *mugi fumi* which consists, as its name implies, in walking down the barley furrow and stamping at the root of each bunch of the plants. This checks premature growth, but is necessarily a troublesome and laborious performance. Twice this year in some parts of Japan the *mugi fumi* has been resorted to but without success.

THE HANYA-PINGHSIEN CORPORATION.

PROTEST AGAINST INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

A Shanghai telegram reaching Tokyo says that the shareholders of the Hanyu-Pinghsien Corporation have telegraphed to Sheng Huan-huai as under:—"According to newspaper reports you have transferred the Corporation to a joint enterprise with Japanese capitalists. This news came to us as surprise. The constitution of the Corporation forbids the investment of foreign capital, and yet you have introduced foreign capital on your own responsibility, without conferring with the shareholders. Not only does this amount to the destruction of the national prestige but it constitutes an infringement of the rights of shareholders. We cannot approve your action. Public opinion denounces it and the people of Hupeh, Hunan and Kiangsi all oppose the measure, which will lead to serious consequences. We desire you will forthwith cancel the agreement and wire us the result."

THE CHINESE NAVY.

President Yuan in forming his new scheme of administrative machinery, is said to be contemplating the abolition of several State Departments. He appears to be taking the old Japanese system as a model. One change said to be projected will probably provoke much comment. It is the amalgamation of the Army and Navy Departments. These two Departments used to be one in the former polity of Japan, and there are doubtless people now in Yokohama who can remember when the jurisdiction of the Head of the *Hyōbu-shō* extended to naval affairs as well as to military. Such a system was obviously unsuited to an insular Power like Japan, and the two Departments became separate organizations at a very early date in the *Meiji* period. In China's case a navy may be of less importance than an army but we greatly doubt the expediency of fusing the two into one. Without a strong navy China must lie at the mercy of any Power that can send a squadron to devastate her coasts. Will she wake up to this fact and will she act upon the new conviction? After a hundred years of foreign intercourse she seems to be just as far as ever from possessing the means to defend herself effectually.

CHINA'S FOREIGN DEBT.

Since the insurrection broke out in the Yangtsz Valley the Chinese Government has been unable to make its periodical payments in connexion with the Boxer indemnity. We read in Tokyo journals that several applications on the subject have been made by the Japanese Authorities, and that the only answer elicited is that the customs duties, which are hypothecated as security for the debt, show a surplus of five million *taels* which will be devoted to the purpose of paying up the instalment in arrears. It appears to be thought doubtful however, whether such a surplus really exists. From every point of view it is evident that finance will occupy the attention of the Chinese Provisional Government in its early days.

CHINESE LOANS.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* is responsible for the report that the negotiations in regard to the China Merchants loan are at a deadlock. Originally the Japanese capitalists demanded 7½ per cent. interest, while the British capitalists made overtures to accept the loan at 6½ per cent. Finally the Japanese capitalists offered to accept it on the same terms as the British capitalists, but in the meantime the revolution took place and the organization of a new Government came in sight. The Nanking government did not, therefore, show any disposition to hastily conclude the loan, while lack of security also prevented the Japanese capitalists from pressing it. The negotiations were thus allowed to drag. On the other hand, the conclusion of a Four Powers loan is rumoured, and a report says that a portion of the proceeds of the loan has already been remitted to the Nanking Government. It now appears that the Nanking Government is no longer in urgent need of money. The China Merchants' loan negotiations have thus been consigned to oblivion.

JAPAN'S MILITARY STRENGTH.

Speaking at the meeting of the War Affairs Investigation Association held at the Sakurada Club on the 25th instant, Captain Nishimoto, who is on the reserve list, said that the War Office authorities were evidently bent on bringing up the military force, the reservists inclusive, to the standard of 50 Army Divisions. Undoubtedly the authorities had in view placing a force in Manchuria in case of emergencies, but 50 Divisions seemed to fall short of actual requirements, as the force Russia can bring to the front by the Siberian railway is no less than 70 Divisions. Eighty Divisions would be found still insufficient to cope with the Russian strength. It was impossible to maintain such a large force under the present condition of Japan's finances, and it was, therefore, imperative to seek a first line of defence elsewhere. This line of defence, he thought, should be the Chosen frontier. If this policy were adopted, the present 19 Divisions were too large and they might conveniently be reduced to about one-third. The expenditure of the War Office bore an abnormal proportion to that of the troops. It stood at a ratio of one to three at home; of 1.25 to one in Chosen; of one to three in Formosa, and of one to four in Saghalien. The Governor-General's office of the Tokyo garrison, the Artillery and Engineers college, the Cadet schools, the Senju Woollen Cloth Factory, the Commander of the Fortifications, Arsenal, Army Surgeons and Veterinary Surgeons' Schools, the Gendarmerie, the Military Attachés to Embassies and Legations, and the Aides-de-camp to the Imperial Princes might be abolished with advantage. The curtailment in expenditure from this source would reach a considerable sum, which might advantageously be used for the naval increment absolutely necessary to complete the national defence.

FIGHTING IN HSINKING.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* says that news comes from the capital of Hsinking that Prince Tuan, Viceroy Chang-keng of Shensi and Kansu provinces, and other opponents of the Republican polity, have raised an army, appointing General Ko Lieh, commander of the army of Lanchow, as Commander-in-Chief. The army invaded Hsinking province and demanded that the Deputy Viceroy should surrender the capital. The Deputy Viceroy, who was uninformed of recent events in Peking, thought that Prince Tuan was going to take possession of Hsinking to resist the Russian invasion. Acting under this misconception he surrendered the capital without resistance. Prince Tuan then proclaimed a military administration, and is imposing heavy taxes on the people. Plunder is being committed with impunity.

Another report from Hsinking says that a deadly dispute arose between the Mongolians and Manchus and Chinese over agricultural enterprise. The Mongolians attempted to expel all the Chinese from Hsinking and fighting took place between the rival soldiers, in which a large number of the Mongolians were slaughtered. The Mongolians imported arms and ammunition from Siberia and attacked the capital in large numbers, and the Chinese soldiers under General Ko-Lieh were routed

and fled. The Mongolians gave hot pursuit, killing a large number. Later the Mongolians declared their independence under protection of the Russians, who took the opportunity of occupying the market and carrying on a brisk trade with the Mongolians. The Chinese are making attempts to regain the capital, and fighting is incessant. Russia dispatched troops thither from Omsk in Siberia on the pretext to protect the foreign residents. Hsinking will presumably fall under the occupation of the Russians.

THE JAPANESE DIET.

CRITICISM BY PRINCE TOKUGAWA.

Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers, is quoted as saying that though the Imperial Diet is undoubtedly younger than similar institutions in western countries, yet as it has now passed its twenty-eighth session, it can no longer plead inexperience. It ought to have gained sufficient experience by this time to conduct the debates in a methodical manner. A glance at the condition of the Lower House, however, shows much that is to be regretted. The debates in the British Parliament he had witnessed were no less vehement than those in the Japanese Lower House, but admirable order was maintained throughout. The debate was generally opened by less important members and was continued by more important members of the Opposition, before issue was finally joined by the leaders of the rival parties. The trend of the debate was thus made clearly known as it progressed. In the Japanese Lower House, on the contrary, the leaders and followers took part in the debate side by side, which led to a lack of unity in the argument. In the earlier sessions the members of the House of Peers energetically took part in the debates and the controversies were no less vehement than those in the Lower House, but as time passed, the members became more and more reticent, until to-day both the supporters and opponents of a Bill express their views merely by voting, without giving their reasons. This method must be condemned, though too much talking must also be deprecated. Members of the Houses ought to give expression to their views. Controversy seldom takes place in the House of Peers, so that the House rarely sits longer than twenty minutes. Although this was a gain in point of time, such a tendency should be discouraged.

JAPAN AND CHINESE LOANS.

Commenting on the report that a ten million loan has been concluded between the Four Powers and Yuan Shih kai and that ex-President Sun has given his consent to the loan, a certain Foreign office official is credited with having stated that the most urgent need of China, on the completion of the organization of the new Government, is the issue of foreign loans. The national coffers are now empty and the collection of taxes can not be undertaken with promptness, so that China can do nothing but have recourse to foreign loans to finance the administration. Yuan Shih kai has for some weeks past been approaching the foreign Powers with proposals for a loan and Western capitalists show readiness to respond to the proposal. But no authorita-

tive information has so far come as to the conclusion of a loan.

Though the trend of the general situation in China is now defined, Yuan's position is by no means secure. The report of the conclusion of the loan at the present moment must, therefore, be received with some reserve. There existed an international agreement that no loans calculated to protract the civil commotion should be accepted, but a loan of a political nature, intended for the prevention of mutiny among the unpaid soldiers, etc. could be subscribed to jointly by the various Powers. It is agreed that Japan will participate in a loan of this nature, but the Government is not in receipt of any advices as to the loan the conclusion of which is now rumoured.

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY.

INTERPELLATION IN THE DIET.

Mr. Shiba Shiro of the Central Party introduced to the House of Representatives on the 27th ult. a written interpellation concerning affairs in China. The interpellation reads:—

1. Is it true that Minister Ijuin adhered to the principle of a limited monarchy until the abdication of the Chinese Emperor?
2. Yuan Shih-kai, who has been elected President, has pointed out, as one of the reasons why he cannot quit Peking, the fact that some amongst the Imperial princes are the dupes of a certain Power. A belief obtains that "a certain Power" means Japan. What are the Government's views on the matter?
3. Has Japan's loan to the China Merchants S. N. Company been concluded? How do the negotiations progress?
4. What policy does the Government pursue for the maintenance of peace in South Manchuria?
5. What is the Government's policy *vis-à-vis* the Kilin-Changchun and the Kilin-Hoiron railway?
6. What policy does the Government pursue in connexion with guarding the railway between Mukden and Shanhaikwan.
7. Is the allegation that Japanese army and navy officers have improperly received a large sum of money from the Wuchang revolutionists true?
8. Have any Japanese been deported from China since the outbreak of civil strife there? If so, how many and what was the nature of their crime, and also what is the method of control over such undesirable characters?

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE DECLARED.

According to a telegraphic dispatch, says a Peking telegram to the *Chuwo*, the delegates of East and West Mongolia have held a conference and adopted a resolution for the establishment of a new Kingdom, independent of the Chinese Republic and the Manchu dynasty, and also issued a declaration, stating that the Mongolians are descendants of the famous Genghis Khan, who subjugated the world and laid the foundations of the Yuan dynasty. The new kingdom shall be named "Great Yuan," with Kulon for capital, and shall enter into alliance with Russia to promote its wealth and raise an army in order to subjugate the Chinese Republic in time to come. The telegram adds that Yuan Shih-kai and others are taken aback by the declaration.

THE RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE.

As already briefly reported, replying to a question on the religious conference raised in the Budget Committee of the House of Peers, Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, stated that in spite of the various reports published by newspapers concerning the proposed conference, the matter was a very simple one. Social reforms demanded some influence beyond the realm of education, and it was desirable that education and religion should contribute towards this end in their respective spheres. He had no intention whatever of interfering with religion, but he thought it would be conducive to the interests of the community if measures were devised to render religious work more effective. He therefore desired to meet representatives of the religious bodies to exchange views with them, but as such a meeting might cause misunderstanding, he had first expressed his desire to a few religious men before issuing invitations to the delegates of the various religious sects. In the meantime, publicity was given to the scheme by the newspapers and this culminated in the various criticisms now raised. He felt convinced that such a meeting would prove beneficial to the community, not to speak of the pleasure it would afford himself. The proposed conference was the outcome of a simple desire to meet the religious men, and he would consider it fortunate, if it produced some beneficial result on social morals. In convening the conference he had no other idea but to elicit an exchange of ideas.

OPENING CEREMONY.

The much talked of religious conference was opened at 3 p.m. on the 25th ultimo at the Peer's Club. Over seventy delegates of the various sects of Shinto, Buddhism and Christianity, responded to the invitation, but the Higashi-Hongwanji was not represented at the conference. Amongst the Japanese officials present were Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Justice, Count Hayashi, Minister of Communications, Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, Vice-Admiral Takarabe, Vice-Minister of the Navy, Mr. Hiranuma, Vice-Minister of Justice, Mr. Fukuhara, Vice-Minister of Education, Mr. Komatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, Mr. Shiba, Director of the Religious Bureau, Mr. Ashio, Secretary of the Home Office, Mr. Tadokoro, Director of the Education Bureau, Mr. Takeshima, First Adjutant to the Minister of War, and the confidential secretaries of the Minister of Home Affairs. The delegates of the Buddhist sects were all in religious robes of various colours and shades, while the delegates of the Shinto and Christian sects appeared either in frock coats or in *haori* and *hakama*. Such a unique gathering has never before been witnessed in the religious history of this country. The delegates were ushered into the spacious Ball-room where Mr. Hara, the Minister of Home Affairs, delivered the following address:—

"Gentlemen,—It affords me great satisfaction to see that you have done me the honour to respond to my invitation and given me an opportunity to meet and talk with you.

"Various comments have been published concerning this meeting, but in inviting you to a conference I had no other thought than appreciation of your labours in giving guidance

to the public mind and in promoting the public morals, which I have long recognized and felt thankful for. I look forward to your exertions in accelerating the healthy development of the spiritual world in keeping with the progress of the material world, and in improving the social conditions. I have long cherished a desire to meet and talk with you and this meeting is a fulfilment of those wishes. I hope you will appreciate my position and do your best for the furtherance of the interests of the State. Marquis Saionji, the Prime-Minister, has asked me to convey to you his regret that he is unable to be present here to-day through indisposition."

No formal speech was made in response to the address.

The guests were then shown to the dining-room, where a collation was served, special *shojin ryori* (literally "purified food") being provided for the Buddhist delegates. The function came to a close at 4.45 p.m.

The delegates were to meet again at the Peers Club yesterday to begin the conference.

ADOPTION OF JOINT RESOLUTION.

The Religious Conference resumed its sittings at the Peers' club at 2 p.m. on the 26th ultimo, and was attended by 13 Shintō, 50 Buddhist and six Christian delegates. Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Shiba, Director of the Religious Bureau, and Mr. Ushio, Secretary of the Home Office, were, also present. Messrs. Shibata (Shintō), Hiroku (Buddhist) and Honda (Christian), were chosen as the sole representatives of the delegates. Mr. Shibata was elected to the chair, Mr. Asahi (Buddhist), who was nominated on account of his seniority, having declined owing to deafness. Votes of thanks to Mr. Hara and other Ministers of States who honoured the conference with their presence on the previous day were adopted.

Messrs. Shibata, Hirotsu and Honda then retired to an adjoining chamber to consider the resolutions to be submitted to the conference by the Shinto, Buddhist and Christian delegates.

The Resolutions drafted by the delegates of the three sects were submitted to the committee.

The Resolution of the Christian sects was as follows:—

"We recognize that in convening a Religious Conference the Government authorities had for their object the desire to show respect for the dignity of religion in consonance with the principles of freedom of faith, and to point out that while politics, education and religion observe their respective functions in promoting the national morals and in improving ethics of the world, they should co-operate in upholding the prestige of the Imperial House and in helping forward the progress of national affairs. We rightly appreciate this aim, which is in perfect accord with the cause we have so long advocated. We hereby record our desire to exert ourselves with increasing energy to fulfil our mission for the culture of the nation according to our respective faiths and creeds and we also hope the Government authorities will do their best for the attainment of this object."

"The delegates of the various religious sects shall meet once a year to strengthen cordial relations. The three religions shall co-operate in promoting the national ethics and in upholding a national Constitution

unparalleled in the world. The various sects of the three religions shall do their best to promote respect for humanity and the peace of the world, and delegates of the three religions shall be appointed to establish a thorough understanding between them with a view to putting the desires herein expressed into practice."

The Resolution of the Buddhist delegates was as under:—

"The various sects of the three religions hereby record their desire to demonstrate their respective faiths and creeds in order to help forward the prestige of the Imperial House and to promote national morals. It is also desirable that the Government authorities shall smooth away any friction that may exist between politics, religion, and education."

After about one hour's consultation the committee agreed to adopt the following resolution:—

"We recognize that in convening a Religious Conference, the Government Authorities desired to show their respect for the inherent dignity of religion, and to cause politics, education and religion to observe their respective spheres of action in the promotion of national morals and the improvement of social ethics, while co-operating with one another in upholding the destiny of the Imperial House and in contributing to the progress of national affairs. We highly appreciate this desire which is in perfect accord with the cause we religionists have long advocated. We hereby record our intention to exert ourselves with increased energy to fulfil our mission for the national culture according to our respective faiths and creeds, and we hope that the Government Authorities will endeavour with all sincerity for the attainment of the end in view. We therefore resolve:—

To fully demonstrate our respective creeds in order to uphold the Imperial destiny and to promote the national morals.

To desire the Government Authorities to respect religion and endeavour to remove any friction that may exist between politics, education and religion, in order to contribute to the promotion of the national destiny."

The resolutions were put to the vote and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, then delivered an address, explaining the motives and objects for which the conference was convened. In the course of his address, Mr. Tokonami said that the resolution just adopted by the conference gave him entire satisfaction, and he hoped that similar conferences should be held every year in future. It was a great cause for congratulation that those present had resolved to join hands in the promotion of the Imperial destiny and the progress of the welfare of the nation. It had been pointed out by some that public opinion in Western countries is gradually turning from religion, and these critics argued that no good could possibly come out of a coalition between the Government and religionists. But he differed from such a view, and felt confident that the Government must rely on the power of religion in promoting the national destiny. He therefore hoped that those present should co-operate to further the interests of the State.

The conference came to a close at 4.30.

WHY THE HIGASHI-HONGWANJI ABSTAINED.

In the proceedings of the Religious Conference, now concluded, it will be noted that

the Higashi-Hongwanji, known as the Otani sect, the most influential Buddhist sect in Japan, was not represented. It was invited by the Government to take part but decided to stand aloof, and this action has, rightly or wrongly, evoked unfavourable comment. In response to criticism the sect made public on the 26th ultimo a vindication of its attitude. It appears from this that it deliberately abstained from participation in the Conference for the purpose of protesting against equal treatment of Shintō, Buddhism and Christianity. The sect has always held strong views on the relations between the State and religion, but thinks that while the State may well recognize the influence of religion on national education, inasmuch as the relations between religion and the State have deep roots in the national spirit, it is precipitate to attempt to unite various religions with the State on an equal footing, without due regard to the history, status and moral teaching of such religions. A religion is in itself absolute, and cannot harmonize or blend with other religions. A conference on Shintō alone would be a retrogression to the time when religions were under the control of the "Daikyo-in" (Religions Bureau) in the early years of Meiji. What agreement could there be with Christianity? Such action was calculated to give the Buddhist adherents cause for suspicion and was also destructive of the religious faith now gradually awakening in the minds of the nation. Although the form of the conference was changed to a conversation, it still savoured of the spirit which animated the Government in convening it. The sect absolutely disapproved the idea of a religious conference, and, therefore, declined to accept the invitation.

THE CONFERENCE AT PEKING.

INITIAL PROPOSALS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that Yuan Shih-kai has had an interview with Tang Shao-i and Wang Chia-ming, when the following programme was formulated and telegraphed to Nanking:—

1. Peking shall be made the permanent seat of the new Government.
2. A Republican Government shall first be organized to formulate the Constitution and other laws, and then the National Assembly shall be convened at Peking, the date of convocation being fixed at the middle of April next.
3. On the formation of the new Government, the Nanking Government shall be dissolved, steps being taken to obtain the official recognition of the various Powers.
4. A loan shall be raised from English, American, German and French capitalists to finance the administration.
5. Yuan Shih-kai shall be elected President; Li Yuan-hung, Vice-President; and Tang Shao-i, Minister-President. The Ministers of State shall be chosen by the Minister President subject to the approval of the President. The candidates shall be chiefly chosen from amongst the present portfolio-holders in the Nanking Government.

Tang Shao-i, Wang Chia-ming and the three other delegates, who arrived at Peking at 6 p.m. on the 27th instant, were very warmly received.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY IN CHOSEN.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Seoul correspondent wires that the foreign missionaries in Chosen outwardly express their reliance on the fairness and impartiality of the Governor-General's office in connexion with the conspiracy among the Christian converts, but in reality great consternation prevails amongst them. It has now been proved beyond all doubt that the report of the alleged persecution of Christians by the Governor-General's Office emanated from a body of missionaries at Syon-chyon in North Phiyongan province. An influential missionary in Seoul is credited with having stated, regarding the report of the arrest of an American missionary in Syon-chihyon in connexion with the affair, that he has not yet heard of the apprehension, but it is a fact that his house was searched by the Japanese authorities. Inasmuch as the foreigners in Chosen are amenable to Japanese laws and ordinances, they had no choice but to rely on the fairness and impartiality of the Japanese law courts, in the event of a foreign missionary being apprehended in connexion with the conspiracy.

It is stated in this context that the British and Belgian Consuls-General in Seoul have applied to Mr. Komatsu, Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, for an interview in connexion with the affair.

From Seoul comes news that in view of the statements that have of late been published concerning the actions of the foreign Christian missionaries in Seoul, Bishop Harris paid a visit to Inspector-General of Police, Major-General Akashi, on the 24th ult. to explain matters.

The report of the arrest of an American missionary in connection with the conspiracy, previously wired, turns out to be incorrect, and the authorities are rather annoyed at the inquiries from various quarters concerning the matter. A domiciliary search instituted on the premises of a certain American missionary was erroneously reported as his arrest.

The latest official investigation shows that the foreign missionaries now in Chosen number 274 in all. When classified according to nationalities they are as under:—British 62; American 156, French 41, others 10. The churches number 730, with 222 sub-churches and 966 assemblies. The Christian converts total 195,187 of whom 337 are Japanese and 194,883 are Chosenese, while 27 are of other nationalities. The most influential sect is the Presbyterian, closely followed by the Methodists. In North Chosen the two sects wield nearly equal influence over the converts.

The Government authorities at Seoul officially deny the rumoured arrest of an American missionary in Syon-chihyon in north Phiyongan province, and announce that the various erroneous rumours regarding the affair will soon be dispersed when the facts of the case are clearly revealed in the public trial in the Law Courts. The authorities are not at liberty to disclose the nature of the conspiracy at present while it is pending in the preliminary Court.

Although the public must remain in ignorance of the details of the Chosen conspiracy until the conclusion of the preliminary examination, some facts apparently well attested,

are beginning to leak out. Thus, we learn that the conspiracy had its origin in February of last year, and that its then leader was Mr. Reung, President of the Young Men's Christian Association. The plan was to assassinate Count Terauchi when he alighted at Chhon-chon station after his tour of inspection to the north. But although the arrangements for this deed were made, and although the opportunity offered, the murder was not attempted for some unexplained reason. Thereafter Reung formed a member of the party of Korean tourists who visited Japan, and his experiences in the latter country, completely diverted him from his anti-Japanese campaign. On his return home he fell under suspicion of having been bribed by the Japanese, and his place of leader in the plot was given to Baron Yung. Thus, the conspiracy may be said to have been in existence for fully a year, although it did not come to the cognizance of the police until within the last two months.

THE N.Y.K.'S CALCUTTA SERVICE.

A rumour has been circulated that since the Nippon Yusen Kaisha inaugurated its Calcutta service in September last, the Company has met such keen competition that it has under consideration a reduction of the liners placed on the service. This rumour is now repudiated as entirely baseless. As a matter of fact, reports the *Tiji Shimpō*, soon after the Company inaugurated the service, it made an attempt to enter into an agreement with the British India, Apar, and Indo-China steamship companies. The foreign companies consented to the proposal, provided the Yusen Kaisha agreed not to take cargo from Calcutta on return voyages. The condition was rejected and, negotiations thus failing, the Yusen Kaisha made up its mind to face the competition, which became so keen that the freight rates between Calcutta and Singapore dropped to about one-half those formerly obtaining. The Yusen Kaisha was enabled, however, to ship tea at Calcutta for Hankow and cotton, timber, etc. for Japan, in addition to rice from Rangoon. The present liners were placed on the service temporarily, but the Company has an adjustment under consideration. The British India Steamship Company, which has been running a service between Indian ports and Hongkong, has now decided to extend the service to Kobe, while the Apar Line, finding it difficult to continue the competition, is now in negotiation with the British India Company to sell its liners, which number six in all.

THE DELEGATES TO PEKING.

A Tientsin telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the China Merchants' liner *Hsinyu* arrived at Taku at dawn on the 24th ult. Tang Shao-i, Tsai Yuan-pei, Sung Chiaojen and other envoys of the Nanking Government make an official entry to Tientsin and paid a formal visit to the Viceregal *yamen* on the morning of the 25th. They will proceed to Peking after three day's sojourn in Tientsin. A number of extremists laid a plot to throw a bomb at the party last night in order to break the peace between the North and South. The plot was, nevertheless, disclosed in time and the conspirators were all arrested.

A CHINESE COPPER MINE.

PROPOSED JOINT WORKING.

The Chinese copper mine known as Tung kuan-shan, which once formed the subject of negotiations between Great Britain, China and Japan, again tends to become a diplomatic problem, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the Chinese mining authorities having recently approached Japanese capitalists with a proposal for a joint undertaking.

The copper mine was originally discovered by an English expert. An Anglo-Chinese syndicate acquired the mining rights in June 1908 from the Deputy-Viceroy of Harbin province, and the work was started with a capital of £12,000 sterling. Shortly afterwards, the Mitsui Bussan joined the syndicate, contributing £3,000 sterling to the working capital. In the meantime the rights-recovery agitation was started, and the people of Anhui made strenuous efforts to recover the mine. Both the British and Japanese Governments lodged a strong protest against the movement, but eventually the mine was restored to the people of Anhui, the British and the Japanese capitalists interested receiving £52,000 sterling. The matter was thus settled after three years' trouble, during which time the people of Anhui had to raise a loan amounting to four million taels to finance the movement. It was in February, 1910, when the matter was settled. Simultaneously with the restoration of the copper mine the authorities and people of Anhui established a Mining Company with a capital of 2,200,000 dollars, to be raised in the province, of which 1,000,000 dollars was to be devoted to working the Chinghsin coal mine and the balance of 1,100,000 to working the copper mine. The plan was to work the coal mine first and then the copper mine. Preferential shares were issued for 500,000 dollars and ordinary shares for the balance. The shares were not transferable to aliens, and payment of 8 per cent. interest was guaranteed for the preferential shares. Nothing, however, has been heard of the scheme since, and it is supposed that the Company failed to raise the prescribed capital. The Company has now made the Japanese capitalists a proposition to work the mines under joint enterprise.

The value of the mines needs careful investigation. The quantity of coal is unascertainable as it has not yet been surveyed, but it is not difficult to form a tolerably accurate estimate of the Tungkuan copper mine. The official report issued by the Anglo-Chinese syndicate in December, 1903, shows that the copper mine is located in Tunglung district, Anhui, about 3½ miles from the banks of the Yangtze, which affords every facility for transportation. The mine covers a large area, extending for nearly twenty square li, and is estimated to contain about 10 million tons. The working expenses do not exceed 2s. 2d. per ton. Copper ore was then quoted in Hankow at 5s. 6d. a ton, and thus the net profit was estimated to amount to over three shillings, after deducting 3½d. per ton payable to the Government in the form of mining tax. The mine was thus described as very hopeful. Many Japanese experts, however, regard the report with some suspicion, seeing that the syndicate abandoned its claim on the mine for a paltry compensation of £52,000.

Japanese capitalists have not yet consented to entertain the proposal. Mr. Furukawa,

one of the capitalists approached, says that he cannot give a definite answer until after the mine has been surveyed and it is impossible to dispatch experts until after the restoration of peace in Anhui province. The mine is now a white elephant to the Chinese, so that it is unlikely the rights recovery agitation will be resuscitated, but very careful study is needed before Japanese capitalists embark on a joint enterprise.

AN INSURANCE CLAIM.

An important insurance suit is now pending in the Tokyo District Court. The plaintiffs are the Iida Gomei Kaisha, better known under the firm name of Takashimaya, in Yaesucho, Tokyo, while the defendants are the Yokohama Fire, Marine, Transport and Fidelity Insurance Company. The plaintiffs claim 120,000 yen on the ground that in February last year the plaintiffs bought bridging materials from the Carnegie Iron Works for the use of the Railway Board and shipped them on board the steamer *Invincible* for transportation to Yokohama. The goods were insured by the defendants for the sum claimed and the premium was duly paid. The steamer was wrecked and sunk near the Cape of Good Hope with all the cargo on board. The plaintiffs abandoned the cargo on May 14th last and put forward a claim for the sum insured. The defendants refused to meet the claim on the ground that although the phrase "*via Suez*" was omitted in the contract, it was understood between the parties that the contract covered only the risks on the ordinary route *via Suez* between New York and Yokohama. The steamer was wrecked on the coast of the Cape of Good Hope, which shows a deviation from the prescribed course. The defendants, therefore, do not hold themselves responsible for the loss. The case came up for hearing on Saturday last but was postponed *sine die* for the examination of witnesses.

DEATH OF GENERAL VISCOUNT NISHI.

The death is announced in Tokyo, after a rather protracted illness, of General Viscount Nishi, the sad event taking place at 9 o'clock p.m. on the 27th ult. He was sixty-seven years old.

The deceased was born in Kagoshima and was the eldest son of the late Mr. Nishi Torabei, a retainer of the Satsuma clan. At the Restoration the deceased officer commanded the third flying column of the Satsuma army and his valour won him distinction. During the late Sino-Japanese war he commanded the vanguard in the attack on Kinchou under the late General Yamaji. After the war he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General being created a peer with the title of Baron. He took part in the Russo-Japanese war as commander of the Second Division under General Kuroki. Subsequently to the war he was promoted to the rank of General and commanded the Japanese Garrison in Manchuria, being thence transferred to the post of Inspector-General of Army Education. The title of Viscount was conferred on him in recognition of his brilliant service in connexion with the war. Afterwards, he was appointed a member of the War Council, which post he held until his death.

CHINESE VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Mr. Sheng Hui-huan, who is staying in the Oriental Hotel at Shiota near Kobe, is credited with having stated to an interviewer that Yuan Shi-kai is now universally recognized as the President of the new Republic, but opinion differs as to a successful coalition between Yuan Shi-kai, Sun Yat-sen, Li Yuan-hung and Hwang Hsing. It was thought by some that Li Yuan-hung would not submit to Yuan's rule, while others imagined that Hwang Hsing would not yield. But a compromise already exists between Yuan and Li Yuan-hung, and Sun Yat-sen also shows a compromising attitude. Hwang's efforts to fix the capital at Nanking are thus likely to prove futile. The seat of the new government will be Peking. Means of communication are not yet fully developed in Nanking, which would cause great inconvenience to the representatives of the Powers. The consensus of opinion now seems to be in favour of Peking.

When the Revolutionists rose, they made public their fiscal policy and promised to either abolish or reduce the taxes. The announcement won the hearts of the general public. It is doubtful, however, if they can carry through a three years' exemption of all taxes, which is customary on a change of dynasty in China, as the Republican Government must look to the taxes for its revenue. All harmful taxes must, of course, be abolished, but the exemption of all taxes is impracticable. The loyalty of subjects towards their sovereigns is one of the most important moral virtues fostered in China for the past three thousand years, and it is unthinkable that the moral idea will die out by a political revolution. The people cannot possibly be so loyal to a President as to their Sovereign.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

ISSUE IN LONDON, PARIS AND NEW YORK.

The Tokyo Municipal loan was issued in London and Paris on the 22nd and in New York on the 21st ult. According to the prospectus the conditions of issue are as under:—

London:—Total issue, £3,175,000; issue value 98; rate of interest, 5 per cent; issuing banks, Specie, Hongkong and Shanghai and Parr's.

Paris:—Total issue, 100,880,000 francs; issue value 96¼; rate of interest, 5 per cent; issuing bank, Société General.

New York:—Total issue, £2,000,000; issue price 97¾; rate of interest, 5 per cent; issuing bank, Kuhn Loeb & Co.

The average net proceeds of the loan are thus £92½ per £100 face value, and the period of redemption forty-one years, the Municipality having the option to effect the redemption at any time after ten years following the date of issue. Moreover, the Municipality has the benefit of a full coupon, that is, it is under no obligation to pay interest on unpaid subscriptions. In Paris, the abonnement is to be borne by the subscribers. It is considered these terms are the best the Municipality can secure in the present circumstances of the money market abroad. The prospects of the subscription are said to be very bright, as the bonds are actually subscribed at half per cent. premium in London and at 1¼ per cent. premium in Paris.

THE RISE IN PRICES.

For some weeks past the price of rice has shown a steady tendency to rise, until it reached 19.53-4 *yen* on the Rice Exchange on the 26th ultimo. This is a phenomenally high price and has caused an outcry to be raised. For the past two decades the increase in the price of rice, however, has not produced a corresponding increase in the price of general commodities. During 1906, when the price of rice rose to 22.34 *yen* per *boku*, the commodities which witnessed a marked increase in that and subsequent years were limited almost wholly to cotton and silk textiles, kerosene oil, charcoal, matting and a few others, while other descriptions of goods did not show any appreciable advance in price. Even the articles which showed a considerable rise in price did so for special reasons quite unconnected with the state of the rice market.

The article which has shown the most remarkable appreciation during the past two decades is salt. Prior to the Russo-Japanese war, salt was quoted at between 50 to 80 *sen* a bag, which rose to 1.27 *yen* at a bound in 1905 when the business was monopolized by the Government,—the ratio of increase being 363 per cent. as compared with that obtaining in 1895-6. The price of rice reached the top figure of 22.34 *yen* in 1906, the ratio of increase being 224 per cent. as compared with that in 1895-6.

Besides salt, a few other articles have also shown a high per centage of increase. Beef, for instance, has risen by 280 per cent., pickles by 270 per cent., and kerosene oil by 235 per cent. during the past two decades.

A few other daily necessities have also shown considerable increase during this period. Thus wood fuel has risen by 219 per cent., matting by 205 per cent., soy by 204 per cent., grey shirting by 202 per cent., *miso* by 98 per cent., eggs by 88 per cent., silk textiles by 81 per cent., sugar by 80 per cent., cotton cloth by 72 per cent., and tea by 17 per cent.

It will thus be seen that in the ratio of increase in prices, rice stands sixth out of sixteen articles in daily use. As rice forms the chief food stuff of the Japanese people, however, the appreciation is more keenly felt than in all other articles. The *Hochi* from which we take the above, vouches for the accuracy of its figures, as they are based on the official statistics published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE TREATY.

The Franco-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation was made public in Tokyo at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. It is officially stated that the French Government notified the Japanese Government of the ratification of the treaty under date of the 26th ultimo, in accordance with Clause 1 of Article 20 of the Treaty, and the Japanese Government issued to France on the 29th ultimo similar notice, and therefore the Treaty comes into force on the date of notice, that is the 29th ultimo.

The French colonies which participate in the treaty in accordance with Article 19 are as under:—

French Guinea; French Tropical Africa; Martinique, St. Pierre and Miquelon; New Caledonia; French India; Reunion; French Somali Coast; Madagascar; and Guadeloupe.

DEATH OF PROMINENT JOURNALIST.

A SON OF THE SATSUMA REBELLION.

The death is announced from heart failure of Mr. Ikebe Kichitaro, editor-in-chief of the *Tokyo Asahi*; the sad event taking place suddenly on the afternoon of the 28th ult. He was only 49 years of age.

The deceased journalist was the eldest son of the famous Ikebe Hichijuro, one of the right-hand men of the Great Saigo, who shared the fate of his leader in the Saigo Rebellion. He was fourteen when his father died. He studied the Chinese classics under the late Mr. Kunikida in his boyhood and showed wonderful skill in composition. At the age of seventeen he came up to Tokyo and studied in the Keio Gijuku, but left the school without finishing the course. He had then to work to gain his living and he obtained an appointment in the Education Section in Saga prefecture, which post he held nearly three years. Going to Osaka, he then edited a magazine called the "Keisei Hyoron" jointly with Mr. Shiba Shiro and others. In 1895, he joined the *Nippon Shimbun* as a special correspondent, and, in the following year, he accompanied Marquis Hosokawa, to France. From Paris, he wrote to the *Nippon* "Paris Intelligence" under the pen name "Tetsu-Konron." His articles met with a very favourable reception in literary circles and his fame was established. Three years later he returned home and joined the *Osaka Asahi* as editor-in-chief, being transferred to the same post on the *Tokyo Asahi* in 1900. Mr. Ikebe was a brilliant journalist of great open-mindedness. His easy style of writing and sound judgment always appealed to his readers. Among his accomplishments Mr. Ikebe was a first class amateur artist and an excellent connoisseur of the Fine Arts. He had a taste for go and chess, of which he was a skilful player, and later he had a liking for billiards.

THE TANKO KISEN KAISHA.

The Hokkaido Tanko Kisen Kaisha held its ordinary general meeting on Wednesday, when the following accounts were adopted:

Profit for present term	16,876
Balance brought forward from the previous term	94,478

Total	111,354
Reserve fund	1,000
Balance carried forward to next term	110,354

Mr. Murota, President of the Hokkaido Colliery Steamship Company, speaking at the general meeting of shareholders, held on the 28th instant, said that the quantity of coal sold in the business period under review reached the total of 712,189 tons, showing an increase of 113,713 tons over the preceding period. Such a large sale was unprecedented in the Company's history. The net profit amounted to 431,602 *yen* showing an increase of 217,651 *yen* over the preceding period. The outlook in the coal trade was bright, but the colliery needed to extend its workings. According to the extension scheme now in hand it would be possible after 1911, to turn out 2,200,000 tons a year, or more than double the present output, which would leave a net profit amounting to 1,452,000 *yen* calculated at the maximum price now ruling. To carry out the extension it was proposed to raise 6,000,000 *yen* by the issue

of debentures, 4,700,000 *yen* of which is to be appropriated for the extension and 2,150,000 *yen* for the repayment of the existing loan. The deficit of 850,000 *yen* would be made good by gradually calling in the instalments of subscriptions for new shares, the unpaid capital of which amounted to 1,000,000 *yen*. The period of redemption of debentures was December 1926, but the Company proposed to redeem the whole or a portion by lottery after January 1917, by giving three months' notice. The Company also proposed to issue in January, 1917, preferential shares, fully paid up, bearing 9 per cent. interest, for conversion of the debentures, if the holders so desired.

PRESIDENT YUAN AND THE JAPANESE MINISTER.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a certain diplomat as saying that although the truth of the report that Yuan Shih-kai had dispatched to the Japanese Legation in Peking a secret envoy requesting Minister Ijuin to pay him a visit, is unascertainable, it is a matter of impossibility for Minister Ijuin to pay Yuan a visit at his request. Yuan has no alternative but to pay Minister Ijuin a visit himself, if he desires to remove any misunderstanding that may have been caused by rumours wilfully circulated.

PRESIDENT YUAN'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH.

It is semi-officially reported that Yuan Shih-kai will proceed to Wuchang by the Peking Hankow railway, to visit Li Yuan-lung, and thence proceed to Nanking to take the oath to the Republican polity. The Nanking Government will be dissolved simultaneously and the capital of the Republic will be fixed at Peking. Sun Yat-sen and Hwang Hsing will accompany Yuan Shih-kai to the North.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.

Death has claimed another of the old residents in the person of Mr. J. H. Donker Curtius, Senior, who died on the night of the 22nd ult. The event was very sudden, as he was about as usual during the day. Mr. Donker Curtius has resided more than 40 years in Japan, mostly in Yokohama, and during the time occupied various positions in business. During the last few years he has led a very retired life.

The loss of several old friends and latterly a daughter considerably affected him, but he seemed always in fairly good health, and looked forward to several more years of life.

Sympathy will be extended to his wife and family in the loss they have sustained.

It was only a few weeks ago his brother died, also a very old resident.

The funeral of the late Mr. Donker Curtius, Senior, took place at the Negishi Cemetery on Saturday afternoon last, the cortège leaving his residence at Nakamura-Bluff about three o'clock. The ceremony was of a very simple nature, whilst the floral decoration of the grave was in the Japanese style. The pall-bearers were the three sons of the deceased gentleman and three of his friends. Among those present at the cemetery were Captain J. Carst, Mr. J. Favre-Brandt, Capt. and Mrs. Pyne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Kildoye, Mr. H. Stornebrink, Mr. J. Van Doorn, Messrs. S. Warming, E. Baron, P. Scheuten, J. J. M. Carst, and many Japanese.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

NANKING'S FISCAL POLICY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, February 22.

The members of the State Council have presented to the Nanking Government a memorial in opposition to the Government's fiscal policy, calling its attention to these items, viz.:—The increased issue of war notes; compulsory loan of China Merchants S.N. Company, and the Hanyu-Ping-hsien corporation's loan.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS LOAN.

Shanghai, February 22.

It seems that the China Merchants S.N. Company's loan remains yet uncompleted. A majority of the shareholders oppose it. The Nanking Government proposes to undertake payment of interest on the loan and also to give the Company certain privileges and also a subsidy for the Company's oversea services in consideration of the Company's agreeing to raise the loan.

PROVISIONAL MAGISTRATES.

Nanking, February 22.

The State Council in Nanking recently decided to appoint a magistrate for each province, but practical difficulties are being experienced in the appointment, especially in Szechuan, Shansi and Honan provinces, where many candidates have appeared in the field to contest the election.

THE NEW CHINESE COINAGE.

Hankow, February 22.

The British Consul in Hankow addressed to Li Yuan-hung a note inquiring the weight of new silver coins to be cast by the Revolutionary Government. Li sent a reply stating the new coin contains 90 per cent. of pure silver and is similar to the old coin in every particular.

THE JAPANESE AT HAICHENG.

Peking, February 22.

The Japanese residents in the town of Haicheng have nearly all withdrawn to the railway zone, for fear of the invasion of the Revolutionists; and those remaining in the town are hoisting the Japanese flag.

TROUBLE AT CHENG TU.

Chengtu, February 20.

In view of the disquieting situation developing in the town, a detachment of troops was sent from the local Japanese garrison for the protection of foreign residents.

FURTHER FIGHTING.

Tiehling, February 22.

The new *taotai* of Tiehling arrived on the 21st instant with 80 soldiers, and was welcomed by the members of the local branch of the Chamber of Commerce and public bodies. At 9.30 a.m. on the 21st, the Revolutionists rose in arms in Kaiyuan and collided with the guards. After about one hour's fighting the Revolutionists took possession of the town. The casualties on both sides numbered about ten. The Japanese residents are all safe.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Wuchang, February 23.

A war council was held on the 17th instant when it was decided to disband and recall to Wuchang the Northern Expeditions. The resolution will be put in practice in a few days.

SITUATION IN MONGOLIA.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Peking, February 22.

Since Outer Mongolia declared its inde-

pendence, a struggle for supremacy has been going on amongst the component tribes. Through foreign mediation Outer Mongolia has been divided into three broad divisions under three independent rulers. Thus the North-Eastern Division is under the rule of the *Gegen*, the North-western Division, under Kakankanto, and the South-Eastern Division under the rule of Jennilu. General grievances are raised by the people against the new administration. The wealthy families all took refuge in the Russian settlement in Kulon and some of them are placing their money in the safe keeping of foreign merchants. Monetary tightness has thus set in and the poorer classes of people are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining a livelihood. The commander of the troops sent out by the *Gegen* was formerly a leader of bandits and plunder is being committed in various districts with impunity.

THE DEPUTATION TO PEKING.

Nanking, February 22.

It is reported that the mission of the deputation of the Nanking Government to Peking is to consult with Yuan the allotment of the portfolios in the new Government. The State Council in Nanking is said to hold strong views and a belief generally obtains that the council will assume a hostile attitude, if Yuan refuses to come to the south.

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 25.

Dr. Morrison wires from Peking that the President told a deputation of Protestant Christians that he was determined, as far as possible, to enforce religious toleration everywhere.

The abstention of the Russian and Japanese Ministers from visiting Yuan Shih-kai causes comment.

MORE FIGHTING.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Mukden, February 23.

On the afternoon of the 20th instant, about 200 Revolutionists assembled in the neighbourhood of Tang-wangshan near Haicheng, and preferred to the Chinese authorities in Haicheng a demand that they should accept the republican polity. The local authorities acceded to the demand and hoisted the five-coloured flag from the 23rd instant. About 100 Revolutionists, however, proceeded to Tang-kia-tai, a town lying about two miles to the south of Haicheng, and attempted to disarm the local police force. On receipt of the news about 140 guards and police were sent from Haicheng. After two hours fighting, the Revolutionists were routed and retreated in a southerly direction.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Dairen, February 23.

The Revolutionists who landed in Liaotung peninsula were assembled near Chien-shan-kan, and commenced embarkation on the 22nd instant. The transports carrying them on board left for Chefoo at dawn this morning.

Chefoo, February 24.

The transport steamer carrying the revolutionary soldiers withdrawn from Liaotung peninsula arrived at Chefoo this morning and the soldiers were landed and quartered in the buildings on Kungtung

island. Kajeu-i and his brother have also arrived at Chefoo.

FIRE AT CHENG TU.

Hankow, February 23.

According to a Szechuan dispatch a fire which broke out in the police office in Chengtu, spread all over the town, one half of which was burnt down. The fire is attributed to incendiarism.

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS.

Peking, February 28.

All the schools have closed their doors since the outbreak of the revolutionary insurrection. Now that peace and order is restored, Yuan Shih-kai has issued an order to various provinces to reopen the schools in February (Chinese calendar).

PURCHASE OF ARMAMENTS.

Mukden, February 23.

Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces is said to have recently purchased from Germany 16 field guns, 6 machine guns, 3,000 rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of cartridges. The transaction has attracted the attention of the various Powers.

BANDITS AS REVOLUTIONISTS.

Mukden, February 23.

On the morning of the 21st instant, about two hundred Revolutionists effected their entrance to the town of Haiyuan though the East Gate, but having failed to come to terms with the Imperialists, they collided with about 200 local guards and police force. After a fierce battle the Imperialists were defeated and fled in the direction of Changtu. The prefect and chief of police fled and the commander of the guards was wounded. The town then fell into the hands of the revolutionists toward 11 o'clock the same morning, the casualties on both sides numbering about twenty. The majority of the revolutionists are bandits from near Kaiyuan. They mulcted the people of large sums of money by intimidation and set the prisoners under detention at liberty. It seems that a bandit leader threw in his lot with the Imperialists near Tiehling, and is now outside the town wall of Kaiyuan, with about 300 followers. He is in negotiation with the Revolutionists inside the town.

ATTACK ON HSIAN.

Peking, February 24.

Deputy Viceroy Sheng-yun of Shensi has attacked Hsian with 2,000 Manchus and 400 Mahomedans to wreak vengeance for the murder of Manchus committed in that town.

Yuan Shih-kai has issued to Li Yuan-hung an order to proceed there in haste to relieve the town.

TROUBLE AT YINKOW.

Yinkow, February 24.

Wang, an officer of the 15th infantry battalion stationed in Yinkow, attempted to assassinate the Commander with a view to joining the revolutionists with the whole battalion. The scheme was disclosed and the officer fled to the Chinese town in Tashihchiao with some eighty soldiers under his command. About 200 soldiers of the local guards started for Tashihchiao on the 24th instant to suppress them. The two armies have not yet come into collision.

DISORDERLY TROOPS.

Hankow, February 24.

The Imperial army withdrawn from Hankow is setting the villages on fire and plundering the people with impunity, to the

great annoyance of the local inhabitants along the route through which the army is passing.

COMPULSORY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Tientsin, February 24.

The Revolutionists are raising a subscription in Wentung-hsien in Shantung, which is now under their occupation. The compulsory collection of subscriptions has aroused a hostile feeling among the people. A contingent of over 2,000 men has been organized and an attack on the town is being planned. The situation is critical.

THE BANDITS IN MANCHURIA.

Peking, February 24.

Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces has telegraphed to the Foreign Office in Peking, stating that an attempt is now being made to suppress the bandits in South and North Manchuria, but the Russian and Japanese authorities refuse to surrender the criminals, so that the action of the Chinese troops is seriously impeded. The Viceroy asks the Foreign Office to take up the matter with Russia and Japan.

PROPOSED ATTACK ON MUKDEN.

Mukden, February 24.

The followers of Changyang, who was murdered by Chang Tso-len, assembled at Chaotsintun, which lies to the south of Wushun, where they unfurled revolutionary flags. They succeeded in mustering over 1,000 men under their banner and are planning an attack on Mukden in retaliation.

SPECIAL TAX AT HANKOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJII.

Hankow, February 24.

The Wuchang Revolutionary Government has decided to impose an extraordinary special tax at the rate of 2.5 per cent. *ad valorem* on the merchandise arriving at and leaving Hankow, to replenish the war funds.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES.

Shanghai, February 25.

Last Sunday's issue of the *China Press* publishes a report that in consequence of the abdication of the Throne by the Manchurian dynasty, Peking has lost the financial source from which money has heretofore been drawn, and the payment of salaries to the troops is in arrears for several months, the destitution being even greater than in Nanking.

The Nanking Government likewise lacks funds for the payment of salaries of several hundred thousands of men kept by it. At no time before has the Government been in such a condition of destitution as at present. The issue of war bonds has proved unsuccessful, and the negotiations for foreign loans have been suspended until after the formation of the united government owing to popular opposition. It is most urgent for both the Peking and Nanking Governments to organize a new government, as speedily as possible and to raise foreign loans to relieve the financial distress.

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Peking, February 25.

The *Corps Diplomatique* at Peking has demanded that Yuan Shih-kai should remain in Peking, as his departure for the south would throw the capital into disorder, which might endanger the lives and property of foreign residents.

RUSSIAN NOTIFICATION.

Harbin, February 25.

The Russian authorities at Harbin have

issued a notification that any one, either Chinese or Mongolian, who enters Russia territory with arms, will be liable to have them confiscated.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Tientsin, February 25.

The 77th battalion placed on garrison duty in Chihli province has been withdrawn to Mukden.

JAPANESE SHOT.

Mukden, February 25.

When engaged in the arrest of Revolutionists at Peing-hsiu at midnight on the 23rd instant, the fear-stricken guards opened fire on their comrades, taking them for Revolutionists. Two Japanese were hit by the bullets and killed outright. The situation is now pacific.

THE NANKING DEPUTATION.

A Peking telegram to the *Chunuo* says that a deputation of the Nanking Government was to enter Peking on the 26th ult., the programme of their sojourn in Tientsin having been altered. Five coloured flags are flying all over the city and the streets are vigilantly guarded by the troops and police.

Yuan Shih-kai has received telegraphic answers from Li Yuan-hung accepting the Vice-Presidency and from Hwang Hsing accepting the portfolio of war in the new Government.

The negotiations for a large foreign loan are nearing conclusion, chiefly owing to the exertions of German capitalists. Austrian and Belgian capitalists will participate in the Four Powers Loan, but Russia and Japan were not consulted.

REVOLUTIONISTS AND MOUNTED BANDITS.

FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Mukden, February 25.

About 300 mounted bandits are now stationed outside the walls of Kaiyuen. The Revolutionists inside the town now number about 150 and they are determined to defend the town to the bitter end. A mixed brigade in Mukden, composed of 270 men with one field gun, arrived at Chong-ko on the 24th and left for Kaiyuen on the following morning to attack the town, jointly with the mounted bandits.

Mukden, February 26.

The Imperial troops which arrived outside the walls of Hai-yuan on the 25th, commenced a movement at dawn on the 26th and the attack was begun at the South Gate towards eight o'clock, while about 300 mounted bandits attacked the town at the West Gate. At 11 o'clock the Imperialists pressed on the town and the Revolutionists retreated inside.

Mukden, February 27.

The fighting that took place at Hai-yuan on the 26th instant was suspended the same afternoon and the two rival armies withdrew from the town.

OPIUM SMOKING.

Nanking, February 25.

Cheng Te-chuan, the Minister of Home Affairs, has issued an instruction to investigate and report on the names, careers and condition of administration of the various magistrates. Since the outbreak of the insurrection public order has been destroyed and opium smokers increased, and in some

towns opium is openly sold. The Nanking Government is now enforcing a vigorous measure to prohibit the evil practice.

RIOTS IN HONAN.

Peking, February 25.

Rioters have risen in open revolt in various districts in Honan province and are making their influence felt in those regions. The local authorities have applied to Peking for the dispatch of troops for their suppression.

TROOPS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 25.

Three infantry battalions and an artillery battalion under the command of Brigadier-General Lin of the Nanking Government have arrived at Chefoo on three transports and are being landed there. The troops will evidently stay in Chefoo for some time.

TROOPS WITHDRAWN.

Liaoyang, February 25.

A large portion of the Imperial troops stationed in Chuangho and vicinity have been withdrawn to Fenghuang, leaving a detachment at Takushan.

THE PRESIDENT AND VICEROY CHAO.

Peking, February 25.

President Yuan Shih-kai holds Viceroy Chao responsible for the unrest in Manchuria and has sent him a telegram of censure. Yuan is disposed to replace Viceroy Chao by one of his adherents.

THE CAPITAL.

Tientsin, February 25.

Tsai Yuan-pei, one of the envoys of the Nanking Government, has telegraphed that the situation in North China makes it necessary that Peking be chosen as the capital of the Republic.

INLAND NAVIGATION.

Shanghai, February 25.

The water of the Hsiang river did not fall considerably last winter, and all the steamship companies have been running irregular services. Now that the water has commenced to rise, the Japan-China Steamship Company has re-opened its regular service and the *Hwang Kiang Maru* arrived at Shanghai on the 23rd instant on her first trip this year.

THE NANKING DELEGATES.

Tientsin, February 26.

Tsai Yuan-pei and seven other delegates of the Nanking Government arrived at Tientsin this morning accompanied by Tang Shao-i. The party is to proceed to Peking, after attending a reception of Viceroy Chang and other local public bodies.

OFFICERS EXECUTED AT CANTON.

Canton, February 26.

General Shih Mien-chien, Commander of the Revolutionary army in Canton, who has about 2,000 men under his command, has been acting with arrogance. Quite recently he purchased 15,000 rifles in defiance of a remonstrance of the Magistrate. The General and his Chief of Staff were arrested yesterday and subsequently shot. The Magistrate is gradually disbanding the troops and already some 8,000 men have been paid off. Anxiety is generally felt lest Canton and the vicinity should be thrown into unrest as the disbandment progresses.

THE JAPANESE FATALITIES.

Mukden, February 26.

Inspector of Police Sasaki, who returned from Penghsihu, reports that the Japanese

who was killed in the recent incident has been identified as Saito Furujiro, a Fukushima man. Another Japanese named Mifune Shoichi, who is a Fukushima-man, a retail merchant, was seriously injured and subsequently succumbed.

PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Peking, February 27.
Traffic on the Peking-Hankow railway has been resumed throughout the whole line. An express train will be run once a week.

THE WUCHANG GOVERNMENT.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Hankow, February 26.
Li Yuan-hung is greatly dissatisfied at the negotiations being conducted direct between Yuan Shih-kai and the Nanking Government to the exclusion of the Wuchang Government, he himself being left out in the cold. A section of his followers are said to be brooding over a scheme.

Since the outbreak of the disturbances, the Hanyang Iron works have been placed under the management of the Mitsui Bussan, so they have escaped destruction. The works will resume business shortly.

THE CAPITAL.

Peking, February 26.
The Mongolian princes have again wired to Yuan Shih-kai asking that Peking should be chosen for the capital of the Chinese Republic.

THE CONTROL OF MANCHURIA.

Chefoo, February 26.
When the China Merchants' liner *Hsinya*, with Tang Shao-i and his party on board, arrived at Chefoo on the 23rd instant, Lan Tien-wei paid a visit to Tang on board the steamer. As a result of the interview it was decided to transfer to Lan Tien-wei the power wielded by Viceroy Chao and General Chang Tso-lin in Manchuria. It remains an open question whether Yuan Shih-kai will consent to the arrangement.

DISTURBANCES IN SHANSI AND SHENSI.

Shanghai, February 26.
The people of Shansi and Shensi provinces resident in Shanghai have forwarded to ex-President Sun Yat-sen a petition that Tsen Chun-hsuan should be appointed Magistrate of Shen-kan provinces to put an end to the disturbances there.

A FOREIGN LOAN.

Peking, February 26.
Yuan Shih-kai is now in negotiation with British capitalists to raise a 5,000,000 dollars loan on the security of the telephone offices in Peking and Tientsin. The negotiations have made such progress that the contract is expected to be signed shortly.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

Nanking, February 27.
The Chekiang army stationed to the north of Linhuaiwan is being withdrawn to Nanking since the 26th instant, and the Shanghai army in Nanking will remove its camp to Chenkiang on the 27th instant.

TROOPS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 28.
The vanguard of the expedition, composed of 300 foot soldiers with 10 field-guns and 4 machine-guns, arrived at Chefoo by the sea route from Shanghai on the 26th inst.

CHINESE WARSHIP SALUTES.

Canton, February 27.
The Chinese warship *Kiangku* moved out

of harbour on the 27th instant and saluted the Japanese warship *Tatsuta* and the U.S. warship *Wilmington*. The two warships responded to the salutes.

SITUATION AT CHANGCHUN.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Changchun, February 26.
Disquieting news continues to arrive from Tieling, Harbin, Kung-chuling and other districts, and the local Chinese authorities are seized with terror. The whole garrison has been detailed around the Taotai's and other *yamen* since December 30th (Chinese calendar) for protection, and strict watch is kept. The firing of crackers is prohibited in the town, and delinquents are immediately apprehended. Several hundred citizens are now detained in prison for contravention of the order.

THE NANKING DEPUTATION.

Peking, February 27.
Tsai Yuan-pei and other deputies of the Nanking Government all arrived at Peking on the 27th instant.

MONGOLIA AND THE CAPITAL.

Peking, February 27.
The deputation of Mongolian Princes in Peking has waited on Yuan Shih-kai and informed him that Mongolia will join the Republic of China, if the capital be fixed in Peking; otherwise it will declare its independence.

THE TROOPS IN PEKING.

Peking, February 29.
General Ping Kou-chang has issued to the Imperial Guards an instruction to avoid excesses, and to refrain from all actions calculated to endanger the safety of foreign residents.

PRISONERS RELEASED.

Hankow, February 29.
The Revolutionists who were taken prisoner during the war have all been released and returned to Hankow from Paoting, where they were detained.

THE DESPATCH OF TROOPS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Peking, February 27.
Yuan Shih-kai has refused to respond to the demand made by Shensi and Kansu province for the dispatch of troops, on the ground that it would cause general unrest in North China.

RAISING FUNDS.

Chefoo, February 28.
Since the occupation of the town by the Revolutionists the dearth of financial resources has been keenly felt. Attempts have been made to collect compulsory subscriptions or to impose excess taxes to raise a fund. This aroused the ill will of the people, resulting in the recent disturbances in Wentenghsien. Magistrate Hu Ying has therefore issued an order prohibiting under heavy penalty the collection of compulsory subscriptions. The chiefs of the civil administration, the self-governing bodies and the Chambers of Commerce of various places are allowed to urge, but not compel, the people to subscribe towards the war fund. National bonds are to be delivered to subscribers and those who subscribe purely out of patriotic motives are to be reported to the Central Government, and suitably rewarded. The national bonds are to be issued by the Finance Department and are to bear 8 per cent. interest. One fifth of these bonds are

redeemable annually, two years following the date of issue. Three delegates have been dispatched to Dairen, Chemulpo, Vladivostok and elsewhere to invite subscriptions.

TROUBLE AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, February 26.
Serious internal trouble has occurred in the Military Government at Wuchang. Fighting took place between the rival factions on the 26th instant, when the Director of Home Affairs is reported to have been killed. Sharp rifle reports were heard in the town on the 27th instant and since then the town gates have been kept closed. It is believed, however, that the affair will not lead to any serious consequences.

Hankow, February 28.
On the night of the 27th instant the commander and soldiers of the Second Brigade rose in revolt against the Director of War Affairs, Sun Wu, and other revolutionists. Fire was exchanged all night. Sun Wu fled from Wuchang on the 28th and took refuge in a private residence in the English settlement of Hankow. The commander of an Army Division and the commander of a Brigade are rumoured to have been killed during the fighting. It is also rumoured that the Director of Finance was killed, but the rumour lacks confirmation.

Hankow, February 29.
At midnight on the 27th instant a revolt broke out in Wuchang. The mutineers attacked the various *yamens* and the private residence of Sun Wu. The disturbances continued until dawn, during which time rifle reports were incessantly heard. The conflict is believed to be due to the ill feeling that existed between the Revolutionists and soldiers. Li Yuan-hung is making strenuous efforts to mediate between the two rival factions and it is believed that the incident will not lead to serious consequences.

JAPANESE TROOPS AT KAIYUAN.

Tieling, February 28.
In consequence of the withdrawal of both the Imperial troops and Revolutionists from Kaiyuan on the 26th instant, a detachment of Japanese troops entered the town for the maintenance of order, but withdrew on the 27th instant, after handing over the business to the prefect and Kin Shon-shan, the commander of the Chinese guards. The foreign residents and Chinese in the town expressed warm gratitude to the Japanese troops for the protection accorded them.

Tieling, February 28.
The revolutionists in Kaiyuan retreated to the north immediately after the entrance of the Japanese detachment to the town on the 26th instant. The detachment evacuated the town on the 27th after handing it over to Kin Shon-shan, the commander of the Chinese garrison, and returned to Tieling. The help given by the Japanese troops has been favourably received by the belligerents and is producing a salutary effect.

AN AMOY LOAN.

Fuchow, February 29.
Strong opposition is being raised by the old government authorities and businessmen, as well as Fuchow Assembly, against the American loan negotiated by the Amoy Republican Government, offering a concession of the mining and railway rights in Fukien province.

THE MANCHURIAN BUDGET.

Peking, February 28.
Yuan Shih-kai contemplates convening in

Peking a meeting of the delegates of various provinces on March 15th next, to consider the budgets of the various provinces. Yuan has issued to Viceroy Chao, of the Three Eastern Provinces, a telegraphic instruction to produce the Budget for the Three Eastern Provinces within five days after the receipt of the instruction, and Yuan further demands that the Budget should be framed with the greatest care, because any mistakes are calculated to impede the coalition of North and South.

CANTON RECALCITRANT.

Canton, February 28.

The Canton army strongly resents Yuan Shih-kai's action in keeping the ex-Chinese Emperor in the Republic and also holding the Nanking Government in contempt. It has decided to resolutely refuse to recognize the Peking Government and to send out a Northern Expedition if Yuan will not establish the Republican Government at Nanking. An excited demonstration has been held.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The celebrated Sumitomo Bank of Osaka has at length changed its organization to that of a joint-stock company. Its capital is registered at 15 million yen, one-half of which is paid up, and a meeting of proprietors and directors was held on the 23rd ultimo to celebrate the event.

So far, the efforts made to refloat the destroyer *Harusame*, which sank towards the end of December last, off Matoya in Ise Bay, have proved unsuccessful. A discovery was recently made of the existence of an important secret document on board the destroyer, and Mr. Ikeda, expert in the Yokosuka Naval Dock, was to go to the scene of the disaster on Friday last with a dozen experienced divers to recover the document. This document is described as an important one in connexion with an international question between Japan and a certain foreign Power.

At half past two on the afternoon of the 23rd ultimo, Tokyo was visited by the very unusual phenomenon of a fall of volcanic ashes. It was subsequently ascertained that Yakegadake in the province of Shinshu was responsible for the occurrence. This volcano, whose condition generally synchronizes with that of Asama, broke into activity two or three hours previously, and as the wind was blowing from the south-west, the ashes were scattered in that direction.

The *Yokosuka* learns from a responsible authority that the British protest against the Okura loan was lodged with the Chinese Government, while the British Government merely expressed to the Japanese Government a desire that the loan should be suspended if possible, as British capitalists had a special interest on the Suchow railway. As the request came after the loan contract had been signed, the Japanese Government could not well comply with it and the whole amount of the loan was subsequently paid by the Okura firm.

Mr. Mitsui Saburotsuke, the head of the Mitsui firm, whose illness was reported in a previous issue, is now said to be in the last stage and all hope of recovery has been abandoned. Efforts are being made to

prolong his life until the return of his son and heir from the United States, who is expected to arrive at Yokohama on March 1st next.

There is quite a serious commotion in the college attached to the Higashi-Hongwanji in Kyoto. The students, to the number of 219, have demanded the removal of the Principal of the college and his immediate subordinates. This demand having been rejected, the students formed a committee of 30 to remain in Kyoto and press their claim, while the rest of the recalitrants retired to their native provinces. This great temple manages to occupy a large share of public attention in a not very enviable manner. A few years ago its financial difficulties formed a frequent topic of discussion and now we have this scholastic commotion.

Punch, in its issue of February 5th has the following:—

THE FATAL MISTAKE.

"He is reputed to have died of confused kidneys."

— *Japan Times*.

"Idemitsani, ex-champion of Waseda, is making the 100 yard dash in one or two seconds less than the world's record."—*Japan Times*.

That's very nice of him. When he has finished with the spint he might put a foot or two on to the high jump record.

It is reported that the Popular Party has under consideration introducing to the House, jointly with the Central Party, an Old Age Pension Bill. The Bill is said to provide an allowance of 10 sen per diem to destitute old men and women over 70 years of age who have no means of livelihood, and also an allowance of something under 10 sen per diem to those whose annual income does not exceed 26.50 yen.

The *Official Gazette* announces a few changes in army appointments.

Lieut.-General Sunaga, commander of the Gendarmerie, has been placed on the reserve list, being succeeded by Lieut.-General Nambu, commander of the Shimonoseki Fortifications. He is in turn succeeded by Major-General Naito, who is promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General. Major-Generals Ishibashi and Fujimoto are placed on the reserve list, simultaneously with their promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General. Major-General Oku, Vice-Minister of War, is also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

The death is announced, after a rather severe illness of Baron Takasaki, Chief of the Poetry Bureau, the event taking place at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning. News of his critical illness reaching the Throne, his Majesty was pleased to raise his rank by one degree and confer on him the Grand Cordon of the Imperial Paulownia in recognition of his meritorious services. The deceased nobleman was recognized as the greatest living poet in Japan.

Count von Rex, German Ambassador in Tokyo, who recently returned to Japan was received in audience by H. M. the Emperor on Wednesday and entertained to a farewell dinner in the Homei Chamber. T. H. Prince Fushimi and Takeda, Count Watanabe, Minister of the Imperial Household, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Toda, Grand Master of Ceremonies and other noblemen were also present at the function.

A Seoul telegram reaching Tokyo states that judgment was rendered by the Seoul

Law courts on the 26th ultimo in the criminal case against Count Yi Chi-yon, formerly Minister of Home Affairs in the old Korean Government, and others. They were sentenced to 100 blows each, while two other accused were sentenced to penal servitude for keeping a gambling den.

We have received from Messrs Bowden and Brothers, in their capacity as agents of the British Dominions General Insurance Company Limited, a most useful memento of the New Year in the shape of a metal-mounted pen-wiper forming part of a paper-weight, and devised so as to be used with a minimum of trouble to the user. In fact, it is a very close approach to an automatic instrument, and if its servability is to be taken as an evidence of the Company's success, the British Dominions General Insurance Co., is to be congratulated.

A social gathering took place at 4 p.m. on the 28th ultimo at the Seiyoken restaurant in Ueyeno, over 220 scholars, educationists and religionists being present. Dr. Anezaki delivered a brief opening address, and Dr. Inouye spoke on behalf of the promoters. Speeches were also delivered by Mr. Shiba, representing the Shinto sect, Bishop Toki, representing the Buddhists, Mr. Honda, representing the Christians and Mr. Izawa, representing the educationists present. This memorable gathering came to a close at 8.30.

The last few days have been marked by the deaths of many distinguished men. The first to depart from this world was Count Higashikuze, President of the Privy Council. The next was Lieutenant-General Baron Matsunaga who commanded the Second Division. The third was General Viscount Nishi, who distinguished himself greatly in the Russo-Japanese war. Then followed Baron Takasaki, a member of the Privy Council and the Poet Laureate. The fifth was Mr. Ikebe, formerly editor of the *Asahi Shimbun*, who died at 3 p.m. on the 28th ultimo at the early age of forty-nine. And finally, Viscount Sugli, a member of the Privy Council and Head of the Empress' Household is said to be in a critical condition.

DEATH OF DR. STOUT.

News has been received at Nagasaki of the death of the Rev. H. Stout, D.D., who resided in Nagasaki for 38 years as missionary of the Dutch Reformed Church of America. The deceased first landed at Nagasaki in 1868, recalls the *Nagasaki Press*, and for a time laboured with Dr. Veibek, one of the most famous of pioneer missionaries to Japan. After some years spent in purely evangelical work, Dr. Stout was appointed the first Principal of Steele Academy (Zuzan Gakuin), and remained as such until 1904, when he resigned from the Mission, or active work therefore. He remained at the southern port for nearly two years more to superintend the construction of the Y.M.C.A. building, leaving for home in May, 1906. Throughout his long period of service Dr. Stout was highly esteemed by foreign residents of all nationalities. He revisited Japan last year, staying for some time in Kobe with his daughter, Mrs. S. M. Officer, and just passing through Nagasaki on his way home *via* Suez. He reached home in January, somewhat tired after the long journey, but giving no indication of so quickly passing away. In addition to the daughter mentioned above, Dr. Stout leaves a son in the United States. Mrs. Stout died in Nagasaki about ten years ago, and is interred in Urakami Cemetery.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Dan Russel the Fox; by E. SOMERVILLE AND MARTIN ROSS. Messrs. Methuen and Co., London.

PUNCH in his closing number of 1911 alludes *en passant*, to "Some Experiences of an Irish R.M." without any further reference or explanation whatever. The great London periodical could not have offered more cogent proof of the universal appreciation in which the volumes of Miss Somerville and of Mr. Martin Ross are held by the English-speaking people in all countries. The "Experiences" owed something to its novelty. Charles Leyer described the Irish as they appeared to him. Miss Somerville and Mr. Ross make the Irish describe themselves. There is a vast difference. The former method relies largely on the imagination of the writer; the latter owes everything to his power of observation and accuracy of delineation. It may be certainly predicted that the "Experiences" will stand with "David Harum" on the immemorial shelf of national classics. "Dan Russel the Fox" is a cognate outcome of the same writers' collaboration. It is another chapter of the same history, though the personnel depicted is different, and the writers have achieved the remarkable feat, not only of investing their characters with extreme interest, but also of inspiring the reader with a sentiment of consternation when he discovers that he has turned over the last page. A writer is said to be a poor artist unless he leaves something to the imagination of his readers, and certainly in "Dan Russel the Fox" this dictum receives ample respect. We are permitted to hope, therefore, that the writers have in view a supplementary volume, as they undoubtedly had in the case of the "Experiences," which was followed by "Further Experiences." The public will not forgive them unless they pursue that plan with regard to "Dan Russel," for the characters depicted in the latter are too attractive to be dismissed half way in their careers. We cannot afford to be left in any ultimate doubt as to the fates of Mrs. Delanty, Katherine Rowen, John Michael and Ulick Adare. Every one of the quartette is introduced so intimately that the reader seems to acquire a right of possession in them and entitled to hear everything about them; as is the case eminently with the men and women whom Charles Dickens created and after him, at an interval, Scott and Thackeray.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at one p.m. on Saturday last.

The Bill relating to mutual assistance of foreign law courts in judicial procedure was explained by Mr. Hiranuma, Vice-Minister of Justice, and referred to a special committee.

Mr. Takagi brought forward a representation for holding the Grand Exhibition in 1917, in the course of which he remarked that the Katsura Ministry had postponed the scheme and the present Ministry announced its suspension. This breach of public promises was calculated not only to give the nation a feeling of uneasiness but to shake the confidence of foreign Governments and people, which facts should outweigh financial considerations. Lottery tickets might be issued to raise the fund or the enterprise might be left to municipal undertaking. The representation was referred to a special committee.

Representations relating to the construction of

railways and worship at shrines were then dealt with and referred to a committee.

Mr. Seki introduced a representation relating to the revision of the civil service regulations and remarked that the revision or abolition of the regulations had been discussed for the past decade. The Government was also conscious of the evils attendant on the regulations, which were first enacted in 1900 when the *Kenseito*, now the *Seiyukai*, entered into an understanding with the Government. The regulations had for their object to check office-hunting by politicians, but they now formed a bulwark for bureaucratic statesmen. The regulations constituted a barrier against the appointment of truly capable men in posts in the Government.

Mr. Okano, parliamentary delegate, opposed the representation and stated that the Government did not think revision necessary.

The representation was approved, without being referred to a special committee.

The representation relating to the opening of Taketoyo harbour to foreign trade was next dealt with, when Mr. Shimidzu, chairman of the special committee, reported in favour of the representation, which was finally adopted by the House.

After numerous petitions had been considered, the House rose at 2.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 a.m. on the 26th ultimo. The Bill relating to the temporary Customs Store House Law, which was introduced by the Government and approved by the Lower House, was first taken up for discussion.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, explaining the Bill, said that it had in view granting private individuals a licence to establish temporary store houses in the Customs precincts, to enable them to work on imported goods or otherwise manufacture goods from imported materials in such store houses, to suit the convenience of traders. The Bill was referred to a committee of nine.

The Bill relating to a Schools and Libraries fund was next dealt with, when Mr. Izawa, chairman of the committee, reported in favour of the Bill, which was eventually passed.

The Bill relating to an appropriation in connexion with the China affair, which was approved and transferred from the Lower House, was then taken up for first reading. Marquis Tokugawa, chairman of the special committee, reported in favour of the Bill, which was ultimately passed.

The Supplementary Budgets were next dealt with, when Viscount Soga, Chairman of the Committee, reported in their favour. The Budgets were passed.

The Bill relating to the control of juvenile drinking, which was approved and transferred from the Lower House, was taken up for consideration.

Baron Seki asked whether the Government did not think it difficult to enforce such control.

The parliamentary delegates of the Departments of Education and Home Affairs replied in the negative and stated that the Bill received the Government support. The Bill was referred to a special committee.

The House rose at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 27th ultimo. At the outset, Mr. Hosono brought forward an interpellation concerning the Exchanges, in the course of which he asked what reforms the Government had in view and why the Government sanctioned the increase by 10 per cent. of the commission charged by the Tokyo Stock Exchange, in April 1908. Mr. Hosono also asked for an explanation regarding the prohibition of *Jiki* transactions in the Tokyo Stock Exchange in May last year and also the suspension of August and September transactions

on the Tokyo Rice Exchange, ordered on August 10th last year.

Reply was reserved.

Mr. Takahashi also brought forward an interpellation asking the Government whether the Minister of Finance had the right to sanction the Hypothec, Agricultural and Commercial, and Hokkaido Development Banks to charge on loans interest higher than the prescribed rate.

Reply to this interpellation was also reserved.

Mr. Ayabe brought forward an interpellation regarding school text-books, in which salicylic acid and formalin are described as antiseptics for preventing putrefaction of food stuffs. Mr. Ayabe pointed out that the use of those drugs was prohibited by law, and asked whether the description in the text-book of these antiseptics was not contrary to the spirit of the law.

Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, stated that a correction would be made in the text-books after April next.

The House then dealt with the Order of the Day, when Bills relating to export duty on Karafuto-brewed sake and rebate on alcohol for industrial purposes were taken up for the first reading and referred to a special committee.

The Election Law Revision Bill was next taken up for discussion.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, explained the Bill.

Mr. Togawa asked if the revision did not necessitate similar revision in the law of election of the members of the prefectural assemblies as a natural sequence.

Mr. Hara replied that the two laws were irrelevant to one another.

Mr. Togawa asked for information on the comparative cost of electoral expenses between large and small electorates.

Mr. Hara replied that he could not give the figures, as the cost differed according to local conditions.

Mr. Tagawa again asked if the Government did not consider the extension of the suffrage also necessary.

Mr. Hara replied that the Government did not consider the extension of suffrage rights necessary under present conditions.

Similar questions were also raised by Messrs. Takagi and a few other members, to which Mr. Hara gave the same answer as above quoted.

Mr. Hosono remarked that it would reflect on the credit of the Ministry if the Bill were vetoed by the Upper House, even if it should be passed in the Lower House, and asked if the Government was informed of the disposition of the Upper House.

Mr. Hara said that the Upper House had the right of vote. The Government did not know or care to know the disposition of the Upper House towards the Bill or the ultimate fate of the Bill in the Diet.

The Bill was referred to a special committee of forty-six. A few more minor Bills were dealt with before the House rose at 4.35 p.m.

ARBITRATION IN CIVIL DISPUTES.

A special committee of the House of Representatives sat at 11 a.m. on the 27th ultimo to consider the Bill relating to arbitration in civil disputes.

Replying to a question, Mr. Saito, parliamentary delegate of the Department of Justice, said that the civil cases dealt with in the courts of first and second instance during 1911 numbered 60,010, those settled out of court numbering 5919.

Mr. Takagi asked if the Government ever issued to the law courts an instruction to urge litigants to settle their disputes out of Court as far as possible.

Mr. Hiranuma, parliamentary delegate of the Department of Justice, replied in the negative, but explained that the matter was taken up informally at a judicial conference. The Government had no objection to the Bill on principle, but thought further study necessary.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Takagi, the parliamentary delegate stated that he could

not give a definite answer as to the date of the introduction of the bill, but the Government had under consideration a measure whereby the law's delays might be prevented. The revision of the Code of Civil Procedure now undertaken had this end in view. The Government had under investigation the propriety or otherwise of leaving arbitration to the hands of private individuals, under a special law.

Mr. Saito, supplementing the explanation, said that the money claimed in Civil suits in 1910 reached the total of 18,711,765 yen. The compulsory attachment effected, involved the sum of 5,684,311 yen; of which 1,414,636 yen remained unpaid. This fact gave evidence that the courts had done their best to protect creditors.

Mr. Takagi demanded the production of statistics showing the number of civil cases settled out of court throughout the country.

The parliamentary delegate stated that it would probably be impossible to obtain accurate statistics during the current session of the Diet.

The committee rose at noon.

THE GRAND EXHIBITION.

A special committee of the House of Representatives sat at 10 a.m. on the 29th ult. to consider the Representation introduced by Mr. Takagi, concerning the holding of the Grand Exhibition in 1917.

In explaining the Representation, Mr. Takagi remarked that the Government had already spent 6,000,000 yen on the scheme, which it had now decided to suspend for financial reasons. If the Government found it impossible to meet the expense, the enterprise might be conveniently left to municipal or private undertaking.

Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, states that the Government opposed the Representation, but was ready to enter into consultation, if the Tokyo Municipality or other public bodies wanted to take up the scheme. The cost of the Exhibition was originally estimated at 20 million yen, the appropriations for which were allotted as under:—130,000 yen for the 45th fiscal year, 2,470,000 for the 46th, 4,890,000 for the 47th; 6,550,000 for the 48th, 4,690,000 yen for the 49th and 1,900,000 yen for the 50th fiscal year. The sums allotted to the 45th and 46th fiscal years were to cover the cost of buildings, work on which was to be commenced in the 47th fiscal year.

It was decided to demand an explanation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Agriculture and Commerce on the subject.

The Committee rose at noon.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 29th ult. After various reports had been submitted, the Bill for revision of the Customs Tariff introduced by Mr. Muto was taken up for discussion.

Mr. Muto explained the Bill and stated that its purpose was to exempt from import duties chloride of potash and sulphate of potash, which were used as fertilizers.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

The Bill relating to a revision of the Waterworks Act was next dealt with and referred to a committee.

Numerous Representations of a local nature were then introduced and explained by the members responsible.

The representations were either adopted or referred to a special committee.

Fourteen petitions presented to the House were then considered and all accepted.

The House rose out at 4.5 p.m.

THE most cordial telegrams have been exchanged by Count Berchtold, who has succeeded the late Count Aehrenthal as Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Imperial Chancellor, and M. Sazanoff, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasizing the desire for the continuance of the intimate relationships bequeathed by the late Count Aehrenthal.

PORTRAIT OF COUNT TOGO.

It is reported that while Admiral Count Togo was in England last year, he had his portrait painted by the famous Hungarian artist Philippe Alexief Labro. The portrait is of life size and is mounted in a gold frame which is three centuries old. It is now exhibited in the *Sankokan* or Reference Building of the Navy.

The artist was born at Budapest. When young he studied art in the art school in his native town. Afterwards he pursued his studies under the tuition of teachers in Paris and elsewhere. In 1899, he exhibited a portrait of Prince Hohenlohe in the Salon, followed in 1900 by portraits of Leo XIII, Edward VII, Wilhelm II, President Roosevelt, and Queen Alexandra. These established his fame as a portrait painter and won him medals and other marks of distinction.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The meeting of the above Society (Yokohama and Tokyo branch) was held at the new Board of Trade Rooms in Main Street at 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday, Mr. F. G. Sale, the President, being in the chair.

After the reading of the notice convening the meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and the President then moved that the statement of accounts, as presented to the members, be adopted. Whilst he did not propose to make any lengthy remarks, he considered it his duty to mention the absence at home of Messrs. Abbott, Butler and Harrington, and to the good work they had done for the Society. This was especially so in the case of Mr. Harrington and he considered it only just that their services should be registered and recognized on the minutes of the Society. He begged to move the adoption of this accounts. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The next business was the election of the officers and Committee, it being announced that Messrs. Colchester, Buckle and Sale were unable to stand for re-election. Special mention was made by the Chairman of the fine work rendered by the Society by Mr. N. Buckle as Hon. Secretary.

The following gentlemen were then proposed, seconded, and elected unanimously as officers and committee for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. E. Edisson; Vice-President, Mr. E. F. Crowe, C.M.G.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. Leigh Bennet; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Lind; Committee, Messrs. P. A. Cox, H. E. Stearns, M. Russell, F. W. R. Ward and K. Hardman.

It was also agreed that St. George's Day, April 3rd, should be celebrated this year by a Ball.

This concluded the business.

FUNERAL OF MR. T. TAKAYANAGI.

The death is announced in Tokyo after a rather protracted illness of Mr. Takayanagi, proprietor of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the sad event taking place on the 22nd ultimo.

The funeral services of the late Mr. Toyosaburo Takayanagi, of the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, were performed at Aoyama cemetery on Monday morning, the funeral procession leaving the house of the deceased at Shinami-cho, Shiba, about one o'clock in the afternoon. At Aoyama cemetery the service was conducted by the Rev. Kaijo Kitagoe, of the Chokokuji temple.

Among those present at the funeral were the representative of Prince Katsura, Mr. Otoguro, Dr. Saneaki Takata, and a number of other notable persons in society.

FIRES.

A fire occurred at Tan-machi, in the suburbs of Yokohama, on Thursday night last, causing the destruction of seven houses. The incident caused a temporary interruption of railway and tramway traffic.

The loss sustained by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha in the fire at Bombay is estimated at some 600,000 yen, which, however, is covered by insurance.

In the small hours of Saturday morning last, fire broke out in a workshop, at Wakamiya-cho, Honjo, Tokyo, and spread in all directions, resulting in the destruction of over 70 houses and other buildings. Several policemen and firemen sustained more or less serious injuries. The amount of loss is still under investigation.

Early on Monday morning a great fire occurred at Shinminato, Toyama prefecture, resulting in the destruction of over 100 houses and other buildings.

On the afternoon of the 25th instant a forest fire occurred at Hannota, near Uraga. The flames continued for two hours, the damage being estimated at over 100,000 yen. The outbreak was due to some one burning off the grass in the forest.

On Wednesday morning a fire occurred at Senju-machi, Utsunomiya, resulting in the destruction of over 60 houses and other buildings. The loss sustained is estimated at over 10,000 yen.

THE LATE MR. F. H. TANNER.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. F. H. Tanner at the General Hospital on Monday. The deceased gentlemen only entered the hospital on Sunday, his illness being diagnosed as meningitis. He had not been well for some time, but it was only a few days ago that he felt himself forced to discontinue work. Mr. Tanner, who was stenographer in the Yokohama branch of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, leaves behind him a widow and five children.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, February 23.

There is no sign of life as yet, though some briskness showed itself for a moment in the forenoon session.

Saturday, February 24.

There was a feeling of some vigour in the market on Saturday, but there does not seem to be any cause to expect a steady rise.

Monday, February 26.

The tendency yesterday was upward, but profit taking sales checked the market.

Tuesday, February 27.

Yesterday being the day before the monthly closing there was only one session and very little business was done. After closure, however, some briskness was shown in spot transactions.

Thursday, February 29.

The market showed some briskness in the forenoon but dropped in the afternoon. The latest quotations are:—

	Feb. 27th.	Feb. 29th.	
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	51.60	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	119.85	120.55	+ .70
Toyoko Kisen.....	48.90	48.95	+ .05
Specie Bank.....	219.95	219.50	— .45
Tanko Kisen.....	24.80	25.05	+ .25
Tokyo Gas.....	73.05	72.65	— .40
Tokyo Dento.....	69.75	69.70	— .05
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	88.30	88.00	— .30
Tokyo Spinning.....	55.20	55.10	— .10
Kanegafuchi Spinning.....	109.75	109.30	— .45
Beer.....	88.00	88.45	+ .45
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	64.95	65.35	+ .40
Nippon Oil.....	73.70	73.80	+ .10
Rice Exchange.....	113.55	113.70	+ .15
Stock Exchange.....	169.25	169.50	+ .25

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC ORGAN ON THE NEW RELIGIOUS POLICY OF THE HOME OFFICE.

So much has been written on the new religious policy adopted by the Home Office that it is unnecessary for us to do more than indicate in a general way what is the attitude of certain Christian sects to the proposed scheme. The general impression among Christians is that the action of the Vice-Minister of the Home Office indicates the existence of a desire to make use of religion for State purposes. One missionary speaks of the Home Office as "craving for spiritual guidance." How far this is really the case is open to question. Here is the gist of an editorial which appears in the February *Koo* on the whole subject. The move made by Mr. Tokonami certainly seems to indicate that the Government is conscious of the great mistake it has made in past years in separating religion and education and in refusing to give proper support to religion in other ways. Japan's religionless condition has been much talked about in foreign countries. Unbelievers across the seas have rejoiced over it. But at last our Government has resolved to reverse its policy and to take steps for giving more authority to the three religions propagated in this country.

It must be confessed that the Government has turned a pretty sharp corner. For several decades past their attitude to religion has been one of scorn and contempt. Their theory has been that religion consists of worn out silly superstitions. This view has been repeatedly set forth by school Directors and school teachers in public speeches made to students and in lectures.* They now quietly confess that the religion which they have hitherto despised is worthy of all honour. Turncoats of this kind find it difficult to get people to believe them. (*Tote mo kore wa shinazuru mono wa arumai to omou*). The Government have sown the wind and they will reap the whirlwind. The announcement of their new policy is likely to be received with ridicule (*kaette kore wo oshieru mono wa karonji, anadoru nomi ni todomaru de aru*). In the case of the uneducated classes a sudden change of policy of this kind will certainly have a very bad effect. It will tend to make them lose all confidence in the Government, which will appear not to know its own mind from one week to another.

Now the question which it is important to consider is what the Home Office actually proposes doing. It looks very much as if it intended to undertake the superintendence of ministers of religion. If this is so, nothing could be more undesirable. Wherever the plan of placing religious teachers under the control of Government officials has been tried, it has worked badly and under present circumstance it would be bound to fail here.

There is a talk of the Government relying on religion as a basis for morals, but seeing that each religion has its own morality, the use of the three creeds in the way proposed would certainly prove to be impracticable. A system of morality consisting of patchwork, with Christian, Buddhist and Shin ō fragments pieced together would only excite ridicule.

As for any blending of the three creeds, that is quite impossible. They disagree in fundamentals too much for that. It is said that Mr. Tokonami, perceiving certain cosmopolitan elements in Christianity and Buddhism, thinks they can be made to work together for the diminution of race hatred and so on. This is true to a certain extent; but what about Shin ōism? That can never be cosmopolitanized. It can not possibly be propagated outside Japan. Neither the Koreans nor the Formosans are likely to accept it. It is a religion that is calculated to increase racial anti-

pathy rather than diminish it.* To attempt to use Shintoism as a means of preventing racial hostility would be even more foolish than trying to prevent the spread of a fire by adding fuel to it (*Shinto ni yotte jinshu teki kanjō no shōtōru wo fusegō to suru wa, takigi wo idaitte, hi wo fusegō to suru yori mo nao gu naru koto de arumai ka?*)

If Japan is desirous of adopting a new policy respecting religion and wishes to follow the most unobjectionable of all courses in this matter, let her imitate America. The American Government, while keeping aloof from all religions, gives all creeds equal protection. There is no such religious liberty anywhere as exists in that country. European nations are all more or less hampered in respect of religious liberty. The teachers of religion and the superintendence of ministers of religion are no proper functions for any Government to perform. Religious sects should not be interfered with in any way by the authorities so long as they do not disobey the country's laws. Let them compete against each other as much as they will. The fittest is sure to survive.

DR. KATŌ HIROYUKI TO THE FRONT AGAIN.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* of Feb. 8th published an article from the pen of the venerable Dr. Katō Hiroyuki against the utilization of religion by the Japanese Government. To Dr. Katō it appears that the step contemplated by Mr. Tokonami is a step backwards. The State's interference with religion in various European countries has led to numerous abuses and the spirit of the age is decidedly against it. The plan of supplementing the deficient moral teaching in schools by religious instruction can not succeed, contends Dr. Katō, for reasons known to every well-informed educationist.

Dr. Katō is very much opposed to Mr. Tokonami's scheme on two grounds. One is the impossibility of expecting any elevating influences to be exercised by the Shin ō and Buddhist priests of Japan to-day. The other is the harmful nature of the Christian doctrines taught by missionaries and Japanese pastors. As Dr. Katō's views on this subject have been fully given by us in former Summaries it is unnecessary to dwell further on them here.

THE VIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONAL ORGAN ON THE ABOVE QUESTION.

The *Kirishutokyo Sekai* in its issue of Feb. 8th publishes an editorial in which Mr. Tokonami's scheme meets with strong approval. It congratulates the Government on having, after many experiments and excursions into barren territory, hit on a plan for bringing about the moral elevation of the nation. The Government, it says, has hitherto made the mistake of relying on education only for the development of character. Religions exist because mere secular education is insufficient for the enlightenment and moral elevation of young people.

The *Kirishutokyo Sekai* does not anticipate that the Conference to be held will effect much. A great deal it thinks will depend on the attitude assumed by the upper officials of the Home Office to the representatives of the Sects. If they are treated with the deference due to high class counsellors and their replies to the questions put to them are received with respect, the conference will certainly do some good.

THE PRESENT STATE OF JAPANESE BUDDHISM.

Mr. Sawayanagi Masatarō, the President of the *Tohoku Daigaku*, is a sincere believer in Buddhism and is intimately acquainted with its present condition. Writing in the *Sandai Kahoku Shimbun* on Feb. 7th and 8th, he made the following remarks:—We can not but regret that most of our religious teachers are idle, unlearned, unintelligent and wholly degenerate. Unless a remedy can be found for this state of things the mere discussion of religion can do little good. What could be worse than the condition of the Buddhist priest-

hood to-day? Can spiritual healing come from men who are living bad lives and who violate all the rules of their profession? In other lines of life certain qualifications are needed by all who wish to follow them. The lawyer, the architect, the schoolmaster, the artist, has to reach a fixed standard before he is allowed to practise his profession. Why should not our priests be examined by competent scholars and only those who pass the examination be licensed to teach religion? As things are to-day, it is hard to find more than one duly qualified teacher of religion among every thousand priests. There are too many Buddhist priests in the country; 130,000, if we remember rightly. Their number should be largely reduced, and those who represent our ancient and noble faith should be highly educated up-to-date men. More selection and higher training—these are the most pressing needs of the hour. The multiplication of temples while there are so few priests who are qualified to take charge of them should be discouraged. It is a mere waste of money to erect buildings in which no religious teaching of the proper kind is carried on.

Some people advocate the teaching of religion in schools. To this I am opposed, as it would involve a contravention of that clause in our Constitution which grants liberty of religious belief to Japanese subjects. If religion is to be taught in schools, the question arises, what religion? To teach the doctrines of one creed would constitute a slight put on other creeds. But in saying this I do not intend to be understood as underrating the importance of religion. The world's great men have nearly all believed in some kind of religion (*Shin* (makoto) no jin wa shinkō no hito ni shite, keshite hishinkō no hito narazu)*. Our Japanese great men, it is true, have been different, but then are they to be regarded as truly great? Because I believe in the necessity of religion, therefore I desire to see it prospering among us to an extent that is impossible while the standard reached by our priests is so low.

One of the rules observed by Buddhists is that no priest shall be at liberty to change his doctrines or his sect. This of course is fatal to religious progress. Study of the doctrines of other sects often leads a priest to desire to adopt them in preference to those taught by his own body. Since this is not allowed, priests lose all interest in the study of religion and perform the duties assigned to them in a most perfunctory manner as a means of getting a living. With a degenerate priesthood such as we have, that the influence of religion in Japan should have gone down to zero, deeply regretful as it is, is no cause for wonder.

DISSENSION AND SCHEM AMONG BUDDHIST SECTS.

The *Hakuhinkan* have just published their usual February extra number of the *Taiyō*. The subject treated is the World's Great Revolutions. At the close of the book a brief history of the year 1911 is given under various headings. Among the remarks on religion we find the following:—In the Buddhist world the year 1911 was marked by all sorts of internal dissensions among the various sects. In the Jōshū ū there was a great conflict between the priests attached to the Kyōō Chionjin and the priests attached to the Tōkyō Jōjōin. In the Shin sect serious dissensions have arisen between what is known as the Ōtani section of adherents and what is known as the *hōpa* or main body of followers. The right claimed by the Ōtani Abbots, their control of property, and other questions have caused much wrangling between the parties concerned. In the Sōtōshū University there have been repeated collisions between the teachers and the students, in which the students are said to have come off best. And one of the Rinnōkyō sub-sects is desirous of separating itself from the Taisei-

* It is perhaps unnecessary to point out that these words are to be understood in a very broad sense and only assert that each great man has had his own special religious beliefs. These, of course, have seldom agreed with those of his contemporaries.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* *Sujūnen no aida Seifu no keiai seru kwan kōritsu gakkō no kyōdan kara shinkō wa furukusai meshin de aru; jitsu ni tsunamianu mono de aru. Kore wo shinazuru no wa bakarashii koto de aru.*

* It teaches that the Japanese race is superior to all races on the face of the earth, that their gods surpass all other gods and their Emperors all other Emperors.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

hōkwaï and becoming independent. Unseemly indeed are all these squabbles among religionists.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS STAGNANCY IN 1911.

Despite the facts that the liberal Christians held a series of meetings at Mita, that Christian magazines protested loudly against the orders issued by the Home Office bearing on ancestor worship and the repair of shrines, that Japanese pastors visited Korea and Korean pastors visited Japan, it is true to say that the general lack of religious faith and earnestness which has been so noticeable in past years was equally conspicuous last year, observes the writer quoted above. Among the ignorant religious faith doubtless exists, but among the intelligent sections of the community intellectual inquiry carries people further and farther away from religion. This perhaps is unavoidable (*Gufu-gufu no shinkō wo nosote, yōyaku chi-teki kenkyū ni jiji nuru mono no kokoro kara shūkyōkai ni waakatte yuku no wa, yamu wo yēhai genshō de aru*). Even among those who openly profess religion, little real fervour is witnessed. Religious formalities are as a rule kept up to as the result of habit only.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITARIANS TO THE NEWLY FOUNDED PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.

As stated in our last Summary, on Dec. 19th, representatives of eight Protestant Sects met in the Kanda Y. M. C. A. Hall and formed a new Alliance. The Sects represented were the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists, the Japanese Methodists, the Canadian and American Methodists, the United Brethren, the Evangelicals*, the Christians, and the Society of Friends. Forty-eight representatives were present at the meeting. The Protestant Sects and Societies which took no part in the movement were very numerous, as may be seen by reference to the list of Religious Societies† which have agents in Japan published in the new Japan Directory. In the February *Rikugō Zasshi* Mr. Uchigasaki states that the Unitarians received no invitation to attend the Conference which was convened for the purpose of forming the Alliance. The new body is described as an Alliance of Protestants who in a general way adhere to evangelical principles. Mr. Uchigasaki fears that the use of the word "evangelical" may indicate that the founders of the Alliance are tarred with the brush of the narrow-minded Evangelical Alliance whose history is so well known to the Japanese Christian public. But he admits that he may be mistaken in this, as religious thought in Japan at any rate is progressive.

In England and America, proceeds Mr. Uchigasaki, Unitarians and other free-thinking Christians are carefully excluded from evangelical alliances, and it would seem as though the founders of this Japanese Alliance were in favour of adopting the same policy in this country. This appears to me to be very absurd, as here there are three creeds which have little in common with Christians, two of which are engaged in propagating all sorts of superstitions, so that there is more reason for the union of Christians of all shades of thought here than in the West, where, lacking other foes, the evangelical Christians keep themselves from boredom (*taikutsu fūsegi no hōshi*) by attacking the Unitarians and other liberal Christians. In England, according to Dr. Clifford, the well known Baptist Minister, the narrowness of view maintained by the Evangelical Alliance is largely owing to the influence of the Methodists. In Japan the Methodists are more liberal-minded. But as regards our Japanese Protestants to-day, they are on the whole more liberal-minded than the representatives of their sects in Western countries. For example, the Japanese Kumiai Kyōkai in belief is nearer the English Unitarians than the

English Congregationalists. My attention was drawn to this while in England, and since I originally belonged to the Kumiai Kyōkai, my belief was not much shaken by my visit to England; in fact it was rather confirmed by what I saw and heard there.* Unitarianism is very strong in England, as is shown by the fact that one of the most noted religious magazines in the whole world, the *Hibbert Journal*, was founded by means of the money subscribed by a Unitarian business man Robert Hibbert. The broad-mindedness displayed by that magazine shows how comprehensive is modern English Unitarianism. This *Journal* is habitually quoted with strong approval by the Japanese Kumiai Kyōkai organ, the *Kiriantokyo Sekai*, showing the amount of sympathy there is between the English Unitarians and the Japanese Congregationalists. I am for union with other Christians as far as this is possible, and therefore I am quite ready to join the Alliance and have sent in an application to that effect.

THE FEBRUARY "RIKUGŌ ZASSHI."

This Unitarians organ has been greatly enlarged and improved as a result of Mr. Uchigasaki's literary activity and connection with leading writers. The February number of the magazine may be described as a *tour de force* that can not fail to attract attention. Among the contributors of articles are Mr. Shimada Saburō, Mr. Kuroiwa Shiroku, the chief-editor of the *Yoroku Chōhō*, Professor Abe Ison, Professor Kishimoto and Dr. Ogawa. The number runs into 128 pages and many of the articles are excellently written. Mr. Shimada gives a very minute account of the sentiments of the Japanese in America towards Americans and of the opinions held by Americans concerning the Japanese settlers in the United States. The article occupies 11 pages of the Magazine and is the fullest statement of Mr. Shimada's views on the subject discussed that we have met with.

Mr. Kuroiwa is one of Japan's leading philosophers. His subject is *Contact with Real Facts*. As we have mentioned on a previous occasion, all the long articles that appear in the *Rikugō Zasshi* from month to month are the reproductions of addresses delivered at the Mita Unitarian Hall. The platform of that Hall is often occupied by some of Japan's most noted men, who are free to say just what they think, and so the speeches made are full of interest as expositions of current thought among highly educated and serious-minded men. The gist of Mr. Kuroiwa's address was that seekers after truth must keep to what is real and is capable of logical demonstration and not allow themselves to be misled by their imaginations or by the imagination of other people who fancy this, that, and the other thing. In fiction the realists are opposed to the Romanticists, and in religion realism is opposed to emotionalism. Seeing that the Unitarians stand for what is rational and logical in religion and ethics, "though no Christian and not a church-goer, I am prepared to do what I can to back them," said Mr. Kuroiwa.

Professor Abe's article is on *The Confused State of Ethical Thought* in this country and his remarks on this subject show how intimately acquainted he is with current thought in Japan on moral questions. Mr. Uchigasaki contributes three articles to the number we are reviewing and Mr. Minami two. If the *Rikugō Zasshi* can be kept up to this standard, it will be one of the most instructive and learned religious magazines published in Japan. It has long ceased to be a mere sectarian organ. It represents prevailing opinion on ethics, religion and philosophy.

THE CONTACT OF BUDDHISM WITH CHRISTIANITY

Dr. J. Takakusu, Professor of Sanscrit at the Tōkyō Imperial University, a graduate of

* *Boku wa Nihon no Kumiai Kyōkai wa shisō ni oite wa Eikoku no Unitarian shugi ni ruji suru no de, sono Congregationalists to wa oi ni sabetsu aru ni ki ga twita. Yotte boku wa betsudam shinkō no dōyō naku, kayette isshu no hakushin wo nigitte, hicho shita no de aru.*

Oxford University and a well known authority on Buddhism, contributed an article to the February number of Mr. Matsumura Kaieki's organ the *Michi* on the relationship of Buddhism and Christianity to each other, which we now proceed to summarize. I am of opinion that if Buddhism could become less philosophical and Christianity less worldly, the two religions would prove to be very much alike. The history of the two Creeds has many points of resemblance. Christianity to-day is no longer the simple creed preached by Christ on the banks of the river Jordan, but consists of numerous elements that have attached themselves to it in the course of its long history. Logic has been applied to it, greatly altering its character. The same thing has happened with Buddhism. It has divested itself of much of the abstruseness, vagueness and mysticism in which it was for centuries enveloped and has become a practical working creed. Among Western students of religion and philosophers it is recognized that the teaching of Schopenhauer in his great work on the Will was distinctly Buddhistic and it is not too much to say that Buddhism was thus introduced into the world of European thought. (*Bukkyō wa jiten ni Schopenhauer wo tsujite Ōshū no shōbōka ni shinnyū shita to itte yoroshii*). Since the time of Schopenhauer Buddhism has attracted much attention in Europe.

In Ceylon for a long period the two religions came into close contact with and affected each other in various ways. In Japan from the time of Xavier onwards the two creeds have also undoubtedly influenced one another in divers particulars. This has been very evident in recent times. The measures adopted by Christians for enlightening Society, improving its condition and relieving distress have been closely imitated by Buddhists. They have their Temperance Societies and their charity organization; and they send priests to prisons to instruct criminals. Christianity has thus proved to Buddhism a source of enormous benefit (*Ongi aru tasan (徳山) no ishi to iwanaba naranu*). It is related that Captain Brinkley was once asked what good fruit Christianity had borne in Japan; and he replied: "It certainly must be recognized that it has given new life to Buddhism."

If in things practical Buddhism has received benefit from Christianity, Christianity, on the other hand, has learnt much from Buddhist doctrines and theories. The influence of the two creeds on each other is likely to increase as time goes on. In the doctrines taught there are some fundamental differences, but much depends on the way these doctrines are explained. Though priests and clergymen may wrangle over subtle differences, to an ordinary unbiased critic it seems that the points of resemblance between the two creeds are very numerous. That which they have in common far exceeds that in which they differ. The following enumeration of points in which they appear to differ while actually agreeing is not exhaustive by any means, but it will serve to show in a general way how far the teaching of one creed harmonizes with that of the other when interpreted by laymen in a common sense way.

(1) The one God of the Christians refuses to recognize other Gods; but Amida recognizes other Divinities. The first claims to be the only God; the second to rank highest among many Divinities. To ordinary people there is no difference between them (*sono sa wa jōjin ni wa mitomerarenai*), since both claim pre-eminence among objects of worship.

(2) In saving people the Christian God discriminates between one person and another. Buddha treats all persons as equal. The Christian God is a God of judgment, who places justice and righteousness before everything else. But Buddha is all-merciful and rejects nobody (*Fusha teki (不捨の) Daihi no Kami de aru*).

* Schopenhauer studied Buddhist thought by means of certain Latin translations of Buddhist works that he possessed.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* What Evangelicals we don't know. There is the Evangelical Association of N. America, the Evangelical Lutheran Mission and the General Evangelical Protestant Missionary Society.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† There are over 50 Protestant Societies which support missionaries in Japan.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

But ordinary people attach little importance to these finely drawn distinctions, and to them God's love and Buddha's mercy are just alike.

(3) The Christian God is a Divinity with human personality imparted to it. Buddha is a human being with Divinity imparted to it. They agree in both being personal Deities.

(4) The Christian doctrine of the Trinity explains the tripartite nature of a personal God. Buddhism also regards the nature of the Divinity as tripartite. There is the immaterial, invisible and immortal body the 法身 *Hōshin*, or Dharma Kāya; there is the personal Divinity, the 報身 *Hōshin* (lit. the body of compensation), the sambhoga Kāya, and there is the personality known as 化身 *Kwashin*, or 應身 *Ojin* (lit. a body capable of transformation), the Nirmana Kāya. The triune god of the Christians and the three-bodied Divinity of the Buddhists closely resemble each other in the eyes of ordinary students of religion.

(5) The Christian precept "Love your enemies" recognizes the existence of enemies. But the Buddhist precept "Regard all living beings as you regard yourself" takes no cognizance of the existence of enemies. But both precepts preach the gospel of goodwill among men and therefore are very beautiful.

(6) When Christ says:—"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is heaven," he makes the hope of a reward a motive for dispensing charity. (*Mizukara mukuitaru mono de atte, Ten no mukui too ukuru ken nabi wo oshiyuru mo, nao hōshū wo kiseru mono taru wo mamukurenai*). But Buddhism goes beyond this and teaches that the most perfect form of charity is that in which the dispenser has no thought of recompense or even recognition of any kind, in which the charitable act is prompted wholly and solely by benevolent feeling. Buddhism does not stop at saying:—"Let not the name of the giver be known to men," it goes on to tell the giver that no self-interest, no hope of reward here or hereafter must be allowed to mar the beauty of the act. But both Christianity and Buddhism hold up lofty ideals for the dispensers of charity.

(7) The teaching of the two religions concerning a future life is much the same. Faith entitles the Christian to go to Heaven and faith is the passport to paradise with all Buddhists (*Tomo ni shin no oshio de aru*). Christianity teaches, however, that entrance to Heaven will not insure equality with God. That can never be attained, according to this creed. But Buddhism describes a Paradise in which transformed human beings are absorbed by Amida, that is, they become a part of Him. The one creed is pantheistic and the other anti-pantheistic.

(8) The central doctrine of both Buddhism and Christianity is the need of self-sacrifice. And this too is our national ideal. High spirited devotion to worthy causes is preached by both Buddhists and Christians. But it is worthy of note that the self-sacrifice or devotion urged by Christians, by Buddhists and by Japanese moralists and patriots respectively differs essentially in character. The Christians preach devotion to God. The Christian must sacrifice himself because it is pleasing to God. This is the primary motive for devotion; all others are subordinate to that. Ordinary Japanese are ready to die for King and country. Their devotion is distinctly patriotic and national. Buddhism insists on our obligation to sacrifice ourselves to the cause of humanity generally. The need of our fellow-men, that should be the chief motive in self-sacrifice. But in urging people to be ready to live and die for noble causes Buddhism and Christianity agree.

The above comparison of the respective teaching of the two creeds suffices to show that in the main they have much affinity to each other, are capable of working in harmony the one with the other and can with profit learn much from each other. They both are preachers of peace and goodwill among men and both make the amelioration of the lot of the poor and the afflicted one of their chief aims.

THE YOKOHAMA CONSULAR CORPS.

SPECIAL DINNER TO BARON SUFU AND GOVERNOR OSHIMA.

The annual banquet that is given by the Consular Corps in Yokohama to the principal Japanese officials of this Port, was on Monday evening, at the Grand Hotel, made into a special dinner to bid farewell to Baron Sufu the ex-Governor and to warmly welcome the Incoming head of the prefecture—Governor Oshima. Consul General Von Syburg, Doyen of the Corps, occupied the chair. During the evening, which was of a most enjoyable nature, Herr von Syburg proposed the toast of the Emperor of Japan and also expressed his recognition of the many courtesies repeatedly extended to the Consular Corps by the ex-Governor during his term of office as Governor of Kanagawa-ken.

Baron Sufu in replying, said—"Monsieur le Doyen, and gentlemen of the Consular Body, I am deeply moved at the cordial reception extended to me to night and at the flattering address which has just been delivered. I accept with thanks your congratulations and your good wishes. I also have much pleasure in accepting the fine photograph which you have presented to me and which I shall keep as an everlasting testimony of your friendship. I wish to thank you for the good feeling which you have always shown me during the many years I have spent amongst you. I sincerely rejoice that during the time I was at the head of this Prefecture the Japanese and consular authorities have entertained the best of relations. I can frankly say that I never sought any occasion of conflict; on the contrary I always did my best to conciliate divergent interests and, above all things, I always tried to be just to everybody. I do not pretend that all my actions are beyond criticism; but having the honour to address for the last time the representatives of the foreign nations in this port, I wish to affirm that I never did anything except what I thought my duty to do.

"And now I must say good bye. I say it unwillingly. I leave amongst you more than one friend whom I have had pleasure in meeting often and whom I shall perhaps see now only at long intervals. I hope you will not forget me altogether. I shall always think of you and if any of you will come and see me at my new residence, he may be sure to receive at all times the most hearty welcome. I thank you once more and good-bye to you all!"

Don J. Enrique, the Mexican Consul-General, said:—

"Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—To-night the pleasant duty devolves upon me, in the unavoidable absence of our British colleague, of expressing to our guests the Governors, past as well as present, of this Prefecture and the other authorities of the Ken and of the City of Yokohama, the sentiments of the Consular Body. I esteem it an honour, no less than a duty, to be the medium of conveying to you, as well as my powers of expression permit, the deep gratification it affords us that you have kindly accepted our invitation to meet us here this evening, when in addition to our farewell words to Baron Sufu, we desire to tender a cordial welcome to the new Governor of Kanagawa-ken.

"Let me assure Your Excellency that we are glad to have you amidst us in this city of Yokohama, the most important emporium of the foreign trade of the Japanese empire, a city which is endeared to so many of us by the charm of its surroundings, by its steady growth in population and prosperity, and by the participation in those sentiments of international goodwill which the development of foreign commerce never fails to engender and promote. We feel assured that during your term of office there will be no relaxation or weakening of those ties of cordial regard which the Consular Body has had the happiness to

maintain during so many years with your predecessors in office."

In reply to Don Enrique, Governor Oshima said "Your Excellency and Gentlemen:—On behalf of the Japanese authorities personally represented, I heartily thank you for your cordial welcome here to-night. Speaking further on my own behalf I wish to thank most sincerely M. Enrique for his kind words to me. I earnestly hope the friendly relations which have so long existed between the members of the Consular Corps and the authorities will long continue and ever remain so in my tenure of office."

A very pleasing ceremony of the evening was the presentation of a handsome signed photograph of the Consular Corps to Baron Sufu.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

RELIEF MEETING IN YOKOHAMA.

A meeting was held at the Foreign Board of Trade Rooms on Friday evening last to consider the raising of funds to relieve the famine in China. Mr. J. Carey Hall, I.S.O., H.B.M.'s Consul General presided over a rather small attendance.

Mr. J. C. Hall, in opening the proceedings, referred to the increased sympathy felt with China by the West, due to the increased knowledge of the conditions in the neighbouring Empire. It was now understood that the most prominent feature of China's civilisation was its pacific character. Chinese statesmen and people abhorring a policy of iron and blood. The passing away of the missionary riots, which were due to the missionary cause in the treaties, was another reason for the increased sympathy. That there had been no anti missionary riots during the crisis through which China had just passed, was due to the efforts of Yuan Shih-kai, who six or seven years ago had a pamphlet prepared showing the true position of the missionaries under the treaty. In regard to the object for which the meeting was summoned, the call for help was strengthened by the knowledge that any contributions would be wisely dispensed by the representative committee in Shanghai, of which the Honorary Treasurer was Mr. Gulland, the manager of the International Banking Corporation.

Mr. T. Sammons, the U.S. Consul General, said that with some years of experience in China, he knew that no one could fully describe the distress which prevailed in times of famine in that country. Yokohama residents had many calls upon them, but he thought the present conditions in China warranted a special effort.

Rev. T. Roseberry Good gave some particulars of the conditions in the famine stricken districts as described by an eye-witness, which revealed a terrible condition of affairs.

On the proposal of the Chairman that a representative committee should be formed with a view to opening a subscription list, the following were appointed:—Messrs. H. Abegg, Ch. Baslin, D. H. Blake, G. G. Brady, H. E. Cole, S. Isaacs, G. Miller, R. Pohl, H. Pors, F. G. Sale, and T. D. Wright.

JAPAN'S TRADE WITH CHINA.

The figures of Japan's trade with China during the ten days ending on the 20th ult. were as follows:—

	Yen.
Exports	1,668,778
Imports	692,936
Excess of Exports	975,843
The returns from January 1st to the 20th February are:—	
	Compared with 1911.
	Yen.
Exports	5,525,584
Imports	4,860,362
Excess of Exports...	665,222

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ASAMAYAMA DISASTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR.—As many of your readers are interested in Karuizawa I wish to beg the use of your columns for the following statements.

Last Summer, after the Asama disaster, a number of persons unsolicited by anyone handed me money for the relief of those Japanese who were injured or suffered through the injury of others. The total amount so contributed either directly in me or to Evangelist Matsuzaki was 110.27 yen. Besides this sum I have learned of several small sums given by visitors in Karuizawa to the injured ones directly, also useful articles, of which I heard from the recipients, who wished to make known their gratitude and did not know how to reach those who had given.

I have disbursed only after consulting with residents of Karuizawa, who have acted as an advisory committee, and thus far have disbursed 63.87 yen, which includes five yen sent to the family of the Komoro policeman after his death. Before his death several sent sums of money to him and also after his decease money was sent from Karuizawa visitors, and I was informed that there was no further need of assistance at that time. The only one who continued to need help for any length of time was K. Honda, who is still unable to work and has been cared for from the 1st of above reported. In October, upon the advice of the local committee, I sent money for his removal to Takasaki that he might receive treatment in the hospital there, but he and his family were unwilling that he should go, so I consented that the money should be used as needed for his care and support in his own home. There is still a balance of 46.40 yen in my possession available for him or others for whom it was intended. I was informed recently that the family of the policeman who died as the result of injuries received, may be in need of further help and I replied that funds were still available and asked that word be sent me at any time as to their need; but at present I have received no further word.

Thanking you for your space for the above, I am yours faithfully,

D. NORMAN.

Nagano: Feb. 22, 1912

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

LARGE PURCHASES BY THE ADMIRALTY.

CONCESSION BY ENGLISH OWNERS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, February 23.
In addition to large purchases of American coal, the Admiralty yesterday arranged to secure the balance of the coal from the Welsh collieries on the Admiralty list.

The coal is to be sent to the home dockyards, and the Admiralty has chartered steamers to load it immediately.

Mr. Hartshorn, the Welsh Miners' leader, in a speech at Maesteg, predicted that the 1st of March would begin a new epoch as the day when a million workers would rattle their chains together and declare they would no longer be slaves.

The Archbishops have issued a special prayer to be used during the present period of anxiety.

Later.

The coal owners and miners this afternoon accepted the Premier's invitation to discuss the crisis.

The most important point in the situation is that the English owners have conceded the principle of a minimum wage, although there is still some disagreement as to a number of technical details.

This is regarded as an undoubted success for the men and is expected to greatly

influence the situations in Wales and Scotland.

The International Miners Federation has met in London and discussed sympathetic action.

London, February 23.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, and his colleagues had separate conferences at the Foreign Office with the miners and then with the coal mine owners.

The miners to night hold another conference with the Government.

It is stated that a National Conference will meet in London on Tuesday.

Mr. Asquith has invited the Conference, or a Committee thereof, to meet him.

He has also invited the coal owners, ninety whereof were present to-day, to appoint a small committee for further consultation.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 23.

Nothing conclusive has yet resulted from the British Ministerial conference with the coal mine owners and men.

The owners will consult further with the Government.

The men are awaiting the National Conference to be held in London on Tuesday, the leaders of which Mr. Asquith desires to meet.

In the meantime the near approach of Thursday, when the men's strike notices expire, increases the public alarm for the national security.

The food supply, social, sanitary and lighting organisations are threatened.

The Press urges that the Government should announce its determination to maintain public security at all cost.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGREED TO.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES ENROLLING

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 23.

Mr. Birrell, speaking at Bristol, said that neither the miners nor the owners should be allowed to act in disregard of the consequences of their action to the nation.

The Rhondda Magistrates have applied for 1,500 troops.

Special constables are being enrolled throughout the country.

The International Miners' Executive Council has concluded its sittings in London.

It is announced that it has reached an agreement concerning international action in the event of a strike.

London, February 24.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, has had an audience with the King.

It is understood that the audience was in regard to the coal strike.

The Admiralty has made heavy purchases of coal for the Navy, and has now sufficient supplies to last for several months.

London, February 27.

The coal owners in England and Scotland have not only agreed to a minimum wage for abnormal places but as a general principle excepting for old men and boys.

The miners have agreed to this, and consequently the owners have informed Mr. Asquith that considerable progress has been made towards peace.

It is presumed that the Government will

make special efforts to bring the recalcitrants in Wales into line.

The Rhenish and Westphalian miners have resolved emphatically against any strike in sympathy with the English miners, declaring that during the German strikes England flooded Germany with coal.

They will not pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Englishmen.

London, February 27.

After the conference with Mr. Asquith yesterday evening, a coal owner who was interviewed, said the situation was decidedly easier and more hopeful.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 25.

The position in regard to the coal strike is practically unchanged.

Manufacturers are increasingly anxious and scores of thousands of work people are threatened with unemployment.

London, February 27.

Several thousand Derbyshire colliers have already struck and thousands more will strike on Tuesday.

Meantime Mr. Asquith is secretly conferring with the owners.

The whole situation depends on the decision come to at the meeting of the Miners' Federation on Tuesday.

Reports from industrial centres show that in the event of a general strike, production could be carried on for a fortnight without difficulty, owing to the huge stocks accumulated. The railways have already arranged to work together in limiting their services and in reducing their staffs.

Thousands of troops are held in readiness. The Northern Territorials will be called out if necessary.

London, February 28.

Nearly forty thousand miners have already struck.

After prolonged negotiation the Government has submitted to the miners and coal owners proposals dealing with the application or adjustment of the principle of the minimum wage.

These are being considered.

FAILURE OF MEDIATION.

ACTION OF THE SCOTTISH DELEGATES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 28.

The Coal Conference has been adjourned till to-morrow, both sides maintaining secrecy.

London, February 29.

Mr. Asquith has gone to see the King. Meanwhile the Scottish delegates in London have telegraphed to the men in their districts to lay down their tools to-morrow.

The Welsh enginemen announce that a strike will take place anyhow to-morrow, rendering idle the whole of the coal fields.

Later.

The miners have reaffirmed their decision that there will be no settlement unless a minimum wage, at the rate adopted by the miners at the Miners' Federation meeting on the 2nd inst., be conceded.

Therefore they will not arbitrate on that point.

It is officially stated that the Government proposes distinct District Conferences between the owners and miners to decide the

minimum wage, Government representatives being present.

Should any such conferences fail, the Government representatives will decide jointly the outstanding points.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 29.

The coal dispute is unsettled.

The Government proposals for endorsing the principle of a minimum wage, subject to adequate safeguards, have been accepted by 60 per cent. of the owners and rejected by the remainder, and also by the men's representatives, who, however, are willing to continue the negotiations.

The number of men idle has reached 115,000.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

THE ATTACK ON BEYROUT.

BRITISH AND FRENCH WARSHIPS ORDERED TO SCENE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, February 26.

In the attack on Beyrout, the Turkish gunboat *Avnillah* and a torpedo-boat replied to the fire of the Italian warships.

The *Avnillah* was burned and the torpedo-boat sunk.

Fifteen were killed and a hundred wounded in the cannonading.

The situation at Beyrout is satisfactory this morning, the population being calm.

Martial law has been proclaimed.

H.B.M.'s cruiser *Lancaster* has been ordered to proceed from Malta to the Aegean Sea.

A French warship at Crete has also been ordered to Beyrout.

The Porte has protested to the Powers against Italy's action, declaring the raid contrary to international law.

Admiral Faravelli, commanding the Italian Fleet, reports that he surprised the gunboat *Avnillah* and a torpedo-boat in the port of Beyrout at dawn.

Both vessels were given a respite till nine o'clock, when, as they had not surrendered, the Italian warships opened fire.

The Turkish gunboat vigorously responded, but was silenced in twenty minutes and caught fire.

The torpedo-boat was then shelled and sank.

The Admiral denies any bombardment of the town.

Later.

The Turkish Cabinet has decided to expel all Italians except ecclesiastics from the villayets of Beyrout, Damascus, Jerusalem and Aleppo, allowing them fifteen days wherein to leave.

Over two hundred spectators on the quays at Beyrout were killed or wounded by the fire from the Italian warships.

Some of the business premises were damaged.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 27.

Some regret is expressed in London, Paris and Vienna that the Italians should have broken their resolution to refrain from exchanging warlike operations by attacking Turkish warships at Beyrout, thus provoking the Turks to expel the Italians from Syria.

Great Britain is particularly sensitive to

any action calculated to affect Mahomedan feelings.

A report from Constantinople says the two ships at Beyrout that were scuttled with all their crews, were neither of them able to offer any resistance.

One was only a torpedo-boat and the other was an ancient coast-defence ironclad.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE.

London, February 22.

Dr. Bilinski, formerly Austrian Minister of Finance and Governor of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, has been appointed Common Minister of Finance, replacing Count Stephan Burian, who has resigned.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

London, February 22.

The Paris portion of the Tokyo Municipal loan has been largely over-subscribed and now stands at a premium of 1 1/4.

The London and New York portions were issued to-day, the former at 98 and the latter at 98 3/4.

THE CHINESE IN AUSTRALIA.

London, February 23.

The Chinese in Australia are enthusiastically celebrating the republic.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

London, February 23.

The House of Commons has rejected the Tariff reform amendment to the Address by 258 to 193.

London, February 24.

The House of Commons has agreed to the Address.

AN EXCHANGE OF POSTS.

London, February 23.

Mr. Walter B. Townley, H.B.M.'s Minister at Bucharest, and Sir George Barclay, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., H.B.M.'s Minister and Consul-General at Teheran, are exchanging posts.

GERMAN DEFENCES.

London, February 24.

It is officially announced in Berlin that the greater part of the fresh defence requirements will be devoted to the army.

THE WRECK OF THE "DELHI."

London, February 24.

At the Board of Trade Inquiry into the wreck of the P. & O. liner *Delhi*, the Court found that the vessel was not navigated with proper seamanlike care, and that the loss was caused by default of the Master.

However, considering his unblemished character, the trying circumstances in which he was placed, and his able manner of conducting the rescue work after the casualty, the Court refrained from dealing with his certificate.

ITALY AND THE WAR.

London, February 24.

The re-opening of the Italian Parliament was made a scene of delirious enthusiasm.

The Chamber, by 423 votes to 9 has ratified the decree affirming Italian Sovereignty in Tripoli amidst the cheering of the deputies.

The population of the city took a holiday and formed processions with flags, which demonstrated before the Houses of Parliament, the Quirinal, where their Majesties came out on the balcony and received an ovation, and the War Office.

JAPANESE MISSION AT VIENNA.

London, February 24.

The Emperor Francis Joseph has received

the Japanese officers forming the Commission which is studying military affairs.

ATTACK ON TURKISH GUNBOATS.

London, February 25.

The Italian cruisers *Volturno* and *Garibaldi* demanded the immediate surrender of some Turkish gunboats at Beyrout, and before the Governor was able to negotiate, the Italians sank the gunboats.

The harbour buildings were damaged and some sixty persons killed.

The people were then seized with panic and fled to Lebanon.

The military are dealing with the situation.

ROOSEVELT AND THE PRESIDENCY.

London, February 26.

Colonel Roosevelt has unequivocally stated that he will accept a nomination to the Presidency if it is offered, and that he will adhere to his decision until the Convention has expressed a preference.

THE RUSSIAN BUDGET.

London, February 26.

The Russian Budget for 1912 shows a surplus of fifty million roubles.

THE MONGOLIAN GOVERNMENT.

London, February 26.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at St. Petersburg says that the new Government in Mongolia has asked the Russian Government for a loan of a million roubles and also asked for Russian instructors to organise a national army.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

London, February 27.

The Tokyo Municipal loan in London was closed to-day at par.

The underwriters take half.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND.

London, February 27.

A steamer carrying 250 tons of war material for the Turks in Tripoli has been captured in Sicilian waters.

BRITISH ARMY ESTIMATES.

London, February 28.

The British Army Estimates show a total increase of £170,000 sterling and 200 men, due entirely to the growth of aviation.

There has been a slight improvement in recruiting.

It has been decided to immediately establish a joint Army and Navy Aviation School on Salisbury Plain.

THE POWERS AND CRETE.

London, February 28.

The Powers have presented a Note to Crete stating that they are determined to maintain the *status quo*, and will take what measures they deem necessary if the Cretans persist in sending deputies to the Greek Chamber, in dismissing their Mussulman employees and in continuing the ill-treatment of Mahomedans.

The Note concludes that if the Cretans cannot govern themselves without endangering the peace of Europe the Powers will take action not conformable to the wishes of the Cretans.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, February 28.

In a Communique to the Powers the French Government says that it is prepared to join in any collective action of the Powers in respect to either belligerent, with a view to ending the Turco-Italian war.

FIGHTING IN MEXICO.

London, February 28.

The Mexican rebels have captured Juarez,

the garrison making no resistance for fear of interference from the American troops who are patrolling the frontier ready to enter Juarez if El Paso is endangered.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF BEYROUT.

London, February 28.

The Vali of Beyrout reports that 41 men were killed and 20 wounded on the warships and 56 townspeople killed and 58 wounded during the recent Italian bombardment.

ANNEXATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND.

London, February 28.

The *New York Herald's* Washington correspondent says the cruiser *West Virginia* has annexed Palmyra Island, in the middle of the Pacific, which is claimed by Great Britain.

FIGHTING AT HOMS.

London, February 29.

There was fighting at Homs throughout yesterday.

The Italians rushed the heights of Mergheb and remained in possession in the evening, when the Turks and Arabs retired, after suffering heavy losses, leaving their dead and wounded, which included many regulars, on the field.

The Italian casualties were 11 killed and 82 wounded.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

TURKEY AND THE DARDANELLES

London, February 23.

The Turkish Government is notifying the Powers that in the event of the feared Italian attack on the Dardanelles she will be compelled to close the straits, prohibit the passage of neutrals, expel all Italians and close their establishments.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, February 23.

Japanese stocks are dull under the influence of the new loan.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT.

London, February 23.

Colonel Roosevelt, speaking at Columbus, Ohio, did not mention the Presidency, but restated his views on political questions and attempted to destroy President Taft's argument against the dismissal of the judges by popular vote.

Politicians unanimously state that Colonel Roosevelt's Columbus speech places him definitely in the forefront of radicalism.

COPPER.

London, February 25.

Copper is quoted at 63½—64½. The tone is very steady and there is fair business.

STRIKE IN THE FRENCH VINEYARDS.

London, February 25.

Twenty thousand vine-dressers in the Ay district have struck for an average wage of £72 annually.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

London, February 27.

It is understood on the Stock Exchange that the underwriters of the new Tokyo Municipal loan are saddled with 52 per cent. of the amount.

The price closed steady at par.

THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.

London, February 27.

Colonel Roosevelt's declaration of his willingness to accept the presidential nomination

is likely to produce the bitterest and most important political contest since the civil war.

The supporters of Mr. Taft charge Colonel Roosevelt with treachery.

The Radical Republicans contend that Colonel Roosevelt could not take any other course.

THE CHINESE PRESIDENCY.

London, February 28.

Dr. Morrison wires that Yuan Shih-kai, replying to an address of the fourteen delegates from Nanking, formally accepted the Presidency.

It is understood he will proceed to Nanking as soon as circumstances permit.

Yuan Shih-kai will consult Tsai Yuan-pei regarding a coalition cabinet.

There will be a Premier, as in France. Many hope that Tang Shiao-i will accept this post.

Dr. Morrison is confident there will be no change of capital.

PROPOSED RE OCCUPATION OF CRETE.

London, February 29.

There is reason to believe that England, France and Russia are considering the re-occupation of Crete owing to the disorders.

Greece fears that this will produce a most serious internal and external crisis.

THE RUSSIAN TROOPS IN PERSIA.

London, February 29.

It is understood that although the Russian garrisons will be maintained at Tabriz and Resht, the troops at Tabriz will soon be diminished and possibly all withdrawn from Kozvin.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

AUSTRIA AND GERMANY.

Berlin, February 22.

Count Berchtold, the new Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a telegram to the German Chancellor expressing the hope of an effective agreement in foreign policy.

ENTENTE WITH RUSSIA.

The Russian Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs, in an exchange of telegrams with Count Berchtold, the new Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, have expressed the hope that both Governments will make strong efforts towards the maintenance of peace and the restoration of the old good relations between both countries.

CONGO STATE NEGOTIATIONS.

All rumours as to negotiations being opened between France and Germany with regard to the Congo State are stoutly denied at Berlin and Paris.

NEW GOVERNOR OF TOGO COLONY.

Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg has been nominated Governor of the German Togo Colony.

TROUBLE IN MONGOLIA AND MANCHURIA.

It is reported from Kiakhta that Urga has been declared the capital of Independent Mongolia and that the Mongolian Government is levying duties on Chinese merchandise imported into Mongolia.

At the Mongolian town of Maimatschin the flag of the Chinese Republic has been hoisted.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Revolu-

tionary troops in Manchuria demands from the Manchu Imperialists the surrender of Mukden.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Sublime Porte is officially declaring that all Italian nationals will be expelled from Turkey, if an Italian Squadron appears in Aegean waters.

ARMAMENTS IN GERMANY.

Berlin, February 23.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* writes that the Bundesrat has not yet discussed the new Armament Bills and contradicts the rumours according to which the Secretary of the Treasury was stated to be against any increase of armaments.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Government has introduced to the Italian Chamber the proclamation of the sovereignty of Italy over Tripoli and the Cyrenaica. The Chamber received the proclamation with great enthusiasm.

ITALIANS OPTIMISTIC.

The Italian Senate, the Italian Chamber, and the Italian Press have expressed a strong desire to continue the war with Turkey. Italy is very hopeful of eventual opposition of the Arabs against Turkey.

No signs of a desire to yield, however, are yet seen at Constantinople.

THE KAISER'S ANNUAL JOURNEY.

Berlin, February 24.

The Kaiser will, in March, go as usual to Corfu and on his journey will pay a visit to the Emperor Franz Joseph at Vienna and afterwards to the King of Italy.

THE FRONTIER COMMISSION.

A preparatory Commission of French and German delegates for the determination of the new Congo-Cameroon frontier will be summoned to Berlin before the Frontier Commission commences work.

INHERITANCE TAX BILL.

The reintroduction of the Inheritance Tax Bill has been postponed for the present owing to the heavy surplus in last year's budget.

COLONIAL SECRETARY TO VISIT AFRICA.

Dr. Solf, the new German Secretary of State for the Colonies, will shortly pay a visit to German South-West Africa. This visit, however, is in no way connected with his recent visit to London to confer with diamond merchants.

HERR DELBRÜCK DEFENDS THE NEW BILL.

Herr Delbrück, the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, speaking in the Reichstag, defended the new Bill for the maintenance of nationality by Germans in foreign countries and expressed the hope that it would support the further political and economic development of Germany.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN NOTE ACCEPTED.

Persia has accepted the common Anglo-Russian Note on the preservation of the neutrality of the country.

WARSAW CATHEDRAL OPENING CEREMONY.

The Tsar will attend the great inauguration ceremony of the new Cathedral at Warsaw in May.

AUSTRIAN SUCCESSOR TO VISIT ST. PETERSBURG.

Berlin, February 25.

Negotiations are going on between Vienna and St. Petersburg as to a visit of the

Austrian Successor to the Throne to the Russian capital.

RUSSIAN BUDGET SURPLUS.

The Russian Budget for 1912 shows a surplus of 50 million Roubles.

EMPEROR ADDRESSES JAPANESE COMMISSION.

Berlin, February 24.

The Emperor Franz Joseph has received the Japanese Commission for studying military affairs at Vienna and personally addressed all the members.

The Japanese Military Commission, now at Vienna, will return home on March 6th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, February 24.

Turkish troops have defeated the Arabian Sheik Idris, who is an ally of Italy. The Emir of Mecca has fought on the Turkish side against the rebellious Arabs.

The Italian Chamber, amidst great applause, has accepted by 423 against 9 votes, the declaration of the annexation of Tripoli, even the Socialists voting for the Bill.

Berlin, February 25.

Two Italian armed cruisers have sunk two small Turkish gunboats at Beirut. Some buildings were damaged by the bombardment and about 80 persons killed. The Sublime Porte has lodged a protest with the Powers against this action of Italy, Beirut being an unfortified port. Foreigners seem to have escaped injury. The French Government has despatched a battleship to Syria.

DEATH OF GRAND-DUKE.

Berlin, February 26.

The Grand-duke of Luxemburg is dead. He was born on April 22nd, 1852, and is the last male representative of the Luxemburg-Nassau Grand-ducal family. His eldest daughter, Adelheid, born on June 14th, 1894, will succeed him.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Turkey has decided to expel all Italian nationals from Syria. A state of siege has been declared at Beyrout, order, however, being strictly maintained. The official Italian declaration as to the bombardment at Beyrout, states that the destruction of the two Turkish gunboats was in no way an infringement of international law. The damage done to houses and the killing of some people on shore were only due to accident.

The Turkish press unanimously demands revenge and the strongest resistance against Italy in Tripoli. The European Press states that the action of Italy was a very undesirable political incident, which may have evil consequences, especially with regard to the commercial interests of neutral Powers.

MAILS BY SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to February 11th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on February 25.

DYSENTERY IN POTSDAM.

Berlin, February 27.

It is reported from Potsdam, that an outbreak of dysentery has occurred in a petty officers' school in that city. However, all patients are recovering, contrary rumours notwithstanding.

KAISER TO MEET ITALIAN KING.

The Kaiser will meet King Victor Emmanuel during his visit to Corfu at the end of March.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Ambassadors have lodged with all Governments Notes of protest in which it is stated that the Italian warships

opened fire at Beyrout without giving any ultimatum. The Note also announces that in the event of hostilities taking place in the Aegean Sea, entrance to the Dardanelles will be closed.

The Italian Government has announced the coming issue of a loan of a 160 million lire for war purposes.

FRICTION WITH ROME.

A certain amount of friction is now evident between the Vatican and the Russian Government, owing to the latter's attitude toward the Polish clerics.

WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

At Berlin a Women's Congress has been opened and is exciting much interest.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, February 28.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has issued in advance a communication to the Ambassadors of the various States to the effect that Turkey would not accept any proposals of the Powers for a conclusion of the war against Italy on the basis of the annexation of Tripoli.

The French Government has officially denied the report of the *Matin* according to which it was stated that the Triple Entente would demand the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Africa. It, however, has made representations to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the endangering of French interests by incidents similar to that at Beirut.

CRETE AND GREECE.

A new demand of Crete for union with Greece has been refused by the Protective Powers, with a threat of international occupation in the event of further agitation on the part of the Cretan populace.

BANKS' PROSPERITY.

The German great banks, without exception, pay dividends for 1911, equal to those of the year 1910.

THE CHINESE CELEBRATION AT KOBE.

INTERFERENCE BY THE POLICE.

Some further particulars of the interference with a Chinese procession at Kobe by the police are given by the *Kobe Herald*. It appears that in order to celebrate the success of the revolutionary movement in China, the Chinese residents attempted to hold a "Chochin" procession on an imposing scale, on Saturday evening last, and applied for permission to the Ken authorities, but the Police took the view that it would not be well to allow such a demonstration, as the Powers have not yet recognized the Chinese Republic. In consequence they were inclined to reject the application. However, the Chinese took the matter very seriously and declared that if they were not allowed to hold a lantern procession, they would institute a boycott against Japanese goods. Thereupon the application was authorized on the following conditions:—(1) That they should not proceed along the railway or tramway; (2) that they should not have a band of music; (3) that no female or Japanese should take part in the procession; and (4) that "banzai" should not be shouted in the roadway except in the street in front of the Chinese Club, the Chinese Consulate, and certain other places. On the 24th at about 6 p.m. about 1,000 Chinese—about one half were residents of Osaka—were assembled at the Chinese Club at Nakayamate-dori, 6 chome, and at 7 p.m. they started forth from the Chinese Club, each carrying a *chochin* and the five-coloured flag of the Republic, shouting "banzai." A band led the way. When the procession reached the Shinomiya Shrine in Nakayamate-

dori, the police ordered the band to stop playing. A strong discussion at once ensued between the police and the Chinese. The latter were so excited that they declared that the Japanese authorities were making fools of them and returned to the Chinese Club, where some Chinese made speeches saying that they must regard the Japanese authorities as their enemies and must break off all commercial contracts with Japanese and boycott Japanese goods. Hundreds of the Chinese tore up their *chochin* and flags, shouting "boycott" but eventually, thanks to the efforts of some influential Chinese and a few of the police, they broke up without making trouble. On the 25th at 9 a.m. about 500 Chinese residents assembled at the Chinese Club at Nakayamate-dori to confer over the affair. A Chinese who negotiated matters in connection with the procession reported that the police had given permission for the procession under certain conditions and it had been discovered that most of the conditions were misunderstood. However, some Chinese made violent speeches and they were about to pass resolutions to appeal to the Diet against the Hyogo Ken Authorities, to boycott Japanese goods, and to break off all commercial contracts with Japanese, when Mr. Matsukata Kojiro, President of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Takigawa Benzo, President of the Toa Kiokai, and some others appeared on the scene and urged them to postpone their decision. The appeal was futile. After a heated discussion Mr. Matsukata and Mr. Takigawa expressed their very sincere regret over the affair. They suggested that the lantern procession should be held at some future time, and promised to assist in enabling the Chinese to carry out their desire. The Chinese present, in the end, accepted these mediatory services, and retired from the Club at 1 p.m.

PRIMITIVE CULTURE IN JAPAN AND KOREA.

RESEARCHES BY PROF. STARR.

Prof. Frederick Starr, the noted anthropologist of the University of Chicago, who spent some time in Japan and Korea last fall, has since his return to America last month announced some interesting discoveries in a seldom visited part of South-eastern Korea, discoveries which tend, he believes, to prove theories advanced regarding Buddhist tendencies in Yucatan and Southern Mexico. Dr. Starr, who has been making extensive studies and researches into Buddhist origins and primitive culture, studied while in Japan the origins of Japanese tattooing. These studies led him to assert the existence of a Polynesian strain in the blood of the Japanese people.

In speaking of the results of his recent researches in Japan and Korea, Prof. Starr made the following statement:—

"It was at a deserted temple, a semi-subterranean chapel, on the south-eastern coast, situated on the Sea of Japan, that I made probably the most interesting discovery. The find I made there shows that the theory held by some American anthropologists that Buddhist tendencies have been shown in the ruins found in Yucatan and Southern Mexico, are not untenable as many have believed."

A LITTLE MONASTERY.

"This little monastery overlooking the Sea of Japan was a beautiful place, and I have no doubt that it was from here that the suggestion came for the great bronze Buddhas of Nara and Kamakura, the massive Daibutsu so well known to the world."

"This Buddha that I found in this little semi-subterranean monastery, tended by one lone monk on the Korean shore—and I speak with some concern and a good deal of positiveness,—shows that at some time there was Buddhist tendency in American archaeology in Central America. I am inclined to look with favour—I know this will be considered the rankest heresy anthropologically—on the idea that has been put forward in this connection as a result of my discoveries at

this monastery. The carvings and other things compare well with the ruins of Palenque, on the borders of Yucatan and Chiapa in south-eastern Mexico. The comparisons of the sculptured slabs in this little stone chapel on the Sea of Japan with these American ruins is highly important from a scientific standpoint. The parallel is most suggestive and opens a great trend of thought.

"The Korean call this monastery Suk Koi Am. It is a most neglected place. But one man lives there, a Buddhist monk. It dates back a considerable period. I have urged upon the Japanese officials to put an end to the neglect of this interesting place. Until about five years ago the place was practically intact. The vault of the circular chapel, about 20 feet across, is arched with the most slight curvature, the different stones being keyed in a remarkable way with long tenons, and the enormous weight secures them strongly. Below the temple is a ruined stairway."

"Around the circular chapel are slabs carved with various figures, all of Buddhist design. There are the four kings so often pictured in Buddhist art, the two No, similar to those carved at the entrance to the great Buddhist temples of Japan, the four trampling warriors, and on 15 slabs are carved the four accompanying gods and ten devotees."

"A remarkable feature of the carvings is that of the devotees. These show distinct and good race types. They are painted, and equal anything of the kind found in the Egyptian tombs. Among these carvings of the disciples there are at least four race types, distinct in coloring, dress and features. The middle one of the fifteen carvings behind the statue of the Buddha is a Kwannon. The evidence of Buddhist origins is perfect."

JAPANESE TATTOOING.

"While in Japan I made a study of Japanese tattooing with special reference to the Panama exposition to be held at San Francisco, and in my study of the tattooing of the Japanese I traced a Polynesian source. The Malay origin of the Japanese is universally recognized. The tattooing art of the island people, however, is Polynesian in its origin and not Malay. There are three great styles of tattooing, that of pricking as practised in Polynesia and Japan, of cutting and rubbing in soot or colouring as is done in Fiji and by Melanesians generally, and thirdly a local method of drawing threads under the skin loaded with soot or colouring. The similarity of the Japanese method with that of Polynesia offers much food for thought. I collected a great many of the instruments used in tattooing, pattern books from which Japanese tattooers have drawn their designs, old colour prints with reference to the art, and I intend to add to the collection and place it on exhibition at San Francisco in 1915."

"The Ainu of North Japan practice the Melanesian Method of tattooing by cutting. These Ainu, I think, are a population which drifted to Asia like the Todas of India. They are not akin to the Japanese in any way. They are Caucasians."

"The whole question of race origins in the Pacific and eastern countries is a most interesting study. I felt that close study would reveal the truth of a theory held that it is to the Aztecs that students of primitive culture on the Pacific must look, and it would seem that there have indeed been migrations of Aztecs to Polynesia and thence to various parts of the Pacific, the racial resemblance of the Haidahs and Tsimshians tending to strengthen this belief."

GERMAN ARMY AND NAVY EXPENDITURE.

THE PROPOSED INCREASES.

Notwithstanding almost daily conferences between the Emperor William and the Imperial Chancellor, and between the various departmental authorities, writes the Berlin correspondent of the London Times on February 4, the details of the programme for the first Session of the new Reichstag remain obscure. It is known that the Secre-

tary of State for the Imperial Navy, Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, has been pushing his demands with increasing vigour, employing even, it is believed, the usual weapon of confident Ministers—a threat of resignation. It is also believed that the Government has been seriously considering the Parliamentary effect of various schemes for meeting the new naval and military expenditure, including the reintroduction of a scheme of death duties. As the date of disclosure approaches the suggested cost of the new naval and military increases rises. Some provincial journals have now reached a prediction of "from five to eight million pounds." One very well-informed writer says the cost will be not less than five million pounds, and a semi-official journal promptly corrects him. The general impression conveyed is that it is desired to awaken interest both here and abroad. There is still not much doubt that, whatever form the proposals may take, the gist of them is to provide at any rate the administrative machinery of two new army corps, and to provide the money, and especially the men, necessary for keeping the third or reserve squadron of the Fleet permanently in commission.

Apart from the financial aspects of these proposals, which will test the character of the new Reichstag, the most interesting point will be the Government's selection of arguments for increasing the Army and Navy. It appears from the tone of the *North German Gazette* and less authoritative Government mouthpieces that the Government hopes to make a "national" appeal to all non-Socialists. It remains to be seen whether the music will be such as to drown the small voice of reason. Referring to the steady rise in the predicted cost of the new military expenditure, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* protests against a policy which abandons all respect for finance. The journal lays it down that the only question can be what "expansions" of the structures already built on well-considered foundations have been rendered necessary by the changes which have taken place since the foundations were laid. The journal remarks that these changes cannot include changes in the political situation, since it goes without saying that "long before the Morocco dispute" all political eventualities had been taken into account. In other words there must be "no special increases of armaments *ad hoc*," but only increases required by proved deficiencies in organization and by technical progress. Unfortunately, there is only too good reason to fear that persons in high places are not content with such sensible opinions but are feeling after arguments of a more sentimental kind, which will gather force if useful echoes are provoked elsewhere.

The Federal Council has adopted the text of a new Nationalization Bill. Its purpose is described as being to make loss of German nationality more difficult and to make its recovery easier. Whereas at present a period of ten years' residence abroad deprives a German subject of German nationality unless he has his name entered in the Consular registers, it is proposed that in future German nationality shall be lost only when a German subject naturalizes himself in a foreign country or fails to fulfil his military obligations—the nature of which is to be modified—in Germany. Except that the new law will be much stricter in requiring of German subjects abroad a fulfilment of their not very severe military obligations, its provisions are not yet very clear, and it is impossible to predict how it will affect the German inhabitants of any particular foreign country.

THE RUSSIAN CONSUL-GENERAL AT NAGASAKI.

A FAREWELL DINNER.

The members of the Nagasaki International Club gave a dinner on the 19th ult. in honour of Mr. N. Rospopoff, the Russian Consul-General, who is leaving shortly to take up an appointment in Singapore. In the absence of Governor Ando, the President, who was in Tokyo, reports the *Nagasaki Press*, Mayor Kitagawa, Vice-President of the Club, presided over a numerous company.

Among those present were Mr. Hada, Secretary of Nagasaki-ken, General Wywodzeff, the new Russian Consul-General, Mr. C. E. Deichman, American Consul, and Dr. Ohrt, German Consul. The toast of the evening was proposed by the Mayor, who expressed the members' regret at the departure of Mr. Rospopoff, who was the foreign Vice-President of the Club, and good wishes for the future. Mr. Rospopoff, in response, thanked the Club for the honour accorded him and expressed reciprocal good wishes.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office reports that Ambassador Baron Chinda and Baroness Chinda arrived at Washington on the 22nd ult.

In a twenty-rounds contest for the world's feather-weight championship, held at Los Angeles on the 22nd ult., Johnny Kilbane defeated Abe Attell on points.

In the billiards match between Stevenson and Gray, the Australian player, Stevenson was the winner. The scores were:—Stevenson, 18,000; Gray, 16,803.

COLONEL J. B. SKEELY, Under Secretary of State for War, stated at question time in the House of Commons on the 20th ult. that Mr. Churchill's visit to Belfast had cost the Army funds £2,700.

THE Master of Elbank, in a letter to the Press in reply to Mr. Bonar Law's charges of corruption, denies that public money has been spent upon Liberal propaganda in favour of the Insurance Act.

On Tuesday [morning a passenger train from Ofuna while approaching Yokosuka Station, ran off the rails, owing it is said to the carelessness of the engine-driver. Three persons were more or less seriously injured.

At question time in the House of Commons, on the 21st ult. Mr. F. D. Acland, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, announced the reintroduction of the Naval Prize Bill in the course of the present Session.

At the trial of three negroes on a charge of murder at Shelbyville, Tennessee, the spectators became excited by the evidence and started shooting. One prisoner was killed and the other two wounded by the hail of bullets.

SIR EDWARD GREY, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has stated in the House of Commons that it would serve no useful purpose for the Government to attempt to intervene officially in the case of Mr. Bertrand Stewart, who was recently convicted at Leipzig of espionage.

At daybreak on Tuesday the steamer *Sanyu Maru* (612 tons) ran upon a sunken rock in Nadasamu port, Karafuto. There is little hope of saving the vessel, but the passengers, 250 in all, were rescued. The vessel is insured with the Kobe Marine Insurance Company for 50,000 yen.

REFERRING to the statement to the effect that advices have been received from Elbertfeld of a certain Professor Duisberg's efforts to produce synthetic rubber commercially appearing successful, and that in any rate his researches to improve the manufacture of artificial rubber made out of potatoes are proceeding as keenly as ever, a correspondent writes to a London paper:—"It may interest you and your readers to learn that my friend Professor Pumpernickel, of the Munchausen University, has lately discovered how to produce artificial potatoes from rubber, which are likely to have great commercial success, on account of their vastly superior durability to the present natural article. These potatoes, the professor assures me, can be used over and over again, and, whether in the plain-boiled article, in their jackets, roasted, or as chips,

are likely to be a boon to the worried house-keeper. Though their initial cost may be large, the ultimate effect will be greatly to reduce the weekly greengrocers' bill. Samples are already obtainable at several London restaurants and railway buffets."

The Bank of Formosa will hold an ordinary general meeting on Friday, when the following accounts will be submitted for discussion:—

Profit for present term \$13,318
Balance brought forward from the previous term 201,606

Total 714,924
Reserve fund for making good deficit 120,000
Reserve fund for equalization of dividend... 20,000
Special reserve fund..... 20,000
Bonuses 32,000
Dividend (10 per cent. per annum) 312,500
Balance carried forward to next term 210,424

The objects of the congress of representatives of the universities of the British Empire and of America, which is to be held in London in June next, include, it is stated, the making of more extensive arrangements for the interchange of students. The new diplomacy seeks to establish machinery for reciprocity with Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Japan, India, and other leading countries. A London paper recalls that in April, 1908, there arrived in London 60 Japanese students from Tokyo and Yokohama. They had crossed America and the Atlantic. In London they visited places as distinctive as the British Museum and the South Metropolitan Gas Works. Every night they had lectures at their hotel on what they had seen. They crossed to Paris, Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburg, and went home by way of the Trans-Siberian Railway, with huge note-books and veritable museums from Western civilisation. The effect in Japan of that single world's tour cannot adequately be estimated.

IRRITATING HUMOUR FROM KNEES TO TOES

Suffered Terribly. People Astonished by His Condition. Walking Difficult. Bought Cuticura Ointment, Pills and Soap. In Few Days Improvement Wonderful.

Cured Solely by Cuticura Remedies.

"I am most happy to tell of the cure in my son's legs, wrought by the Cuticura Remedies. For four years he has suffered terribly with large irritating and bleeding sores, as large as a penny, from his knees to his toes. His legs have been one mass of sores. He was quite lame, and walking was a great difficulty. Many people remarked on the peculiar way he walked, and on being shown the condition of his legs, were astonished. I have used many kinds of ointment, and had advice from chemists, two doctors and a physician, all of whom only gave temporary relief. They became worse than ever this spring, and I resolved to have one more try, although I had not much hope of getting them better. I bought a box of Cuticura Ointment, with Cuticura Pills and Cuticura Soap, and used as directed. In a few days the improvement was wonderful. The irritation was less severe, and they continued improving. After using two boxes of Cuticura Ointment, the cure was effected, solely by the Cuticura Remedies. I only wish I had tried them years ago, for they would have saved a great deal of pain and expense. Those who saw his legs when they were bad are now surprised at the wonderful cure. I shall never fail to recommend the treatment." (Signed) Mrs. G. French, Cornish Hall End, Finchfield, Essex, Eng., Dec. 1, 1909.

Cuticura Remedies are sold throughout the world. Depots: London, 27, Charterhouse Sq.; Paris, 10, Rue de la Chausse d'Antin; Australia, R. Town & Co. Sydney; India, B. K. Paul, Calcutta; So. Africa, Lennox, Ltd., Cape Town, etc.; U. S. A., Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Get Post-free, 21-page Cuticura book, containing valuable advice on the treatment of skin troubles.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, March 2.

The market of Raw Cotton is firm, with prices shewing an upward tendency all round. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, a little business has been done.

RAW COTTON. PER PICUL.
American Middling 34.00 to 34.50
Indian Broach 33.00 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop) —
Chinese (New crop) 31.00 to 32.00

COTTON YARN. PER BALL.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed 260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed 345.00 to 364.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed 520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in. 5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43½-44 in. 5.30 to 6.20
Common to Good 5.30 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. 6.20 to 8.00
in. Ordinary to Good 6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches 7.80 to 8.50
Prints—24 yds. 30 inches 3.50 to 4.40
Cotton Italians 0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians 0.40 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—28 to 31b 24-25 yards, 30 inches 1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—38 to 51b, 24-25 yards, 32 inches 2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches 12.50 to 15.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches 1.25 to 2.60
Flannelette 0.15 to 0.30
Cashmere 0.80 to 0.90

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.
Flannels —
Union Italians 0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine, 120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium 0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best 0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches —

METALS.

The market is dull, with very little business doing.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square. PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate 5.20 to 5.40
Sheet Iron 6.30 to 6.50
Sheet Mild Steel 6.80 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated 10.90 to 11.20
Flat 11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments 6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 9½ lbs. I.C.W. 8.60 to 9.00
Pig Iron, No. 4 "Redcar" 2.35 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.
Chester 3.70
Victory 3.60
Nonpareil 4.80
Somatra 2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo 3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu 3.00 to 3.55
Nippon 2.78 to 3.35
Ogura 3.30
Toda 3.30

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.
PER PICUL.
Brown Manila 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China —
Brown Java 9.90 to 10.50
White Java 14.40 to 17.15
White Refined (German) 15.50 to 18.00
" (Hongkong) 14.80 to 20.65

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first 240.00
" second 200.00
Java, first 320.00
" second 280.00
Madras, first —
" second —
Artificial "horse and lion" brand 2.05
Artificial "Kenshin" 2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Yen.
Gold Drop 4 sacks 10.95 to 11.00
Flag 10.95 to 11.00
Royal 10.95 to 11.00
Trophy 4 sacks 10.95 to 11.90
Red Seal 10.95 to 11.00
Lion 11.65 to 11.70
Portland 11.15 to 11.20
Premier 11.35 to 11.40
Japanese:—
Rising Sun 6 bushels 2.80
Takasago 6 " 2.75
Fuji 6 " 2.85
Pine 6 " 2.80

WHEAT.

Little business has been done.

Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 kils 4.95
Red " 4.90
Blue Stem 5.00

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet. Some business has been done. On February 15th stocks were: Filatures 9,500 piculs, Re-reels, 500 piculs; Kakeda, 400 piculs.

Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse 950
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse 910
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse 920
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den 910
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den 920
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-11den 900
Filature—No. 1-1½, 13-15den 875
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den 850
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyasha 865
Re-reels—Extra —
Re-reels—No. 1 —
Re-reels—No. 1½ —
Re-reels—No. 2 —
Kakeda—Gold Cup Chop Extra 890
Kakeda—Veiled Woman Chop 860
Kakeda—One Horsehead Chop 850
Kakeda—Two Horseheads Chop 840

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE.

February.
January delivery. February delivery. March delivery.
16h 8.67 8.72 8.81
17h 8.80 8.86 8.94
18h 8.78 8.83 8.93
20h 8.76 8.84 8.93
21h 8.72 8.84 8.93
22nd —

WASTE SILK.

The market is quiet. On February 15th stocks were:—Noshi, 2,000 piculs; Kibiso, 5,000 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.

Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best —
Noshi—Filatures, Good —
Noshi—Oshiu, Good 155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium 135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior 115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good 100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium 85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior 70 to 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good 90 to 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium 80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior 60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best —
Kibiso—Filatures, Good —
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium 120 to 130
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior 115 to 120
Rereel—Fair —
Rereel—Best —
Rereel—Good —
Rereel—Medium —
Cloths—Army Cloth —
Cloths—All others —
Blankets—Assorted, 3 to 5 lbs 0.90 to 1.00

HABUTAE.

Fukui.—The market is somewhat dull. Kanazawa.—There has been no change in prices, and the market is in a quiet condition. Kawamata.—The market has been very quiet and prices have declined.

"PINK-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)
6 ms. 6½ ms. 7 ms. 7½ ms. 8 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22½" 8.0 7.95 7.95 7.60 7.70
27" 7.90 7.80 7.70 7.55 7.50
36" 7.95 7.70 7.70 7.55 7.75

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4 1/2 ms.	4 1/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/2 ms.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.70	7.70	7.65	7.55
27"	7.60	7.55	7.55	7.60
36"	7.55	7.50	7.50	7.45

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.60	8.50	9.30
23"	7.30	8.20	9.40	9.90
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	11.70
36"	11.80	13.20	15.10	16.10

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of February 22nd the quotation was £64.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen	43.50-45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	Yen	38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	Yen	47.00-50.00
Ore	Yen	29.50-33.00

RICE.

The market is firm

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags.	646,541
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	bags.	68,496
Delivery	Closing Price	
February	Yen	19.00
March	Yen	19.05
April	Yen	19.05

(Osaka.)

February ... 1978	February ... 1965
March ... 1978	March ... 1916
April ... 1920	April ... 1902

(Kobe.)

Superior	Yen	20.80
Medium	Yen	19.70
Common	Yen	18.30
Average	Yen	19.60

COTTON VARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery	Yen.	
February	Yen	140.35
March	Yen	139.20
April	Yen	137.00

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till February 15th amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Mar. 1.

London silver 1/4 lower, China sterling quotations not yet received, but local rates on China are easier and all others unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257 @ 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	262
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208 @ 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100, 96 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 94 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	77 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 @ 26 1/2

* Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date
America	P. M.	Fersia 1	Su. Mar. 3
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan 2	Su. Mar. 3
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru 3	M. Mar. 4
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	M. Mar. 4
Hongkong	P. M.	Nile	M. Mar. 4
Europe	N. D. L.	Yorck	M. Mar. 4
Europe	M. M.	Tourane	Tu. Mar. 5
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	W. Mar. 6
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru 4	M. Mar. 11
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	F. Mar. 15
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	F. Mar. 15
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Su. Mar. 17
Hongkong	B. L.	Hercules	W. Mar. 20
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Empress of India	W. Mar. 20
Vancouver	B. L.	Suvaric	Th. Mar. 28

- 1 Left Honolulu on the 20th ult.
- 2 Left Hongkong on the 24th ult.
- 3 Left Seattle on the 13th ult.
- 4 Left Hongkong on the 27th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date
Europe	M. M.	Dumbear	Sa. Mar. 2
Australia	N. Y. K.	Nikko Maru	Sa. Mar. 2
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kasuga Maru	Su. Mar. 3
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Su. Mar. 3
Hongkong	P. M.	Persia	M. Mar. 4
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru	M. Mar. 4
America	P. M.	Nile	Tu. Mar. 5
Tacoma	B. & S.	Keemun	Tu. Mar. 5
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	W. Mar. 6
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Mar. 7
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	F. Mar. 8
Europe	N. D. L.	Yo ck	Sa. Mar. 9
Europe	N. Y. K.	Mishima Maru	W. Mar. 13
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	W. Mar. 13
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Su. Mar. 17
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	M. Mar. 18
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Tu. Mar. 19
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	W. Mar. 20
Seattle	B. L.	Hercules	Th. Mar. 21
Hongkong	B. L.	Suvaric	F. Mar. 29

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Bengloe, British steamer, 1,933, N. A. Guy, 23rd Feb.—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.
Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 23rd Feb.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.
Ellen Rickmers, German steamer, 2,980, H. Schultz, 23rd Feb.—Antwerp and Hamburg General.—Simon Evers & Co.
Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, Ernest Bent, 23rd Feb.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, W. W. Greene, 25th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Saishu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 24th Feb.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 24th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Dunedin, British steamer, 3,051, H. G. Case, 25th Feb.—New York via ports, General.—Sale Frazar Ltd.
Rita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,617, Y. Yamanaka, 25th Feb.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tamon Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 26th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860, K. Akasawa, 26th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Taihoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, I. Sato, 26th Feb.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Jason, British steamer, 4,880, T. G. Steeves, 26th Feb.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Cleveland, German steamer, 10,300, Dempwolf, 26th Feb.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Round the World Tourists.—C. Illies & Co.
Shokwa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,332, M. Takahashi, 26th Feb.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Mishima Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,270, A. E. Moses, 26th Feb.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, M. Abe, 26th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Bani Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 28th Feb.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 28th Feb.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tolomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 28th Feb.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lucifer, British steamer, 4,100, J. Mathie, 28th Feb.—Manila and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Rokko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,752, S. Uchigoshi, 29th Feb.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Hellas, Norwegian steamer, 829, M. Berg, 29th Feb.—Hongkong, Timber.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Vorwarts, Austrian steamer, 3,727, R. Dannecker, 29th Feb.—Fiume and Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 23rd Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 23rd Feb.—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997, S. Nemoto, 23rd Feb.—Taiwan, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 23rd Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Awaji Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,155, S. Nagaya, 23rd Feb.—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prins Eitel Friedrich, German steamer, 5,001, E. Malchow, 24th Feb.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Rijjin Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 24th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinichiku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 24th Feb.—Taiwan, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 25th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, E. Bent, 25th Feb.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Iedo Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,321, H. Mikuni, 24th Feb.—Mitsui, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Jerrie, British steamer, 3,114, R. White, 25th Feb.—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 25th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yotorofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 25th Feb.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saishu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 25th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,853, I. Noma, 26th Feb.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shokwa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,332, M. Takahashi, 26th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, W. W. Greene, 27th Feb.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 27th Feb.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taihoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, I. Sato, 28th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Aki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,995, B. Kon, 28th Feb.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860, K. Akasawa, 28th Feb.—Seattle via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 29th Feb.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ellen Rickmers, German steamer, 2,980, H. Schultz, 29th Feb.—Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, M. Abe, 29th Feb.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.
ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Miss J. Beckingson in cabin; 12 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Nikko Maru* from Melbourne and Sydney via ports:—Mr. E. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Roberson, Mr. T. Bilbe, Mr. S. Takeuchi, Mrs. S. D. Herford, Miss N. Herford, Mr. T. J. Chapman, Mr. T. Abraham, Mr. A. H. Arnott, Mr. G. A. Heilbrown, Miss D. Mann, Mrs. G. C. Denbigh, infant and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Gillon and 2 Japanese in cabin; 1 Japanese in second class; Mr. L. Wai Hing and Mrs. T. Kaneko in intermediate; 8 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Mishima Maru*, from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. John Griffin, Mr. P. V. Mitchell and Mr. M. Rnoke in cabin; Mr. Z. Ozawa and Mr. M. Uchiyama in second class; 8 passengers in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamaguchi Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. T. Suga, Mrs. K. Suga, daughter and son and Mr. K. Hayashi in cabin; Mr. Thomas Bell in second class; 8 Japanese, 2 children and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Kusakari in cabin. For Victoria:—Mr. D. M. Young in cabin; 4 Chinese and 5 Japanese in steerage. For Seattle:—Mr. Y. Okamoto in cabin; Mr. J. Uyeno, Mrs. K. Mizuhara in second class; 17 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Nile* for Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports:—Mr. J. B. Seattle in cabin.

Per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. Tilsley and native servant, Mr. Mausel Smith, Miss M. Hunter, Miss Greig and amah, Mr. A. T. J. Pike, Mr. Matsumura, Mr. Chow Chu Wa and Mr. K. Y. Low in cabin.

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Correspondence enclosing full details at first writing invited.

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Sep. 9th, 1911.

S. 19.



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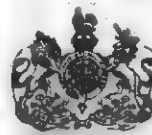
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAR. 9TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

MR. JOHN TROUTBECK, Coroner and Deputy High Bailiff of Westminster, is dead.

THE death is announced of Major-General Sir Mildmay Willson Willson, K.C.B.

MR. SAKURAI JUNICHI, Councillor of the Imperial Railway Bureau, was on Thursday relieved of his post.

THE French Senate has passed a motion reducing the old age pensions limit to include persons of sixty years of age.

THE official trial run, trial firing, etc. of the newly built battleship *Kawachi* were completed on the 4th with satisfactory results.

REPRESENTATIVES of the principal rice importers paid a visit on Tuesday morning to the Vice-Minister of Finance, to lay before him a petition

for the reduction of the duty on imported rice, owing to the high price of the domestic product.

THE death is announced of the Rt. Hon. Sir Gainsford Bruce, Kt., D.C.L., P.C.

OWING to a report of the advance of the Mullah, 335 men and nine officers of the 18th Indian Infantry have sailed for Berbera.

ON Wednesday afternoon, at twenty minutes past four, a slight earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, lasting for about one minute.

DR. HONZUMI, Dean of the Law College of Tokyo Imperial University, has retired and been appointed Emeritus Professor of the University.

THE Naval Department has received an official telegram reporting the safe arrival at Manila on the 4th instant of the Training Squadron *Soya* and *Aiso*.

LIEUTENANT Barrington Kennett flew 249½ miles over Salisbury Plain on the 23rd ult. This constitutes a record for aeroplane flight with a passenger.

THE Crown Prince returned from Hayama on the 5th instant. He was received at Shimbashi by members of the Imperial family and a number of court dignitaries.

THE Privy Council has allowed the appeal against the judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of Hongkong in the criminal conversation case of *Lemm versus Mitchell*.

THE *Times* publishes an appeal by the Rev. Lord William Gascoyne Cecil to the heads of the various Protestant Missionary Societies for funds to relieve the famine in China.

THE Gaiety Theatre actress, Miss Olive May, was reported on the 24th ult. to be engaged to be married to Lord Victor Paget, but later Miss Olive May contradicted the report.

THE death is announced of the Grand Duke Wilhelm of Luxemburg. He will be succeeded by his eldest daughter, the Princess Marie, who is seventeen years of age.

CAPTAIN SAITO, Naval Attaché to the Japanese Embassy in Rome, wires under date of the 4th instant to the Admiralty that the Commander-in-chief of the Italian United squadron has died of pleurisy.

THE Municipal elections held last month at Salonika are interesting in view of the defeat of the candidates of the Committee of Union and Progress and the success of the Liberal Union candidates.

LORD KITCHENER, British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt, has opened the extension of the Khartoum railway from Khartoum to El Obeid in the presence of a vast gathering of sheikhs and notables.

BARON SHIGENO, who was recently granted his aeronaut's licence, is said to have already finished the packing of the Shigeno aeroplane to send it to Japan. He is expected to leave Paris for home about the 20th instant.

MR. URAKAWA, Naval Paymaster attached to the defence corps at Yungheung Bay in South Hamgyong Province, recently married the daughter, a charming young lady of sixteen summers, of Mr. Ko Kyongpil, Korean Manager of the Hamgyong Agricultural and Industrial Bank. This is said

to be the first time that a Japanese gentleman of good social position has contracted marriage with a Korean lady from an aristocratic Korean family.

THE Ways and Means Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives has agreed to the Sugar Tariff Revision Bill, which provides for the reduction of the tariff on sugar by one cent per pound.

THE Canadian Senate, by fifty-one votes to two, has rejected the Bill for the repeal of the Naval Act, which the Liberals had introduced with a view to forcing the hand of the Government.

WE are informed that owing to the tragic death of Mrs. Thomson's sister in America, Mrs. Leggett feels herself compelled to withdraw the invitations to the ball that she had arranged to give for Miss Thomson on Thursday, March 14.

A SEAMAN, a naturalized Englishman who was born in Germany, has been arrested at Christiania on board H.M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Foxhound* on a charge of espionage. He arrived at Chatham on the 23rd ult., where he will be tried.

THE term of subscription to the Hypotheek Bank's bonds of three million yen expired on the 29th ultimo. The flotation has proved a far greater success than anticipated, being over subscribed by well nigh four hundred thousand yen.

MR. P. C. KNOX, United States Secretary of State, in a speech at Panama said that it was the purpose of the United States to live in amity with her sister Republics. The United States was craving neither for sovereignty over, nor territory in, Latin America.

MR. ARAKAWA, Mayor of Yokohama, will give a banquet at the Chitose-ru, at 6 p.m. on the 15th instant, to all the higher civil officials of the Municipality and Kanagawa Prefecture. He intends giving another banquet at 7.30 p.m. on the 25th instant, to the foreign Consuls of Yokohama.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Paul Dairymple Butler, of His Majesty's Consular Service in the Far East, third son of the Rev. George How Butler, of Gazeley Vicarage, Newmarket, to Miss Maxima Scranton, youngest daughter of Dr. W. B. Scranton, M.D. (U.S.A.), of Seoul, Korea.

A SOCIALIST by the name of Hajime Akabane, about thirty-seven years old, died of stomach trouble on Friday last while serving his term in prison. He had been sentenced to imprisonment for two years because of a seditious work published in May two years ago, entitled the "Gospel of the Farmers."

A SEMI OFFICIAL statement declares that in spite of the readiness of Russia to make every sacrifice, even at the cost of injuring Russian sugar producers, Germany persists in maintaining an irreconcilable position, and consequently Russia disclaims any responsibility for the eventual breakdown of the Sugar Conference.

ON Saturday last a shocking train collision occurred at Mihara Station. At a quarter to three on that day, an express bound for Kyoto from Shimonoseki was passing Mihara Station about twelve at night, when it came into collision with a freight train then at rest in the station. Both trains sustained serious damage. Of the third class passengers in the carriage adjoining the locomotive, seventeen were seriously, and twenty-two were slightly injured. The pointmen are held responsible for the mishap.

THE SITUATION IN CHINA.

Friday, March 1.

The latest intelligence of Yuan Shih-kai's movements is that he has decided to repair to Nanking for the purpose of publicly receiving his nomination to be President. It will be remembered that his election to the Presidency took place in Nanking, and therefore it appears only natural that he should go through the form of receiving his appointment there. The southern delegates evidently attach great importance to this point. Mr. Tsai, who seems to be taking a leading part among the delegates, shows much insistency. He assured Yuan that the seat of the Provisional Government was a matter of comparative indifference to the southern leaders, all they ask for being that Yuan should comply with the formality of making act of presence in Nanking. Yuan finally yielded, but it appears that he is to have an escort of five thousand men, which precaution will greatly mar the grace of the measure, as such a large escort will inevitably suggest apprehension as to the loyalty of the men in the south. It is said that Yuan will call *en route* at Hankow and have a detailed conference with Vice-President Li.

Mr. Tsai has given an interview to a correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* who telegraphs the fact at some length to his journal. The delegate wore foreign costume, and was altogether Occidentalized outwardly. He gave it to be understood that the main business of himself and his colleagues in visiting Peking was to arrange for Yuan Shih-kai's formal investiture at Nanking. The questions of the site of the permanent metropolis, the constitution and the National Assembly, were too important to be settled without due deliberation, and therefore the delegates confined themselves to the one object of inducing Yuan to repair to Nanking for the purposes of investiture. The *Nichi Nichi's* correspondent quotes Mr. Tsai as asserting that this, their main object, is to be accomplished within a week's time, but the German journal of Shanghai puts the period at a fortnight.

It is said that the work of drafting the Chinese constitution has been going on for some time at the hands of Mr. Li Cha-ku, formerly Chinese Representative in Tokyo, under the superintendence of Yuan himself. But Yuan has caused this operation to be suspended during the visit of the southern delegates to the metropolis.

It appears that the various Republican cliques which have been formed in Peking, Mukden and in other places since the outbreak of the insurrection have presented memorials strongly combating the idea of Yuan's visit to Nanking and insisting that there must be no question of changing the capital. This demonstration is supposed to have been engineered by the emissaries of President Yuan, among whose various accomplishments not the least important and valuable is the manipulation of public opinion.

It must be confessed that the attitude of the Nanking Cabinet is not altogether consistent with the canons of representative government. The ministers are said to be consulting with hermetically sealed doors, and such methods are freely criticized as incongruous on the part of the representatives of a Republic. But the fact is that the Nanking Cabinet has fallen completely under the influence of

Yuan Shih-kai, and reports from various quarters indicate that such may be said to be the case throughout the whole of the Yangtze Valley. Yuan has the entire situation in the hollow of his hand. Every one remembers the criticism heard almost universally in the days of the Prince Regent, namely, that China's great want was a leader. Yuan was then living in retirement in his native province. It can no longer be said that the Flowery Middle Realm suffers from this defect.

The members of the Nanking Cabinet are reported to have fallen into a mood of nonchalance. They spend most of their time cultivating the enjoyments of Shanghai, and even Dr. Sun Yat-sen himself is said to have intimated to Yuan that the latter may choose for membership in the Provisional Government any one he pleases. This is interpreted to mean that Field Marshal Hwang, who was generally spoken of as certain to be nominated Minister of War, will not, after all, receive that appointment. But we note that a telegram to the *Yamato Shimbun* represents the situation in a totally different light. It declares that Sun and Hwang are determined to stand aloof from the Provisional Government. They may entertain some such sentiment in secret, but it is certain that all public manifestations go to show Yuan as complete master of the situation. The only high official who does not bow to his mandates appears to be Vice-President Li. This leader has taken a leaf out of Yuan's book, for when invited to Peking by Yuan, he replied that he could not proceed northward until order was more fully restored in the Yangtze Valley, and that there does not seem to be any pressing necessity for him to go to Peking, seeing that the south has already sent its delegates there.

There is one cloud upon the horizon of China proper. It is the action of Governor Sheng of Shensi. He refuses to abandon the movement for taking vengeance on the Republicans of Hsian, who inaugurated their campaign by a massacre of Manchu followers. It has been found necessary to organize a column under General Chiang for the suppression of this retaliatory attempt.

Saturday, March 2.

It appears to be tolerably certain that the *emeute* in Peking which broke out at 6 p.m. on the 29th ultimo was nothing more than a protest on the part of the soldiers against their paymasters, who tendered to them only small amounts, if anything at all, by way of pay and allowances. Their first attack was directed against the official residence of Yuan Shih-kai. The rioters kept up an incessant fire on the place for fully an hour, and repeatedly shouted out that Yuan without a queue was worthless; that the Flowery Realm's Republic was a delusion and that the only hope lay in restoring the Tsing Dynasty. The purport of these cries suggested a political character, and such indeed was the first interpretation. But the final opinion seems to be that it was only a question of emoluments and that the commotion had no dynastic element. The inmates of Yuan's official residence and Yuan himself resorted to the expedient of extinguishing all lights and lying concealed as far as possible. The rioters ultimately withdrew, probably believing that all the inmates had been killed or had managed to escape. No attempt was made to set the *yamen* on fire, and the nature of the attack did not suggest any very resolute

desire to carry matters to extremity. It was actually suggested that the *emeute* had been planned by Yuan himself with the idea of proving that his absence from the city would be provocative of danger, but that notion was too extravagant to be long entertained. A notable feature of the disturbance was that the soldiers abstained from taking life. They pillaged systematically and they insulted several women; but in spite of the dimensions of the *emeute* not more than two or three lives seem to have been lost. Quiet was restored after about twelve hours, so that the disturbance may be said to have lasted from 6 p.m. on the 29th ultimo to 6 a.m. on the 1st instant. Three Japanese houses were plundered and one Japanese subject lost his life. The mutiny commenced with the soldiers of the Third Division and extended to those of the Second. Ultimately the riotous troops broke away in three directions; namely, to Paoting, the capital of Peichili; to Honan by the Lu-Han Railway; and to Tientsin. This last body of mutineers carried on their pillaging operations as they travelled towards Tientsin, and were joined by their comrades in garrison *en route*, but at this moment we are not in a position to say whether the pillaging was resumed at Tientsin. At any rate it is plain that great disaffection exists among the northern troops, and that such a force was never capable of being implicitly trusted to take the field against the Republicans.

It is notable that the rioters did not limit their lawless proceeding to Yuan and the supporters of the northern cause. They showed themselves quite impartial, for they plundered the residences of the southern delegates without distinction. Colonel Sakanishi, a Japanese officer who happened to be visiting Yuan at the time of the outbreak, was at first supposed to have been killed, but he subsequently returned uninjured to his quarters. There seems to have been great and wanton destruction of property, and it is evident that the *emeute* may develop much larger proportions.

An interesting feature of the affair is the extreme *insouciance* shown by the rioters. They forced the railway officials on the Lu-Han road to place trains at their disposal; they packed the pillaged property in railway waggons for purposes of transport, and they themselves discarded their uniforms and donned civilian clothes which they took from the inhabitants indiscriminately.

As for the police and the troops on guard at various posts, they seem to have fled incontinently, and the only resolute resistance is said to have been made with a quick-firing gun which was placed in the upper story of Yuan's official residence, though we do not see how that statement can be reconciled with the version that the inmates of Yuan's *yamen* escaped by maintaining strict silence and lying hidden till the fury of the onset had passed. At this moment of writing (8 a.m. on the 2nd inst.), it is uncertain whether the Japanese or the other foreigners residents in Peking suffered the more. The earliest accounts represented the Japanese and the other foreigners as being comparatively unmolested, but apparently this will have to be largely amended. Japanese property is now said to have suffered greatly, and no less than 150 Japanese subjects took refuge within their Legation compound. It is alleged that practically the whole garrison of Peking, number-

ing 30,000 men, participated in the *emete*, so that the first concerted operation of Yuan's army may be said to have been the pillage of the metropolis. Among the important buildings destroyed on the Japanese side were an inn called the *Fusōkan* and the offices of the Mitsubishi Company.

The Japanese troops appear to have obtained much applause by their promptness in securing the means of communication; that is to say, the telegraphs and telephones. They also collected the females and children into one place and posted a strong guard to protect them. It is further stated that the Japanese garrison turned out at 8 p.m., whereas the other foreign troops did not appear upon the scene until 10 o'clock. Another praiseworthy step taken by the Japanese was that immediately on receiving news of the disturbance, three hundred men were despatched from Tientsin to Peking, reaching the latter place on the afternoon of the 1st instant. This meant the doubling of the Japanese garrison in the metropolis.

The interesting question is what effect this affair will have on the political situation. Many onlookers are disposed to trace a much profounder cause than mere money-getting in the behavior of the mutineers. These critics say that there were palpable evidences of a pre-concerted system of operations, and that some political leadership must be inferred. But that appears to be mere conjecture. To us at this distance, nothing is visible except a common hunger for pay and plunder. What is really serious is that Yuan has forfeited all title to be regarded as capable of controlling the situation from a military point of view. The one thing supposed to be certain was that Yuan had assembled in the metropolis a force variously estimated at from twenty to thirty thousand men, who were ready to do his bidding at a moment's notice and thus constituted the dominant feature of the situation. But it has now been shown that in a military sense Yuan is a man of straw, and that the army collected in the capital has melted away at the first touch of insubordination. In short, the metropolis of China is now practically undefended, and we may even go so far as to say that the situation lies at the mercy of the south. Of course the immediate consequence is that Yuan's projected visit to Nanking will have to be abandoned, and thus the whole situation has received an incalculable set-back.

In the actual presence of such an event onlookers are apt to take an exaggerated view. But it does not appear extravagant to say that the southern troops will follow the example of their northern comrades. Already there has been trouble at Wuchang, Wuhu, Swatow, Canton, Shantung and Shensi, to say nothing of the Three Eastern Provinces and of the outlying Principalities. In fact, almost the whole realm of China may be regarded as in a state of war, and it is more than probable that discontent on account of insufficient pay will spread rather than diminish.

Even at Peking itself there is evidence of further trouble, for news comes that on the 1st instant at 1 p.m. fresh operations of pillage were commenced outside the principal gate of the city.

Naturally in these circumstances the desirability of increasing the foreign forces in Peking is warmly discussed. The troops now forming the garrison of the metropolis

are as follow:—British 2,000; French 1,300; Japanese 600; German 400; Russian 350; American 250; Italian 200; Austrian 150; Dutch 50, and Belgian 20. It seems to be felt that the above list ought to be largely increased, and there is talk of placing under orders for immediate service over-sea a brigade of troops in the central provinces. The chief responsibility rests on Japan on account of her propinquity to the scene, but we may be sure that she will not move a company unless the situation peremptorily demands such a step. Meanwhile Chinese statesmen are quoted as saying that the interference of foreign Powers can no longer be averted.

Sunday, March 3.

So far as our information goes at this moment of writing—8 a.m. on the 3rd instant—order has not yet been restored in Peking. Rioting and pillaging continued throughout the 1st instant, day and night, and all the efforts of the Authorities to quell the trouble have hitherto been unsuccessful. In fact, it is not too much to say that Peking is in process of being regularly sacked. President Yuan is evidently taking all the steps in his power to quell the riot, but it is obvious that he has no force to rely on and that while on the one hand, frankly acknowledging his own incapacity to foresee the disturbance and to take measures accordingly, on the other, he is resorting to the somewhat futile device of appealing to the troops themselves not to dishonour their cloth by such disgraceful doings. He explains that the affair had its origin in a comparatively trifling dispute between the artillery and the land transport corps of the Third Division, and that the dimensions of the *emete* were largely extended by the interference of street bandits and rioters of every description. Yuan has further announced that the Government will hold itself responsible for all loss of property. It is said that the officers of the Third Division memorialized Yuan in the sense that no time should be lost in punishing the law-breakers, but inasmuch as the latter included a colonel, and were quickly joined by a large force of the Sixth Division, Yuan had practically no troops left to obey orders. Yuan himself is Commander-in-Chief of the six Divisions forming the garrison of the Metropolitan Province, but he found none to carry out his instructions at the supreme moment. On the contrary, his forces joined the rioters. It is now roughly estimated that in the disturbance on the 29th instant fully a thousand houses were burnt and two hundred peaceful citizens met their death. The Japanese did not suffer very severely. One of their residences was destroyed by fire; three were pillaged; one person was wounded and one is missing. As for the rest of the foreign population, nothing is mentioned, and it is a fair inference that there were no casualties. Of course the foreign Representatives lost no time in making a protest, and equally, of course, Yuan tendered many expressions of regret as well as promises that nothing of the kind should occur again. But before the ink on the President's apologetic despatch was dry the rioters had renewed their devastations. In fact, the lesson taught—a lesson which will be laid to heart by the foreign Powers—is that the propinquity of a Chinese army constitutes a peril rather than a guarantee of public order. The one redeeming feature is that a part of the Imperial

Guards remained loyal. The rioters used artillery against the Palace enclosure in the early stages of the disturbance, but they were driven back pell-mell by the Guards. The latter also are said to have trampled their Republican flag in the dust and to have rehoisted their Royalist banners. It appears that the riot broke out in the eastern section of the city where the various Legations and the Palace itself are situated. Hence, the early action of the insurgents was against the Imperial quarter. On the second day of the riot the scene was shifted to the west of the metropolis. The Empress Dowager and the boy Emperor must have found themselves in deadly peril until the guards took action against the mutineers. Her Majesty is supposed to have a coffer containing three million *taels*, and then there are also the heirlooms of the Palace, which objects must prove very tempting to the looters. On the first day the pawn-brokers' shops were the chief points of attack, and on the second it was expected that the mob would pillage the banks. Moreover an impression prevails, though it may be suggested by pure consternation, that the riot will extend throughout the provinces, and that all the troops in the Yangtsz, as well as those in other provinces, where the pay and emoluments of the mercenary soldiers proved inadequate, will help themselves to anything that comes handy. In fact, at this moment, nothing could well be more disheartening than the situation is believed to be. One account represents the capital as being rapidly converted into the rendezvous of lawless ruffians from the neighbouring districts; but we have always to remember that there is a large force of nearly six thousand foreign troops in Peking, and that if these take the field in earnest, they will soon restore order. One story, however, has it that the Authorities have already solicited the aid of foreign garrisons to restore order, but have met with an emphatic refusal, the foreign Representatives being of opinion that it is out of the question to employ troops of other countries in a purely domestic *emete*, and that nothing can justify such action except a direct menace to the life or property of the nationalities concerned. This certainly seems like carrying diplomatic etiquette to a point far beyond the limits of humanity.

The provincial capital of the Metropolitan Province, namely, Paoting, and the huge city of Tientsin, are now said to be engulfed in the flood of pillage but particulars are not yet forthcoming.

Speaking of the state of affairs in China at present, the *Hochi Shimbun* makes a shrewd remark; namely, that whereas in times of peace and order, the Western Powers do not hide their dislike of Japan or their desire to keep her at arm's length, whenever any great peril menaces they throw themselves upon her bosom. It must be confessed that some such thought may well present itself to the Japanese.

From Shanghai comes a "bunder" worthy of that settlement's days of most profuse imagination. It is to the effect that the sack of Peking is an outcome of Yuan Shih-kai's plots. Yuan does not want to go south, and he accordingly contrived a situation which holds him permanently in the north. However habitual it may have become to credit Yuan with omnipotence, this last evidence of his power

slightly overtakes credulity. Another theory which deserves to be bracketed with the above, is that the event was intended to demonstrate to foreign Powers the necessity of financing China as quickly and liberally as possible. This, too, is a curiosity in its way.

Now that Peking and Wuchang are both equally disturbed, it would seem that the idea of Vice-President Li proceeding to the capital to maintain order while President Yuan goes to Nanking for investiture, will have to be abandoned. In fact, the situation has undergone a radical change.

Monday, March 4.

Things appear to be going from bad to worse in China. The news wired on the 3rd instant shows that Tientsin is now seriously involved. Tientsin is a city of nearly a million inhabitants, many of whom are very wealthy and the result of the place being sacked by some thousands of soldiers and roughs in the absence of all power of resistance is terrible to contemplate. At Paoing also, which is the capital of the Metropolitan Province, the city has evidently been given over to be sacked, and there the situation is complicated by a political element, for the mob and the troops are said to be cutting down any one who does not wear a queue. It is now thought that the forces in the Three Eastern Provinces will march upon Peking, and even that they will be summoned to the capital by Yuan himself. But if they come, a shocking situation will be created, for these Manchurian forces are sure to turn their hands against the supporters of Yuan Shih-kai. It need hardly be said that Yuan is losing or has lost all prestige. It was confidently believed up to the moment of the outbreak that he had complete control of the situation, and that a word from him would set in motion an overwhelming force. But on the contrary, it was precisely among the force over whom he was supposed to possess greatest influence that the rioting broke out, and he is now seen to be entirely resourceless, and to be even willing to take the obvious risk of summoning the Manchurian section of the army to Peking. The notoriously anti-foreign General Chiang Kwei-ti is reported to have undertaken the duty of restoring order conditionally on receiving certain promises from Yuan. What the nature of those promises may be the telegraph does not yet tell us, but the fact that Chiang's troops are not likely to prove good guardians of peace and order seems to be clear enough when we read that a number of them are conspicuous among the rioters. Indeed at this moment of writing the situation seems to be almost desperate. Not one bright spot appears upon the horizon. In China poverty presses so close upon industry that there is always a large element of the population on the verge of starvation. These men find unique opportunity in the present state of affairs. They seem to have constituted themselves into an army of camp followers who tread in the footsteps of the mutinous soldiers, and gather up anything that has escaped the latter's depredations. The dimensions of the Chinese realm are so enormous that it seems extravagant at this early stage to speak of the whole country being involved, yet that is what the telegrams do. General Chang's offer to quell the riot provided that his troops are fully rewarded afterwards is one of the worst features of the situation, for Yuan's compliance con-

stitutes Chiang a new dictator. Moreover Chiang's interpretation of the authority vested in him may be gathered from the fact that he is said to have issued orders to his troops to slaughter indiscriminately all persons offering any resistance.

It would certainly seem that the time had come for utilizing the services of the foreign forces. After all, humanity may be justly said to claim some attention. Yuan, however, appears to be bent upon keeping the foreign troops from interfering. Tang Shiao-i, on the other hand, is anxious to enlist their services, but the foreign Representatives naturally decline to move at the instance of a solitary Chinese statesman, especially when he speaks contrary to the wishes of his chief. On the 1st instant, Yuan still believed himself able to deal with the disturbance. He assured the foreign Representatives that there was no fear of any recurrence, and that if unfortunately any further rioting took place, the Government of which he is the head would assume all responsibility for any injury suffered by foreign life or property. This declaration was made on the 1st instant, and that very night witnessed the renewal of the sack. Still it is perfectly natural and proper that recourse should not be had to foreign military aid so long as that step can possibly be avoided. The complications that must ensue are of the very gravest, and a legacy of anti-foreign hatred would be bequeathed to future generations of Chinese. There is much disposition to rely on the Japanese as saviors of the situation, but the Japanese are necessarily reluctant to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for other Powers.

Mr. Chao Ping-chun, Minister of the Interior, is quoted by the *Chuo Shimbun* correspondent as expressing himself in the most pessimistic strain. He says virtually that the situation is hopeless. The army of the indigent has taken possession of the field, and to summon more military force would merely mean an addition to the rioters. Mr. Chao appears to think that there is nothing for it except to let things take their own course, and to suffer the insurrection to die of inanition. But we can hardly imagine any responsible statesman advancing such a theory.

Nevertheless, certain steps have of course been taken by the foreign Representatives. Thus, the Japanese war ship *Otowa* has been summoned from Chefoo to Taku, where the Italians have a wireless telegraphic apparatus. Thus telegraphic communication is secured between Peking and Kwantung. It is further stated that on the 3rd instant, a force of one thousand men entered Peking from Tientsin, but whether this body consisted entirely of Japanese or was a mixed force the telegraph does not clearly state. The number of foreign troops in Tientsin prior to the above move was some three thousand, among whom nine hundred were Japanese, twelve hundred English and eight hundred French, the Russian and German forces being only one hundred each. In view of these figures it would seem probable that the force of a thousand men that entered Peking on the 3rd instant consisted of English and Japanese troops in equal parts.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has information that it has been determined by the Japanese Cabinet to send forward a military force at once from Liaoyang, and to detain the time-expired men at that place so as to avert any inconvenient diminution of strength. Mean-

while the Twelfth Division of troops which has its headquarters at Kokura is still holding itself in readiness for over-sea service. Thus if it be decided that Japanese troops are required, there will be no difficulty in mustering 10,000 men at the scene of the trouble within the space of a very few days. England also can easily summon troops from Weihaiwei, and indeed there are indications that all the foreign forces in Manchuria, Shantung and other adjacent regions are making arrangements to concentrate towards the capital. The rioters are said to be in possession of the Lu-Han Railway which they are working to suit their own convenience, but the lines communicating with the sea-board from Peking are already guarded by foreign troops. On the 3rd instant, a military demonstration was made in Peking. All the available foreign forces were assembled within the compound of the British Legation, whence they marched under arms through the principal streets of the city.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent describes the scenes witnessed in the capital as almost incredible. The looters showed the greatest coolness and discrimination in selecting the objects to be carried off and those to be discarded, and after that, old people, women and children appeared upon the streets and began to gather up the articles which had been thus abandoned. These gleaners naturally fled at the approach of the guards, and the latter interpreting their flight as evidence, of guilt, shot them down incontinently. One method of concealment practised by the rioters was to turn their hands against peaceful householders so as to convey a false impression to the guards; men who are known to be wealthy were shot down by way of preparation for the leisurely looting of their goods, and their wives and children were left wailing in the streets without any one to give a helping hand.

It seems that foreign property was not always respected. Thus the Goods Transport Company, which is a Japanese enterprise, had all its parcels stolen at Fengtai on the road between Peking and Tientsin. In Peking, on the other hand, the captain of the rioters openly warned the Japanese, on the 2nd instant, to place their persons and properties beyond the reach of danger, which order they obeyed by repairing to the precincts of the Specie Bank. It must be noted, however, that the outrage against the Transport Company at Fengtai took place during a struggle between the looters and the troops of General Chiang.

Chinese newspapers are endeavouring to shift the responsibility to Japanese shoulders. They do not distinctly identify Japan by name, but they speak of a Power which was from the outset averse to Republican institutions, and which exhausted diplomatic means of preventing the choice of that polity in China. Failing to achieve its purpose with diplomatic instruments, this Power had recourse to military men, who merely obeyed Japanese bidding when they organized the recent riot. It would be well for patriotic Chinese to remember that slanders of this kind do not necessarily inure to the injury of the slandered persons alone.

At Tientsin the looting began on the evening of the 2nd and lasted until the morning of the 3rd. The police appear to have joined the rioters, and fires, lit in several places, were still burning at the

time of the despatch of the latest news. Some thirty Japanese residing outside the settlement, moved in before the trouble reached them. The greatest losses suffered by the Japanese community were the burning of the East-Asia Company (*To-a Kaisha*) and the wounding of one policeman. The branch office of the Specie Bank was attacked, but the safe had been carried away beforehand. The Japanese forces placed quick-firing guns in position to guard the settlement and the consequence was that there were no casualties to life or limb. As for the sacking of the Chinese town it is described as having been most expeditious and thorough. Even professional thieves could not have done better. The *Asahi's* correspondent repaired to the Governor's *yamen* to complain of what was going on, but he found the officials either ignorant or indifferent.

It is stated that at Paoting the French missionary station was burnt to the ground and two missionaries were assassinated. But happily there is reason to believe that this story is baseless. A Church may have been destroyed but there was no killing of priests. At Nanking the Cabinet seems to be taking things very coolly. The pending visit of President Yuan to the southern town is still regarded as an event of the near future, and altogether the misfortunes of several of the great northern cities appear to be taken as part of the every-day work.

Tuesday, March 5.

On the night of the 3rd instant, pillaging in Peking was confined to one section of the city, the other parts being comparatively tranquil. But another danger menaces the city. It is the threatened coming of General Lan with a force of Republican troops. This is the officer who commanded at Chefoo and in the Liaotung Peninsula during the operations in that quarter of the field, and although his doings hitherto have not suggested any extravagance, the inhabitants of Peking are seriously apprehensive that the arrival of a wholly new military force in the capital would probably lead to fresh complications. Meanwhile the foreign Representatives are said to have met in council and to have determined to make such additions to their forces as will bring up the number to an equal strength of five hundred men for every flag. Such, at least, is the statement made by the telegraph, but it has to be noted that according to previous accounts some of the Powers are already in possession of a larger force than five hundred. It would seem reasonable to infer from this action on the part of the foreign Representatives that they do not regard the situation quite so gravely as the general public does. If things were so bad as people have been led to suppose, the foreign Representatives would have been talking of something more effective than an army of a few hundred men.

A very circumstantial statement is made by the correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*. He speaks definitely of public peace and good order having been restored on the 3rd instant, and he describes the methods resorted to by the troops of General Chiang Kwei-ti. They seem to have been very drastic methods. Eighty men were decapitated, and their corpses being exposed on the streets had such a deterrent effect that the rioters hastened to quit the city. But money seems to have had a good

deal of influence. Yuan is reported to have sent emissaries to all the military barracks, and to have instructed them to promise that twenty dollars would be paid to every man who remained quietly in his quarters and made no attempt to enter the streets. Yuan also promised large rewards to General Chiang and his officers. If this be true, and we have it on the authority of the *Kokumin Shinbun's* correspondent, it shows that Yuan must have been reduced to great straits when an attitude of abstention was the most he allowed himself to solicit of the troops.

As for the unfortunate metropolis, all accounts agree that several years must elapse before the place is restored to the prosperous condition it enjoyed before the outbreak of this fatal riot.

There can no longer be any doubt, unless the accounts are incredibly erroneous, that the origin of the trouble was not in any sense political. The pay of the soldiers was the prime cause. It appears that the monthly stipend of the soldiers sent south against Hankow and Wuchang was doubled during the actual campaign. That is to say, each private soldier was promised twelve dollars a month instead of his normal wage of six dollars. But so soon as peace was definitely restored, this fighting rate was reduced to its original figure, and it was against the reduction that the soldiers rebelled. That is the general explanation now given, and it is supported by the conduct of the soldiers themselves, for there is no evidence whatever that they had any higher purpose than pillage. Satisfactory as this analysis is from one point of view, it does not greatly mitigate the fact that the damage done by the rioters is roughly assessed at several tens of millions of dollars, to say nothing of lives lost. One of Yuan's first steps has been to appoint assessors for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the damage done in order that steps may be taken to reimburse the sufferers. This will doubtless constitute another reason for appealing to foreign capital, so that in the end China will emerge from this crisis of her existence bound hand and foot to foreign money-lenders.

Great kudos appears to have been won by the Japanese troops. They were conspicuous by the celerity and decision of their proceedings. The contingents of Occidental soldiers are said to have limited themselves, for the most part, to defensive measures, such as the building of parapets, the placing of guns in position and so forth. If it did not occur to them to move, or what is more probable, they allowed official etiquette to prevent them from moving about freely to carry succour to distressed folks. The Japanese, on the contrary, patrolled the Legation quarter actively from the first, and took rapid possession of the telegraph and telephone stations so that communications were never interrupted.

We are not surprised to learn that in the sequel of these disturbances the Powers are more than ever impressed with the necessity of strictly cooperative action in the matter of furnishing money, and it is thought likely that Russia and Japan will be added to the Four Powers Syndicate. That result would probably have been attained in any circumstance by the Washington note. But another question now arises, namely, will foreign money be readily furnished to China under existing conditions. To us it appears that the answer to this question must of

necessity be affirmative. The interests of the West in the vast area called China are too enormous to be ignored for a moment. Greater responsibility will probably have to be assumed, and there will be more direct interference than ever in Chinese affairs, but the money already lent will have to be secured by lending more.

Of course it is very evident that there can no longer be any talk of Yuan's visit to Nanking, or of the choice of any place other than Peking for the administrative capital. Another result of the latest complication seems to be a strengthening of China's conviction of the necessity of cementing the closest possible relations with Japan.

It will be remembered that Yuan is said to have escaped assassination by extinguishing the lights and lying hid in his *yamen* during the riot on the night of the 29th ultimo. This somewhat incredible story is now replaced by a statement that Yuan effected a timely retreat to the office of the Headquarter Staff, and that he has practically transferred his place of business thither. As for Yuan's reputation, it goes without saying that the foreign Representatives have lost faith in him. The facts that the riot broke out in his own special body of troops, and that he saw no more efficient method of restoring order than to promise pecuniary rewards, have seriously compromised his prestige. Nevertheless he still remains the one man of the situation, and although foreign Powers will be more reluctant than ever to officially recognize the Chinese Republic, they will recognize it sooner or later if no further untoward incidents occur.

From all directions comes intelligence of pillage and riot. Three French missionaries are said to have been massacred in Shansi, and one met the same fate in Paoting. All the railways have been interrupted and Peking is virtually isolated. But it would seem that Peking has ceased to be the centre of disturbance, and that the waves of riot and arson are spreading throughout the whole realm. A mob exaggerated to the enormous dimensions of 500,000 men is said to be moving against the capital of Shantung. Paoting is in a state of anarchy, and at Wuchang the garrison is in a condition of revolt. It is said that the Republican troops raised in the Yangtze Valley are owed a sum totalling fully ten million *taels*, and there is a strong probability that they will follow the northern example to obtain their dues. From Manchuria also comes intelligence which suggests that political intrigue is at work there. General Chang by whose orders the Insurgents in the Three Eastern Provinces were seized and beheaded at the outbreak of the trouble, is now disbanding his forces, being apprehensive of Yuan's displeasure, and he has ordered his men to haul down the five coloured flag.

Wednesday, March 6.

Tientsin and Paoting are now the centres of observation. In Peking rioting on a large scale seems to have ceased, but robberies and raids on special houses or streets still continue. In Tientsin all the principal streets have been sacked and burned so that the injury to the city is of a permanent nature. The foreign troops forming the garrison have now been organized for cooperative action under the command of the senior British officer. It is reported that some hundreds of Chinese soldiers, armed with

pistols, are gradually approaching the Belgian settlement, and they have been warned that if they come within a certain range they will be treated as enemies. In these circumstances it is naturally felt that no security exists except under the direct protection of the foreign garrison. Of course there is great anxiety lest a collision should be precipitated between the Chinese troops and the foreign detachments, for, although the result of such an engagement could not be doubtful, there would immediately ensue an anti-foreign sentiment which might, and probably would, have grave consequences. Paoing appears to have suffered greatly. It has been almost wiped out of existence. All the principal stores and houses were raided and burned. Here, too, no distinction was made between foreigners and natives. Wherever property worth looting was found, it was immediately seized, and, as an example of what happened, the case is mentioned of the Anglo-American Tobacco Trust Company, which had 140,000 *taels* taken from its strong room and its entire stock of tobacco carried off. The Japanese residents all made their escape to the offices of Major Inouye, and there found shelter, from which fact it may be inferred that no special animosity was displayed towards foreigners. On the other hand, their property was not spared and the Japanese Representative in Peking has lost no time in preferring a claim for damages. The sacking of the city commenced on the 1st and lasted until the 3rd. At two places between Paoing and Peking the railway has been wrecked and as the injury was originally reported to have taken the form of destroying bridges, it was feared that communications had been effectually interrupted. But subsequent inquiry showed that the bridges had not suffered, and that the injury was limited to tearing up rails. It might have been expected that Tungchow, being on the road between Peking and Tientsin, would have been involved in the pillage, and there was indeed some sign of riot. But happily the trouble did not attain serious dimensions. In Peking the disturbance developed a curious feature. General Chiang's troops showed considerable alacrity in shooting down the raiders, but then proceeded to appropriate on their own account the raided property. Observing this manoeuvre, the Guards showed signs of following the evil example, and accordingly Yuan summoned 3,000 men from his own province of Honan to assist in preserving order. It being apprehended, however, that if these new arrivals were marched at once into the city, fresh troubles might ensue, they were halted outside the walls and were awaiting developments at the date of the latest advices.

Estimates are gradually beginning to be formed of the extent of the losses incurred. Thus in Tientsin the property destroyed is said to amount to 70 million *taels*, and it is tolerably certain that commerce with Japan will suffer severely. The raiders are said to have seized and burned all the foreign head-gear recently imported for Republican use, these new-fangled hats being regarded by them as the cause of the docking of the queues. From this it may be inferred that the leaders of the riot entertained conservative sentiments. Here it may be mentioned that according to some accounts the disturbance in Peking is beginning to develop political tendencies, but this

statement is confined to bare rumour, and no explanation is given.

It is mentioned incidentally that raiding took place even in Taku, which is a comparatively poor village at the mouth of the Hai-ho. Even the distant provinces of Shansi, Shensi and Kansu are reported to be in a disturbed condition, so that it would be hard to find any part of the wide realm unaffected by the evil example of Peking. The Empress Dowager was naturally anxious to escape from the city, but it was represented to her Majesty that the dangers incidental to flight would be graver than those incurred by remaining, and the advice was accepted. The Palace has thus had the good fortune to emerge from the riot with only a few bullet marks.

The Chinese troops in the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan are being gradually withdrawn for service in Peking, and the foreigners residing in that district have placed themselves under the protection of the Japanese garrison.

In Manchuria, as might have been expected, the already evil situation has been greatly aggravated. The mounted bandits have seized the opportunity to accentuate their usual lawlessness, and they appear to have been joined by a number of the insurgent troops, who met with discomfiture in the early days of the insurrection. Up to the present the Germans in Shantung seem to have been able to avoid being implicated, but they are represented as fully prepared for any emergency. Indications are not wanting that the rioting will gradually extend to the whole of the Yangtze Valley, unless prompt and effective measures can be taken. Thus, even from distant Szechuan rumours of trouble are coming, and the French are said to be preparing to move a force to that province from Yunnan.

Curiously enough, Port Arthur is offering an asylum to no less than three Chinese Imperial Princes, namely Su, Kung and Ching. There seems to be some uncertainty in the case of Prince Ching, but the other two Princes and their households have certainly taken refuge in the celebrated fortress, where they are receiving every hospitality from the Japanese.

NATIONAL DEBT REDEMPTION.

Tokyo journals state that it is considered advisable to postpone payment of 20 million *yen*, which sum remains to be redeemed out of the 50 millions that should have been written off during the current financial year. The reason for delay is that the proceeds of the Tokyo Municipal loan will find their way into the market during March, and that some disturbance might be caused if the two payments were synchronized. Thus the redemption next year will total 70 millions instead of 50.

As for the Municipal loan on account of the purchase of the Tokyo Railway, there was some talk of paying the money by instalments to avoid disturbing the market, but as this plan would oblige the Municipality to pay interest to the foreign lenders as well as to the Japanese shareholders, it has been decided that the money shall be handed over to the Bank of Japan which will issue convertible notes for the amount. This does not apply, however, to the sum of 20 million *yen* which is to be devoted to extending the suburban lines. That will be paid over in April or May.

MANCHURIA.

In reading that ably conducted and generally trustworthy journal, the *Kokumin Shimbum*, one has to remember that the tone of the paper has been anti-Republican ever since the outbreak of the trouble in the Yangtze Valley, and that strong-minded writers are apt to become more stubborn, the greater the volume of hostile opinion they encounter. Our Tokyo contemporary now publishes a clever and evidently sincere article entirely in favour of a limited monarchy as better suited to Chinese conditions than a republic, and produces a good deal of evidence already historical, to show that Viceroy Chao is 'only simulating acquiescence with Yuan Shih-kai, while at heart and in fact he is doing everything in his power to render the Manchurian situation intolerable for the Republicans. Thus, although peace has been nominally restored, we hear of troubles breaking out at Kaiyuan, Tieling and other places, and in almost every instance the men who call themselves Republicans are described by the Viceroy's officials as mounted bandits, whose extermination is a national gain. The attempts made by Yuan to replace Viceroy Chao by an official holding more convenient views have hitherto been cleverly defeated, and on the whole, if the *Kokumin* be credible, Manchuria may prove a troublesome factor to the Peking Government.

Meanwhile, Viceroy Chao has issued a proclamation informing the people of the Three Eastern Provinces that peace has been restored, and that there should be nothing to prevent perfect security of life and property. In spite of this, foreigners residing or travelling in Manchuria, seem to entertain apprehensions, which all local officials should endeavour to dispel by courteous treatment and efficient protection.

A COMMOTION IN PEKING.

The special correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbum* in Peking, writing under date of the 29th ultimo, says: "A great disturbance has just broken out in Peking. Either the Third or the Sixth Division of troops is implicated." This very brief information is all the news that has reached Tokyo thus far (Friday morning); but it may be assumed that the details will be known before we go to press.

Since the above was typed particulars have been received in Tokyo of a serious *emence* in Peking. Artillery and rifles seem to have been freely used and doubtless many lives have been lost. In all probability it will be found that the origin of the commotion was discontent with the allowances paid or promised to the troops on disbandment. But it may be that the *emence* has deeper roots and is inspired by Imperialist conspirators. In any case the event is most regrettable, for it occurs at the very moment when public peace and good order seemed to be on the point of complete restoration. Fortunately no anti-foreign feeling has thus far been developed, but it is impossible to be optimistic on that score. Already there are cries for a column of Japanese troops to save the situation and to secure the Legations. If these latter are seriously menaced, however, even the Japanese may not be able to bring succour in time. Later news speaks of Yuan Shih-kai's assassination, but the intelligence needs confirmation.

CHINESE LOANS.

The public continues to be treated to bewildering stories about this loan or that made to China. Nothing is yet certain, but it appears to be a close approximation to the truth to say that 7 million *taels* have been put up by the so called Four-Powers Syndicate as a provisional loan. The immediate object of this money is to promote the peace of the realm by assisting in the disbandment of the troops in the north and in the south. Five million goes to the north and two to the south. It need hardly be added that Nanking and Peking are consenting parties to this arrangement. The terms of the loans are essentially the same as those stipulated for in the transaction of which so much was heard last year; that is to say, the Four Power Loan against which the rights recovery party rebelled so strenuously. But it is understood that these conditions are not to be permanent. They are merely agreed upon as a temporary measure. So soon as the Provisional Government is internationally recognized, a loan of much larger dimensions will be negotiated—50 millions are spoken of in some quarters and 40 millions in others—and these seven millions now advanced will then be absorbed into the larger transaction. This version of the situation seems credible enough.

An interesting feature of this transaction is Japan's probable or improbable share. One account says that a paramount provision of the loan is that the lenders shall put in tenders for the supply of material and that the nationality of the tenders shall be definitely fixed. This would seem to exclude Japan, and of course Japan has no intention whatever of suffering herself to be excluded. It is even stated that President Yuan has been approached on the subject by the Japanese Legation in Peking, and has denied the existence of any such provision.

Shanghai also circulates a rumour about a loan of Russian money to China, the amount being 1½ million sterling and the security being the taxes now under the control of the southern leaders. This is difficult to credit.

It would further appear that the loan on the security of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company's fleet is still among possible transactions. Mr. Ferguson, financial adviser to Mr. Sheng, has just paid a visit to Kobe, with the object, it is said, of making some arrangements in the matter of this transaction.

It is pretty certain that whatever arrangements were on the tapis for foreign loans by China will be upset by the trouble in Peking, and by the almost universal state of unrest into which the whole Chinese realm has fallen. Apart from that disturbance there appear to be political objections to the loan of 1½ million sterling which Sun Yat-sen was supposed to be negotiating with the Bank of Russia. Protests against such a transaction are said to have been received from various directions, and Sun has been obliged to hold his hand.

Japanese journals state that it has been found impossible to arrange for Japanese coöperation in the Four-Powers Loan, and that another syndicate will probably be

formed by capitalists of England, France, Russia and Japan.

It is alleged that the East-Asia Enterprises Company is negotiating with the Yokohama Specie Bank for accommodation to the extent of nine million *yen*, which transaction effected, would place the Company in a position to lend to million *yen* at once. The idea is that the East-Asia Enterprises Company should figure as the sole capitalist in the Han-Ya-Ping loan.

YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Yuan Shih-kai's fortunes have shown an unexpected development. He is unable to leave the office of the Headquarter Staff, where, as already related, he took refuge during the night of the 29th ultimo. The troops of the Third Division, which formed his special command, are said to be enraged against him, as they lay at his door the responsibility of all the decapitations and shootings that took place among their comrades when order was in process of restoration. They are therefore bent upon taking revenge and Yuan does not venture to quit the shelter of the Headquarter Staff.

Meanwhile, the Nanking Cabinet has evidently not lost its confidence in Yuan. On the contrary, it has intimated to Peking that the request for Yuan to repair to Nanking in order to receive investiture as President is withdrawn, since he evidently cannot leave the capital at present. But in order to avoid delay, the Nanking Cabinet, headed by Sun, formally announces that the great seal of presidential office will be forwarded at once to the northern capital so that the ceremony of investing Yuan may be carried out forthwith. It will be seen from this fact that Yuan remains supreme as ever. Indeed Dr. Sun Yat-sen is said to have explicitly exonerated Yuan from all responsibility for the recent terrible occurrences, and to have declared his unshaken confidence in the capacity of the new President to deal with the situation. Sun avers that Yuan could not possibly have foreseen or provided against the unhappy events which have marked the inauguration of a Republican polity in China. He insists that not a day should be lost in carrying out the original programme, and he therefore urges that the ceremony of investing Yuan as Provisional President should be performed without delay in Peking. In pursuance of this programme, Sun himself has announced his readiness to set out for Peking at the head of a body of troops, and to entrust the duty of preserving order in the Yangtze Valley during his absence to the Vice-President, General Li. Sun Yat-sen is certainly showing himself a most loyal statesman in all circumstances. His record may fairly be said to stand at the head of that of all his contemporaries.

Meanwhile a difficulty has occurred in carrying out this programme of Dr. Sun. The Nanking Cabinet has ordered General Lan to move on Peking as an integral part of the southern garrison of that city, but Yuan objects to Lan's coming as likely to lead to fresh complications. How this difference of opinion will be reconciled there is as yet no indication, but the Nanking Government is making rapid preparations to transport the troops at Chefoo and those at Shanghai to the Metropolitan Province, so as to recover the control of the situation there.

THE TOYO STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Some time ago several of the minor shareholders of the Toyo S.S. Company instituted proceedings against the Board of Directors on the ground that they had paid an illegal dividend while the Company was still actually in debt. The Directors, instead of meeting this issue on its merits, entered a plea that the complaining share-holders were not legally entitled to take such action. An interlocutory judgment was obtained in their favour by the Directors, but being appealed from, has now been set aside, and the higher court has ruled that such action may be taken by shareholders whatever be the comparative amount of their holding. It remains to be seen whether this judgment will be challenged before the court of cassation. If it is challenged there will be another period of suspense; but if it is allowed to stand, the Company will be placed in a very disadvantageous position. To ordinary outsiders it will certainly appear proper that no company should declare any dividend as long as its debts are not fully discharged.

Counsel for the Toyo S.S. Company has appealed to the court of cassation on the judgment of the appeal court, which judgment amounted to a decision that even one shareholder of a publicly organized enterprise can compel a public investigation into all the affairs of the Company. The share-holder in this case is Mr. Kokubo, whose interest in the question is limited to the value of two or three shares. His contention is that a company cannot lawfully pay a dividend until all its debts are discharged, whereas the Directors of the Company insist that such a question must be passed by a majority of share-holders. The case is watched with great interest, for whatever be the decision of the Court of Cassation an important principle is at stake.

MONEY AND CHINA.

It was not difficult to foresee that the immediate results of the recent troubles in Peking would be to shake the confidence of the foreign Powers in China's self-governing capacity, and to render it evident that her financial affairs must be taken under closer scrutiny than ever by outside States. In fact, China's indebtedness to the Occident and to Japan will be enormously increased in the sequel of recent occurrences, while, on the other hand, the value of her guarantees will be seriously diminished. She must be provided with an immense sum of money and the security she can give will command very much less confidence than before. In a word, no State can henceforth undertake to lend money to China without the guarantee of other States similarly circumstanced, and thus it becomes automatically necessary that all should work together for financial purposes. We are not surprised to learn, therefore, that even the celebrated Four-Powers Syndicate appreciates the necessity of admitting Japan and Russia to the circle of China's creditors, and it may almost be said that the Occident and Japan will have to constitute themselves into a species of receivership over the Chinese estate. The Washington Note is obtaining justification every day for wisdom and foresight.

PEKING.

At last it is possible to report the restoration of tranquillity in Peking. Some sporadic robberies are still taking place in the suburbs outside the walls, but on the whole, these are insignificant. The Japanese quarter has been effectively patrolled throughout by Japanese troops, and security of life and property has thus been obtained, not only for the Japanese residents but also for the Chinese incidentally. It is stated that the Chinese who thus benefited vicariously by the care of the Japanese, are loud in their expression of thanks to the latter.

There have been some unexpected developments in connexion with the riots. Thus it will be remembered that in the early days of the insurrection, Yuan Shih-kai, being doubtful of the loyalty of the Imperial Guards, caused them to remove their headquarters to a position outside the walls, where it would be difficult for them to strike a blow on account of the Manchu Dynasty. Their place inside the city was given to the Third Division, which was supposed to be thoroughly reliable in Yuan's interests. But, after all, it was by the same Third Division that the pillage of the city was commenced, whereas the Guards showed themselves faithful to the cause of law and order. It is related that in consequence of this development the Guards petitioned to be allowed to return to the city, as their wives and children were residing there, thus being far removed from the reach of any succour by their male relatives. Yuan, in consideration of this petition, allowed three thousand of the Guards to return to the city, being apprehensive that a larger number might incite the Third Division to hostilities. Another unexpected development was that the troops of Chiang Kwei-ti, who were the object of much suspicion in the days before the riots, acquitted themselves loyally and staunchly when the trouble arose.

It appears that the First Division, which has its headquarters at Changkiakow, is circumstanced similarly to the Guards. The men wish to return to Peking to protect their homes, but Yuan is unwilling that this movement should be made on a large scale lest the Changkiakow Division should combine with the Guards to take vengeance on the men of the Third Division.

Meanwhile, it is said that numbers of men who deserted their colours for the sake of loot, are returning to Peking by twos and threes, hoping to evade observation in the confusion. Several of them have been apprehended, and it is expected that they will be executed without mercy.

CHOSEN.

A telegram from Seoul says that the magisterial inquiry has ended in establishing a *prima facie* case against Baron Yung, and that he has been sent forward for trial in open court. Nothing is said, however, as to the probable date of the trial. Before long, however, we may now count on receiving accurate intelligence as to the details of a plot which will doubtless be found to have been greatly exaggerated by rumour. In the ultimate interests of justice there can be little doubt about the wisdom of observing secrecy in preliminary investigations, as is the Japanese custom, but it is equally certain that rumour finds in this system constant opportunity to be expansive.

YUAN AND FOREIGN POWERS.

There can be no doubt that President Yuan has lost much prestige by the riots, but it is equally certain that a long interval separates him from any possible successor to his place and power. He stands so far above any of his contemporaries in the matter of opportunity and successful utilization of it, that although he has to descend to a lower rung of the ladder of fame, he is still conspicuously above his environment. The foreign Powers appreciate that he is the only man competent to make a pretence of dealing with the situation, and it is said that even the missionary body are disposed to make excuses for him and to exonerate him from serious blame in connexion with the recent catastrophes. The fact is that union is more than ever necessary to the foreign Powers in dealing with the Chinese problem. Interests already vested have to be secured, and in order to secure them, fresh interests on an even larger scale have to be created. There is talk now of lending China at least 400 million taels, and we cannot doubt that fully that sum, if not a good deal more, will be needed to restore her to the condition of solvency. Moreover, there can no longer be any serious idea of making differentiations for the purposes of a loan. Japan and Russia, will have to be admitted on the same terms as every other State. Indeed rumour says that this fact has already received practical recognition, and that negotiations have commenced on that hypothesis. It is also stated that President Yuan thoroughly appreciates the situation. Our readers know that he sent Tang Shao-i to the Japanese Legation to specially thank the Tokyo Government for its uniformly circumspect demeanour throughout the complications of the last few months, and to solicit a continuance of the same impartial friendliness. It would seem, in fact, that Japanese diplomacy is beginning to get the credit for wisdom, in spite of the impatient attitude shown by agitators whose names we need not mention.

AN ADROIT EXCUSE.

Certainly it must be confessed that Yuan Shih-kai shows great adroitness in extricating himself from a difficult situation. His apology for the recent riots is a masterpiece of cleverness from a Chinese point of view. He sets out by lamenting that the inauguration of a Republican Government in China should have been disfigured by such a commotion, and he goes on to say that from information and inspection he had assured himself that there need be no anticipation of a renewal of the riots. On this point he invites confidence. Everybody knows, he continues, that he himself was only too anxious to comply with the desire of the Southern leaders that he should visit Nanking. But it must now be quite apparent that his absence from the metropolis is forbidden by circumstances, and he is therefore reluctantly obliged to remain in Peking.

This document is justly regarded as an evidence of Yuan's ability to extract good out of evil. But we regret to observe that by some Japanese—very few we should hope—the recent riots in the Metropolitan Province are regarded as having been deliberately planned by Yuan to bring about the very result which he now announces, namely, his own inability to proceed to Nanking. Such

suspicious ought not to be entertained unless in the presence of convincing proof, and in this case, instead of convincing proof, we have only conjecture.

It need hardly be said that Peking is now finally indicated as the metropolis of China. That result has cost heavily to attain, but it has been certainly attained. According to present appearances, Sun Yat-sen himself will proceed from Nanking bearing the seal of investiture for the new President. Thus, on the whole, the riots will have one redeeming feature, namely expediting the organization of the Provisional Government.

THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH AGAIN.

Action which appears to be at least premature has brought the North and the South into danger of a fresh collision in China. The Southern leaders, not unnaturally impressed with the necessity of taking rapid steps to restore public peace and good order in the cities of the Metropolitan Province, appear to have issued prompt orders that the forces under General Lan at Chiefoo, and a strong column from Wuchang, should be despatched immediately to the North. It is even alleged that General Lan, who is nothing if not speedy, has already shipped a battalion of troops, and the transports bearing them have been sighted in the Bay of Pechili. This step is viewed with great apprehension by Yuan Shih-kai and his colleagues in Peking, and they have telegraphed urgently recommending suspension of the operation. In tendering this counsel Yuan points out that the riots in Pechili have no political significance whatever, whereas the public will be invited to read such a meaning into them if a Southern army be hastened to the Metropolitan Province to restore order. On the other hand, from Nanking's point of view the distinction between the South and the North has ceased to exist. Both are equally interested in securing their countrymen's lives and properties. The possibility of a somewhat serious complication in connexion with this step is spoken of.

MR. SUNG CHIAO-JEN.

One of the most prominent men among the delegates sent from Nanking to Peking in connexion with the establishment of a Provisional Government is Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, whose name has even been mentioned for the portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the new Cabinet. He cannot be credited with much discretion, however, if the *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent correctly reports an interview with him. Mr. Sung is there represented as speaking in terms distinctly disparatory of Yuan's statecraft. He admits that Yuan is resourceful and resolute, but in point of judgment he denies his right to rank very high. Especially in his treatment of the Japanese, Yuan is censured by Sung. The attitude assumed by Peking towards Japan was very different throughout from the attitude of Nanking, and only now is Yuan recognizing his error.

From this interview we learn incidentally that the delegates had all their documents destroyed in the riot in Peking, and that they will have to return to Nanking to repair the loss. It is said that Mr. Sung may ultimately be sent to Japan, but in what capacity we do not yet learn.

JAPANESE TROOPS.

A telegram from Takamatsu to the *Asahi Shimbun* says that preliminary orders have been received at the headquarters of the Eleventh Division for the organization of a flying column, consisting of one company from each regiment. That would mean only four companies in all, and though such a force might be sufficient to deal with any special emergency, it seems remarkably small, and obviously cannot be intended for general purposes. Our readers will remember that some time ago the Twelfth Division, which has its headquarters at Kokura, was said to have been instructed to hold itself in readiness for over-sea service. Since then nothing more is heard about this Division.

The *Asahi Shimbun*, writing in the context of the above intelligence, urges that the greatest possible circumspection should be observed in using Japanese troops for service in China at this juncture. Our contemporary justly notes that after all, whether they be orderly or riotous, soldiers are the ultimate guardians of public peace in their own country, and they may fairly resent any attempt by foreign troops to deprive them of that function. The protection of foreign life and property in China is another matter. There foreign Powers have a reasonable pretext for interference, but to go beyond that natural mandate is a step which should be avoided as far as possible.

It must be admitted that the Japanese press has shown itself remarkably circumspect and moderate in dealing with this problem of foreign intervention.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY.

The affairs of the Tokyo Railway seem destined to be a perpetual source of discussion and disagreement. In our recent issue we explained that the enterprise was expected to leave enough profit for paying off the whole of its purchase money in the course of a few years, but this calculation was based on the assumption that a large income would be derived from the electric-light portion of the business. The public is now invited to believe that the men who compiled these figures were ignorant of the very elements of arithmetic, and that the profits which they foresaw, and which were based upon actual returns spread over a number of years, had no existence in reality. We do not reproduce these figures since they would only bewilder our readers. It will suffice to say that the whole operation undertaken by the Municipality when it purchased the Railway Company's property, is impugned as false arithmetic, the error of which ought to have been patent to the Municipal officials from the outset. We are further asked to believe that Tokyo and its affairs are managed by a veritable Tammany-Hall clique.

THE QUESTION OF FINANCE.

Quite an animated controversy is springing up about the statement made by the Governor of the Bank of Japan at the recent banking reunion, namely, that the prices of commodities are not affected by the volume of convertible notes in circulation. The Minister of Finance is understood to hold that prices are influenced by this factor, and the Governor of the Bank denies that such is the case. At present the balance

of opinion seems to be against the Governor. But it is impossible to read the remarks of various newspapers without a suspicion that some confusion exists between convertible and inconvertible notes. This question has been studied by political economists in the Occident, and the conclusion arrived at by them is that people can not be forced to take or put into circulation a greater volume of convertible paper than they actually need, and that consequently the question of prices does not depend upon that feature of the currency.

THE "KEIJO SHIMPO."

The newspaper known as the *Seoul News* (*Keijo Shimpō*) has achieved a record which is never likely to be equalled, still less surpassed. It has been suspended twenty times and suppressed ten times. The eleventh sentence of suppression has now been pronounced against it, and there is said to be a good deal of sympathy with the journal. It is not possible to form a clear judgment on the rights or wrongs of such a case without full evidence. But judging from Count Terauchi and his methods we have no hesitation in saying that any newspaper conducted with ordinary circumspection and a modicum of justice would never have received such treatment at the hands of the Governor-General. The same knowledge enables us to say that Count Terauchi is not in the least likely to be turned from his proper course by popular clamour.

THE EXHIBITION.

There seems to be a prospect that 1917 will be an exhibition year after all in Japan. The Tokyo Aldermen are taking council on the subject, and have practically decided that something must be done to mark the fiftieth year of the Emperor's reign. Their idea is to hold an exhibition the scope of which, instead of being limited by the name "Tokyo" shall be expanded into "The Imperial City." This choice of title would bring the provinces into the circle of contributors, and would thus secure a worthy result. The idea is to limit the expenditure to 10 million yen, of which 3 millions would be furnished by the Government, and 7 by the Municipality. The site will be at Aoyama, which was destined to be the locality of the great exhibition originally planned.

TOKYO.

There is much talk in Tokyo about Municipal outlays already in sight. These outlays total a very large figure, and the source from which funds are to be obtained is indistinct. Thus, 22 million yen are needed for completing the electric trains; 25 millions for raising the number of electric-lights to one million; 5¼ millions for drainage purposes, and smaller sums for City Improvement and the dredging of the Sumida-gawa. The result is that fully 60 millions are needed in the course of the next three or four years. But out of the 90 millions recently obtained abroad, 62 millions have to be paid to the tram company, so that only 28 millions remain for the purpose tabulated above. The Municipal Authorities are reported to have decided to finance these transactions by recourse to the home money-market as occasion offers.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

A telegram reaching Tokyo reports that Tang Shao-i, acting under the instructions of Yuan Shih-kai, asked the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking for armed assistance in the suppression of the riots but the *Corps Diplomatique* rejected the request. The *Tokyo Asahi* learns that the *Corps Diplomatique* rejected the solicitation for three reasons, namely, because the request was made by Tang Shao-i in his private capacity, because the *Corps Diplomatique* is persuaded of the advisability of refraining from any action savouring of interference, and because the suppression by foreign troops might provoke an anti-foreign feeling among the Chinese, which would render the situation more critical and finally necessitate the dispatch of a body of troops. Further developments may call forth the necessity for the maintenance of order in Peking by foreign troops, but at present the Governments of the various Powers have decided to restrict their sphere of action to the protection of their own nationalities.

Our contemporary also reports that the Japanese troops in Peking and Tientsin do not exceed 1,000, exclusive of the railway guards. Those now stationed in Peking number only 500, inclusive of the detachment sent there from Tientsin. The number is hopelessly inadequate to meet requirements, especially as the disturbances have spread to Tientsin. Marquis Saloni, Minister-President, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, sat in conference on the 3rd instant, when it was decided to dispatch to Peking a portion of the Manchurian garrison (the detachment stationed at Liaoyang) which is to be replenished by the soldiers of the Fifth Division. The Government will also mobilize the whole of the Twelfth Division in North China if further developments necessitate this step.

The War authorities calculate the foreign troops in Tientsin prior to their removal to Peking to number approximately as under:—Japanese, 800-900; British, 1,100-1,200; French, 700-800; American, 70-80; Russian, about 100; German, about 100 in addition to a small number of Italian, Austrian and Belgian soldiers.

DEATH OF COUNT WASHIO.

The death is announced, after protracted illness, of Count Washio Ryushu, the sad event taking place at his residence on the 8th instant. He was seventy-one years of age.

The deceased nobleman was born of an illustrious house and was related to H.H. Prince Arisugawa, Prince Sanjo and Shijo and other prominent noblemen. He played a brilliant part in the Restoration. Shortly before that event he rose in arms, jointly with Counts Tanaka and Kagawa and others, against the Bakufu, and unfurled the Imperial banner on Mount Koya in the province of Kil. Thence a daring attempt was made to capture the castle of Osaka, the Bakufu's base of operations in the West. After the Restoration he held the governorship of Wakamatsu and Aichi and rose to be First Secretary of War and Vice-Minister for Public Affairs, being finally appointed a member of the Senate. Since the abolition of the Senate he has lived in retirement, living the latter half of his life in obscurity and poverty.

CHINA LOANS.

THE POSITION OF JAPAN.

With reference to the China loan question, a certain Government authority is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* as saying that various rumours have for some months past been current concerning a China loan. The much-talked of Four Powers' loan had for its object the acquisition of some interests in China which were calculated to seriously affect the Manchurian question, and it therefore provoked a strong protest from Russia and Japan. The public are apt to mix up the loan with the Six Powers' loan, now being negotiated to raise an administrative fund, and there are some critics who even go so far as to declare that Japan has been left out in the cold. This is, however, a gross error. The Six Powers' loan is intended to relieve the financial distress of China, and Japan is a party to the negotiations. The Six Powers, that is Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Russia and Japan, at first hesitated to accept the loan as it was feared it might be used for war purposes, which would unduly protract the settlement of the situation. Inasmuch, however, as it has now become clear that the North and South have no intention to continue the war, it is plain that the loan will be used exclusively for financing the administration, so that it is possible that the negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion. It is a matter of impossibility for Japan to be left out in the cold concerning any loan negotiations with China.

THE POSITION OF JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

A Peking dispatch to the *Fiji Shimpō* reports that Yuan Shih-kai's Government has appealed to the foreign banks for advances of half a million to a million *taels*, to relieve the financial distress, and that the appeal has had the effect of accelerating the progress of the negotiations for the Six Powers' loan. The delay in the final settlement of the question is due to the uncertainty as to Russia's attitude. The Peking authorities announce that Russia still reserves a definite reply, on the ground that while there is the Russo-Asiatic Bank, its capital is simply drawn from French and Belgian sources, and Russia does not possess a representative organ for her own capitalists. This accounts for the delay in a definite settlement of the negotiations for the loan and the part payment in advance.

The Ministers of the Four Powers concerned met in conference on the 5th instant, when the British Minister proposed that the question of the loan and its part payment should be discussed after a definite answer had been received from Russia. The French Minister argued that in view of the question being already settled in principle, it was unnecessary to await the consent of the Russian authorities and financiers. It was advisable to grant China the advances in order to enable Yuan Shih-kai to suppress the disturbances as soon as possible. The conference came to a close without any decision being arrived at. The negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion when Russia decides upon her attitude. The Ministers of the Four Powers are unanimously of the opinion that if financial aid be given to Yuan Shih-kai at the present juncture, the situation will be solved

without delay and a stable government will come into existence. Thus the prospects for the loan are bright. The Four Powers have not yet opened formal negotiations with the Japanese Minister concerning the loan, though Japan has been unofficially approached by the British Minister with the proposal, and it is officially announced that Japan has consented to participate in the loan. The Russian Legation has, up to the present, received no instruction from its home Government.

The *Fiji Shimpō* reports in this context that the negotiations for a political loan are making steady progress, so much so that five million *yen* is about to be paid to China in advance. It is clear that Russia and Japan cannot shut their eyes to the loan, which has a grave political significance for the future of China, and the Four Powers Syndicate will also not deliberately leave the two countries out in the cold. Even if the Syndicate be disposed to exclude the two countries, the Governments of the Four Powers would not endorse that view. Moreover an international agreement exists between Great Britain, France, Germany, the United States, Russia and Japan, that any political loan to China should be undertaken jointly by the six Powers. From the standpoint of Russia and Japan the question is whether they should participate in the loan, or reserve to themselves the right of participation. That the Chinese Government entered into negotiations with the Four Powers Syndicate concerning the loan, and that the Syndicate responded to the proposal without consulting the views of the two countries, was simply a matter of expediency, and it is erroneous to think that they meant to deliberately exclude the two countries from the loan. The advances already made to the Nanking Government, and the new advances to be made, are to be included in a larger loan to be negotiated in the near future.

In view of the current situation in North China, the Four Powers' Syndicate has evidently recognized the necessity of having Russia and Japan participate in the loan, and has, therefore, forwarded to the two countries the conditions of the loan agreed upon with the Chinese Government, inviting their participation. Not only is it an imperative necessity for the Japanese Government to have equal interests in the loan, but in view of the peculiar position Japan occupies in China, the Government may naturally have a special request to make concerning the loan and, therefore cannot unhesitatingly accept the proposals of the syndicate. Inasmuch, however, as it has been found that the conditions agreed to by the four Powers' syndicate are not at variance with Japan's wishes, the Government has eventually decided to participate in the loan, and is now in negotiations with Russia. Some days must necessarily elapse before the two countries give a definite answer to the Four Powers' Syndicate. The political loan is thus settled. Besides this question, the matter of participating in the Four Powers' Syndicate is now being discussed by the cabinet. The question is, whether it is advisable for Japan and Russia to join the Syndicate for jointly undertaking a domestic economic loan that China may desire to raise in future, or form an independent Russo-Japanese syndicate for economic activity in China in future. The question is now being carefully studied, and on a decision being arrived at, it

is believed that the problem of Article 16 of the Four Powers' loan contract, against which Russia and Japan jointly protested last year, will be solved in some form or other, and consequently the position of Russia and Japan in Manchuria will be definitely settled.

THE HANYA-PING LOAN.

From Kobe comes news that Mr. Takagi, who has from the beginning been assisting to bring the negotiations for the Han Ya Ping Corporation's loan to a successful conclusion, arrived there on the 15th. According to reliable information a provisional contract for the loan was signed and 2,500,000 dollars were delivered in cash as part payment on January 29th last. The corporation is to be run as a joint enterprise by the Chinese and Japanese capitalists subject to the following conditions:—

The capital shall be fixed at 30 million dollars, to be subscribed by Chinese and Japanese capitalists in equal proportions. The paid up capital of 13 million dollars shall be assessed at 15 million dollars and shares be issued for the balance—2,000,000 dollars—the larger number of which are to be apportioned to shareholders in Hupoh province, and the remainder to shareholders in Hunan and Kiang-si provinces.

The business period of the new corporation is fixed at thirty years in conformity with the Mining Law of China. The Board of Directors is to be composed of eleven members, of which six are to be Chinese and five to be Japanese. The President shall be a Chinese and the Vice-President a Japanese, and four managing directors shall be elected equally from amongst the directors. Two chief accountants shall be appointed, one of them a Japanese.

This provisional contract is to hold valid, subject to the approval of the majority of shareholders, and also the approval of the Republican Government of China (government approval has already been obtained), failing which the provisional contract shall become null and void.

The representative of the Japanese capitalists is to obtain the consent of the capitalists concerned to the provisional contract within one month and notify the result to the Chinese capitalists.

THE JAPANESE FORCES IN NORTH CHINA.

The War Office issued an official announcement on Monday to the effect that, in view of an insufficiency being felt in the Japanese force in North China, in consequence of the disturbances in that region, the Government has decided to dispatch reinforcements composed of about 1,200 men, under the command of the Governor-General of Kwantung. A portion of the reinforcements have already left for Peking by train, while the other portion left by the sea route on Monday morning.

A detachment consisting of two battalions of Japanese soldiers in Manchuria embarked on board the warships *Tokiywa* and *Iwate* on the 4th instant. After landing the troops at Chinwantao, the *Tokiywa* proceeded direct to Taku to maintain communication with Peking by wireless telegraphy. Two Japanese wireless telegraph experts have been dispatched to the Italian Legation in Peking.

THE DISTURBANCE AT PEKING.

A responsible War Office authority is quoted by the *Fiji Shimpoo* as saying that the latest intelligence from China indicates that though the disturbance in Peking wears a political complexion, it is rather far-fetched to attribute it to Yuan Shih-kai's tactics. The chief cause seems to lie in the non-payment or reduction of the soldiers' pay. If so, there is a probability of the disturbance being suppressed ere long by the efforts of Yuan Shih-kai. No doubt, however, such disturbances will recur in various places for some time to come. Since the first outbreak of the revolutionary insurrection last autumn, both the Government and the insurgents have enlisted new recruits at increased pay. These recruits are to be disbanded on the restoration of peace. The latest telegrams report that both the Northern and Southern Governments have decided to reduce their armies by one half, and seven million *taiels* were remitted to the Nanking Government from Peking to cover the expense. The Nanking Government will find it rather hard work to effect in a peaceful manner the disbandment of the troops in Nanking, Wuchang, Canton and elsewhere, and it is not impossible that similar troubles will happen in other places. Quite recently the soldiery in Wuchang demanded payment of 100,000 dollars, which demand culminated in the murder of the Commander of an Army Division. The Peking Government will likewise have to face a similar problem. Simultaneously with the inauguration of the new administration the Government will naturally have to either decrease or disband the guards now maintained, and will thus have to face a no less difficult problem than that the Southern Government has to solve. It is stated that Chang Hsun stood out to the last against the revolutionists in Nanking because of disagreement about the expense required for the disbandment of the troops under his command. When this fact is taken into consideration, it may not be too much to say that troubles of this nature will recur everywhere throughout China, and there is no knowing that insurrections may not break out which the Government will find it impossible to bring under control.

OPINION OF JAPANESE OFFICIAL.

A responsible Government official is quoted by the vernacular Press as thinking that the disturbances in Peking and Tientsin are devoid of political significance. It was anticipated that disturbances of such a nature might occur in the South rather than in the North, in the middle of last month, that is before and after the Chinese New Year's day. Although the anticipation proved incorrect in point of place and date, the nature of the disturbances was similar to anticipations. The Imperial troops in Peking are better trained and paid than their *confreres* in the South, who are all new recruits enlisted from amongst the coolie class. It was therefore believed that trouble would occur in the matter of their pay before similar trouble occurred in Peking. The Imperial soldiers also, are merely mercenaries, who serve in the colours for their pay and are devoid of patriotic spirit. There is no political centre in China and the whole country is in a state of anarchy.

It seems that the disturbances were premeditated. A small section of soldiers

rose in mutiny and the others joined in plunder, until the whole town was thrown into turmoil. The latest reports show that even such a resourceful statesman as Yuan Shih-kai is at a loss what to do. It would also seem that the mob has begun to plunder foreign residents without discrimination and a fear exists of the resuscitation of the Boxer trouble, which would eventually necessitate the Governments of the various foreign Powers taking measures commensurate with the emergency. The presumption that the disturbances may spread far and wide in China is undeniable, as it is quite natural that undisciplined revolutionary soldiers should follow suit. If such a situation develops all over China, the future prospects of the Government are indeed gloomy.

THE OKURA LOAN.

DETAILS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain authority on Chinese affairs as saying that the Okura firm at first intended to lend the Suchow Chekiang Railway Companies the sum of seven million *yen* on the security of the Shanghai, Ningpo railway, but, acting on the advice of a certain party, accepted a three million *yen* loan on the security of the Suchow railway, which forms a part of the Shanghai-Ningpo Railway. In view of the protest lodged by the British Government, the Foreign Office subsequently ordered the firm to suspend payment of the balance of the loan. The matter has given rise to numerous public comments. The latest intelligence has it that British capitalists are negotiating with the Magistrate of Chekiang province for a four million *yen* loan on the security of the Chekiang railway, a part of the Shanghai Ningpo road.

When the Okura firm was first approached with the proposal for a loan on the security of the whole of the Shanghai-Ningpo railway, the firm was ready to respond to the proposal, but a certain party who is reported to have the loan matter in hand gave the firm advice that, inasmuch as British capital is invested on the Chekiang portion of the Railway, and the rights are firmly established in that direction, any attempt to lend money on the security of that portion would be sure to meet with a protest. The firm would therefore be well advised to accept the loan on the security of the Suchow portion excluding that part of the railway lying in Chekiang province. As a matter of fact no difficulty existed in accepting the whole of the Shanghai-Ningpo Railway as security for the loan, but in view of the above advice the firm was compelled to limit the loan to three million *yen* on the security of the Suchow portion.

Great Britain acquired by the convention of 1908 the right of laying a railway from Suchow to Ningpo *via* Hang-chow, but no attempt had ever been made to commence the construction. In the meantime a scheme was mooted amongst the Chinese to build the railway with domestic capital, and the Suchow Railway Company was organized with a capital of 10 million dollars. The line between Shanghai and Fengchiao, extending for 43 miles, was then laid. The Chinese capitalists in Chekiang province likewise formed a Chekiang Railway Company with a capital of 40 million dollars, and commenced laying a line from Fengchiao to Hang-

chow, a distance of 71 miles. Thereupon the British Government lodged with China a strong protest, and, as a result, acquired in 1908 the right of lending the Department of Communications capital amounting to £1,500,000 sterling for laying the whole line between Shanghai and Ningpo, *via* Hanchow. It differed from other railway loan contracts in that China reserved to herself the right of construction and all other management and also in that the revenue of the intra and extramural railways formed the security for the loan. There is reason to believe that the Department of Communications borrowed about £100,000 sterling according to the contract, but it seems equally certain that the money was appropriated to some other purposes, not a penny of it being spent on the railway. The Shanghai-Ningpo railway is thus the property of the two private railway companies, and as such the Okura firm was at liberty to lend money on the security of the railway. It was, therefore, a misfortune for the firm that it listened to worthless advice and limited its loan to less than half of the sum originally proposed. So soon as the Okura firm had withdrawn from the Chekiang side of the railway, the Magistrate of that province approached the British capitalists with a proposal for a four million *yen* loan to replenish the war fund, offering the Chekiang railway as security, and the negotiations bid fair to be successfully concluded.

THE CHINESE IN JAVA.

An official dispatch reaching the Dutch Consulate-General in Shanghai concerning the rumoured maltreatment of Chinese in Java, states that the newspaper reports are exaggerated, and incorrect. The Dutch police authorities never objected to the hoisting of the five coloured Republican flag. As a matter of fact the police interfered with some Chinese rioters who attacked and plundered the private residences of the police-inspectors in Charge of Chinese Affairs. (These police officers are descendants of Chinese, and their special duty is to mediate between the Dutch authorities and the Chinese residents.) Their houses were attacked because they refused to hoist the five-coloured flag. The mob was anarchical in character. The closing of the Chinese shops was not enforced by the Dutch authorities, but the shop-keepers voluntarily closed their doors for fear of plunder by the mob. The leader of the mob was a Chinese who recently arrived from Macao. The Dutch authorities had a friendly feeling towards the Chinese Republic, and in spite of the fact that the Republic was not officially recognized by various Powers, they consented to the hoisting of the Republican flag in Java. It behoved the Chinese residents in Dutch India to refrain from any act of violence, so as not to disgrace their national flag. During the row a Chinese was killed and two others wounded. They were the men who attacked and plundered Chinese shops. The whole affair was nothing but a private dispute amongst the Chinese residents themselves, and the police authorities only interfered to protect peaceful Chinese residents and restore peace and order in the town.

The death is announced of William Storer, the old Derbyshire wicket-keeper, who played against the Australians.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE TREATY.

OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

The following official explanation of the new Franco-Japanese Treaty, the text of which we published in last Friday's issue, has been given by the Foreign Office:—

In the new Commercial Treaty, minute provisions are made in the Protocol regarding the Tariff Convention, in which the duties applicable to the French articles mentioned in the appended Customs Tariff A, and to Japanese articles mentioned in the Customs Tariff B, are specified. A provision is also made that increase of the whole or part of the duties is only applicable to articles of either of the contracting parties five months after the announcement of the revision. That is to say—the French Government guarantees to give Japan five months' notice in case of any increase in the minimum duties specified in the present tariff concerning six tariff numbers on *habutae*, *habutae*-handkerchiefs and lacquer ware, mentioned in the Conventional Tariff B, in consideration for which the Japanese Government stipulates to decrease the Customs duties by 33 to 91 per cent. (the German-Japanese new conventional tariff is followed regarding the duty on woollen yarns), on sardines in oil, natural butter, wines, champagnes, olive oil, soap, scents, muslin, binocular glasses, automobiles and parts thereof, and knitting machines, covering altogether fifteen tariff numbers, and also guarantees to give five months' notice in case the duties are increased.

The contracting parties are thus at liberty to raise at any time the whole or part of the duties by giving five months' notice and also to abrogate the Protocol at five months' notice.

Not only can either of the contracting parties take the initiative in the increase or abrogation of the conventional tariff, but there exists also a provision whereby either of them can abrogate it, or in other words, either of the contracting parties can invalidate its tariff simultaneously with an increase of duties by the other.

The reservation of the right to deal with the conventional tariff at such short notice is owing to circumstances which compel the French Government to make this arrangement, but the reservation does not necessarily imply that its practical application is anticipated.

In the Conventional Tariff B, a column is provided to show the percentage of the Japanese statutory tariff, by which the duties applicable to French articles can be worked out. This precaution was taken, because, if the conventional tariff applicable to French articles alone were stipulated, the Japanese Government would experience a difficulty when it desired to increase its duties, and inasmuch as a conventional tariff can be created by treaty, the Japanese Government would not be able to exercise the freedom reserved by the Protocol for the increase of the duties, and thus the said provision would be of use to the French Government alone, remaining a dead letter so far as the Japanese Government is concerned. It was therefore considered necessary to define the basis on which the duties applicable to French articles could be worked out according to a definite percentage on the statutory tariff (that is, the percentage obtained by dividing the tariff rate applicable to French articles by the revised tariff rate), so that the

increase of the Japanese statutory tariff on the articles mentioned in the conventional tariff means an increase of the duties applicable to French articles.

Such an example exists in the Franco-Nicaraguan Commercial Treaty of 1902, the Anglo-French Commercial Treaty relating to Ceylon of 1903, the Franco-Haitian Commercial Treaty of 1907 and the American-Cuban Treaty of 1902.

Although the tariff number of the articles covered by the conventional tariff in the new commercial treaty comprise fifteen numbers of the Japanese statutory tariff as against six of the French tariff, whereas the annual import of French articles enjoying the benefit of the conventional tariff amounts to 2,100,000 *yen* (of which the import of woollen yarns, which is covered by the German-Japanese conventional tariff, amounts to 550,000 *yen*), the export to France of Japanese articles covered by the conventional tariff amounted to 6,130,000 *yen* in the two years 1908-9 in the Japanese trade returns, the net import in these two years being put at 3,100,000 *yen* in the French Official statistics.

Of French articles covered by the new conventional tariff, wines, champagne, soap, scents, woollen yarn, muslin, binocular glasses and others, which cover nine tariff numbers, are those included in the old Franco-Japanese conventional tariff, but the new duties are higher by over 40 per cent. than the old rates, while sardines in oil, natural butter, olive oil, automobiles and parts thereof and knitting machines, which cover six tariff numbers were not included in the old conventional tariff. The duties on olive oil, automobiles, and parts thereof and knitting machines are somewhat lower than those specified in the old statutory tariff. Inasmuch as these four articles are not yet manufactured in Japan, the reduction in the tariff will in no way affect domestic industry.

THE STATE OF CHINA.

VIEW OF JAPANESE JOURNAL.

A belief obtains in a certain reliable quarter, writes the *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent, that the terrible occurrences in Peking are a prelude to a general upheaval that may occur throughout China at any time. Great anxiety is felt as to the extent of such an upheaval, in view of the shocking deeds perpetrated right under the nose of Yuan Shih-kai. Murder, robbery and other excesses are now taking place throughout China, but only a few instances reach our ears. The fact that such excesses are rampant gives clear evidence that the country is in a state of lawlessness. This, of course, is not surprising, as it has been more than once predicted that all the provinces would fall into a state of anarchy after the cessation of the war. An act of a pre arranged drama has just been played. Disturbances have suddenly occurred in Peking in the presence of 15,000 soldiers, under the personal supervision of Yuan Shih-kai. If these disturbances had occurred in some other town not guarded by Yuan Shih-kai's men, what would have been the probable consequences? Presuming that they had proceeded to Honan, Mukden or other places by train, what would their object be? They would certainly have committed plunder with impunity. Those who would so con-

duct themselves are not limited to these 15,000 men, but such soldiers roaming over the country may be counted by thousands. If these men committed plunder for several hours and set houses on fire in such a place as Peking, it is easily imaginable that several thousand malcontents would join them in spoliation and crime, and if they have proceeded to plunder the property of the delegates of the Nanking Government as well as foreign residents, it would be sufficient to show that China is in a chaotic state of anarchy. Yuan Shih-kai acted properly when he expressed apology for neglect of duty. When the disturbances broke out, Yuan and other responsible authorities were at a loss what to do. Later information has it that Yuan promised a special reward to soldiers doing their duty. He would do well to issue an order for the recalcitrant soldiers to be severely dealt with. The momentous question of the time is the problem of the disbandment of the troops, as it may positively lead to very serious consequences, if due care be not taken in the matter.

Yuan has given his pledge against the recurrence of such a disturbance as is now witnessed in Peking, but however sincere he may be in his intentions, it is clear that he cannot keep such a pledge. Did not incendiarism and pillage recur in the western part of the city on the night following the day on which the pledge was given? If Yuan and his Ministry fail to adopt drastic measures at the present moment, disturbances of greater magnitude may happen, which would call for foreign interference immediately, and Yuan must take the consequences. It is well to try for peace in a fever of upheaval and unrest, but it would be better still to look at the other side of the problem and study the measures to meet actual requirements. The facts lead to the conclusion that China is now in a critical condition and it would be well for the various Powers to study measures to prepare for emergencies. While we confidently believe that Yuan and other Chinese authorities are cudgelling their brains to suppress the disorder with a determined hand, it seems evident that China is rotten to the core, since otherwise such disturbances as we now witness in Peking would never have happened.

OPENING OF NEW LINE.

The Hamasaka-Kadzumi section of the Sanin Western line, extending for 10 miles and 33 chains, work on which proved especially difficult, has now been completed and the whole line was opened to traffic from the 1st instant. The western line traverses the Sanin district, starting from Kyoto, the distance being 230 miles. The work was commenced in 1900, and has thus taken thirteen years for completion, the total cost being 29,400,000 *yen*. The railway bridge over the Hamasaka-Kadzumi section is the largest ever built in Japan, being 1,017 feet in length and 125 feet in height. The completion of the line opens a new era in communications in western Japan. A through train will be run daily between Kyoto and Imaichi and Osaka and Imaichi at a reduced fare. The trains covers the whole distance in 12 hours and 49 minutes and in 13 hours and 59 minutes respectively. The formal celebration of opening the line will probably take place in June next.

THE FOUR POWERS' LOAN.

The amount of the loan recently concluded between Yuan Shih-kai and the four Powers' syndicate was reported to be 4,000,000 *taels*, but according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the real amount is 7,000,000 *taels*, 2,000,000 of which have already been paid to the Nanking Government through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. This seven million *taels* is not an independent loan but forms a part of a larger one that is to be raised by China in future. The four Powers consented to advance 2,000,000 *taels* to Nanking and 5,000,000 *taels* to Peking in response to the appeal of Yuan Shih-kai, for the relief of the financial difficulties. The nature of the security and conditions of the loan are left unsettled. Yuan Shih-kai subsequently applied to the syndicate for further advances, especially after the outbreak of the disturbances in Peking, but the negotiations are making rather tardy progress, as confidence in Yuan Shih-kai has been shaken.

In view of the existence of the international agreement that political loans to China should be accepted jointly by Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Russia and Japan, it is thought rather unfortunate that the Four Powers alone should have advanced money to Yuan Shih-kai's Government, which is not yet officially recognized by the foreign Powers. Japan is, nevertheless, to take part in the loan and the matter is said to be under consideration. Russia's attitude remains uncertain, but as it is unthinkable that she alone will stand aloof, the six Powers will most probably join hands to bring about the conclusion of a larger loan.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The issue of six million *yen* worth of debentures of the Hokkaido Colliery Steamship Company, which was approved at the general meeting of shareholders on the 28th ult., will be announced in a few days. The debentures are believed to be allotted as under:—Directors, 300,000 *yen*; Yasuda Ginko, 800,000 *yen*; and Mitsui, 2,350,000 *yen*. The public will be invited to subscribe for the balance. The debentures carry 7 per cent. interest, and will be issued at par, the period of redemption being five years. The creditors desire to have the shares of the Japan Steel Factory as security, but the Company is now in negotiation with the creditors for unsecured debentures.

At the instance of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co. the property of Mr. Tomotsune Kokusaburo, proprietor of the Kobe Boeki Shokai, has been attached for a debt amounting altogether to 3,220,000 *yen*. The property under attachment is said to consist of movable property valued at 250,000 *yen*, a deposit in the Mitsui Bank amounting to 150,000 *yen*, and deposits in other banks amounting to about 70,000 *yen*. Thus the value of the property attached does not come up to one-tenth of the debt claimed.

We have received from Mr. C. Lacy Goodrich, General Oriental Agent, a Round-the-World Map on which are traced the trans-Pacific route of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the trans-Continental route of the Western-Pacific Railway. We need scarcely say that the map is attractively designed,

and that it gives due prominence to the features which it is intended to accentuate. Mr. Goodrich declares his willingness to send a copy of this map to any firm applying for it. There will probably be a good number of applications.

A rumour is current in Hongkong that Sir Francis Piggott, Chief Justice in Hongkong, will resign in April to accept the appointment as judicial adviser to the Chinese Republican Government and will assist Yuan Shih-kai in the judicial administration.

It is stated that Mr. Kitamura, a mechanical engineer of the Communications Department, has completed apparatus for the service of a wireless telephone. Tokyo newspapers give a technical statement as to the nature of the instrument and the manner of transmitting the current, but these points are not intelligible to the general public. It will be sufficient to say that success seems to have been achieved both at sea and on shore.

When in the course of last year the Chiyoda Gas Company sold out to the Tokyo Gas Company after months of menacing competition, the amended schedule of the Gas Company showed charges which effected a substantial cheapening of rates. It was understood at the time that these figures represented the maximum charges and consumers were contented at finding that they gained something although their profit was not as substantial as might have been expected under a system of open competition. Now, however it appears that the Tokyo Gas Company having bought up its rival, is about to inflate its schedule of charges and Tokyo finds itself confronted by another cause of complaint.

Japanese journals state that on the 11th of this month there will be laid down at Kure the keel of the most powerful battleship that has ever sailed the Eastern seas. She will have a displacement of 30,000 tons and will be called the *Fuso*, as that was the name of the first iron-clad in the Japanese navy. It is further stated that on the 16th and 17th instant respectively the keel will be laid down at Kure of an armoured cruiser, the *Haruna*, and at Nagasaki of an armoured cruiser the *Kirishima*. These two cruisers will be sister ships respectively of the *Kongō* which is now building in England, and of the *Hyūga*, which is under construction at Yokosuka. Their displacement will be 27,500 tons.

The misunderstanding in Kobe between the Chinese residents and the local officials has been happily arranged by concessions on the part of the latter. The veto upon the use of a band and the display of five-coloured flags has been withdrawn, and the sole limitation now imposed is that the procession must not pass along the tram-car route. The Chinese are said to be entirely content with this arrangement, and the procession is to take place on the 3rd inst. under the new conditions.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuvuo* reports that the Four Powers loan is to be apportioned as under:—Great Britain 20 million *taels*; the United States, France and Germany (Austria and Belgium inclusive) 10 million *taels* each. The land tax is to form the security for the loan, in addition to the concession of some railway rights. Japan

and Russia do not participate in the loan but Russia has accepted a short term loan of the Nanking Government, amounting to 3,000,000 *taels* to be used in connexion with the disbandment of the troops, while Japan has also accepted some other loan.

According to information emanating from a reliable source it seems that the Nanking Government approached the Bank of Russia in Shanghai with a proposal for a loan of £1,500,000 sterling, but the Bank refused the proposal. The representative of the Bank in Peking also received a proposal, but formal negotiations have not yet been begun.

The representative of Lan Tien-wei sent to Peking from Chiefoo has had an interview with Yuan Shih-kai, who intimated that the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Three Eastern Provinces was necessary at the present moment, when the polity of China had been decided upon, and that an instruction had been issued to the local authorities to that effect. It was, therefore, desirable that the fact should be made known to the officers and men under Lan Tien-wei in Manchuria with a view to preventing disturbances.

One of the last legacies left to the country by the *Bakufu* Government was the Shinagawa forts. These defences of the Japanese Eastern Capital were erected at great cost and in great haste, but they never served any useful purpose. The fourth of the forts has for several years back been used by the Oaki firm as a ship-building yard, and the Tokyo Harbour Investigation Committee has now decided that the forts may be sold to private individuals, on condition that they may be recovered if their existence be found to conflict with the convenience of harbour construction.

The Tokyo Harbour Investigation Committee is now considering a programme of diverting a portion of the water of the Sumida River into the Nakagawa. If this were effected, the engineers of the capital calculate that the silting up which now prevents the approach of large vessels to the mouth of the Sumida would cease, and that steamers of 500 tons might find moorings within the river. The cost of the project is estimated at about 27 million *yen*, and of course the great question is whence to obtain such a large sum.

It is reported that the *Chuvuo Daigaku*, a private law college in Tokyo, has, through the good offices of Mr. Oba, Councillor to the Department of Justice, secured at a nominal price the whole collection of law books of Dr. Wilkmeyer, an eminent authority on Criminal law. The collection is said to consist of more than eight thousand volumes, valued at forty-eight thousand *yen*. Dr. Wilkmeyer, who holds a professorship in Munchen university, was some years ago decorated by H.M. the Emperor of Japan with the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure. The professor is about to retire in June next on account of his advanced age. Mr. Oba, who was instrumental in securing the collection for the *Chuvuo Daigaku*, is a pupil of the eminent jurist.

The Japanese warships *Kasagi* and *Iwate* are now at Chinwangtao, and the *Tokiwa* at Taku, while the *Saiyū* is at Port Arthur and the *Otowa* at Chiefoo.

COLLECTORS IN TOKYO.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 5)

DURING more than thirty years after it became a convenient place of residence for foreigners, that is to say, after it was furnished with hotels in Occidental style and, with modern means of communication, Tokyo continued to labour under one conspicuous disadvantage from the tourist's point of view—it possessed no art *connoisseur* who, to a really sound knowledge of the subject added a strict sense of integrity and was prepared to place his knowledge at the service of any *bona fide* collector on professional terms. There were not wanting stores where beautiful specimens of painting, of porcelain and faience, of lacquer, of ivory and wood carving, of bronze casting, of iron chiselling and of all the associated arts might be seen in profusion. But on any indication of to becoming a purchaser, the foreign collector found himself launched on a sea of fable or falsehood. In the very city where he might have expected to find not only choice examples of Oriental art, but also honest and competent guides to distinguish the genuine from the spurious, he soon discovered that universal doubt was his only safe attitude, and that the more a *chef d'œuvre* was lauded the less did it deserve real praise. It is strange but none the less true that the permanent losses the trade suffered from the practice of such deceptions did not appeal to Japanese minds. Sometimes indeed a perception of the truth, reinforced by a natural instinct of veracity, led some store-keeper into the straight path for a time. But the difficulty of treading that path permanently proved insuperable. In the long run the market had to be adjusted to the buyer, and he, lacking competence in his own judgment, clung to the tradition of universal falsification, the result being that there were fabricated for his edification special specimens which offered all the superficial marks of age but were nevertheless procurable at prices midway between the frankly new and the truthfully old. Against such specimens the honest dealer could not compete. It was impossible for him to furnish really old masterpieces at the prices of new, and the tyro who came to buy failed to discover any reason for disbursing the difference. Osaka and even Kobe were better situated in this respect, but for thirty odd years Tokyo continued to discredit itself by supplying and selling as genuine *antiques* new articles purposely disfigured with marks of age and sold at prices midway between what they had actually cost and what they would cost if they fulfilled their owners' description of them. It is satisfactory to know that Tokyo can no longer be reproached in this respect. Some four or five years ago—we have no record of accurate dates—a thoroughly competent *connoisseur* Mr. JAEHNA opened a gallery at Hirakawa-

cho in the central part of Tokyo near the Peereases' School, and stocked it with well-chosen specimens, including many choice examples of Chinese art. We disavow all intention of advertising this collector or any other collector for the matter of that. Our purpose is merely to acquaint our readers with the resources of the city, and if in so doing we refer to anyone by name, our desire is simply to show that he has supplied a deficiency which had long been apparent in Tokyo and that the difficulty attending amateur acquisitions of works of art in that city has been removed. There has also, within the last three months, been formed a body of experts calling themselves the *Kobutsu Hyōjō sho*, (council of connoisseurs of old art objects). Its personnel and their qualifications are set forth as follows:—

PROSPECTUS OF KOBUTSU HYŌJŌSHO.

COUNCIL OF CONNOISSEURS FOR OLD OBJECTS D'ART.
No. 21 Ichome, Shio cho, Yotsuya, Tokyo, Japan.
Tel. Bancho 2387.

- I.—The Council examines all objects of art submitted for its inspection, and gives its opinion of them when desired.
- II.—Amateurs are invited to visit the Gallery of the Council where objects of art at least a century old are exhibited.
- III.—The Council makes, when desired by collectors, collections of articles classified as follows:—
Paintings and Drawings;
Porcelains and Potteries;
Lacquer ware;
Bronze and other metal wares;
Silks, Brocades, and Embroideries;
Weapons;
Archæological Articles;
Autographs, Books and Stamps.
- IV.—The Council buys and sells, for any person who desires, old objects of art.—Articles sold at the Gallery of the Council can be repurchased by the Council at a reduction of twenty per cent from the first price, if the articles are brought back within six months.

Tokyo, February, 19 2.

Administrator:—

Mr. Takuma Kuroda.

Counselors:—

Mr. E. Asabuki: Counselor of Mitsui family.

Mr. M. Genji: Member of the House of Peers.

Mr. N. Hirayama: Director-General of the Universal Exhibition.

Mr. Y. Imadsumi: Director of the Department of Art of Imperial Museums.

Mr. N. Masaki: Director of the Art School of Tokyo.

Mr. T. Matano: Director-Gen'l. of Imperial Museums.

Count N. Matsudaira.

Viscount N. Okabe: Ex-Minister of Justice.

Professor A. Okada: Counselor of Law in the Chinese Government.

Count S. Okuda.

Mr. K. Shiratori: Prof. of the Oriental History at Tokyo University.

Mr. T. Sugi: Secretary of the Universal Exhibition.

Mr. S. Tanimoto: Member of the House of Peers.

Count U. Toda: Grand Chamberlain.

Prof. S. Tsuboi: Director of the Section of Sciences of Tokyo University.

It will be observed from the names here given that we have to do with an exceptionally competent body of art connoisseurs, and we may add that the Administrator, Mr. T. KURODA, is an expert French scholar, while Mrs. KURODA speaks English as to the manner born. Tokyo has thus become rich where it used to be comparatively poor, and we are glad to assist in making the fact known.

ATHLETICS IN YOKOHAMA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 6.)

THE defeat of Yokohama, for the first time in the annals of Interport matches, in the Rugby football game with Kobe, draws attention to the fact that, if cricket and football are not to altogether disappear from the sports of Yokohama, a ground must be obtained where they can be practised with some amount of regularity. Under present circumstances it would appear that no reliance can be placed on the availability of the new ground in the Park, and this in itself is fatal to success. Spasmodic practice games will never enable Yokohama to compete on equal terms with opponents at other ports, and until the Yokohama men have a ground which is available with a moderate amount of ularity, these particular branches of athletics are likely to suffer. That there should be any degeneracy all round seems unlikely, for tennis is in full swing, and the golf links afford a mild or strenuous form of exercise according to the taste of the player. These sports, however, hardly take the place of cricket and football among the young, and it would be a great pity if the latter two games had to be abandoned for lack of available ground. At Kobe the Recreation Ground is used in common by Japanese and foreigners, and, as far as the non-resident can judge, there is never any trouble as to its availability. Experiences of last summer seem to show that this is not the case in Yokohama, although, of course, due allowance must be made for the newness of the ground and the condition of the turf. In any case, however, in the best of circumstances the use of the ground by foreign teams can only be spasmodic and, even if it is available for matches, the question of a practice ground still remains. At a recent meeting of the Amateur Rowing Club some suggestions were made as to an amalgamation with the Y.C. & A.C. for the purpose of forming what might be considered as a Country Club. As is well known, the Amateur Rowing Club's premises are held on a lease and the day is anticipated when the authorities will find themselves not in a position to renew the lease. The Club will then find itself homeless. On the principle of forestalling the evil day it was suggested that the combined clubs—the A.R.C. and the Y.C. & A.C.—with the solidarity coming from coöperation, might be strong enough to seek together a new situation where all the sports to which the two clubs are devoted could be practised, and where also those whose athletic days are past might seek refreshment and ease. The scheme is a very pleasant one, and would no doubt, if carried out, draw many new members to the combined clubs. The difficulty, at this late day, of finding a spot where aquatic sports and land sports could be practised is, however, very con-

siderable. The Rowing Club could no doubt find a spot which would suit their purposes without much difficulty, and the Y. C. & A. C., although they might have to go rather far afield, should be able to secure land suitable for their purposes. But the odds against finding a spot suitable for both objects are rather great. The attempt is worth making, but if it appears hopeless, the Y.C. & A.C. would be well advised to act for themselves alone. The question does not turn so much on a site, so far as the Y.C. & A.C. is concerned, as on money. Indeed this has been the great stumbling block on which all proposals have tumbled down. Where is the money to come from? Evidently it can only come from the pockets of the foreign residents, and sufficient inducement must be offered to the public to cause them to subscribe. Recently the foreign firms in Yokohama subscribed generously to a fund for a Memorial Hall to commemorate the jubilee of Yokohama. If it can be shown that it is also to their interests to subscribe to a fund for the establishment of a Club where their employes can take healthful exercise, there seems no reason to doubt that the money will be forthcoming. Employers are now fully alive to the fact that by keeping their employes in good trim they obtain better work from them. Athletics also provide that outlet for exuberant spirits which else may run into more dangerous courses. The trouble is that no definite proposals have been brought before the community on which action could be taken. As for individual residents, no doubt a joint club, which would provide healthful amusement for both young and old, would receive more general support. But if it is impossible to provide such a joint club, it would be well to be satisfied with a smaller venture and at least give the young men of the community a place where cricket and football could be practised regularly. If the Y.C. & A.C. and the A.R.C. were to act together in calling a public meeting of the community it would be possible to gauge how much support would be forthcoming and whether joint action was possible. A representative committee could then be formed to discuss ways and means.

TIENTSIN.

A force of 750 Japanese having arrived in Tientsin from Chingwantao, the safety of Japanese residents of that city has been assured. Many of the rioters had scattered in the environs, and it was feared that pillaging might be renewed on the 5th instant, but evidently the rioters saw no gains but much danger in any fresh disturbance. Another factor in the situation is that there is very little left to loot, the city having been practically raided or burned. No further estimates are published as to the sum of money represented by the operations of the rioters, but on the other hand, there is no contradiction of the colossal figure previously mentioned, namely, 70 million *tads*.

AN INTERESTING OPINION.

On the 6th instant, a *reunion* was held at the banquet hall in the House of Representatives in Tokyo, for the purpose of exchanging views formed by members who recently returned from visiting the Occident. Mr. Watanabe Chiyu is reported to have stated that his observations taught him to regard as a negligible quantity the lessons in statecraft which Japan has still to learn from the Occident. There is, in fact, so far as Mr. Watanabe's observations go, nothing to be acquired from the West. The art of statecraft has exhausted itself there. What Mr. Watanabe did find worthy of notice was that many men of eighty years of age or upwards, are still active in political life in Europe and America. In that respect Japan certainly has a lesson to learn from Western States.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. IKEBE.

The funeral of the late Mr. Ikebe, formerly Editor-in-chief of the *Tokyo Asahi*, took place at Aoyama Cemetery on the 4th instant, the cortege leaving his residence at Wakamatsu-cho Ushigome, at 8:30 in the morning. Over eight hundred prominent persons attended the funeral. The Casquet was carried all the way, the procession extending for several hundred yards. Conspicuous among the floral tributes were wreaths presented by Marquis Hosokawa, the *Tokyo* and *Osaka Asahi*, the International Press Association, the Shunju-kai, the Associated Press of the United States, etc. At the cemetery a solemn and impressive service was held according to the Buddhist ritual.

The remains were afterwards removed to the crematory at Ookamidani for cremation and were interred in the grave yard of the Gekkeiji temple in Kawada-cho, Ushigome-ward.

THE TOYAMA-NAOYETSU LINE.

The Toyama-Naoyetsu line now in course of construction is expected to be opened early in October. It is not difficult to see what a great convenience this line will be to travellers in north-western Japan. At present one has to travel four hundred and thirty-seven miles to get to Toyama from Tokyo, taking train at Shimabashi, while those who want to go to Naoyetsu or Niigata from the Osaka district have to either choose the central line *via* Nagoya or go round by Tokyo to take the train at Ueno. When the said Toyama-Naoyetsu line is opened, however, the distance from Tokyo to Toyama will be shortened by about one hundred and eighty-one miles, while that from Osaka to Niigata will be reduced to some three hundred and eighty-five miles against five hundred and forty-five miles by the Central Line, and six hundred and twenty-one miles round by Tokyo. The decided facilities the line in question is calculated to afford to traffic and transport will naturally affect economic circles in both Tokyo and Osaka. For instance, the Yechigo districts which have been hitherto depending upon Tokyo for the supply of commodities, will turn toward Osaka for the supply of daily necessities, while on the other hand, such districts as Fukui, Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, which have thus far been Osaka's leading customers, will henceforward prefer to obtain their supplies from Tokyo. Then again, the rice produced in North-Western Japan, known as the *Hokuroku-mai*, will for the most part, find its way direct into the Tokyo markets instead of into the Osaka market

as heretofore. The economic relations between Tokyo and Niigata districts will thus grow closer in future. With these facts in view, the authorities concerned have now under consideration and investigation the number of trains, transport of freight, etc.

THE NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE STATES.

Viscount Chinda, the new Ambassador, has been formally received by President Taft. In the course of the speech made in welcoming the Ambassador the President said that he regarded Viscount Chinda as a gentleman equipped with an excellent knowledge of American literature and institutions, and also that it was a great pleasure to him that the Ambassador's opinions were always the expression of the good will he held towards America. Proceeding, the President expressed his hearty thanks for the good will and best intentions with which the Emperor of Japan looked upon the Republic, and added that his own sentiments concurred with those of His Imperial Majesty, to whom he wished the best of health, and also the continued prosperity of the Japanese nation. In concluding, President Taft briefly referred to the personality of Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom he regarded as the successful predecessor of Viscount Chinda. The President also stated that it was a source of great pleasure to him to recollect the days when the Viscount was stationed in American as Ambassador.

In reply to the President's speech, Viscount Chinda stated that the Japanese Emperor had every wish for the welfare and prosperity of the American people, and that His Majesty was most anxious for the maintenance of the present friendship with a view to the further consolidation of the cordial relations between the two countries.

After the day's function, the President and Viscount Chinda had a pleasant chat.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, March 1.

The disturbance in Peking produced a disastrous effect on the market.

Saturday, March 2.

The market continues to be very dull and will probably remain so until the Chinese trouble is settled.

Monday, March 4.

China's affairs continue to rule the market.

Tuesday, March 5.

On the whole a firmer tone was shown yesterday, though state securities fell.

Wednesday, March 6.

The market was brisk in the forenoon but fell during the afternoon.

Thursday, March 7.

The prospect of financing Tokyo's needs with domestic capital does not find favour on the share market and prices are falling. The quotations are:—

	Mar. 6th.	Mar. 7th.	
Kei-Hin Railway	51.00	52.45	+ .45
Yusen Kaisha	119.60	119.60	—
Toyo Kisen	48.45	48.00	— .45
Specie Bank	219.20	218.45	— .75
Tanko Kisen	26.65	25.55	— 1.10
Tokyo Gas	73.50	73.50	—
Tokyo Dento	72.50	71.85	— .65
Fuji Gas Spinning	87.70	86.85	— .85
Tokyo Spinning	53.50	53.60	+ .10
Kanagafuchi Spinning	108.85	108.50	— .35
Beer	89.50	89.10	— .40
Hoden (Takara Oil)	66.60	65.40	— 1.20
Nippon Oil	74.50	74.00	— .50
Rice Exchange	113.80	113.00	— .80
Stock Exchange	169.20	169.10	— .10

THE REVOLT AT PEKING. DISTURBANCES BY THE SOLDIERS. CITY IN FLAMES.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Peking, March 1.

A disturbance broke out in Peking towards evening on the 29th ult. Fires occurred all over the city and rifle reports were heard in every direction. Plunder is rife. The foreign residents are taking refuge in the Legation quarter. A report attributes the disturbances to a conflict amongst the troops, while one report ascribes it to the dissatisfaction of the soldiers whose pay is in arrear. It is, however, believed that some plot underlies it.

Peking, March 1.

Rifle reports were heard incessantly until midnight, and incendiarism is being freely committed. The Chinese soldiers have changed into robbers, and plunder is being committed with impunity. A few Japanese houses have also been plundered. The disturbance originated in a collision between infantry soldiers and pioneers stationed near Tung-yomiao outside Chaoyang Gate, and the soldiers on guard and police commenced to plunder the people, taking advantage of the disturbance.

Peking, March 1.

Towards seven o'clock on the evening of the 29th ult. rifle reports began to be heard in various parts of the city, followed by outbreaks of fire. The telegraph and telephone services have been suspended. The situation is grave. Inquiry was at once made of the Civil Administrative authorities, through a special telephone, as to the cause, when the authorities answered that the disturbance originated in a collision between the artillery soldiers and pioneers, but they did not think the affair would assume serious proportions. As a matter of fact, the firing and plundering by the soldiers became general, and the danger is not limited to the Chinese. The disturbances did not show any sign of settlement by 10 o'clock last night. Rifle bullets flew into the Legation quarter. According to the reports to hand up to the present the lives of Japanese residents are safe, but their property may have suffered some damage. The guards of the various Powers are taking adequate measures for defence. Japanese soldiers are detailed in the principal business offices and residences of the Japanese in the city.

Later.

Disorder continues to prevail in the city and plunder is rife. Up to 1.30 a.m. this morning, a Japanese hotel had been ransacked and a Japanese wounded, while two or three Japanese houses were threatened with destruction by fire. The Japanese residents are gradually taking refuge in the Legation. The telephone office is protected by Japanese soldiers, and Japanese telephone operatives were placed in charge. The Chinese operatives afterwards began to return and the service has been partially restored.

JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS' ACCOUNT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Tokyo Asahi* reports that on the evening of the 29th ult.

rifle reports were heard in the neighbourhood of Yuan Shih-kai's residence. Great tumult and commotion reigned in the city. Telephone communication was stopped. The garrison fired blank shots and suspended communication. The cause is yet unascertainable.

A later telegram reports that plunder seems to be becoming more and more rampant as time passes. Rifle reports are growing in intensity. The Legation quarter is being vigilantly guarded, and the city is lit up by search-lights from the area under German guard. Fires broke out in various places and the part of the city lying to the north of the Telegraph Office is vividly lit up by the flames. The electric light wires seem to be undamaged, as the lights continue to burn. Rifle reports were getting sharper at the time of writing the telegram.

The streets are deserted. The unruly conduct of the soldiers increases the feeling of insecurity. The *Tokyo Asahi's* correspondent was fired at thrice on his way to the Telegraph Office, but escaped unhurt. Every house is broken into by the soldiers for the purpose of plunder. Preparations have been made by the various Legations for mobilization and the sound of trumpets is heard. The disturbance is said to have originated in plunder by rioters.

FOREIGNERS IN THE LEGATION QUARTER.

The correspondent of a German paper told the *Asahi's* correspondent at the Telegraph Office that his residence was in danger. The European and American residents have all assembled in the Legation quarter. According to a rumour the disturbances originated in the unpaid soldiers ventilating their dissatisfaction. The Waiwupu is being guarded by foreign soldiers. The situation became more and more dangerous towards 11 o'clock, but the English and American journalists were able to assemble at the Telegraph Office under the protection of foreign soldiers. They are unanimous in their desire that Japan should forthwith dispatch her troops to Peking for the sake of humanity, and they entertain rather pessimistic ideas as to the future of China.

The flames are gradually spreading in the direction of the Telegraph Office, where preparations are being busily made for transfer to the Legation quarter. This despatch may probably be the last the *Asahi's* correspondent can send. Fear has always existed in the minds of the foreign residents as to the inadequate number of Legation guards. This fear is justified by the present incident, for it was not until fully three hours after the outbreak of the disturbance that the guards appeared on the scene to protect foreign residents. The outbreak was so sudden that when the correspondent passed near the place some time before, nothing unusual was noticed. The fire is hourly increasing and rifle reports were incessantly heard from half-past seven until the time of writing the telegram, that is 11 o'clock at night. The situation is critical. Rifle reports are especially sharp in the direction outside the city wall. Fortunately the disturbance is not of an anti-foreign nature, and no reports have so far been received of the murder of foreigner residents.

Fires are burning in seven different parts of the city. At first a part of the Third Battalion broke out in mutiny and was joined by troops who were dispatched to suppress them. The mutineers now num-

ber five or six thousand. Plunder is being committed with impunity.

So far the safety of the foreign residents has not been menaced, but there is no guarantee that this will be so as the disturbance progresses. The Legation quarter is safe, but a great tumult prevails owing to the arrival of numerous refugees from various parts of the city.

A Peking dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* also reports that at about 9 p.m. on the 29th ult., fire broke out in the neighbourhood of the Antung Gate, when the soldiers in and outside the city opened fire. The clerks of the Central Telephone Office all fled, and the telephone service was suspended. It is extremely dangerous to venture out in the streets and all doors are closed. Rifle reports are heard in all directions. The cause is uncertain, but it seems that the soldiers have turned into rioters.

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S FATE.

The soldiers belonging to the Third Battalion attacked Yuan Shih-kai's residence and the fate of Yuan is uncertain. The fires have spread in all directions and plunder is being committed unmolested. The Japanese residents have all taken refuge in the barracks and elsewhere. Rifle reports continue to be heard. The telephone office is guarded by Japanese soldiers and the telegraph service is maintained under the protection of foreign soldiers. Lieut.-Colonel Sakanishi's fate remains still uncertain. He paid a visit to Yuan Shih-kai prior to the outbreak of the disturbance and since then his whereabouts is unknown. It is also believed that Tsai Yuan-pai and others of the deputation from the Nanking Government have been killed.

A Peking telegram to the *Fiji Shimpu* also reports that soldiers started plundering, and the *Fiji's* correspondent managed to escape from a most perilous position at 3 a.m. on March 1st under the protection of a Japanese guard. The plundering soldiers all fled at the sight of the Japanese troops. They did not in any way molest the Japanese, who passed through their lines, but are committing plunder and incendiarism with impunity. The Japanese Hotel Fusokan was mercilessly plundered and a Chinese servant was killed.

The Mitsu Bishi firm escaped plunder, but is in great danger as fires are burning on all sides. The mutineers are the soldiers under the direct command of Yuan Shih-kai and those belonging to the Third Battalion. The plot has been carried out on a gigantic scale with thorough deliberation on short notice.

The rioters have withdrawn from the northern part of the city and are now plundering and firing other parts of the city. The rioters are all soldiers. It is thought that it will be extremely difficult to restore peace and order as the police are powerless.

AN EMEUTE BY DISSATISFIED SOLDIERS.

REIGN OF TERROR.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE).

Peking, March 1.

Dissatisfied at not receiving their pay, 2,000 of Yuan Shih-kai's troops started looting the capital yesterday morning.

Hordes of coolies and loafers swelled their ranks to 5,000, and the orgie of destruction only ceased on the exhaustion of the looters.

early this morning, when seven incendiary fires, some covering a large area, were burning in various quarters.

Later.

Looting and skirmishing continued throughout to-day.

Numbers of looters have been executed.

The losses so far are estimated at three millions sterling.

The Loyalists are patrolling the streets.

Fresh trouble is feared for to-night.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 2.

Dr. Morrison wires from Peking that the mutiny was chiefly due to fear of disbandment, the absence of means of livelihood and the order to cut off their queues.

The troops got completely out of hand, the junior officers assisting in the looting and the soldiers actually carrying the loot into the compound of the Waiwupu.

Dr. Morrison adds that most people are confident that President Yuan Shih-kai will prove master of the situation.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, March 2.

At 11 o'clock last night fires were raging in seven different parts of the city and rifle reports were occasionally heard. Plunder continues, but not so openly as on the preceding day. The conflagrations are also gradually subsiding.

Peking, March 1.

The Chinese authorities attribute the disturbance to a conflict between the artillery men and pioneers stationed outside the Chaoyang Gate, but the whole of the troops were apparently in the plot, seeing that plunder and incendiarism were perpetrated all over the city. The soldiers who mutinied belong to the Third Battalion, which was called up to the capital as the body guard of Yuan Shih-kai. Seeing that the Imperial Guards and Bannermen are not taking part in the disturbance, it does not appear that the affair has any political significance. The situation is likely to continue. Residents are taking refuge in the barracks.

Peking, March 1.

The disturbance started yesterday evening was due to dissatisfaction on the part of the soldiers of the Third Battalion against the notice given them by the War Office a few days ago, intimating the discontinuance of the increased pay. On receipt of the notice the officers planned systematic plunder. The spoils were compulsorily loaded on goods trains and transported in the direction of Paoting. At seven o'clock the rifle reports ceased, and the conflagration also subsided, but consternation still prevails. The buildings destroyed are mostly money exchanges and pawnshops, and are calculated to number about two hundred. The war authorities contemplate restoring the pay of the soldiers to the old rate and punishing the mutineers. General Chiang Kuei-ti is trying hard to restore order, but the situation is still disquieting.

Peking, March 1.

At 4 p.m. to-day the soldiers under General Chiang Kuei-ti collided with the soldiers of the Third Battalion in the northern part of the city and plunder was again started outside the main gate. Rifle reports were heard in that direction.

Peking, March 1.

The soldiers of the Third Battalion collided with the revolutionary troops in the neighbourhood of Hwangtsun, a village

lying to the south of Peking. The Viceroy of Chihli province has been ordered to defend Tientsin.

Peking, March 2.

Plunder by the soldiers continued from the evening of the 1st until the morning of the 2nd in the western part of the city. As there are few Japanese residents in that part, it is presumed that no damage was suffered by Japanese. According to a report received at 10 o'clock this morning a portion of the Japanese Guards and Bannermen were plundering in broad daylight in the northern part of the city. The soldiers under Chiang Kuei ti were dispatched for their suppression. They succeeded in capturing fourteen rioters and summarily cut off their heads. The part of the city inhabited by the majority of Japanese residents continues pacific since the morning of the 1st instant.

Tientsin, March 2.

The report of the collision between the soldiers of the Third Division and the revolutionary army near Hwangtsun on the afternoon of the 1st turns out to be baseless, the plunder committed in the railway station there that morning being misreported as a collision. The soldiers under General Chang Huai-chi are detailed along the Peking-Tientsin railway line to keep the mutineers under close observation.

Peking, March 2.

The situation is becoming more and more critical and Peking is in the state of complete anarchy. The *Corps Diplomatique* has issued to the foreign residents an instruction to take refuge in the Legation quarter and they are arriving at the Legations under the protection of the troops. The members of the *Corps Diplomatique* met in conference at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and they are still sitting. A majority of the money exchanges, pawnshops and the like were plundered. The soldiers are beginning to extend the plundering operations to the residences of the noblemen and great officials and even to the Imperial Palace. The soldiers under General Wu Chan have joined the mutineers. An order was issued to deal severely with the rioters and consequently peaceful citizens are being murdered in the streets without discrimination, their heads being dragged along mercilessly. A dearth of food supplies is being gradually felt in the city. The disturbances are expected to increase in virulence after sunset. The Japanese residents are so far all safe.

Peking, March 2.

Putting all the later information together it would seem that a majority of the soldiers of the Third Battalion, who commenced plundering on the 29th ult., have since quitted the city with their spoil. On the 1st instant the soldiers under General Chiang Kuei ti, of the First Battalion and Imperial Body Guards commenced plundering, but the rifle reports and the conflagration were not so violent as on the preceding night, simply because they could commit the plunder without resistance. Plunder seems to be now committed with impunity and unreservedly in the north-western part of the city. A section of the soldiers attacked the residences of Prince Tsai Tao and Prince Tsai Hsun on the 1st. They opened fire on Prince Tsai Hsun's residence and made away with some property. The affair cannot so far be recognized as a disturbance with any definite political significance.

Peking, March 2.

The soldiers of the Imperial Guards have

commenced plundering in the north-eastern part of the city since this morning. Rifle reports are occasionally heard in that direction. The situation has also become threatening in Paoting since yesterday.

Peking, March 3.

There are no signs of the riot being easily suppressed. Incendiarism and plunder continue rampant. It seems that the rioters no longer make any discrimination between Chinese and foreign residents.

The soldiers in Paoting will, it is reported, arrive in the city shortly. Tumult and commotion reign.

Peking, March 1.

The night of March 1st passed off comparatively quietly, because both the soldiers and the policemen had all turned into robbers, committing plunder with impunity, and there was no one left to prevent spoliation. All the money exchanges and pawnshops in the city were ransacked and Prince Tsai Hsun's residence also shared the same fate. The Chinese soldiers and police are now unreliable. The situation is grave.

Chefoo, March 2.

Lan Tien-wei evidently intends to move his troops towards Shanhaikwan on the further development of affairs in Peking.

A CRITICAL SITUATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the residence of the father of the Empress Dowager was burnt down on the morning of the 2nd instant and 2,000,000 taels in cash was plundered. He took refuge in the Hongwanji temple and Prince Hsun also entrusted his heir to the protection of the temple. The distinguished refugees are guarded by a dozen Japanese soldiers.

The artillery soldiers of the Third Battalion stationed outside the city walls marched into the city with several field guns, heralded by a military band, and broke through the Chaoyang Gate with a gun. A shell flew over the Hongwanji temple and fell in the centre of the enclosure of the Imperial Palace. The soldiers then started plundering, but withdrew towards 4 p.m. on the 3rd.

The members of Yuan Shih-kai's family all fled from their residence. Yuan is said to remain at his residence, but in fact he also fled and is taking refuge at a certain house. The Chinese soldiers are extremely unreliable, as they are gradually joining the rioters. The foreign troops are all confined to the Legation quarter, the Japanese soldiers alone remaining outside the city-wall. The Chinese claim protection; but the number of soldiers is too small to accord them full protection.

The members of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking sat in conference on the 2nd instant to consider the measures to be taken. It is believed that Japan will finally be asked to dispatch troops for the protection of the lives and property of the foreign residents.

At one o'clock on the morning of the 3rd instant a detachment of the First Division detailed on patrol in the city encountered a band of rioters on the street. The soldiers look the rioters prisoners and forthwith beheaded them. Soon after they turned into rioters themselves and broke into a few houses, but failing to find anything they got infuriated and proceeded to open fire on the Bank of China, where they seized some money. A few ringleaders were afterward arrested by the soldiers under Chiang Kuei-ti. Five or six money exchanges were also attacked, but the situation

became quieter after about 5 o'clock. The city is now guarded by the soldiers under General Chiang Kuei-ti.

At 11 o'clock on the night of the 2nd the new recruits joined the rioters and bombarded the residence of the Vice-President of the Bank of China. They collided with the soldiers under Chiang Kuei-ti, when over one-half of the recruits and rioters were beheaded.

Yuan Shih-kai has ordered General Chiang Kue-ti to suppress the rioters and empowered him to deal summarily with them without bringing them to trial by court-martial. The soldiers are arresting and beheading the rioters everywhere and the streets are covered with pools of blood.

The supply of food stuff has almost run out and the situation is very critical.

REPETITION OF SCENES AT PEKING.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Tientsin, March 3.

Judging from the state of things witnessed since last evening there is no prospect of the disturbances being successfully suppressed by China single-handed. There is reason to suspect that looting occurred on the afternoon of the 3rd instant. The local Chinese authorities and notables held a conference this morning when they adopted a resolution to ask the aid of foreign troops for the maintenance of peace and accordingly Major-General Abe, commander of the Japanese garrison, was approached with the proposal, the request having also been addressed to the Japanese Consulate. In view of the situation the Japanese Consul-General convened a meeting of the members of the Consular Body this evening, when it was decided to give the Chinese authorities all possible assistance, the means being left to be decided by the Commanders of the troops of the various countries. The resolution was notified to Major-General Abe, who subsequently conferred with the Commanders of the various foreign troops, who agreed to act in concert. For the present the foreign troops will undertake the protection of their own nationals independently of one another, and also extend their efforts to the protection of the Chinese town. A detachment of Japanese troops has been detailed in the Chinese town for patrol.

Tientsin, March 3.

The damage sustained since last night extends almost over the whole town, where incendiarism and plunder were committed with impunity, the houses burnt down numbering between 1,500 and 1,600. The Japanese police witnessed over a dozen Chinese either killed or wounded. The To-a Koshi, Omata-yuko (Japanese companies), Arsenal and a Chinese government office are amongst those destroyed by fire. The Bank of China and another bank escaped destruction, but were plundered. At about 9 o'clock this morning looting was continued in the north western part of the town, but the situation generally is quieter. The looters are the soldiers who arrived from Peking. They were joined by the soldiers of the Hwai army, the Viceroy's body guards, and a section of the police force. The *emeute* was started a little past nine o'clock last night. The rioters commenced the looting operations in the neighbourhood of the new railway station and gradually extended it to the busiest thoroughfare in the Chinese town. The police passed it unnoticed with

complete nonchalance, they themselves taking the spoils of the rioters. An apprehension exists of the resurrection of the riot this evening. The Tientsin branch of the Specie Bank, located in the Chinese town, was at one time in great danger, attempts being repeatedly made to raid the office. The Bank, however, is now strongly guarded by Japanese troops.

At the time the looting was going on, several Chinese banks and shops escaped the calamity owing to the presence of Japanese soldiers. The loss to the Arsenal is believed to be very heavy, as it received a remittance of 100,000 *taels* prior to destruction.

Tientsin, March 3.

The big conflagration started last night in the town began gradually to subside toward seven o'clock this morning. Rifle reports are now less frequently heard, but it seems that looting is still rampant. During the night several rioters were arrested by the Japanese police. Some looters were seen carrying their spoils off by cart. It is believed many Chinese have been either killed or wounded.

Tientsin, March 3.

A German doctor named Schleier (?) has been attacked and killed by the rioters while passing through the streets of Tientsin. The Chinese authorities arrested over twenty rioters and beheaded them all on the night of the 3rd instant.

Peking, March 3.

The town of Paoting is disturbed. According to a telegram received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, looting was started in the town at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 2nd instant by the soldiers who fled there from Peking. Incendiarism was also committed, but the report of the murder of foreign missionaries and the destruction of churches is groundless.

Peking, March 3.

The city was quiet at 11 o'clock on the night of the 3rd instant. At two o'clock 700 soldiers of eight foreign Powers paraded the streets.

Peking, March 3.

The drastic measures taken by the patrol of mounted soldiers have evidently proved effective and peace has been restored in the city. Although plundering still continues, peace is maintained as a whole. Fires were started in a few places outside the city walls, but no serious conflagration occurred.

Peking, March 3.

The city was very quiet throughout last night and the fires were totally extinguished. Rifle reports are less frequent. It is uncertain whether the looting had been stopped. The majority of the Japanese residents are taking refuge in the Legation quarter.

Railway traffic has been suspended between Hwangtsun and Fengtai on the Peking-Tientsin line, owing to conflagrations.

Tientsin, March 3.

It would seem that the disturbance in the town originated in plundering started by about 100 soldiers of the Kuai army, in batches of three or five, they being joined by the soldiers of the Third Division arriving from Peking. The local police are also suspected of taking part in the looting. The damage sustained to the property of Japanese is considerable, but no casualties have occurred, although a Japanese policeman sustained some slight injuries.

Tientsin, March 3.

Looting continued until dawn to-day. According to a telegraphic report received last

night from Major-General Abe, Commander of the Japanese troops in North China, 100 soldiers under the command of an army Captain are to be despatched to Peking from Shan-haikwan on the 4th instant in accordance with the resolution adopted by the conference of the members of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking held to-day.

Tientsin, March 3.

The Chinese town standing on the right bank of the south canal in Tientsin has been looted by the rioters. A detachment of the Japanese troops was sent out for the relief of the Japanese residents living outside the Settlement and they were all removed inside the settlement in spite of flying bullets. No one was injured in the operation.

A COUNTER REVOLUTION.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGANJI.

Hankow, March 2.

According to a telegram from a reliable quarter the Viceroy of Shensi and Kansu, the Three Eastern Provinces, and General Cheng Kang of Shansi province have resolved to fight to the last in order to restore the Emperor to the Throne. Preparations have now been completed and the movement will be started very shortly.

SITUATION IN PEKING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that the Imperial Palace is in immediate peril, and Yuan Shih-kai is unable to protect it. On the night of the 3rd instant a gun was fired in the West Garden and a section of the Imperial Guards rose in mutiny. The Empress Dowager solicited Yuan to obtain the aid of the foreign soldiers. Both the Empress Dowager and the Emperor will quit Peking for Jehol in a few days, and preparations are now being made for their departure. A portion of Prince Chun's residence was destroyed.

Prince Ching is now taking refuge in a Japanese residence in the settlement and Prince Chun in a German residence.

Prince Kung's residence at Hsishan is strongly guarded by German soldiers.

Tsai Yuan-hei, a delegate of the Nanking Government, seeing the powerlessness of Yuan Shih kai to cope with the disturbances, telegraphed to Nanking, advising that Li Yuan-hung should be ordered to proceed northward at the head of his army without delay for the suppression of the disturbances in the capital.

Some 800,000 *taels* kept in the coffers of the Department of Finance were seized by the soldiers of the Third and Sixth Divisions on the night of the 2nd instant.

The soldiers under General Chiang Kuei ti, now placed on patrol duty in Peking, beheaded over 300 suspicious men between the night of the third and two o'clock on the following morning, many of them being peaceful citizens. Not one of the residences of the Imperial princes and noblemen escaped plunder. Prince Ching's residence was attacked and robbed of 5,000 dollars in cash and a cart load of valuable property.

Acting on the advice of the French Minister, the Chinese authorities destroyed an iron bridge built across the river between Peking and Paoting to prevent the soldiers in Paoting from proceeding northward.

A report comes from Hsian that the Tenth Division stationed there has mutinied.

A close search has been instituted as to the whereabouts of Tieh-ling who is suspected of being a ringleader of the rioters.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

VICEROY CHAO.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, February 27.

Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces intends to resign, as not only does he entertain pessimistic views on the future of the Republican administration, but also the tragic death of his brother Chao Erh-ping has affected him. Yuan Shih-kai intends to nominate Chang Tso-lui as his successor, but Hsu Ting-ling is urging Yuan to persuade Viceroy Chao to remain in office.

THE TROUBLE AT WÜCHANG.

Hankow, February 29.

A naval officer sent to Wuchang from the warship *Chiyoda* to make inquiries as to the cause of the recent disturbances, reports that the high-handed action of Sun Wu and his party has always been resented by the officers and men of the 31st Brigade and the Guards. At midnight on the 27th ult. the infuriated troops attacked the War Office, when they found Suu Wu had already fled to the English settlement in Hankow. During the disturbance, General Chang Ting-pu, commander of the First Division, was killed, but the murder of the commanders of other brigades previously telegraphed is incorrect. Order was completely restored to-day, and a new Director of the War Bureau was appointed. Notices are placarded in conspicuous places in the town to pacify the public. Notices have also been issued for a search for the whereabouts of Sun Wu. Further disturbances are anticipated.

A RUSSIAN LOAN.

Shanghai, February 29.

According to a Chinese newspaper, Chen Kin-tao, representing the Nanking Government, signed a contract for a loan of £1,500,000 sterling with the Bank of Russia in Shanghai on February 21st. It is stated that the contract will be confirmed by the State Council on March 1st. The loan will be paid in monthly instalments of 3,000,000 *taels* each and the first instalment will be paid direct to the Nanking Government and the remainder to Shanghai and Tientsin in equal proportion. The loan bears 5 per cent. interest.

TROUBLE AT TSITSIHAR.

Tsitsihar, March 2.

In the Tsitsihar Theatre a quarrel took place on the 29th ult. between the new army soldiers and those belonging to the flying column, resulting in a great collision between the two armies within the city walls on the 2nd instant. Great consternation prevailed for a time and all the shops inside and outside the city walls closed their doors. The Deputy Viceroy appeared on the scene in person and succeeded in persuading the soldiers to disperse. The *emeute* was thus brought to an end after it had lasted a couple of hours. Casualties are recorded on both sides. The Chinese residents anticipate a resuscitation of the trouble before long.

MARCH ON WENTENGHSIEN.

Chefoo, March 2.

The Third Regiment, which recently arrived from Shanghai, left for Minghaichow by land to-day to attack Wentenghsien. The vanguard of the Northern Expedition, composed of 600 men, also left for Wentenghsien to-day by transport. Tang Chi-tao is to assume the command of the

expedition during the absence of Lin Chih-yen, the Commander of the Revolutionary Army, at Wentenghsien.

THE MANCHU TROOPS IN PEKING.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 5.

Dr. Morrison wires from Peking that owing to the removal of the Chinese troops, the Manchu troops in Peking greatly predominate, there being now 18,000 outside and inside the walls, compared with 5,500 Chinese.

Yuan Shih kai is confident that he will be able to master the situation.

SOLDIERS' PAY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 3.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has issued an instruction to the commander of the army to pay good rewards to the soldiers on disbandment. Strict watch is being kept to guard against emergencies.

MUKDEN THREATENED.

Mukden, March 3.

The disturbances in Peking and Tientsin threaten to spread to Mukden. Viceroy Chao is making preparations to take refuge on the outbreak of disturbances.

TROUBLE AT TSINAN.

Tientsin, March 3.

The soldiers under Chang Hsun, who are now on their way to the north, are endeavouring to rise in revolt jointly with the soldiers of the Fifth Division stationed at Tsinan. Alarming news continues to come from Tsinan.

TIENTSIN QUIET.

Tientsin, March 4.

A rumour was current that about ten thousand soldiers, stationed at Nanchang and elsewhere, contemplated an onslaught on Tientsin on the night of the 3rd instant, for the purpose of looting. The rumour caused great anxiety amongst the Chinese, as well as foreign residents, and having been corroborated by a report from a German scout, an order was issued prohibiting Chinese passing through the streets of the foreign settlement, which were strongly guarded. Soldiers were also detailed on patrol in the Chinese town. The streets were deserted after dark. The rumour was, however, not realized. The soldiers who committed plunder on the previous night have dispersed in all directions with their spoils, and did not return to Tientsin to resume looting. The night thus passed off quietly. Fire occurred in various parts of the town last night, but the disturbances were not renewed.

TO ATTACK TSINANFU.

Chefoo, March 4.

According to news from Tsingtao, 4,000 rioters have marched to Yunchowfu, from Yutai in Shantung province in order to attack Tsinanfu. The Thirteenth Battalion of the Fifth Division was dispatched there on the 3rd instant for their suppression.

GERMAN TROOPS FOR TIENTSIN.

Chefoo, March 4.

Germany has decided to send 100 soldiers to Tientsin from Chefoo.

GENERAL LAN'S TROOPS.

Chefoo, March 4.

General Lan Tien wei telegraphed to Yuan Shih kai, intimating that he intended to send soldiers to the north for the suppression

of the disturbances in Peking and elsewhere. Yuan, however, wired back stating that there was no necessity, as the disturbances would subside in a few days. Lan Tien-wei, nevertheless, announces that he will move his troops.

MUTINY AT KIUKIANG.

Hankow, March 4.

Over two thousand soldiers in Kiukiang mutinied, and consequently communications inside the town are interrupted. The Japanese warship *Sumida* has left Wuhu for Kiukiang with all possible haste.

SCENES AT TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, March 4.

Chinese refugees have continued to arrive in the foreign settlement since dawn on the 3rd instant. The busiest parts of the Chinese town have all been burnt to the ground, and dead bodies are seen lying about on the streets. During the daytime yesterday peace was restored for a short time, but plunder was re-started towards five o'clock in the afternoon. The disturbances, nevertheless, gradually subsided, and the town is quiet this morning.

Tientsin, March 3.

The situation became quiet at dawn on the 3rd instant, but looting was re-started in the afternoon and lasted until about 10 o'clock at night, when the disturbances ceased and the conflagration was also stopped.

LOOTING AT PEKING.

Peking, March 5.

Peking continues quiet, but looting on a small scale is still being perpetrated day and night. Order in the city still remains unrestored.

PAOTING SACKED AND FIRED.

Peking, March 5.

Towards evening on the 1st instant the soldiers stationed at Paoting entered the city and commenced looting. They were joined by old army soldiers, the police and the mob. Rifles were fired at random and houses were set on fire and plundered. The Chinese authorities and Imperial troops were powerless to suppress the riot. Public order was totally destroyed. The looting and incendiarism lasted until the morning of the 3rd instant, and by that time the whole town had been plundered and a greater part destroyed by fire. The disturbance begun to subside towards noon, when there was left almost no property in the town to plunder. The disturbances may recur at any moment. The Japanese residents are all safe, but all of them have been robbed of their property. They are now assembled in the residence of Major Inouye, Japanese Military Instructor of the Chinese army.

SUN YAT-SEN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT.

Nanking, March 4.

A public meeting was held at Nanking on the 3rd instant, which was attended by over 500 people. At the meeting Dr. Sun Yat-sen was elected President and Hwang Hsing and Li Yuan-hung Vice-Presidents of the Republic of China. Yuan Shih-kai's popularity is gradually waning on account of the recent disturbances in North China.

THREATENED ATTACK ON TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, March 8.

The commanders of the foreign troops sat in conference this afternoon regarding the

defence of the foreign settlement. The conference is still in progress. According to information received by the Commander of the British troops about 800 dangerous Chinese soldiers have already arrived at Tashiku from Wuchang. As Tashiku is a part of the Belgian settlement, their presence there should not be tolerated. It has, therefore, been decided to dispatch there a number of British, French and Russian soldiers, the commander of the British troops assuming command of the contingent. It was also decided a note should be issued to the Chinese soldiers by the consuls of the various Powers concerned, warning them against intrusion on the foreign settlement. Information just received (6 p.m.) at the Customs branch office located outside the North-Western Gate, states that 1,500 Chinese soldiers are encamping in the open in that neighbourhood, having marched there from Kohna.

DRASTIC TREATMENT OF RIOTERS.

Tientsin, March 4.

The town is now quiet to outward appearance, but a sense of insecurity is felt by the public. In view of the insufficient number of foreign troops, all the foreign residents are impatiently awaiting the arrival of Japanese reinforcements. Between yesterday and this afternoon over 50 rioters were arrested and summarily beheaded by the Chinese authorities, the majority of the rioters being soldiers. Anxiety is felt amongst a section of the people lest this drastic measure should provoke the ill feeling of the soldiers and tend to spread the disturbances.

It is stated that many suspicious soldiers, armed with pistols, are secretly entering the town by train. The Russian and French guards arrested several Chinese last night in the very act of committing incendiarism at the new and old railway stations.

FOREIGNERS AT PAOTING.

Peking, March 4

On receipt of a report from Major Inouye in Paoting, Minister Ijuin sent to Yuan Shih-kai a note of inquiry, asking him whether the Chinese Government could effectively protect the Japanese residents there and enable them to withdraw to Peking in safety. The Minister is also causing measures to be taken to protect the Japanese. The report of the destruction of the railway bridge between Peking and Paoting is not wholly correct, only the railway lines on the bridge having been destroyed. The damage can be easily repaired. Telegraphic communication has been restored.

RIOTS BY DISBANDED SOLDIERS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking, having recognized the fact that Yuan Shih-kai is unable to maintain peace in the city, is sitting in conference to consider the organization of a United army for the preservation of peace. The conference denotes a lack of confidence in Yuan Shih-kai.

Yuan Shih-kai sent to the *Corps Diplomatique* a Circular Note assuring them that order has been restored in Peking and that there is no cause for anxiety as to a resuscitation of the disturbance, and also that the damage sustained by foreign residents will be made good by the Republican Government.

The whole of the Third Division has been

ordered to withdraw from Peking. The soldiers of this Division are making disturbances and looting in Paoting and Fengtai.

Over thirty thousand soldiers have been disbanded at Wuchang up to date. They have turned into robbers through destitution and are creating disturbances in Wuchang. Li Yuan-hung is now surrounded by the unruly soldiers, and has telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai for an immediate remittance.

Disbanded soldiers have risen in revolt throughout Hunan province. Many shops in Changsha have been looted. The magistrate has telegraphed to Hwang Hsing for speedy suppression of the rioting.

Serious disturbances are also being started at Anking in Anhui province by disaffected soldiers. The disaffection is calculated to spread to Nanking and lead to another insurrection in the Yangtze valley.

The soldiers of the First Division in Chang Chinkan are taking independent action and are marching towards Peking. Three hundred Honan soldiers forming Yuan Shih-kai's body-guards arrived at Peking on the 4th instant but stayed in the trains all night.

Enormous looting was perpetrated in Paoting for three days—from the 1st to the 3rd instant. One half of the town was burnt down. This report was confirmed on the 5th instant. A Christian Church was destroyed, but the rumoured murder of foreign missionaries seems incorrect.

The soldiers who ransacked Peking assembled in Changhsin-tien and are staying there, unable to proceed to Paoting owing to the destruction of the railway bridge. They are looting the houses in the neighbourhood.

The members of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking, all entertain pessimistic views as to the future and believe that internal commotion will assume greater proportions.

THE LOOTING AT TIENTSIN.

A Tientsin telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the town is now quieter, and railway traffic has been resumed between Tientsin and Peking under protection of the foreign troops. The Japanese residents suffered most. Two commercial houses were burnt down, five houses were looted and three men wounded. The Tientsin branch of the Specie Bank, located in the Chinese town, was repeatedly attacked, but is so far safe, the region being guarded by Japanese soldiers.

The German Consul has opened negotiations with the Viceroy of Chihli on the murder of a German subject. The Consul persists that the murderers were soldiers of the Third Division and refuses to attribute it to the action of the mob. It will lead to a serious diplomatic question.

During the disturbances, well-dressed young Chinese women were seen disputing in the distribution of spoils outside the South Gate of the town.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

TIENTSIN SETTLING DOWN.

Tientsin, March 5.

Last night traffic in the streets was suspended after 8 o'clock, as it was on the previous evening. At midnight rifle reports were occasionally heard. The feeling of insecurity remains unrelieved, but the town is quiet and under strong guard. The electric tram-cars, which had temporarily been suspended since the night of the 2nd instant, have resumed running. To outward appearance order has been restored to a

certain extent. The report of the march of Chinese troops on the Belgian settlement, turns out to be incorrect, and the foreign contingent dispatched there for the defence of the settlement has since been withdrawn.

The Chinese soldiers encamped in the open outside the north west gate are those under Chang Huai chi and their number does not exceed 480. They are behaving quietly. About 120 soldiers of the Second Division arrived at the new railway station last night. They are said to be a portion of the unruly soldiers who looted Paoting. There are signs that these soldiers have arrived here in twos and threes from Paoting. The Viceroy officially announced that steps are being taken to expel them twenty Chinese *li* outside the city limits, but it remains doubtful whether this can be realized.

JAPANESE SOLDIERS FOR PAOTING.

Peking, March 5.

It has been decided to dispatch to Paoting 45 Japanese soldiers, under the command of an army officer, for the protection of Japanese residents there. Mr. Tei, a Secretary of the Japanese Legation, will accompany the party, which will start as soon as a special train, arranged by Yuan Shih-kai for their transportation, is ready.

CHARTER OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Shanghai, March 5.

It is rumoured that the revolutionary army is negotiating the charter of six foreign steamers for the transportation of the troops to Taku and Chinwangtao from Nanking, Chinkiang and elsewhere.

FOREIGN TROOPS IN PEKING.

Peking, March 5.

The foreign troops in Peking have just been reinforced as under: American 200, French 200, British 120, Japanese 100.

TROOPS FROM NANKING.

Nanking, March 5.

The Nanking Government has decided to dispatch 1,500 and 2,000 soldiers on the 6th instant to relieve Tientsin. The name of the commander is not yet made public.

THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, March 5.

Viceroy Chao is holding a conference to consider a method for the maintenance of peace in Manchuria. The Viceroy now relies solely on the support of a mixed brigade. It is rumoured that General Chang Tso-lin has under contemplation a plot to secure the independence of the Three Eastern provinces, taking advantage of the disturbances in Peking. The General has already sent out emissaries in various direction to canvass for supporters to the movement.

AMERICAN BLUEJACKETS.

Shanghai, March 6.

Two hundred American bluejackets left here for Tientsin on the 5th instant by the steamship *Abarenda* (?). The departure from Tsingtao of 800 German soldiers, who were recently relieved of duty by new arrivals, has been postponed owing to the disturbances in Peking.

PAOTING QUIET.

Peking, March 5.

The town of Paoting is now quiet. The riotous soldiers have quitted the town, but they are ransacking the suburban villages. It being considered that the Chinese authorities in Paoting are powerless to protect the

foreign residents, a detachment of Japanese soldiers, commanded by an officer, was dispatched to Paoting by a special train at 5 o'clock this afternoon for the relief of the foreign residents. A secretary of the Japanese Legation accompanied the detachment.

TROOPS FOR THE NORTH.

Chefoo, March 6.

Lan Tien-wei has sent to Nanking and Shanghai six influential subordinates to induce the Southern Government to dispatch troops to the north. It is stated that the negotiations have already taken place with steamship companies, to charter two foreign steamships, four China Merchants' liners, and five of Butterfield and Swire's boats, for the transportation of the troops to Taku.

YUAN'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH.

Hankow, March 5.

Li Yuan-hung has given notice to the Consular body in Hankow, that an official telegram was received from Wang Ching-ting in Peking on the 1st instant, informing him that Yuan Shih-kai has decided to proceed to Nanking shortly by the Peking-Hankow railway. On his arrival at Hankow, Yuan may have occasion to pass through the foreign settlement guarded by armed soldiers, and he therefore asks the Consuls to allow the procession to go through the settlements.

(This programme seems no longer practicable.)

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

Nanking, March 5.

In response to the request of Yuan Shih-kai the troops now in Ventai are to be transferred to Fengtai and the united Hunan and Hupeh troops in Wuchang to Paoting. The troops in Nanking will not be moved.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION.

Peking, March 5.

A test of the communication by wireless telegraphy between the wireless telegraph station in the grounds of the Italian Legation in Peking and the telegraph apparatus installed on board the warship *Tokiwa*, has proved successful. The report of the dispatch of two Japanese experts to the Italian Legation is incorrect.

A few naval officers and petty officers have been placed on guard at the wireless telegraph station in Tientsin, which is now under occupation of the Japanese troops.

THANKS FOR THE JAPANESE TROOPS.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that Yuan Shih-kai sent Tang Shao-i to the Japanese Legation, to convey an expression of his sincere thanks for the measures taken by the Japanese troops in connexion with the recent disturbances, and asking for further assistance. Yuan is said to have also expressed a desire that Japan should participate in the Four Powers' loan, which is now on the point of consummation. The representatives of the foreign Powers admire the strictly neutral attitude assumed by the Japanese Government towards Yuan Shih-kai since the abdication of the Emperor, and the diplomatic success thereby won by Japan in consolidating her footing in China.

The *Corps Diplomatique* expects that Japan will eventually take part in the loan.

ANOTHER ATTACK ON TIENTSIN THREATENED.

Putting the latest reports together, it would seem that the mutineers have under

contemplation a plan to burn down and ransack the town of Tientsin, taking advantage of the fewness of the foreign troops now stationed there. The soldiers stationed at Chunliang joined the rioters and have marched up to Koku, and the soldiers of the Fourth Division in Chao tien have also thrown in their lot with them and threaten to invade Tientsin in large numbers. The foreign Powers have decided to defend the railway between Peking and Tientsin and Tientsin and Shanhai-kwan, as well as Tientsin and Tanku, to repel the attack of the rioters. Collision between the foreign and Chinese troops thus seems inevitable.

The French Legation has dispatched a secretary to Taiyuan and Hsin to investigate the damage sustained by the French residents there.

JAPANESE IN PAOTING.

The Japanese residents in Paoting number forty, including women. Four Japanese houses were burnt down and a resident was slightly injured, while a considerable amount of property was looted. Over one half of the Chinese town was levelled to the ground and thousands of people have been rendered indigent. The churches and residences of foreign missionaries were also burnt down, but none of them were killed or wounded. A detachment of the unruly soldiers is still assembled at Kucheng-chin.

BANNERMEN PLUNDERING.

A Tientsin dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that at 3 p.m. on the 5th instant about five hundred Chinese soldiers made their appearance on the right bank of the Peiho river. According to a report from Tungchow a number of Bannermen, who arrived there from Peking, have taken possession of the granaries and are plundering and firing the buildings with impunity. Another band of rioters invaded Matao, and then proceeded to Nantsai, where they joined 1,500 rioters, and are planning to raid Pei tsang.

FOOD SUPPLIES AT TIENTSIN.

The Japanese residents in Tientsin now number 1,525, and the number of Japanese houses 499. The price of food stuffs has gone up and destitution is being generally felt.

GENERAL LAN SAILS FOR TAKU.

According to information emanating from a trustworthy source, Lan Tien-wei telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai from Chefoo on the 3rd instant, that although peace and order are being gradually restored in Peking, as there are some Imperial princes and other elements who give cause for disturbances, he was prepared to undertake the duty of eliminating the troubles, thereby intimating his intention of taking independent action in the matter. True to the announcement, Lan Tien-wei left Chefoo for Taku at 6 p.m. on the 5th instant, with his troops, on board the warships *Hayang* and *Nantan*.

JAPANESE TROOPS LANDED.

Vice-Admiral Yoshimatsu, Commander-in-Chief the Second Squadron, wires to the Admiralty that the whole of the troops on board the *Iwate* and *Tokiwa* were safely landed at Chinwangtao on the morning of the 5th instant.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE POWERS.

(By Special Arrangement with the Tokyo "Asahi Shimbun.")

London, March 7.

Dr. Morrison wires from Peking that there

is general satisfaction that the six Powers have agreed to the paramount importance of financially assisting Yuan Shih-kai.

The banks will immediately advance half a million taels and the same amount in ten days more.

The loan agreement between the Russo-Asiatic Bank and the Nanking Treasury has been abandoned, also the projected movement of the southern troops.

THE SOUTHERN GOVERNMENT.

London, March 6.

Dr. Morrison wires that the Peking diplomatists have received a telegram from An Chung-hui, at Nanking, on behalf of the Republic, regretting the outbreak in the North and accepting full responsibility.

The telegram also announces the intention of the Nanking Government to despatch Southern troops.

This proposal is deprecated by the diplomatists, as adding to the confusion.

Some of the delegates are returning to Nanking.

Everybody realises that the President's journey to Nanking must be postponed.

A CURIOUS RUMOUR.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Shanghai, March 5.

A rumour is rife that Sun Yat-sen agreed to resign the Presidency in favour of Yuan Shih-kai for a consideration of 3,000,000 taels, and that the money has already been received by Sun, who has made up his mind to spend the rest of his days in his native province in retirement.

RAID AT PAOTING.

Paoting, March 5.

The Paoting branch of the Anglo-American Tobacco Company was also ransacked and robbed of all the cash and goods in stock, valued at about 100,000 taels.

REORGANISATION OF ARMY.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJIL

Hankow, March 5.

Since the first outbreak of the insurrection eight Army Divisions have been organized and kept at Wuchang. In view of such a large army being not now necessary, the Divisions were recently reorganized and four Divisions were formed from picked soldiers. A Division is to be kept at Wuchang and the three other Divisions are to be stationed in Hunan and Hupeh provinces.

MONGOLIAN POLITY.

Changchun, March 5.

The *Gegen* has met in conference the Mongolian princes, to consider the future polity of Mongolia. Opinion was divided. One section advocated a democratic polity under the protection of Russia, while another section insisted on an independent Monarchy with the descendant of Genghis Khan for Emperor. The conference broke up without arriving at a final decision.

THE MONGOLIAN CAPITAL.

Changchun, March 5.

A Kiachta telegram reports a rumour that Mongolia has decided to make Urga its capital and impose duties on the Chinese goods imported into Mongolian dominions.

CHARTERING TRANSPORTS.

Nanking, March 6.

Hwang Hsing denies the rumour that the Nanking Government contemplates chartering foreign steamships, but states that the Government is negotiating the charter of

four China Merchants' liners and another Chinese steamer in Shanghai.

REVOLT AT NANKING.

Nanking, March 5.

Two thousand soldiers recently returned from the North, revolted against their commanders on the 4th instant and started disturbances, causing the suspension of communication inside and outside the city.

PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY.

Hankow, March 6.

The Peking-Hankow Railway Bureau officially announces that both passenger and goods traffic will be resumed throughout the line from the 7th instant, according to the former schedule.

CHINESE WARSHIPS.

Tientsin, March 6.

The Nanking Government's warships *Haiyang* and *Haitan* arrived at Taku at 7.50 p.m. on the 6th instant.

DELEGATES FROM PEKING.

Tientsin, March 6.

Sung Chiao jen and three other envoys of the Nanking Government left here for Nanking on board the *Mukden* at dawn on the 6th instant, accompanied by Yuan Shih-kai's special envoys, Tang Shao-i and Fang Yuan-tu.

SITUATION AT KIUKIANG.

Kiukiang, March 6.

Commander Chou and Chief-Staff officer Tuam of the Kiukiang garrison have been arrested. Machine guns are mounted at important points in the town, which is vigilantly guarded. Order was somewhat restored on the 6th instant.

CONDITIONS AT PAOTING.

Peking, March 6.

According to a telegram received from Secretary Tei, who was sent to Paoting, the town is now quiet. Of 17 Japanese residents Major Inouye and Veterinary Surgeon Noguchi and three others will remain in the town while the rest are to withdraw to Peking in company with Secretary Tei. Special measures will be taken to protect the Japanese residents who remain in the town. A detachment of Japanese troops is to return to Peking escorting the Japanese residents withdrawing from that town. The Secretary of the French Legation and 40 French soldiers who proceeded to Paoting and Chingling on the 5th instant returned to Peking the same evening. It is reported an English missionary was killed at a point 20 miles off Paoting. The British Legation officials and English soldiers will start for Paoting to protect the British residents withdrawing to Peking.

THE SOUTHERN ARMIES.

Nanking, March 6.

Last Wednesday's issue of the *Chunghua Pao* reports that Hwang Hsing, who thinks the recent disturbances in North China were engineered by the Imperialist Party, has telegraphed to the magistrates of various provinces intimating that the Nanking Government has instructed Li Yuan-hung to despatch to Peking the Hupeh, Hunan and Kweichow armies by the Peking-Hankow railway and also the Nanking and Shanghai armies by the sea route to Taku and thence by the Tsing-Pu railway. The Canton army has also been ordered to shift to Nanking as a garrison.

U.S. WARSHIP FOR TAKU.

Chefoo, March 6.

The U.S. warship *Buffalo* left here for

Taku on the 6th instant. The magistrate of Chefoo offered Yuan Shih-kai to send troops for the protection of Tientsin, but Yuan declined the offer with thanks, stating that troops are no longer needed there.

LIKIN REVIVED.

Foochow, March 6.

Likin, which was once abolished in Foochow, has now been revived under a different denomination, and the Tax-office re-established. The collection of the tax has been enforced from the 1st instant under provisional regulations.

LOOTING IN THE PROVINCES.

Tientsin, March 6.

The situation remains unchanged since previous reports, but a portion of the rioters who looted Peking, Paoting and Tientsin have made their appearance in the suburban districts, where they are committing excesses with impunity. There are signs of the recent disturbances spreading far and wide in the interior. Reports of looting come from Taku, Hsiku, Yangliang, Tsaitun, Yangtsun, Hsichow, Chochow, Chaoyangfu and other towns. The extent of the damage is unascertainable owing to the interruption of communications. According to the latest information the town of Chang-kiakan is in immediate danger. The Japanese 11th Regiment arrived at Tientsin yesterday. The arrival of the reinforcements has given both Japanese and foreign residents a sense of security.

TROOPS FOR TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, March 6.

The magistrate of Shantung province has received from the Nanking Government an instruction to dispatch troops to Tientsin for the suppression of the disturbances. The scheme is now under contemplation. The magistrate decided that in the event of peace and order not being restored within two or three days the Min army, which is expected to arrive from Shanghai, will be sent to Tientsin, and that if there be need of immediate dispatch, a contingent composed of two or three hundred men shall be sent to Tientsin by sea without waiting for the arrival of the Min army. The telegram adds that the magistrate, however, does not expect the Min army at Chefoo for three days.

CABINET TO BE APPOINTED AT NANKING.

Nanking, March 6.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed an instruction for the formation of a Cabinet in Nanking, stating that the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs are unable to leave Peking at present. A Cabinet Council was held accordingly and the decision was submitted to the consideration of the State Council, which adopted the following resolution:—"The President shall take the oath at Peking and forward it to Nanking and on examination of the oath the Ministers of State shall be selected in Nanking." The resolution was subsequently wired to Peking.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE WAR BUREAU.

Hankow, March 6.

Li Yuan-hung is making strenuous efforts to pacify the feelings of General Sun Wu, Director of the War Bureau.

TROOPS FOR NORTH CHINA.

Hankow, March 6.

It has been decided to dispatch a Hunan brigade to Paoting with all possible haste for

the suppression of the disturbances in North China.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Peking, March 7.

It is stated that three companies of Russian soldiers will arrive shortly to reinforce the garrison in North China.

RIOTERS IN THE PROVINCES.

Tientsin, March 6.

According to a report reaching here, about 100 rioters have risen south of Hsunhunsien. They are all armed with rifles and are plundering the neighbouring towns. The trouble is assuming large proportions.

LAN TIEN-WEI.

Chefoo, March 6.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Lan Tien-wei ordering him to suspend the dispatch of troops to the North and to come up to Peking without delay. Lan Tien-wei has refused to obey.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

THE PRESENT STRUGGLE AND THE OUTLOOK.

Looking at the question from an outside point of view, as Britishers who reside in the Far East are able to do, it looks as though the Liberal Government of Great Britain is nearing its end. Its programme for last session was successfully carried through with the aid of the closure and the unwise and unconstitutional domination of His Majesty the King. In the present session, the Government is putting forward three Bills that are liable—and more than liable—to hurl Mr. Asquith and his Ministers from the positions they now hold. The two most deadly of the three are "Home Rule for Ireland," and the "Disestablishment of the Welsh Church." There then comes the third—the "Suffrage Bill," with votes for Women. Whilst one may admire the courage of the Government in putting forward such measures, one is also inclined to confound their discretion; for it is a practical certainty that whilst the first two Bills may scrape through the Commons, they will emphatically be rejected by the Lords, which will of course revive the old agitation against the Upper House. As to the Suffrage Bill, with votes for Women, it is more than probable that it will be quietly dropped; as the recent exhibitions of the Suffragettes in London have not tended to attract more sympathisers to their cause, and have even had the effect of alienating many of their supporters on the Government side. We therefore come down to "Home Rule" and the Welsh Church. But, surmounting these, we have the "Insurance Bill" of last session which, although passed, is not yet in working order and practically a dead letter and has also raised a storm of indignation that has not been equalled for several years. To go even further, the Socialistic legislation of the Asquith Cabinet has resulted in more Labour troubles during its long term of office than has ever happened during the official life of previous British Cabinets.

This being so, it is obvious that the present session at Westminster will be a stormy one. It will be a fight between both Parties with bare fists. No kid gloves will be worn and the doings of the First Session of the British Parliament in 1912 will be handed down to history as a great episode in Home politics. That the Home Rule Bill will swing the Commons and the People into a state of frenzied excitement, is certain. The writer remembers Mr. Gladstone's similar Bill in 1886 and its successor in 1893, both of which were rejected, and which tore the Kingdom from end to end. It is therefore quite safe to assume that a similar condition of affairs is in store, as it must not be thought that the feeling against such a measure is any less keen than it was in the days of '86 and '93. In fact, the recent excitement in Belfast last month on the visit of Mr. Winston Churchill, is proof positive of the

assertion. From what one can gather from Home papers and private letters, even the Irish Nationalist Party are not over enthusiastic concerning Mr. Churchill's announcement that the English Government would retain three vetoes on the decisions of the Irish Parliament; whilst the English people are equally uneasy concerning the statement that they will have to contribute a few millions to the Irish Exchequer, and also will not be allowed to have control of their own domestic affairs—seeing that Irish members will still retain seats at Westminster and vote upon affairs concerning English, Welsh and Scotch domestic politics.

As far as the Bill for the Disestablishment of the Welsh Church is concerned it is certain to pass the Lower House, and it carried by a substantial majority, may be accepted by the Lords. But, the passing of the same will bring about extremely bitter feeling. It is curious—but at the same time only too true—that religious legislation in all countries is productive of the most savage and spiteful contests possible. One would think that religion should develop gentleness and courtesy; and though in the abstract it may do so, when it comes to sectarianism, gentleness flies out of the window. There are still many who can remember the Disestablishment of the Irish Church and the violent scenes that ensued; and it is to be feared episodes nearly as acrimonious are in store. Consequently, the weather forecast for the present Liberal Government is by no means fair. On the contrary the pemonitions are stormy and uncertain. It may be that the knowledge of their dangerous programme will give them courage and determination and assist them in putting up a fine fight; and we believe it will have that effect; but against this pugnacity, they have to meet an Opposition with a fighting Leader, the latter confident that behind him he has a united Party, and behind his Party a majority of the voters who are tired of Socialistic legislation, tired of unworkable Bills, increased taxation, and wild cat schemes that will throw the Kingdom into greater turmoil than ever. The opening speech of Mr. Bonar Law—the Leader of the Opposition—on the first day of the present session was significant of what is in store. Having said exceedingly courteous things about the mover and seconder of the Address to the Throne, he swung round to the Speaker of the House, and with the words—"And now, Mr. Speaker, we have done with compliments; and I do not think there will be many more in the House this session"—proceeded to criticise the Premier and his Ministers. The militant note was struck. It was enthusiastically cheered by his followers. It also met with counter-cheers by the Government Party. The scene was brief and dramatic in the extreme, whilst it was also prophetic of the coming struggle. A.W.M.

JAPANESE CRIMINAL LAW AND AGED PERSONS.

Among Japanese jurists Dr. Hanai Takuzō has made a name for himself by the criticism that he has brought to bear on existing laws. His famous speech in the House of Representatives, delivered March 14th, 1907, in favour of the abolition of capital punishment, which was given in full in the *Kwanpō* at the time, was one of the finest pieces of Diet oratory we have in our possession. Dr. Hanai is one of the regular contributors to the *Hōgaku Kyōkai Zasshi*, and it is from that *Journal of Transactions* that I extract the following remarks on the amount of responsibility that aged persons have in the eyes of the law in this country.

First, it is important to note that though in the case of boys and girls their low stage of mental and physical development is taken into consideration by our Law and punishment is meted out accordingly, in the case of aged persons declining physical strength and serious mental deterioration are not deemed sufficient to free from or even to lighten responsibility when violations of the Law

take place. According to investigations I have made, a very large number of the crimes committed by old people can be traced to physical or mental decrepitude. There have been a number of instances where men and women have been convicted of committing crimes for the first time in their lives when over 70 years of age. Surely such cases demand special investigation of the real cause of the delinquency charged against the accused.

Among the crimes committed by aged persons that call for attention, first of all there are *perjury and forgery*. Now it has no doubt repeatedly occurred that old people have been convicted of perjury solely on account of loss of memory and the impairment of the power of separating truth from falsehood. Among the cases of the commission of forgery reported by the Courts, the number of old people implicated is very large. In 1909 no less than 30 persons who were over 60 years of age were convicted of perjury, 59 persons of forging documents and 155 of committing other kinds of fraud.

(2) Old people are given to *arrogance, obstinacy and self opinionativeness*; are easily overcome by fits of anger and jealousy and under the influence of these feelings commit crimes, such as arson, murder and the like. Old people live in the past and often refuse to concede anything to future requirements. That an excessive development of arrogance in old folks is not confined to Japan is proved by German criminal statistics. In 1903 among the offences committed by persons over 70 years of age, cases of insult were more numerous than any others, there being no less than 358 persons convicted of this offence in that one year.

(3) *Uneducated old people become more and more indifferent to morality and public opinion*. More than this, with many old men and women a kind of second-childhood begins and they then commit the same sort of offences as those of which very young people are guilty. There have been a great number of cases of incest and of the contraction of other kinds of improper alliances perpetrated by old men who have kept free from crime of any sort during their earlier years. This looks very much like one of the consequences of imbecility of mind.

(4) *Crimes committed by old persons that can be traced to poverty*. As a rule old people in this country are too proud to beg and many of them are without relations to depend on. On manual labour of one sort or another have they relied for a long series of years for their daily bread. Ever increasing decrepitude makes it hard for them to earn enough to keep body and soul together, and so it happens that many of them become criminals. For such as these there ought to be some kind of relief provided by the State or by public bodies.

To sum up, then, old people are lacking in resolution; their imagination is weak; their power of comprehension very limited, their memories defective, their association of ideas deranged, their wills weak, their feelings unruly, their arrogance uncontrollable, their morality too feeble to guide their actions; they easily become the victims of delusion and wild notions; they lack the intelligence necessary for the avoidance of crime. In dealing with such persons the Law should take these extenuating circumstances into consideration. I am in favour of the passing of new laws bearing on the crimes of old people. Crimes committed by persons who are over 70 years of age should certainly receive very lenient treatment at the hands of the Law. In some cases such people might be let off altogether, in other instances the punishment meted out might be lessened many degrees. The cause of justice demands that the matter be inquired into and that existing laws be altered. According to the official statistics published in 1909, the number of men over 70 years of age convicted of crimes, was 184, and the number of women, 58; those over 75 years of age numbered 90 males and 22 females; those over 80, 14 males and 6 females, those over 85, 2 females; those over 90, 1 male and 1 female, making a total of 378 persons. Seeing that the whole number of criminals convicted that year mounted

up to considerably over 60,000, even if these 378 decrepit persons had all been pardoned, no great harm to the State would have been done. Legal justice requires that the physical and mental state of the committers of crimes should in all cases be taken into consideration by the administrators of law. This is not done in Japan to-day. Society should certainly take steps to save its feeble members from the suffering which the existing Law imposes on them in a relentless manner. W.D.

FIRE AT THE MEIJI UNIVERSITY.

A BIG BLAZE.

About half past ten on Tuesday night, a fire broke out in the Meiji University at Surugadai, Kanda, resulting in the destruction of the recently constructed Memorial Hall and Meiji Middle School. A public lecture meeting had been held in the Memorial Hall the same evening, and when the night watch subsequently went round, on their nightly tour of inspection, everything appeared to be all right. Hardly one hour had passed, however, before they were disturbed by strange, crackling sounds coming from somewhere near the Hall, which on examination was found to be well on fire. Fortunately there was very little wind, but the fire had got such a strong hold that it spread very quickly over the entire buildings. When the fire was at its height, the scene was an awe-inspiring one, the tall tower of the Nicolai Cathedral reflecting the brilliant glare.

In spite of all the efforts of the firemen, the flames spread steadily, first toward the middle school building on the north, and then to a few other annexed buildings on the south, destroying the former completely and the latter partly, before it was brought under control at twenty minutes to one the following morning.

The Memorial Hall was a fine two-storied building in the centre of the University grounds, while the school building was a three-storied one under construction. All the important books and documents were saved. The buildings were insured in the Tokyo and Yokohama and other fire insurance companies, the Hall for forty thousand yen and the school for twenty thousand yen. As most of the class rooms are untouched, teaching will be resumed on the 5th instant, while the reconstruction of the middle school will be immediately taken in hand.

Great confusion prevailed in the district for a time, as it was feared the fire might spread to some of the large private residences in the neighbourhood. A force of gendarmes and a company of infantry from the First Regiment, assisted in fighting the fire.

"THE FAR EAST."

A NEW WEEKLY REVIEW.

We have much pleasure in welcoming a new contemporary from Tokyo, entitled *The Far East*, the first number of which appeared on Saturday last, under the editorship of Mr. Pennington, a journalist of experience who is well versed in Japanese affairs. Sincere congratulations are due to the editor and his staff for their initial number, for it is well printed on good paper, whilst its articles, besides being bright and interesting, have a literary touch about them that is very welcome. In the words of the editor, it is "A Weekly Review of Politics and Commerce and Record of Current Events;" and we can only say that the contents of the number before us, fully justify the sub title. Opening with three pages, headed "Notes and Comments," there follow articles entitled *The Rebuilding of Tokyo*, *Japanese Army Administration*, *Tokyo Vignettes*, *Conflict and Commerce*, *Court and Society*, *The Stage*, *Far Eastern Trade and Commerce*, *The Budget*, etc., etc. We wish our new contemporary every success and trust that its life will be long, happy and successful.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

REVISION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

A special committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 29th ult., to consider the Election Law Revision Bill, which is no doubt the most important Bill in the present session of the Diet.

Mr. Toyomasu of the Popular Party moved that discussion of the Bill should be delayed for three days. As the Bill was introduced to the House on the 24th and referred to a committee on the 27th, the Committee had not had sufficient time to study it.

Mr. Fukui of the *Seiyukai* opposed the motion on the ground that the session was already so advanced that there was no time left for further delay.

The motion was put to the vote and lost.

Mr. Kimura of the Central Party put forward a series of interpellations, in the course of which he stated that when the large electorate system was adopted a decade ago, it was anticipated that it would be possible for the nation to secure the services of truly capable representatives. But the result was rather disappointing. Did the Government think that the small electorate area system now proposed would secure satisfactory results? Large canvassing expenses were pointed out as an evil attendant on large electorates, but would such an evil be totally absent in the case of small electorates? Bribery, violence and coercion are alleged to be rampant under the large electorate area system, and the small electorate system was proposed as a remedial measure, but did the Government think the small electorate system would be effective in removing the evils? Did the Government really think violent election contests could be prevented by the adoption of the small electorate system? The revision was said to be framed on the basis of population, but whereas the Bill provides for the election of one member from a city containing thirty to fifty thousand population, in the rural districts 130,000 people are to be represented by one member. Did the Government think this a fair arrangement?

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, replying to the points raised, stated that the general trend of present day politics showed that it was difficult for even a great statesman to secure election without a contest. The small electorate area system would lessen the difficulties experienced in election campaigns. The smaller the electorate the smaller would be the canvassing expenses. The Government did not think bribery and corruption would be remedied by the adoption of the small electorate system, but confidently believed that it would be much easier under the small electorate system to prevent such evils. Generally speaking, election campaigns were not so keen in the small electorate areas as in the large ones. As to the last point, he would say that the present Election Law showed a similar ratio between the representatives of cities and rural districts. The Government did not think it unfair, because the cities and rural districts stood in totally different relations.

Mr. Ogawa also of the Central Party brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which he remarked that the Minister of Home Affairs stated in the House on the 27th instant that it was easier to exercise control over elections in small electorates than in large ones. Is it because there are fewer candidates in the former or is it because the number of votes obtainable by each candidate can be counted with greater ease?

Mr. Hara, stated in reply that generally speaking there were fewer contests in the small electorates, which rendered control much easier. There was a time when the Government drew up an estimate of the votes each candidate was likely to get, but this practice was now stopped. The Government did not interest itself in the elections.

Mr. Ogawa remarked that less intelligent Ministers of Home Affairs than the present Min-

ister might attempt to interfere with the elections to secure the nomination of Government candidates. The revision would afford such ministers every facility for interference. A law should be so framed as to serve a permanent purpose; and precautions were needed not to leave any room for evil practices.

Mr. Hara stated that even at present the Municipalities practically formed small electorates, but no charge had ever been brought against the Government of having inquired into the votes each candidate would probably get, with a view to interference. He believed that no attempt would be made by future portfolio-holders to interfere with elections.

Mr. Ogawa remarked that the eligible period for candidates who secured the next highest number of votes might conveniently be extended to three or four years, as the trouble of bye-elections could then be eliminated.

Mr. Hara opposed the idea on the ground that it was against the principle of elections, as popular feeling might undergo a change during such a long interval and the circumstances might alter the situation obtaining at the time of the general election.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Ogawa, the Minister of Home Affairs said that under the present Election Law one man had one vote and it would also be so under the revised law. The voter can cast his vote in favour of any candidate in any part of the country.

After further discussion, the Committee rose.

It is stated in this context that according to arrangement the Committee will sit four times and at the fourth sitting the division will be taken. A belief obtains that in the course of ten days the Bill will pass through the House and then be transferred to the Upper House. The fate of the Bill depends on the issue in the latter chamber.

A special Committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 1st instant to consider the Election Law Revision Bill.

Mr. Ogawa remarked it was reported that in explaining the Bill in the Privy Council, the Minister of Home Affairs said the Bill would prevent an upstart from securing election and also that the small electorates afforded greater facilities for preventing the dissemination of dangerous ideas. Was the report correct? If so, did the Minister think the revision was really conducive to that end?

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, refused to answer these questions since he was bound to keep secret whatever explanations he made in the Privy Council.

Mr. Nishimura of the Popular Party stated that the result proved that a larger number of truly capable men were returned to the House under the large electorate than under the small electorate system which preceded it. Whereas the majority of the members were either land-owners and farmers under the small electorate system, those returned to the House after the large electorate system came into force in 1902, comprised journalists, bar-risters, etc. Did the Government admit this fact?

Mr. Hara stated in reply that Mr. Nishimura may have drawn that conclusion, but he had never explained in the House that the Government proposed the revision in order to have capable men elected. Mr. Nishimura had cited the calling of the members in support of his argument, but a member's profession did not necessarily make him capable.

After a rather protracted discussion of the point, Mr. Nishimura remarked that it was difficult for the minority to secure representation under the small electorate system.

Mr. Hara refused to endorse this idea and said there was nothing in the Bill which impeded representation of the minority. Replying to a further question, the Minister of Home Affairs said that a heavy penalty was ineffective to remedy corruption. The larger the electorate area, the greater the expenses required, which led to corruption.

Mr. Nishimura pointed out the increase in the number of cases of breaches of the Election Law. The House formerly numbered 300, but now it numbered 379. The increase of cases of breaches of the Election Law naturally resulted from the increase in the numbers to be elected.

Mr. Kurahara of the Popular Party, asked why the Bill restricted the number of representatives to 450 and under, and remarked that the number of members in the House was smaller than in that of any European country in proportion to the population.

Mr. Hara replied that the Government was convinced that 450 members were adequate under present conditions.

Mr. Kurahara again remarked that in large electorates the candidates generally adopted fair means, such as public speeches, etc., to secure votes, but in small electorates the candidates attempted to secure votes by paying house to house visits and such other undignified procedure, and thus personal considerations were apt to influence the election.

The Minister of Home Affairs stated that the evils pointed out were not inherent in the small electorate area system, but they were equally present and extensively practised under the large electorate system.

Mr. Kurahara remarked that the Election Law placed undue importance on property qualification. Rights of election might properly be extended to intelligent and educated, though poor, people, as poor men were not less patriotic and zealous in the administration of the State than rich ones.

Mr. Hara replied that the Government would not agree to any extension of the suffrage at present.

Mr. Hanai remarked that the present large electorate system existed in name only. As a matter of fact the members were elected by a small section. The present law had thus the advantages of the large and small electorate system combined, and, therefore, there was no need for revision.

Mr. Hara said that the evils of the present system were universally recognized. The earlier the revision, the greater would be the advantage. There was no reason why the Government should leave the revision until the evils became more manifest.

The discussion was brought to an end on the motion of Mr. Fukui and the Committee rose.

THE GRAND EXHIBITION.

A special committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 1st instant, to consider the representation concerning the Grand Exhibition.

Mr. Takagi brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which he remarked that the abrupt suspension of the Exhibition Scheme would affect Japan's credit and also impede the progress of domestic industry.

Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, replied that he shared the views of the interlocutor, but the Government was compelled to suspend the scheme solely for financial reasons.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, supplemented the explanation by saying that the scheme was first mooted in the 38th fiscal year at an estimated cost of 20 million yen, but the annual instalments of the appropriation were left undecided owing to lack of financial resources. When the Katsura Ministry came into power in 1908, it decided to postpone the scheme until 1917 and to hold it on a larger scale. In framing the Budget for next fiscal year the present Ministry had decided to exclude the scheme for financial reasons. He was unable to fix any date for holding an exhibition in future.

Mr. Moriyu remarked that the Government Steel Foundries, timber factories, etc. might be conveniently transferred to private enterprises and the proceeds appropriated to the execution of the scheme. The United States Government will hold an Exhibition in the course of a few years to celebrate the completion of the Panama canal, when the Japanese Government would doubt participate. If the Government could raise funds for participation in a foreign exhibition, why could it not raise funds for holding a domestic Exhibition? Moreover, the Exhibition would

afford the best opportunity for giving an object lesson to the New Chinese Republic.

Answer to the interpellation was reserved.

The Exhibition Committee of the House of Representatives testified its sitting on the 2nd instant.

Replying to a question by Mr. Takaya, the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce stated that it was possible to open the Exhibition in 1917 if the work were commenced in 1913, but it was difficult to collect building materials and workmen. The Tokyo Municipality was to have contributed seven million yen toward the cost, by annual instalments of one million yen, starting from 1912. One million yen had already been paid in. The Department desired to keep intact the land, which had been purchased for about 3,800,000 yen.

Replying to a question by Mr. Moriya, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that at the outset the Government mooted the scheme without any definite idea as to a financial source, and there was nothing to do but indefinitely postpone it under the present financial circumstances. There were many other ways in which the money, if it could be raised, might be used for developing industry, and he thought some other means could be devised to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the accession of the Emperor to the Throne.

Mr. Moriya remarked that the Government had appropriated about 390 million yen for the construction of railways up to the present fiscal year and a supplementary appropriation of 55,810,000 yen was now asked for in the Budget. It was obviously improper for the Government to postpone the Exhibition for financial reasons, while the Government provided for such a large outlay.

Mr. Takahashi stated that the appropriation was asked for the railway works because of the exigency of the enterprise.

Mr. Moriya asked why the Government proposed to invest 10,170,000 yen in the railway in and near Hagi in Choshi, which was most assuredly not a paying line.

Mr. Yamamoto stated that it was a matter of convenience.

Mr. Moriya again remarked that the Government proposed to spend 17 million yen for improvement of Taku harbour and also 2,400,000 yen for the establishment of a hospital in Formosa, over and above an outlay for building a Shrine in Chosen and working the not very hopeful coal mines in Saghalien, and yet the Government said that it could not raise funds for an Exhibition which was no less beneficial to the development of trade and industry?

Mr. Yamamoto stated that the Government thought the works enumerated were more important and urgent than the Exhibition.

Mr. Kawasaki remarked that the Government postponed the scheme until 1917, on the ground that it was desirable to make it a principal item of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of H.M. the Emperor to the Throne. The postponement reflected on the credit of this country abroad.

Mr. Oshikawa, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the Throne was, no doubt, one of the chief causes responsible for the postponement, but it also mainly depended on the convenience, of the works, as well as on financial reasons. The Government did not attach much importance to the effect which postponement would have on Japan's credit abroad. In past years the Government had taken part in fourteen international exhibitions abroad, at a cost amounting to 4,420,000 yen.

On the motion of Mr. Takagi it was decided to ask for Marquis Saionji's presence at the next meeting to answer interpellations. The committee then rose.

REVISION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

The Election Law Revision Bill Committee of

the House of Representatives resumed its sitting at 10.40 on the morning of the 4th instant.

Mr. Ogawa of the Central Party said that he opposed the Bill for two reasons. In the first place the revision was unnecessary, and secondly the small electorate system was more harmful than otherwise. The speaker then dwelt at some length on the comparative merits and demerits of the large and small electorate area systems, arriving at the conclusion that the former was more conducive to the interests of the House in securing the services of capable representatives.

Mr. Fukui of the *Seiyukai* spoke of the Bill and said that the so-called large electorate system now in vogue was not really in practical operation, which fact alone was sufficient to justify the proposed revision.

Mr. Hanai and Mr. Nishimura spoke in opposition and Mr. Matsuda and Mr. Mitani in support. The Bill as a whole was then put to the vote, when the proposed revision was passed.

The details were then taken up for discussion. Amendments of the provisions were moved by Messrs Takagi, Ogawa and others, but the motions were lost. An amendment moved by Mr. Uzawa of the *Seiyukai* was approved.

Mr. Takagi moved a modification of the property qualification of voters, and proposed that the suffrage should be extended to those who pay direct-taxes exceeding five yen a year and also to graduates of middle schools, or schools of a similar grade.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Hanai then moved that judicial rights in disputes over elections should be vested in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Uzawa opposed the motion on the ground that, while he was in favour of the principle, the question was too comprehensive for the committee to handle, as it necessitated a revision of the Law of the House of Representatives, which is a part of the Constitution.

Mr. Hanai's motion was lost.

After a further discussions on the division of the electoral areas on the basis of population, the Bill was finally passed in the form amended by the *Seiyukai*.

The Committee rose at 4 p.m.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 5th instant. Owing to the Election Law Revision Bill,—which is undoubtedly the most important measure, next to the Budget, in the present session of the Diet,—being included in the Order of the Day, there was a large attendance and the strangers' gallery was filled to its utmost capacity.

The Bill relating to the revision of the Insurance Law was first dealt with. After the Bill had been explained by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, it was referred to a special committee.

The Bill relating to the prohibition of seal fishing and compensation payable to the sealers was next taken up for discussion.

Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the Bill was a necessary outcome of the Sealing Convention.

Mr. Ishibashi remarked that the Convention was detrimental to the interests of the pelagic fishing enterprise of this country.

The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce explained that the four Powers interested in pelagic sealing had agreed to enter into a compact for the preservation of the animals.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

The Election Law Revision Bill then came up, when Mr. Ito, Chairman of the Committee, reported that after careful consideration the Committee had decided in favour of the Bill with some amendments.

A rather animated debate was started with an interpellation brought forward by Mr. Sakamoto, who remarked that the Minister of Home Affairs had stated in the House that there might be some electorates where candidates would be elected without a contest under the small electorate system, but facts proved otherwise. The revision

introduced made the division of the electorates unfair.

Mr. Takagi, speaking in opposition to the Bill, said that the backbone of the proposed revision was the adoption of the small electorate system. The members of the House represented the whole country, and not a small section of a district, but members elected by small electorates were apt to represent local interests at the sacrifice of the interests of the State at large. The Minister of Home Affairs had stated that all advanced countries in the world had adopted the small electorate system, but that view was superficial. As a matter of fact the small electorate system was in vogue in England, but whereas the holders of suffrage rights in Japan did not exceed 3 per cent. of the total population, one-sixth of the population in England was entitled to vote. Feudal ideas still lingered and national ideas remained not fully developed in Japan. The large electorate system was most effective in breaking down these old ideas. The adoption of small electorates was a retrogression in constitutional administration.

Mr. Oku, who spoke in favour of the Bill, said that the small electorate system was equally beneficial to the majority and the minority, which fact had been proved more than once by past experience. The small electorate system was also beneficial in economizing canvassing expenses, in minimizing competition, and in enabling voters to make an easy choice of candidates, as pointed out by the Minister of Home Affairs.

Mr. Adachi opposed the Bill and spent nearly an hour in pointing out alleged fallacies in the arguments for small electorate areas. He remarked that the principal evil inherent in the small electorate system was the oppression of the minority by the majority, which tended to impede the election of candidates representing the minority.

Mr. Fukui refuted the arguments raised against the small electorate system and pointed out that even in the present large electorates the system was practised, seeing that by agreement between various political parties some reservations were made as to their respective electorates. The proposed revision was nothing but the recognition of the existing facts by legislation.

Mr. Hanai argued that there was no necessity for the revision. Both large and small electorates had their advantages and drawbacks. The election of one member for each small electorate was against the principles of election. The present system had the advantage of the two systems combined in one. The nation did not desire the revision, and no revision was needed until it was demanded by the people.

Mr. Matsuda, who spoke in support of the Bill, said that the strongest point raised in opposition to the revision was the alleged non-representation of the minority. This, however, was a delusion. Was not the minority fairly represented when the small electorate system was in force a decade ago? Under the large electorate system a fairly large number of the minority's candidates were returned in proportion to their number. The so called proportionate representation system in vogue abroad was the ideal method, but it was inconvenient in practice. The small electorate system came nearest to it.

On the motion of Mr. Tsunematsu, the debate was brought to a close, and the Bill was read a second time.

After some amendments had been rejected, the Bill was adopted in the form amended by the *Seiyukai* members.

The House rose at 5.45 p.m.

REVISION OF THE INSURANCE LAW.

The Insurance Law Revision Bill Committee of the House of Representatives sat on the afternoon of the 6th instant.

Mr. Okubo, Government parliamentary delegate, explaining the Bill, said that the proposed revision had for its object the regulating of the unification of Government supervision over insurance business and also the protection of clients from losses sustained through the amalgamation of

insurance companies. It was proposed to provide for the transfer of policy-holders to the amalgamated company, together with the reserve fund of the company which was to be incorporated with that of the other company.

Mr. Kataoka remarked that the revision was evidently not intended to cover foreign insurance companies in Japan. The present Law imposed on the foreign companies a deposit of 150,000 yen as security. The statistics for 1910 showed that the policies issued by the foreign companies reached a total of 10,210,000 yen, which most probably increased to at least 11,700,000 yen last year. A security of 150,000 yen was hopelessly inadequate to secure losses when international trouble arose. The foreign companies were remitting home large amounts received as premiums, which meant an outflow of domestic capital abroad. It seemed advisable to increase the amount of security deposit to meet emergencies.

Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated in reply that the question had been studied by the Government, but in view of diplomatic and other circumstances, it was thought inexpedient to introduce a radical revision on that point. The Government would, nevertheless, take adequate measures, if the outflow of domestic capital became sufficiently large to injuriously affect the domestic economic market. The Government did not think the business of the foreign insurance companies was yet so highly developed as to warrant such apprehension.

After a few more questions had been asked and answered, the Committee rose at 3 p.m.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The special committee of the House of Peers sat on the 6th instant to consider the bill relating to the control of juvenile drinking, which was adopted by the lower House.

Count Yanagisawa stated that while he was in favour of the Bill on principle, he thought such a law was impracticable, and therefore he must oppose its enactment.

A division was then taken, when the Bill was rejected.

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Hoshi brought forward an interpellation on the educational policy pursued by the Government.

Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, stated that the interpellation was too comprehensive to be conveniently answered orally, so he would answer it in writing later.

Mr. Shiba brought forward the interpellation on the China affair, which was translated in a previous issue. He fully explained the points raised in the interpellation.

Replying, Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that Japan's China policy was fixed from the start. The recent civil strife in China was solely a conflict between the Imperialists and Revolutionists, neither of whom menaced the safety of foreign residents. Japan upheld the principle of the territorial integrity of China and maintained strict neutrality throughout. She had never attempted to interfere with the polity of China. The recent disturbances in North China, however, were a different matter, and the property of Japanese residents had been plundered and their lives endangered. The Government had therefore dispatched 1,200 soldiers to China for the protection of Japanese residents and will send more troops as occasion requires. The Government did not know what country was alluded to in the rumour as to the Chinese princes being made dupes of. Japan had no hand in the administration of China, and the rumour must be considered as groundless. The China Merchants' loan had not yet been concluded owing to the opposition raised by the shareholders. Foreign countries were competing for loans to China. A proposal for loans was also received by Japan, but an inter-

national agreement existed that no country should lend money either to the Imperialists or Revolutionists until after the cessation of civil commotion. Japan had immense interests at stake in Manchuria, so opposed the region being made the basis of operations of either belligerent, and obtained the withdrawal of the two armies from the neutral zones in Manchuria. As to the Kilin Changchun railway, the work had made rather tardy progress, but about 40 miles of the line were now laid, leaving about 33 miles to complete. The Chinese Government had not sufficient funds to complete it, and the Government might supply the funds, if asked by China. Work on the Kilin-Hoilyong railway was making steady progress, but the work was now suspended owing to the recent disturbances.

Mr. Oka, Vice-Minister of War, supplementing the explanation, stated that the Government was not aware of the allegation that some Japanese army officers had extracted money from the Wuchang revolutionists, but would cause an inquiry to be made into the matter.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

Mr. Takeichi brought forward an interpellation on the abnormal increase in the price of rice.

Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the increase might be due to the economic principle of demand and supply, but the Government considered the recent rise rather abnormal, and had under consideration relief measures. An improvement of the Rice Exchanges was also contemplated.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, replying to the interpellation, stated that altogether 20 million yen was advanced to the farming class at low interest, the fund being drawn from deposits in the Postal Savings Bank. Any further loan at low interest was now impossible.

The Vice-President of the Railway Bureau also stated that the freight rate on rice had already been lowered to a minimum and a further reduction was impossible.

Numerous Bills included in the Order of the Day were then taken up for discussion. These Bills were all of minor importance, except the one which related to the proposed exemption of chlorate of potash from import duty.

The Bills were all referred to special committees.

The House rose at 5.50 p.m.

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 on Thursday morning. After various reports had been submitted the House went into discussion of the Bills included in the Order of the Day.

The Railway Construction Revision Bill introduced by the Government was taken up first and on Count Yanagisawa, Chairman of the special committee, reporting in its favour, the Bill was passed.

The Budget for next fiscal year was next dealt with, when Viscount Suga, Chairman of the Budget Committee, reported that the committee approved the Budget without any amendment.

The Budget was adopted without dissension.

The Pilot Law Revision Bill was then taken up for discussion and referred to a special committee.

The Bill relating to the revision of the Pension Law concerning retired policemen and prison-warders was next taken up for consideration, when Baron Minami-Iwakura, Chairman of the special committee, reported that the Committee had decided to reject the Bill, as it was unfair to accord special treatment to the police and prison officials in the matter of pensions.

The Bill was rejected accordingly.

The House rose at 11.15.

The report of the accountant who has examined the books of the Steel Trust, mentions that the Pierpont Morgan Company made a profit of £13,800,000 by financing the Trust,

THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

"A BRIEF JOURNEY INTO THE DARKNESS."

At the Van Schaick Hall on Thursday evening last, Dr. N. Gordon Munro took his audience by the hand, and led them into the dim realms of primitive man. His lecture, which was entitled "*The Dawn of Humanity*," was singularly fascinating. At times, for many, it was rather above one's head; but it withdrew the curtain from the stage of antiquity and revealed glimpses of the Unknown; that awe inspiring thing, the study of which has driven some men mad and has made others famous.

In spite of the inclement weather, there was a good attendance at the Hall and about nine o'clock, after the customary introduction of the lecturer by the President, the Doctor then introduced his hearers to the past and for nearly an hour, scholarly discoursed upon man in the stone age and his surroundings. Dr. Munro's prominence in the archaeological world is too well known to all in Yokohama to need dilating upon in these columns; suffice that the knowledge that listening to a master of his subject, made the evening trebly interesting.

There was something almost uncanny in the easy nonchalant manner in which he spoke of 170,000 years ago as though it were yesterday. He gave us vivid word pictures of man in those dim ages, armed with rude stone weapons, and having to encounter the grim monsters of his day, such as the mammoth and his giant confrères. In fact, he revealed to us so many pages of that primitive age, that one left the hall feeling a very, very tiny atom indeed. Although the Doctor was hampered by the lack of lantern slides and the exigencies of time, he brilliantly succeeded in doing what he set out to do, viz—giving the audience a clear vista of that desolate period he described as the Dawn of Humanity.

On the conclusion of the lecture, a good musical programme wound up the evening. Special praise is due to Mrs. W. T. Payne for her fine singing of two songs, one by Tosti and the other by Rogers. She was in excellent voice and sung with a richness of tone that well merited the enthusiastic applause she received. Mr. Salinger's cello solo was also one of the real successes of the evening, his rendering of Wagner's "*Star of Eve*" being exceptionally fine. The following was the programme of the evening:—

LECTURE: "THE DAWN OF HUMANITY."

DR. N. GORDON MUNRO.

Cello Solo "*Star of Eve*" Wagner.

Mr. Salinger.

Song (a) "*Matinata*" Tosti.

(b) "*At Parting*" Rogers.

Mrs. W. T. Payne.

Accompanist Miss Lippitt.

Recitation "*A Terrible Trial*" J. L. Toole.

Mr. F. G. Palmer.

Violin Quartette — (a) "*Le Carnaval de Venice*" ...

(b) "*Die Ehre Gottes aus der Nahn*" Beethoven.

Messrs. Fachtmann, W. Blundell.

Fachtmann, O. F. Mocock.

Song "*Go to Sea*"

Mr. S. H. Vile.

Accompanist Miss Cameron.

Recitation "*140*" W. W. Chilton.

Mr. F. G. Palmer.

FUNERAL OF MR. F. H. TANNER.

The funeral of the late Mr. F. H. Tanner was held on the 1st inst. at the Zengyōji Temple, the remains having previously been cremated. The pall-bearers were Messrs. F. J. Hall, J. Stewart, W. Y. Showler and C. H. Fearon, and the service was performed by the Rev. T. Roseberry Good.

Among those present at the ceremony were Mr. C. G. Babbitt, Vice-Consul General, Mr. N. F. Smith, President of the American Asiatic Association, Mr. S. Isaacs, and the entire staff of the P. M. Steamship Co. The caquet was covered with wreaths sent by many friends.

HELM BROS., LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of Helm Bros., Limited was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following report and statement of accounts were submitted:—

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the year ending 31st December, 1911.

PROFIT.—The net profit for the year (including the sum of 5,397.32 yen brought forward from 1910), after the payment of a 5 per cent. interim dividend of 10,000.00 yen in June last, writing off for depreciation 8,154.30 yen and providing for Directors' and Auditors' fees, amounts to 26,902.66 yen, out of which the Directors recommend that a final Dividend of 7½ per cent. be declared, which will absorb 18,750.00 yen, leaving a balance of 8,152.66 yen to be carried forward to new account.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Mr. F. J. Abbott resigned from the Board on account of his leaving for home. Mr. E. Eddison has been invited to fill this vacancy; his election requires the confirmation of the present meeting.

Messrs. R. Schmidt-Scharff and J. A. Harmsen retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Pearson, Mackie and Dempster, Chartered Accountants, and their re-election is recommended.

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

LIABILITIES:		Yen.
Capital paid up	250,000.00	
Sundry Creditors	21,308.91	
Reserve Fund	25,000.00	
Marine Insurance Fund	10,000.00	
Profit and Loss Account	26,902.66	
	333,211.57	

ASSETS:		Yen.
Sundry Debtors	54,952.26	
Customs and other Deposits	12,040.31	
Fleet	168,074.60	
Working Plant, Gear and other Property	70,955.41	
Stores	3,951.27	
Unexpired Policies	1,427.11	
Cash in Hand and in Bank	13,531.54	
Office Furniture	8,279.07	
	333,211.57	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

DR.		Yen.
To Working Account	107,480.18	
To Interim Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. p. annum paid on 30th June, 1911.	10,000.00	
To Amount written off for depreciation	8,154.30	
To Balance	26,902.66	
	153,437.14	

CR.		Yen.
By Balance, 31st Dec., 1910	23,997.32	
Less Final Dividend for 1910, paid on 28th Feb., 1911	18,600.00	
	5,397.32	
By Gross Profit for the year	148,017.82	
By Transfer Fees	22.00	
	153,437.14	

1912.
January 1st. By Balance brought forward 269,266

After the notice convening the meeting had been read, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Chairman—Mr. R. Schmidt-Scharff—in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, referred to the success that had been achieved by the Kobe and Osaka branches. Under the direction of Mr. Julius Helm, they now had a fine fleet of tugs and lighters, etc., capable of handling a large quantity of merchandise with the quickest despatch; and the company was hopeful of securing a large share of the business there. In connection with the Yokohama business, it was well maintained in spite of the severe competition that naturally existed. At the same time, owing to the latter condition of affairs, the Directors had decided upon a conservative policy and had therefore declared a final dividend of 7½ per cent. only, making a total of 12½ per cent. for the year. It was his pleasure to be able to report that the internal working of the Company during the year had been very smooth and successful and that many flattering

testimonials had been received from Agents and Captains for the work done by the Company.

It was proposed by Mr. Snow and seconded by Mr. Retz, that the accounts as presented be adopted. This was carried unanimously.

The former Board of Directors, with the exception of Mr. F. J. Abbott who is in England, was re-elected; whilst the appointment of Mr. E. Eddison to the vacant position was confirmed.

After the re-election of the Auditors, Messrs. Pearson, Mackie, and Dempster, and the passing of a vote of thanks to the Directors and Staff, the meeting came to a close.

AN UP-TO-DATE RAILWAY STATION.

THE MANSEI BRIDGE STATION COMPLETED.

The construction of the Mansei-bashi railway station in Tokyo has now been completed, and it will be formally handed over in a few days from the street line construction office to the Central Superintendence Office of the Railway Bureau.

The construction of the station in question cost some two hundred and ninety thousand yen, required the work of sixty thousand men and officials, and took over two years to complete.

The building is two-storied and is constructed after the Renaissance style of architecture from designs by Dr. Tatsuno, beauty and strength constituting its main features. The ground floor consists of waiting rooms for different classes of passengers, cloak rooms, the station master's room, luggage and inquiry offices, and an open hall of one hundred and thirty *tsubo*. The floors of the various rooms are asphalted, whilst the waiting rooms are all provided with marble fire-places. The walls are painted white, and the chairs the same colour as that of the tickets according to the different classes, so that a glance may enable the travellers to distinguish the different classes of waiting-rooms. The upper story is appropriated for a business room and restaurants, Japanese and foreign, consisting of three serving rooms and one bar room.

The dimension of the ground is 451 *tsubo*, measuring 45 *ken* in length, and 15 *ken* in breadth. The principal construction materials are two million bricks, three thousand three hundred poles and pillars, twenty thousand blocks of quartz, one hundred and eighty tons of steel sheets and plates, and three thousand five hundred *kuwame* of copper plates. The building is perfectly fireproof, every room being separated by re-inforced concrete, whilst the roof is covered with copper plates set in iron frames.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. E. V. THORN.

In spite of the very inclement weather, a large number of sorrowing friends assembled at the late Mr. Thorn's residence and also at the graveside on Wednesday afternoon to pay their last tribute of respect and affection to an old friend who had joined the great majority. The initial service took place at the house, and with impressiveness and simple dignity, was conducted by the Rev. T. Roseberry Good. In the course of his final address, the reverend gentleman referred feelingly to the splendid qualities, the sincere good humour, the generosity, and the bright and happy temperament of the late Mr. Thorn. His words were deeply appreciated by those present, as they too knew of the sterling attributes possessed by their old friend.

At the conclusion of the service, the casquet containing the ashes was carried to the hearse by the pall-bearers:—Mr. N. F. Smith, Mr. N. W. McIvor, Mr. D. H. Blake, Mr. E. W. Frazar, Mr. G. G. Brady and Mr. M. G. McDonald.

The service at the grave was very pathetic, the small casquet being reverently lowered into a cavity in the grave of the late Mrs. Thorn. The Rev. Mr. Good then read the final prayers for the

dead, and on the conclusion of the ceremony, many present gently dropped a little sprig of fir, or a flower, upon the ashes in token of tender farewell before leaving the cemetery.

One more old resident of Yokohama has been laid to rest in the city he loved. May the earth lay gently upon him.

FIRES.

A fire broke out in the small hours of the 29th ult. in the house occupied by Yamazaki Tani, Kita-cho, Aoyama. Fanned by the strong south wind then prevailing, the flames rapidly spread and, for a time, threatened to turn into a great conflagration. As the scene was near the residence of General Kawamura, some troops from the Fourth Regiment of the Imperial Guards were dispatched to the rescue, but it was not before six houses had been completely destroyed that the fire was brought under control.

In the small hours of Monday morning fire broke out in the kitchen of a house occupied by a second-hand goods dealer named Saito, at Kanatsugi, Shitaya, resulting in the total destruction of eight houses while seventeen others were partially damaged. The flames raged for fully two hours, completely baffling the efforts of the firemen. As the scene of the fire is situated in a very poor quarter, most of the victims are homeless, and are exposed to all kinds of hardships.

At 9.50 on the night of the 5th instant a fire broke out in the drying room of the tobacco factory at Kumamoto belonging to the Monopoly Bureau, destroying several brick buildings before it was extinguished at 3 a.m., the following morning. A company despatched from the Sixth Division was quickly on the scene to aid the firemen in their efforts. One fireman was burnt to death and three others were seriously injured, but fortunately the flames did not spread to the houses adjoining. The building was constructed the year before last at a cost of some two hundred thousand yen, and was the largest tobacco factory in Kyushu. The destruction of the factory means a great loss to the Monopoly Bureau.

THE SPECIE BANK BRANCHES IN CHINA.

A telegram concerning the disturbances in Tientsin and Peking, received at the Yokohama Specie Bank, reports that the Branch office in Peking, being situated within the quarter under the direct control of the Japanese authorities, has thus far not sustained any damage. Numbers of Japanese residents are seeking refuge there. The conflagration started by the insurgents in Tientsin about nine o'clock on the 2nd inst. exposed the Bank's office in the Chinese town to serious danger; but all the precious effects and important documents were removed to the Branch Bank in Tientsin under the escort of a military force. The detached office also suffered no loss from the disturbance. The telegram adds that judging from the present state of things, there is no knowing when peace and order will be restored.

SEVERE TYPHOON.

THE "CANADA MARU" WEATHER BOUND.

Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co., agents for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, are in receipt of a wireless message from the S. S. *Canada Maru*, some 1,000 miles away from Yokohama, and now en voyage to this port from Tacoma. The message reports that the vessel ran into a very big typhoon on Saturday afternoon. The storm was of such severity that it was dangerous to continue on her course, with the result that she was delayed for thirteen hours. Heavy snow was falling and the cold was intense, the thermometer falling to 15 degrees. From 4 a.m. Sunday morning, the weather improved and the *Canada Maru* was able to continue her journey.

YOKOHAMA v. KOBE.

THE INTERPORT RUGBY MATCH.

Kobe gave Yokohama a distinctly bad beating on the Kobe ground last Saturday afternoon; the former gaining a fine victory by eleven points to nil; viz.—one goal and two tries to nil.

The game was well contested, but it was evident during the early part of the contest that the lack of practice on the part of the Yokohama team had doomed them to failure. They put up a good fight, but without success.

Sorry as we are at the defeat of the Yokohama team, genuine congratulations are due to Kobe for having been victorious for the first time since the first struggle in 1902. The victory of the "Kobe-ites" should give determination and energy to Yokohama men to regain and hold the recreation ground in this city so that they may recover their old prowess.

The teams were as follows:—

Yokohama.		Kobe.
C. Martyr	Back.	W. G. Galloway
A. G. Kellogg		L. Meere
P. E. Bousfield		C. G. Crane
R. H. Box		C. A. Roper
H. J. Hearne		F. Aillon
J. Barnes		R. W. Somerville
G. Box		H. E. Reynell
P. Leigh-Bennett		C. J. Williams
R. E. Postlethwaite		D. Morison
F. Syme-Thomson		F. McD. Courtney
H. E. Gripper		W. M. Weston
G. C. Altceck	For-	R. C. Bowden
A. G. Hearne	wards.	E. Stephen
A. R. Hall		C. Carey
N. Buckle (Capt.)		C. L. Spence (Capt.)

Mr. P. L. Spence was referee, and the linesmen were Messrs. R. G. Munro (Kobe) and W. D. Whittemore (Yokohama).

PARTICULARS OF PLAY.

Some further particulars of the play in the Rugby Interport Football match at Kobe are given by the *Kobe Herald*. It appears that Kobe won the toss and chose the Western goal for the initial half. The Yokohama team opened with an attack, but soon had to put itself on the defensive, Meere nearly securing a try a few minutes after the game opened. He was brought down when near Yokohama's goal line, but had his revenge shortly after when he again eluded his opponents and scored a well earned try. The touch down was not in a very good position, so Aillon may be excused for not converting. Some open play followed this initial venture and the Yokohama men managed to hold their own, although badly pressed. Some pretty passing finally enabled Reynell to score another try, which Galloway failed to convert. The Yokohama team now began to play desperately and Bousfield came within an ace of scoring, the contest close to Kobe's lines being very severe. Kobe succeeded in holding out till half time, however, when the score was 6 points to Kobe and nil to Yokohama.

The second half opened with some midfield play, neither side gaining much advantage. Then some combination play on the part of Kobe again brought Yokohama into difficulties, till finally Williams scored a third try, which Aillon this time succeeded in converting. Shortly after H. J. Hearne got hurt in a scrum and had to leave the field, but the Yokohama team continued to struggle very gamely, contesting every inch of the ground. Driven into their own ground they fought on and saved one or two attempts to increase the score. Once they got away, but did not keep the ball well in line and got sent back. Kobe was again pressing and would undoubtedly have scored again when the whistle blew for time, leaving Kobe the victors by 11 points (2 tries and one goal) to nil.

A scene of wild enthusiasm ensued when Kobe, for the first time in the history of the Rugby Interport Matches, were proclaimed the victors. C. L. Spence was hoisted up on to the shoulders of several players and carried in triumph off the field, the spectators cheering themselves hoarse.

There is not the slightest doubt that the better

team won. Right from the start to the finish they were the better side, and while every Kobe man worked like a hero, special mention must be made of C. L. Spence, Somerville, Aillon, Meere, Reynell, Williams and Galloway, who all worked like Trojans, and saved the situation time after time.

The Yokohama men played finely, but were beaten by a better Fifteen, and doubtless they themselves will be the first to admit it.

THE CINEMATOGRAF AT THE "GAIETY."

It must have been very gratifying to the Management of the above theatre to have noted the big audience that was present on Saturday evening, for it was large enough to even gladden the heart of a Bandmann Opera Company manager. The pictures thrown upon the curtain were excellent and well deserved the enthusiasm displayed by those present; whilst the large attendance should—and undoubtedly will—give encouragement to the management to continue their enterprise, as it is evident that the Gaiety Cinematograph is "catching on" with the Yokohama public. The best films displayed were undoubtedly "Caleno and his Lions," "Massacraile's Adventures," and "The Fickle Lover;" but at the same time, unstinted praise is due to the other pictures for their rich, clean humour, as they were successful in sending the audience home in an excellent temper and thoroughly satisfied.

The next Cinematograph show at the Gaiety Theatre will take place on Saturday, March 16. There will be two performances on that day, the matinee at 5 p.m., and the evening performance at 9 p.m. The management state that an extra fine programme will be presented and trust that residents will support them as ably as they did last Saturday. A string orchestra will be in attendance.

THE HOKKAIDO COLLIERY CO.

The Hokkaido Tanko Kisen Kaisha decided to issue loan bonds of 5 million yen at its extraordinary general meeting held the other day, but according to an article in the contract, providing that in case of necessity the Directors are authorised to produce security, they have to fix beforehand the property to be offered as such. The whole property of the Company, however, is now pledged for a loan of six million yen previously contracted with the Chartered Bank, so that the Company has now to offer as security nothing but the shares of the Japan Steel Factory, amounting to seven million five hundred thousand yen, or property from other sources. In these circumstances the Company, seeing it necessary to first obtain the consent thereto of the creditors, is now under negotiation with the Chartered Bank. It is probable that as a result, the above mentioned shares of the Steel Factory will be fixed as security for the purpose. Upon the decision of the guarantee, the Company is to issue invitations to the shareholders for subscriptions. Particulars of the issue of the loan bonds are not yet decided, but the shareholders' subscriptions will be fixed, it is expected, within the present month or at latest by April 5th.

THE INCREASED COST OF RICE.

The authorities of the Agricultural and Commercial Department are now carefully investigating the causes of the recent appreciation in the price of rice with a view to finding some remedial measures. It does not seem that their efforts are likely to culminate in anything satisfactory, however, as the present rise is quite different in nature from the same phenomenon last year, inasmuch as it is not an appreciation caused artificially, while agriculturists in general do not regard the present price of rice as being abnormal.

JAPANESE-KOREAN INTERCOURSE.

LECTURE BEFORE KOREA BRANCH OF ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was held, by the courtesy of Mr. Scidmore, in the rooms of the American Consulate General in Seoul on the 27th ult. There was a good attendance despite the wet weather. Dr. J. S. Gale occupied the chair. Mr. I. Yamagata, Editor of the *Seoul Press*, read a paper entitled "Japanese-Korean Relations after the Japanese Invasion of Korea in the 16th Century." He gave a rapid survey of the war, which proved a death blow to Korea, and then passed on to speak of the difficulty attending the restoration of friendly relations between Japan and Korea. It was Japan which first made overtures to Korea to become friends again, but the latter being still suspicious of the former did not respond with alacrity. On Japan showing that she was in earnest in desiring peace by returning Korean prisoners, Korea began to show a more conciliatory attitude. In 1603, five years after the Japanese troops had withdrawn from the peninsula, Korea sent an envoy to Japan to see if Japan really wanted peace. This envoy was received in audience at Kyoto by Shogun Iyeyasu, who consented to return more than 3,000 Korean prisoners. This substantial proof convinced Korea of Japan's sincere desire for peace. Korea then preferred two demands. One was the surrender of some Japanese soldiers who had desecrated royal tombs in Seoul and the other was that Shogun Iyeyasu should first send a letter to the Korean king suing for peace. The latter was a bold demand very likely to offend the proud ruler of Japan. In consequence the Daimyo of Tsushima, who had been charged with the mission of restoring peace, was very much perplexed. From this difficulty, however, he was freed by his crafty prime minister Yanagawa, who devised a trick. It was nothing less than the fabrication of a State letter in the name of Iyeyasu. Yanagawa sent this forged letter to the Korean king, together with some criminals, pretending they were the desecrators of the royal tombs. The Korean Court was duped and in 1608 sent an ambassador to the Court of the Shogun at Yedo to return the courtesy shown by Japan. On this occasion, Yanagawa again tampered with the autograph letter of the Korean king, as it was worded in the form of a reply to the forged letter of Iyeyasu and succeeded in deceiving the Court of the Shogun. In this way peace was formally restored between Japan and Korea.

Continuing, the lecturer said that Korean missions had visited Japan eleven times since that time on the occasion of the appointment of new Shoguns. The travels in Japan of those Korean missions and the receptions they had at Yedo were described and the lecture concluded with an account concerning the Chosenjin Kaido or highway of the Koreans in the province of Oni.

Mr. Yamagata spoke for about an hour. His quaint way of speaking English, says the *Seoul Press*, and some anecdotes he gave, greatly amused the audience and he was given an enthusiastic vote of thanks at the conclusion of his lecture. An equally enthusiastic vote of thanks was also given to Mr. Scidmore and his venerable mother for the cordial hospitality shown by them. Mr. Yamagata's paper will be printed by the society and distributed among the members.

DEATH OF A BRITISH MISSIONARY.

We regret to have to announce the assassination of a British missionary. The deed of violence was perpetrated at Paoting or at Tingchow in the neighbourhood of that city. No particulars are yet given, but it appears that a small force of British soldiers has proceeded to the place by train.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

**EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
MEN OUT.
QUARTER MILLION OF WORKERS
UNDER NOTICE.**

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 1.

Everything is quiet in the strike districts.

Eight hundred thousand strikers are now out, and the seriousness of the position has already made itself disagreeably felt.

A number of works are closed at Sheffield and elsewhere.

The railways are arranging a reduction of their services.

Everywhere employers are giving their employees warning notice and it is estimated that already over a quarter of a million workers are under notice.

The negotiations will be continued to-morrow.

It is understood that Mr. Asquith has made fresh proposals to the coal owners and negotiations have taken a fresh turn.

The railways are swearing in their employees as special constables.

The South Wales railway men have resolved not to handle troop trains or coal worked by blacklegs.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 1.

The coal strike is spreading rapidly. Eight hundred thousand men are idle.

Mr. Asquith has informed the miners that the Government recognises that they have a real grievance and proposes to rectify it by a guarantee of a minimum wage by the owners, coupled with a safeguard against abuse.

The Government will not permit any resistance of the minority among the employers or any delay in the attainment of the object in view.

At the same time Mr. Asquith urges the men to agree to discuss the amount payable in the separate districts.

It is considered doubtful whether the men will agree.

South Wales and Scottish employers have not yet accepted the Government's proposals.

NEGOTIATIONS SUSPENDED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 2.

All the coal negotiations were suspended this afternoon till next week.

The miners affirm that the strike cannot be arrested within a fortnight.

The strikers now number 1,065,000. They are enjoying their holiday with sports and entertainments.

Later.

As an instance of the paralysis already affecting trade, twenty thousand workers were rendered idle at Glasgow yesterday, and a hundred thousand Clyde shipbuilders will be idle in a week.

The price of bunker coal at some Continental ports has doubled.

Mr. W. E. Harvey, M.P., Secretary of the Derbyshire Miners' Association, when interviewed, said: "We are not in a hurry

like the railwaymen and the strike will continue for some considerable time."

The Great Central Railway has refused to give up some coal in transit for Sheffield, declaring it has statutory powers to seize it for its own purposes.

COMPLETE STOPPAGE IN SCOTLAND.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 4.

There has been complete stoppage in the Scottish coalfields and the non-unionists have joined the strikers.

The position is very grave.

Sixty thousand miners and steel and other workers are idle.

The Irish steamship service has been reduced.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 4.

The attitude of the colliers towards their employers is causing some anxiety. The men demand a recognition of their union and an increase of twenty per cent. on their wages. Work is stopped throughout the coal area.

The miners are determined to remain idle until they have at least had a holiday.

Other industries are already suffering.

Fourteen London and Suburban railway stations were closed on Monday and a hundred trains discontinued.

An early rise in the price of provisions is feared.

NEGOTIATIONS AT A DEADLOCK.

ATTITUDE OF THE WELSH MINERS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 4.

Though the coal crisis is at a deadlock, the papers contain columns of details as to rise in prices, stoppage of industries, with orders going to Germany, the United States and elsewhere, drastic train service reductions coming into force from to-day, and prognostications of the duration of the strike, with estimates ranging from a few days to six weeks.

South Wales, however, where both sides are determined to fight to a finish, is preparing for a prolonged struggle.

The opinion of the mining leaders tends to put the duration of the strike at a fortnight or three weeks.

A grave element in the situation is that a section of the miners in the Tyne district, contrary to the undertaking of the Miners Federation, has decided not to allow the men to descend to prevent the flooding of the pits.

This means rendering the pits everlastingly useless and depriving the men themselves of work.

Coal has risen in the North by 300 per cent.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 5.

Mr. Asquith's denial that he foreshadowed legislation for making a minimum wage for all workers compulsory pleases the country, which is rapidly turning against the miners, who are holiday making while the factories are shutting down and the prices of food are rising.

The railway companies announce the with-

drawal of 720 trains going to Manchester. Elsewhere hundreds have been withdrawn.

ATTITUDE OF THE MEN.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 6.

The Secretary of the Miners' Executive has stated that the men still refuse any compromise, and that the rumour that many men in the federated area wish to resume work is untrue.

Despite this, the authorities are generally hopeful of speedy action leading to a settlement.

Mr. Asquith hopes to meet both sides to-day.

BYE-ELECTION.

London, March 6.

At a bye-election at South Manchester, in consequence of the appointment of Mr. A. A. Haworth as Junior Lord of the Treasury, Mr. Haworth received 6,472 votes and Mr. Glazebrook, the Conservative, 7,051.

The election has caused a sensation, and is compared with the defeat of Mr. Gerald Loder on a similar appointment which was the precursor of the fall of the Balfour Government.

The Conservatives are elated and the Liberals are despondent and admit that it is a very grave blow.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 6.

The Kiel harbour companies have been obliged to reduce their shipping owing to the lack of English coal and the dearthness of German coal.

(FROM THE "N.C. DAILY NEWS")

London, February 28.

Sir Griffith Thomas, the protagonist of the Welsh coal owners, stated in an interview yesterday evening on the subject of the conference that "matters remain exactly as they were this morning. Nothing has been done."

Other well-known leaders on both sides express equally pessimistic views. It is generally considered that a stoppage of work can now hardly be prevented whatever may be the result of the conferences. The miners everywhere are determined to insist upon the minimum wage without any hampering conditions.

The Liberal papers continue to declare that the Government as a last resource may rush through a Bill establishing the minimum wage and even suggest that the Government should take over the mines and operate them on the principle of the minimum wage.

The Times states that the Government submitted no proposal for legislation either to the owners or to the miners yesterday.

Another day of incessant conferences has passed, with the Government doing its utmost to formulate a settlement. Over 100,000 men are on strike to-night, and there have been fears of disturbances in the Midlands. Police are being conveyed in motorcars to the disaffected districts.

When Mr. Asquith returned from Buckingham Palace, the miners entered his residence at Downing Street, while the owners were still carrying on their conference there. Soon both owners and miners proceeded to the Foreign Office.

The Government is satisfied that there are cases in which the miners cannot earn a reasonable wage owing to causes outside their own control, and that power to secure such a wage should be secured by arrangements suitable to the circumstances and each district, with adequate safeguards to protect employers against abuse of this power.

Sixty per cent. of the coal owners have accepted the Government's proposals. This section in-

cludes those in Lancashire, Yorkshire, the Midlands, North Wales, Durham and Cumberland.

The dissentients are the owners in Northumberland, South Wales, Scotland, the Forest of Dean, Somerset and Bristol.

A section of the owners, at the instance of the Durham coal owners, have accepted the Government's proposals on national grounds in view of the disaster of a strike, but the Welshmen are adamant.

Sir Griffith Thomas in an interview last evening said, "We resist the Government proposals to end the strike. We would rather submit to compulsion than accept voluntarily."

The miners are determined and remain solid, confident of obtaining not merely the principle, but the specific minimum wage.

Miners to the number of 115,000 struck yesterday evening. Generally a holiday spirit prevails and there is an absence of the ill-feeling of previous combats. The leaders in Derbyshire have issued a manifesto reprobating the outbreak at Chesterfield yesterday.

In view of the breakdown of the peace negotiations, the action of the Government is now eagerly anticipated. A surprisingly large percentage of coal owners have accepted the principle of the minimum wage. It is expected that this will strengthen the hands of the Government, but it is not expected that legislation will be so drastic as has been suggested. It is more probable that this will be based on the proposals made yesterday evening.

London, February 29

It is understood that the English coal owners within the federated area have agreed to accept the Government's scheme, including the minimum wage. The Northumberland and South Wales owners oppose this proposal, while the Scottish owners are divided in opinion. The miners are debating whether or not to accept this partial settlement, while negotiations are continuing in South Wales, Northumberland and Scotland.

The miners re-affirm that no settlement will be acceptable unless the minimum wage at the rate adopted by the Miners' Federation be conceded. They cannot, therefore, accept arbitration upon that point. They decline to express an opinion on the question of safeguards, but are still willing to confer with the owners. The conference will be continued to-morrow.

In any case the Government takes the view that legislation will be necessary to make the decision of its representatives legal. It is suggested that the district conferences shall be compulsory.

London, February 29.

A special meeting of the Cabinet has been held to discuss the coal crisis.

The Cabinet sat for over two hours and then the Government met the miners and the meeting lasted for an hour. Several of the coal owners have left London already and the majority of the remainder will leave to-day.

The position is more hopeful. As expected, the minimum wages will be obtained and the miners will concede the necessary safeguards regarding the minimum output. An official statement says that the Northumberland coal owners have agreed to the principle of a minimum wage, but they cannot assent to it, irrespective of the ability or willingness of the workers.

London, March 1.

It is recognized that Mr. Asquith's speech has given new life to the negotiations, but opinions vary as to whether a speedy settlement will ensue. Some Radical optimists believe that the miners are pleased with the dramatic swiftness of their victory, and will return to work after a brief holiday, confiding in Mr. Asquith's integrity. Other Radicals share the views held by most of the Conservative papers that the Bill for establishing a minimum wage in the collieries, which it is understood will be introduced on March 4, will not have a smooth passage through the House of Commons, owing to the apprehensions, which are not confined to the Conservative benches, that any concession will provoke an agitation for

a minimum wage among those employed in other industries.

It is pointed out that the Miners' Federation, at their meeting yesterday evening, adhered to their previous demands.

Hence the Conservatives argue that an attempt to enforce by legislation a compromise on the basis of offers rejected by the miners, but accepted by the majority of the coal owners, would be futile. It is stated that the Labour Party has decided to introduce a Bill embodying the demands made on February 2, thus adding to the complications of the debates in the House of Commons.

The *Morning Leader* states that the Government will introduce a second Bill providing for the taking over of certain mines in Wales by the Government on behalf of the Navy.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, February 29.

Russia has made fresh proposals for mediation between Italy and Turkey.

She proposes to ask Italy on what terms she will conclude peace on the basis of Italian sovereignty in Tripoli. The five Powers will then approach Turkey.

At Constantinople, but little faith is felt in the efficacy of the Russian initiative.

The adoption of the Annexation Bill by the Italian Parliament is regarded as an insurmountable obstacle to an understanding.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

London, February 26.

The Foreign Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has reported favourably on the resolution congratulating the Chinese people on the assumption of the powers, duties, and responsibilities, of self-government.

If the resolution passes the House it will be tantamount to a recognition of the Chinese Republic.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

London, March 2.

Sir Guy Wilson, Finance Member of the Council of India, in presenting the budget to the Council, referred to the opium question, and paid a tribute to the skill of Sir John Jordan, the British Minister at Peking, in securing a settlement that was alike fair to India and to China.

Sir Guy also stated that the Hague Conference had enabled the drafting of a convention, which he hoped the Powers would accept, preventing the consumption of morphia and cocaine.

The evil done was already great, and only the most drastic Government control would prevent the growth of the degrading vice.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

London, March 2.

Great Britain, Germany, Russia and Japan have responded favourably to Mr. Knox's Note, inviting joint action in China without seeking individual advantage.

Austria, France and Italy have not yet replied.

SUFFRAGETTE RIOT AGAIN.

London, March 2.

Suffragettes, armed with hammers concealed in their reticules, simultaneously assailed the shop windows in the leading streets in the West End of London at the busiest time of the evening for the shopkeepers.

The police were not in time to take defensive action, and thousands of pounds' worth of damage has been done.

Mrs. Pankhurst drove in a motor to Mr.

Asquith's residence and broke all the windows with stones.

One hundred and fifteen arrests have been made.

London, March 3.

Mrs. Pankhurst and other leaders have mostly been sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

The police estimate the damage at over £5,000.

The Public Prosecutor dwelt upon the disgraceful scenes enacted.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION WITH PEKING.

London, March 3.

A Japanese battleship has been ordered to Taku to establish wireless communication with the Italian station at Peking.

ITALIAN LOSSES IN WAR.

London, March 4.

The Italian losses since the beginning of the war are 536 dead and 324 missing.

DEATH OF BISHOP MOULE.

London, March 4.

The death is announced of the Rt. Rev. George Evans Moule, D.D., Bishop of Mid-China.

FIERCE BATTLE AT DERMA.

London, March 5.

The Turks and Arabs yesterday fiercely attacked the Italians erecting works at Derma.

After repeated bayonet charges, Italian reinforcements arrived and there was a hot engagement till night, when the Turks retired.

Their losses are unknown. The Italian casualties were 150.

PALMYRA.

London, March 5.

At question time in the House of Commons Mr. Acland, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the British protectorate over the island of Palmyra in the Pacific had been abandoned, a more suitable island being found for cable purposes.

DEATH OF ITALIAN ADMIRAL.

London, March 5.

Admiral Aubry, who was in chief command of the Italian naval forces off Tripoli, has died suddenly on board the flagship.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

London, March 7.

The U.S. General Staff has prepared plans for the mobilisation of 100,000 troops on the Mexican border, owing to apprehension of danger to Americans in Mexico.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

RADIUM COMPANY.

London, March 1.

The General Radium Company of Amsterdam has bought the whole of the Austrian Government's stock of radium.

THE EX SHAH OF PERSIA.

London, March 4.

The Ex-Shah of Persia is bargaining for an increase of his pension.

Britain and Russia refuse to ask Persia to pay him more.

THE SUFFRAGETTES.

London, March 6.

Responding to the public demands for the suppression of the violent methods of the women suffragists, who have been breaking scores of windows in shops and public build-

the police have arrested several leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union. A great wave of feeling has risen against the Women Suffrage Bill, which is very likely to pass the House of Commons in present session.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, March 6.
Tokyo Municipal scrip is in demand.
London, March 7.
On the Stock Exchange, Japanese and these bonds are harder.
Tokyo Municipal scrip stands at $\frac{1}{8}$ premium.

WESTPHALIAN WINE-OWNERS.

London, March 6.
The Westphalian wine owners decline to give to the men's demands.

DEUTSCHE "JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD."

A MEETING OF MONARCHS.

Berlin, March 1.
The meeting of the Kaiser with Emperor Joseph at Vienna will take place on March 20th, and that with King Emmanuel on March 22nd.

ROUMANIAN GUN ORDER.

The Roumanian Government has ordered the Krupp firm a complete new armament of field guns for the army.

SUGGESTED RUSSIAN ACTION.

The *Novoye Vremya* demands the support of autonomous Mongolian Princes with loan money and the loan of Russian military instructors. The Russian Government is, however, absolutely reticent for the time.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

American Mails, with dates up to February 1st, ex-Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on March 1st.

TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian expeditionary army at Tripoli, captured Maghreb Hill, near Tripoli, after very severe fighting.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, March 2.
The Interpellation of the Five Powers as to the conditions for a conclusion of the war in Turkey, which was to have been asked to Rome, has been delayed by a proposal, according to which Turkey will be forbidden to close and Italy to attack the Dardanelles. An agreement between the Powers as to this new proposal is, however, not been arrived at.

Berlin, March 3.

The official list of the Italian losses in Tripoli has been published, and totals 37 officers and 499 soldiers killed and 324 missing.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Berlin, March 2.
The Dutch Press states that the new Chinese Government has not presented an ultimatum to the Netherlands India Government as to the treatment of the Chinese rebels in Java.

Berlin, March 3.

One hundred German soldiers of the garrison of Tsingtau have been sent to Peking as a special guard for the German Legation during the troubles which have arisen in the Chinese capital.

LABOUR TROUBLES.

Berlin, March 2.
A strike of workmen has broken out at

the Schichau dockyard at Danzig, and a universal strike of tailors is announced in all the great German cities.

ACTION OF GERMAN MINERS.

The German coal miners will not enter into a strike in sympathy with the British miners; they have, however, decided not to work overtime.

N. D. L. AND SUEZ CANAL SOCIETY.

Berlin, March 3.
Herr Heineken, leading Director of the Nordd.-Lloyd, has been nominated member of the Board of Directors of the Suez Canal Society.

NEW ARMAMENT BILLS.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* reports that the proposals for meeting the expenses for the new armament bills have been fixed and will be presented to the Bundesrat in the near future.

STATE MONOPOLY OF LIFE INSURANCE.

The Italian Chamber has passed the Bill for the monopolisation of life insurance companies by the State.

MINERS UNREST.

Berlin, March 4.
The miners in the Ruhr coal districts are showing signs of unrest.

CHINESE BONDS AFFECTED.

The European Exchanges are very weak, Chinese bonds being especially affected.

HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS.

Count Khuen-Hedervary, the Hungarian Prime Minister, has resigned.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Berlin, March 5.
The German Press, commenting on the death of the German Surgeon, Dr. Schreyer, at Tientsin, expresses its great sympathy with his widow and two children. The German Government has ordered its representative to open negotiations concerning the affair. No political action is anticipated, however.

No further troops will be sent to China from Germany for the present, except in the event of the urgent demand of the German diplomatic representative in China.

Yuan Shih-kai has been provided with funds as an advance on a big loan which will be offered by an international syndicate, the funds to be applied for the payment of the Nanking Government troops.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Admiral Aubry, the Italian Commander-in-Chief of the battle-fleet before Tripoli, is dead from typhus fever.

A severe battle between the Turks and Italians has taken place at Derma, the latter suffering heavy losses.

FURTHER TROUBLE FEARED.

Berlin, March 6.
The German Government has advised its nationals living in the interior of Mexico to retire to the coast for their own safety, new troubles being feared in the near future.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Turkey has decided to close the Dardanelles at night to all merchant ships. Rumours of an intended attack against the Dardanelles by Italy are not confirmed up to now. Against a blockade, however, the Powers would protest.

Vice-Admiral Faravelli has been nominated successor to the late Admiral Aubry as

Commander-in-Chief of the Italian battle fleet before Tripoli.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

The Russian Consul at Tientsin has demanded from his Government the dispatch of troops for the protection of Russian residents at that town.

The Government of Netherlands-India has decided to temporarily expel from the Colony about one hundred Chinese residents, who were the leaders of the recent troubles in Java.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

By MR. T. TAKETOMI, M.P.

(TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM "NEW JAPAN").

Those who are tolerably well acquainted with the conditions of Japanese State finances will easily see that there are now at least two financial problems which claim no small share of our attention, namely, the expansion of the Extraordinary Budget, and the appropriation of the surplus.

The so called Extraordinary Accounts to-day aggregate well nigh two hundred million yen and the items, great and small, number almost thirty. Some people seem to view the expansion of the Extraordinary Account with a feeling approaching solicitude. They consider that to allow the Account to grow to this size, cannot but hinder the proper control of the State finances. While we do not think them entirely mistaken in holding this view, we must admit at the same time the necessity of an Extraordinary Budget, inasmuch as there are a few financial affairs the special conditions of which forbid their inclusion in the ordinary account. It is true that there are now many items in the Extraordinary Account which might be more conveniently placed under the Ordinary Account, but it is equally true that there are items in the Ordinary Account which ought to be included in the Extraordinary Account. Anyhow it is a fact, and an inevitable fact, that the Extraordinary Budget shows an increase. In this connexion it should be noted that it is a gross mistake to consider the Extraordinary Account as left to the authorities' free control, and subject to no superintendence by the public. So far as the process of examination and superintendence is considered, the Extraordinary Account is not an iota differentiated from the Ordinary Account. But the strange fact is that it is the Ordinary Account only, which is, as a rule, earnestly and thoroughly discussed in the Diet, little or no attention being paid to the Extraordinary Account. The Government Authorities show in this respect by no means less indifference. Every year when the Budget is to be compiled, the Finance Department is decidedly particular about the demands of the different State Departments. But that is the case with the Ordinary Budget only. So far as the Extraordinary Budget is concerned, the Financial authorities seem to show a leniency amounting to indifference, as can be seen from the Budget for next fiscal year. According to the outlines of the Budget for 1912, almost every new undertaking of the different Departments is rejected by the Finance Minister because of his professed policy of retrenchment. This refers, however, not to the Extraordinary Budget, but to the Ordinary Budget only. In these circumstances the authorities, if they were accused of abusing the State finances by expanding the Extraordinary Budget, could make no denial.

What must be remembered in this context is the late Cabinet's fatal loan policy, to which the misconception as to the nature of the Extraordinary Budget is no doubt due. As everybody knows, the Katsura Ministry professed the redemption of the national debt and no bond issue as its guiding financial policy, but later, compelled by circumstances, it confined its declared policy of no bond flotation within the scope of the Ordinary Account

only, and resorted repeatedly to the issue of bonds in the Extraordinary Account, on the ground that it was after all distinctly an extraordinary account, and therefore that the flotation of loan bonds in that particular account was completely justified. This is a theory too puerile to serve as an excuse for so gross an inconsistency and it aroused distrust in the policy of the late Ministry. As scarcely needs pointing out, the so-called Extraordinary Account is a "special" account in name only, when considered from the fundamental standpoint of the State finances, for an increase in the loans in the Extraordinary Account produces just the same effect upon the State finances and economics as an increase of those in the ordinary Account. As an example we may point to the difficulty the authorities are experiencing in the Railway Extraordinary Account. According to the Government's plan, a sum of from forty to fifty million yen is annually required for the construction, as well as the repair, of the nationalized railways. The question is how to meet this expenditure. Inasmuch as the profits in the Railway Account are for the most part to be appropriated for the payment of the interest due on the railway bonds, the only source available lies in the flotation of loan bonds. In the time of the Katsura Cabinet, fortunately for the authorities, the Deposit Bureau's power of advance was not yet completely exhausted, while the deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank were plentiful. But now all these financial resources are exhausted. The Government can turn to the Bank of Japan only, to raise the money required for railway construction. The Bank of Japan is thus obliged to issue convertible notes above the ordinary limit. Hence the expansion of currency, and this in turn has given rise to the abnormal appreciation of prices and to an excess of imports over exports, thereby considerably jeopardizing the basis of the conversion system. It should be observed that last year the total amount of convertible notes issued aggregated well nigh four hundred and thirty-five million yen, and that this abnormal expansion was not by any means necessitated by the conditions of the economic world, but was solely and entirely due to an increase in the amount of money advanced to the Government as funds for the national debt redemption, railway extension work, and so forth. With all these facts in view, it is not to be gainsaid that the means resorted to heretofore of raising railway funds is decidedly detrimental to the sound development of the State finance. None will therefore fail to recognize the importance, and even the necessity, of exercising at least more practical discretion in formulating the so-called Extraordinary Account.

Such is the case, not with the Railway Extraordinary Account alone, but also with the Chosen Extraordinary Account. As can be seen from the outlines of the budget compiled for the Peninsula, its finance is to be maintained by the issue of loan bonds to an amount of some twelve million yen, in addition to an annual allowance from the Home Government of about the same sum. The Bank of Chosen is to subscribe to the bonds, but the Bank has, as a matter of fact, no other source of funds than the increased issue of convertible notes. It is small wonder that the currency in Chosen is now gradually expanding, giving rise to a steady appreciation in prices. Whatever the theory, the fact is not to be refuted that unless some drastic improvement be effected in the system of the Extraordinary Account, Chosen will come to draw largely on the Home Government's financial reserve.

Regarding the Formosan Extraordinary Account, almost the same thing might be said. It is true that the Colony's Government-General is now independent of the Home Government in point of finance; yet, as far as the civil administration is concerned, the island depends for its military expenses entirely upon the Home Government's Ordinary Account. Again, it is true that the colony's revenue shows a growing increase every year. But on the other hand, by no means less conspicuous is the increase in the expenditure for the civil administration. Thus the

Formosan Government cannot be regarded as self-supporting, and so long as it fails to be self-supporting, so long will any increase in its Extraordinary Account mean, after all, as much increase in the Home Government's Ordinary Account.

These observations lead us to the unassailable conclusion that the Extraordinary Account is closely connected with the Ordinary Account, so far as the State finances are considered as a whole. There is no reason to doubt that within the scope of the Extraordinary Account loans might be contracted as often as indiscretion might dictate. Not that I take exception in every case to the Government's contraction of loans. What I want to emphasize, however, is that there is reason to think that, because the Extraordinary Account is an extraordinary account, less caution or consideration may be exercised in contracting loans for that section of the Budget. As must be manifest to even the man in the street, when the conditions of the money market are such as to forbid the issue of loan bonds in the Ordinary Account, an attempt to issue them in the Extraordinary Account must be equally objectionable. If the Government considers it necessary to follow a so-called policy of retrenchment, it should carry the principle into all its financial affairs. It is not only self-contradictory, but in fact futile, to try to maintain the policy of retrenchment for the Ordinary Account on the one hand, and to place no check on the other upon the growing tendency of expansion characterizing the Extraordinary Account.

Passing next to the surplus, it should be noted that no fiscal year passes without the so-called reserve fund being found insufficient. In former times the reserve fund was not more than one million yen, but still it amply sufficed. Now the amount is increased to three million yen, and every year it is found inadequate. This fact in itself may not be strange considering that in the early days of the Meiji Government the State expenditure amounted to not more than one hundred million yen, or less than one fifth of what it is at the present time. But what we should take notice of is the means which the Government authorities take to fill the deficit. They meet the deficiency with the surplus brought forward from the previous fiscal year's account. This condition of affairs is against the Constitution, which provides that in case the Government finds the reserve fund insufficient, it must, as the only means available to save the situation, formulate a supplementary budget in an extraordinary session of the Imperial Diet. Of course the Government is invested with the right to decide by itself all State financial affairs when circumstances, within and without, render such a session impossible. Thus the authorities were completely justified in deciding, as they did, upon the defrayment of the supplementary military expenses in the thirty-sixth year of Meiji, since at that time Parliament was, on the one hand, dissolved, and the new elections not then completed, while, on the other, the relations between Japan and Russia were increasingly strained. But in times of peace, the authorities are not entitled to arbitrarily decide the financial affairs of the State, independent of Parliament. Viewed in this light, the arbitrary appropriation of the annual surplus towards the reserve fund when necessary, must, as above pointed out, be a breach of the Constitution. Yet the authorities have thus far so often repeated this unlawful means of filling the deficiency, that they now apparently seem to believe they are quite justified in so doing. The table given below shows the amount the authorities have unlawfully appropriated out of the annual surplus since the year 1899:—

Fiscal Year.	Amount Defrayed out of Surplus, Yen.
1899	1,723,419
1900	658,000
1901	748,166
1902	—
1903	3,405,909
1904	5,868,949

1905	11,251,1
1906	36,354,1
1907	9,474,1
1908	6,975,1
1909	5,366,1

It is surprising that the authorities should repeatedly dare to resort to such illegal means in the administration of the State finances what strikes us as far more surprising is the indifference with which the public in view this state of affairs. We have reason to believe that the sum of three million yen, the fund at the disposal of the present Government, may be a little inadequate, and therefore no objection to increasing it, say, up to six or seven million yen. But at the same time, it must be insisted that the surplus be appropriated for no other purpose than the redemption of the national debt.

ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES IN WESTERN JAPAN.

The *Jiji Shingo* publishes an interesting account by Dr. Asano, Chief of the Experimental Bureau in the Communications Department, of electric enterprises in Western Japan, where he has been on a tour of inspection.

Electric enterprises in the western district, viewed as a whole, he thinks, have made considerable development in several respects. We still remember the time when we looked in wonder at dynamos of a thousand kilowatts installed by the Tokyo Electric Railway Company. Now they are too common, and motors capable of generating one thousand even one thousand five hundred kilowatts of electricity being found almost everywhere throughout the country. So far as is considered, four generators of five kilowatts are to be installed before long, the five dynamos each generating some thousand kilowatts which the city possesses. Under these circumstances, it is too much to say that Japan compares very favorably in this respect with the different parts of the world, excepting such senior countries as Germany and the United States. In view of the marked progress our country has attained in so short a period, we may safely assure of the still brighter future lying in store for our electric enterprises.

What specially attracted my attention was a gas engine of six hundred horse power in the Hama mines in Kyushu. In such cases, where the coal supply can be obtained at a very moderate cost, this sort of machine is used with great advantage for various industrial purposes. The perfect conditions of the power electric enterprises in Saga, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kyoto and other districts are worth mentioning. As is well known, our country possesses a rich supply of waterpower, and this not only convinces us of the necessity of extending water power electric enterprises, but at the same time inspires us with confidence in such undertakings will prove an unquestionable success. Thus far, only high tension currents have been utilized for motor purposes; there is a tendency gradually obtaining in the utilization of lower currents. In this context it may be noted that generally speaking, what claims our first and foremost attention is starting water power electric enterprises under relative conditions of the coal supply and the cost of undertakings. In those districts, for instance, where coal is cheap, it may pay to start power electric enterprises even at a comparatively high cost, but in those quarters where coal is expensive, it would never pay to start such enterprises unless the supply of water power be the cheapest possible rate.

As regards electric railway undertakings, show very satisfactory results in every part of the country. Viewed from the standpoint of investment and accommodation, it may be generally stated that those which were first constructed for the most part, poorly provided, while those

down recently are all up to date. Of late, electric railway enterprisers in this country have undertaken dealings in land as auxiliary work. This sort of enterprise has long been undertaken in Western countries, but in Japan, somehow, no one has thought of such an attempt. As scarcely needs stating, these dealings in land, when undertaken as a secondary work of the electric railway enterprise, can certainly be calculated, in case of an appreciation of the price of land, to make good such losses as the railway business may sometime suffer, and thus to facilitate in no small measure the development of the primary enterprises.

Passing on to electric lighting enterprise, it is marked in every quarter with such thriving prosperity that the supply never equals the demand. In such cities as Osaka the demand for electric lamps by the citizens in general increases by almost a thousand a month. The electromotors are, in most cases, on the steam turbine system, while the steam engines are equipped with mechanical coal suppliers. The merits of the coal supplier lies in a saving of the consumption of coal by some twenty per cent. and also in preventing the production of soot.

By no means less progress is being made in the production of electric apparatus. As the Japanese are a people distinguished for handicraft, and as their scientific knowledge is by this time tolerably developed, this is an industry well worth encouragement.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MARQUIS SATOMI gave a banquet at his official residence on the 5th inst. to the leading members of the House of Peers.

At Dublin on the 24th ult. Ireland defeated Scotland in the International Rugby football match by ten points to eight.

In the final round of the competition for the Waterloo Cup, held at Aitcar on the 23rd ult., "Tide Time" beat "Adversary."

THE anthracite miners of Pennsylvania are demanding an eight-hour day and a twenty per cent. increase in wages. A strike is feared.

MR. LEWIS HARCOURT, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has announced that Portugal has agreed to the construction of the Beira and Nyassaland Railway.

THE railway strike at Buenos Aires has been settled on President Pena's proposal that the strikers be gradually readmitted with a guarantee of fair treatment.

THE House of Commons by 226 votes to 128 has adopted the motion of a private member urging that Home Rule be granted to Scotland after Irish Home Rule.

THE N.V.K. steamer *Tamba Maru*, which left British Victoria homeward bound on Feb. 23rd, was caught in a storm early on the 24th inst. and suffered some damage to her rigging.

A MAN has been charged at Aldershot with inciting the soldiers to indulge in traitorous practices. It is alleged that he distributed pamphlets calling upon the soldiers to side with the coal strikers and refuse to fire on them if ordered to do so.

JUDGMENT in the appeal of the burglar, named Fuji Kiyozo, aged twenty, who some time ago wounded Mr. Komatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, was given on Thursday afternoon in the Tokyo Appeal Court. The judgment of the lower Court was upheld.

A few days ago, an official of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank, was counting some paper money, when his attention was arrested by a somewhat suspicious banknote. Upon close examination, he was surprised to find it counterfeit. The note was not the work of electrolyte or

engraving, but an imitation produced entirely by hand. It is so dexterously finished that it bears a striking resemblance to the genuine note. The police authorities have the matter in hand.

FOR the team to represent Australia in the forthcoming Triangular Cricket Tournament, D. Smith (Vict.) has been selected to take the place of Clem. Hill (S.A.).

IN the House of Commons, Mr. Reginald McKenna, Home Secretary, has intimated that the Government intends to accede to Mr. Bonar Law's motion for a return showing what Government appointments had been made without a competitive examination.

THE World Tourist Party left for Kobe on Sunday afternoon last at five o'clock on board the *Cleveland*, after having done the sights of Tokyo, Nikko and Kamakura. One section, seventy in number, left Kodzu for Kyoto by train early on the morning of the same day.

IN the contest for the middle-weight championship of Europe, between Jim Sullivan (middle-weight champion of England) and Georges Carpentier (of France), held at the Condamine Hall, Monte Carlo, on the 29th ult., Sullivan was knocked out in the second round.

THE *Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung* reports that Lieut. Brandon attempted to escape from the fortress at Wesel on the night of February 2nd. He fled the window bars and descended to the courtyard by a rope. The sentry threatened to shoot him and he was recaptured.

IN the Military Training School at Potsdam, 187 non-commissioned officers have been suddenly stricken with symptoms of poisoning. So far there have been no deaths. The patients have been isolated but cases are continuing. The cause of the illness of the men is unknown.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, First Lord of the Admiralty, has announced that measures were adopted two months ago which will render the Fleet independent of the consequences of a coal strike for a considerable time. It is not necessary at present to interfere with the sea training, provided that reasonable economy is observed.

MR. JUSTICE HIGGINS, of the Australian Federal Arbitration Court, has delivered his decision that the tramway men are entitled to wear union badges while on duty. The recent great strike at Brisbane turned on this point. Mr. Justice Higgins, however, was unable to order the reinstatement of the men who had been dismissed.

THE *Daily Chronicle*, the *Daily News*, and the *Morning Leader* report that the Government is threatening the owners of coal mines in South Wales with the declaration of its intention to temporarily undertake all mining work officially, until a final decision of the question is arrived at, unless the owners consent to the payment of the minimum amount of wages claimed by the miners.

WE have received from "The Sumitomo Bank," very a interesting pamphlet dealing with their respective industries in Japan, and their Bank in Osaka. The booklet is well illustrated, well written, and well printed. It deals with the development of the "House of Sumitomo," their Copper Mines, its Sales Department, the Sumitomo Bank, the Coal Department at Wakamatsu, the Steel Works, and the Electric Wire and Cable Works.

WE are courteously informed by the Manager of the local branch of the Chartered Bank that he is in receipt of telegraphic advice from the London Office that at the approaching meeting of shareholders of the Bank the Directors will recommend a dividend for the half-year ended 31st December, 1911, at the rate of

15 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax, and propose placing £25,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £1,650,000, adding £10,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund, writing off Premises Account £30,000, and carrying forward £128,451 14s. 6d.

A GRAND Concert will be held at the Wrestling Hall, Matsugae-cho, Yokohama, at half past 5 p.m. on the 8th instant, under the auspices of the Yokohama Music School. Messrs. Junker and Reuter of the Tokyo Music School, Sig. Sarcoli, the Italian tenor, Miss Tamaki Shibata, of the Imperial theatre, and many other celebrated musicians will be present. The evening should be a brilliant success.

IN the House of Commons on the 29th ult. in reply to A. McCallum Scott, Liberal member for Bridgeton, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Colonial Secretary, said that the interests of good administration required adherence to the regulation confining the appointments to the civil police in the Straits to pure Europeans. The Settlements Assembly had not been consulted in the matter, but he had no doubt that it would, by a large majority, support the Government's policy.

THE returns of the railways for the second month of this year were most satisfactory, reaching over seven million five hundred thousand yen. This is an increase by some eight hundred and seventeen thousand yen as compared with the corresponding term of the preceding year. The details are as follows:—

	February.	Increase as compared with preceding term.
	Yen.	Yen.
Incomes from Passengers.	3,600,149	303,302
Incomes from Freight	3,909,555	514,098
Total	7,509,704	817,400

ERUPTION COVERED HIS 3 CHILDREN

From Head to Foot. Heartrending to See Them Suffer Such Pain. Used Cuticura Soap and Ointment and Itching Stopped.

"My three children were covered with sores from head to foot and hands and arms. They first came out on the back like a lot of little blisters filled with water, and then broke into large sores all their back, arms and legs were nothing but sores. It was heartrending to see the little things suffer with such pain, and they would scratch themselves to pieces had they not been stopped."

"I tried several doctors' medicines and all kinds of ointments but nothing seemed to do them any good. They simply got worse until a friend of mine told me to get some Cuticura Soap and give them a good hot bath and then apply some Cuticura Ointment. I did and after I had dressed them a size or two and used two tablets of Cuticura Soap and two boxes of Cuticura Ointment the places began to dry up and the itching seemed to have stopped, as the children could go to sleep as soon as they were bathed and the Ointment applied."

"They had suffered about two months until I started with Cuticura Remedies. I used six tablets of Soap and about the same of Ointment and they soon began to look bright and healthy again, and new skin began to grow. I am pleased to say they are keeping so, but I am still keeping Cuticura Soap and Ointment by me. It is a good thing for scalds and burns." (Signed) William Dunn, 145 Praunce Rd., Burton-on-Trent, England, Mar. 12, 1911.

A liberal sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment with 82-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Sq., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney, N. S. W.; Lemon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, March 9.

The market of Raw Cotton is firm, with prices showing an upward tendency all round. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains the same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, ruling prices are low.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	33.00 to 33.50
Indian Broach	33.00 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	32.00 to 32.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds, 36 in	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds, 43½-44 in.	—
Common to Good	5.85 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds, 44 in.	—
Ordinary to Good	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds, 44-45 inches	7.80 to 85.0
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.	1.90 to 2.20
30 inches	—
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	Y. —
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mousseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mousseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The market is unsettled, with very little business doing.

	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.00 to 4.50
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.20 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	6.20 to 6.40
Sheet Mild Steel	6.80 to 7.10
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.90 to 11.20
Flat	11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.60 to 8.10
Fig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.35

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester	Y. 4.18
Victory	3.93
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura	3.77
Todai	—

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.55
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

	Yen.
Gold Drop	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese—	—
Rising Sun	6 kwansu 2.80
Takasago	6 " 2.75
Fuji	6 " 2.85
Pine	6 " 2.80

WHEAT.

Prices have risen.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 kin	5.30
Red	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On February 15th stocks were: Filatures 8,500 piculs, Re-reels, 500 piculs; Kakeda, 300 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	935
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	910
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	900
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	910
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den	910
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den	900
Filature—No. 1½-2, 13-15den	860
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den	890
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha	855
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	860
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	885
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	845
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	835
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	825

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE.

	March delivery.	April delivery.	May delivery.
1st	86.20	86.80	87.40
2nd	85.90	86.40	87.00
4th	86.10	86.90	87.40
5th	86.20	86.60	87.10
6th	86.40	87.70	87.40
7th	86.50	87.30	87.70
8th	86.40	87.20	88.00

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.

On February 15th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,700 piculs; Kibiso, 4,300 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.

Kanazawa:—There has been no change in prices, and the market is in a quiet condition.

Kaw:—The market is in an unsettled state.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 ms.	6½ ms.	7 ms.	7½ ms.	8 ms.
Inches, Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22½"	8.70	7.95	7.95	7.60	7.70
27"	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.55	7.50
36"	7.95	7.70	7.70	7.55	7.75

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4½ ms.	4¾ ms.	5 ms.	5½ ms.
Inches, Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22½"	7.70	7.70	7.65	7.55
27"	7.60	7.55	7.55	7.60
36"	7.55	7.50	7.50	7.45

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3½ ms.	4 ms.	4½ ms.
Inches, Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.60	8.50	9.30
23"	7.30	8.20	9.40	9.90
27"	8.80	10.10	11.10	11.70
36"	11.80	13.50	15.10	16.10

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of March 6th the quotation was £64.7.6.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00—50.00
Ors.	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags, 641.423
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	68.496

	Delivery.	Closing Price.
March	19.47	19.47
April	19.38	19.38
May	19.45	19.45

	(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
March	19.44	19.55
April	19.25	19.18
May	19.30	19.17

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen 24.20	24.20
Medium	20.10	20.10
Common	18.70	18.70
Average	20.00	20.00

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

	Delivery.	Yen.
February	140.35	140.35
March	139.20	139.20
April	137.00	137.00

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements in Yokohama from May 1st till February 29th, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Mar. 8.

London silver $\frac{1}{4}$ higher for forward only, China sterling quotations not yet received and local rates all unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0½
— Sight	2/0½
— 60 days	2/0½
— 4 months' sight	2/0½
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0½
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1½
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257@½
— Private 4 months' sight	262
America—Bank sight	49½
— Private 30 days' sight	50½
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208½
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100, 94½
— Private 10 days' sight	95½
Shanghai—Bank sight	76½
— Private 10 days' sight	77½
Bar Silver (London)	26½@½

* Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	11 Mar.
Hongkong	P. M.	Mongolia	12 Mar.
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	15 Mar.
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	15 Mar.
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	15 Mar.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	17 Mar.
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	18 Mar.
Europe	N. D. L.	Prinzess Alice	19 Mar.
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	20 Mar.
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	21 Mar.
Hongkong	B. L.	Hercules	27 Mar.
Vancouver	B. L.	Suivic	28 Mar.
Hongkong	C. E. R.	Monteagle	31 Mar.

2 Left Hongkong on the 27th ult.
3 Left Seattle on the 27th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date
Hongkong	P. M.	Korea	9 Mar.
Europe	N. D. L.	York	9 Mar.
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Chikugo Maru	10 Mar.
Europe	N. Y. K.	Mishima Maru	13 Mar.
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	13 Mar.
America	P. M.	Mongolia	13 Mar.
Europe	M. M.	Toutane	16 Mar.
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	17 Mar.
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	18 Mar.
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	18 Mar.
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	19 Mar.
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	20 Mar.
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	20 Mar.
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	21 Mar.
Seattle	B. L.	Hercules	28 Mar.
Hongkong	B. L.	Suivic	29 Mar.
Australia	N. Y. K.	Kumano Maru	30 Mar.
Tacoma	B. L.	Talithybius	30 Mar.
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Monteagle	31 Mar.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Glenloch, British steamer, 3,997, F. T. Jones, 1st Mar.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Cape Breton, British steamer, 2,501, J. R. Wilson, 1st Mar.—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 1st Mar.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Inaho Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, J. Sumita, 1st Mar.—Kobe, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, B. Tsuda, 1st Mar.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,757, W. E. Filmer, 1st Mar.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Breton Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 2nd Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurozumi, 2nd Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Albus, British steamer, 4,291, J. Riley, 2nd Mar.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, Sheriff, 3rd Mar.—Glasgow via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Pera, British steamer, 4,916, W. W. Cooke, 3rd Mar.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Persia, American steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 3rd Mar.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, S. Robinson, 3rd Mar.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Chikyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 3rd Mar.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Peko, French steamer, 3,446, Gos, 3rd Mar.—Marseilles via ports, General.—M. M. Co.
Keenun, British steamer, 5,865, R. Conradi, 4th Mar.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Benvenue, British steamer, 2,505, E. Kroble, 4th Mar.—London via ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Nile, British steamer, 3,120, Eggleston, 4th Mar.—Hongkong via ports, General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 4th Mar.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)
Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 4th Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, K. Soyeda, 4th Mar.—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,803, K. Noda, 4th Mar.—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
York, German steamer, 5,133, J. Randermann, 5th Mar.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.
Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, N. P. Pilcher, 5th Mar.—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 5th Mar.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, Rassau, 5th Mar.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Hies & Co.
Tranquebar, Danish steamer, 2,227, Licht, 5th Mar.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Courier, British steamer, 3,155, Jackson, 6th Mar.—Singapore, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Ume Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 6th Mar.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Koshibiki, 6th Mar.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 6th Mar.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tourane, French steamer, 2,338, Lancelin, 6th Mar.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.
Oriental, British steamer, 3,081, A. L. Valentini, 6th Mar.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Shinkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,025, K. Tomozawa, 6th Mar.—Rangoon, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Yeboshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clark, 7th Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 7th Mar.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimizu, 7th Mar.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Telemachus, British steamer, 4,803, J. H. Goodwin, 7th Mar.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Ariaki Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,183, H. Yokota, 7th Mar.—Saigon, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Bongloe, British steamer, 1,935, N. A. Guy, 1st Mar.—Manila, General.—Comes & Co.
Luceric, British steamer, 4,100, J. Mathie, 1st Mar.—Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Kanagawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,825, C. H. Butler, 1st Mar.—Kobe, Ballast.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Bami Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 2nd Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 2nd Mar.—Hachijo Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Dumbea, French steamer, 3,230, Sellier, 2nd Mar.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.
Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, M. Yagi, 3rd Mar.—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hellas, Norwegian steamer, 829, M. Berg, 2nd Mar.—Kobe, Timber.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Cape Breton, British steamer, 2,501, J. R. Wilson, 3rd Mar.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, R. Robinson, 3rd Mar.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Rokko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,752, S. Uchigoshi, 3rd Mar.—Katsura, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Yamana, 3rd Mar.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 3rd Mar.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Dunedin, British steamer, 3,051, H. G. Case, 3rd Mar.—Manila, Ballast.—Sale Frazar Ltd.
Cleveland, German steamer, 10,300, Dempwolf, 3rd Mar.—Kobe, Round the World Tourists.—C. Illies & Co.
Inaho Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, J. Sumita, 4th Mar.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Vorwarts, Austrian steamer, 3,727, R. Dannecker, 4th Mar.—Fiume and Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Persia, British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 4th Mar.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Kiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,757, W. E. Filmer, 4th Mar.—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Glenloch, British steamer, 3,997, F. T. Jones, 5th Mar.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
Albus, British steamer, 4,291, J. Riley, 5th Mar.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Keenun, British steamer, 5,865, R. Conradi, 5th Mar.—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Jason, British steamer, 4,880, T. G. Steeves, 5th Mar.—Genoa, Marseilles and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Pera, British steamer, 4,916, W. W. Cooke, 5th Mar.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurozumi, 5th Mar.—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Wakanoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, B. Tsuda, 5th Mar.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Nile, British steamer, 3,120, Eggleston, 6th Mar.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.
Takaosan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, H. Kozumi, 6th Mar.—Otaru, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Chikyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 6th Mar.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 6th Mar.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 6th Mar.—Seattle Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).
Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,308, K. Wada, 6th Mar.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Oriental, British steamer, 3,081, A. L. Valentini, 7th Mar.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 7th Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 7th Mar.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, S. Nishio, 7th Mar.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakui Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Toor Castle, Mrs. A. Le Francis, Mrs. Y. H. Ito in cabin; Mr. P. M. Amer and 1 Chinese in second class; 11 Japanese and 3 children and one Chinese in steerage.
Per R.V.F. steamer *Simbirsk* from Vladivostok:—Mr. M. Kappo, Mr. E. Machida, Mr. I. Yoshikawa and Mr. P. Geriner in cabin.
Per R.V.F. steamer *Penza* from Vladivostok:—Mr. K. Kurihara, Mr. K. Nishizaki, Mr. S. Goto, Mr. K. Asahina, Mr. and Mrs. Takagi, Mr. Z. Higashi, Mr. O. Ik, Mr. S. Nakase, Mr. Y. Takai, Mr. Thomas MacGregor, Mr. John Hartshorn, Mrs. Hannah Fleming, Mr. Joseph Sayers, Mr. William Cliff, Mr. Alan Richardson, Mr. Heinrich Hamma and Mr. Heinrich Stolzmann in cabin; Mrs. Maria Milovanova and 2 children, Mr. W. Seya and Mr. A. Kozlinsky in second class.
Per British steamer *Nile* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. J. W. A. Hansen and Mr. Lee Hammond, For Honolulu.—Mr. H. E. Hoffman, Mr. M. Terado and Franz Tifensen, For San Francisco.—Mr. H. E. Bauckhaun, Mr. F. A. Baer, Mr. C. R. Bennett, Mr. W. M. Brewster, Mr. Leonard Collins, Mr. J. A. Fowler, Mr. Geo. Goppert, Miss Jessie

Kilian, Miss Hanna Lin'wall, Miss D. Lindwall, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Ricker, Mr. J. S. Schneider, Mr. C. T. Stockwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wright and son, Mr. and Mrs. S. Bergstrom and children, Mr. C. Cantrovitch, Mr. V. Davies, Mrs. John Duffy, Mr. A. B. Gjelseth, Dr. and Mrs. Kilen, Miss Dera Marlowe, Miss E. Peterson, Mr. V. Renius, Miss Ama Skollenberg, Miss A. Swanson, Miss Wallenberg, Mrs. W. A. Young and Mr. J. M. Wyman in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru*, from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Pane Wolf and 4 Japanese in cabin; Mr. H. W. Denne and 6 Japanese in second class; 54 Japanese and 1 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru* from Seattle, Wash.—Mr. T. Mitsui, Mr. H. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. S. Takagi and infant in cabin; Mr. S. Soeda, Mr. T. Yochida and Mr. K. Sasama in second class; 4 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. S. Tsunagawa in cabin; 23 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones in cabin. For London:—Mrs. J. M. Cuggage, Mrs. C. Reads, Mr. Henry D. Elin in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. Sue Koy Line in second class; 6 Chinese in steerage. For Moji:—2 Japanese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Dumbea* for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. l'Intendant General and Mrs. Dufour, Comtesse de Morville, Mr. F. H. Bugbird, Mr. Ajud, Mr. Lee Son and Mr. Wee Ah Ton in cabin.

Per British steamer *Nile* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Capt. T. S. Isalwin, Mr. E. W. Banckham, Mr. F. A. Bear, Mr. C. R. Bennett, Mr. S. Bergstrom and 2 children, Mrs. W. N. Brewster, Mr. Leonard J. Collins, Mr. I. Cantrovitch, Mr. V. Davies, Mr. H. J. Dickinson, Mrs. John Duffy, Mrs. J. A. Howler, Mr. A. R. Gjelseth, Mr. Geo. Goepfert, Jr., Mr. Lee Hammond, Mr. H. E. Hoffman, Dr. and Mrs. D. Kilen, Miss Jessie Killian, Miss D. Lundvall, Miss Hanna Lundwall, Miss Doris Marlowe, Miss E. Peterson, Mr. V. Renius, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Ricker, Mr. Jos. P. Schneider, Miss Ama Skollenberg, Mr. C. F. Stockwell, Miss A. Swanson, Mr. M. Terada, Mr. M. Terada, Mr. Franz Tielensee, Miss Charlotte Wallenberg, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wright, Master Wright, Mr. J. M. Wyman, Mrs. W. A. Young, Jr., Dr. C. E. L. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Davis, Mr. C. R. Gardner, Miss Mitchell, Rev. and Mrs. R. D. McCoy and infant, Master Weldon McCoy, Mrs. R. Rabbit, Master Robert Rabbit, Mrs. K. Tanaka and Miss Mary O. Worden in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Dumbea*:—

	RAW.	WASTE.
	Marseilles	Other
Sulzer Rudolph & Co. 143	—	—
W. Pestalozzi	66	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	40	—
Hara Yushitsun	33	—
Siber Hegner & Co. 25	28	—
Nabholz & Co.	34	—
Jewett and Bent ...	40	—
Vivanti Brothers...	—	10
C. Eymard & Co.	—	148
Bavier & Co.	—	29
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	22
Dell Oro & Co.	—	148
Total	331	68 10 199 148

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan* for Vancouver, B.C., on the 3rd inst.:—

	Raw Silk.	Waste
	N.Y. H'yoke. E'ton. S. Ma. Silk.	
Kito Gomei Kaisha. 60	—	31 35
Vivanti Bros.	105	—
China Japan Trading Co.	10	58
Jewett & Bent	63	—
Siber Hegner and Co.	10	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. 50	—	50
F. Strahler & Co.	45	—
L. Motet and Barmont	30	—
P. Dourille	23	—
Nabholz & Co.	10	—
Sieber & Co.	10	—
Jardine Matheson & Co.	—	Whitehall. 8
Total	416	58 31 85 8

Per Japanese steamer *Seattle Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 6th inst.

Vivanti Bros.	20
Jewett & Bent	17
Bavier & Co.	15
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.	166
Kito Gomei Kaisha.	124
Cornes & Co.	67*
Total	409

* Waste Silk.

CARGO.

Per British steamer *Empress of Japan* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

	TRA.	Other	Total
	Chicago New York Pacific Coast. Cities.		Pack.
From. Canada, & West. & East.	—	—	—
Hongkong	2,614	56	1,112 121 3,903
Shanghai	—	175	— 175
Kobe	50	—	— 50
Yokohama	899	43	50 992
Total	3,563	43 231	1,162 121 5,120

	SILK.	Easton. South Mon. Hol. Total
	New York. M'ier. trail. yoke. Sales.	
From. New York.	—	—
H'kong & Canton	81	—
Shanghai	—	12
Yokohama	416	31 85 58 590
Total	497	31 85 12 58 623

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Correspondence enclosing full details at first writing invited.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAR. 16TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of Mr. George Gros-smith, senior.

THE date of the coming General Election in Japan has been fixed for May 15th.

MR. HASEGAWA, Chief of the Sanitation Bureau of the Home Department, died on Sunday night last after a protracted illness.

A VERY slight earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama on Wednesday morning about ten o'clock, lasting just one minute.

THE death is announced of Mr. Edward Blake, K.C., LL.D. former Prime Minister of Ontario. Mr. Blake also sat in the House of Commons from

1892 to 1907 as Nationalist member for South Longford.

YAKEGATAKE, which broke into eruption some time ago, still remains active.

PRINCE TOKUDAIJI, who has been confined to his bed since the end of January, has now recovered.

THE cable service between Japan and Guam, which had been suspended since the 8th instant, was resumed on Saturday last.

THE Imperial Railway Board has decided to inaugurate a through train service between Nagoya and Nagano from the 15th inst.

VISCOUNT SUGI, who some time ago was reported as having somewhat improved in health, is again reported to be in a precarious condition.

BARON KATO, Japanese Ambassador in London, who has been back home on furlough, is expected to leave England about the middle of April.

A CHINESE gunboat of 800 tons, now building at the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard, will be launched early in April. The ship is expected to be named the *Eiho*.

THE death is announced of Baron Awada Akihisa, of Osaka, the sad event taking place on the 4th instant at his residence. The deceased was in his thirty-ninth year.

NEWS has reached Hongkong that the entire fleet of Apcar liners running between Calcutta and Japan has been sold to the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

LATE on the night of the 13th instant a disastrous fire originated at a farmer's house in Iyahiko village, Niigata-ken, destroying over thirty private houses, besides the Iyahiko Jinsha, a second rank provincial shrine.

PRESIDENT TAFT has issued a proclamation urging his nationals to observe neutrality in Mexico, and instructing officers to use the utmost diligence to prevent violation of neutrality and to bring offenders to justice.

COUNT WATANABE, Minister of the Imperial Household, who since last month has given three banquets to diplomatic officials and others, intends giving a further series of banquets, inviting on the 13th inst. the German Ambassador, and the other members of the *Corps Diplomatique* on the 16th.

THE well known Professor of Assyriology, the Rev. Dr. Sayce, of Oxford, who is now on a visit to this country, is to be the guest of Count Okuma at his residence on the 14th inst. The Professor will give a lecture the same afternoon at Waseda University upon his impressions of Assyria, Babylon and Egypt.

ACCORDING to official statements the conscripts this year number about four hundred and fifty thousand. This is an increase by some forty thousand as compared with the number recorded in the preceding year. The authorities will therefore be enabled to select for service a superior class of conscripts to those enlisted last year.

WHAT might have been a serious automobile accident took place on Sunday afternoon last near Kamakura, when a car occupied by Prince Iwakura was passing another driven by Mr. W. Cumming, the car of the Prince skidding as it passed the latter and colliding with the wall. One of the wheels was wrenched off and the Japanese chauffeur was slightly injured. The Prince was

fortunately unhurt and every assistance possible was rendered him by Mr. Cumming and his friends.

THE *Times* says that thirteen Scottish iron companies have been amalgamated under the title of The Scottish Iron and Steel Company, with a capital of £1,000,000.

THE Crown Prince, who left Shimabashi for Hayama on Thursday, will proceed to Yokosuka, accompanied by the Crown Princess, on the 16th instant, to pay a visit to the battleship *Kurama*.

THE Rev. Mr. MacDonald and three other British missionaries in Haiyung, Manchuria, have forwarded to the war office, through the British Consul-General in Mukden, a letter expressing their profound thanks for the kind protection accorded them by the Japanese troops during the recent siege of that town by the Chinese Imperial army.

THE *Kokumin Shinbun* has established an Agricultural and Horticultural Department in its office at Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo, with a view to contributing to the development of agriculture and horticulture in Japan. Up to date catalogues and the best seeds of flowers and vegetables, imported from abroad, may be had at actual cost on application.

THE new bridge over the Okawa between Ataka-machi, Fukagawa, and Hama-cho, Nihon-bashi, which is now in course of construction, will be completed in August this year. The bridge measures 136 cho in length and 10 ken in breadth, the cost of construction being estimated at some six hundred thousand yen. The men engaged on the construction number well nigh three hundred.

THE death is announced of Mr. Okura Shintaro, the sad event taking place on Wednesday morning at his residence. The deceased was a relative of Mr. Okura Kihachiro. In his early youth he went to England where he studied at Cambridge and after graduating, filled an important post in the foreign section of the Ckuraigumi firm. Later, he went over to the Malay peninsula to undertake the cultivation of rubber.

THE preparations for the opening to the public of the Buddhist Library established within the precincts of the Gokoku temple at Otoba-cho, Koishikawa, are to be shortly completed. The books and works on Buddhism and Buddhists, collected far for this purpose, are said to aggregate in number already over a hundred thousand. Among them there are, we hear, many works that have never yet been seen by the general public.

ON Monday morning a fatal accident occurred at Tokorozawa, the well known flying ground for aeronautic experiments. Three workers engaged in the building of an aeroplane "hanger" were attempting to raise a big baulk of timber weighing over 400 *kwamme*, when, as ill luck would have it, one of them slipped. The heavy post fell upon them, killing one man on the spot while the two others were fatally injured in the head and back.

THE Bishop in South Tokyo states that after a year of delays an excellent site has been obtained for St. Hilda's school, but the cost has been so great that it has been necessary to borrow £3,000 on the guarantee of friends at home. The interest on this debt is a considerable strain on the general fund, and must be wiped off as soon as possible. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer, Guild of St. Paul, Church House, Westminster, or to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 15, Tufton-street, Westminster.

CHINESE FINANCES.

Saturday, March 9.

The negotiations in the Four Powers loan are making rapid progress. Already one million *taels* has been paid to the Provisional Government in Peking to meet urgent needs and it is expected that altogether seven million *taels* will be paid to the Peking and Nanking Governments by the end of next week. It is considered that China will need one million sterling a month on an average during the next six months for the completion of the organization of the Provisional Government. The Four Powers' syndicate is prepared to lend all the money necessary for the organization of the Chinese Republic, and the advances already made will be incorporated in a special loan, the contract for which is now being drafted. According to the Peking correspondent of the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, the Four Powers' loan of 40 million *taels* has been concluded and the advances made to Yuan Shih-kai will be included in the loan. The contract, however, is not yet signed.

The Peking correspondent of the *Jiji Shunpo* at first reported that at the meeting of the Four Powers syndicate on the 6th instant, it was decided to advance to China one million *taels*, one half being payable this week and the other half ten days later, to form the first instalment of the coming Six Powers' loan. A later dispatch to the same journal contradicts this, however, and asserts that the advance of half a million *taels* has not yet been paid. The Chinese Government notified the syndicate on the morning of the 8th instant that the Government could not accept the loan conditions drawn up by the syndicate. Some uncertainty still exists as to the nature of the conditions, but apparently what China objects to is the supervision of her finances by the Powers concerned. Some delay in the conclusion of the loan is inevitable.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that it is generally believed that the participation of Russia and Japan in the loan will remove all causes of international complication. The consensus of opinion among Japanese bankers is that the loan must be undertaken as a diplomatic measure. In view, however, of the conditions probably not being very advantageous, it is felt desirable that the amount of the loan should be kept as small as possible, or, in the event of the Government considering it expedient to accept a large allotment, exemption from income tax or some such privilege should be granted to subscribers.

Sunday, March 10.

As already reported, it has been decided that the six Powers shall accept all political loans that China may desire to raise in future. Yuan Shih-kai entertains grave apprehension that China must always submit to disadvantageous terms, if the loans be monopolized by the Six Powers; and also feels that there is a danger of the syndicate being made use of by the Six Powers to advance their own interests. Yuan accordingly directed Tang Shao-i to approach the representatives of the syndicate, informing them that China is unwilling to be bound by the stipulation, but would reserve to herself the right of raising loans in the markets of the world as she chooses. In view of this step, the advance of half a million *taels*, which was payable by the syndicate on the 7th instant, was postponed. The repre-

sentatives of the Four Powers sat in conference on the 8th, when it was decided to accept China's proposal. The advance was to be paid over on the 9th.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent reports that another loan of 1,600,000 *taels* is contemplated by the Chinese Government to relieve the famine-stricken people in Anhui and Kiangsu provinces. The raising of this loan from the Four Powers' syndicate was decided upon in the Cabinet Council held on the 7th instant.

Monday, March 11.

The negotiations in regard to the Six Powers loan having been successfully concluded, the sum of 315,000 *taels* was paid over on the 9th instant, as the first instalment of the loan, minus 185,000 *taels* to be appropriated as expenses for the Chinese legations abroad. A further payment of 600,000 *taels* will be made next week. Simultaneously with the part payment made of the loan, says a Peking telegram to the *Jiji*, it has been agreed that the Chinese Government shall hereafter issue about 7,000,000 *taels* worth of Exchequer bonds a month, which are to be accepted by the six Powers concerned. On maturity the bonds are to be converted into national loan certificates. In the meantime an agreement is to be concluded between the six Powers concerning the loan.

Tuesday, March 12.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent, corroborating the previous report of the payment of 320,000 *taels* in advance by the Four Powers' syndicate on the 9th instant, says that 180,000 *taels* are to be advanced to the Chinese Ministers abroad in the course of the week. The syndicate has also agreed to advance to the Peking Government the sum of 600,000 *taels* next week. The syndicate is prepared to make China further advances until the Chinese finances have been put in order, it being arranged to advance six or seven million *taels* a month for the succeeding two or three months. Russia and Japan obtained the right to take part in the loans, but Russia has not yet taken measures for participation. An agreement will be signed after the coalition of the six Powers has been effected. The loan will retrospectively include the advance made to the Nanking Government.

Wednesday, March 13.

With reference to the Six Powers loan the *Tokyo Asahi* remarks that negotiations are now in progress between Yuan Shih-kai and the Four Powers' syndicate for two distinct loans, that is one for seven million *taels* and one for one million *taels*. Of the former loan, two million *taels* have already been paid in advance and the whole amount of the latter loan will be advanced in a few days, as the latest Shanghai telegrams indicate. These two loans are intended to meet immediate needs. A larger loan is being negotiated separately, as already reported, but the negotiations are making rather tardy progress. Even the amount is not yet definitely settled, though there is reason to believe that it will be fixed at 100 million *taels*. The nature of the security for the loan is also foreshadowed. In the event of the loan being brought to a successful conclusion on the organization of the coalition Government, the two loans above named will be redeemed with the proceeds. This accounts

for the two loans not being covered by security.

The Four Powers' syndicate has invited Japan and Russia to take part in the political loan, and although a definite reply is still reserved, the two Powers will, it is believed, participate. The delay arises from some indecision on the part of the Russian Government. The loan is to be allotted in equal proportions to the Six Powers, who will stand on an equal footing in the matter of right and duties concerning the loan.

An economic loan is another question and it remains still uncertain whether Russia and Japan will or will not participate in this. In view of the existence of an international agreement regarding political loans, the four Powers could not conclude a loan without consulting the other Powers, but the syndicate can negotiate economic loans as it pleases, owing to the absence of any stipulation. It is not impossible therefore that the currency loan signed last year will be brought to a successful conclusion, if adequate measures be devised to obviate the protest lodged by Russia and Japan, although capitalists do not display any eagerness to resuscitate it. The Six Powers' loan now occupies full attention, and there is likelihood of many other loans being raised by China in future. Capitalists, therefore, will have the opportunity of negotiating loans on equal or even better terms than the currency loan. In the circumstances, an impression obtains in well-informed circles that the currency loan will eventually be dropped.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

The Doyokai and Shin-i Club sections of the House of Peers has brought forward a written interpellation on the fiscal policy pursued by the Government. The interpellation reads as under:—

The issue of convertible notes has of late so increased, that practically no restriction is placed on them. The result of the increase has caused the price of commodities to rise and occasioned an excess of imports over exports. Although the excess has now disappeared owing to restrictive measures adopted by the Government, this is only a transient phenomenon. Has the Government any idea of decreasing the convertible notes in circulation?

The standard currency (specie) shows a gradual decrease owing to the payment of interest on public and private loans and the settlement of the balance of trade, and is threatened with total extinction. What relief measures does the Government propose to take?

The development of the national strength depends on the progress of domestic industry. There is now abundant supply of labour, but industry is making tardy growth, because the enterprises do not pay owing to the heavy cost of production due to the rise in price of commodities. What are the views of the Government on this subject?

The domestic monetary organs have of late made marked development and the deposits in banks and the Postal Savings Bank have reached a large figure. The deposits tend to increase year after year, which proves an abundance of capital. How is it then that national, as well as public loans, continue to be raised abroad on unfavourable terms?

THE INSTALLATION OF YUAN SHIH KAI

FORMAL CEREMONY AT PEKING.

As already reported the installation ceremony of Yuan Shih-kai to the Presidency of the Chinese Republic took place in Peking on the afternoon of the 10th instant. The ceremony began at two o'clock and came to a close at a quarter past three. Towards two o'clock those invited to witness the ceremony, numbering between three and four hundred, began to assemble. Amongst those present were the deputation of the Nanking Government, the representatives of Li Yuan-hung and of the Magistrates and Viceroy of various provinces, the Ministers of State of the Peking Government, Commanders of the Bannermen and regular troops, the naval commanders, representatives of the people of various provinces, Manchus, Mongolians and Mahomedans, the representatives of the citizens of Peking and the Peking Chamber of Commerce, the foreign newspaper correspondents and Chinese journalists. The First Secretary, the interpreter and the Military Attaché to the United States Legation in Peking were the only members of the *Corps Diplomatique* present at the function.

Yuan Shih-kai was conducted to the Hall of Rites a few minutes before the appointed hour, and was saluted by all present. Yuan returned the salute and then read his oath which ran:—

"The foundation of the Chinese Republic has been laid and the settlement of all affairs is awaited with expectancy. In response to the popular wishes I, Yuan Shih kai, accept the post of Provisional President. It will be my best endeavour to extirpate the evils of despotic rule and to administer State affairs in consonance with the Constitution, in order to ensure the safety and development of the Republic, to share the blessings of civilization with the five great races. I shall remain in office until the First President of the Republic shall have been elected by the National Assembly to be convened at a future date. I hereby take the oath of office before our brethren."

Tsai Yuan-pei, one of the deputation of the Nanking Government, speaking on behalf of those assembled, said that the greatest difficulty in the formation of the Chinese Republic lay in obtaining the right man for the Presidency. No better man could be found in all China than the new President and it was their great good fortune to have secured his services.

Yuan Shih-kai in response said that he was conscious of his inability for the onerous task assigned to him, but he accepted the post through the strong recommendation of President Sun, Wu Ting fang and others. He was prepared to do his best in promoting the interest and happiness of the five races, and he would claim the assistance of those present in the discharge of the onerous duties devolving on him.

The deputation of the Nanking Government then advanced in turn and bowed to the new President as a mark of respect, the example being followed by all the members present. Conspicuous amongst those who paid homage to the new President were two Tibetan delegates clad in yellow robes, who

presented him with two bronze images of Buddha.

The ceremony itself lasted only a quarter of an hour. Yuan Shih-kai then retired to another chamber where he received the congratulations of the people invited to the function.

All Peking was decorated with the five-coloured flags in honour of the occasion.

It is stated that several hundred congratulatory telegrams and addresses were received by Yuan Shih-kai at the time of his installation to the Presidency, amongst them being an address presented by the Empress-Dawager. All the foreign Ministers in Peking did not attend the ceremony, but were represented by the Legation Secretaries. The Japanese Minister, however, did not send any representative.

YUAN AGAIN SUPREME.

Yuan Shih kai stands once more on the pinnacle of power in Peking. Mr. Tang Shiao-i and Mr. Tsai Yuan-kei, with the other delegates from the South, have held a meeting at Yuan's *yamen*, and have decided to telegraph to Sun Yat-sen that measures must be taken with all celerity for placing Yuan in a position to wield supreme power throughout the realm. It is true that Yuan has been appointed President, but the ceremony of his investiture has not yet been performed, and it cannot be said that he possesses legal competence to discharge the duties of his high office. The delegates recommend, therefore that this defect shall be immediately remedied, so that Yuan shall be President in fact as well as in name. Dr. Sun Yat-sen is accordingly urged to lose no time in proclaiming to the whole State Yuan's Presidential authority.

Whatever may be thought by foreign onlookers, it is palpable that Yuan Shih-kai has not lost caste with his own countrymen in connexion with recent events. Correspondents of foreign newspapers in Peking and Nanking were prompt to declare, when they saw the ashes of three great cities which had been destroyed within the space of as many days, that Yuan's reputation was irrevocably shattered, and that his prestige was trampled in the dust. But so far from that being the case, Yuan emerges from this crisis, as he has done from every previous crisis, a greater man than ever in the estimation of his countrymen. It is obvious that none of the suspicions freely formulated by certain newspaper correspondents, find any credence among the Chinese.

As to the procedure that will be followed for the formal investiture of the Provisional President, it has been arranged that the Vice-President, General Li, shall carry to Nanking the commission of the Provisional President, where it will be examined and endorsed by the out-going President, Mr. Sun Yat-sen. Sun will then forward the commission together with the great seal to Yuan in Peking, and will take the necessary steps to proclaim the appointment throughout the realm. It is thus seen that much deference is paid to the leaders of the Republican movement. In fact, Yuan Shih-kai receives his appointment as Provisional President from Dr. Sun. This will doubtless be regarded by the etiquette-loving Chinese as a great saving of the Southern leaders' face.

THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

The dissolution of the Nanking Government and the removal of the State Council to the north will undoubtedly follow Yuan Shih kai's installation to the presidency, while, on the other hand, a new Government will be organized in Peking by the Minister-President, Tang Shao-i, under the direction of President Yuan Shih-kai. Consequently the question of the official recognition of the new Republic will become practicable. A certain Foreign Office authority is credited with having stated in regard to the attitude of the Government on the question, that international usage in the matter is that the foreign country which has the greatest interest should take precedence in official recognition. At the time of the Portuguese revolution all the European Powers issued notes simultaneously for the recognition of the new Government, acting on the initiative of Great Britain. This is, however, merely an international usage, and has no binding force, especially in the China question, where underground competition exists among the Powers. Some of the Powers may attempt to ensure a diplomatic achievement by forestalling others, but inasmuch as there exists an international agreement for concerted action in the China question, it is not only undesirable for the Japanese Government to be guilty of a breach of the agreement, but it is rather hazardous for it to take upon itself the onerous responsibility. When the time arrives for official recognition, it is confidently believed that the Japanese Government will take the initiative and invite all the foreign Powers to join her in recognising the new republic. The special position Japan occupies in Chinese politics is universally recognized, so that sympathisers with the Chinese revolutionists may place full trust in the Government.

It is impossible to predict the time of official recognition of the new Republic, but the Japanese Government cannot leave China in an anarchical condition for any great length of time.

THE RECENT DISTURBANCES.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires that, although it would seem as if order had now been restored in Peking, owing to the strenuous efforts of Yuan Shih-kai, panic continues to prevail in economic circles. Monetary organs are paralyzed and prices of commodities have risen, so that the general wealth has been decreased. The shops have no goods to sell and workmen are thrown out of employment. The Chamber of Commerce is sitting in conference to devise relief measures, and has laid before Yuan's Government a petition for compensation for damages incurred. It is thought impossible, however, to obtain adequate compensation at the present moment, when the national coffers are empty. There is a feeling that disturbances may again break out and some amount of consternation prevails. The Government authorities are anxious regarding the disbandment of the troops. It is thought that the new recruits, who were mostly enlisted from the coolie class, are sure to start looting after they have spent the allowances made them on disbandment. Yuan Shih kai seems to be greatly perplexed as to the measures to prevent such an unfortunate result.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW REPUBLIC.

Saturday, March 9.

A Grand Council was held at Yuan Shih-kai's residence on the 7th instant, to consider the organization of a Provisional Government. Tsai Yuan-pei and the representatives of the Nanking Government were present. It is stated that after several hours debate, the two parties came to an agreement, the details which show that the Government is to be organized on the model of the French Republic, with a Minister-President under the President, who will be selected by Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen on consultation. The Minister-President, who must be approved by the State Council, will organize a Provisional Government in Nanking and then go to Peking with the members of the State Council, thus obviating the necessity of Yuan's going to the South. Yuan will then hand over to Li Yuan-hung the written statement of the oath to the Republic and other documents, to take to Nanking, where the formal installation to the Presidency will be held. This arrangement is said to have been approved by the State Council on the same date.

The *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* publishes a Peking telegram which reports that the State Council in Nanking wired to Yuan Shih-kai on the 7th instant, asking him to enter on the duties of the Presidency in Peking, subject to the following conditions:—The State Council shall give telegraphic sanction to the installation of Yuan in the Presidency in Peking, and on the receipt of telegraphic sanction, Yuan shall take the oath in the State Council. Upon the receipt of a telegram reporting the oath, the State Council will give its official recognition and proclaim Yuan as the President of the Chinese Republic. After his installation Yuan is to announce to the State Council the names of the Minister-President and the Ministers of State, and obtain the consent of the Council to their appointment. The Ministers of State will then replace the portfolio holders of the Nanking Government and Sun Yat-sen will simultaneously relinquish the presidency.

Under present conditions it is thought more expedient to organize the Provisional Government in Nanking than in Peking. Yuan Shih-kai is inclined to nominate Sun Yat-sen as the Minister-President, but the majority of Peking statesmen are in favour of Tang Shao-i. The Provisional Government will be removed to Peking on the completion of its organization, together with the State Council. The following appointments are foreshadowed:—

Minister-President.....	Tang Shao-i
Minister of War	Tuan Chi-jui
" Navy	Cheng Pi-kuang
" Foreign Affairs	Tang Chi-chao
" Home Affairs.....	Hsu Shih-chang
" Finance	Hsing Hsi-lung
" Justice.....	Wu Ting-fang
" Posts and Telegraphs.....	Tang Shou-chien
" Education	Tsai Yuan-pei
" Agriculture & Commerce.....	Chang Chien

Yuan has telegraphed to Li Yuan-hung directing him to proceed to Nanking as his representative in the formal ceremony.

Sunday, March 10.

On the 8th instant Yuan Shih-kai was proclaimed President of the Republic of China in the presence of the civil and military officials, the members of the Senate,

the representative of the Viceroy of Chihli province, the representatives of the Nanking Government, etc. The ceremony took place in the Presidency at Peking. The Director of Foreign Affairs, was afterwards sent to the foreign Legations, to official notify them of Yuan's installation.

Acting on the authority vested in him by the State Council in Nanking, Yuan has appointed Tang Shao-i as Minister-President and directed him to form a Ministry.

The ceremony of Yuan's installation to the Presidency is to be held at Nanking on the 10th instant. Yuan is busy in consultation with Tang Shao-i concerning the nomination of Ministers.

A Peking telegram to the *Chunwa* foreshadows the following appointments:—

Minister of Home Affairs.....	Chao Ping-chun.
" War	Tuan Chi-jui.
" Navy	Cheng Pi-kuang
	(or Sa Chin-ping).
" Finance	Chen Kin-to
" Posts and telegraphs.....	Tang Shou-chien.
" Education	Tsai Yuan-pei.
" Agriculture and Commerce.....	Hsing Hsi-lung.
" Foreign Affairs	Pu I-tai.
" Justice	Wu Ting-fang (or Li Chia-Chu)

The telegram also predicts the following diplomatic appointments:—

Minister to Japan.....	Wang Chao-ming.
" Great Britain.....	Wang Ching-kuei.
" the United States.....	Wu Ting-fang.

The Ministers will stay at Peking for the time being to assist in the diplomatic business of the new Government.

Dr. San Yat-sen is to hold the presidency of the temporary Senate, while Hsu Shih-chang will be appointed Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces. On the installation of Yuan Shih-kai to the Presidency, the commanders of the six Army Divisions in North China presented him with a written oath, pledging their allegiance to the new Republic. The installation of Yuan is enthusiastically welcomed at Peking.

JAPAN AND THE CHINA QUESTION.

Writing in reference to the attitude of Japan towards the China question, the *Jiji* says:—

Although the attitude of the various foreign Powers towards the China question differs somewhat in detail, it is indisputable that the Powers agree as a whole. The international agreement concluded between Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Russia and Japan in December last, concerning Chinese loans, and the agreement arrived at as a result of the views exchanged between Germany and the United States last month, all denote the existence of an international understanding *vis à-vis* Chinese affairs. The agreement concluded last month stipulates for concerted action the various Powers in any measures which the development of the situation in China may necessitate. The Japanese Government consented to the agreement, conditional on the recognition of the special position she occupies in Manchuria. The Government declared that Japan had no objection to acting in concert with the various Powers on matters touching common interests in China, but in view of the special position which she occupies in Manchuria, she would not be bound by the agreement, but would take independent action if an emergency arose there, necessitating interference. She thus explicitly notified the Powers that South Manchuria should be considered outside the pale of the international agreement. The statement made recently by Viscount Uchida, in the House of Representatives, is presumably based on this fact.

Japan's position in South Manchuria is too well known to need elucidation, but it would not be amiss to say a few words by way of explanation to the foreign public uninitiated in Far Eastern affairs. First of all Japan occupies a vast tract of land in South Manchuria. The leased territory covers about 1,220 square miles, in addition to the railway track and railway zones stretching for nearly 700 miles. This tract of land is virtually a part of the Japanese dominions. Japan has also numerous economic enterprises, either undertaken by the Government, or jointly with China, such as the South Manchuria railway, the Yentai, Wushun and Penhsih coal mines, the lumber business on the Yalu, and the Hsinmin-tun-Fakumen and the Kilin-Changchun railways. The special interests Japan possesses in Manchuria cannot be compared with the interests the various Foreign Powers possess in other parts of China. Moreover the Japanese dominions in Chosen border Manchuria across the Yalu and the Tumen Kiang. The welfare of South Manchuria thus directly affects the welfare of her own dominions. If South Manchuria be made a seat of war, the economic enterprises which took Japan seven years to set up at an enormous cost, would be ruined, and the safety of Chosen would be directly affected. It is therefore, evident that Japan cannot be bound by the terms of the general agreement. To place Manchuria in the scope of the general agreement would expose Japan's special interests to grave danger, to which the Japanese Government could not possibly consent. The reason why the Japanese Government desired to exclude South Manchuria from the general agreement is thus obvious. It was for this reason that the Japanese authorities mobilized the army in South Manchuria to compel the withdrawal of the two belligerents from the neutral zone. She would have recourse to a similar measure in the event of the special interests of Japan in that region being menaced by a similar danger. The Governments of the various Powers are no doubt aware of the disposition of the Japanese Government. We venture to offer this explanation in order to prevent any unnecessary misunderstanding from creeping into the minds of parties interested in the China question.

PROPOSED VOLUNTEER DIVISIONS.

In view of the increasing gravity of the situation in various provinces resulting from the recent disturbances in North China, Wang Chao-ming suggested to Yuan Shih-kai the advisability of organizing two volunteer Divisions of 5,000 men each, to be stationed at Peking, Tientsin and Paoting, for the restoration of peace and order. The proposal was submitted to the Cabinet Council on the 7th instant for consideration. Chao Ping-chun most strongly opposed the proposal on the ground that such a scheme would affect the dignity of Yuan Shih-kai, and this view was endorsed by a majority of the members of the Cabinet. The proposal was accordingly rejected.

FORMATION OF THE NEW MINISTRY.

A Peking special to the *Jiji Shimpō* reports that great difficulty is being experienced in the formation of the new coalition Ministry, since some candidates object to serving under the Minister President, Tang Shao-i, and the Nanking Government takes exception to some candidates recommended by Yuan Shih-kai, while Yuan is also unwilling to assign portfolios to the nominees of the Nanking Government. Among the candidates whose names are mentioned are Liang Tun-yen and Wang Kuei chung for the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. Yuan recommended Yen Hsiu for the portfolio of Education, but the Nanking Government objected and recommended Tsai Yuan-pei for the post. Both Yuan and Sun agree to the nomination of Chen Kin-tao for the Finance portfolio. Wu Ting-fang is nominated for the portfolio of Justice, but he seems disinclined to accept office. Li Chin-chu also refuses to accept it, but Chin Chia-pen has accepted the post of Vice-Minister of Justice. Chang Ping-chun is named as Minister of Home Affairs. Hwang Hsing and Tuan Chi-jin stand prominent among the candidates for the War portfolio. In the event of Hwang Hsing accepting some other appointment, the portfolio will be assigned to Tuan Chi-jin. Liang Shih-i consented to accept the portfolio of Posts and Telegraphs, but the Nanking Government objected to his appointment. Chang Chien is being invited to accept the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce. Cheng Pi-kuang is nominated as the Minister of the Navy, but this is not yet definitely settled. Yuan and Sun have agreed to choose young, capable men, without the least regard to their birth and past career.

It would appear that great difficulty is being experienced in the formation of a coalition Ministry. According to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent, the leaders in Peking were to resign *en bloc* on the 10th instant, but the arrangement was altered by the order of President Yuan Shih-kai, who instructed them to remain in office until they were relieved by the new Ministry to be organized in Nanking. Liang Shih-i and many other present portfolio-holders in Peking have no prospect of obtaining seats in the new Ministry owing to the opposition of the Nanking Government. The southerners do not insist on their objection to Chao Ping-chun, Yuan's right-hand man, but Chao himself shows an unwillingness to serve under Tang Shao-i. Another disturbance seems inevitable if portfolios be not given to the men who played an important part in the revolution. It would also appear that many of the young officials in Peking are hand and glove with the southern Revolutionists. While the revolutionary element is likely to predominate in the new Government, it is nevertheless, difficult to exclude those composing the present Ministry. It is stated that an arrangement is now being made to grant them one year's salary on resignation. The departure of Tang Shao-i for the south is delayed.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* reports that the State Council in Nanking has elected Tang Shao-i as Minister-President by a large majority, only

four members voting against him. The new Ministry is to consist of twelve Departments, that is, foreign affairs, home affairs, finance, education, war, navy, justice, agriculture, industry (comprising mining), commerce (comprising fisheries), communication, posts and telegraphs. The matter was to be further discussed by the State Council on the 12th instant.

An official telegram received in Tokyo says that Yuan Shih-kai has nominated two candidates for each portfolio and submitted them to the Nanking Government for selection. The candidates named are as under:—

Minister of War	Tuan Chi-jin	or Tien Wen-tieh
" Navy	Chen Pi-kuang	or Hwang Chung-yen
" Foreign Affairs	Hu I-tel	or Lin Cheng-chang
" Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun	or Wu Chen
" Finance	Chen Kin-tao	or Hwang Hsi-tung
" Justice	Wu Ting-fang	or Chin Chia-pen
" Communications	Liang Shih-i	or Tang Hua-liang
" Education	Tsai Yuan-pei	or Yen Hsin
" Industry	Chang Chien	or Yang Hsi-ch

A Nanking telegram reports that Hwang Hsing has declined to accept a portfolio in the new Government, but Chang Chien has consented to nomination.

According to intelligence received in an official quarter in Tokyo, the organization of the new government is now under discussion between the Northern and Southern Governments, and the negotiations are so advanced that a final settlement will be reached in two or three days. The appointment of Tang Shao-i as the Minister-President is not yet settled, though he is no doubt the most influential candidate. An impression obtains in some quarters that some delay is inevitable. Information emanating from a reliable source states that the revolutionary leaders will not join the Ministry and as a matter of fact the Nanking Government has advanced no demand concerning the portfolio holders in the new Government, leaving the organization entirely to the discretion of Yuan Shih-kai. In these circumstances the new Ministry will be organized with comparative ease.

A telegraphic dispatch has been received in Peking from the State Council in Nanking, giving official recognition to the appointment of Tang Shao-i as Minister President. At the same time the Council has decided to limit the term of the Provisional President to six months and to elect a regular President in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution to be formulated by the National Assembly.

The State Council met on the 12th instant to consider the proposal for the organization of a new Government. As a result of the debate it was decided to create a separate Bureau in the Home Office for the administration of the Mongolians, Mahomedans and Tibetans, instead of the proposed appointment of a special Vice-Minister in the Home Office, and to unite the Industrial and Commercial Departments and also the Departments of Communications and Posts and Telegraphs. The amended proposals were forthwith telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, with a request that candidates for each portfolio should be chosen and their names submitted to the Council for approval.

THE FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

It seems probable that after all the conjectures and talk which have been heard during the past two months inside and outside China, with reference to the procedure for organizing the first National Assembly, the thing will be managed simply enough. We have hitherto spoken of the *Tracheng-yuan* in Peking as the "Senate," but by many writers any translation of the term has been carefully avoided, owing to the difficulty in finding a form of rendering that would be at once accurate and comprehensible. For similar reasons we have spoken of the Government at Nanking, namely, the *San-i-yuan*, as the "Cabinet," instead of using the term "Senate," which, though not absolutely accurate, would have created confusion with the assembly in Peking. It has now been decided that these two bodies shall be amalgamated to form the first National Assembly. Obviously it will not be a National Assembly in the precise sense of the term, but we see no reason why it should not constitute a suitable organ for the discharge of the duties devolving on it. To have organized a National Assembly in the full and complete sense of the term would have been impossible without preparations of the most extensive and practical character—preparations indeed, which by many onlookers have been pronounced impossible. The Chinese nation will have to be content with a make-shift at the outset, but there does not appear to be any better method of dealing with the situation than that now chosen.

Of course the question of finance counts for a great deal in all these arrangements. It is imperatively necessary that the Chinese should place themselves in a position to obtain monetary assistance from foreign countries with the utmost possible expedition, and in the face of that urgent necessity some make-shifts will have to be condoned.

With reference to this last point, it is noticeable that Vice-President General Li has pointed out the imperative necessity of terminating all disputes between Nanking and Peking and between North and South in the face of the danger of the realm's partition among foreign Powers. But Li does not seem to appreciate the fact that China's finances will have to be administered by foreign countries for all practical purposes during many years to come. The problem now confronting Chinese statesmen, and the problem that will long continue to confront them, is not how to get money abroad but how to procure it at home. Nothing is easier for China than to find foreign creditors. Nothing is likely to prove more difficult than the imposition and collection of taxes to satisfy those creditors.

In this context it may be mentioned that the Representatives of the foreign Powers are understood to have expressed their countries' willingness to recognize the Chinese Republic immediately on the organization of the Provisional Government and the endorsement of its plans by the National Assembly. It was supposed, at first, that the shocking events which had occurred at Peking, Paoting and Tientsin would have caused the foreign Powers to hesitate about recognizing the Republic, but no such effect appears to have been produced.

THE CONSPIRACY IN SIAM.

ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A REPUBLIC.

A Bangkok telegram received in an official quarter in Tokyo reports that a conspiracy has been discovered in military circles in Siam for the overthrow of the present government. Two hundred arrests have been made in connection with the plot. The navy is also concerned and the situation is rather grave. The cause of the conspiracy is unknown.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* quotes a responsible government authority as saying that owing to the lack of details the cause of the conspiracy is unascertainable. The Royal House of Siam has always been in close touch with the people and at no time before has a conspiracy taken place in the country. About seven or eight years ago an insurrection arose in the northern part of Siam, but it had no political significance, being planned by Tribesmen for purposes of plunder. It was suppressed very quickly. In spite of constitutions being now the order of the day in various autocratic monarchies in Asia, the Siamese have never started such a movement, being apparently rather indifferent to politics. There must thus be some other cause for the conspiracy now reported, and seeing that over two hundred persons have been arrested, the matter is presumably rather complicated. As there are many Chinese residents in Siam there is reason to believe that the success of the revolutionary movement in China has stimulated the people to start a political movement.

The same journal also quotes an unnamed authority on Siamese Affairs as saying that a certain Siamese resident in Tokyo is confident that the civil commotion is likely to result in the overthrow of the present Government. From what he learnt while last in Siam it seems that the conspiracy originated in a political conflict. In some quarters the belief obtains that the conspiracy was influenced by the Chinese revolution, but he does not share this view. The Chinese residents in Siam number over three millions, but they are held in contempt by the Siamese, so that it is unthinkable that the Chinese should produce such an effect on the minds of Siamese. The Siamese people generally do not understand politics. Their mental development is low and it is rather doubtful whether they are capable of exercising political rights, even if the conspirators succeeded in replacing the present autocratic polity by either a constitutional or a republican administration. The conspiracy was no doubt planned in army circles, and there is good reason to believe that it originated in a conflict between the Ex-Emperor's faction and the followers of the Empress-Dowager. The Siamese army was originally organized from volunteers enlisted from amongst the people. A conscript law was promulgated last year, and improvements have been introduced regardless of cost. The volunteers still remain a potential factor in the Siamese army, however, and these elements may have planned the conspiracy to resist the expulsion of the ex-Emperor by the Empress-Dowager's faction. H. H. Prince Dahil, popularly known as Prince Rajabury (P), who has been nominated by the conspirators as President, is a young and progressive man of about 34 or 35, who was educated in Europe and Am-

erica, and is the leader of the pro-Japanese party. When the Prince held the portfolio of Justice in the Siamese Government he carried out radical reforms in the administration, and was therefore regarded by a section of the people as rather a dangerous character with socialistic tendencies. Opposition was raised against the reform measures, until the prince was compelled to throw up the portfolio. His Highness is of course not implicated in the present conspiracy, but the reinstallation of the prince in the public service at the present juncture gives evidence to the confusion into which the Government is thrown.

An official telegram received at the Siamese Legation in Tokyo on the 10th instant reports that a conspiracy for the assassination of the King and the establishment of a republican government has been discovered and over 60 persons arrested. They are mostly young subaltern officers. Perfect order is maintained in the capital and no danger is apprehended.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

Russia's position with regard to lending money to China is certainly not very simple. It is quite possible that St. Petersburg may find itself constrained to assume with regard to Mongolia an attitude which would not meet with the approval of Peking. On the other hand, it has come to be understood that any Power which joins in providing China with funds at this juncture, will be virtually recognizing the new Asiatic Republic. Thus, Russia may well find herself perplexed. It appears to be thought by well-informed observers, however, that the St. Petersburg Government will eventually join hands with the other great Powers in financing China, and will accept all the consequent responsibilities. Indeed money seems to have been already lent in a small quantity to meet the necessities of the moment, and a big loan will follow rapidly. We do not see what other route the Powers could take, though the results of their present course are disquieting enough.

As for the China Merchants' S. N. Company's loan, it would appear that although the transaction has been abandoned for the moment, Japan has secured the prior claim in any future arrangement for supplying the Company with funds.

We observe with regard to the Han-Ya-Ping corporation that Mr. Sheng has addressed a pertinent query to Yuan Shih-kai. He points out that the reorganization of the corporation on the proposed lines obtained the full consent of Sun Yat-sen, and the Japanese are very likely to protest against the veto subsequently imposed upon the transaction by Yuan Shih-kai.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

According to telegrams from Peking and Tientsin, the foreign diplomatic and consular authorities in those cities have held meetings and have decided, first, that the duty of protecting the railways shall be entrusted to the foreign troops; and secondly, that no Chinese soldiers shall be permitted to come within a radius of 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ (7 miles) of a foreign settlement. This last restriction was in operation at the time of the Boxer troubles, and the wisdom of enforcing it on the present occasion is very obvious.

THE U.S. ARBITRATION TREATIES.

ACTION OF THE SENATE.

With reference to the Anglo-American General Arbitration Treaty, a certain diplomat is quoted by the *Fiji Shimpō* as saying that the Senate, in striking out Clause 3 of Article 3 and other provisions connected with the Monroe doctrine, as well as alien immigration, no doubt wish to uphold the attitude they assumed in the last session of Congress. It must not be forgotten, however, that there exists a practical example which may have led to the result now witnessed, and that is the abrogation of the American-Russian Commercial treaty of 1832, which has formed the subject of international dispute between the two Governments since December last. Originally Russia vetoed the entrance to her dominion of American Jews. The United States thereupon declared the abrogation of the commercial treaty, holding Russia's action as a breach of the treaty. The affair is popularly known as the Jewish passport problem. It was argued in some quarters that the dispute should be submitted to the decision of the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, but the consensus of public opinion in the United States was against this, as the infringement of treaty rights by Russia was regarded as a question touching the dignity of the United States. If the Senate had retained Clause 3 relating to the appointment of the Committee of Inquiry and approved the general arbitration treaty without amendment, the United States would have had to submit to arbitration even on the passport question, which she regards as touching the dignity and honour of the State. It would be self-contradictory if the Senate, which took steps to abrogate the commercial treaty with Russia, instead of submitting the question to arbitration, should have approved the general arbitration treaty. Since the Senate has struck out Clause 3 of Article 3, and thus reserved to itself the right of deciding the nature of the international disputes which should or should not be submitted to arbitration, the general arbitration treaty has been shorn of its value. The incident gives clear evidence of the strong attitude with which the Senate guards its right of veto over treaties.

THE STATE OF THE PROVINCES IN CHINA.

It was supposed by many onlookers that the recent operation of pillage by the troops in China would have encouraged some potential displays of sympathy with the advocates of imperialism. But this forecast has been verified in one case only. Mr. Hseng Yun, Governor of Shensi, has raised the Imperial standard and is reported to be moving on Peking. He has reached Tung-kwan on the road from Hsian to Peking, and although he has been urged by Yuan Shih-kai to abandon his belated project, he is pushing forward resolutely. But he has still a long way to traverse before reaching the capital, and it is more than probable that his strength will have been dissipated long before he gets there. The Empress Dowager is said to be entirely opposed to such wild adventures. Her Majesty remarks that if the Imperial Family has quietly stepped down from the places of power, its some-time subjects might be expected to follow its example.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF FINANCE.

A gathering of the clearing houses was held at the Bankers' Association Hall on the 12th instant, and was attended by over one hundred members of the leading clearing houses throughout the country, Mr. Ikeda presiding.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, speaking at the meeting, said that he would avail himself of the opportunity to lay his fiscal views before those present. The Budget for next fiscal year had been passed by the Diet. It was framed with a view to maintaining an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure in order to harmonize the finances with the general economics and to place the finances on a firmer basis. In view of the present conditions of finance and general economics the Government did not rest satisfied with this. Not only are there many matters which need adjustment in finance and executive administration, but also the adjustment of the tax system heretofore effected is still incomplete. The Government had therefore created an Adjustment Bureau and investigations are in progress under the personal direction of the Prime Minister, Marquis Saionji, concerning the proposed adjustment. The Government recognized the necessity of effecting the adjustment of the tax system with a view to the reduction of taxes. Inasmuch, however, as the adjustment demands very careful study, he was not yet in the position to lay any details before the meeting in a concrete form.

With regard to the fund required for railway works and the Chosen special account, embodied in the Budget for the next fiscal year, which is to be met by the issue of national bonds or temporary loans, the Government desired to raise the fund at home if possible, and would also make appropriations out of the special reserve fund. About 90 million *yen* worth of the Tokyo municipal loan was concluded last month and he trusted that about 65 million *yen* of it would be distributed among the shareholders towards the end of this month. In regard to the fund to be raised in the 44th fiscal year, the Government had decided to issue 30 million *yen* worth of railway bonds by the discount method, and an official announcement will be made public very shortly. He would request those present to give their assistance to making the issue a success.

It was gratifying to note that commerce and industry were gradually being adjusted, though much remained to be done. The development of economic circles largely depended on the accumulation of capital, but its distribution had a no less important bearing. It was all important for the healthy development of domestic industry to ensure a fair distribution of accumulated capital and a smooth combination between capital and labour. It remained an open question if this was the case in the present economic conditions of this country. Improvement in this direction depended on the exertions of those who were directly interested in the monetary circulation.

Japan's foreign trade last year showed a marked excess of imports, and the trade this year up to the 10th of this month also showed an excess of imports amounting to about 43 million *yen*. This unfavourable balance of trade in a debtor-country like Japan must be viewed with grave concern.

The Government would of course not fail to give this matter serious attention and it was desirable that the nation should do everything in its power to moderate the development of various branches of domestic industry, to promote the export trade, and also cultivate the habit of using domestic products in preference to foreign goods.

Owing to the civil commotion in China, Japan's export trade to that country had been seriously affected. He thought, nevertheless, that the revolution would work a radical change in the mode of living in the neighbouring country which would call forth a demand for large capital on the restoration of peace. It was therefore desirable that those present should give the necessary guidance to the parties concerned in the China trade and consult their convenience in the matter of accommodation of capital.

The business of the clearing houses had shown rapid progress and he did not hesitate to congratulate those present and to hope for greater development of the institutions in future.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Mr. Yoshizawa, Vice-President of the Oriental Development Company, and other directors are of opinion that although the subsidy is no doubt granted to cover the loss resulting from the immigration business, it is against the interests of the Company to continue the immigration business, which is run at a loss of some fifty *yen* per capita. Lieut. General Urugawa, President of the Company, does not endorse this view, and holds that it would be in defiance of the object for which the subsidy is granted for the Company to discontinue or otherwise neglect the immigration business. This difference of views has led to a conflict between the President and other directors, and according to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Seoul correspondent, efforts are being made to replace Lieut. General Urugawa by Mr. Yoshibara, as the president of the Company. The public has begun to vehemently criticize the doings of the directors, and the Government authorities have decided to take adequate measures for the adjustment and reform of the corporation. To make matters worse, the House of Representatives voted against the subsidy. It is rumoured that Prince Katsura will visit Chosen in April and May, accompanied by Mr. Komatsubara, to bring about an adjustment of the Company, and that the directors are consulting the advisability of resigning *en bloc*.

AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

Simultaneously with his installation to the Presidency, Yuan Shih-kai proclaimed an amnesty for all political offenders arrested before March 10th. Yuan's second act of grace was the issue of an order of exemption from payment of taxes standing in arrear before the first year of the Chinese Republic. The new President has also issued an instruction that the laws and regulations in operation shall remain in force, so far as they are consistent with the republican polity, until a new code shall be promulgated. The instruction also calls upon civil and military officials to combine for the maintenance of the republican administration.

OLD AGE PENSIONS BILL.

As foreshadowed in a previous issue, Mr. Fukumoto of the Popular Party introduced to the House on the 7th instant an Old Age Pension Bill. The Bill consists of five articles and reads:—

1.—Indigent Japanese subjects, over 70 years of age, who have no income and nobody to support them, shall be granted an allowance of 10 *sen* a day.

2.—Indigent Japanese Subjects over 70 years of age, whose annual income does not exceed 36.50 *yen* and who have nobody to support them, shall be granted an allowance of less than 10 *sen* a day.

3.—The law shall not apply to persons coming under one of the following clauses:—

1. Those not residing in the Empire for twenty years consecutively.

2. Those subjected to criminal punishment for one year or more within the ten preceding years.

3. Those who, without sufficient reasons, have followed no vocation for the preceding twenty years.

4.—In the event of one of the following cases occurring after the receipt of the old age pension, the application of this Law shall be suspended:—

1. When the recipients have an annual income exceeding 36.50 *yen*, or when they receive in support a similar amount.

2. When they are subjected to criminal punishment of one year or more.

5.—The Law shall not extend to Chosen and Formosa.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

It is not expected that any further questions of an important character will present themselves for consideration in the Diet during the few remaining days of the session. At present the idea is that the Diet will be prorogued on the 23rd instant, the official ceremony taking place on the 25th. The Peers are now engaged debating the revised election law sent up from the Representatives and it is thought probable that in spite of the Government's support the bill will be rejected by the Upper Chamber. This, of course, is an important issue, but for the rest the members are expected to occupy themselves with what they call *omagegian*; in other words, with projects of law addressed to the Constituencies rather than to the Houses. This is by way of preparation for the general elections which are to take place in May.

THE TOKYO EXHIBITION.

One fact brought to light by the projects for a Tokyo exhibition in the 50th year of *Meiji*, is that the Municipality and the Prefecture are at logger-heads about the enterprise. We publish elsewhere figures relating to the expenditure contemplated by the Municipality, and in connexion with these figures it is observed that whereas the Municipal Authorities propose to collect only 581,200 *yen* from the citizens for carrying out the programme, the Prefectural Authorities contemplate a house-tax of two millions. Thus, the financial advantage is on the side of the Municipality, but it is justly spoken of with much surprise that such differences should exist between the administrators of the Japanese metropolis.

THE RISE IN PRICES.

VIEWS OF VICE-MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, is quoted as saying that the increase in the price of commodities evidently forms the burning question in the current session of the Diet. The recent abnormal rise in prices, especially in the case of rice, is having a grave effect on the poorer classes of people, but measures of relief are difficult, since the increase is due to diverse causes. Some publicists think that the situation can at once be relieved by decreasing the convertible notes in circulation. This measure might form part of a permanent policy, but it is impracticable for the present, as any radical withdrawal of a large amount of convertible notes from circulation would seriously affect economics and finance. The proposed increase of the maximum amount of Exchequer Notes to 100 million in the 45th fiscal year is also adversely criticized, it being argued that the increased issue will tend to a further increase in the issue of convertible notes, which will in turn cause an increase in imports. This view is fallacious, however. There existed various reserve funds up to the previous fiscal year on which the Government could draw to meet the demand for various administrative expenses. These funds are now nearly exhausted, so that the Government has been obliged to increase the amount of issue of Exchequer Notes. The increased issue will probably not affect the amount of issue of convertible notes, any more than it did last year. If the Government sold specie to the Nippon Ginko in time of need and repurchased it when the Government had a surplus in hand, the finances could be manipulated without having recourse to an increase in the issue of Exchequer bonds, but instead of pursuing such a makeshift policy, the Government had decided to take more straightforward measures, which should be welcomed by the Diet. If the members of the Diet had taken the trouble to study closely the measures heretofore adopted by the Government for the replenishment of the National Treasury, they would admit the propriety of the policy adopted by the present Government. Some critics argued that the total issue of Exchequer bonds would exceed 132 million yen, but, as a matter of fact, it would not exceed 100 million yen. The Exchequer bonds issued to meet the expenses of the Government Woolen-cloth Factory in the present fiscal year did not exceed four million yen, while the capital needed by the Monopoly Bureau at the busiest season does not exceed 15 million yen. At no time before had the issue of Exchequer bonds exceeded 100 million yen, and they would not exceed this limit in the next fiscal year.

The Government authorities, nevertheless, shared the apprehensions felt by the general public at the abnormal increase in the prices of commodities, and were carefully studying relief measures. They were, however, persuaded that any measure calculated to radically disturb economic circles and so cause a panic, would be highly dangerous, and the responsible authorities could not bring themselves to consent to such a measure, as it would injure the development of domestic industry and tend to bring about another rise in prices in the future. The argument for the decrease of convertible notes in circulation must, therefore, be dismissed as an impracticable suggestion. The Government

admits that general economics are depressed by the State finance, but this is an inevitable consequence of the great war. Although it is no doubt the duty of the Government to relieve the situation, it is rather self contradictory for the Diet, which formerly sanctioned numerous public enterprises, to now demand the Government should decrease the convertible notes in circulation. The recent rise in the price of commodities may be traced to the increase of gold production, the increase of convertible notes, the growth of luxurious habits, the increase in population and divers other causes, and while the Government will not of course neglect to take adequate measures to relieve the situation, it would be desirable for the nation to follow the laudable examples set by the German and Hungarian nations. The ten commandments which guide the German nation might be observed by the Japanese nation with advantage. If the nation cultivated the habit of using domestic articles to the exclusion of foreign-made articles, the cost of living could be materially decreased, and it would have a desirable effect on Japan's foreign trade. The nation would do well to exercise self-control in their habits of living without entirely relying on the policy of the Government.

JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

REMARKS BY BARON TAKAHASHI.

Baron Takahashi, President of the Nippon Ginko, speaking at the social gathering of the Clearing Houses held on the 12th instant, said that a cursory survey of the economic conditions obtaining for several years past showed that the monetary easiness reached its climax in 1910, but affairs had begun to gradually improve since the beginning of last year. This was a natural result attendant on the gradual development of various enterprises. The companies that came into existence after the Russo-Japanese war were so numerous that the registered capital reached 1,180 million yen, of which 600 million was actually paid up, deducting those companies which were subsequently dissolved or whose capital was decreased. When these companies got into working order, the demand for capital would increase, which would occasion some tightness in the market. It was rather disappointing to note that nearly all the companies which had up to now come into existence had for their object the production of goods for home consumption, and thus had little or no effect on the foreign trade. Individual capitalists were at liberty to invest their capital in whatever enterprises they liked, but from the standpoint of the national economics it was desirable that capitalists should pay greater attention to the interests of the State in making investments. Japan owed a heavy debt to foreign countries, for which she must go on paying interest until the loans were redeemed. Japan had neither rich gold nor silver mines. The Japanese capital invested in foreign countries was infinitesimal, and the remittances made by Japanese abroad were not very large. The only way to enable Japan to discharge her financial obligations lay in increasing her exports and decreasing her imports, or, in other words, getting the upper hand in the foreign trade. It would therefore seem imperative that capitalists should choose enterprises for the production

of goods which would either check importation or form substitutes for foreign-made goods. For the promotion of such enterprises, a large capital was needed for machinery, materials, etc., which would accentuate the import for a time, but it would no doubt tend to a decrease in the imports and an increase of the exports in the long run, and thus accelerate the promotion of the national wealth. Otherwise it would be hopeless to fully discharge the financial obligations Japan owed to the foreign creditor countries. It was also necessary that bankers should give careful attention to the nature of the enterprises which they might be called upon to finance.

THE RAILWAY BONDS.

In the course of his speech at the meeting of the Clearing Houses, the Minister of Finance officially announced the issue of 30 million yen worth of railway bonds at no distant date. According to the vernacular Press the Government has decided to issue the railway bonds on the 15th instant. The proceeds are to be used for the railway works undertaken in the present, that is the 44th, fiscal year, 28,000,000 yen of which has already been raised by the issue of Exchequer bonds. This amount will be included in the railway bonds, and thus the fund obtainable by the Government will be limited to two million yen. Inasmuch, however, as any expenses over 30 million yen incurred in the work can be met by the excess of net revenue, the Railway Board has no need to raise a further loan for the present fiscal year. The railway budget originally estimated the expenditure at 43 million yen for the present fiscal year, but it has been found that 30 million yen is sufficient to cover the disbursement. It would thus seem as if the Railway Board would largely economize on the interest account, but as a matter of the Board has been paying interest on 28 million yen worth of Exchequer bonds at the rate of 1.4 sen per 100 yen a day. Moreover the new railway bonds will carry 1½ sen interest and are redeemable in one year, so that the interest will practically stand at 5.4 per cent. per annum. When compared with the 4.2 per cent. interest heretofore being paid on the advances obtained from the Deposit Bureau, the loss to the Railway Board is by no means small. The issue of the railway bonds at the present juncture is no doubt intended to absorb the large amount of capital that has found its way into the market through the payment of the Tokyo tramway loan.

RECOGNITION BY THE POWERS.

It is stated that, simultaneously with the completion of the organization of the new Ministry, which is expected to be officially announced in a few days, the Chinese Government will apply to the various foreign Powers for official recognition of the Republic. Not only is the organization of the new Government welcomed by the foreign Governments, but in view of the conclusion of the loan contract, the Powers will no longer hesitate to recognise the republic. The Japanese Government has already come to an agreement with the British Government on the matter, and will issue a note, simultaneously with the British Government, at no distant date, notifying China of its official recognition.

THE MUTINY AT CANTON. FIERCE BATTLE IN THE CITY.

It appears that the disbandment at Canton will not take place so quietly as expected, as from Hongkong comes a report that 3,000 men under Wang Hai-shun the leader of the Canton revolutionary army, have risen in revolt. The new army was dispatched for their suppression and a fierce battle was fought. The issue is not reported, however. Risings of other revolutionary armies are also threatened. An exodus of the panic-stricken inhabitants is taking place.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chungwa* reports that the revolutionary army in Canton was joined by a number of bandits and invaded the city on the 11th instant. They encountered the new government army and a fierce battle was fought. An exodus of citizens is taking place and those seeking refuge in Hongkong are said to number over 200,000 up to the present. The city of Canton is converted into a seat of war and it is feared that the largest city in South China will share the fate of Hankow.

In view of the anarchy prevailing in Canton, President Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to the Nanking Government, asking Sun Yat-sen for the suppression of the disturbances.

An official despatch says that the fighting between the Kuei army and the new army outside the South Gate lasted until about noon of the 11th instant. Rifle reports were incessant but the bombardment by the warship proved effective, and the Kuei army was routed and their leader Wang Hu-shun was taken prisoner. The magistrate issued a proclamation holding Wang alone responsible for the *incident*. The soldiers of the Kuei army were paid 15 dollars each and then disbanded after being disarmed.

THE TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN.

The Tokyo Municipal authorities received the first instalment of subscriptions to the Tokyo Municipal tramway purchase loan on the 12th instant, and have paid to the liquidators of the Tokyo Railway Company the sum of 62,028,663.34 yen, including interest due on the purchase price, amounting to 9,8348.37 yen. The balance, some 3,000,000 yen, will be paid towards the end of this month by raising a temporary loan from the Nippon Ginko.

It is reported in this context that the large shareholders of the Tokyo Railway Company met in conference on the 13th instant to consider a proposal whether extra bonuses of 198,000 yen, payable to conductors, etc., should or should not be paid out of the dividend to the shareholders. It was finally decided to pay the bonuses out of the dividend. The purchase price, including interest payable to the liquidators, amounts to 66,793,390 yen, which gives an amount per share of 76 7/4 yen, of which 76.50 yen will be distributed and the balance of 27 1/4 sen per share, that is 238,380 yen, will be appropriated for the payment of extra bonuses, the remainder, 42,380 yen, being used to cover the cost of the liquidation. *Post facto* consent is to be obtained to this arrangement at the general meeting of the shareholders of the Company to be convened shortly.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION.

A JAPANESE VIEW.

Lieut.-Colonel Teranishi, who has been in Hankow since the first outbreak of the civil commotion, arrived at Nagasaki on the 11th instant en route to Tokyo. When interviewed by a press representative the officer is reported to have stated that an understanding has existed for a long time between Yuan Shih-kai and the revolutionary leaders, Li Yuan-hung being the first man to join hands with Yuan Shih-kai. After the fall of Hankow, Li Yuan-hung stayed in Wuchang and the northern army did not attack the revolutionary base, because of the understanding. The dissolution of the Nanking Government and the election of Yuan Shih-kai to the first presidency of the Chinese Republic were then arranged between them. The movement started by some Japanese in Japan, for official recognition of the Nanking Government, was thus rather amusing, as it showed a lack of knowledge of the true condition of affairs. While advising the Manchu Government to work for the downfall of Yuan Shih-kai on the one hand, they backed Yuan for the establishment of constitutional administration on the other. It would have been wiser if the Japanese authorities had maintained the strict neutrality which characterized their diplomatic policy at the outset. The British Government had been in communication with Dr. Sun Yat-sen when he was still in the United States, concerning the future of the revolutionary movement. It seems that both Dr. Sun and Li Yuan-hung are conscious of the impossibility of a successful working of the republican administration at the hands of the young revolutionists, and the expectations of a section of the Japanese people are likely to end in disappointment. The Japanese Government is not popular with the revolutionists. The exaggerated reports published by Japanese papers of the dispatch of reinforcements have evidently hurt their feelings. Mr. Inukai, who is now in Shanghai, will probably return home by April, as there is now almost nothing he can put his hands to in China.

THE PROPOSED EXHIBITION.

As already reported the Tokyo Municipality has under consideration a scheme for holding a Municipal Exhibition in 1917 to commemorate and perpetuate the memory of the fiftieth anniversary of the Emperor's accession to the Throne. A special committee is reported to be investigating the scheme. The idea is to obtain the assignment of 158,244 *tsubo* of land at Aoyama as the site of the Exhibition, and to convert one half of the ground into a public park after the closure of the Exhibition, the other half to be sold to reimburse the Municipality. The cost of the Exhibition is estimated at 5,000,000 yen. Besides the creation of a public park the following edifices are to be constructed to perpetuate the occasion:—A memorial monument, a museum a library, a public hall, and permanent building to be used for Municipal Office or Mayor's official residence.

Besides the main Exhibition buildings and aquarium, a refrigerator, etc. are also to be established separately.

THE ACTION AGAINST THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

The civil action brought by Mr. Koyama against the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, claiming the refundment of the dividend paid, came up for hearing in the Tokyo District Court on the 9th instant.

Plaintiff's counsel argued that the Company declared a dividend without establishing a reserve fund for depreciation of the liners. The dividend so declared was improper as it was calculated to endanger the rights of plaintiff.

Defendants' counsel contended that the dividend was declared in a proper manner.

Plaintiff's counsel applied to summon witnesses to prove the inaccuracy of the accounts.

The Court decided to summon Mr. Kawai, chief accountant of the Company, and two others, but reserved decision as to the other witnesses. The proceedings were adjourned until the 9th proximo.

THE COST OF THE RIOTS.

We stated in our previous issue that the losses resulting from the sack of Tientsin by the soldiers were estimated at 70 million *taels*. The losses in Peking are now stated to aggregate about 60 millions. Even though these figures be divided by two—the usual correction applied to rumour—the result is appalling. Nothing was at stake except a sum of 6 *taels per mensem* for a few thousands of soldiers, and yet the cost of collecting this petty sum will probably be found to total 60 or 70 millions when the full accounts are compiled.

It is likely that foreign collections of objects of art will be immensely enriched in the sequel of the pillage, though, it is also certain that numerous fine *chefs d'œuvre* found their way to the flames.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN CHINA.

A Peking telegram to the *Chungwa* reports that the Republican Party in Chekiang contemplates organizing a great political party in coalition with the Nationalists in Peking. The party professes to be staunch supporters of the republican administration, but in fact is at the beck and call of Yuan Shih-kai, from whom it receives financial aid. Either Hwang Hsing or Wang Chao-ming will be elected as leader. The Socialist party was first organized by Hung Kiang-hui of Nanchang, who is the recognized leader of the Huiachui, and has for its object social communism. The party is said to have 3,000,000 members, and proposes to establish a branch in Peking in order to take part in national politics. Disaffected people are fast joining the party.

A MONGOLIAN ARMY.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Mukden correspondent wires that the Princes in Inner Mongolia, who are dissatisfied with the republican polity, have raised a large army, with the son of Prince Tuan, who obtained notoriety in connexion with the Boxer trouble, as their leader, in order to invade Peking. The army is believed to have already reached the great wall. The correspondent also adds that the German merchants are making strenuous efforts to sell arms and munitions of war to the Mongolian Princes in Peking.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 12)

FROM the rather scanty details to hand it would appear that the advocates of woman suffrage have forced the hands of the Government and compelled it to recognise them as a political organisation. The snare has been set a long time and the Government may be considered as having rather been forced into the trap than walking into it consciously or unconsciously. Despatches show that the offices of the militant organisation have been raided, the leaders captured or compelled to flee, and something like a prosecution for conspiracy started. Instead of the former police-court proceedings, which were hardly of a nature to be taken seriously, there will now be a trial before a jury, and the "suffragettes" will have the pleasure of appearing as political martyrs. The methods they have adopted to achieve this end cannot be recommended, any more than the bomb or the pistol of the political insurgent. To do wrong that good may come cannot be accepted as a moral maxim worthy of adoption. Window-smashing, even though it be the windows of great trading corporations who are not likely to suffer seriously from the loss, cannot be considered as a good means to an end, and in fact, savours somewhat of the feminine and hysterical. Because the elected representatives of the people refuse to grant the right to vote to something over one half of the population, therefore some unoffending tradesman's windows must be smashed! This savours of the *non sequitur*. It must be agreed, however, that women are in a peculiar position as regards the parliamentary suffrage. They may claim it as a right, but as long as men hold the power, the right can only be obtained by sanction of the men, unless, of course, the extreme of civil war were adopted and the political power wrested from men by force. This, however, is impossible. If women are to gain political rights it must be through men; the men must be persuaded or coerced in a more or less peaceful manner to grant those rights. Whether it is wise and proper to give woman a vote is another question. But having made up her mind that she has the right to vote, it would seem that the only way she can attain her purpose is by active agitation, which, however, does not necessarily mean window-smashing or hitting policemen with umbrellas, etc. The procession of women recently held in London, in which some of the most notable, and certainly the most intellectual, women of the day took part, attracted great attention. It commanded respect, and if there is one thing more than another which would help woman's cause it is to obtain that respect for her aims which has so far been lacking. The movement has, it must be confessed, been regarded as a great opportunity for the

display of cheap wit. The sight of an elderly lady with her bonnet awry, struggling in the arms of a policeman, is one which appealed to the risible faculties of the public, and the cheap press took advantage of this to launch all its young men into columns of rith. The movement, it was supposed, would be killed by sarcasm. But the grin on the face of the public becomes rather forced when it finds the joke carried to the extent of thousands of pounds' worth of damage. The suffrage movement has thus gained a measure of respect, though unfortunately the respect is not that usually accorded by admiration. It is rather the respect drawn from alarm. The women's suffrage movement in England has, in fact, entered on a new phase, open hostility replacing the former humorous resistance. It must be confessed that this unfortunate result is due to the tactics of the "suffragettes," who may find their gain in one direction accompanied by loss in another. To appear as political martyrs may perhaps be advantageous, but it seems probable that the date of woman's enfranchisement has been set back by some years. That man can for ever withhold from women in the United Kingdom the right to vote is unthinkable. Already in other parts of the Empire the right has been conceded, and it cannot be contended that the women of England are any less able to exercise such right judiciously than their colonial sisters. If taxation must be accompanied by representation according to the modern democratic ideal, then to withhold the franchise from a woman of independent means and grant it to her gardener or other male servants cannot be considered as otherwise than illogical. Some observers profess to see in the future a development of the human race somewhat on the lines of certain social insects, with a class of sexless, or rather undeveloped female, workers. This may be merely a scientific nightmare, but it cannot be denied that circumstances tend more and more to place women in competition with men in the office, the factory and elsewhere. It is not a case of the woman doing the work and the man taking life easily, such as obtains in savage communities; it is rather a case of man and woman working side by side and competing against each other. The modern woman no longer seeks the education which will make her desirable in the eyes of men. The education which makes a good wife and an intelligent mother, such as is the standard aimed at by the Department of Education in Japan as most pleasing to the men, is obviously wasted when the chances of getting married are becoming more and more problematical. The first object among the great bulk of the people is to give a girl an education which will enable her to earn her living. Marriage, however large it may loom as the ideal state, is no longer considered as a certainty. Thus the woman

ly ideal, created by man, tends more and more to pass away, its place being taken by the practical commonsense which ensures a livelihood. The greatest social reform in England of the last half century, the Married Women's Property Act, which recognised that a married woman was no longer a mere chattel of her husband, made it inevitable that the parliamentary franchise should ultimately be granted her, and perhaps the wisest course that men could pursue at the present moment would be to recognise this inevitability and devote their energies to developing women's political education.

THE SOUTH POLE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 13)

CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN'S success in reaching the South Pole has come quickly on PEARY'S discovery of the North Pole, and polar exploration henceforward will be confined to confirming and amplifying the discoveries of these two navigators. The South Pole has yielded its secret much more easily than the North Pole, considering the relative infrequency of attempts in the Antarctic regions. Although in the 16th century many explorers visited the southern seas, their efforts were confined to the discovery of land in those regions, their objective being a supposed southern continent, and it was not until the time of Captain Cook that the Antarctic circle was first crossed. Cook's furthest point South was $71^{\circ} 15'$. This was not beaten till the next century, when a British navigator got to $74^{\circ} 15'$. The celebrated expedition of the *Erebus* and *Terror* in the first half of the nineteenth century, under Captain (afterwards Sir JAMES) Ross, did much to clear up the mysteries of Antarctic geography. It fixed the position of the south magnetic pole, and penetrated as far as $78^{\circ} 10'$, this remaining the highest reached for many years. The expedition lasted four years and was by far the ablest and most elaborate which has ever visited the Antarctic regions. Thirty years elapsed before the *Challenger*, the first steamer to cross the Antarctic circle, paid a flying visit, and another twenty years elapsed before the Antarctic circle was crossed again. In none of these expeditions was any attempt made to land, the honour of first treading on the Antarctic continent falling, curiously enough, to a Norwegian, who took part in an expedition in 1894. This was followed by a Belgian expedition, with Mr. ROALD AMUNDSEN as mate, which, however, did not reach any high latitude. The *Southern Cross* expedition was the first to plan an overland excursion, with dogs and sledges, but it only succeeded in reaching $78^{\circ} 50'$, although it added much to our knowledge of the mainland. In the 20th century antarctic exploration entered on a new phase

with the voyage of the *Discovery* under the command of Captain SCOTT, among the officers being Lieut. SHACKLETON. SCOTT, SHACKLETON and Dr. WILSON succeeded in penetrating the continent as far as 83°, no polar explorer having ever advanced so far beyond his predecessor. The journey from the base was 380 miles and was made in 59 days under conditions totally different from those experienced in similar journeys in the Arctic regions, the weather being more inclement and the summer temperature lower. Altogether Captain SCOTT's first expedition was a notable one. The next discoverer to meet with any remarkable success was Lieut. SHACKLETON, who equipped at his own expense the small sealer *Nimrod*, which left New Zealand in 1908. The principal achievements of this expedition were the ascent of Mount Erebus, the attainment of the south magnetic pole and the great southern journey which reached 88° 23'. SHACKLETON would undoubtedly have covered the remaining 97 geographical miles between him and the pole if his supply of provisions had held out. As it was, the return journey was accomplished under conditions of terrible suffering. SHACKLETON's account of the country crossed, it may be noted, agrees with the details now sent by AMUNDSEN. The last British expedition is the second attempt of Captain SCOTT, as to whose success or failure there is still some uncertainty. AMUNDSEN's expedition was sprung upon the exploring world rather suddenly, and some criticisms were raised at the time its existence became known. These criticisms, however, were refuted by those most interested in polar exploration, and probably Captain SCOTT would be the first to congratulate Captain AMUNDSEN, if he has not already done so.

THE COAL STRIKE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 14.)

SURVEYING the great coal strike that is now proceeding in Great Britain, it is very doubtful if anything more serious has ever visited the United Kingdom since the great Civil War that took place during the days of King Charles I. and Oliver Cromwell. This assertion may sound to many as one of an extraordinary kind, and we would be willing to admit that it was so, were it not for the absolute fact that the "times have altered." The situation now bears a very different presentation. Civilization has leapt ahead; greater freedom has been extended to the proletariat; whilst also, to him, has been given the benefit of education. To further continue, he has learned the advantages of education and organization; and it is from the latter that the working man has created his "trade unions" his "societies," and his legal defenders. Having acquired these attributes, his strength has been increased a hundredfold and he is now

able to meet the great owners of property on what is nearly a level field. It will thus be seen that, in spite of the wealth of the capitalists, the working man is by no means a minus quantity. On the contrary, he has become a dominant factor, as, owing to his action, he has compelled the present British Government to straightway participate in the struggle. The present serious question in Britain is but another result of the growth of Socialism throughout Europe and America; and the great tragedy of it is that the poorest class and the middle classes, suffer the most. They are paying a penalty for events for which they are not responsible. They find that day by day their expenses for necessities are rapidly increasing; but they do not find that a Society is paying them any money to close up the margin of loss which they are compelled to meet. It is this vital fact that has made the situation so exceedingly critical and dangerous. As one of the members of the Cabinet practically announced,—"Whilst admitting a great number of rights belonging to the Mine Owners, and an equal number of rights belonging to the Miners, there were a much greater number of rights belonging to the British Public." It so happens that over one million men are either out on strike or have been suspended from work owing to the cessation of coal operations. And yet, what is one million people? The population of London alone is over seven million inhabitants, so that it will be easily seen that the greater are being punished for the lesser. Telegrams from London during the last few days, point distinctly to the fact that in the event of the Government being unable to obtain a compromise between the mine owners and the men, the people will insist on legislation enforcing an understanding between both the contending parties. It must be fairly obvious to all that such legislation—absolutely justified as it is—will produce further trouble. And yet, it is compulsory. It does not seem possible that the Liberal Government can avoid stepping into the breach and putting forward a special Act of Parliament to deal with the great question, and it is also demonstrated by the Right Hon. Mr. BONAR LAW, that the Opposition will heartily support the Government in any such measure they may introduce. Let us assume that such an act is passed, compelling a compromise and the re-opening of the mines and the returning to work of the men; what would happen if both sides declined to obey instructions from the Government? There seems but one thing possible, viz.—the reading of the Riot Act, and the enforcement of punishment for failure to obey a special Act of Parliament. This will mean the dispatch of troops and police to the disaffected districts. It is also certain to result in conflicts, shooting, and deaths. In fact, it

will be the real beginning of the colossal struggle between Capital and Labour, with the Government endeavouring to sustain the role of Paterfamilias, and the innocent suffering from no fault of their own.

Since writing the above, further telegrams from London show that the situation is slightly easier. It is said that the miners have practically agreed to the "round table conference" as proposed by the Premier, Mr. ASQUITH; but we have not yet any news as to the decision of the Owners. Unless both sides agree to a friendly consultation, agreement is impossible; and even if they meet, and fail to come to an understanding, the situation remains the same as depicted. As an ominous sign, we now have the news that coal strikes have been declared in both France and Germany; although it is hoped that their continuation will be but of short duration. In spite of the hopes expressed, however, in connexion with the latter outbreaks, the decision arrived at there affords two more confirmations of the combat between Labour and Capital—the sequel of which no man would be so foolish as to attempt to prophecy.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 15.)

ATTENTION was drawn by Mr. YAMAMOTO, the Minister of Finance, at the meeting of representatives of the Clearing Houses, to the fact that the foreign trade for this year already shows a large excess of imports, which, coming on top of the excess witnessed last year, he thought must be viewed with grave concern. So far as the foreign trade of Japan for this year is concerned, however, an examination of the complete official returns indicates that there are special reasons, soon to be removed, for the decrease in exports, while the increase in the imports is in directions which are rather in favour of Japan's industrial progress than otherwise. The returns of the Department of Finance for January show that the exports during that month compared very favourably with those of the corresponding month of the previous year, being valued at 31,474,855 yen, compared with 31,038,980 for January 1911. It is true they show a falling off of some half a million yen as compared with January 1910, but this is owing to the special reasons already suggested. As a matter of fact had it not been for the disturbances in China Japanese exports would have shown a substantial increase in January this year. Thus, comparing the figures for January with those for January last year, cotton yarns showed a total decline of 2½ million *kin* in round figures, but the decline of export to China was over three million *kin*, so that had the market in China been maintained at its normal level, there would have been an actual increase in export. Cotton tissues

showed an actual increase in value of some 400,000 *yen*, despite a decrease in the export to China of some 80,000 *yen*, and the same remark applies to cotton towels, of which China only took 5,790 dozen instead of 21,288 dozen as in 1911. In sugar China only took about a quarter of her average amount. In the case of staples which find their chief market in countries other than China, the export was fully maintained. The export of raw silk was the highest witnessed for three years and the same remark applies to silk tissues and handkerchiefs. The China trade has already shown signs of revival, however. The export of matches to China in January last was the highest recorded for the last three years, and similar increases were witnessed in cotton under-clothing, matting, porcelain and lacquer ware, copper, etc. Altogether it may be said that the exports in January last were well maintained, and but for circumstances over which Japan had no control, would have shown a large increase. Taking the figures for the premier months of the past five years, only in 1910 was the total reached in January last surpassed. Evidently the excess of imports for the month, which amounted to 14,465,748 *yen*, was not owing to a decrease in the exports, but to an increase in the imports. The increases in the imports are confined to comparatively few lines. There was an increase of some thirty million *kin* in the import of iron ingots, one million *kin* in iron rails, twenty million *kin* in iron rods and plates, and two million *kin* in iron nails, but with the exception of kerosene oil, which increased by 5½ million gallons, leather, locomotive engines and machinery, and wool (half a million *kin*), other imports showed a decided decline. It hardly needs pointing out that the articles in the import of which there have been increases are all of a nature to be used in Japan's industries, and may therefore be considered as indicating a corresponding activity in industrial circles in this country. The figures for February showed exactly the same phenomenon. The import of raw materials largely increased, followed by the half-manufactured goods, while wholly manufactured goods decreased. The exports for February also showed an increase, pronounced in the case of articles not affected by the situation in China, such as raw silk and tea, but with a notable decrease in such goods as cotton yarn, which finds its chief market on the neighbouring continent. On the whole the situation does not seem so grave as the Minister of Finance suggests. Japan has undoubtedly lost heavily by the disturbances in China, but that there is any slackening in her industrial endeavour cannot be discovered from the figures. She depends, indeed, largely on foreign countries for her supply of raw material, but this is a phenomenon in which she is by no means singular.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The members of the *Seiyukai*, the Popular and Central Parties, as well as the Independents, jointly introduced to the House on the 9th inst. a Bill relating to the revision of the

Press Law. The proposed revision reads:—No. 1 of Article 9 of shall be struck out. The words "full text" used in Clause 1 of Article 17 shall read "the gist" and the second clause shall be struck out. Article 18 shall be revised as under:—Newspapers shall not be allowed to publish the contents of the preliminary examinations, the publication of which has been prohibited by the Preliminary Judges, and the arguments in procedure held with closed doors." The words "from—to" in Article 43 shall be struck out.

It may be remembered that some months ago a Mr. Sato of Hiroshima instituted a civil action in the Tokyo District Court, against the Director of the Railway Board, claiming 24,000 *yen* damages. The suit was the outcome of a railway collision which took place at Kyoto station in August last year, in which the plaintiff's father, who was a professor in the Law College in Peking, was killed. Judgment was rendered on the 9th in favour of the plaintiff, and the Railway Board was ordered to pay 11,390 *yen* as damages.

Madame Nagasaki, wife of Mr. Nagasaki, Councillor of the Imperial Household, who is leaving for the United States on the 26th instant to attend the general meeting of the International Red Cross Societies to be held in Washington, will give at "At Home" at her residence in Shimonobancho, Kojimachi, between 3 and 6 on Saturday afternoon next (the 16th instant).

Dr. Sun Yat sen, in reply to an inquiry addressed to him by the Shanghai Journalists Association concerning the Press Law, has announced that a Law takes effect only on receiving the approval of the State Council. Inasmuch as the Press Law failed to pass the Council, it has no validity whatever, and the fact has already been notified to the Department of Home Affairs.

The keel was laid at Kure Naval Dockyard on the 11th instant of the battleship *Fuso*, the last battleship contemplated in the present naval programme. The publication of the specification is withheld, but the battleship is to be 30,600 tons displacement, with a speed of 22 knots. The equipment is to consist of twelve 45 millimetre guns, and eight torpedo tubes, in addition to a number of smaller guns. When completed the *Fuso* will be the largest and strongest battleship afloat.

It is rumoured that a section of the Popular Party has under consideration introducing to the House a vote of censure of the Government's diplomatic policy *vis-à-vis* China and the United States. Mr. Hattori and two other members are consulting with the standing committee of the party concerning the submission of the proposal to a general meeting of the parliamentary members of that Party for final decision.

Mr. Sugimura, Vice-Consul in Manila, wires that a very cordial reception was accorded to the Japanese training squadron, *Soya* and *Aso*, by the Manila authorities. The fleet left for Wusung on the 10th inst.

It is reported that a certain member of the House of Representatives has under consideration introducing to the House a representation for a revision of the Criminal Law, which would allow Government and public officials, sentenced to capital punish-

ment to commit "seppuku," instead of the sentence being executed in the ordinary way. The proposal, which is made in the interests of public morals, is said to be supported by over twenty members.

The inaugural meeting of the Japan Tourist Bureau, promoted by the Railway Board, the South Manchuria Railway Company, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, the Imperial Hotel, etc. was held at the Railway Board on the 12th instant, Baron Kondo presiding. Dr. Hirai, Vice-Minister of the Railway Board, explained the object for which the Bureau was organized, and Mr. Nakahashi, president of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, spoke on behalf of those assembled. The Articles of Association were submitted and approved, and Dr. Hirai was elected president.

It may be remembered that some two years ago a bankers' syndicate was formed in connection with the four per cent. conversion bonds issued by the Government under the regime of the Katsura Ministry. The prime object of the syndicate was to maintain the market price of the four per cent. bonds and prevent their being unloaded on the market. The scheme proved a complete failure and, on the proposal of some of the syndicate banks, dissolution was decided upon at a meeting held on the 12th. The matter was to be formally discussed for final settlement at the dinner given last evening by the Minister of Finance.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, March 8.

A depressed feeling prevails.

Saturday, March 9.

There was a distinct recovery on the Exchange on the 9th inst.

Monday, March 11.

The market opened weak yesterday and shares generally witnessed a collapse.

Tuesday, March 12.

The market opened dull and weak yesterday, movement either way being infinitesimal. Towards the close the shares were generally maintained.

Wednesday, March 13.

The market opened weak yesterday, and all shares collapsed, N.Y.K.'s taking the lead. A weak tone prevailed throughout and with the exception of Electric Lights all shares tumbled down in the afternoon session.

Thursday, March 14.

The market opened yesterday with a somewhat improved tone, and all shares witnessed a rise, T.K.K.'s taking the lead. The following are the closing prices for forwards:—

Mar. 13th. Mar. 14th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	51.00	...	...	...	...
Yusen Kaisha	117.00	...	117.45	...	+.45
Toyo Kisen	44.20	...	46.00	...	+1.80
Specie Bank	218.00	...	...	...	...
Tanko Kisen	25.10	...	25.20	...	+.10
Tokyo Gas	72.70	...	72.95	...	+.25
Tokyo Dento	72.05	...	72.70	...	+.65
Fuji Gas Spinning	87.05	...	87.05	...	...
Tokyo Spinning	53.40	...	53.95	...	+.55
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	108.50	...	108.75	...	+.25
Beer	88.20	...	...	...	...
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	65.05	...	66.45	...	+1.40
Nippon Oil	74.05	...	74.25	...	+.20
Rice Exchange	...	...	...	...	...
Stock Exchange	167.55	...	168.70	...	+1.15

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

YUAN AND THE SOUTH.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 7.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to the Nanking Government, as well as the State Council, informing them that he is unable to proceed southward owing to the disturbances in North China, but will forward them a written oath. The State Council is said to have consented to this arrangement and wired back to Yuan accordingly.

The War Office has issued to the Chekiang army in Chinkiang, Pukau, and Nanking an order for mobilization, but it still remains uncertain whether any troops will eventually be moved to the north.

REFUGEES FROM PAOTING.

Peking, March 7.

The Japanese residents in Paoting have arrived safely at Peking by a special train, under the escort of Japanese troops. Major Inouye and five other residents remain in Paoting as there is no longer any apprehension of danger. The French residents are also remaining.

SITUATION IN SHANTUNG.

Chefoo, March 7.

According to intelligence from Tsingtao the Chinese army in Weihien has looted twenty-three shops, and the situation in Shantung has become rather disquieting. It is rumoured that the German authorities have decided to dispatch a detachment for the protection of the railway lines in that province.

Since the bomb outrage committed in Tsinan on February 22nd last, strict control has been exercised over the revolutionists. Public assemblies are prohibited and even peaceful travellers are being subjected to close scrutiny.

THE CHARTERING OF STEAMERS.

Shanghai, March 7.

Negotiations for the charter of eleven steamers for the transportation of troops to the north have been suspended.

FOOD SUPPLIES IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, March 7.

The Chinese authorities have issued an order prohibiting the exportation of kaoliang, corn, wheat, millet and rice, owing to the abnormal rise in the price of cereals in Chianhsien in Mukden province, due to the bad harvest. The order will come into force on and after April 4th next. The veto does not, however, affect the transportation of cereals within the province, provided that they are the product of districts other than Chianhsien.

THE DEPUTATION FROM THE NORTH.

Shanghai, March 7.

The disturbances in Kiukiang seem to have been suppressed before they began to assume large proportions.

Tang Shao i and five other special envoys of Yuan Shih-kai are expected to arrive at Shanghai on the 9th instant in company with Sun Chiao-jen and other deputies of the Nanking Government. After a few day sojourn there the party will proceed

to Nanking to enter into conference with the Nanking Government for the formation of a coalition ministry.

The dispatch of troops to the north has been indefinitely postponed.

AMERICAN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

Peking, March 8.

The U.S. Minister in Peking announces that the 15th regiment (minus a battalion) in Manila has received an order to embark on transports on the 6th instant. The troops are expected to land at Taku.

CHINESE LOANS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that the Four Powers' syndicate has decided to limit the Six Powers' political loan to 30 million *taels*, to be paid in several instalments. The syndicate has under consideration another economic loan, which is said to amount to 400 million *taels*, intended to develop the railway, mining and other industrial enterprises in China. It is now clear that the syndicate is indisposed to invite Russia and Japan to participate in this loan. In giving support to Yuan Shih-kai, Great Britain, Germany, France and the United States are said to have planned a joint invasion of the economic market of China. This is a serious question, affecting Japan's economic policy in China.

MUTINY IN THIBET.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

March 8.

Since the declaration of Mongolian independence, the situation in Thibet has been unquiet. The troops in Lassa have at last mutinied, and the Thibetan authorities have appealed to the Indian Government for protection.

FIGHTING IN KIANGSI PROVINCE.

March 9.

A Revolutionist who was elected mayor of Tenghsien, a town lying to the west of Wuchow in Kiangsi province, proceeded on the 5th instant with 50 Revolutionists to enter on his new duties. On arrival there, the prefect of Tenghsien dispatched troops to attack them, and killed forty-seven men. The incident has led to a complication between the Military Government and the Revolutionists. Various wild rumours are in circulation.

GERMAN TROOPS.

Chefoo, March 8.

According to news from Tsingtao, 640 German officers and men who were relieved of duty and left for home on February 22nd last will be recalled, owing to the necessity of increasing the foreign troops in North China.

YUAN'S FORMAL INSTALLMENT.

Peking, March 8.

Hu I-tei, Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, forwarded to the Japanese Legation on the 8th instant, a note stating that the installation of Yuan Shih-kai to the provisional Presidency of the Chinese Republic will take place at 3 p.m. on the 10th inst., when he will take the oath.

PEKING QUIET.

Peking, March 8.

Public order in the city has been gradually restored and there is no sign of the resuscitation of the disturbances. Minister Ijuin has advised the Japanese refugees that they may now return to their respective homes.

It is expected that all refugees will quit the Legation quarters in two or three days.

TROUBLE WITH RAILWAY MEN.

Changchun, March 9.

According to a report of a railway expert, fighting took place on the 8th instant between the railway workmen and villagers at the Beshilin station on the Kilin-Chungchun line. The local police who proceeded there were repulsed by the railway workmen. The police then attempted to set fire to the houses near the station to wreak vengeance. On receiving a report, the Chinese authorities in Changchun dispatched forty soldiers to the scene.

INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES AT NANKING.

Nanking, March 9.

It is rumoured that the officials and residents of two foreign Powers at Nanking contemplate inviting the officials of the Chief Magistracy to a banquet shortly.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Nanking, March 9.

Yuan Shih-kai is to appoint the Ministers of State to the new Ministry in the course of a day or two. Four Ministers of State will be chosen from among the officials of the Nanking Government.

SITUATION AT KIUKIANG.

Kiukiang, March 8.

Since the outbreak of the recent disturbances, no casualties have been reported. The sentinels posted at the town gates were removed from yesterday. A court-martial has been opened for the trial of the ex-Commander of the Kiukiang garrison and other officers under arrest in connexion with the disturbances. The Honan soldiers under ex-Commander Chou are not so numerous that they can rise in revolt. The town will continue quiet for some time to come. The departure of Li Yuan-lung for Nanking has been suspended.

A THREATENED ATTACK.

Swatow, March 9.

The Troops commanded by Lin Chi chen have arrived at Chaoyang-lien, about nine miles off the town. The magistrate Chen is determined to repel the attack. Palisades are erected around the town and guards are detailed. A collision seems inevitable. The Consular Body has issued a warning to the two contending parties, but it is doubtful whether it will have the effect of preventing a collision. The foreign residents have appealed to the British and Japanese Consuls for protection.

NANKING AND THE PRESIDENT.

Nanking, March 9.

The Nanking Government has received a telegram from Yuan Shih-kai of his assumption of the Presidential office. The Government will issue an answer in the course of the day. The Ministers of State are expected to come to Nanking to receive the transfer of the State business.

Nanking, March 10.

The State Council in Nanking telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai on the 9th instant, consenting to his installation in the presidency.

Yuan wired back that the installation ceremony will take place on the 10th.

THE TROOPS IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, March 9.

The magistrates of various districts met in conference at Mukden on the 8th instant when the following resolution was adopted, as approved by Viceroy Chao:—The month-

ly allowances to non-commissioned officers and privates, as well as police officials, shall be increased by one *tael* a month for the time being, with an additional allowance of one *tael* for special services. On the termination of the trouble five *taels* shall be granted each man as a special reward. The fund shall be raised by subscription among the army officers and the general public.

The resolution was adopted in view of the recent disturbances in North China.

DISBANDMENT OF TROOPS.

Canton, March 9.

The revolutionary troops have been gradually disbanded in Canton, those disbanded up to date already reaching over 20,000. No disturbances have ensued.

Shanghai, March 10.

The Hangchow contingent, composed of 400 men, has been disbanded in Shanghai. One month's salary was paid the men. The soldiers are satisfied and no disturbances are likely to ensue.

REACTIONARY PROPOSALS.

Mukden, March 9.

The Royalists in the Three Eastern Provinces have started an active movement. They held a secret conference on the 8th instant, when they adopted a resolution as under:—"The dare-to-die party shall be dispatched to Peking for the assassination of Yuan Shih-kai and Prince Ching. A deputation shall be sent to enter into negotiation with Viceroy Chao to borrow troops for the purpose of the invasion of Peking in order to restore the Manchu dynasty. Also the assistance of Russia shall be obtained for the importation of arms and ammunition to give effect to the resolution."

DISCOVERY OF BOMBS.

Tientsin, March 9.

A large quantity of explosive bombs has been discovered in a vacant house in Tsinan. The incident has aroused strong indignation among the Revolutionists, who contemplate rising in revolt. Consternation prevails in the town.

THE REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION.

Peking, March 9.

The new Government is to be organized on the model of the American, French and German Governments. All the provinces are to be governed by uniform laws and the President, Vice-President and Minister-President are to be elected by the National Assembly, the power of appointing the Ministers of State being vested in the Minister-President, subject to the consent of the National Assembly and the President.

The President is to assume the command of the army and navy, and to have the prerogative to organize or mobilize them at his own discretion, without the consent of the National Assembly being needed. It has also been decided to invest the Department of Justice and High Court with supreme power.

SOME CIVIL AND MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chunuo* reports that Tang Shao-i states that Hwang Hsing will certainly occupy an important post in the new Government, and also that the present examination for civil and military appointments will be abolished. The important posts in the army will be given to graduates of the Japanese Cadet School.

THE LAST LOYALIST.

The Republican army encountered the

troops under the rebel leader Sheng Yung in the open fields about 100 Chinese li to the north of Hsianfu. The Republican army was routed and fled, leaving 100 dead bodies in the field. Sheng Yung calls himself the commander-in-chief of the Banner-men and Prince Tuan as the King of Great China in Shensi and Kansu. The rebel leader has proclaimed martial law. His troops are probably the last adherents of the Manchu dynasty.

DISBANDMENT OF CANTON ARMY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Canton, March 9.

The disbandment of the revolutionary troops in Canton is being gradually carried out without a hitch, those disbanded up to date reaching about 20,000 out of a total of some 60,000. Twenty-five thousand men will be disbanded before the end of the month, leaving 15,000 picked men in the service. The troops at Canton will be decreased to about 30,000 in the near future. Besides these troops in Canton, the soldiers in the province number over one hundred thousand, but there is a prospect of peaceful disbandment. The danger of any disturbances by the troops in Canton is considered to have now passed.

FIGHTING NEAR SWATOW.

Swatow, March 10.

The troops under General Chen concentrated in Chaowang now stand face to face with the Revolutionary army under the command of General Lin of Swatow. The situation is more critical than ever. British, United States, and German warships have arrived at Swatow. A detachment of Lin's army moved to Chaoyang to counter-attack Chen's army in its march on that place. The fight took place on the night of the 8th instant. The issue is not yet decided. It is, however, thought possible to prevent a collision of the two armies in Swatow.

TROUBLE IN SHANTUNG.

Chefoo, March 10.

In view of the disturbances created by rioters and deserters in the direction of Yen-chow and Hunchuang in Shantung province, the 20th infantry battalions and artillery, cavalry and commissariat companies were dispatched thither from Tsinan on the 8th instant. The city of Tsinan is pacific to outward appearance, but latent disquietude still exists.

AMERICAN TROOPS.

Peking, March 11.

Four hundred and sixty American officers and men have left Manila and are expected to arrive at Tientsin on the 16th instant.

FOREIGN TROOPS FOR NORTH CHINA.

Peking, March 10.

Russia will dispatch about 600 soldiers to North China from Harbin shortly, for reinforcement. Germany will also send to North China about 170 men from Tsingtao in Shantung province.

Harbin, March 10.

Three Russian infantry companies in Harbin will shortly move towards North China.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

St. Petersburg, March 10.

The *Novoe Vremya* says in its leader column that the disturbances in North

Mongolia and Turkistan have not yet ceased, and as they seriously affect Russia's interests in those regions, it is advisable that Russia should assist the movement for independence, taking advantage of the present situation in China.

CELEBRATION AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, March 10.

The Chinese warships and transports in harbour were fully dressed and 21 guns were fired at noon yesterday. All the houses were decorated with the five coloured flag in honour of Yuan Shih-kai's installation to the Presidency.

THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

Peking, March 10.

The ceremony of Yuan Shih-kai's installation to the presidency was conducted without a hitch on the afternoon of the 10th instant.

REVOLT OF THE IMPERIAL GUARDS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chunuo* reports that the section of the Imperial Guards expelled outside the city proceeded to Jehol and forcibly demanded from the magistrate the delivery of the shells and powder stored there. The magistrate was so frightened that he immediately tendered his resignation and returned to Peking without waiting for the resignation to be officially accepted. Yuan Shih-kai therefore appointed Kung Yuan as acting magistrate, but the soldiers waylaid him on his way to Jehol and threatened to shoot him. Kung Yuan was thus frightened back to Peking. The soldiers then proceeded to seize the powder and also exact money from the local people by intimidation. The Imperial Guards stationed at the Imperial Sepulchre have joined the rioters. The Government has issued to General Feng Kuochang an order for their suppression.

It is stated that at the time of the abdication of the Emperor, Yuan Shih-kai cancelled the pledge given to the Imperial Guards of special treatment and incorporated them in the ordinary army, presumably as a preliminary step to the disbandment of one half of the number. This is the cause of the trouble.

A rumour is rife that the Imperial Guards will come into collision with the Honan army in Peking on the night of the 10th. The city is strongly guarded.

Intelligence has reached Tokyo reporting that the Imperial Body Guards in Peking have shown rather a disquieting attitude since the 9th instant and a rumour was current that they planned an attack on Yuan Shih-kai's residence on the 10th instant. The city was strongly guarded by soldiers of the three Honan regiments. The disaffected soldiers were indignant at the five-coloured flags hoisted over the houses near the Summer Palace to celebrate Yuan's installation to the Presidency, and ordered the people to haul down the flags on the threat of decapitation.

CONDITIONS OF TRADE.

It is telegraphed from Dairen that the situation in North China is still critical. Consternation prevails and business is completely paralyzed. Despite the ice on the White river having already melted, the import and export trades at Tientsin are still at a standstill. The North China Transport and Steamship Company recently inaugurated new steamship services with two new

steamships built at the cost of 270,000 yen, but is said to have sustained a heavy loss.

THE RECOGNITION OF THE POWERS.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 11.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs from Peking that now that Yuan Shih-kai is installed, the Cabinet will be formed with Tang Shao-i as Premier.

After that a formal request for the recognition of the Republic will be addressed to the Powers.

THE CHANGCHUN POLICE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Changchun, March 11.

As a result of the negotiations conducted by the officials dispatched from the Kilin-Changchun Railway Board on the 10th, it has been agreed to dissolve the local police force, who assembled for the purpose of creating a disturbance. The matter has thus been peacefully settled.

THE TROUBLE AT CANTON.

Canton, March 11.

The Magistrate of Canton has set to work to disband the revolutionary troops and over 10,000 men had been paid off up to the 10th instant. A scheme was on foot to replace the revolutionary troops by a new army. Wang Yang, and other leaders of the revolutionists, opposed the scheme and a great collision took place on the 9th instant between the soldiers under Wang Yang and the new Hui army, resulting in many casualties on both sides. The two armies again fought outside the South Gate on the 10th instant. The casualties are thought to be considerable. Guards have been detailed in every important place in the city, as well as the foreign settlement at Shamnoon, since early in the morning, to prepare for emergencies. Telegraphic communication between Canton and other places has been suspended since the afternoon of the 10th instant.

Canton, March 12.

The revolutionary soldiers under Wang Ho-shun collided with the new army at Canton on the morning of the 10th instant. Acting under the orders of the Magistrate, the new army attempted to disarm the revolutionary soldiers who had arrived from Kueichow, and the latter resisting, fighting resulted. The casualties on both sides numbered about 100. The leaders of the revolutionary troops jointly rose in opposition to the Magistrate. The Magistrate issued an order, proclaiming the disbandment of the revolutionary troops on the afternoon of the 10th, but the order proved ineffective. The foreign residents are all safe and are protected by the warships, as well as by the land troops.

SITUATION AT SWATOW.

Swatow, March 11.

As a sequel to the fighting at Chaoyang reported in a previous telegram, it is stated that the Chen army has been routed and a section thereof compelled to retreat to Swatow. The casualties on both sides numbered about 100. All the gates of the city of Swatow are kept closed, but the town is quiet.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Nanking, March 11.

The State Council gave official recognition to the appointment of Tang Shao-i as

Minister President on the 11th instant. The organization of a new Ministry is not yet complete, but it is expected that the appointments will be made public by the 13th instant at latest.

YUAN AND THE REVOLUTIONISTS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that Sun Wu, who is now taking refuge in the foreign settlement at Hankow, disclosed to the Hankow correspondent of an American newspaper the secret of the agreement between Yuan Shih-kai and Li Yuan-hung. According to his statement, the revolutionary rising in Wuchang in October last was planned by Yuan Shih-kai in his retirement in Honan province, its execution being assigned to Li Yuan-hung. Had not the Government called Yuan to the public service, Yuan was to rise in arms in Honan and take possession of Hsinyang to cut the Imperial army in two in the middle. After taking possession of Honan and Hupeh provinces, they were to march their armies northward.

Inasmuch, however, as the Government called him to the public service Yuan did not rise in open revolt, but while pretending to support the Manchu Emperor, he compelled the Emperor to abdicate and thus realised his ambition. Li Yuan-hung has received the Vice-Presidency. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Hwang Hsing were thoroughly informed of the affair, which is now an open secret. It is stated that Li Yuan-hung is trying hard to pacify the disaffected general.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 12.

The State Council in Nanking has given official recognition to the appointment of Tang Shao-i as Minister-President. The new Ministry will be organized after Tang Shao-i's arrival at Nanking.

WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS.

Peking, March 12.

Two hundred and thirty American officers and men, with a few machine guns, recently dispatched to Peking from Tientsin, were withdrawn to Tientsin on the morning of the 11th instant.

STATE COUNCIL TO BE CONVENED.

Peking, March 12.

After the completion of the organization of a new Ministry, Yuan Shih-kai is to convene the State Council in Peking to consider matters relating to the new official organization, the unification of finances, the revision of taxes, the improvement of the military system, and the frontier affairs of Mongolia and Tibet, etc.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION IN PEKING.

Nanking, March 12.

Hwang Hsing is exchanging secret telegrams with Tuan Chi-jui. As a result of the consultation it has been decided to station in the capital two or three high army officers, chosen from each province, with a view to organizing a strong body of military men for the purpose of preventing high-handed action on the part of President Yuan Shih-kai.

EXECUTION OF ARMY OFFICER.

Hankow, March 12.

General Chou, formerly commander of

the Kiukiang garrison, was court-martialled and shot on the 11th instant.

THE SHANTUNG PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Chefoo, March 12.

The election of the members of the temporary Provincial Assembly of Shantung was held on the 10th instant, when twenty-two members were elected. Two delegates of the Assembly left for Peking on the 12th instant to approach President Yuan Shih-kai with a proposal that Deputy Viceroy Chang should be removed from office and Hu Ying appointed magistrate of the province.

THE TROUBLE AT SWATOW.

Swatow, March 12.

The conflict between the two belligerent armies was compromised through the mediation of the local notables. Lin, commander of the Swatow garrison, arrived this morning and was cordially received.

FURTHER DISTURBANCES AT CANTON.

THE REPUBLICANS AT WUCHANG.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Hankow, March 12.

A section of the Revolutionists in Wuchang who still hold extreme views are clamouring to proceed northward in order to establish a purely republican government. Li Yuan-hung is experiencing some difficulty in pacifying the extremists.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Nanking, March 12.

Sun Yat-sen is now making a selection of the candidates nominated by President Yuan Shih-kai. It is stated that the Nanking Government resolutely opposes the nomination of Liang Shih-i, Wu Chen and Hu I-tei.

THE EMPEROR.

Peking, March 12.

The Empress Dowager and the Emperor are to remove shortly to the Summer Palace, which is now being repaired.

DEATH OF THE "GEGEN."

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJL.

Changchun, March 12.

The *Gegen*, who has been actively exerting himself to secure Mongolian independence under the protection of Russia, is reported to have died. If the report be correct his death will prove a vital blow to the cause of Mongolian independence.

THE MING ARMY.

Chefoo, March 12.

The Ming army, which arrived here from Shanghai on two transports, landed this afternoon. The army is composed of 1,000 foot soldiers, 180 artillery men, 90 field hospital orderlies, and 200 others, with four mountain guns and eight machine guns. They are well equipped.

The steamer *Taishun* arrived here at 5 o'clock this afternoon with over 100 German and 30 Austrian soldiers on board.

THE TROUBLE NEAR SWATOW.

Swatow, March 12.

About 600 of Lin's army arrived at Swatow by sea on the 12th instant. General Chin's army, about 500 men all told, left Swatow for Chaowow on the 12th to resist the invasion. General Chin is said to have decided to fight at Chaowow, as it is thought inadvisable to make Swatow the seat of war, in view of

the presence of foreign residents in the town. The feeling of unrest felt during the past few days has been removed on the withdrawal of Chin's army from the town.

THE MUTINY AT CANTON.

Canton, March 12.

The disbandment of the troops had been smoothly progressing for several days past when a collision suddenly occurred between the new Government army and the Hui army on the afternoon of the 9th. The magistrate attempted to suppress the disturbance without success.

The disturbances still continue and rifle reports are heard. It seems that the Kuei army is assisted by other revolutionary armies who oppose the magistrate. The situation is rather grave. The foreign settlement is, nevertheless, out of danger and the Japanese residents in Shameen are all safe. Telegraphic communication has been suspended since the 10th instant.

Canton, March 13.

The collision between the new army and the Hui army was settled at noon on the 12th instant, but since this morning the troops under Yang Wan-fu have again begun to show a hostile attitude towards the Hui army and fighting took place at Chang-li. Rifle bullets flew into the foreign settlement. Communications to Kwangchow railway station are entirely cut off and the steamers plying between Canton and Hongkong are all taking refuge on the foreshore of the foreign settlement. In the event of the Magistracy failing to adopt adequate measures, a general uprising of the revolutionary army is threatened. The representatives of various public bodies are making endeavours to mediate between the Magistracy and the leaders of the revolutionary armies. According to a newspaper report the casualties on the Revolutionists' side during the two days—11th and 12th—number about 250, and those of the new army reach between 60 and 70, while 140 or 150 peaceful citizens were either killed or wounded.

Canton, March 13.

The magistrate of Canton has made a proposition to the revolutionists for a peaceful settlement, offering 15 dollars to each soldier. The proposal has had a good effect and no rifle reports were heard throughout yesterday. The report of the arrest and subsequent execution of Wang Ho-shun previously wired proves incorrect. As a matter of fact the whereabouts of the revolutionary leader is unknown. Telegraphic communication between Canton and Hongkong is still interrupted.

Canton, March 13.

The ringleader of the present insurrection is Wang Ho-Shun, Commander of the revolutionary army, who has 4,000 men under his command. Over 2,000 soldiers of the local guards have thrown in their lot with the insurgents and it seems a number of soldiers under General Yang Wan-pu have also joined them. The new army attacked the insurgents from three sides with an artillery regiment and three mountain guns. Two battalions under the command of Lung Tsi-kuang defended the foreign settlement, while two gunboats, the *Kinghu* and *Kwang-heng*, joined the attack. The insurgents offered but a feeble resistance and began to take flight on the afternoon of the 11th instant. Wang was once taken prisoner, but was subsequently released in view of the meritorious services rendered by

him in the revolutionary cause. The casualties on the side of the new army numbered 40, while those of the insurgents numbered over 300.

Canton, March 13.

According to a report from the Commander of the Japanese gunboat *Uji*, the Hui army, who resisted the order of the Magistrate, was attacked from three sides by the combined force of the new army and naval fleet, and put to flight. Wang Ho-shun was taken captive and his soldiers were disarmed by the new army. Strict watch is still kept in the city, but order and peace are being fast restored.

Three Japanese residents who were missing have returned and all the Japanese residents are safe.

THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT.

Peking, March 13.

An official announcement was made on the 13th instant, appointing Tang Shao-i as Minister President of the new Government. KILIN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Kilin, March 13.

Deputy Viceroy Chen of Kilin province issued to the Provincial Assembly an instruction on the 12th instant, ordering it to convene an extra session within one month to discuss various important matters and also to give its views on any questions that may be submitted to the consideration of that body.

PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION.

Nanking, March 12.

The provisional Constitution of the Chinese Republic was promulgated in Nanking on the 11th instant. The Constitution consists of seven chapters and fifty-six articles, and deals with the sovereign rights and duties of the people, the State Council, the President, Vice-President, Minister of State, Law Courts, etc.

SHANTUNG DELEGATES.

Chefoo, March 13.

The Shantung Provincial Assembly has decided to send two delegates to Peking to effect uniformity of administration. The Ming army, sent to Chefoo from Shanghai, was landed on the 12th instant and horses and provisions were being landed to-day.

TRADE IMPROVING.

Nanking, March 13.

Freights are gradually improving and the exports show signs of increase. The imports chiefly consist of daily necessities and the import of articles of luxury is very small.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Peking, March 13.

A pessimistic view obtains in Diplomatic circles in Peking concerning the future of the new Government to be organized under the presidency of Yuan Shih-kai.

Nanking, March 13.

Tang Shao-i, the new Minister-President, is expected to arrive at Nanking on the 19th instant and set to work in the organization of the new Ministry. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other leaders of the Nanking Government will remain in office until after the business has been transferred to the new Government.

MONGOLIAN REVOLT.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that Mongolia has proclaimed its allegiance to the Manchu dynasty and mobilized troops in Kulon. The Mongolian troops are marching on Changkiakau.

President Yuan Shih-kai has ordered

General Chiang Kuei-ti to march on Changkiakau to resist the invasion. A rumour is current that the General will go over to the other side, and his movements are now being watched with close attention.

THE CANTON TROUBLE.

A telegram to the *Chuwo* from Peking states that disturbances are still rife in Canton and British bluejackets have been landed for the protection of the Settlement.

The Chamber of Commerce has resolved to pay 250,000 dollars, on condition that the rioters refrain from setting the city on fire. The insurgent leader consented to the proposal and is now withdrawing his troops to Chinlungshan in Kwangsi province.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Insurance Law Revision Bill Committee of the House of Representatives sat at 3 p.m. on the 7th instant.

Replying to a question, Mr. Okubo, Government parliamentary delegate, stated that supervision over the foreign insurance companies doing business in Japan was provided by an Imperial Ordinance. On the proposed revision being approved by the House and passing into law, some modifications of the Imperial Ordinance would be inevitable, though the Government's policy would remain unchanged. The revision had for its object the unification of insurance business, but the amalgamation of existing companies was not contemplated, though it was desired that joint stock partnerships (*Goshi Kaisha*) should be converted into joint stock companies (*Kaushiki Kaisha*). The security to be deposited by the foreign companies was fixed under the present law at 150,000 yen for life insurance and 100,000 yen for other accident insurance business. Modification in the amount of the security was not contemplated in the revision. During the past fiscal year licences were granted to only five new insurance companies. The Government was aware of the existing evils and was taking adequate measures for their rectification.

Replying to a question of Mr. Kataoka, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the Government was also aware of the imperfection of the present method of supervision, but reforms were at present impracticable for financial reasons. The Government would, nevertheless, not fail to exercise strict supervision to consult the interests of both the insurance companies and their clients, while refraining from any action savouring of interference. The amount of security to be deposited by foreign insurance companies was fixed on consultation with the Governments of the foreign Powers and could therefore not be altered, though the Government did not think the amount adequate.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka, Mr. Okubo stated that only those companies possessing a large amount of reserve funds were permitted to accept risks in war time. Although there was a fixed standard, those companies to which special charters were granted, possessed special reserve funds amounting to over two million yen.

After a few more questions had been asked and answered, the committee rose at 5 p.m.

The Insurance Law Revision Bill Committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 8th inst.

Replying to questions by Mr. Kataoka and other members, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the insurance companies were carrying on business under the charter of the Government. The Government closely examined applications before granting charters, but in no way placed restriction on the promotion of new companies. The Government had at present no idea of converting insurance into a State enterprise. The

Government had also no idea of restricting or sanctioning the increase of premiums, because it still remained an open question whether the difficulty felt by the insurance companies could be remedied by an increase of the premiums alone. The Government did not impose any tax on the legal reserve fund, but imposed a tax on all other reserve funds. The insurrection of petty insurance business in the Post Offices was still under consideration. The remark also applied to labour insurance. The deposits payable by insurance companies were roughly estimated at one-half of the authorized capital, but this estimate was subject to modification after the basis of the new company was consolidated.

Replying to the question of Mr. Asano, Mr. Okubo, Government parliamentary delegate, stated that he was not at liberty to explain publicly the method of supervision over the foreign insurance companies.

Mr. Midorikawa moved that the next sitting of the committee should be held with closed doors when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and Commerce be requested to give full explanation. The motion was adopted.

After a few more questions had been asked, the Committee rose.

The Committee resumed its sitting on the 9th instant.

Replying to a question of Mr. Kase, Mr. Okubo stated that the Government had power to inspect the business and financial conditions at any time, but it was impracticable to enforce an examination of each company regularly once a year. During the 41st and 42nd fiscal years only two charters were cancelled. Inasmuch as the cancellation affected the interests of clients, the Government took care to order insolvent companies to adjust their business. Only where the order was ignored was the charter cancelled. Article 48 of the Commercial Law did not apply to insurance companies whose business was in suspension, so that the Government could not order such companies to dissolve.

Mr. Kase asked whether the Government had any intention to exercise the right of supervision over an insurance company whose business was in suspension, when the existence of such a company proved detrimental to the safety of the general public. The speaker proceeded to cite the case of the Dai Nippon Life Insurance Company and stated that the company was registered at Kobiki cho in Kyobashi, but it had its office in a dilapidated house in Kaada. When he paid the office a visit he found the president was absent and the whole property of the Company consisted of two trunks. When he paid a second visit he found the office had disappeared. It was the first time that a juridical person had ever made its disappearance. Where was the Company's office? Would not the Government enforce supervision over such a Company?

Mr. Okubo, Government parliamentary delegate, said the question would be answered on investigation.

Replying to a question by Mr. Kataoka, the parliamentary delegate stated that the Government did not place any restriction on the loans granted by insurance companies on the security of immovable property, and also gave sanction to loans uncovered by security, if the Government deemed the transaction safe.

The committee rose at 3 p.m.

The Insurance Law Revision Bill committee of the House of Representatives sat at 11 a.m. on the 11th instant.

Replying to a question by Mr. Midorikawa, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the Government was not prepared to alter the amount of security to be deposited by foreign insurance companies. The question would be answered more fully by the Minister of Foreign Affairs as the matter came under the scope of diplomatic business.

Mr. Kataoka remarked that the remittances made by the foreign life insurance companies doing business in Japan amounted to 1,380,000

yen last year, this amount being paid by the Japanese clients in the form of premiums. What would become of these clients in case of international relations being severed. How was it that the Government supervision of the business was more lenient in regard to foreign insurance companies? It also seemed unfair that whereas the foreign insurance companies in Japan deposited only 100,000 yen as security, the Japanese insurance companies establishing branch offices were required to deposit 300,000 yen as security.

Baron Makino stated that the questions raised turned on the amount of security. While he agreed to the views expressed in principle, he must reserve his answer to the question, which would be explained by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Committee then sat with closed doors when Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, explained the Government views on the question.

The Committee rose at noon.

CUSTOMS TARIFF REVISION AND OLD AGE PENSION.

The House of Representatives sat on the 9th instant. After various reports had been submitted, the Customs Tariff Revision Bill was taken upon for discussion.

Mr. Tagawa, explaining the proposed revision, stated that the Bill had in view the abolition of duty on rice imported from Chosen and also the reduction of the tariff duty on foreign rice, in order to regulate the price of rice in the home market. The speaker dwelt at some length on the distress which the abnormally high price of rice now obtaining had brought on indigent people, and cited as a practical example an elementary school in Shitaya ward, where as many as 96 pupils out of 699 had to go with only one meal a day, or even without food at all.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

Mr. Fukumoto, in explaining the Old Age Pension Bill, which he introduced to the House, stated that owing to the keen struggle for existence obtaining, rich men have become richer and the poor much poorer, and thousands of people had died or were dying of starvation. It was the duty of the Government to relieve the indigent. Statistics showed that the old men and women over 70 years of age occupied 3 per cent. of the total population and about 500,000 people were properly classed as paupers, of whom those over 70 numbered about 15,000. It was these 15,000 men and women the Bill proposed to protect. Old age pensions were by no means a new form of legislation. They had existed in ancient times in this country, though they had fallen into disuse. The present Bill was framed on the model of similar legislation in England.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

The sitting was suspended at 4 o'clock.

The House of Representatives sat at 10 p.m. on the 14th inst. The Customs Tariff Revision Bill was first taken up for consideration.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, in explaining the Bill, remarked that it was proposed to exempt rinderpest serum from import duty in order to render prevention of a cattle epidemic effective, and also to exempt linen and linen-cotton textiles and other articles which were re-exported after being wrought upon, in order to encourage the industry.

The Bill was referred to a special committee.

The Bill relating to the special account of the Chosen hospitals was next dealt with. The Bill had been explained by Mr. Arai, the parliamentary delegate of the Chosen administration, was also referred to a special committee.

Nine other Bills of minor importance were then discussed and all of them passed. Amongst the Bills may be mentioned the Insurance Law Revision Bill and the Bill relating to the compensation payable to sealers.

After over thirty representations had been dealt with the House rose at 4.20 p.m.

REVISION OF ELECTION LAW.

The House of Peers sat at 10 a.m. on the 9th instant.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, explained the Election Law Revision Bill, which was adopted by the Lower House. In the course of his explanation, the Minister remarked that ten years' experience had convinced the Government of the necessity of a revision of the Election Law. The present Election Law was on the large electorate system, but in fact it comprised about sixty small electorates. Experience showed the working of the large electorate system to be unsatisfactory, amongst the evils of the system being the keen election contests, especially at bye-elections, which gave cause for violence and bribery and corruption. The smaller the electorate, the less severe the contests, and therefore the less corruption. The revision had no party interests in view but the healthy development of the constitutional administration.

Replying to questions, Mr. Hara stated that the membership of the House of Representatives was limited by the revision to less than 450. Originally the House had 300 members, who were later increased to 381. On the Bill passing through the House the number would be 431. The idea of the revision originated in the preceding Ministry, but the Bill was entirely framed by the present Ministry.

On the motion of Count Yanagisawa the Bill was referred to a special committee of eighteen.

Marquis Tokugawa, Chairman of the Audit Committee, then reported that the committee had examined the statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Budget for the 42nd fiscal year and the supplementary budgets for the same fiscal year and found them correct.

The Juvenile Drinking Control Bill was next taken up, when Count Tokugawa reported that the committee rejected the Bill by four votes to two. A division was taken and the Bill was lost, those voting for the measure numbering only ten.

Numerous petitions were dealt with before the House rose at 12.20 p.m.

The Election Law Revision Bill Committee of the House of Peers sat on the 11th instant.

Replying to the question of Mr. Egi, the Minister of Home Affairs stated that the House was to consist of 431 members, the extra 19 members being assigned to the cities and rural electorates in fair proportions on the basis of population. The number of members was fixed at 450 or under in the Bill and he thought the number would answer the purpose for at least a decade. The prime object of the Revision was not necessarily to obtain the services of men of extraordinary talent, but rather to secure level-headed men of average intelligence.

The Minister stated in reply to a question by Mr. Kamada, that the Government desired to promulgate the revised law as soon as possible on its passage through the House.

Replying to a question by Mr. Arimatsu, the Minister stated that generally speaking the smaller the electorate, the less keen the competition, and therefore the smaller the cost of the election campaign. This was conducive to the interests of candidates and the general public. The small electorate system was best fitted to avert the disastrous effect of election competition.

The committee then rose.

The Election Law Revision Bill Committee of the House of Peers sat at 10 a.m. on the 14th instant.

Replying to a question by Baron Kubota, the Minister of Home Affairs said that the Government consented to the amendments introduced by the Lower House. The Minister further stated that there was a tendency in the large electorate system for candidates to appeal to the sympathy of the labouring classes by wild speeches and promises which were almost impracticable. There might also be some candidates who obtained votes by way of purchase or some other dishonest means under the large electorate system. The

Minister further explained that by "wild speeches" he did not necessarily mean anarchical or socialist views.

After a few more questions of a similar nature had been asked and answered, the Committee rose at noon.

SHINTO SHRINES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 15th instant.

Mr. Nakamura brought forward an interpellation concerning the amalgamation of Shinto shrines, in the course of which he asked whether in encouraging the amalgamation of shrines the Government desired to finally destroy them. It seemed to him the action was tantamount to a breach of the freedom of religious faith guaranteed by the Constitution.

Mr. Midzuno, Government parliamentary delegate, said that the question would be answered in writing.

Mr. Ohashi, explaining the interpellation relating to electric enterprise introduced by him, asked whether the Government would cancel charters granted to electric companies when they failed to carry out their undertakings within the period specified, and would the Government place a restriction on electric light charges, which seemed too high? Also would the Government grant charters to municipalities to carry on the business as a municipal enterprise?

Mr. Komatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, replied that the scope of charters was specified in the Electric Business Control Law. The Government was not disposed to interfere with the electric light charges. The Government would grant charters to municipalities as well as private companies.

Mr. Hayami brought forward an interpellation on the increase of the price of commodities, in the course of which he asked why the Government allowed the increase to follow its natural course, without attempting to take adequate measures to regulate it? What was the cause of the recent increase in prices. Also had the Government an idea of checking the abnormal increase in the convertible notes in circulation?

Reply was reserved.

The House then proceeded to discuss the Bills included in the Order of the Day. Altogether six Bills, including the revision of the Press Law, were taken up for consideration and were referred to committees.

Some more business was transacted before the House rose at 4.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 a.m. on the 15th instant.

The Bill relating to the connective services on the Japanese and Russian railways, introduced by the Government, was first considered and referred to a special committee, after the Bill had been explained by the Director of the Railway Board.

Six other Bills, including the revision of the Water Works Law, and of the Customs tariff, were next taken up for discussion and all referred to special committees.

A change of the Order of the Day was then moved and on the motion having been approved, Mr. Nakashima introduced his interpellation on the fiscal policy, the full text of which was translated in a previous issue. He explained it at some length. The interpellation may be regarded as a refutation of the economic views recently enunciated by Baron Takahashi, President of the Nippon Ginko, on the relation between the amount of convertible notes in circulation and the price of commodities.

The Government reserved its reply.

After some unimportant business had been transacted the House rose at 12.30 p.m.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Sir Frederick Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., the Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Bermuda, has died after an operation for appendicitis. Sir Frederick Kitchener was a younger brother of Lord Kitchener.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

The inauguration ceremony of Hongkong University was held on the 11th instant, in the presence of the Governor of Hongkong and one hundred and twenty guests invited to the function. The Governor, in an address, said that the University would commence active work next year, when it would have an income of 100,000 dollars a year, including an annual subsidy of 14,000 dollars. He emphasized the necessity of laying stress on moral education, and said that the establishment of the university was an epoch-making event in the history of the Far East.

The Governor stated that H.M. King George had graciously consented to act as patron of the institution and had also been pleased to confer on Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.I. C.M.G., a member of the Legislative Council, in Hongkong, a knighthood in recognition of his services in the establishment of the University.

SERICULTURE IN CHOSEN.

Sericulture is a traditional industry of the Chosen people, and has a very brilliant future before it, though it is still in an infantile stage of development. The annual production of cocoons is estimated at some 14,000 *koku*, but the amount aggregates in reality, of late years, far over 30,000 *koku*. As a whole, the quality of the Chosen cocoon is decidedly inferior to that of the Home product. This complaint, however, can easily be removed by encouraging the breeding of the Home stock silkworms in place of the indigenous stock. The Chosen cocoons are now quoted at somewhere about ten *yen per koku*, but the price may go up as high as 30 to 35 *yen* when their quality is improved by the above suggested means. The authorities of the Government General, therefore, spare no efforts for the improvement of the cocoons, and for this purpose the Chosen people are encouraged to invest in sericultural industry a sum not exceeding three-fifths of the interest due on the grants conferred on them by the Throne in the sequel of the annexation. Sericultural Training Schools are established in many places throughout the Peninsula, their number being about 200. As another means of encouraging sericulture, a number of experts and sericulturists are regularly despatched to every important portion of the Peninsula to give lectures to the public with a view to replenishing their sericultural knowledge and also to the improvement of silkworms and the unification of mulberry plants. The success or failure of sericultural industry in Chosen depends, as pointed out above, entirely upon the superiority or inferiority of the stock of silkworms, and the authorities, since the fortieth year of Meiji, have endeavoured, on the one hand, to improve the methods of silkworm breeding and, on the other, to encourage the import of cards of silkworm eggs from the Home country. The eggs brought from Home and distributed in the different sericultural districts in Chosen by the Government General in the forty-fourth year of Meiji numbered almost 13,000, or approximately 30,000 when those directly imported from the Homeland for the purpose are included.

The authorities, in response to the demands of sericultural circles in the Peninsula, have also decided to establish this year a Silkworm Egg Producing Office, with a view to distributing some three thousand cards in the forty-fifth year and ten thousand cards in the ensuing year. Regarding the cultivation of mulberry trees, there is still much room for improvement. As a first step, the authorities have in contemplation the exploitation of neglected fields fit for the growth of the trees, so that the sericulturists in the Colony may gain easy access to a supply of mulberry trees of a superior quality in future.

THE LATE MR. HASEGAWA.

As already briefly reported, Mr. Hasegawa Yasushi, well known as the founder of the famous medical institute, the Saisei Gakusha, and the Chief of the Home Department's Sanitation Bureau, died at his residence on Sunday night after a protracted illness. Before his demise his Majesty graciously decorated him with the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure, in recognition of his meritorious services.

Mr. Hasegawa was the eldest son of Mr. Hasegawa Soai of Niigata prefecture, and was born in the 13th year of Tempō, some forty years before the Meiji Restoration. Having in his early youth devoted himself to the prosecution of medical studies, in which he took special interest, the deceased was appointed to the post of head of the Metropolitan Police Hospital and subsequently as Chief of the Home Department's Sanitation Bureau. Later he established the Sōmon Hospital and Saisei Gakusha, a medical school. In the twenty-third year of Meiji he was elected a member of Parliament, and in the twenty-seventh year became a member of the Tokyo Municipal Assembly. In the thirty-first year, he was for a second time appointed Chief of the Sanitation Bureau, which post he resigned in the thirty-fifth year of Meiji.

The Saisei Gakusha was established in the ninth year of Meiji and was abolished in the thirty-sixth year, during which period those who entered the school numbered in all well nigh thirty thousand, of whom nine thousand graduated from the institute. In fact not less than one-fifth of the medical practitioners of the present day in Japan are graduates of the Saisei Gakusha.

A PRETTY WEDDING.

A very pretty wedding took place at the Deutsche Haus on the Bluff at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, the ceremony being conducted by Pastor Schroeder of Tokyo. The happy participants were Mr. A. Gerdt, the Swedish Vice-Consul, and Miss Marie Weinberger, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weinberger of this city. The wedding was largely attended, whilst the church had been most tastefully and artistically decorated. Flowers were strewn along the aisle by dainty children in honour of the bride, and many ladies of the community sang the cantata entitled—"I lift my eyes up to the Mountains from which Aid comes to me."

At the conclusion of the service, the guests adjourned to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Weinberger, where the wedding reception was held. The gathering of guests was an exceedingly happy one, and the witty speech of Mr. Consul-General von Syburg in proposing the health of the bride and bridegroom, delighted all present. As he humorously stated, "Sweden and Germany had that day made an alliance; and he sincerely hoped that the future life of the happy couple would be as bright as was the sunshine that had shone upon them."

ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOCIETY.

A monthly meeting of the English Speaking Society of the Higher Commercial School, Hitotsubashi, was held on Saturday last in the spacious Hall of the School. The members, who are composed of students of the school, read papers of their own composition; while some gave a reading of various masterpieces. Their essays were very creditable, and the delivery was remarkably good. One of the invited speakers was Mr. Henry Satoh, of the International Peace Forum, who spoke on the importance of the peace movement, and emphasized the necessity of peace in order to realize world-wide tranquility and happiness. He also pointed out two of the most dangerous enemies against the maintenance of peace with oneself—the tendency of excess in study or work of any kind, and selfishness. These points were carefully explained for the benefit of young students.

THE JAPAN TOURIST BUREAU.

As already briefly reported the formal organization of the Japan Tourist Bureau, under the combined auspices of the Imperial Railway Board, the South Manchuria Railway Co., the Nippon Yusen and Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and the Imperial Hotel, took place at the main office of the Railway Bureau at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The gathering was a very representative one, among those present being Baron Kondo Kempei, President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha; Mr. Asano Soichiro, President of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha; Mr. Kunizawa Shimbei, Vice-President of the South Manchuria Railway Company; Dr. Hirai Seijiro, Vice-President of the Railway Board; Mr. Nakahashi Tokugoro, President of the Osaka Shosen Kwaisha; Mr. Uchida Kakichi, Director of the Railway Bureau of Formosa; Mr. Matsuki Kanichiro, Director of the Tokyo Electric Bureau, and many members of the Japan Hotel Association, numbering fifty-five in all.

Baron Kondo was voted to the chair, and formally opened the meeting.

Dr. Hirai, in the course of his remarks, said that the encouragement of foreign tourists to visit Japan was necessary in order to secure an equilibrium in the foreign trade and to supply the deficiency created by the payment of interest due on foreign loan bonds. Viewed from the standpoint of the national economy, it also was highly advisable that Japanese attractions and products should be brought to the notice of foreign countries as far as possible, with a view to the acceleration of the development of the export trade. From the diplomatic point of view, also, it was decidedly necessary in these days of international intercourse and growth of means of communication to acquaint foreigners with the national conditions and to accord them hospitable treatment, so that the friendship between Japan and foreign countries might be further consolidated. Hitherto there had existed no organization for the attainment of this end, but it was hoped a better state of affairs would obtain with the inauguration of the present association, which had for its object the improvement of the arrangements in connection with the visits of foreign tourists, the spread of a knowledge of Japan and things Japanese by a supply of the necessary information, and the promotion of the convenience of tourists by the carrying out of various schemes and enterprises calculated to ensure their comfort.

Mr. Nakahashi, representing the members present, expressed himself as in full accord with the promoters.

"CLEVELAND" TOURISTS.

The Cleveland Tourist Party, consisting of 511 members, arrived at Nagasaki from Kobe on Sunday morning last about eight o'clock. They were received at the pier by representatives of the Municipality, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha and the Chamber of Commerce. Handy guide books, printed in English, were distributed among the tourists with the compliments of the Chamber of Commerce. The party divided itself into eight groups, and devoted the forenoon to doing the city. In the afternoon about two o'clock they were invited to a kite flying party given in their honour by the Mayor. The buildings belonging to the Nagasaki Heavy Artillery Battalion were thrown open for the tourists' free inspection, and the same night the citizens held a lantern procession by way of welcoming the visitors. On the 11th they attended a grand concert given by the Nagasaki Young Men's Christian Association. The party is expected to leave Nagasaki for Hongkong early on Tuesday morning. Unfortunately ever since their arrival in Japan, they have had scarcely any really fine days, but at Nagasaki the weather proved very bright, and all seemed to be greatly pleased to finish their travels in Japan under such favourable conditions.

"BARRACKING" IN SPORTS.

It appears from remarks in the Australian Press that there is a revival of the evil of "barracking" on the cricket field in Australia. According to the *Melbourne Argus* this evil showed signs of abating in recent years and it was trusted that it would gradually die out. But this hope appears to have been killed by the scenes at the test matches between the M.C.C. and All Australia. Our contemporary says:—

Cricket is the best sporting game in the world, and is played in the finest sporting spirit. A standard of ethics has been evolved in connection with it which makes intolerable even the smallest suspicion of "pointing" or "kidding," or "hustling"; and if these tactics are excluded from the playing area they should not be allowed among the spectators either.

It is perhaps not in human nature for a large crowd to repress every indication of impatience when the entertainment it has paid to see becomes deadly and wilfully monotonous, and it may be that on occasion a little ironical applause acts as a wholesome corrective. But the purchase of a ticket of admission confers no right to make oneself a nuisance. The sensibilities of both players and public are entitled to consideration, and if any one unduly obtruding his opinion declines to accept a warning he should forthwith be put outside.

The objectionable noise is made by really very few people, and half a dozen expulsions would do a world of good. One individual with a stentorian voice was allowed to yell his senseless comments and advice during the whole of the Saturday afternoon's play in the recent match between England and Victoria. In New South Wales the nuisance is even worse; but, indeed, Australia as a whole is getting an unenviable reputation abroad for this kind of thing, and it is to be hoped that the example of the New South Wales Association will be followed in all the other States.

As Mr. P. F. Warner points out—he voiced no complaint until repressive action was voluntarily promised—it is grossly unfair to "barrack" the players. It is, in a word, "not cricket."

The remarks are of interest in view of the fact that "barracking" is obtaining a hold in Japan, no doubt under the influence of baseball. Whether baseball could be played without the accompaniment of yells, groans, calls and alleged sarcasms is a question which cannot be discussed. The citizens of the republic where it is the national game have decided that this accompaniment forms an integral part of the sport, but it would be regrettable if the practice were introduced into other games. We have heard of Japanese students indulging in the practice in a lawn tennis match, no doubt as a result of the tactics on the baseball field. "Barracking" is certainly very agreeable to the onlooker, as it affords him a chance to display his wit and work off his superfluous energy, but at the same time one cannot help feeling that it tends to have a deteriorating effect on sport, as leading to the adoption of unfair methods. In other words it is "not cricket."

WINDOW-PANES SMASHED.

This sort of title in these days may remind the susceptible reader of the British suffragettes, and make him prepare to hear of another outrage by those female politicians. But for once it does not happen to be England, but this country—and it took place in a most striking way. About half past six o'clock on Monday evening, Prince Kanin, Commander of the Imperial Guards Division, who had been to Takasaki on official business, was passing in an express train between Warabi and Kawaguchi stations, on his way back to Tokyo, when somebody among the crowds assembled along the line to pay tribute to the Imperial Prince, suddenly threw stones at the train. Fortunately the Imperial carriage sustained no damage, but the windowpanes of the adjoining carriage in which the military attaché and other high military officers were seated, were seriously broken. A scene of confusion ensued. The culprit still remains at large. It is believed that the person throwing the stones did not know that the train carried His Imperial Highness.

DEATH OF BARON NISHI.

We regret to announce the death of Baron Nishi Tokujiro, Privy Councillor, the sad event taking place early on Thursday morning at his residence. Upon a report of his dangerous condition reaching the Throne, His Majesty was pleased to promote him to the Senior Second-class rank.

The deceased was born of a *samurai* family at Kagoshima, in the fourth year of Kokwa, some twenty years before the Restoration. In the third year of Meiji, he was appointed President of a college then in existence, which post he resigned to go to Russia for the further study of jurisprudence. After a few years' service in the Japanese Legation at Paris as Secretary, to which post he was appointed in the seventh year of Meiji, he returned to Japan and filled the position of Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister. Later he was despatched to Peking as Minister to China, and in the thirtieth year became a Privy Councillor. He once occupied the position of Foreign Minister, though but for a very short period. In the thirty-second year of Meiji he was again stationed at Peking as Minister from Japan. This was the year when the famous Boxer trouble broke out, and the meritorious services he rendered at that time in upholding the national prestige are well known. It is not too much to say that Japan has lost one of her ablest diplomats in the death of the Baron. He was in his sixty-sixth year, and leaves, besides Baroness Nishi, three children to mourn his loss.

THE RAILWAYS OF THE WORLD.

According to official investigations, the total length of railways in the world at the end of 1910 was something like 625,537 miles, which if extended, would be long enough to encircle the globe just twenty-five times. The mileage of the different countries, is as follows:—

Countries.	Mileage.
U.S.A.	238,609
Russia	41,586
Germany	37,228
British India	31,668
France	29,824
Austro-Hungary	26,738
Canada	24,731
England	23,280
Argentina	15,533
Mexico	14,922
Brazil	13,279
Italy	9,941
Spain	8,698
Sweden	8,114
Japan	6,669

Viewed from the standpoint of area, Belgium ranks first among the world's countries, followed by England, Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, the United States and Japan.

From the point of view of population Australia takes first rank with 48 miles for every ten thousand people, followed by Canada with 36.6 miles, the United States with 26.14 miles, Sweden with 16.2 miles, Denmark with 9.3 miles, France and Belgium with 7.4 miles, Germany with 6.1 and England with 5.6 miles, Japan in this case, too, coming last of all with 0.93 miles.

THE YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

The cross country race engineered by the above club, took place last Saturday afternoon, the starting point being the boat-house. Unfortunately, there resulted a dispute as to the course, four men, viz.—James, Anwyll, Pors and Tomeye taking the wrong route. The race on the correct course was won by Mr. W. B. Mason, Junior, who covered the distance of over eight miles in one hour and eleven minutes. G. R. Barcens was close second, whilst K. M. T'reize was a third. A protest having been lodged by Mr. G. L. James, the Committee have to meet to decide as to who is really the winner of the race.

FIRES.

On Friday afternoon last, at ten minutes to two, a fire occurred at the Fukuin Printing Company, No. 81, Settlement, Yokohama. No sooner had the alarm been reported than the 1st and 2nd companies from the Satsuma-cho Fire Brigade appeared on the scene, and the flames were quickly brought under control after some slight damage had been done to the ceiling of the typesetting room. The cause of the fire is supposed to have been a spark from a fire.

On Saturday night last at 10 p.m., a fire started at the house occupied by a shampooer named Yamamoto, of Sano-machi, Yokosuka, destroying six houses. Two companies of the first and second Regiment of Artillery were despatched to the scene, but owing to the strong wind prevailing, it was not until more than an hour had elapsed from the moment of the outbreak, that the flames were brought under complete control. The cause of the fire is unknown.

A fire broke out in Ogi-cho on the 10th inst. about 8 p.m., at the house of a cooper, the cause being the upsetting of a lamp. Four small houses were partially destroyed and another building slightly damaged.

In the small hours of Tuesday morning, a fire broke out at a vacant house at Minami-cho, Aoyama, resulting in the destruction of two houses. The flames were extinguished in half an hour, though, owing to the strong wind, the fire for a time threatened to spread. The cause is suspected to be incendiary.

At midnight on the 11th inst., a fire started at a house occupied by a carpenter named Shibuya, Kamakura-machi. Notwithstanding the strong winds prevailing, the flames were extinguished before any serious damage was done to the houses adjoining, owing to the quick work of the policemen and fire brigade, aided by a plentiful supply of water. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is suspected to be a case of incendiary.

About half past two on the morning of the 12th inst., a fire started on the premises of Sakai Kakubei, Chiba-machi, Chiba prefecture. A strong westerly wind, was blowing and the flames spread with great rapidity. It was not before four houses were completely reduced to ashes that the fire was brought under control at about half past five the same morning.

The father of the owner of the house perished in the flames.

THE WEATHER.

Our Tokyo weather correspondent writes:—

To the outsider it would appear as if all weather notes on forecasts consisted merely of explanations why forecasts do not come true. To some extent such a thought is justified, but when it is remembered that, according to the latest statistics, only about 55 per cent. of the predictions issued from the London Meteorological Office are realised, some sympathy may be extended to those who are responsible for weather forecasts in Japan. Why the predictions for the 13th were universally upset, cannot be ascertained. A visit to the Central Meteorological Observatory elicited only this meagre information:

His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor, who always takes the keenest interest in meteorological subjects, sent for a special report of the cause of the failure. But the cause is not known. It is true that a small cyclone developed in the plains of Central Japan, in the neighbourhood of Kofu. These depressions usually spring up about 10 a.m. and develop by 2 p.m., moving South east. But this secondary disturbance cannot be said to be the cause. It is likely that the N.E. or E.N.E. wind was caused by a solitary area of High Pressure immediately to the N.E. of the cyclone. This would explain the great fall in the temperature as compared with yesterday.

Rain or snow is usually foretold by the shape

of the isobars; but every meteorologist knows, and the Hon. Mr. Abercrombie tells us, that there is such an exception as rain falling irrespective of the shape of the isobars, usually known as non-isobaric rain or snow.

What is really wasted is information on upper air pressure and currents. When this is to hand failure in forecasting will be considerably lessened if not altogether unknown. Recently the director of the Central Meteorological Observatory, conscious of this great want, ordered six meteorographs from the United States. These have now arrived and the kites to carry them are being made at the Observatory.

TWO DIRECTORIES FOR 1912.

We have received from the Hongkong Daily Press Office in Hongkong their annual Directory and Chronicle for the year 1912. The high reputation of this bulky and handsome volume is fully maintained and to the business man and the student in the East it is well nigh indispensable. Its first 599 pages give the Treaties, Laws, Orders in Council, Customs dues, etc., etc., whilst the remaining 1279 pages are the Directory proper for what is practically the whole East, from the Straits Settlements to Japan. We sincerely congratulate the publishers and note with interest that the Directory is now in its fiftieth year.

We are also in receipt of the Kobe Directory, published by the Kobe Herald Office. This handy and well got-up little volume is too well-known to need dilating upon. Suffice it to say that for firms doing business with Kobe, it is practically a necessity.

DEATH OF MR. W. KESWICK.

We regret to hear that news has been received of the death of Mr. William Keswick, the sad event taking place on Saturday morning last. Mr. Keswick, who was born in 1835, has sat in Parliament for the Epsom Division of Surrey since 1899 and was a J. P. for the County of Surrey. Besides being a member of the firm of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., he was a Director of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company.

Mr. Keswick became connected with the firm of Jardine, Matheson early in life and spent a good many years in the East, in Hongkong, where he was a member of the Legislative Council, Shanghai and Yokohama. He was at one time Chairman of the China Association. Mr. Keswick paid his last visit to the Far East last year, we believe.

MARINE PARCEL POST SERVICE OPENED.

As the public may be aware, the Communications Department has since the year 1910 been receiving ordinary mail matter in the post-offices established on the liners on the North American services of the Nippon Yusen and Toyo Kisen Kaisha. With a view to insuring the further convenience of the public, the Department has now decided to also handle parcels excepting those destined for Formosa and Saghalien. The business will be commenced with the steamship *Inaba Maru*, which sails on the 13th inst. It may be added that the steamers with post-offices on board for the above purpose are the *Awa Maru*, *Tamba Maru*, *Inaba Maru*, *Tenyo Maru*, *Chiyo Maru*, and *Shunyo Maru*.

STEAMER ASHORE ON VRIES ISLAND.

We are courteously informed by Messrs. Simon, Evers & Co., the local agents, that they are in receipt of a telegram from the Captain of the *Madeleine Rickmers*, saying that the steamer has run on a rock in the proximity of Senzu, Oshima (Vries Island), and that she is in a dangerous position. Assistance has been promptly rendered,

Captain Tipple, Lloyd's Surveyor, proceeding last night to the scene of the accident.

The *Madeleine Rickmers* left Yokohama harbour at about 5 p.m. on the 13th and it is supposed that she got into the nasty snowstorm and was taken out of her course by the strong current prevailing.

No further particulars are to hand so far.

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION.

The Japanese Government Authorities are now in receipt of a memorandum from the Headquarters of the recently organized International Parliamentary Union, requesting an explanation as to the non-participation therein of the House of Peers and inviting it to join the Union for the attainment of the objects for which the Union has been organized. Accordingly Mr. Ooka, President of the House of Representatives, has conferred with the President of the Upper House, Prince Tokugawa, and it is now probable that the House of Peers will accept the invitation to join the Union.

DEATH OF MR. HUTTON POTTS.

We regret to learn that a telegram has reached Yokohama from Berlin, stating that Mr. A. C. Hutton Potts died on Friday evening last, after the operation performed upon him for cancer of the throat.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A.D.C.'S CHARITY PERFORMANCE OF "LES CLOCHES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The Committee of the Amateur Dramatic Club of Yokohama would be much obliged if you would find space in your columns for the enclosed accounts relative to the Charity Performance of "Les Cloches de Corneville," given by the Club on January 25th, 1912. Cheques for 152.11 yen have been forwarded to the Charity Organisation and to the Bijou Orchestra.

The thanks of the Club and of the beneficiaries are due to the ladies who so kindly assisted in the performance, and to the Far Eastern Public Hall Co., Ltd. and to the local Press for reduced rates.

The delay in the publication of these accounts has been caused by the difficulty experienced in getting in some of the bills.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully, F.W.R. WARD.

Hon. Treas. Yokohama A.D.C.

Yokohama, March 13th, 1912.

THE ACCOUNTS:

DR.	Yen.
To Hire of Hall, Electric Light, etc.....	84.25
To Advertising, Tickets, Programmes, etc.	50.63
To Coolie hire, etc.....	9.22
To Balance	304.23
Total	448.33
CR.	
By net proceeds from sale of tickets	438.38
By donation from "A visitor," per C. H. Thorn, Esq	10.00
Total	448.38
Charity Organization	152.11
Bijou Orchestra	152.11
	344.22

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, March 12th, 1912.

F. W. R. WARD.

Hon. Treas. Y.A.D.C.

Compared with vouchers and found correct,

CHAS. A. FRANK.

CAPTAIN BERRY on the 2nd inst. at St. Louis ascended a height of 1,500ft. in an aeroplane and then jumped out with a parachute. The parachute did not open until it had dropped 300ft. and then Captain Berry slowly descended towards the earth and landed safely.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

POSITION OF THE RAILWAYS.

GOVERNMENT INVITES ANOTHER CONFERENCE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 9.

Mr. McKenna, the Home Secretary, has conferred with the railway companies, who are considering how far they can continue to keep their lines open and their powers regarding the protection of property.

London, March 9.

Over 5,000 railway clerks have received notice of dismissal.

Many woollen operatives in the Colne Valley are idle and 20,000 operatives in the Colne Valley and at Huddersfield are working on short time.

Later.

There are important developments in the coal strike.

The Government has invited both parties to meet them jointly.

The Miners Executive has agreed to summon a national conference at the earliest possible moment to submit the proposal, but stated that they could not recommend its acceptance unless the principle of the minimum wage were excluded from the discussion.

London, March 10.

Mr. Asquith's proposal for a round table conference between the miners and the owners may be regarded as still born, in view of the uncompromising declarations of both sides wherewith it is greeted.

The South Wales owners have issued a statement that they have unanimously agreed that on no consideration will they admit the principle of a minimum wage.

The unemployed are now estimated at 580,000, and in a few days this number will be doubled.

The pinch is beginning to be really felt, especially in the poorer districts of the cities, and relief works are being started.

Trains are being further decreased.

The Admiral at Portsmouth has ordered the strictest economy in the use of coal by the fleet.

London, March 11.

The week end finds the issue of the coal strike still uncertain.

The prevailing opinion is pessimistic, and it is anticipated the strike will last another month.

The Scottish coal owners have issued a statement, adhering to their determination not to grant a minimum rate of wages.

MEETING OF THE MINERS FEDERATION.

THE PREMIER'S INVITATION ACCEPTED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 11.

Peace depends upon the meeting of the Miners Federation in London to-night to discuss the Government's invitation to a round table conference and a minimum wage.

Meanwhile the demands for drastic Government action are becoming more insistent

and will undoubtedly be taken immediately if the conference to-morrow proves fruitless. There is a German miners' strike to-day, but it is expected the stoppage will be short-lived.

It is calculated that three millions sterling in wages have already been lost outside the mining industry.

The Trades Unions are obliged to pay increasingly large sums to members out of work, and some are faced with bankruptcy.

London, March 12.

The Miners Federation has unanimously agreed to accept Mr. Asquith's invitation to meet the owners.

Shipping everywhere is being more and more rendered idle.

Twenty thousand tons of Tyne sailings, and the voyages of the *St Paul* and *Oceanic* from Southampton, have been cancelled.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 11.

The men unemployed owing to the British coal strike total over 1,285,000.

The railways are further reducing their services and economising the supplies.

The London tramway services have been curtailed.

The price of bread has risen.

London, March 12.

There are some signs that both the mine-owners and the men are considering the advisability of yielding to public opinion.

It is highly probable that a joint meeting, in the presence of the Ministers, will be held on Tuesday.

The men's leaders show a reasonable attitude.

OWNERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 12.

It is understood that the South Wales coal-owners will participate in the conference, which will probably meet on Wednesday.

The cruise of the Home Fleet to Berehaven has been cancelled owing to the coal strike.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 13.

Acute distress already prevails. Thousands of men are unemployed in Staffordshire and South Wales.

AN EARLY SETTLEMENT PREDICTED.

CONFERENCE ADJOURNED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 14.

A Cabinet Minister stated yesterday that an early settlement of the coal strike was certain if the same good spirit was continued.

It is officially stated that the coal conference will continue its general discussion as to the best means to arrive at a settlement.

It was adjourned to enable certain suggestions made by Mr. Asquith to be considered.

The Miners' Federation yesterday stated that it was unanimously willing to enter into negotiations immediately with the coal owners of the various districts, for the purpose of securing a settlement of all points in dispute at the earliest possible moment.

The Federation also considered the question of the men resuming work, leaving cer-

tain matters to subsequent adjustment, but thought it could not advise a resumption until the minimum wage was conceded.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 14.

The miners have expressed their willingness to negotiate immediately with the coal-owners in various districts, with the object of securing a settlement of all points at the earliest possible moment.

(FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS.")

London, March 6.

The miners' executive has informed the transport workers and railwaymen that a sympathetic strike will not be necessary.

The newspaper telegrams from seaside resorts, descriptive of the holiday-making of the miners, present a remarkable contrast to those dealing with the distress of other workers, of whom it is estimated that 350,000 have been rendered idle.

An enormous drain on the funds of the Unions has been caused by the requirements of unemployed pay. In the case of the railwaymen this drain is even greater than it was at the time of the railway strike.

The Secretary of the Miners' Executive has stated that the men still maintain an uncompromising attitude. There is no truth in the rumours that many miners in the federated area are desirous of resuming work. In spite of this statement the newspapers are generally hopeful that speedy action tending to a settlement will be made by the State. Mr. Asquith hopes to meet both sides to-day. The coal owners are re-assembling in London. After meetings in their districts reaffirming their attitude, the Miners' Executive met in London last evening to consider the direct reports.

The *Times* correspondent at Cardiff states that the executive of the South Wales coal owners have been summoned to London. Their departure is attributed to authoritative action, as they had previously determined not to go to London unless they were officially invited.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that the Government will introduce a Bill to-morrow establishing the minimum wage. After the first reading it will be submitted to the coal owners' executives. They will hold district conferences to fix the rate. The Bill will probably be passed in a fortnight.

The crowd raided a coal depot at Ryhope, in Sunderland, and looted three truckloads.

Various industries on the Continent have been seriously affected. For instance, the export trade in oranges from Spain has been practically ruined. In Pennsylvania the owners have refused the demands of their employees, and mining strikes are threatened in Germany, France and Bohemia.

Although the newspapers are filled daily with columns of matter concerning the strike, the discussions, the Government intervention and conjectures respecting the duration of the strike, several important factors are still wholly obscure. One thing is clear, that every miner in the three kingdoms (to the number of 1,065,000) has gone on strike and the sudden cessation of the supply of coal is already producing dire consequences to some important industries and much distress among casual workers at the docks and elsewhere.

No particulars are available of the actual stocks of coal. Apparently, the railways and the gas and electric companies are fairly well supplied, but the wholesale curtailment of the train service and the warnings as to the careful use of light suggest that the supply is not excessive. The general outlook varies day by day and everything appears to depend on whether the miners insist on the acceptance of their schedule of a minimum wage. There is a general disposition towards hopefulness, but hitherto there has been small justification for the belief that the miners will yield, except perhaps through force of increasing destitution and the pressure brought to bear upon them from other trades suffering from the strike.

Mr. Asquith, speaking in the House of Com-

mons, contradicted the statement that he intended to introduce a Bill to-morrow providing for the establishment of a minimum wage. He deprecated discussion, in view of the delicate position of the negotiations.

Active communication took place this afternoon between the committees of the coal owners and of the miners and the Industrial Council, after which Mr. Asquith met the men.

Bunker coal on the north-east coast stands at thirty shillings a ton.

Two collieries in the Swansea district are being flooded owing to the attitude of the strikers. If the pumps are idle a little longer, it will be over two months before work can be resumed.

The Times urgently advocates a national self-defence organization against the strike, including the careful distribution of coal from available stocks to the poor at reasonable prices, systematic economy of fuel and light, early closing of banks and post offices, daylight working in factories and other offices and the establishment of cooking centres at schools and public places. The moral effect of such organization, says *The Times*, would be enormous.

ACTION OF UNDERGRADUATES.

London, March 7.

The Oxford Undergraduates have formed a Strike Emergency Committee and are endeavouring to obtain permission to work mines. Some 360 have been enrolled.

Many towns are reducing their lighting and water supplies owing to the strike. The London and North Western Railway has reduced its service to the statutory minimum. This means the suspension of thousands of employees.

Telegrams from the Continent indicate the restriction of steamship services in Norway, Germany and France and introduction of increased freight owing to the insufficient supply of coal.

Mr. Asquith and his colleagues met the Miners' Executive this afternoon. The miners are prepared to attend further conferences if desired. It is understood that the conferences show no lessening of differences.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and other Labour Members conferred with the Miners' Executive yesterday. It is believed that this was in connexion with the drain on the resources of the other trade unions, on account of the enforced unemployment.

The Radical papers are loudest in demanding immediate Government action to put an end to the fratricidal war, declaring that any needless extension of the stoppage of work will easily lead to a conflict between the miners and their fellow workers.

It is stated that the Amalgamated Society of Railwaymen has prohibited the meeting arranged by the London branch for the purpose of pledging the railwaymen not to move troops or coal trains.

THE SOUTH POLE.

VICTORY OF THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORER.

DETAILS OF THE FEAT.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 8.

The Christiania papers report that a private telegram has been received from the Fram Expedition stating that Captain Amundsen reached the South Pole.

London, March 9.

It is now certain that Captain Amundsen reached the South Pole, but pending the arrival of his narrative there are no details.

Later.

Captain Amundsen's story is published by the *Daily Chronicle*.

A party of eight started on the 8th of September, 1911, to make a dash for the pole, but the start proved to have been made too early, the temperature falling to—60°

Celsius, and, owing to the sufferings of the dogs, the party returned.

Captain Amundsen and four companions started again on the 20th of October.

They occasionally experienced dense fog and blizzards, but between 82° and 83° the journey was like a pleasure trip, and they averaged 25 kilometres daily.

The pole was reached on the 14th of December.

It is situated on a vast plateau which they named Haakon VII. Plateau, after the King of Norway.

Observations were taken for three days.

The Expedition has determined the extent and character of the Ross Barrier and discovered its connection with South Victoria Land, and probably with King Edward Land, their continuation being marked by mighty mountains which were observed as far away as 88° S. and probably continue across the Antarctic Continent.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 9.

Captain Amundsen has telegraphed to the King of Norway that he reached the South Pole on the 14th of December.

Captain Amundsen has informed the *Daily Chronicle* that he and four companions travelled an average of 25 kilometers daily.

Occasionally there were dense fog and blizzards, but between 82° and 83° degrees the journey was a pleasure trip.

The pole is situated on a vast plateau.

The expedition determined the extent of the Ross Barrier, and discovered a connexion with South Victoria Land and probably King Edward Land, their continuation in mighty mountains extending to 88° S.

THE GERMAN COAL STRIKE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 11.

A great strike on the Ruhr coal fields of all the miners belonging to the so called triple alliance, numbering about 80,000, will probably begin to-morrow.

London, March 12.

There are indications that the coal strike in Germany is failing.

The average percentage of strikers is 34. Many mines are working their full strength.

London, March 12.

Absentees on the afternoon shifts have swelled the ranks of the German coal miners on strike to sixty per cent.

The police attempting to disperse the strikers on the pitheads at Hamborn and Bruckhausen, were stoned.

The police then charged, wounding many and making numerous arrests.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 11.

Two hundred Westphalian miners went on strike on Monday for a 15 per cent. increase in their wages and shorter hours.

This involves an additional annual expenditure of £4,250,000.

The miners did not give the notices required by their contracts, and disregarded the owners proposals for a conference.

The public were taken by surprise.

London, March 12.

The colliers who have struck average about 35 per cent. of the total number.

There is no likelihood of any disorder occurring, owing to the Socialist discipline.

London, March 13.

Seventy thousand more miners in the

Ruhr district have struck, making a total of between 150,000 and 200,000.

The district is generally quiet.

London, March 14.

The number of strikers in Westphalia is increasing.

There have been collisions between the colliers and the police and some cases of violent intimidation have been reported.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE BRITISH NAVAL ESTIMATES.

London, March 12.

The Times says it is understood that in the final settlement of the Navy Estimates it was found impossible to make the reductions so strongly desired by the Ministerialists, as delays in shipbuilding had thrown an unduly heavy expenditure on the ensuing year.

There will be a reduction, but it will be very small.

London, March 13.

The Naval Estimates amount to £44,085,400, a decrease of £307,100.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in an explanatory statement, said the estimates were framed on the assumption of the existing programmes of other Powers not being increased.

Otherwise it would be necessary to present supplementary estimates.

The new construction programmes comprise four large armoured and eight light armoured cruisers and twenty destroyers, together with a number of submarines and subsidaries.

There is an increase of the personnel by two thousand.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 9.

The Times says that there is reason to believe that the Navy Estimates will show a reduction of a million sterling and will amount to from £43,000,000 to £43,250,000.

The programme comprises four Dreadnoughts instead of five, this being considered adequate since the German construction of battleships is halved for the ensuing year.

The Admiralty, however, is determined to build two vessels to Germany's one in the case any ship is built by Germany above those specified in the Navy Law programme.

The same reduction in the number of cruisers is probable.

London, March 13.

Replying in the House of Commons to the charge that the country was unprepared for war, the Under Secretary of State for War declared that if required the United Kingdom could despatch anywhere in a few days 150,000 men fully equipped for three months.

There would be sufficient troops left to secure the safety of the country.

London, March 14.

The chauvinist German newspapers describe the British Naval Estimates as a threat to Germany, and declare that the British intimation that further ships will be built if Germany exceeds her programme will necessitate further construction.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

London, March 7.

Captain Amundsen has arrived at Hobart

Town, but is rather reticent regarding his experiences in the Antarctic circle.

BRITISH POLITICS.

London, March 8.

Mr. Asquith has announced in the House of Commons that the exigencies of parliamentary business render it impossible to introduce the Home Rule Bill before Easter.

The announcement was greeted with loud Opposition cheers.

Mr. Asquith added that it was hoped the Budget and the Welsh Disestablishment Bill would be brought in before Easter.

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

London, March 8.

The foreign trade returns show increases in the imports of £3,638,463 and in the exports of £1,837,309.

The increases in the exports are chiefly in steel and iron manufactures.

Cotton shows a decrease of £54,751.

ATTACK ON MIRGHEB.

London, March 8.

Three thousand Turks made a series of vigorous attacks all night long on Tuesday on the Italian positions at Mirgheb.

They were repulsed by the artillery quick-firers.

It is estimated that four hundred were killed.

The Italian casualties were one killed and five wounded.

THE U.S. ARBITRATION TREATIES.

London, March 8.

The U.S. Senate has passed the British and French Arbitration treaties after defeating, by 42 for and 40 against, Clause 3 of Article 3, on the ground that it relegated the Treaty making powers of the Senate to a joint high Commission.

The deletion of the Clause necessitates further diplomatic negotiations and is regarded as practically destroying the Treaties.

Amendments were also adopted barring from arbitration, questions affecting the Monroe doctrine and the admission of aliens to the United States.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, March 11.

The *Tribuna* states that the British, French, German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian representatives called at the Italian Foreign Office separately and asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the terms whereon Italy would accept the friendly mediation of the Powers.

The Minister reserved his reply.

MINING THE DARDANELLES.

London, March 13.

Turkey has commenced mine-laying in the Dardanelles.

Pilot ships will meet all vessels.

THE CAMPAIGN IN TRIPOLI.

London, March 13.

The Italian Chamber has passed all the clauses of the Bill authorising the expenditure of £8,200,000 for the campaign in Tripoli.

THE SUBMARINE DISASTER.

London, March 14.

The inquest on the bodies taken from the submarine which sunk in Portsmouth harbour showed that there was a hole six feet long in the hull and all the men were drowned.

FIGHTING AT BENGHAZI.

London, March 14.

Desperate fighting has taken place at Benghazi, where the Italians attacked two

oases to the north east of Fojat and routed the Turks, whom they pursued to the point of the bayonet.

Over a thousand Turks and Arabs were killed and more wounded.

The Italian casualties were 26 killed and 62 wounded.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE SOUTH POLE.

London, March 8.

The report from Wellington that Captain Scott has reached the South Pole is unconfirmed.

LONDON TO PARIS IN THREE HOURS.

London, March 8.

M. Salmel, the French aviator, has accomplished a non stop flight on a monoplane from London to Paris in 3h. 12m. at a speed of over 70 miles an hour.

He attempted to return a few hours later, but was forced to descend near Boulogne.

COPPER.

London, March 9.

Copper is quoted at 64½—65½. The market is quiet after being very firm.

PARIS SPRING PARADE.

London, March 11.

A revival of the Spring Parade by part of the Paris garrison was greeted with great popular enthusiasm.

The troops traversed the principal streets, with bands playing and colours flying, instead of following the practice of recent years and hurrying the regiments through the smaller streets for fear of exciting the anger of the anti-militarists.

STRIKE OF MINERS IN FRANCE.

London, March 12.

About seven tenths of the coal miners in France have ceased work for 24 hours, as a warning to the Government and Parliament that their demands for fresh legislation on wages, pensions and shorter hours, must be recognised.

TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

London, March 13.

Anti-European disturbances have broken out at Marakash, where some Frenchmen inconvenienced some Moorish holiday makers, who retorted by stone throwing.

Some soldiers rescued the Frenchmen.

Subsequently a German Engineer and a Swiss trader were injured.

The troops fired on the crowd, several of whom were killed.

THE FRENCH MINERS.

London, March 13.

The French miners have resumed work.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, March 14.

On the Stock Exchange Japanese Tokyo Municipal loan scrip is in demand.

The French are buying Russian bonds.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE

"JAPAN HERALD")

MANILA TROOPS FOR PEKING.

Berlin, March 7th.

The American Minister at Peking has ordered troops to be sent to the Chinese capital from Manila.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Government states that no Power has made any attempt to persuade Italy to restrict her military operations against Turkey. The Italian Government,

on the contrary, reserves to itself the right of free action against Turkey with the only exception of the Turkish coasts in the Adriatic and Ionic seas.

TSAR TO VISIT FRIEDBERG.

Preparations are being made at Chateau Friedberg in Hessen for another visit of the Tsar and Tsaritsa next summer.

FURTHER EFFORTS FOR MEETING OF TSAR AND EMPEROR.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that new efforts are being made for a meeting between the Tsar and Emperor Franz Joseph in the near future.

SAFE ARRIVAL AT TASMANIA.

Captain Amundsen, the leader of a South Pole Expedition, has safely arrived at Tasmania. He reserves for the present all reports on the result of his expedition.

THE COAL STRIKE.

As a result of the British coal strike signs of scarcity of coal begin to show themselves in Northern Europe, especially in Dutch ports. The general scarcity of coal has already influenced the miners in the Ruhr coal district, and the miners' union apparently is not averse to declaring a universal strike. Unrest is also noticeable amongst the Russian and Spanish miners. British and French steamship companies are reducing the speed of their steamers with the object of saving coal.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to February 22nd ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on March 7th.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

Berlin, March 8.

The annual report of the Hamburg-Amerika Linie states that the aspect of the Chinese Revolution is one of radical reform and progress. A further economical opening of the country may be expected in the future as soon as internal peace has been assured. The trade between Japan and Germany must also be regarded as very hopeful as a result of the commercial relations between both countries having been placed on a firm basis through the conclusion of the new treaty of commerce.

THE NEW GERMAN ARMY BILL.

The German army bill provides for the formation of two new army corps, by which the strength of the army in times of peace will be increased by about 25,000 men. Improvements and reforms are further planned with regard to the artillery, the machine guns and aeroplanes.

THE NEW NAVAL BILL.

The new naval bill is being kept absolutely secret for the present.

BALLOT FOR PRESIDENCY.

The new ballot for the presidency of the Reichstag has resulted in a decided victory for the Radical deputy Herr Kaempf over the candidate of the Centre party, Herr Spahn, who had been proposed for re-election by the latter party. The members of all parties enthusiastically participated. Herr Paasche, a member of the National Liberal Party, has been elected Vice-President, and Herr Dove, of the Radicals, was re-elected second Vice-President by a great majority. The three deputies have accepted.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Press announces that a new naval action of the battle fleet before Tripoli

is imminent, and was only temporarily checked by the death of Admiral Aubry.

THE COAL STRIKE.

The German coal mine owners in the Ruhr district state that, in the event of a miners' strike, sufficient stocks of coals are in hand, but the strike funds, on the contrary, are at a very low ebb.

The services of the Nordd.-Lloyd will not suffer by the English coal strike, sufficient coal being in stock to last for several weeks.

THE SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION.

It is rumoured that Captain Amundsen, who has just returned from his Antarctic Expedition, has reached the South Pole.

THE NEW NAVY BILL.

Berlin, March 9.

The new German Navy Bill provides for the formation of a new Squadron composed of four battleships of the first lines of the reserve ships, viz., the flagship of the reserve Squadron and three new battleships.

THE MOROCCO AND CONGO CONVENTION.

The ratification and exchange of the protocols of the German-French Morocco and Congo Convention will take place during next week.

THE SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION.

Enthusiastic ovations in honour of Captain Amundsen have taken place at Christiania. The King, the municipal council and the university of Christiania have sent telegrams of congratulation to him, several foreign sovereigns also congratulating him on his success.

Captain Amundsen reports that he left the South Pole on his return expedition on December 17th and reached the expedition ship *Fram* on January 9th, 1912. On January 16th, the *Fram* returned to Walfish Bay, where the Japanese Shirase expedition was discovered on a drifting floe. The Japanese expedition was landed at the winter quarters of the Amundsen expedition. It is further reported by the Norwegian explorer that important mountain chains have been found everywhere in the antarctic region.

Captain Amundsen states that he hoisted the Norwegian flag on December 14th at the South Pole, and that he has given to the newly-discovered land the name "King Haakon Plateau."

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Mahmud Schewket Pascha is organising the defences of Constantinople against a possible attack of Italian warships after a forced passage through the Dardanelles.

The *Neue Freie Presse* at Vienna, reports that Great Britain intends to attempt to intervene at Rome to her own advantage.

NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED.

Berlin, March 10.

Russo-English negotiations with regard to Persia have been concluded. The ex-Shah will leave the country in return for an annual allowance. Russia and Great Britain will each offer a million roubles as a loan.

THE COAL STRIKE.

The danger of a strike of miners in the Ruhr coal district has become more imminent.

The German Government declares that it will protect miners who are willing to work in the case of a strike breaking out in the Ruhr Coal district.

Berlin, March 11.

The three miners' unions, comprising the

workmen of half of the Ruhr coal district, have gone on strike. A general strike has not, however, up to now, been declared.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

The Ambassadors of the four Powers, Germany, Russia, Great Britain and France, have, by order of their Governments, each enquired at the Foreign Office at Rome as to what eventual conditions Italy would demand as a basis of negotiations for the conclusion of peace with Turkey. Sign. Giuliano, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has promised to give a written reply in a few days.

It is reported from Constantinople that the Sultan, in the event of an attack by Italy, which seems to be expected by Turkey, will take up his residence outside the capital.

MOROCCO AND THE CONGO CONVENTION.

Berlin, March 12.

The Kaiser has signed the protocol of the Morocco and Congo Convention, which will be sent to Paris to-day.

THE NEW ARMAMENT BILLS.

A conference between the Chancellor and the Ministers for Finance of the various Confederate States will be held on March 14th, when ways and means for mending the expenses for the new armament bills will be considered. The new navy estimates will be recognised as small when compared with the army bill. A detailed discussion in the Reichstag is expected, but will not be attended by parliamentary conflict, a majority of votes from the national parties being certain for the passage of the new bill.

DOCKYARD STRIKE ENDED.

The strike of the workmen of the Schichau Dockyard at Danzig has proved a failure and the workmen have returned to work.

N D L. DIVIDEND.

The gross profit of the Noid.-Lloyd for 1911 amount to 41,500,000 mark, of which 20,700,000 mark will be written off for depreciation. A dividend of 5 per cent. will be announced.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has been recalled, which is regarded at St. Petersburg as a sign of a coming change of front on the part of Russia against Turkey. Russian military preparations are reported from Kars, Batoum and Eriwan, which are directed against Urmiah, where Turkish troops are in garrison.

It is further reported that Russia intends to solve the Dardanelles question and to force a passage for Russian warships.

The *Neue Freie Presse* at Vienna prophesies a bombardment of the outer forts of the Dardanelles in the near future.

PERSIA.

The Ex-Shah has left Baku for Europe.

ATLANTIC CANAL BASE.

American papers state that the sensational report of negotiations having been opened by Germany for the acquisition of an Atlantic port in Colombia as a naval base is a ridiculous invention.

THE COAL STRIKE.

Berlin, March 13.

The percentage of striking miners in German coal districts has increased to 58.76 per cent.

Dutch steamship companies state that owing to the necessity of economising fuel,

they cannot maintain the time schedule on their Indies lines.

Later.

Disturbances have been created by the striking German miners. The strike threatens to affect the Saar coal districts, also the miners of Belgium and Bohemia.

MOROCCO CONVENTION.

Berlin, March 13.

The protocols of the Franco-German Morocco-Congo Convention, after their ratification by both sides, have been exchanged.

THE KAUCHAU GARRISON.

It is stated at Berlin, that Reuter's report of February 15th, according to which it is intended to permanently increase the German garrison in Kauchau, is a deliberate misrepresentation. The supplementary budget demands only an extra estimate of 150,000 marks for the strengthening of the Legation Guard at Peking during the present troubles.

THE FOREIGN POLICY TO BE DISCLOSED TO DUMA.

The Tsar has empowered M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to disclose in the Duma the attitude of the Government on pending foreign questions. M. Kokovtsoff, the Russian Premier, speaking in the Duma, stated that the Russian Budget shows a big surplus, in spite of the extended demands of the Navy.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

Contact mines have been laid by Turkey in the Dardanelles.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to February 25th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on March 13th.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Italians lost sixty killed and 172 wounded at Derna on March 4th.

VEDRINES has monopolised 164 2/3 kilometres in an hour. This is a record.

THE strike at Brisbane is officially declared to be at an end, and work was resumed on the 5th inst.

THE Crown Prince will go to Hayama on Thursday, and is expected to stop there for the time being.

AT Sarpsborg, in Norway, 3,000 workmen have received a fortnight's notice on account of the British coal strike.

IN the small hours on Monday morning a slight earthquake shock was felt at Yokohama, lasting about fifty seconds.

THE Prime Minister, Marquis Saionji, who left for Oiso on the 9th instant, returned to Tokyo on Monday morning.

IN the International Association Football match at Edinburgh on the 2nd inst. Scotland defeated Wales by a goal to nil.

A CABINET meeting was held last Saturday afternoon at four o'clock at the official residence of Premier, Marquis Saionji.

PRINCE KANIN, who has been at Takasaki on official business, left there for Tokyo on Monday afternoon by the 3.30 train.

REAR-ADMIRAL C. CRADOCK, Commanding the Atlantic Fleet, has been created a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order.

MR. GLAZEBROOK, the Unionist who was successful in the recent by-election at South Manchester, attributes his victory to the Government rushing the Insurance Bill through Parliament, attempting

to pass the Home Rule Bill without consulting the people, and to the proposal for Welsh Disestablishment.

THE ex-Shah of Persia has left for Baku on a Russian ship. The Persian Government has granted him a pension of £7,500 sterling per annum.

ABOUT noon on Tuesday a fire started in the grounds of the Red Cross Hospital, at Shibuya, doing great destruction to the trees and grass in the garden.

ON Sunday evening a lantern procession was held on board the T.K.K. steamer *Shunyo Maru*, some 1800 miles off Yokohama, in celebration of Mukden Day.

THE Democratic caucus has ratified a Bill presented by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives providing for the free entry of sugar.

OSAKA Municipal loan bonds, amounting to three million yen, undertaken by the Kitahama Bank, will be floated at the issue value of 92 1/2 yen on the 15th instant.

THE First Squadron of the Imperial Japanese Navy left Kure on Monday for Hiroshima. The fleet will stay there until the 14th and is expected to enter Kobe on the 16th instant.

THE World Tourist Party, consisting of some 550 members, who have been staying at Kobe, left there for Nagasaki on Friday afternoon last at four p.m., on board the *Cleveland*.

ON Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock an electric car came into collision with a cart in Takashima-cho, Yokohama. The latter was completely smashed, but no casualties are reported.

FRANCE has entered a challenge for the "Davis" Lawn Tennis Cup and the result of the draw is that England will play France in the first round and the winning team will meet America.

THE suffragettes on the 7th inst. resumed their campaign of window-smashing in London, including in their visits Messrs. Gorrings and Messrs. Jay's. Numerous arrests were made.

THE British coal strike is greatly affecting the price of coal in France, where bunker coal has risen from twenty-nine francs to forty francs a ton and household coal to sixty francs a ton.

MR. G. F. EBERIUS, a merchant, of the firm of Heuser, Eberius & Co. of Hongkong, committed suicide in the Hongkong Hotel on the 1st inst., as the result, it is alleged, of business difficulties.

MR. LEWIS HARCOURT, Colonial Secretary, has explained that the despatch of troops to Berbera is due to the Mullah having recently been unusually successful in a skirmish with friendly tribes.

MR. HASEGAWA YOSHIMOSUKE, Doctor of Architecture, is reported to be dangerously ill at the City Hospital in Tsu, Ise province. He has been suffering for some time from stomach trouble.

THE train service between Saijo and Akehashi on the Shin-yetsu line, which was suspended owing to the damage caused to the line by the recent heavy rainfall, was resumed on Friday morning last at half past ten.

A MEETING of the Tokyo Municipal Assembly will be held on Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock. Among the bills to be laid before the assembly for discussion are the supplementary budget of the Electric Bureau.

ON Friday morning last, a Chinese grocer named Toku Shō ei, No. 118, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, went to the Business Bank, Ota-cho, to deposit a sum of 250 yen. The official at the Bank, finding a counterfeit note among the banknotes the Chinese offered, demanded an explanation,

when he latter insisted that he received the money from the Specie Bank on the 7th instant. The matter was pleased in the hand of the Isezaki-cho police authorities.

MR. IWASHASHI KINJIRO, Manager of the Shirokiya Dry Goods Store, died of brain disease on Tuesday morning while stopping at a certain hotel in Chosen. The deceased was in his fifty-third year.

MR. HREI, Minister to Chili, who is now back in Japan on furlough, entered the Kikuchi Hospital, Nihonbashi, on the 9th instant suffering from nasal trouble. He is expected to be completely cured in a fortnight.

THE French have been heavily engaged among the rebellious tribesmen at Suk-el-Arba in Morocco. Many of the tribesmen were left dead on the field. The French casualties were six killed and thirty wounded.

THE National Rifle Association has cabled to the Canadian Rifle Association approving the designs of sights for the Ross rifle which were submitted. This enables the Canadians to use almost any sight with the Ross rifle at Bisle.

IN the third and last Test match between the M.C.C. and Argentina at Hurlingham, Buenos Aires, England won the rubber. The scores in this match were: Argentina 171 and 98; Marylebone 169 and 102 for eight wickets.

MR. HAROLD T. BAKER'S Bill providing for the abolition of plural voting, passed the second reading in the House of Commons by 223 votes to 142 votes. The Government declined to say at this stage whether it would adopt the Bill.

A FISHERMAN named Matsumoto, twenty-two years old, who broke into the house of a certain Hasegawa in a village in Chiba prefecture and strangled the victim's wife, was sentenced to death at the Chiba local court on Monday afternoon.

ON Thursday afternoon last Utsunomiya was visited by a severe thunderstorm, when the office at Utsunomiya station was struck by lightning. As a result the telephone service was temporarily suspended. More or less damage was also done to agricultural products.

THE man who fired four shots at Mr. Leopold de Rothschild as he was entering a motor car in St. Swithin's Lane, London, on the 14th inst., is a manufacturer's agent named Tebbitt. He has been remanded at the Police Court, his solicitor stating that he had been over-studying.

It is understood that the coal crisis is affecting King George's plans to the extent that several prospective engagements, including State visits to foreign Courts, will not be definitely arranged while the unrest remains acute. If the deadlock continues, certain home engagements will almost certainly be postponed.

IN the Viceroy's Legislative Council, Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, representative of the non-official members of the Bombay Legislature on the Council, brought in a motion on the 5th inst. to prohibit indentured labour being obtained in India for the Colonies. The motion was rejected by thirty-three votes to twenty-two.

THE Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for India, speaking at the annual meeting of the Colonial Institute, said that if the Institute was to be a real factor in the home of every family in the self-governing Dominions, it must change its name. During the seven years he was in Canada he never referred to Canada as a Colony, but as a self-governing Dominion.

THE annual general meeting of the Aikoku Life Insurance Company was held on Sunday afternoon last, Mr. Suzuki Manjiro in the chair. The Company has declared a dividend of ten per cent. per annum. The former Directors were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. Tamamidzu Shintaro.

It may be added that the company's reserve fund now amounts to 4,840,000 yen, and also that the amount of the new contracts for the year reached over 7,440,000 yen, or 37,900,000 yen in all at the end of the year.

IN the small hours of Tuesday morning a fire occurred at a vacant house owned by a barber named Matsuzaki, Yamamoto-cho, Azabu. The fire was immediately suppressed before it could do much damage; owing to the promptness with which the firemen appeared on the scene.

BARON UVEDA, ex-Commander of the Chosen Garrison, who was recently promoted to General, and placed on the reserve list, returned from Chosen to Tokyo on Monday morning, accompanied by Captain Nakamura. He was received at Shimbashi by Mr. Oya, Chief of the Railway Bureau in the Chosen Government General, and many high military officers.

WE learn that arrangements have been made by the Management of the Odeon Theatre to give Yokohama residents an opportunity to witness, for the first time in Japan, in the next programme from 15th to 24th March, the very fine acting of Mme. Dora Bardanello, the celebrated Italian actress, who ranks next to Mme. Duse and Sara Bernhardt, and is now all the rage in Italy.

WE are informed that the Judges who have sat to consider the protest lodged by Mr. James against the victory last Saturday in the above race by Mr. Mason and Mr. Bardens has resulted in a verdict in favour of the latter. Consequently, these two gentlemen are awarded the first and second prizes respectively. The evidence for both sides was most carefully sifted and considered, and the general opinion expressed by local sportsmen appears to be in favour of the decision.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, March 16.

The market of Raw Cotton is firm, with prices showing an upward tendency all round. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains the same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, ruling prices are low.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	33.00 to 33.50
Indian Broach	33.00 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	32.00 to 32.50

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—45-46 yds. 43 1/4-44 in.	—
Common to Good	5.85 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—46-47 yds. 44 in. Ordinary to Good	6.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—46-48 yds. 44-45 inches	7.80 to 8.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.30
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Valves—Black, 35 yards, 32 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The market is unsettled, with very little business doing.

	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.00 to 4.50
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.30 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	6.20 to 6.40
Sheet Mild Steel	6.80 to 7.10
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.90 to 11.20
Flat	11.80 to 12.00
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.80 to 7.10
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.60 to 8.10
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.35

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester	Y. 4.18
Victory	3.92
Nonpareil	4.80
Somatra	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	—
Hokuyetsu	3.02 to 3.40
Nippon	3.00 to 3.55
Ogura	2.78 to 3.35
Todai	3.77

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.55
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
second	280.00
Madras, first	—
second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

	Yen.
Gold Drop	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.55 to 11.70
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—

Rising Sun	6 swamms	2.80
Takasago	6 "	2.75
Fuji	6 "	2.85
Pine	6 "	2.80

WHEAT.

Prices have risen.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 kin	5.30
Red "	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On March 11th stocks were: Filatures 8,230 piculs, Re-reels, 620 piculs; Kakeda, 45 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	935
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	910
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	900
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den	860
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	890
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	855
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	860
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	885
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	845
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	835
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	825

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

	March delivery.	March delivery.	April delivery.	May delivery.
9th	86.90	87.70	88.40	—
11th	87.40	88.30	88.80	—
12th	87.70	88.30	89.10	—
13th	87.30	87.90	88.60	—
14th	87.10	87.90	88.60	—
15th	87.00	87.70	88.40	—

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.

On February 15th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,700 piculs; Kibiso, 4,300 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	100 to 110
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	85 to 100
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	70 to 85
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good	90 to 100
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui.—The market is somewhat dull

Kanazawa.—There has been no change in prices and the market is in a quiet condition.

Kawamata.—The market is in an unsettled state.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	8.0	7.95	7.95	7.60	7.70
27"	7.90	7.80	7.70	7.55	7.50
36"	7.95	7.70	7.70	7.55	7.7

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAWATA.)

	4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/4 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.70	7.70	7.65	7.55
27"	7.60	7.55	7.55	7.60
36"	7.55	7.50	7.50	7.45

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/4 ms.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.60	8.50	9.30
23"	7.30	8.80	9.40	9.90
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	11.70
36"	11.80	13.20	15.10	16.10

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of March 13th the quotation was £65.15.

Refined per 100 kin	—	Yen 43.50-45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	—	38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	—	47.00-50.00
Ore	—	29.50-33.00

RICE.

The market is firm.

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	656.144
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	64.840
Delivery.	Closing Price.
March	19.67
April	19.57
May	19.61

(Osaka.)

March	19.77	March	19.78
April	19.46	April	19.39
May	19.45	May	19.36

(Kobe.)

	per bush.
Superior	Yen 21.30
Medium	20.20
Common	18.80
Average	20.10

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

	Yen.
Delivery.	—
March	141.45
April	138.60
May	136.95

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from May 1st till February 29th, amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Mar. 15.
London silver 1/4 higher for forward only. China sterling quotations not yet received and local rates all unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	154
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 95 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 93 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	76 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	26 1/2 @ 1/4

Nominal.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Fasilka, British steamer, 2,698, J. V. L. Grand, 8th Mar.,—Rangoon via Singapore and Hongkong, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Way Castle, British steamer, 2,717, Howe, 8th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Roied, American steamer, 5,651, W. Fisher, 8th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 8th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Buyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,044, Hashimoto, 8th Mar.,—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 8th Mar.,—Hachijo Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, K. Hori, 8th Mar.,—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Madelaine Rickmers, German steamer, 2,596, N. E. Ced, 9th Mar.,—Antwerp via ports, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, N. Noguchi, 9th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Swanley, British steamer, 2,908, W. E. Steele, 9th Mar.,—Post Tampa and Galveston, Phosphate and Cotton.—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.

Glenetive, British steamer, 3,319, A. Hart, 9th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frasier Ltd.

Fusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,500, T. Takeuchi, 9th Mar.,—Keelung, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Shokwa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,332, M. Takahashi, 9th Mar.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, S. Wada, 11th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Titan, British steamer, 5,720, T. H. Evans, 10th Mar.,—Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Austria, Austrian steamer, 4,879, G. Raich, 11th Mar.,—Fiume and Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kaga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,907, M. Hagino, 11th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nanyetsu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,528, O. Hayakawa, 11th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Yorofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 11th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 11th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 11th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tora Maru, Japanese steamer, 351, K. Takimoto, 12th Mar.,—Itosaki, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Indo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,152, G. Kanoo, 12th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Nelus, British steamer, 4,360, R. Day, 12th Mar.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield Swire.

Kageshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 12th Mar.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Yamanaka, 13th Mar.,—Maji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, H. E. Morton, 13th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurosumi, 13th Mar.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,488, J. McCurdy, 13th Mar.,—Savannah via Shanghai, Phosphate and Cotton.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,959, A. Toigh, 14th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, K. Kawashima, 14th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,442, A. Kobayashi, 14th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, I. Noma, 8th Mar.,—Newchang, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 8th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushi-biki, 8th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Peiho, French steamer, 3,446, Gos, 9th Mar.,—Antwerp via ports, General.—M.M. Co.

Suevia, German steamer, 2,663, Rassau, 9th Mar.,—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Benvenus, British steamer, 2,505, A. Kroble, 9th Mar.,—Bassein (Burma), Ballast.—Cornes & Co.

Courie, British steamer, 3,155, H. Jackson, 9th Mar.,—Taketo, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Yorck, German steamer, 5,133, J. Randermann, 9th Mar.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Umi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, I. Hamada, 9th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, K. Hori, 9th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 10th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeboshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clarke, 10th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. Fisher, 10th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 10th Mar.,—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Lennox, British steamer, 2,361, Shereff, 10th Mar.,—Mojito, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Tranquebar, Danish steamer, 2,227, Licht, 10th Mar.,—Copenhagen and Gothenburg via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Swanley, British steamer, 2,908, W. E. Steele, 10th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Ariaki Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,183, H. Yokota, 10th Mar.,—Ishinomaki, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 10th Mar.,—Osaka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tweeddale, British steamer, 2,874, James Farfor, 11th Mar.,—Milke, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shokwa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,332, M. Takahashi, 11th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,500, T. Takeuchi, 11th Mar.,—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 11th Mar.,—Kushiro, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Titan, British steamer, 5,720, T. H. Evans, 12th Mar.,—Liverpool via ports, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Shinkai Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,025, K. Tomosawa, 12th Mar.,—Milke, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Yorofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 12th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tora Maru, Japanese steamer, 351, K. Takimoto, 12th Mar.,—Osaka, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, N. Noguchi, 12th Mar.,—Otaru via ports.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Buyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,044, K. Hashimoto, 12th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Fasilka, British steamer, 2,698, Whittingham, 13th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 13th Mar.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nanyetsu Maru No. 2, Japanese steamer, 1,928, O. Hayakawa, 13th Mar.,—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Mishima Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,270, A. E. Moses, 13th Mar.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,152, G. Kanoo, 13th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Madelaine Rickmers, German steamer, 2,596, N. E. Ced, 13th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Simon, Evers & Co.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, S. Nishio, 14th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimizu, 14th Mar.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kageshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 14th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 14th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, H. E. Morton, 14th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Austria, Austrian steamer, 4,879, G. Raich, 14th Mar.,—Trieste and Fiume via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Way Castle, British steamer, 2,717, Howe, 14th Mar.,—Katsushu, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Nanyetsu Maru No. 2, Japanese steamer, 1,528, O. Hayakawa, 14th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. S. S. McKee, Mr. F. Kronacher and Mr. R. Masujima in cabin; Mrs. Y. Onishi and son, Mrs. S. Sato and daughter in second class; 18 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Simbirsk* from Vladivostok:—Mrs. N. Bosangnet and Miss E. Packer in cabin; Mrs. M. Lion, Mr. Gerbatenko, Mr. T. Saito and Mr. G. Nakayama in second class.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Pensa* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Jules Colomb, Mr. Walter Rekt, Mr. Frans Seeberger, Mr. Otto Von Biegeleben, Mr. T. Note, Mr. S. Yoshida, Mr. N. Murachi, Mr. Y. Oguro and Mr. Johann Cohn in cabin; Mr. M. Waki and Mr. George Aleinikoff in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Inaba Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Miss D. B. Hill, Mr. A. Cabeldu and Mr. Iizuka in cabin; 1 Japanese in steerage. For Victoria:—Mr. A. F. Lamb in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, 1 infant, and 3 children and Mrs. T. Nakakoji in second class; 8 Japanese and 38 Chinese in steerage. For Seattle:—Mr. J. Mabon and 1 Chinese in cabin; Mrs. F. Uno and 1 Chinese in second class; 19 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikuzen Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Ingram, Mr. J. Malmsten, Mrs. Christie, Mrs. Wittmutz and 2 Japanese in cabin; 2 Japanese in second class; 14 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Mongolia* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. F. Loft and native servant, Mrs. J. L. Snyder, Master D. Snyder, Mrs. J. F. Hatch, infant and native servant, Mrs. W. C. Valentine and 2 children, Mr. K. F. Swensen and Mr. H. F. Simpson. For Honolulu:—Mrs. C. Henderson, Miss B. Williams, Mr. J. Balmori, Mr. S. D. Catnell and Bishop J. W. Basford. For San Francisco:—Rev. S. S. Dease and wife, Rev. F. Felt and wife, Mr. C. F. Meyer and wife, Mr. J. F. Ziegler and wife, Rev. S. S. Hough, Mrs. M. E. Reed, Mrs. W. C. Hazline, Mrs. H. G. Smith, Miss J. Huff, Miss C. Huff, Miss M. Huff, Mrs. H. S. Russell, Mrs. A. Apherp, Miss Apherp and maid, Mr. J. G. Lawrence and wife, Miss Edna Myers, Mr. Edwin S. Townsend, Mr. R. S. Summer and wife, Miss H. Corey, Mr. L. L. Gray, Mrs. L. L. Gray and son, Mrs. V. Melcalf Jr., Miss M. Butters, Mrs. C. E. Kelsey, Mrs. G. A. Edwards, Mr. G. D. Adams and wife, Mrs. M. E. Fields, Mr. T. S. McEachern, Mr. J. H. Korn, Mr. C. E. Newcomer, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Henry, Mrs. Washington Hewing, Mr. J. C. McCracken, wife and 3 children, Mr. F. Oldt, wife and 2 children, Mr. R. Johnson, Rev. J. S. Russell, wife and child, Mr. C. E. Allison and wife, Mr. T. C. Emery, wife and daughter, Mr. J. H. Moore, Mr. F. J. Preston and wife, Miss E. S. Hartwell, Mrs. C. E. Stevenson and daughter, Mrs. R. W. Wheeler and infant, Mr. Albert Dodd, Miss D. Dodd, Miss K. Dodd, Rev. L. E. Zingwell and Mrs. Albert Dodd in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Riasan* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Cook, Mr. Jensen, Mrs. Alabushva and Mrs. Staritsina in cabin; Mr. K. Yoshimura, Mr. K. Minamoto, Mr. S. Iwamori and Mr. Hripko in second class.

Per R.V.S. steamer *Simbirsk* from Vladivostok:—Mr. S. Slastihin, Mr. Deswattene, Mrs. Houze, Miss Lindsley, Mr. P. Muller, Mr. R. Frank, Mrs. R. Frank, Mr. Refardt and Mr. Rotteschweiler in cabin; Mr. Glass in second class.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Ivor Castle and Mr. J. Cursetji in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Riazan* for Vladivostok:—
Mr. Price, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Strauss, Mr. and Mrs.
R. Kobayashi, Mr. K. Hayashi, Mr. R. Granade
and Mr. S. Naka in cabin; Mr. K. Sokoloff, Mr. J.
Aleiskoff, Mr. N. Kamitani and Mr. K. Tsusui in
second class.

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Per British steamer *Pera* for Marseilles, London
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Siber Hegner & Co.	—	70	34
Bavet & Co.	—	37	—
C. Eymard	—	104	—
Fila & Co.	—	34	—
Total	68	245	34

Silk per British steamer *Oriental* for Shanghai:—

	RAW SILK.		WASTE SILK.	
	Marseilles.	Lyons.	Moscow.	Man'zer M'scilles
Hara Yushutsuten..	55	—	—	—
Samuel Samuel Co.	—	5	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kai.	67	—	—	—
Iwat Shoten	—	10	—	—
Jawett and Bent ...	—	4	—	—
Bavet & Co.	—	—	—	28
Siber Hegner & Co.	—	—	—	2
Jardine Matheson	—	—	—	—
& Co.	—	—	—	7
Sulzer Rudolph &	—	—	—	—
Co.	—	—	—	25
	122	9	10	2 60

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明治廿五年三月廿三日
第三千四百四十四號

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAR. 23RD, 1912.

DEATH.

TURNER.—At Hiroshima, Japan, on March 10th, 1912, from heart failure, Reverend WILLIAM PATILLO TURNER, Missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in his forty eighth year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The 28th Session of the Imperial Diet will be closed on the 25th instant.

MR. ISHIMURA, Governor of Hokkaido, is reported to have tendered his resignation.

COUNT OKUMA, at the request of the leading business men of Choshi-machi, Chiba prefecture, is ex-

pected to deliver a lecture at the Commercial School there.

AN earthquake shock was felt at Yokohama at noon on Thursday, lasting about two minutes.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA is recovering from influenza. Her progress is less rapid than could be desired.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Higher Girls School at Odawara will be held on the 26th instant.

PRESIDENT TAFT is conferring with the coal miners in America with a view to the prevention of a strike.

THE French Ambassador to Tokyo who has been home on furlough, returned to Tokyo on the 20th instant.

THE Russian Ambassador to Tokyo is expected to arrive at Tsuuga from Vladivostok on the 22nd instant.

ADMIRAL of the Fleet Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., has been decorated with the Order of Merit.

PROFESSORS SASSA SEIKETSU, Fujii Otoo, and Yoshida Kamaji, will shortly receive the degree of Doctor of Literature.

It is stated that the Dreadnought cruiser H.M.S. *New Zealand* will join the Home Fleet instead of the China Squadron.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT has attacked President Taft, whom he accuses of utilizing the Federal power for ensuring his own re-nomination.

THE graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Music School and also of the Tokyo Higher Polytechnic School will take place on the 25th instant.

THE opening of the Tokyo Industrial Exhibition took place on Wednesday in the gallery of the Tokyo Industrial Association in Ueyo Park.

At the Sengakuji Temple, Takanawa, Shiba, the 210th anniversary of the famous Forty-seven Ronin will be celebrated from April 6th to May 5th.

THE opening ceremony of the Mansei bridge, Kanda, Tokyo, which has just been constructed at the cost of some 300,000 yen, will be held on April 1st.

H.I.M. THE EMPRESS is expected to pay a visit early in April to Prince Inouye at his villa at Okitsu, the construction of which was recently completed.

MR. UMEMURA SEIICHI, the Managing Director of the Ishikawa-jima Shipbuilding Company, died on Sunday morning of consumption, from which he had long been suffering.

It is understood that Russia and Germany have agreed that Russia shall be allowed to export 150,000 tons of sugar during the present season and 50,000 tons during each of the next two seasons.

HIS MAJESTY the Emperor has been pleased to promote Baron Kurino, the Ambassador at Paris, to the rank of Viscount, in recognition of the meritorious services rendered by him in the revision of the Franco-Japanese Treaty.

THE death is announced of Lady Kitajima Ito-ko, the sad event taking place at six on the morning of the 20th instant at her residence, Hayabusa-cho, Kojimachi. Prior to her demise, she was promoted to the fourth-class Rank of the Senior

Grade and decorated with the Fifth-Class Order of Merit and the Order of the Sacred Treasure. The deceased was in her sixty-first year.

THE London police authorities, in view of the coal strike, have authorized the carrying of fifteen persons in excess of the number permitted on tram-cars and five in excess on omnibuses.

THE launch of the armoured cruiser *Kongō*, built in Eng'and, was expected to take place on April and, but the ceremony has been postponed until May, probably owing to the coal strike.

DR. TSUBOI, Dean of the Literary College of the Tokyo Imperial University, has been relieved of his post at his own request. Dr. Uyeda Mannen, Professor of the same College, will succeed him.

THE construction work of the main building of the Japan Red Cross Society at Shiba Park is rapidly progressing, and is expected to be completed in June. The cost of construction is estimated at some 300,000 yen.

THE Japanese Government has decided to despatch some experts from the Communications, Home, and Naval Departments to represent Japan at the 12th convention of the International Navigation Association to be held at Philadelphia in May.

THE members of the Chinese State Council are reported to have decided to inaugurate a China-Japan Club for the purpose of bringing the two countries into closer touch. To the inaugural meeting, which was held on the 17th instant, Drs. Terao and Soyeyima were invited.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Hasegawa Yasuichi took place on Sunday afternoon last at the Yanaka Cemetery in accordance with Buddhist rites. Among the prominent men who attended the function were Baron Goto, Baron Sato, Dr. Kitasato, and Surgeon General Ishiguro.

OWING to the outbreak of disturbances in China, no parcels destined for Shensi, Szechuan and Kansu have been accepted by the post-offices since January. The Communications Department has now announced that parcels will be accepted before, except in the case of Kansu province.

COUNT OGASAWARA, who has been ordered to Europe and America, and Baron Ozawa, who is going to America to represent the Japan Red Cross Society at the conference of the International Red Cross Association, were received in audience on Wednesday morning by H. M. the Emperor.

THE Japanese authorities have been formally notified by the United States Government in regard to the Exhibition to be held in 1915 at San Francisco, in commemoration of the opening of the Panama Canal. Whether Japan will participate in the Exhibition is not yet decided, but there seems to be nothing preventing her taking part. The Japanese Government has the matter under consideration.

THE seventh annual general meeting of the Japan Silk Thread Association will be held on the 27th instant at the Botanical Gardens, Koishikawa. Prince Fushimi, the President, will open the proceedings and Mr. Yamamoto, the Minister of Finance, and Baron Shibusawa will deliver addresses. It may be added that the Association has decided to hold, on the 25th and 26th of the same month, a mass meeting of branch associations to discuss the development of the Association, the improvement of mulberry cultivation, economical methods of sericulture, and investigations of the sericultural industry in China.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

With reference to the reported Belgian loan, the *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a well-informed authority as saying that it was pre-destined to come into existence. Even if the new Government borrowed from four or six Powers 600 million *taels* for several years to come, it is clear that the loan would be insufficient to meet financial needs, and China would have to raise another loan. The Chinese Government dislikes the idea that all Chinese loans should be monopolized by the Four or Six Powers' syndicate, and it is therefore, quite natural that Tang Shao-i should attempt to conclude a loan with a Belgian syndicate, with whom he is on friendly relations. The Belgian syndicate was at one time accounted an influential factor in China as the financier of the Peking-Hankow railway. This railway loan was, however, subsequently redeemed by China. The syndicate made strenuous efforts to invest in China the loan so redeemed, but was repeatedly outdone by British and French competitors. The syndicate never abandoned its scheme, however, and the present situation gave it an excellent opportunity for concluding a loan with the new Government.

The loan has evoked criticisms from the Four Powers' syndicate, which has accused Yuan Shih-kai's Government of a breach of good faith. Great Britain and France have lodged a protest based on the argument that the Anglo-French Peking-Hankow railway loan is payable out of the revenue of public enterprises undertaken by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and the Peking Changkiakau railway forms a part of the enterprises of that Department. The hypothecation of the railway revenue as a security for the Belgian loan is, therefore, a violation of the interests of the two creditor countries.

The cause of complaint may be removed, however, if Great Britain and France retain the first lien and the Belgian syndicate the second lien on the railway. It is unreasonable to claim a monopoly in China, where the principle of equal opportunity to all nations is generally recognized. It is, therefore, impossible for the Four Powers' syndicate to crush the Belgian loan.

Some years ago Russia made use of the Belgian syndicate in obtaining an interest in the Peking-Hankow railway, and it is now rumoured that Russia is connected with the present Belgian loan. But it seems to be a matter of impossibility that Russia, who is invited by the four Powers' syndicate to join with them, should steal a march on the capitalists and instigate the Belgian syndicate to conclude a loan. Russia has presumably no hand in the loan. The Four Powers' Syndicate may lodge with Yuan Shih-kai's Government a strong protest against the transaction, but the Belgian Syndicate would not yield easily to the protest, since no charge can be levied against it. It seems, therefore, most probable that Belgium will eventually participate in the four Powers' loan, along with Russia and Japan.

FOUR POWERS' PROTEST.

The Four Powers Syndicate is making strenuous efforts to cancel the Belgian loan recently concluded. According to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent, when Tang Shao-i saw the representatives of the Four Powers' Syndicate last, he explained that the Chinese Government needed at least 27,450,000 *taels* by the end of June

next and asked for an advance of 7,000,000 *taels* a month. The representatives of the Syndicate referred the proposal to their principals, who held a conference in London to consider the proposal, but failed to arrive at a decision. The Chinese Government was so badly in need of funds that it could not wait an answer longer, and it therefore concluded a loan with the Belgian Syndicate. Inasmuch as English and French capitalists who are not connected with the Four Powers' Syndicate are parties to the Belgian Syndicate, and the State Council is evidently inclined to approve the Belgian loan, the protest presented by the Four Powers' is likely to come to naught.

According to a Peking telegram, says a Shanghai special to the *Jiji Shimpō*, the Four Powers' Syndicate announces that Tang Shao-i first approached the Syndicate with a request for a loan to relieve China from bankruptcy and laid before it a detailed account of the financial distress and the financial sources from which the loan was redeemable. He did not say a word concerning the Belgium loan which was then under negotiation. In view of the gravity of the situation and the important interests the Syndicate has in China, it felt compelled, for the maintenance of those interests, to take measures to relieve the distress as speedily as possible. It therefore made a part payment, despite serious inconvenience, and also agreed to pay the advances asked for regularly every month until the end of June next. The Syndicate did not demand any security for the advances, which were made to give China financial aid. The conclusion of a loan with the Belgian Syndicate at the present juncture must therefore be regarded as a breach of good faith on the part of the Chinese Government.

The payment of one million *taels*, which was to have been made on Saturday last, has therefore been suspended. The Syndicate has also decided to suspend all further advances. Yuan Shih-kai is not held responsible for the affair, and the settlement of the trouble must be undertaken by Tang Shao-i. It is very much regretted that Yuan Shih-kai should have been led to take this ill advised step, which actually treats with contempt the financial aid offered by the Powers. Public confidence in the new Republic has been shaken. The conditions of the loan will probably be made more strict, as there are no other countries in the world which could accept such a large loan. As already reported, the revenue of the Peking-Changkiakau railway is hypothecated for the Belgian loan. The loan contract will ultimately be approved by the State Council.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a certain diplomat as saying that a belief evidently obtains in some quarters that the trouble can easily be settled if Belgium be admitted into the Four Powers' Syndicate, but he thought otherwise. While the Belgian Syndicate has in view investment in purely economic enterprises, the object of the Six Powers' loan is to help the organization of the Chinese Republic for the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China. It is a purely political loan. It would therefore be rather difficult to combine the two syndicates. Although it is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty the future development of the affair, he thought it very probable that the Belgian loan would eventually be cancelled, and consequently

the conclusion of the Six Powers' loan under negotiation considerably delayed.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chungwa* reports that Yuan Shih-kai has stated in defence of the Belgian loan that it is an economic loan and entirely different in its nature from the Four or Six Powers' political loan. The Chinese Republic reserves to itself the right of negotiating any loans that it may desire to raise in any market, and therefore there is no reason why the Belgian loan should be made a subject of protest by the foreign Powers. A belief obtains, however, that the conditions relating to the hypothecation of the revenue of the Peking-Changkiakau railway, and the extension of the same railway, will ultimately be cancelled by China, on consultation with the Belgian Syndicate.

The State Council appears to welcome the Belgian loan, as it entertains an apprehension that the Four or Six Powers will demand rights of supervision over China's finances in regard to their political loan. Many difficulties thus lie in the way of the Six Powers' loan and the countries concerned must be prepared to meet obstacles even after its conclusion.

A private conference of the Ministers of the Powers interested in the Four Powers' loan was held on the 19th instant, according to a Peking dispatch, but nothing definite was settled, owing to the absence of instructions from their home Governments.

A Peking telegram to the *Jiji*, says that the Belgian loan was planned jointly by Yuan Shih-kai and Tang Shao-i, with a view to preventing the Six Powers from establishing the right of supervision over China's finances. The Belgian loan contract is signed by Yuan Shih-kai, in addition to the signature of Tang Shao-i. It is stated that the Russo-Chinese Bank and a certain British Bank in India are parties to the Belgian Syndicate.

The hostile feeling of the Four Powers Syndicate towards the Belgian loan has now reached its height, and the Syndicate has decided to suspend the short term loans until a final settlement of the question is reached. President Yuan Shih-kai's Government is experiencing great difficulty. The President denies any knowledge of the Belgian loan, but the denial, writes the *Jiji Shimpō*, is open to question. Tang Shao-i is a statesman who is no less addicted to intrigues than Yuan Shih-kai himself. It is therefore possible that he has hastily concluded the Belgian loan in order to check the rather overbearing attitude of the Four Powers' Syndicate and thus to render the terms of the coming political loan rather less arduous. He had probably no idea that his action would create a serious obstacle to the organization of the new Government. The Chinese Government has no alternative but to either abrogate the Belgian loan or to induce the Belgian capitalists to participate in the Four Powers' Syndicate, either of which is not an easy thing to accomplish. A doubt exists in the minds of the Four Powers' syndicate as to the security for the loans advanced, to say nothing of the position and rights of financiers *vis-à-vis* the new Chinese Government, seeing the contempt with which they are treated by China. The Four Powers' syndicate will therefore not be satisfied with the cancellation of the Belgian loan, but will demand a guarantee for China's recognition of their predominant position. The

question will thus not admit of easy solution. Although the Four Powers' Syndicate is highly indignant at this breach of good faith on the part of Yuan Shih-kai, they are not prepared to withdraw from China. Yuan Shih-kai is also conscious that a severance of the connexion with the Syndicate would mean a death blow to the Republic and will therefore take all possible measures to save the feelings of the Syndicate. It seems very probable that some means will ultimately be found for an amicable solution of the trouble, though some delay is inevitable.

Since the Chinese Government forestalled the four Powers' Syndicate and concluded the Belgian loan, the Syndicate has stopped the loan negotiations and suspended payment of the one million *taels* which was to be advanced on the 16th instant. The Syndicate is now in telegraphic communication with the home capitalists as to the measures to be taken in future. According to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent the Belgian loan is not payable to China until after the approval of the State Council has been obtained, and as the payment of the stipulated advance has been withheld by the Four Powers' syndicate, the Chinese Government has no means of raising funds to meet pressing needs. The pay-day of the soldiers is drawing near and Tang Shiao-i requires large funds to effect the transfer of the State business in Nanking. The Chinese Government has lost the confidence of the Four Powers' Syndicate. The disaffected soldiers threaten to rise in mutiny at any moment, and thus the situation is very critical.

JAPAN AND CHINESE LOANS.

Japan's attitude towards the Chinese loan question is dealt with in an article in the *Tokyo Asahi*. Our contemporary says that Japan has determined to respond to the invitation of the Four Powers' Syndicate to participate in the loan, and has already declared, though unofficially, her intention. As it is a political loan, Japan, as a matter of course, will take part in it in accordance with international agreement, but in addition there exist various circumstances which lead to her participation. The foreign Powers at the outset were ignorant of Japan's attitude towards the question of Chinese loans, and this led to rather unfavourable comments. Japan, nevertheless, maintained an upright attitude and repeatedly rejected the applications made by either of the belligerents. Japan's attitude was so resolute that she rejected even an offer made by the Revolutionists, which was that if Japan financed a 10 million *taels* loan, they were prepared to concede any interests and privileges she desired, and that Hwang Hsing would proceed to Tokyo to tender thanks in person. When the China Merchants' loan came up, the Four Powers' Syndicate made overtures to lend seven million *taels* on the security of the Company's property. This took Japan aback and stimulated her desire to join the Syndicate. Shortly afterwards the Peking riots broke out, when Yuan Shih-kai sent Lin Tsung-yu to the Peking branch of the Specie Bank, with a proposal for a loan of half-a-million *taels* on similar terms to the Four Powers' loan, in order to raise funds to pay the soldiers. The Japanese Government was then negotiating with the Four Powers' syndicate on the loan question, and feeling indisposed to forestall the syndicate, she

refused to comply with China's request, at the same time directing Minister Ijimi to intimate to the British Minister China's proposal. This candid action won the admiration of the British Minister, who spoke to Minister Ijimi in very high terms of the fair and upright attitude of the Japanese Government. The British Minister then drew the attention of the Four Powers' Syndicate to the fact that Japan was disposed to act in concert with it in the matter of the loan. The Syndicate in turn communicated the fact to Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of the *Times*. Since then the foreign Powers, who had before watched Japan with suspicious eyes, have begun to recognize her fair and upright attitude. Not only does the Four Powers' Syndicate desire Japan's participation in the loan, but the desire is also shared by Yuan Shih-kai's Government. President Yuan Shih-kai is convinced of the necessity of having recourse to foreign loans to relieve the financial distress of China and is desirous of obtaining the aid of Russia and Japan in raising such loans. Consequently Yuan Shih-kai officially notified the Syndicate of his desire that Russia and Japan should participate. The representatives of the Four Powers' bankers met at the Peking branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to consider the proposal, when they decided to invite Russia and Japan to join, being conscious of the necessity of acting in concert with the Powers which have the leading influence in the Far East. The Six Powers' Syndicate will thus come into existence and the loan will be accepted in equal proportions. In view of the importance of the loan, a financial adviser will be chosen by the Six Powers for the supervision of China's finance, and the salt tax, which is one of the most important financial sources in China, will be taken as security for the loan. Moreover, Commissioners will be appointed by the Six Powers for the adjustment of the salt tax, with a view to increasing the revenue from 48 million to 80 million *taels*, to enable China to obtain ample funds for the payment of the interest on the loan.

THE DISTURBANCES AT CANTON.

It would seem that although the disturbances at Canton have been peacefully settled, the situation is not yet assuring. The *Tokyo Asahi's* Hongkong correspondent, wiring under the date of the 15th instant, says that Chin Chiang-ming, the leader of the revolutionary army, opposes the disbandment and that a grievance also exists among the rank and file in regard to it. There is, therefore, some fear that the disturbances may be resuscitated. In view of the situation, the magistrate has deposited the Government money with a Hongkong bank. The exodus of refugees to Hongkong is gradually increasing. The Cantonese generally seem to have no confidence in President Yuan Shih-kai, and are clamouring for the independence of Canton, advocating the principle of Canton for the Cantonese. The Republican Government will find it rather difficult to exercise its administration over the city.

The latest telegraphic reports show that about 5,000 men under Wang Ho shun, who fled to Hongkong after the recent defeat, proceeded to Kuichow to join the army under Hsi Kin-chuan, leader of the

Kinchow pirates, while Liu Lun-ting, leader of the "Lantse" army, is taking his position at Sanshui with 6,000 men under him and joining hands with the leaders of other armies in taking possession of Shunteihlsen and other districts. The army under Hu Chao-kuei is numerically insufficient to defend the city. A resuscitation of the disturbances is being apprehended in the event of Lan's army entering the city. The Chinese merchants have heavily bribed Liu Lan-ting to avoid disaster.

According to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Hongkong correspondent, the soldiers under Wang Ho-shun have taken possession of the Humen and other forts and refuse to deliver them to the revolutionary army. The rival troops collided on the 14th, when the revolutionary troops were routed. Wang declares that he will continue the disturbances until the present Magistrate resigns. Sun Wei arrived at Hongkong on the 19th instant from Nanking. He is the prime author of the anti-Magistrate movement, and is trying to instigate the people against Magistrate Chen, in order to replace him by a pure revolutionist. The Canton disturbance was thus the outcome of political strife.

CHINESE POLITICAL PARTIES.

A Shanghai special to the *Kokumin* reports that a political party calling itself the Unionists has been organized by Cheng Tei-chuan, Chang Chien, and others, to counteract the "Alliance Party," which has Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and others for its leaders. Influential persons in Fukien, Chekiang, Kiangsu, Kwantung and Chihli provinces are expected to join the new party.

The members of the secret party advocating anarchism and communism are fast increasing in Central China, says a Shanghai telegram to the *Chuvu*, and the situation is gradually assuming a grave aspect. An apprehension exists that China will eventually become a rendezvous for anarchists and socialists. The party demands that no taxes shall be levied, that no distinction be made between the rich and the poor, and that the prohibition of opium smoking shall be removed. The number of opium smokers, according to the telegram, has radically increased of late.

MURDER OF JAPANESE.

As a sequel to the murder of Japanese residents at Penchihui, it is reported that the Japanese Consul-General at Mukden has lodged with Viceroy Chao a strong protest, demanding the punishment of the parties responsible. Viceroy Chao, however, contends that the murdered man is a Chinese. The settlement of the trouble is thus delayed. A Chinese official has nevertheless called on the Consul-General to tender an apology, on behalf of Viceroy Chao, for the unfortunate incident.

With reference to the murder of Japanese miners in Ilu coal mine, following on the unfortunate incident in Penchihui, it is reported that the matter is still under investigation. The body of a Mrs. Yamane has been since discovered buried in the pit, but the body of her husband is not yet recovered. It is presumed that he shared the fate of his wife.

DEATH OF THE REV. W. P. TURNER.

The sudden and unexpected death of the Rev. W. P. Turner on the 10th inst. has brought sorrow to a wide circle of friends in Japan and elsewhere. Mr. Turner had attended and taken part in Church services on that morning, being apparently in normal health. A little after noon he was suddenly taken ill, with violent pain, and rapidly become unconscious. His death, which came in forty-five minutes, was due to heart failure.

Mr. Turner came to Japan in 1890 for educational work in Government schools, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association. Two years later, he entered the mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in which service he remained until his death. Having spent three years as a teacher in the Kwansei Gakuin and Palmore Institute, Methodist Mission Schools in Kobe, Mr. Turner in 1896 entered evangelistic work.

From Uwajima, his first station, where he remained for fourteen years, he was transferred some months ago to the superintendency of the Hiroshima District, which office he held at the time of his decease. The funeral ceremony was held on the 11th inst. in the chapel of the Hiroshima Gakko School, of which he was Chaplain, and interment took place on the following day at the Kasugano cemetery in Kobe.

Mrs. Turner and three children accompanied the body to the coast.

Mr. Turner was conscious of the impossibility of his being the national loan of a spirit called for which was not yet officially met. He had by the foreign Powers. The last thing he saw, however, practically amounts to most official recognition of Yuan's Government, and it is presumable that official recognition will be given before September next. It is already informally decided that the Four (or Six) Powers' syndicate shall accept Chinese loans in the course of subsequent years to the extent of 600 million *taels* at 5 per cent. interest, the salt tax, Customs revenue and land-tax forming the security.

A BELGIAN LOAN CONCLUDED.

The latest Peking telegrams received in Tokyo report the conclusion of a Belgian loan. According to information emanating from a reliable source the contract has been signed by the Department of Finance. The loan, which is for one million sterling, forms a part of the 10 million sterling loan for the extension of the Peking-Hankow railway. The loan is said to carry 5 per cent. interest, the net proceeds being £97. The revenue of the Peking-Changkiakau railway is offered as security. According to the Russian authorities, however, the amount of the loan is one million dollars, which forms a part of a 10 million dollars' loan.

A later telegram reports that it is clear that the Belgian loan is backed by Russia, and the loan may be regarded as the rival of the 1½ million sterling loan negotiated by the Nanking Government. The news of the conclusion of the loan came to the Four Powers' syndicate like a bolt from the blue. The conditions of the loan are said to be as under:—The present advance is fixed at one million sterling, but it is stipulated that the amount will be increased to 10 million sterling in the near future. The loan shall carry 5 per cent. interest; the net proceeds being £97. The loan is redeemable in one year and the revenue of

also notified the Powers of its participation, but has reserved a definite answer as to participation in the large loan, leaving this to further consideration. The Four Powers' Syndicate has thus been converted into a Six Powers' Syndicate. Advances are to be made to China without delay. As the payment of administrative expenses is in arrear, it is predicted that China will need at least ten million *taels* by the end of this month, and also about six million *taels* per month after April next. The negotiation for the large loan will most probably be rather protracted, as some difficulty lies in the selection of a security for the loan and the supervision of Chinese finances and other details. The advances alone will reach over 20 million *taels* by the time the negotiations can be brought to a successful issue.

It is stated in this context that Viscount Mishima, Governor of the Specie Bank, paid a visit to the Foreign Office on the 18th inst. and Mr. Yamauchi, Minister of Finance, also paid a visit and sat in conference with Viscount Uchida concerning the Chinese loan. Mr. Odagiri of the Specie Bank loan proceeded to Peking to meet the Chinese bank on the 20th of the month.

At the news the Four Powers' Syndicate held a conference, when it was decided to present to the Chinese Government a protest formulated jointly by Great Britain and France, and also to question the good faith of the Yuan Shi-kai Government. The Anglo-French protest, is based on the fact that Article 5 of the Peking-Hankow railway loan of 1898 stipulates that the payment of interest shall be made out of the revenue of the public works undertaken by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and inasmuch as the Changkiakau railway is included in the works of that Department, the hypothecation of the railway revenue is an infringement of the interests of the two creditor countries. The Four Powers' syndicate contends that when Tang Shao-i made a proposition regarding the reservation of the rights of negotiating loans with any other syndicate, it was understood that the syndicate should first be consulted if the terms of that loan were similar to, or more favourable than, the Four Powers' loan. The Chinese Government, nevertheless, concluded the loan without giving any notice to the syndicate, which act betrayed a lack of good faith on the part of Yuan Shi-kai's Government. At any rate the conclusion of the Belgian loan leaves the Four Powers' loans concluded in Nanking, of which two million *taels* has already been paid, in a state of suspense and uncertainty.

The *Chuvu* publish a lengthy Peking telegram which states that the report of the conclusion of the Belgian loan has startled the Four Powers concerned, especially Great Britain. Russia has long been casting a covetous eye on the Peking-Changkiakau railway which serves as a branch line of the Siberian Railway, branching from Irkutsk to Peking across Mongolia, and has made several unsuccessful efforts to secure an interest in the railway. Great Britain prevailed upon Yuan Shi-kai, then Viceroy of Chihli province, to build the railway with domestic capital and obtained from China a pledge that the railway should in no case be hypothecated for a foreign loan. The capital was mainly drawn from the revenue of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Peking-Mukden railway, over which Great Britain had preferential rights. The Peking-Changkiakau Railway was thus made independent in order to

THE PROVINCIAL MAGISTRATES.

President Yuan Shi-kai issued on the 19th inst. a notification in which he draws attention to the fact that various provinces have severed their connection with the Central Government and elected their own magistrates. Now that the whole country has been unified, the local administration must conform with the regulations promulgated by the Central Government. Provincial assemblies have no power to elect Magistrates, and the election of their own magistrates by provincial assemblies is at variance with the unification of the State. They must do their best to maintain the *status quo* in order to preserve public order.

As already reported President Yuan Shi-kai recently issued a declaration that the Provincial Assemblies had no power to elect Provincial Magistrates, who must be appointed by the Central Government.

A CURIOUS DILEMMA.

A curious dilemma seems to confront the new Republican Government in the distant province of Shansi. General Sheng Yun, who has unrolled the Imperial flag in that part of China, has under his command three regiments of Imperial Guards, and the remaining troops in the district number only one regiment of Chinese, whereas the Guards are all Manchus. Thus the issue of an appeal to force with such an unequal distribution is a foregone conclusion. The only hope seems to lie in negotiating a pacific settlement, since the financial embarrassment of the Peking Government incapacitates it for equipping and despatching any army capable of crushing Sheng and his three regiments. The Imperialists are said to maintain that nothing short of a mandate from the now defunct Throne will induce them to lay down their arms, and such a mandate could undoubtedly be obtained by Yuan if he were willing to apply for it to the ex-Emperor. But Yuan naturally hesitates to take a step which would be equivalent to an acknowledgment that public peace cannot be maintained throughout the realm without recourse to the former Court's assistance. The situation is very perplexing.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE KING AND QUEEN OF ITALY.

According to a telegraphic dispatch reaching Tokyo, at 8 a.m. on the 14th inst. When T.M. the King and Queen of Italy were on their way to the Pantheon to celebrate the twelfth anniversary of the demise of the late King, they were shot at. Their Majesties escaped unhurt, but a military aide de camp was mortally wounded. The assailant is described as an ex-convict, a plasterer by trade. The incident is said to have no political significance.

A later dispatch reports that the man had been convicted on several occasions of theft and other offences. He was arrested on the spot. Their Majesties proceeded to the Pantheon with perfect equanimity and attended the service. On their way home their Majesties paid a visit to the hospital to inquire after the wounded officer. Particulars are not yet obtainable, but the Italian newspapers report that the would-be assassin is neither an anarchist nor a socialist.

SOCIALISM IN TOKYO.

It really seems as though the small group of men who preach socialistic doctrines in Tokyo are not disposed to set any limits to their theories. Their latest contention amounts to saying that no one taking advantage of the discount rates on the electric trams should be required to furnish any tangible evidence of qualification for that privilege. The managers of the car service propose that the privilege of riding at reduced rates should be limited to persons wearing a costume consistent with the indulgence by which they profit. But there has immediately ensued an outcry against any attempt to expose these persons to the indignity of carrying about with them some mark of their status. The result, according to these objectors, would be a virtual rise of fares for travellers on the trams, and the Queen-Victoria of a rise of fares has come to sidense in London after several times. The cordial relations existing between the two countries did not slacken even after the proclamation of the Portuguese Republic.

Great Britain directs her attention to Portugal because of the commercially and strategically important position that country occupies in the Mediterranean, as well as the Atlantic. Great Britain possesses Gibraltar and Malta and has the Suez canal in her control, and thus almost wields the sceptre in the Mediterranean, but the strategical value of Gibraltar has witnessed a marked depreciation in the development of the tactics of modern warfare, and it has become apparent that this small point alone is insufficient to form the key of the Mediterranean. Especially is the insecurity of the British position in that direction keenly felt since the German intervention in the Moroccan question. To make secure her position, Great Britain can do no better than enter into an alliance with Portugal.

On the Atlantic side, it may be seen that to reach Central and South America or Africa, ships from North European countries naturally have to pass near Portugal. This route is destined to become the highway of the world's commerce after the opening of the Panama Canal. Both the Azores and the Cape Verde islands, which Portugal is to fortify with the financial aid of Great Britain, are important shipping and strategical places on the Atlantic. The Azores lie about 800 miles to the west of Lisbon and occupy in the Atlantic the position which the Hawaiian Islands do in the Pacific, while the Cape Verde Islands also occupy a no less important position in the South Atlantic, and are a point of call for steamers from Northern Europe bound for Guinea or South Africa. If Great Britain brings these two islands groups under the sphere of her influence through an alliance with Portugal, her maritime supremacy will be almost perfectly secured.

The report, which came from Berlin, is not yet confirmed by telegraphic dispatch from London. If it be correct, the alliance is a step in advance towards the great object dreamed of by the Imperialists, and it will have a serious effect on the three continents of Europe, America and Africa.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* takes a different view of the alliance. Germany, it points out, has long been casting covetous eyes on the Portuguese African possessions, and the German Colonial Party has advocated the annexation of Portuguese territory in order

THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION.

The Provisional Constitution of the Chinese Republic, promulgated by the State Council in Nanking on the 11th instant, is reported to consist of seven chapters, comprising 56 articles. It is provided that the Chinese Republic shall be composed of the Chinese people, in whom the sovereignty rests; that the Chinese dominions shall comprise 28 provinces, Inner and Outer Mongolia, Thibet and Tsinghai, and that the Chinese Republic shall be administered by the State Council, Provisional President, the Ministry and the law courts. Chapter 2 provides that all the people of the Chinese Republic shall stand on equal footing without distinction of rank, social status and religion, and that the people shall be subject to conscript duty. The supplementary rules prescribe that the Provisional President shall convene a National Assembly within ten months after the enforcement of this provisional constitution. One member to formulate a permanent Haldane visited Berlin, Chinese Republic, and of War is reported to have provisional Constitution. Berlin Government that Great Britain not oppose Germany's acquisition, nor any objection to the concession, if Portugal consented to it. Some of the English newspapers also expressed themselves in favour of Portuguese concessions to Germany of her African possessions. The alliance treaty may, therefore, be interpreted as an expression of the British desire to enable Portugal to negotiate with Germany under British protection, instead of crushing Germany's ambition. If this be true, Germany will have no fear, and the day will soon come when her ambition of building up an African Empire will be realized.

THE SITUATION IN MONGOLIA.

Rather disquieting news continue to come from Mongolia. The latest telegrams report that Mongolia has officially denied that diplomatic relations with the Chinese Republic have been severed.

Over one thousand Mongolian troops have quitted the Shansi frontier and are marching on Kuifuacheng. The Huai army, stationed at Taungpu, has blindly followed their example and started disturbances. The Peking Government has issued to the Mixed Brigade of the First Division in Chinginkau an order to move to Kuifuacheng for their suppression.

The unrest in Mongolia seems to be assuming some magnitude. The Russian Post Office has suspended the transportation of private mail matter to Kulon. The financial authorities of the new Kulon Government attempted to reduce the taxes leviable on the Mongolian people, acting in coöperation with the Dalai Lama, but the Mongolian princes vigorously oppose the reduction. The taxes imposed on the Mongolians have increased since the outbreak of the revolutionary insurrection.

The German superintendent of the Chinese Customs House in Manjuli, who incurred criticism for having taken the command of the garrison in Lupinfu, will be transferred to Fuchow, Mr. Malenko, a Russian official in the employ of the Chinese Customs in Harbin, being appointed his successor.

The acting British Consul in Harbin will go home on furlough shortly and the acting British Consul at Mukden is to be promoted to Consul and appointed his successor.

the formation of the Provisional Government, and also to formulate an Election Law, which is to be submitted to the State Council. The National Assembly is to be convened within three months following the promulgation of the Election Law and then the President will be elected by popular vote in the Assembly.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Tientsin correspondent telegraphs that peace and order have now been restored in the town, which is under the protection of the Japanese troops. The Chinese authorities and the people recently adopted a resolution to discontinue the aid of foreign troops, on the ground that their presence in the Chinese quarter was detrimental to the sovereign rights of China.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that Li Yuan ming, who recently advocated the independence of the Chinese Customs, has now made a telegraphic representation to the Peking and Nanking Governments that the recovery of the right of taxation is most important for the Chinese Republic, and therefore the districts in the Yangtze valley should be recovered to China as the first step. The representation also vigorously argues that the concession to foreign Powers of the right of supervision over China's 5 Provinces would be the beginning of the started-ation of China.

of the Militia Shao-i's Mission to Nanking pacify them, but the Southern Government themselves understanding of candidates for understanding a collision, the new Ministry, three Taichow men and troops, the suppress- were wounded. A riksha solution of the wounded accidentally. The Gt the condi- dispatched and the disturbance was in, Mr. sed. The proclamation is issued to remove of any unnecessary apprehension among the people.

THE MILLION-LIGHTS QUESTION.

The citizens of Tokyo seem destined to be racked perpetually on questions connected with electricity. If we may believe the press of the capital, the electric trams have proved a losing speculation, for whereas it was originally expected that the revenue derived from this enterprise would suffice not only for interest and sinking fund, but also for a substantial profit in the pockets of the Municipality, actual experience has shown that the income obtained will not suffice for the former two purposes alone, to say nothing of a profit. We do not believe this statement to be correct but it certainly finds much credence. The Municipal authorities, thus finding themselves constrained to seek another source of income, have turned to electric lighting, and they propose to increase the number of lights in the railway system to one million. But against this project much opposition has developed itself, many of the publicists of the city contending that any attempt to enlarge the electric-light system to such dimensions would merely result in another loss. Meanwhile the Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company claims that it has contracted to furnish power for the proposed system of a million lights and that the contract must be carried out in all circumstances. Of course the Municipal Authorities believe that they can reap a substantial profit from the lighting business, but their opponents refuse to place any confidence in estimates that have been prefaced by such miscalculations.

THE SOCIALIST MENACE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 16.)

THE Government of Japan is fully justified in congratulating itself that the Socialistic tendencies of its people are small as compared with the same propagation in Europe, Britain and America. One has but to merely scan the papers that reach us from these three sources of the world to realise that four great Powers are now compelled to meet a situation that is far from pleasant. In fact, it is so far from pleasant, that the problem before the respective Governments is perilously close to civil war. It is also a problem that Japan itself may one day have to confront; and we sincerely hope that when this serious question comes before her, she will previously have studied and absorbed the governmental measures that are Law in both New Zealand and in some of the states in Australia for dealing with Labour troubles. Japan has the great advantage of youth, and in stating that she is young, we naturally refer to her as being young from merely the era of modernity. She has the immense advantage of having grasped modern civilization in a masterly manner; and has also the far greater advantage of being able to learn from the experiences of other Kingdoms, Empires, and Republics. The country in which we are living has before it world-problems of colossal dimensions. The strikes in Britain, France, Germany, and now in the Eastern States of America, are ample evidence of the great antagonism between Capital and Labour. It is only natural that this should be so; for Man is Man, and the only dominant factor in this grim struggle is Power. That lies with the Head of the State and the Government; and it is for them to dictate laws that will force both the Capitalists and the Labourites to behave in a manner that is conducive to the welfare of the great majority of the people. It has been laid down by the ancient that man is selfish; and the dictum is absolutely true. But it behoves the State to protect those who suffer through the arrogance of wealth, or the influence of strength, and with the power at the command of the Head of the State and the Government, to guard those who are forced to suffer through no fault of their own.

The conditions of affairs that are prevailing in Britain, France, Germany and America, but especially in Britain, are proof positive of the urgent necessity of drastic legislation in dealing with Labour troubles. It must not be thought for a second that we are siding with either the Capitalists or the Labourites. On the contrary, we are siding with the great majority who have nothing whatever to do with the struggle, but who suffer the most. In Britain, at the present time, owing to the coal strike, men, women and children are being affected. The price of bread has

rapidly risen; the train services have been heavily curtailed; the electric light companies, the gas companies and the water-works companies, have sent circulars to their customers urging economy in consumption or else they may be forced to discontinue their service before the strike comes to an end. Twenty or thirty mills have been forced to close down; and thousands of other workmen have received notices of dismissal, owing to the fact that coal is practically unobtainable, through the great increase in price. Curious as it may sound, the present Labour trouble in Britain in the coal industries, has brought home to us for really the first time the enormous value of the "black diamond." In short, the water supply may be cut off, as without the motive power, water cannot be pumped through the pipes into the big cities. Moreover, gas and electricity is impossible at present without that same power; whilst further still, we find the train services reduced to a minimum and great ocean liners held up in port. To sum up, trade is paralysed; millions of pounds sterling have already been lost, and the end is not in sight by any means unless the British Government adopts and enforces singularly strong measures for the protection of the People and Trade in general.

CHINA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 18.)

THERE is evidently some exaggeration in the view taken by certain Japanese publicists with regard to the temper of the Chinese nation at this juncture. It cannot be denied that there is cause for much dissatisfaction in estimating the fitness of the people for the polity they have decided to inaugurate. The leaders of the Republican insurrection are showing what may be called unpatriotic reluctance to undertake the discharge of the duties which their own action has rendered imperative. Prominent among these reluctant statesmen is Field Marshal HWANG, who, by all parties, is regarded as the head and front of the insurrection, and without whose leadership a Chinese Republic would never have become an accomplished fact, as far as human perception can see. HWANG enjoys the reputation of being not only an able politician and a competent soldier, but also a man of the highest moral character, whose association would bring credit to any cause. When the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty was proclaimed, all eyes naturally turned towards HWANG, in the expectation that he would be found occupying a high place among the framers of the new system and among its active operators. But HWANG utterly declines to take any share in this practical work, and no definite reason is assigned for his refusal. In these circumstances it is only natural that the public should infer a determination on HWANG's part not to serve in coöperation

with YUAN SHIH-KAI, which reference, of course, means a split at the very outset among the leaders of the insurrection, and their preference for personal considerations as compared with patriotic duties. Then there is Mr. WU TING FANG, who is understood to decline service under TANG SHAO-I as Prime Minister, his only openly alleged reason being that he stands senior to the latter on the official rôle. It is even said that he would prefer to return to Washington as China's Representative and to wash his hands of all connexion with the domestic affairs of the new Republic. Stranger still than this self-effacement on WU TING FANG's part is the action of SUN YAT-SEN, who, after twenty years of anti-Manchu agitation, now declares himself unwilling to occupy any high post in the new polity and is credited with a desire to spend the rest of his life travelling in the Occident. SUN assigns no reason for this choice; or at least no reason that deserves to rank above caprice. Thus the long and short of the matter is that the three men who might reasonably have been expected to take the most prominent part in moulding the destinies of the new Republic, are turning their backs upon it as though they were ashamed to be held responsible for its existence. This of course constitutes a black record, but scarcely seems to justify the pessimistic estimate formed by many Japanese publicists. We must remember always that it is with the Provisional Government only that Chinese statesmen have to reckon at the outset. If they could be assured that the work done by them in modelling the Republican structure from the outset would have something of a permanent character, they might be more willing to undertake it. But considering the circumstances in which the preliminary arrangements for a Republican polity are to be undertaken, we can easily conceive that even the staunchest patriot might feel reluctant to associate himself with the work until he had some assurance that cosmos not chaos would be the outcome of his labours. If HWANG, SUN and WU persist in standing aloof from the system which they are responsible for having created, history will write them down in its pages as very poor patriots. But it would certainly be premature to draw any final conclusion on this subject as yet.

THE LEPER HOSPITAL AT GUTEMBA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 19.)

AMONG those who spend their lives in the succour of the afflicted, perhaps none calls for a greater amount of admiration and sympathy than he who devotes himself to the care of those stricken with the terrible and horrible malady of leprosy. Of Miss RIDDLE's work in this direction we have lately made mention. No less praise must

be accorded to that done by Father BERTRAND at Gotemba. Such work as this is necessarily so far removed from the public eye that its claims on the charitable feelings of the community are likely to be overlooked. A leper hospital cannot turn out patients whose cures can serve to advertise it, for unfortunately the recoveries from leprosy are exceedingly few. A hospital of this kind partakes more of the nature of a home, where the unfortunates may spend the remainder of their lives with a certain amount of attention to relieve their horrible physical sufferings and a certain amount of kindness to testify that they are not deserted by the world. Those who enter a leper hospital must see over the portals the terrible inscription that DANTE saw, "All hope abandon ye who enter here." To find, inside those dreaded gates, men and women who are willing to devote their lives to the task of care and tendence,—who, if they cannot restore hope can at least bring resignation,—must be to the poor plague-spotted souls a matter of the deepest solace. But, as Father BERTRAND points out, in the pathetic appeal he has issued as Director of the Hospital, resignation does not altogether exclude the desire for a cure. Science will perhaps some day place in the hands of physicians a remedy for even this apparently intractable malady. Many discoveries are noted, but one by one they prove useless. The latest, tetrodotoxin, is still under investigation, but judging from the announcement that further tests are necessary, it does not appear that it will prove any more efficacious than its predecessors. The time will no doubt come, as Father BERTRAND says, when science will say her last word on this disease, but the time is not yet, and the sufferers remain. "What nobler work could be performed, what more deserving field for charity opened, than the consolation and succour of these wrecks of humanity? The work done in this field of charity, as stated, is to a large extent obscured by its very nature. Special efforts are necessary to draw attention to this true labour of love. In his desire to lift the highest possible level the Director has not charity bestowed upon the institution to the even had recourse to that well known means of stimulating public donations by printing a list of subscribers. "The small amount of stimulus which would perhaps thus result," he writes, "would take away from charity her great glory,—to do good for its own sake."

A few words may be added as to the present position of the hospital. There are now 76 inmates, the total cost of the maintenance of whom last year was 4,546.20 yen, only 434 yen of which, it may be noted, was spent in honorariums and salaries to employees. Of this sum 3,564.05 yen was subscribed in Japan or abroad, and 982.15 yen was received from patients. Including

interest on reserve fund and miscellaneous revenue, the hospital finished the year with a credit balance of 489.59 yen, which has been added to the reserve, a sum of 9,210.83 yen now standing to the credit of the hospital. The Home Department contributed the sum of 1,400 yen last year to the institution, but even if this donation be repeated this year, as to which no promise has been given, it is obviously insufficient to maintain the 76 patients, and dependence must be placed on the subscriptions of the charitably disposed. To them Father BERTRAND once again appeals and we feel sure that he will not appeal in vain.

CHINA'S FINANCIAL QUESTION.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 20.)

SOME time ago we ventured to point out that in the sequel of the pro-Republican insurrection, China would inevitably find herself in the position of a bankrupt over whose estate a receiver had been appointed. Of course this is only a manner of speaking. China is not really bankrupt. Far from it. She has ample resources, and the only trouble is that they are difficult of access, and that she cannot borrow money simply on the security of her national credit, but has to furnish tangible means of repayment. The one thing absolutely certain, however, is that she must have money in large amounts, and from that postulate we pass on to the obvious fact that she will be obliged to place her finances under the management of her creditors, which means that, for all practical purposes, her national estate will come into the hands of a receiver. In these circumstances very little ultimate importance attaches to the rumours now circulating in the sense that this Power or that is interfering to prevent the furnishing of funds. Such interference is futile, for in the end all the great Powers will inevitably be obliged to join hands, not only for filling China's coffers but also for protecting themselves against loss in the sequel of that operation. Some of our Tokyo contemporaries devote a large space to this problem, and write as though Mr. TANG SHAO I had committed a fatal blunder and had implicated YUAN SHIH-KAI in the consequences of the mistake. They speak as though Belgium were being used to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the Six Powers or the Four Powers or some other combination of States. But Belgian financiers are much too wide awake to suffer themselves to be played with in that fashion, and there need be no apprehension whatever of a real split in the ranks of the Occidental capitalists. They are bound by the past, and they will be still more securely bound by the future, to avert the risk of loss, which can be effected only by acting in faithful unison. After all it comes to this, that China, instead of being broken up into fragments forming spheres of interest for outside States, will be

cemented by a bond of the strongest possible type into a single estate whose resources will be developed under foreign guidance. Neither result can be viewed with much enthusiasm by Chinese patriots, but one end or the other has long menaced the great Eastern Empire, and may now be regarded as an accomplished fact. With such a result in certain sight, it is obviously futile to speculate on Belgian manoeuvres or to conceive any *tertius gaudens* on the scene. We may take it for granted that sooner or later—probably sooner—the capitalist countries of the Occident, in which category Japan is now included, will join hands on equal terms to solve this huge problem.

ANOTHER ALLIANCE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 20.)

A "DEUTSCHE-JAPAN POST" telegram states that it has been announced by the Portuguese Government that an offensive and defensive alliance has been concluded between Great Britain and Portugal for the protection of their respective colonies in the question of war and the invasion of these colonies by a hostile Power. This new Treaty must not be interpreted as anything approaching an epoch-making event. Since the days of the great Peninsular Wars, Britain has always assisted Portugal in its outside struggles. When we say "outside struggles," we mean when her independence was threatened by any Foreign Power. As to her internecine affairs, we have a recent illustration of Britain's aloofness, in the late transformation of a Monarchical Portugal into a Republican Portugal. One's family affairs are private, and interference is not acceptable. That has always been Britain's attitude and it has naturally on many occasions been the cause of her being called many hard names by those who thought she should have acted differently. The fact remains, however, that she has hitherto steered clear of family troubles outside her own.

It is not difficult to read between the lines of the brief telegram; but it is advisable to wait a few days until fuller details reach the Far East, before attempting to dilate upon or elucidate the real cause of the Treaty. Reference, however, may be made to the words in the telegram stating that "Great Britain promises an armed intervention in the case of an attack by either Spain or France against Portugal's Colonies." And also, that the "Azores and Cape Verde Islands will be fortified by Portugal with the financial assistance of Great Britain." At a cursory glance, this might be interpreted as a threat to both France and Spain; but a little mature consideration will convince every sensible student of world politics that it is nothing of the kind. For it must be obvious to all that the perfect understanding now existing between France and

Britain—as exemplified last year over the Moroccan Affair—and also the excellent relations between Spain and Britain, are proof positive that no threat is intended. It is perfectly safe to assume that both the French and Spanish Governments were kept *au courant* with the preliminary negotiations between Lisbon and London and that neither Power raised the slightest objection. In fact, we are inclined to lay greater stress upon the words “a hostile Power,” for that term would embrace any great country that cast covetous eyes upon Portugal’s Atlantic, African and Eastern possessions.

In this new alliance, the second Offensive and Defensive alliance that Great Britain has made for many, many years, one notes the Mother Country’s rapid drifting away from the old policy of “Splendid Isolation.” From the point of view of the Ego, one sincerely regrets the change. But from the swiftly altering conditions of circumstances, one realizes the necessity. *Tempora mutantur*; other measures have to be taken; and it is apparent why this Treaty has been created. It contributes to the safety of an important portion of the Atlantic Ocean for British Merchant vessels. It preserves intact Delegoa Bay, the key to the Transvaal in South Africa. It holds firm for many years the integrity of Portuguese colonies in Western and Central Africa; and it cries Halt! to any Power that dreamed of easily obtaining possession of these dependencies had they so desired. The alliance unmistakably throws huge responsibilities upon Great Britain in the event of any attempt to secure by force the ancient possessions of Portugal; but, at the same time, it promotes Britain’s strength and the safety of her trade routes; and also prevents accusations being hurled at her head of grabbing territory by either purchase or *force majeure*. One looks anxiously forward to further telegrams dealing with the sudden announcement, as the news to hand is so brief that it is impossible to discuss fully the new situation that has arisen.

FIELD MARSHAL HWANG.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 21)

FIELD MARSHAL HWANG’S attitude continues to be the problem of the hour in China. He adheres firmly to his resolution of standing aloof from the Provisional Government; but not even so much as an authentic hint has been given as to the cause of his reluctance to accept office. HWANG must have contemplated taking upon himself the functions of some high post in the Republican organization if the Insurrection headed by him should succeed. Thus far it has succeeded, and yet HWANG stands resolutely aloof, and declines to explain his motives even to SUN YAT-SEN. For the rest, events confirm the conjecture which we ventured to form a few days ago; namely,

that the leaders of the Republican insurrection have not much faith in the permanency of the system which they have led the nation to adopt. In some cases, personal apprehension is said to be the cause of their reluctance to join the Provisional Government. They do not care to trust themselves to the tender mercies of the Peking military mob, and they therefore prefer to remain at a distance from the capital. In fact, the whole business suggests a distinct lack of enthusiasm, and without enthusiasm and self-sacrifice, the colossal undertaking to which China has been committed, cannot possibly be carried to completion. Very different was the spirit that inspired the leaders of Japanese politics on the eve of the Meiji era. There was no hesitation there; nor any effective dread of possible consequences. The men that made Japan took their own lives in their hands and offered them up freely on the altar of their country’s cause.

THE FINANCIAL CRUX.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 21.)

FROM the telegrams and paragraphs published elsewhere in these columns, it will be seen that an unexpected position has been assumed by President YUAN and Premier TANG with reference to the financial problem. They are said to maintain that China reserves, and must always continue to reserve, the right of choosing her own creditors. Consequently, although she may be negotiating a loan from one group of foreign capitalists, that fact does not constitute any valid reason for refraining from all similar transactions with other groups. Legally, that position is doubtless unassailable. But the fact of its being assumed by the Chinese President and the Premier, seems to show that they have not grasped the cardinal principle underlying China’s present financial transactions. That principle is that there must be absolute unanimity among the foreign creditors, and that anything like competition between them is quite inconsistent with the attitude that China will be obliged to assume. All the Powers engaged in tiding over the present financial dilemma must act in perfect unity. The alternative is the partition of the Chinese realm with all its contingent catastrophes. We may take it for granted that the creditor States will insist upon dealing with a solid entity in the form of the Chinese State, and that neither Belgium nor any other Power will be suffered to impair that unity. If YUAN SHIKAI and TANG SHAO-I do not yet appreciate this fact, it is certain that they will have to appreciate it sooner or later, and therefore this talk about a legal right to go wherever they please in search of money is not only futile but tactless. China’s sole hope lies now in promoting the conditions which she formerly made it a main object of her foreign policy to prevent. She must seek to establish and maintain perfect unity between the Powers,

instead of dividing them against each other for the purpose of weakening their individual action.

CHINA’S DIFFICULTIES.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 22)

CHINA appears to be in a serious dilemma for want of money. It would seem that both debtors and creditors have resorted to the same device. If we may credit the stories diligently circulated, each side had recourse to identical tactics. That is to say, the Four-Powers Syndicate approached China with offers of pecuniary support without taking Russia and Japan into account, and China, for her part approached Belgium without taking the Four-Powers Syndicate into account. The result is a deadlock which some publicists regard as final, but others, whose opinion we venture to think more worthy of credence, maintain that these preliminary difficulties will be settled sooner or later. The salient facts are that China must have money and that the foreign Powers must find it for her. She must have money because, unless she can satisfy the claims of the troops now in process of disbandment, the whole of the realm will soon be in a state of anarchy; and the foreign Powers must find money for her, because, if they do not, the heavy debt which she already owes them will be jeopardized. These are the overwhelming factors of the situation, and they so greatly outweigh all other considerations that they will certainly prove omnipotent in the end. A good deal has been said about the mercenary exhibition which the people of China are now giving, since their conduct shows that the peace and even the very safety of the realm count far less in their estimation than one or two months’ salary. To Japanese eyes that appears especially shocking. But we have always to remember the peculiar circumstances which exist in China. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of men are constantly living there within sight of indigence. These virtual paupers constitute the main part of the mercenaries that serve in the ranks, and the loss of a few days’ pay may mean to them absolute starvation. Under such conditions the power of money is overwhelming, and we can easily conceive that with the example of Peking, Paoting and Tientsin staring them in the face, the Chinese soldiers may be tempted beyond the power of endurance to help themselves if the Government refuses to help them. In other words, they may prefer looting and murdering others to dying of starvation themselves. History will of course say that these things should have been foreseen by Chinese statesmen before they raised the flag of republicanism or imperialism. So they should, doubtless. But it is equally true that the situation now existing should have

been foreseen, in outline, at all events, by foreign publicists and capitalists. Nobody however, appears to have appreciated what the ultimate effect might be of educating China to believe that foreign capitalists were eagerly vying with each other for the privilege of lending money to her. Still less does anybody seem to have appreciated how much good money might ultimately have to be thrown after bad unless all the great Powers of the Occident faithfully joined hands to save the situation. We revert to our original estimate that nothing can now solve the problem except the appointment of an international receivership over the Chinese estate. That course may be wrapped up in whatever euphemisms European and American diplomats can devise for the purpose, but the hard fact will always remain indisputable.

A BANNERMEN'S COLONY.

An association formed by the Bannermen in Peking secretly distributed on the 14th instant amongst the Imperial Guards, the First Division, and the Manchu and Mongolian Bannermen a manifesto which, according to the *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent, reads:—"Since the Chinese Republic has come into existence 8,000,000 Bannermen have no means of obtaining a livelihood. A vast tract of fertile land exists in Eastern Mongolia just outside Chungkiakan. It would be possible for the Bannermen to obtain a livelihood if they emigrated there and followed agricultural and industrial pursuits, as it is possible to resist an invasion of the bandits, if we organize a militia composed of 1,000 men. The region is an ideal locality, where we Bannermen could live happy and prosperous lives. Further particulars will be given by secret correspondence if sympathisers will communicate with the Association within three days after receipt of this manifesto."

RISING IN NORTH MANCHURIA.

A bandit leader in North Manchuria has risen in revolt in Antung and Ansi districts, with the south-eastern part of East Mongolia as basis of operations. It is not yet known whether the insurrection has for its object the independence of Manchuria or the re-establishment of the Manchu dynasty, but it is clear that the insurgents are opposed to the Peking Government. General Wu of the Mukden garrison has been dispatched to the scene at the head of a detachment, for the suppression of the insurgents. It is also reported that a number of Russian troops have entered Chaonanfu and that agitation prevails in that town.

BARON CHINDA AT NEW YORK.

An official telegram from New York states that the Japan Society gave a banquet at the Astor Hotel on the 16th instant in honour of the new Ambassador, Baron Chinda. The banquet was attended by 400 people, and was the most brilliant dinner ever given by the Society. Baron Chinda's speech was received with loud applause. The most noteworthy speech was that delivered by Dr. Brawn, Director of the Board of Presbyterian Mission, which it is believed will have a salutary effect.

THE TOKYO TRAMWAY LOAN.

According to official investigations made into the distribution of the tramway purchase price, amounting to 64,580,000 yen, 41,700,000 yen or 64 per cent will go to Tokyo; 4,834,904 yen to Osaka; 2,627,784 yen to Kanagawa; 1,515,969 yen to Mie; 1,298,229 yen to Aichi, 955,374 yen to Kyoto, 936,108 yen to Niigata, 725,949 yen to Saitama and the balance to other prefectures. Viewed from the point of view of the position of the shareholders, stockbrokers head the list with 6,050,000 yen, followed by bankers with 3,790,000 yen. Noblemen come third with 1,570,000 yen, and insurance companies fourth with 1,350,000 yen.

THE RUSSIAN MINISTER TO TURKEY.

According to a St. Petersburg dispatch received at Vladivostok, the Russian Minister in Constantinople has abruptly sent in his resignation. M. Sazanoff, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, is disposed to urge him to remain in office, with a promise that his views will be accepted by the Government, but M. Kokovtseff, the Prime-Minister, insists on his recall. Owing to the difference of opinion the probable resignation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is rumoured.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER TO PEKING

According to an authoritative report, Mr. Ijuin, the Japanese Minister to Peking, is to return home very shortly to recuperate and also to confer with the home Government. His sojourn at home will extend about one month. The Minister will leave his family in Peking.

THE CHARGE AGAINST COUNT SHIGENOI.

As already briefly reported, Count Shigenoi was arrested on the 19th inst. on a writ issued by the Tokyo District Court, on a charge of fraud.

According to the vernacular press, last Autumn the Count applied to Mr. Yamamoto Hisaaki, Kogai-cho, Azabu, for a loan of 2,500 yen, stating that a precious heirloom, a gold screen, painted by a famous artist, which had been pledged for 2,500 yen, would go out of his possession unless he could redeem it. Mr. Yamamoto accordingly despatched an expert of his acquaintance to examine the screen, which was found to be perfectly genuine, and worth thousands of yen. Mr. Yamamoto then consented to advance to the Count the required sum, on condition that the screen should be held by him as security for the loan. The contract for the loan was about to be concluded between the Count and Mr. Yamamoto, when the latter had suddenly to start for Hokkaido on some business, and the negotiations were left unsettled till his return. It is alleged, however, that during the absence of Mr. Yamamoto the Count called on Mrs. Yamamoto, and stated that he had already arranged with Mr. Yamamoto to receive 2,500 yen from Mrs. Yamamoto in his absence. Mrs. Yamamoto accordingly handed him the money, placing full confidence in the Count's social position. Upon his return from Hokkaido, Mr. Yamamoto repeatedly demanded the screen as the security for the loan, but could not obtain it. Meanwhile it came to the knowledge of Mr. Yamamoto that the money advanced to the Count had been appropriated; not for the redemption of the screen, as the Count promised, but for the payment of debts contracted elsewhere. In consideration of the Count's

social status, it was not until his patience was exhausted that Mr. Yamamoto appealed to the Courts.

THE BRONZE STATUE OF THE LATE PRINCE KOMATSU.

As briefly reported the unveiling ceremony of the bronze statue at Ueno, erected in memory of the late Prince Komatsu, took place on the 18th instant. Favoured by fair weather, the function was a great success.

The ceremony commenced at 11.30, those attending besides the promoters, Marquis Matsukata, Admiral Togo, Generals Ito and Oku, Baron Ozawa, etc., including Marquis Saionji, Prince Inouye, Admirals Kamimura and Ijuin, Generals Nogi, and Kawamura, Lieutenant General Fukushima, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, Baron Ishiguro, Surgeon-General Viscount Suematsu, Governor Abe and other naval and military officers, higher officials of the Imperial Household, and chiefs of the different Branches of the Red Cross Society. About eleven o'clock Princess Komatsu arrived, accompanied by General Prince Fushimi, Prince and Princess Kanin, and Prince Kitashirakawa.

The function opened with the reading by Baron Ozawa, chief of the Construction Committee, of a brief report on the work, from which it appeared that the statue was commenced in January last year.

The statue was then slowly unveiled by Princess Komatsu. The tall, impressive figure of the late Prince is shown mounted on the back of his favourite horse. The statue is erected on a stone pedestal measuring some fourteen feet square.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, March 15.

The market opened yesterday inactive, the movement either way being limited to a fraction. A weak tone prevailed toward the close of the session.

Saturday, March 16.

The market opened dull on Saturday last and quotations were rather weak. A weaker tone developed towards the close and shares generally witnessed a slight collapse.

Monday, March 18.

The market yesterday opened inactive, and only small business was transacted. The market showed a slight improvement towards the close.

Tuesday, March 19.

The market yesterday opened inactive as before, but the underlying tone was firm. Nearly all shares rallied. The tone radically improved towards the close and shares jumped up in prices.

Wednesday, March 20.

The market yesterday opened active, but the tone began to collapse toward the close and quotations were rather irregular. The following were the closing prices for forwards:

Mar. 19th. Mar. 20th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	...	...	...
Yusen Kaisha	118.05	118.20	+
Toyo Kisen	46.65	46.00	-
Specie Bank.....	...	...	...
Tanko Kisen	25.45	25.40	-
Tokyo Gas	73.00	72.95	-
Tokyo Dento	72.55	72.90	+
Fuji Gas Spinning	87.75	88.80	+
Tokyo Spinning	53.80	54.70	+
Kanagafuchi Spinning	109.40	109.95	+
Beer	88.80	86.05	-
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	68.50	68.90	+
Nippon Oil	74.60	74.75	+
Rice Exchange.....	115.35	115.30	-
Stock Exchange	169.35	168.95	-

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 18.

Yuan Shih-kai puts forward a proposal for the creation of twelve Departments, that is, Foreign Affairs; Home Affairs; Finance; Education; War; Navy; Justice; Agriculture and Forestry; Industry and Mining; Commerce and Fisheries; Communications; and Posts and Telegraphs. The State Council has, however, decided in favour of ten departments, that is, Agriculture and Forestry; Industry and Commerce; War; Navy; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Home Affairs; Justice; Education; and Communications.

TROUBLE NEAR CHEFOO.

Chefoo, March 14.

An American warship arrived here from Taku on the 13th and the Japanese warship *Otowa* from Chinwangtao on the 14th instant.

A disquieting situation prevails in Laisan district, about 40 Chinese li to the south of the town. The magistrate dispatched 120 soldiers there on the 14th instant.

THE SOLDIERS' PAY.

Mukden, March 15.

The Mukden Provincial Assembly adopted a resolution on the 14th instant that the Government officials drawing salaries over 80 taels a month should contribute $2\frac{1}{2}$ taels for each 80 taels towards the fund for the increase of salaries of soldiers and policemen. It has also been decided to raise a general subscription. The resolution was unanimously approved in view of the recent disturbances in Peking and North China.

THE RUSSIAN GARRISON.

Changchun, March 14.

About 600 Russian officers and men, with two machine guns and 100 horses, are to leave Changchun for North China on or about the 14th instant for reinforcement of the Russian garrison.

THE SITUATION AT CANTON.

Canton, March 14.

Sung Tsi-kuang and Lu Lan-ting are making joint efforts to mediate between the new army and the revolutionary troops, and thus there is a prospect of a peaceful settlement of the trouble, but in view of the close relations existing between Lu Lan-ting and Wang Ho-shun, the future situation does not appear very hopeful. The magistrate openly announced that he had no alternative but to resign, taking the whole responsibility on himself.

Telegraphic communication between Hongkong and Canton is still suspended.

Canton, March 14.

A pacific settlement has been effected between the contending armies and order and peace are being gradually restored in the city. The two British cruisers left for Hongkong at 5 p.m. on the 12th instant.

INDEPENDENCE OF MONGOLIA.

Harbin, March 14.

As a result of a mass meeting held by representatives of Eastern and Western Mongolia, a declaration has been issued announcing the establishment of a strong independent State under the protection of Russia, with its capital at Kulon.

A VICEROY DEGRADED.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports

that according to a telegram from Changkiakau, Inner and Outer Mongolia have entered into an alliance with Shensi and Kansu provinces and openly declare their opposition to the republican government of China. Viceroy Changkeng of Shen-kan provinces, being deemed a public enemy to Yuan Shih-kai's Government, has been deprived of the titles and decorations conferred on him by the Manchu Government.

THE FOUR POWERS' LOAN.

The representatives of the Four Powers' syndicate have had an interview with Tang Shao-i, when the 400 million taels loan contract was signed. Yuan Shih-kai's Government have stipulated for advances in small instalments. Russia and Japan will participate in the loan. It is believed that the creditor countries will secure the right of supervision over China's finances, but the details will be kept secret.

FIGHTING AT SWATOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Swatow, March 16.

At 3 p.m. on the 15th instant the two rival armies collided. The fighting lasted until 7.30, when the Chin army retreated into the fortress. Rifle bullets flew in the neighbourhood of the Japanese warship *Suma* in the harbour, and several bullets hit the warship. Two parties of blue-jackets were landed for the protection of the Consulates, Post Office, and the Swatow branches of the Banks.

CONDITIONS AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, March 15.

Internal strife is in evidence between the two sections of the Wuchang army, but it is not likely that it will lead to any serious consequences. No attempt has been made to disband the troops organized during the war. The disbandment of the troops will give rise to a troublesome question.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Shanghai, March 16.

Yuan Shih kai has recommended Lan Tien-wei to the portfolio of the Navy. Final decision will be made in two or three days.

COOLIES BOARD AN OIL STEAMER.

Shanghai, March 15.

When the warship *Fushimi* was proceeding to Shanghai on the 14th instant, she was called upon by a Standard Oil Company's steamer for assistance. The *Fushimi* dropped anchor alongside. The captain of the foreign steamer informed him that about 150 Chinese coolies had come on board and forcibly demanded employment, under a threat that they would set the steamer on fire, if their request were not complied with, and proceeded to create a disturbance. On the approach of the *Fushimi*, however, the coolies deserted. The departure of the *Fushimi* was postponed a day in response to the request of the captain of the steamer.

CHINESE WARSHIPS.

Chefoo, March 16.

The Chinese warships *Haiyung* and *Haitan*, which left Taku on the evening of the 15th instant, arrived at Chefoo at noon to-day.

THE TROUBLE AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, March 16.

Various disquieting rumours point to internal trouble in Wuchang. On inquiry, it was found that the trouble has already been

amicably settled. General Sun Wu has consented to return to Wuchang as military adviser to the magistracy.

VICEROYS ABOLISHED.

Peking, March 17.

The titles of Viceroy and Deputy-Viceroy have been abolished, in favour of "magistrate." Telegraphic advice has been issued to the Viceroys and Deputy-Viceroys in the Three Eastern provinces.

RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Mukden, March 16.

About 600 Russian reinforcements arrived at Mukden on the 15th instant en route for Northern China. After a short rest the troops started for Peking by the Peking-Mukden railway.

PROTEST AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, March 16.

A few days ago the soldiers under Lan Tien-wei fired shots in the streets of Chefoo. The British Consul, who witnessed the firing, brought the matter to the notice of the Consular Body, who issued to the magistrate an official note on the 16th instant, asking him to prohibit shooting or holding of drill in the mixed residential quarter, and also not to store explosives or perform any act that might tend to endanger the public safety.

THE MAGISTRATE OF SHANTUNG.

Chefoo, March 16.

The Shantung Provisional Assembly telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai on the 16th inst., that the assembly has elected Hu Ying, who enjoys great popularity in the province, as Magistrate. If Yuan withholds his consent to the appointment, the people of Shantung will rise in arms.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

Peking, March 16.

The Belgian capitalists have made a proposition for participating in the Four Powers' loan. The syndicate is now considering the admission or otherwise of the Belgian syndicate.

It seems very probable that a Seven Powers' syndicate will come into existence.

THE NEW MINISTER OF WAR.

Peking, March 16.

With reference to the candidate for the War portfolio, Hwang Hsing is said to have recommended Tuan Chih-jui, who in turn recommended Hwang to the post. They are both determined not to accept it. Consequently it has been decided to assign the portfolio to Tuan Chih-chi.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 17.

To-day's issue of the Chinese newspaper *Chunghua* reports that owing to a telegraphic communication received from Yuan Shih-kai, the Nanking Government has introduced some modifications in the personnel of the coalition Ministry as under. The revised list is to be submitted to the decision of the State Council:—

Minister of Foreign Affairs	Liu Cheng-chang
War	Lan Tien-wei
Justice	Wang Chung-hui
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Finance	Hsiung Chi-lin
War	Tuan Chih-jui
Commerce	Liu Ping-yen
Industry	Chen Tun-ping
Communication	Chen Chi-mei
Agriculture and Forestry	Sung Chiao-jen
Education	Fan Won-lien
Posts and Telegraphs	Liang Shih-i

CONDITIONS AT SWATOW.

Swatow, March 17.

A detachment of the medical staff of the Japanese warship *Suma* was landed on the 16th instant for the relief of the wounded. Little fighting took place in the town. The Chen army, which retreated into the fortress on the 15th instant, has since dispersed, and no soldiers are to be seen in the fortress to-day. A house-to-house visitation is being conducted to see if any soldiers of the Chen army are concealed in the town. Looting is not now so rampant.

Swatow, March 17.

Peace and order having been restored in the town the detachment of the naval brigade was withdrawn on the 17th instant.

Swatow, March 17.

The mediation between the Chen and Lin armies having ended in failure, the two armies crossed arms in the town at about 2.30 p.m. on the 15th instant. Rifle reports were first heard in the northern part of the town and gradually shifted to the centre, a fierce battle being fought in the neighbourhood of the Swatow branch of the Bank of Formosa. The Chen army commenced to retreat towards the fortress, located in the eastern part of the town, at about 5 o'clock, and they were seen running in disorder along the street in front of the Japanese Consulate. A detachment of the naval brigade was landed from the warship *Suma* at about 5 o'clock and the Consulate, Post Office, Bank of Formosa, and Taotai's yamen were guarded. Looting is reported in the town. The Japanese residents are all safe and none of them apparently sustained any damage.

Swatow, March 17.

The soldiers of the Chen army all fled from the town and the town is now under occupation of the Lin army. General Lin has notified the Consular Body that peace will be quickly restored. The detachment landed from the *Suma* has been withdrawn.

TANG SHAO-I.

Shanghai, March 17.

Tang Shao-i left Shanghai for Nanking on the 17th instant.

THE PROHIBITION OF EXPORT.

Shanghai, March 17.

According to a report received from the Japanese Consul in Changsha, the military Government officially notified the Consular Body there that the prohibition of the export of beans and wheat enforced since last year would be discontinued on and after the 20th instant.

MOUNTED BANDITS.

Hsinmintun, March 17.

The troops detached to Fakumen for the suppression of the mounted bandits frequenting that district have withdrawn to Hsinmintun, after having captured 13 bandits. The bandits generally make their appearance after the withdrawal of the troops. The police in various localities are on the self-defence, assisted by the local people. The bandits are rampant in Chang-wu and Chinan districts, and a sense of uneasiness prevails.

ARREST AT TSINGTAO.

Shanghai, March 17.

Lin I-chen, who some time ago proceeded to Tsingtao, has been arrested by the Tsingtao authorities and brought up to the law courts for trial. The Court deemed his presence at Tsingtao detrimental to public peace and subjected him to a 3,000 yen fine.

The prisoner was afterwards deported to Shanghai.

MILITARY CHANGES.

Peking, March 17.

General Wa Lung-piao, the new commander of the Army Division in Tsinan, arrived there on the 15th instant to take charge of the business. General Wu Ting-yuan, the old commander, will come up to Peking very shortly.

AMERICAN TROOPS.

Chefoo, March 17.

Five hundred American troops were landed at Taku to-day.

Peking, March 18.

According to a Washington telegram the two battalions of the American 15th Regiment now stationed in North China will be reinforced by 600 men. The American troops in the Philippines will also be reinforced by about 3,500 men. These reinforcements have already left home for Manila.

SITUATION AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, March 17.

A rumour is current that a detachment of Chang Tso-lin's assassination party has entered the town. The local authorities are subjecting all suspicious-looking men to close scrutiny. The town is extremely unquiet.

TROUBLE AT WUHU.

Shanghai, March 17.

A Wuhu dispatch reaching here reports that the soldiers stationed there are exacting money and other articles, under threats of violence. A sense of insecurity prevails among the citizens.

FOREIGN TROOPS AT TIENSIN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Tientsin, March 18.

About 600 Russian officers and men arrived at Tientsin on the 17th instant, a portion of whom will proceed to Peking. About 450 American soldiers also arrived here on the same day.

Peking, March 18.

The reinforcements of the German, American and Russian troops in North China, who arrived at Tientsin are as under:—German:—102 naval officers and blue-jackets from Tsingtao on the 15th; America:—461 officers and men and a military band from Manila on the 17th; Russia:—605 officers and men, with 101 horses and 4 machine guns, from Harbin on the 17th instant.

THE FIGHTING AT SWATOW.

Swatow, March 18.

On inquiries made on the 16th instant it was found that many Japanese houses showed bullet marks, but the residents are all safe. A nationalized Formosan had his property plundered. The steamship *Suchow Maru* in the harbour was also hit by bullets and a coolie was killed. The American naval brigade landed at 4 p.m. on the 15th and guarded the piers and Custom House. No damage is reported among the foreign residents. The conflagration and disturbances ceased towards the same evening, but the Lin army re-commenced its movement at dawn on the 16th and made an onslaught on the Chamber of Commerce located inside the town and collided with the rival army in the neighbourhood of the Japanese Post Office. The Chen army was routed and retreated, leaving a few bodies on the street. The soldiers captured by the Lin army during the past two days were

subsequently shot. The casualties numbered over 100 on both sides. Looting is being committed occasionally, but it is now quite safe to venture out on the streets. The shops are all closed and business transactions are suspended. Great inconvenience is felt by residents in the purchase of daily necessities.

THE SHANGHAI MAGISTRACY.

Shanghai, March 19.

The dearth of funds of the Shanghai Magistracy has now reached a climax, and the authorities are so badly in need of money that they have commenced to make forced loans from rich people. In some cases they are holding up the children of wealthy people to forcibly demand loans from their parents.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Peking, March 18.

Yuan Shih-kai has appointed Chao Erh-sun to the Magistracy of the three Eastern Provinces and Hu Yung, to that of Shantung province. Yuan also nominated Lan Tien-wei to the Naval portfolio, but Lan declined to accept it.

THREATENED DISTURBANCES AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, March 19.

A rumour is current that the soldiers stationed in the southern part of Shanghai contemplate starting disturbances. The situation appears threatening. Some people believe that the soldiers are dissatisfied with their pay being in arrear while others attribute it to rowdiness. The authorities are making efforts to pacify the soldiers.

DISTURBANCES SUPPRESSED.

Chefoo, March 18.

The disturbances in Wenting and Ying-ching have been suppressed. The new chief of the civil administration having arrived at Wenting, Lien Cheng-chi, commander of the Lu army, returned to Chefoo on the 16th instant with the 300 men under his command.

ORDER OF CHEFOO MAGISTRACY.

Chefoo, March 18.

The Chefoo Magistracy sent to the Consular Body a circular note on the 16th instant, informing them that the exportation of millet and wheat would be prohibited until further notice, for fear of a dearth of food-stuffs in the town, owing to the increase of troops stationed there.

BANDIT RIOTS.

Shanghai, March 18.

Bandits have risen in riot in the neighbourhood of Nanchang in Kiangsi province. They have been joined by the new army stationed there and are plundering the people with impunity. The situation is rather critical.

FRENCH TROOPS IN SZCHUAN.

Honkong, March 18.

In view of the disturbances in Szechuan province remaining still unsuppressed, France is said to have concentrated her troops from Yunnan in that province.

THE SHOOTING OF A FOREIGNER.

Tientsin, March 18.

Yuan Shih-kai is now in negotiation with the German Minister concerning the compensation payable for the German physician who was killed during the recent disturbances in Tientsin. It is stated that Yuan has informally decided to pay 100,000 dollars to the bereaved family.

THE CHINESE MINISTRY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 19.

It is reported that Yuan Shih-kai, on con-

that news from Nanking states that a belief obtains amongst the revolutionary leaders that the collapse of Yuan Shih kai's Government is imminent and many look to Tsen Chun-hsuan as the President. The nomination of Tsen to the magistracy of Shen-kan provinces is considered as a prelude to his nomination to the Presidency. Although it is a fact that Tsen's influence is gradually gaining an ascendancy over that of Yuan Shih-kai, it is thought that Tsen is too clever a man to rush to the front.

A pessimistic view obtains as to the future of the Republic and a rumour is current that the fall of Yuan Shih-kai will take place within another month.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

REVISION OF PRESS LAW.

The Press Law Revision Bill committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 14th instant.

Mr. Muramatsu remarked that at the time when the present Press Law was introduced the Government delegate explicitly announced the suspension prescribed in Article 19 would be put into practice only on special occasions, but this had not been the case. The retention of the provision was contrary to the spirit in which the House gave consent to the present law. The speaker asked the number of cases of suspension of publication ordered since the present law came into force.

Mr. Hiranuma, Government parliamentary delegate, stated that the suspensions numbered 33 cases in the 43rd and 30 cases in the 44th fiscal year, but the Government took all possible care in putting the law in motion.

In response to a further question Mr. Hiranuma stated the Government opposed the proposed revision, as it considered suspension and prohibition of publication necessary for the maintenance of public safety and good morals. The prohibition of the issue of newspapers was enforced very seldom, the newspapers whose publication had been prohibited under the law during the past three years not exceeding three, these being the *Tokyo, Bansaï and Shikai Shinbun*. Replying to a question Mr. Hiranuma said that in twelve cases the real editors had been punished along with the nominal editors.

Mr. Matsuda remarked that the proposed revision had for its object drawing a line of delimitation between the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution and the limits in which the Government could properly interfere with such freedom, and the Government should maintain a lenient attitude in the matter. He thought that, excepting cases of disclosure of State or military secrets, suspension alone would answer the purpose, and the publication of offending newspapers need not be entirely prohibited.

After some further discussion, the committee decided to request the presence of the Minister of Justice to answer any questions that the committee may raise.

The committee then rose.

The Press Law Revision Bill committee of the House of Representatives resumed its sitting on the 16th instant.

Mr. Hiranuma, Government parliamentary delegate, stated that after mature consideration the Government failed to find it necessary to alter its attitude toward the Bill, to which it could not consent.

Mr. Saito spoke against the revision of Article 19 and moved that the article should be left unreviised.

The motion was carried and the Bill was approved by the Committee with this amendment.

REVISION OF ELECTION LAW.

The Election Law Revision Bill committee of

the House of Peers resumed its sitting on the afternoon of the 14th instant.

After interpellations, the committee entered on a debate for and against the proposed substitution of small electorate areas for larger ones.

Mr. Arinami spoke against the Bill and his views were endorsed by Viscount Matsudaira, Baron Kubota and several other members. Mr. Kamada spoke in support of the Bill.

On a division the small electorate area system was vetoed by 15 votes against two.

The committee decided to appoint a sub-committee to further investigate the details of the Bill.

It is stated that the House will introduce a new Bill framed by the Saiwai Club, which is based on the large electorate area system.

OLD AGE PENSION BILL.

The Old Age Pension Bill Committee of the House of Representatives sat on the 15th instant, when Mr. Fukumoto, who introduced it to the House, explained the Bill.

Mr. Wa'anabe remarked that such legislation was calculated to destroy the fine custom of mutual assistance traditionally existing in Japan, and also asked, even presuming the necessity of such a law, whether the Government thought it practicable.

Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs stated in reply that the Government opposed the Bill. Relief regulations were promulgated thirty eight years ago by which 200,000 yen was annually voted for the relief of indigents. The money was used for undertakings which would give work to the indigent instead of being distributed direct. The Government was anxious to make the people support themselves, instead of relying on the aid of the State. The Government thought such legislation was rather premature.

Mr. Fukumoto remarked that the aged indigents who committed suicide through sheer distress numbered about one thousand a year, as statistics showed. Would the Government see that the relief regulations were effectively enforced?

Mr. Tokonami admitted the inadequacy of the relief measure now in force, but said he thought pecuniary relief alone was insufficient.

The proceedings were adjourned to further consider the effect which the enforcement of the proposed relief measure was likely to have on the life of the nation.

The committee then rose.

THE GRAND EXHIBITION.

The Grand Exhibition Bill committee of the House of Representatives resumed its sitting on the 16th instant.

Mr. Moriya asked whether the Government would participate in the Grand Exhibition to be held in San Francisco in 1915, and also pointed out the discrepancy of the views expressed in the House by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce and the Minister of Finance, the former Minister saying that the financial conditions did not permit the holding of an Exhibition in 1917, while the Minister of Finance stated that the appropriation would possibility not affect the finances.

Mr. Yamamoto stated in reply that the Government desired to take part in the San Francisco Exhibition, but the matter was not yet settled by the Cabinet Council. He had said that the holding of the Exhibition in 1917, after postponement had been decided upon, would upset the financial programme for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Kawasaki moved that if the Government found it impossible to hold the Exhibition, it should be left to either municipal or private enterprise, to which the Government should give adequate support.

The amendment was approved and the committee decided in favour of the Bill.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 p.m. on the 16th instant.

After interpellations on the laxity of official discipline and the additional impost on the land tax had been brought forward an explained,

Mr. Mitani introduced an interpellation on the Government's commercial and industrial policy. In the course of the interpellation Mr. Mitani stated that some doubt existed as to whether the policy outlined to the House by the Minister of Finance was conducive to the object of checking the excess of imports and making Japan an exporting country. Japan was deeply in debt and her imports exceeded her exports. No country in the world had ever made development in similar circumstances, and the future of this country was a cause of grave concern. Which of the two,—agricultural or industrial products,—did the Government think most hopeful for promoting the export trade? If the Government thought it was the latter, did not the Government think it necessary to inquire into the causes of the industrial depression at present obtaining with a view to taking remedial measures?

Replying to the question, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, stated that the Government had in no case neglected to encourage the export trade. In more than fifty kinds of domestic products, the annual production exceeded 1,000,000 yen, and the number was gradually increasing. A pessimistic view of the future of Japan's trade was unwarrantable. The causes for the unfavourable balance of trade were diverse, but the scarcity of raw materials, the difference in taste, and the evil of the production of inferior goods deserved special mention amongst the causes of the depression of the export trade. There was a prospect of producing raw materials in Formosa and other colonies, and there were ways and means of studying the taste of foreign customers. It was also possible to eradicate the evils of reckless production of inferior articles. As almost all articles for domestic consumption were now manufactured at home, it was desirable that people should cultivate the habit of using domestic articles. It would help forward domestic industry. The Government made it a principle to supply its needs with home made articles. The trade returns for the past decade showed that there was little or no increase in the export of agricultural products, while industrial articles had made rapid progress. The Government therefore attached more importance to the encouragement of industrial products. The Government also placed much importance on the trade with South China and the South Sea islands, and a number of commercial commissioners had been dispatched to those regions to study measures for widening the market for home-made articles.

The Bill relating to a revision of the banking law was next dealt with and referred to a special committee.

After numerous Representations had been taken up for consideration, Mr. Muto, chairman of the Petition committee, introduced a representation that those petitions which the House approved and forwarded to the Government for consideration, should be investigated and reported on in the next session of the Diet.

Mr. Okano, Government parliamentary delegate, said that while the Government fully respected the right of petition of the House, under the present law, in which each session was independent, it was impossible to transfer a Bill from one session to another. The present representation was impracticable unless the Law of the House of Representatives was revised.

The House rose at 4.25 p.m.

The House of Peers sat at 10 a.m. on the 16th instant.

Bills relating to the pension of judicial officials in Chosen, the revision of the insurance law, and the revision of the Tobacco Monopoly were discussed and referred to special committees.

A few Bills of minor importance were also dealt with before the House rose at 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 a.m. on Monday morning. Amongst the eleven Bills dealt with was that relating to the compensation payable to the sealers, which was referred to a special

committee after being explained by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

The Bill relating to connective services with the Russian railway and steamers was adopted with some amendments.

The Customs Tariff Revision Bill, which relates to the proposed exemption of chlorate of potash from import duty, was approved, the chairman of the special committee having reported in favour of the revision.

The House rose at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on Tuesday afternoon. At the outset Mr. Arakawa brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which he asked if the Government did not think Dr. Yamakawa's criticism, published in the *Fukuoka Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, on the suicide committed by a Moji station official in connexion with the derailment of the Imperial train, was inconsistent with the fundamental idea of the national spirit. He raised the interpellation because the criticism was uttered by such an eminent educational authority as Dr. Yamakawa, who holds the presidency of the Kyushu University. Reply was reserved. The House was still sitting at the time the last report was received from Tokyo.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTION LAW REVISION BILL.

The House of Peers sat at 10.10 on Wednesday morning.

The Bill relating to the Chosen Hospital was first dealt with and referred to a special Committee.

After a few more Bills relating to a proposed revision of the Industrial Bank Law, etc. had been similarly disposed of, the Election Law Revision Bill was taken up for discussion, when Baron Arichi, Chairman of the special committee, reported that it had been decided to introduce radical amendments into the Bill.

Mr. Morita spoke in favour of the small electorate system and Baron Kubota said that he did not oppose either the large or small electorate systems, but he did not approve of the Bill.

On the sitting being resumed at 1 o'clock after a recess, Mr. Kamada spoke in support of the Bill, and said that the experience of the past decade clearly proved the advantage of the small electorate system.

Mr. Hodzumi said that while he approved the increase of the number of members of the Lower House, he could not support the small electorate system. He cited copiously the examples of foreign countries to prove the superiority of the large electorate system and thus supported the amendments introduced by the special committee of the House.

Mr. Murata also spoke in support of the large electorate system.

Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, refuted the arguments raised in opposition to the Bill.

A motion for the rejection of the committee's amendments was defeated by 239 to 28, and the Bill as amended was approved.

The Bill relating to a revision of the Law of Criminal Procedure was referred to a special committee, but the Pilot Law Revision Bill and two other minor Bills were rejected.

The House rose at 4 p.m.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY.

In the House of Representatives on the 19th instant, Mr. Hattori, of the Popular Party, brought in an interpellation on Japan's diplomatic policy *vis-à-vis* the United States, especially in regard to the immigration question. In the course of his remarks Mr. Hattori stated that the Alien Immigration Law Revision Bill introduced to the U.S. Senate, evidently classed the Japanese amongst disqualified immigrants, which was an insult to the dignity of the Empire. He learned that an amendment was introduced by a senator to provide an exception to the general rule. While it

seemed that the amendment recognized the freedom of immigration of Japanese subjects, the United States regarded Japanese as disqualified aliens. Why did not the Government attempt to obtain a final solution of the question? The United States Government upholds the Monroe Doctrine as part of its immigration policy. Japan must fix her national policy to counteract this, and the Government must take adequate measures to deal with the disgrace and humiliation to which the nation is subjected in the United States. The speaker then proceeded to point out that the amendment to the Anglo-American General Arbitration Treaty adopted by the Senate was of importance to Japan and explained the reasons at some length. Mr. Hattori remarked that it was self contradictory for Americans, who preached the equality of man and the brotherhood of all nations, to attempt to accord differential treatment to Japanese in the matter of immigration. He would like to draw the attention of Americans to the matter for the sake of humanity, and at the same time would ask Mr. Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, how he proposes to solve a question which affects the dignity of the Empire.

Mr. Sasaki brought forward an interpellation concerning Japan's China policy. He said that the principles of territorial integrity and non-interference did not necessarily co-exist. Which of these two principles would the Government adopt in the case of a conflict? The Government advocated the non interference policy. Would it maintain the same attitude if the Imperialists rose in Manchuria or Mongolia in future? Did the Government think the recent disturbances in Peking a mere ephemeral incident, or did it think they betokened a national calamity? After attacking the China policy pursued by the Government in the strongest possible terms, the speaker pointed out that whereas the Government upheld the monarchical polity in the early stages of the Chinese Revolution, it supported the Republican polity towards the close. Such a policy was not calculated to command public confidence. The peculiar position Japan occupied in China must differentiate her from all other Powers, and the Chinese disturbances affected Japan more directly than they did other Powers. Instead of taking the initiative in China the Government followed the line of policy dictated by Great Britain. In reply to a question by Mr. Inukai, Viscount Uchida had declared in the House that Japan had maintained strict neutrality throughout. If so, the action of Minister Ijuin, who forced a monarchical polity on Yuan Shih-kai, must be strongly condemned, and the Government must take action to clear away the suspicions attached to Japan's attitude. Mr. Sasaki further stated that the Government had affronted Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and other revolutionists to show its good will towards the Manchu Government. Have the Government treated the opponents of Yuan Shih-kai's Government similarly? In conclusion the speaker made a reference to the Six Powers' loan, and stated that the Government must be prepared to receive proposals for second or third loans.

Mr. Saiga brought forward an interpellation on the Government's policy of checking the importation of foreign-made goods. In the course of his explanation of the interpellation, Mr. Saiga remarked that it was urgently needed that the supply of railway, electric and gas materials should be sought in the home market. Efforts should not be restricted to negative measures, but positive measures must be taken to extend the market for home products in China and abroad. The creation of a special monetary organ was needed to finance the manufacture at home of machines and other materials. What was the Government view on this question? The speaker finally asked the reason why the manufacture of rails under 50 pounds had been discontinued by the Government Iron Foundry.

The Government reserved answers to all three interpellations, and the House then entered on the

discussion of the Bills included in the Order of the Day.

After seven Bills of minor importance had been dealt with, the question of granting *post-facto* consent to the extra outlay made in the 43rd fiscal year was taken up for discussion. A rather heated debate took place on the legal aspect of the matter, it being held by one section that an outlay made over and above the Budget was unconstitutional. The justice of the argument was generally admitted but it was advocated that *post-facto* consent should be given according to established usage. The latter opinion prevailed and the House decided in favour of it.

The Press Law Revision Bill was brought up, when Mr. Matsuda, Chairman of the special committee, reported that the committee decided in favour of the revision.

Mr. Muramatsu spoke in support of the Bill, which was passed.

After another Bill relating to the land tax in afflicted districts had been discussed and vetoed, the House rose at 5.40 p.m.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.10 on the 20th inst.

Mr. Muto brought forward an interpellation, in the course of which he asked the policy of the Government in regard to the Iron Foundry, and also what relations existed between the Wakamatsu Iron Foundry and the Taiya Iron mine in China. Mr. Muto pointed out that the iron imported annually amounted to 700,000 tons, but the home production did not exceed 200,000 tons. Had the Government any idea of further developing the home iron industry?

Reply was reserved.

Mr. Ishibashi also asked whether the Government had or had not an idea of recovering the right of construction of submarine cables on the maturity of the agreement existing between it and the Great Northern Telegraph Company which expired in December next.

Reply was also reserved.

Mr. Kurahara brought forward an interpellation concerning the social policy of the Government and the increase in the price of commodities, in the course of which he remarked that the struggle for existence was so keen that even educated young men found it impossible to find employment. To make matters worse, the price of commodities had of late risen abnormally. Could not the Government devise adequate relief measures?

Reply was reserved.

The House then entered into a discussion of the Bills included in the Order of the Day. While business was in progress, a report was received that the House of Peers had vetoed the Election Law Revision Bill. The Order of the Day was therefore altered, and the House proceeded to elect delegates for a conference with the House of Peers in regard to the amendments introduced to the Bill. The amendment of the Bill is said to be so thorough that almost all clauses are struck out, excepting the one relating to the increase of the number of members of the House to 450 and the penalty clauses.

Ten delegates were duly elected, who will sit in conference with the delegates of the House of Peers on the 22nd instant.

The House rose at 5.50 p.m.

THE JAPANESE EDUCATIONAL WORLD IN 1911.

The Dōbunkan has now taken to the practice of issuing quarterly reports on important events arranged under six headings: Politics, Diplomacy, Finance, Economy and Law. The title given to the work is *Jiji Shūroku* (時事集録). Each volume runs to about 340 or 350 pages, the same size as those of the *Taiyō*. These compilations are issued in January, April, July and October every year. The four volumes cost 1 yen 80 sen per annum, a marvel of cheapness when it is considered that some 1,400 pages of matter is supplied for this money. As a great many

readers of the *Japan Mail* are interested in education and as many of the decisions come to by the authorities are very inadequately and often inaccurately reported in the local foreign press, I propose to extract from the official records reproduced in the *Dōbunkan* volumes such material as seems to me deserving of the attention of the foreign public.

THE ŌSAKA UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

The project of converting the present Medical School in Ōsaka into a Daigaku has been discussed on and off for several years past. The Department of Education has all along been opposed to the opening of one-faculty universities, and so all the applications hitherto made to the Department have been rejected. But the difficulty seems now likely to be overcome, as there is a strong movement on foot in favour of establishing a College of Engineering and a College of Commerce in Ōsaka. Such influential citizens as Messrs. Koyama, Suzuki and Nakahashi are interesting themselves greatly in the project. In the meantime the Head of the Ōsaka Medical School is urging the necessity of making a University Medical Department the nucleus of the Ōsaka University, and this step is likely to be taken as soon as the necessary funds are available.

JAPANESE STUDYING ABROAD.

According to statistics published at the end of March last there were 124 Japanese studying at the expense of the Department of Education 93 special subjects in eleven different foreign countries. The following table shows the total number of students despatched during the Meiji era. In 1875, 11; in 1897, 26;* in 1898, 14; in 1899, 57; in 1900, 40; in 1901, 42; in 1902, 48; in 1903, 34; in 1904, 12; in 1905, 17;† in 1906, 49; in 1907, 30; in 1908, 44; in 1909, 41; in 1910, 34. While some go, others of course constantly return. The largest number of men studying abroad in any one year is put down at 130, in the year 1909. In some cases Japan has reaped great benefit from the study carried on by her young men in foreign countries. But the general opinion seems to be that on the whole the plan of sending the teachers of High Schools and others abroad has yielded very meagre results. Many of those who have been sent have come back without any knowledge that could not have been as easily acquired here from books as from the foreign Professors to whose lectures they have listened.

CHINESE STUDENTS IN JAPAN.

A few months before the outbreak of the Revolution, the number of Chinese studying in Japan stood at 3,219 males and 3,749 females. Of the male students not more than 15 per cent. entered Government schools. The Chinese, for various reasons, seem to prefer private schools and private universities. The majority of the Chinese girls studying in Japan have been receiving special training for acting as governesses in private families or for conducting schools in their own country.

THE EDUCATIONAL REFORMS THE KATSURA GOVERNMENT CLAIM TO HAVE EFFECTED.

Some months ago a very lengthy article entitled *Katsura Naikaku no Kyōiku Shisetsu* (The Administration of Education by the Katsura Cabinet) appeared in the *Kokumin Shimbun*, Prince Katsura's organ. This article is given in full in the October *Fiji Shūroku*. It contains much information on the changes made in Japan's school system during the four years Mr. Komatsubara was Minister of Education. Without going into tedious details, I will endeavour to indicate precisely the direction which the revision of rules and regulations took. It would certainly be correct to say that the changes made were markedly conservative in type, as one would expect them to be, considering the proclivities of the leading members of the late Ministry.

The first claim the Katsura Ministry makes is that the reform of the school system which it drew up and got promulgated (in the *Kwanpō* of July

31st last), was such a solution of the country's educational problems as had never been given to the nation before. For so long years the question of altering the school system was discussed in vain by the Mombuts'ō. Now at last the needed change has come, says the *Kokumin Shimbun* special pleader. The alterations effected may be classified under various headings:—

I. *Those relating to Primary Schools.*—More attention was ordered to be given to teaching Japan's traditional morality, to inculcating loyalty to the throne, and ancestor worship; and in teaching history care was to be taken to show the uniqueness of Japanese annals among the histories of the world. The moral text-books which have recently been prepared have all aimed at emphasizing these points.

Since most of the graduates of High Primary Schools have to begin to earn a living for themselves without further study, and since in past years the teaching they have received at these schools has been too exclusively theoretical in character, steps have been taken to open practical schools of agriculture and industry where boys can be prepared for the occupations they intend to follow or to have special instruction in industry or agriculture given during the ordinary school hours by duly qualified teachers. This reform has been of immense benefit to the country.

II. *Reforms relating to Middle Schools.*—These in the main have followed the same lines as those adopted in the Primary Schools. Greater stress has been laid on the teaching of traditional morality and Japanese history. As regards other subjects taught, those which have no direct bearing on the after-lives of the graduates of these schools have been dropped. Logic-chopping and theory-spinning, hitherto so prevalent in Middle Schools, have been condemned by the authorities and the teachers have been instructed to suppress mere argumentativeness and contentiousness among the pupils. For years past it has been maintained by educationists that Middle School education has too exclusively consisted of the preparation of students for High Schools, to the great loss of the majority of Middle School students, who enter on business careers immediately after graduation. To remedy this evil, classes for teaching practical subjects have been started in a good many Middle Schools.

III. *Female Education.*—On inquiry the Department found that many unnecessary subjects were being taught in Girls' Schools and that the type of women that Japanese men most desire to see produced, the woman that makes "a good wife and an intelligent mother" (*ryōsai, kempo*) was not being produced. This has now been altered.

IV. *Business Schools.*—The Industrial and Commercial Schools to be found in most of the big towns have in past years paid little or no attention to general culture nor to the teaching of morals. Consequently the boys attending these schools have been running wild a good deal. Mr. Komatsubara's attention having been drawn to this, he issued various instructions to the Directors of all the business schools under the control of the Department of Education. But it has to be borne in mind that not a few of these institutions are under the control of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The two Departments have not by any means always worked together in the educational policy adopted in past years, but steps have been taken to remedy this.

V. *Normal Schools.*—In these institutions, in the opinion of the late Minister of Education, the teaching of ethics and Japanese history has been too much neglected, and consequently the Primary School teachers all over the country differ in type from those who served the State in this capacity a few decades ago. They are no doubt better educated than their predecessors, but in character they seem to have fallen off. It has now been decided that all graduates of Normal Schools shall give proofs of their competency to teach morals and Japanese history in addition to the special subjects on which they give instruction.

VI. *High Schools.*—Here too alterations have been made respecting the time devoted to ethical

lectures. Prior to the appointment of the late Minister of Education, the teaching of morals in these schools was regarded as of little importance and in some of them only the first year students were lectured on morality now and again. But the rule now is that one hour a week is to be devoted to lectures on ethics and that all the students in the schools shall attend these lectures. As regards the system of ethics taught, the official instructions are to the effect that it is to be based on what is taught at the High Normal Schools in the main, but liberty is given to the lecturers to modify the teaching to suit the special needs of each High School (*Kōdō Shihangakkō ni okeru shūshin kyōju no yōmoku wo kyōjun to shite, kore wo kunshi shi, gakkō no seishitsu ni ōjite, hitsuyō naru shūsha* [necessary selection] *wo kuwatete, kore wo kyōju seshimuru koto to seri*).

The article in the *Kokumin Shimbun* maintains that in various other particulars State Schools all over the country were immensely benefited by the educational policy of the Katsura Government, but very eminent educationists have much to say on the other side and maintain that with the exception of one or two particulars the orders issued by the late Ministry were of a retrograde character and showed want of sympathy with the progressive spirit of the age.

On July 31st last, under the heading *Gakusetsu Kaikaku*, an Imperial Ordinance was published in the *Kwanpō* which announced that from April, 1913, onwards a new system of education will come into force. Though the changes made concern all schools to a certain extent, it is in the High Schools especially that the effects of the new system will be felt whenever it is carried out. That it will go into operation next year seems to be regarded as improbable, owing to the lack of the necessary funds. The present Government are said not to approve of the scheme projected by their predecessors. But they can not set aside an Imperial Ordinance, though by not granting the money for carrying it out they could delay the inauguration of the reform, and this it is confidently asserted they will do. The Imperial Universities have been opposed to the proposed changes all along, and among prominent educationists it is contended that the mere shortening of the years spent on education without reducing the number of subjects studied would effect little good. Anyhow the new scheme requires that there should be a big outlay on the establishment of a number of new high class Middle Schools, to accommodate the enormous number of students who try in vain year after year to enter one of the eight High Schools in existence. The original intention was that the Ordinance should go into operation in April this year, and it was so announced, but subsequently April, 1913, was the time fixed for the application of the new regulations. It looks, however, as though further postponement could hardly be avoided in view of the present financial position of the country.

W.D.

THE S.S. "ORIENTAL"

The P. and O. steamer *Oriental*, which is now in port, is leaving here to day for Hongkong direct. Owing to the loss of the steamer *Oceana*, she has been ordered by the head office in London to fill the gap caused by the recent accident. The *Oriental* will not call at Shanghai as of old; but will proceed to Hongkong where she will be docked. From there, she will travel to Colombo and will pick up the cargo that is being sent East by the ship that has taken the place of the sunken steamer. It is semi-officially said that the *Oriental* is not expected back in Yokohama until the middle of June.

One may note a curious and strange coincidence in connexion with this great Company. Their ship the *Delhi*, was wrecked off Cape Spatell. The *Oceana* was put upon the service to take her place; she too, was wrecked and lost. The *Oriental* is now drawn into the line, and the pessimists may prophesy further disaster; but the officers and men do not.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE
CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE LATE MR. IKEBE KICHIARŌ.

By the death of this distinguished journalist at the age of 48 the Japanese literary world has sustained a great loss. Mr. Ikebe was a French scholar and his style of writing bore a close resemblance to the highest French models. The leaders that for many years he penned for the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*, in terseness, lucidity and pointedness were unequalled in the journalistic world. It is to be hoped that a collection of his brilliant articles will be made, if only to show the capabilities of modern Japanese when wielded by a master hand like that of Mr. Ikebe. It takes years of study and application to acquire a style such as he had. Like all the best writers, he was to the manner born. Mr. Tokutomi rightly describes him as "one who was born a journalist." In the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* of March 21 we find two short articles on Mr. Ikebe's journalistic career written by Mr. Tokutomi Sohō and Dr. Miyake Setsurei, who were both closely associated with Mr. Ikebe for many years. From these articles we make a few extracts, beginning with that of Mr. Tokutomi, who expresses himself as follows:—Though hailing from Kumamoto, like Mr. Ikebe, I did not know him there. I first met him when he was a student at the Keiōgijuku. I often used to go to visit him at the School boarding-house. At that time he was already a good Chinese scholar and was marked by distinguished airs. He was a young man to whom I looked up, perceiving how superior he was to most of his fellow-students. After graduating at the Keiōgijuku, he edited a magazine in Ōsaka and subsequently went to France in the suite of Marquis Hosokawa, where he studied for several years, and from Paris it was he who wrote the letters to the *Nihon Shimbun*, signed "Tekkonron," which first attracted the notice of the literary world to him and led to his subsequent assumption of the Chief-Editorship of the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun*. The articles he wrote for the latter journal are regarded as unrivalled in this country.

As a writer Mr. Ikebe was marvellously impartial. To side with this party or that was never his practice. On every subject he treated he handled the evidence in his possession much as a judge does when trying a case in court. His utterances all bore the marks of disinterestedness. So, whether one agreed with his verdict or not, one could not but admire the fair-mindedness that he displayed on all the questions that he discussed.

As to his literary style, it was purely his own creation. His minute knowledge of the Chinese Classics, his acquaintance with French and English and his possession of considerable originality of mind enabled him to compose sentences in our language that are unlike those penned by any other writer. The Ikebe style is in some respects quite inimitable. Combined with great lucidity, there is a certain ruggedness in his writing which is very pleasing to many readers. If it be true that the highest art is the concealment of art (*Ara est celare artem*), he certainly reached that ideal. His language was charmingly simple and transparent. The easy flow of words had at its back in the mind of the writer great consecutiveness of thought. In the treatment of subjects he invariably showed great breadth of view, and the relation they had to other subjects always engaged his attention.* In writing he had no thought of pleasing the readers of the paper, he simply followed his natural inclination. Thoughts flowed from his mind on to paper with the ease that water runs from a fountain.

Dr. Miyake writes of Mr. Ikebe as follows:—Though some people seem to think that Mr. Ikebe first displayed his talents as a writer in the letters

* *Migi wo mireba, hidari wo nagame, mae wo gi sureba, ushiro wo ronji, omote wo ikeba, ura ni dooku to iu umai de, gankai ga hiroku yuki-watutte ija.*

he sent to the *Nihon Shimbun* from Paris, the truth is that his literary powers were well known to the readers of the *Keisei*, the Ōsaka magazine that he edited before he left for France. But those letters displayed keenness of observation and profundity of thought that astonished everybody. Though some of them covered more than a whole page of the paper, the language was so captivating that nobody thought them too long. They sufficed to show that Mr. Ikebe had in him the makings of one of the first-class essayists and authors of the day. It was not to be supposed that such a man would be content to write nothing but editorials for a newspaper all his days. Before his death he grew dissatisfied with his position on the staff of the *Tokyo Asahi Shimbun* and threw up his post, with the object of starting a magazine of his own.*

Though Mr. Tokutomi and he came from the same province, as regards politics they had little in common. Mr. Ikebe was an independent thinker. He had no teacher whom he slavishly followed and to be the mouthpiece of others was repugnant to him.

We have in our possession numerous articles written by Mr. Ikebe and we could quote many brilliant passages from them. But we can only find space for the following few sentences taken from an article entitled—*Gumpuku sesuru Nihonjin* (Japanese who wear no Uniforms). *Kojin naru tadashiki hikari wa, kunshō wo karazu shite, sara ni kagayaku* (The integrity of individuals is a light whose brilliancy is greater than that coming from decorations). *Kojinteki naru tadashiki chikara wa, buki wo karazu shite, sara ni tsuyoku* (The strength of individual rectitude surpasses that belonging to weapons of war). *Kojin teki tadashiki ikioi wa, gumpuku karazu shite, hito wo fuku nashimuru ni taru* (The influence of an upright individual suffices to bring people into subjection without his donning a uniform). Then follow these words:—"When Japanese soldiers and civilians alike, stripped of all outward adornments, are as individuals so strong and so illustrious that foreigners readily do them homage, then and then only will Japan give no cause for anxiety."†

REVOLUTIONS AND REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS.

When we remember how intense was the interest taken by Englishmen in the French Revolution, we are not surprised to find that at present the Japanese mind is running on revolutions and that the Chinese revolution is being compared to all the sudden changes of government which have taken place in past years in all parts of the world. The *Hakubunkan* on the 15th of February issued its usual half-yearly extra, the subject being *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. The first article, covering no less than 40 pages, is on the French Revolution, and is by Dr. Mitsukuri Gempachi, Professor of History and Geography at the Tōkyō Imperial University. Dr. Mitsukuri, readers may be interested to know, studied at the Freiburg, the Tübingen, the Heidelberg and the Berlin Universities for six years and holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy conferred on him by the Tübingen University. Dr. K. Ukita follows with an article on Cromwell and the English Revolution which brought him into power. America's War of Independence is the next big political movement described. Then follow articles on revolutionary movements in South America, China, India, Mexico, Turkey, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Egypt.

The writer of the article on India, Mr. S. Satō, shows great ignorance of the real state of affairs there, as well as of existing conditions in British colonies, which he speaks of as almost "independent" countries and as desirous of becoming entirely

* This is just what Dr. Miyake did some years ago and the great popularity of the *Nihon oyobi Nihonjin* shows that he was well advised to act in the way he did.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† *Gumpuku shitaru Nihonjin to sono shikarazaru Nihonjin to, sōkirasakira-teki ni katsu kagayaki katsu tsuyoku, shikashite katsu hito wo fukusehimuru ni taru ni itarite, Nihon wa hajimele yasukarubeki naru.*

independent. To speak of the agitation worked up by the Bengalees as a revolution is very misleading. Mr. Satō seems to have been sitting at the feet of Mr. Keir Hardie. His article is full of inaccuracies and very anti-English throughout. He seems to think that the local autonomy granted to the Colonies puts them outside the British Empire, which shows how little he knows of the subject he has undertaken to treat. His sympathies evidently lie with those short-sighted Indians who would like to see the end of British rule in India.

The writer of the article on the political unrest in Egypt, Dr. H. Nagase, apologizes for the use of the word "revolutionary" when describing a movement that is extremely insignificant, but he seems to be of opinion that it is very creditable to the young Egyptians to have harboured revolutionary ideas in their heads and he thinks that their hopes are sure to be realized some day in the distant future.*

A great many of the writers on revolution seem to hold that the Russo-Japanese war gave a great impetus to revolutionary movements all over the world, but this is extremely doubtful. Before that war it was well known that Asiatic troops, when properly trained, as they have been in India, for instance, are no whit inferior to European soldiers. Revolutionary movements and wars between two countries are quite distinct. And the notion that the Indians, the Turks, the Persians and the Egyptians were all set going on the path of revolution by a nation whose politics and traditions have been and are radically opposed to revolutionary movements of all kinds seems to us very absurd. If Japan had been subject to Russian rule and had fought for her independence, or if she had urged a civil war in order to set up a republic as China has been doing, the case would be different. But there has been nothing revolutionary in character connected with Japan's two great wars.

BOOKS ISSUED IN 1911.

The extra number of the *Taishō* which we have been noticing has an appendix containing a review of the history of 1911 under the usual headings. The following information concerns the publication of books. What was comparatively new in the publishing world last year was the large number of works written by Army men or Naval Officers that were issued. Though this class of writing in point of style by no means reaches a high standard, books of this kind are rightly valued for the information on Japan's two great wars that they supply.

Next to these in point of numbers come books on sanitary subjects and works on money-making. Among the latter Mr. Fukuzawa Momosuke's *Tomu no Seikō* and a book entitled *Momonaka Shiki* (Momosuke's Way of Acting) had a very large sale. Among the objects that men set before them and strive to realize, long life and the accumulation of property are the chief, and this accounts for the large number of books dealing with these subjects that appeared during the year. The preservation of health is attracting great attention in this country to-day as may be seen by the long list of books bearing on this subject advertised in the newspapers.

* Among dictionaries that were published in 1911 Dr. Takagi Jintarō's Dictionary of Theology (*Kirisutokyo Daijiten*) is specially worthy of mention. It represents four years' labour and covers over 1,600 pages. Other lexicons deserving notice are the big Law Dictionary (*Hōritsu Daijiten*) published by the Dōbunkan; Vol. VII. of the *Hyakkwa Jiten* (Encyclopædia), by the Sanshō; the *Sen-on sō-in* (線音双引) *Kamus Daijiten*, by the Tōundō and, last but not least, the *Ei-wa Zukugo Jukugo Kaji Daijiten*, published by the Jitsugyō no Nihon Company, which has taken seven years to compile and which has been

* Strong sympathy with revolutionary movements is displayed throughout the whole book. This is worth noting as an indication of the influence that recent events in the neighbouring continent have had on the Japanese mind.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

supervised by Doctors Nitobe, Tsubouchi and Wadagaki.

DR. K. UKITA ON PROSTITUTION.

Dr. Ukita tells us that the destruction of the Yoshiwara brothels has turned Asakusa into a second Yoshiwara, but there is this difference between the old state of things and the new, that the prostitutes plying their trade in the Yoshiwara were licensed and subject to medical inspection, but the Asakusa women are what are called *shishō*, private prostitutes, and being under no control of any kind, they constitute a far greater evil than the publicly licensed inmates of the Yoshiwara houses of ill fame. Dr. Ukita calls attention to the fact that between the years 1864 and 1868 England, in the case of garrison towns, enforced the medical inspection of the inmates of brothels. But owing to religious agitation the practice was discontinued. Dr. Ukita says that both in Germany and in France public opinion to-day is opposed to licensing prostitution. Statistics have been collected which show that periodical medical inspection is not an effectual remedy against the spread of venereal disease. In Christiania, since licensed prostitution was abolished (in 1888), there have been fewer cases of disease than existed during its continuance. (*Norway hoku no Christiania ni oite wa tessan hopyaku hachi nen kembaihō wo haishi shite irai, baidoku wa oini genshō suru koto to natta*). Dr. Ukita expressly states that he is not discussing this question from the standpoint of a moralist or a religionist, but from that of a politician and a medical man, and he holds that the experience of those Western countries which have tried the licensing system is that it does not fulfil the principal object which its adoption has in view,—the prevention of the spread of disease.

THE TETSUGAKU ZASSHI AND PHILOSOPHY IN JAPAN.

The Philosophical Society, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Magazine, has brought out a gigantic number of the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*, which contains many learned articles contributed by Japan's leading philosophers. This Society was founded on Jan. 26th, 1884 by ten apostles of philosophy and two Chinese scholars, whose names are familiar to all students of Japanese modern thought:—Doctors Katō (Hiroyuki), Toyama, Inoue (Tetsujirō), Inoue (Enryo), Ariga and Miyake and Messrs. Tanahashi Ichirō, Nishi Shū, Nakamura Keiū, Hara Tanzan, Shimaji Mokurō and Nishimura Shigeki. Three foreigners who helped the Society much in its early years are honorably mentioned in the Magazine's memorial number, and their pictures occupy its first page. They are Doctors Busse and Koeber and Mr. Fenollosa, who are referred to as the *Nihon tetsugaku no san onjin*, "The three great benefactors of the Japanese philosophical world."

The first meeting held by the Society was attended by 29 enrolled members. Two years later, that is, in 1886, the membership stood at 66. In February 1887 the first number of the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*, a monthly magazine, was published and from that time onward the Transactions of the Society attracted a good deal of attention among scholars and influenced the tendency of thought in various ways. The three above-named foreigners who lectured at the Tōkyō Imperial University took different lines. Mr. Fenollosa expounded the Hegelian philosophy, Dr. Koeber, the Kantian and Dr. Busse the teaching of Lotze. Buddhist philosophy was well represented by Messrs. Hara and Shimaji. Dr. Katō and Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō expounded their well known views and other schools of thought had their exponents among the members of the Society. From March, 1895, the meetings of the Society were thrown open to the public. The number of the Magazine we are reviewing gives a minute account of the work done by the Society, but we have no space for further details here, as we propose to epitomize Dr. Miyake's interesting article entitled *The Three Hundredth Number of the Tetsugaku Zasshi and Philosophy*.

When philosophy began to be discussed in

this country—the Tōkyō Imperial University and elsewhere, says Dr. Miyake, it was mixed up with politics and economy. People seemed to consider that it was the province of philosophy to discuss the higher principles of science, politics and economy, and so many of the articles that appeared in the early numbers of the Magazine reflected this view. But when the University decided that politics and economy were to be taught in the College of Law and that philosophy and history were literary subjects closely related to each other, the province of philosophy was narrowed down to a discussion of what writers on the subject had taught in past ages, and so philosophy ceased to possess any practical interest to people generally.

Compared to foreign magazines that discuss philosophy, the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* can not be said to have made remarkable progress during its long career, but still it has gone on improving to a certain extent.

In modern times philosophy has always been regarded as a high branch of learning that only scholars can tackle, but with the ancient Greeks it was not so. Judged by our modern standards Socrates was no scholar, yet he was undoubtedly a philosopher. The same may be said of Marcus Aurelius. To these men philosophy was something practical, was wisdom brought to bear on human life with the object of guiding the actions of men.

Though philosophy as taught by the Greeks started out on its career independent of religion and in many respects was superior to it, it was subsequently appropriated by Christianity and compelled to do its bidding for many centuries. By the use to which it put Greek philosophy, Christianity made headway among intellectual people for hundreds of years. The process of separating philosophy from religion began many years ago, but the task proved to be a very hard one. Neither Kant nor Hegel can be said to have succeeded in effecting it. Philosophy lost much influence in the world by being invariably associated with religion, that is, with alleged supernaturalism. With the Greeks it was a great power and closely connected with the lives of all thoughtful people. But for centuries it failed to make its voice heard except through religion and even in modern times its connection with science has by no means been a close one.

In recent years philosophy has come to be regarded as one of many technical subjects that concerns only the man who makes it his specialty and is of little interest to the general public. This state of opinion in reference to the place occupied by philosophy is clearly reflected in the pages of the *Tetsugaku Zasshi*, which for a quarter of a century have been devoted largely to writing up the history of the various schools of philosophy in the West (*Motomoto O Shū no tetsugaku no eikyō wo uketa Tetsugaku Zasshi ga, ni-ju-gonen kan ni nisen go hyaku nen no tetsugaku shi wo kantan ni arawashite ori wa senu ka?*).

There are of course numerous philosophical questions to-day which could profitably be treated. But as long as the notion that to discuss philosophy simply means to give its history in past ages prevails, these questions will attract no attention from philosophers. According to this view, writers on philosophy are historians and nothing more.

One of the functions of philosophy is to throw light on the various problems connected with human life, but in recent years this function has been better fulfilled by general literature. The majority of people obtain their views on human life from novels, plays and the like, and consequently the influence of philosophy on the general trend of thought is very slight.

The progress of philosophy in modern times can not be said to have kept pace with the progress of science and some other things. If we settle down to the belief that it concerns the past only, then its study can bear little fruit. A branch of learning that has no bearing on the present and no relation to the future will occupy the attention of a few academic specialists only. By the general public it will be regarded with

supreme indifference. If philosophy can be so explained as to make it a subject of great interest to all educated men, then the future of the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* will certainly be a bright one.

There are in this special number of the *Tetsugaku Zasshi* articles by Doctors Katō, Inoue Tetsujirō, Inoue Enryo, Anezaki, Kuwaki and Matora and by Messrs. K. Tanaka, S. Kihira, S. Yoshida, and K. Fujii on various philosophical questions and a number of miscellaneous contributions on diverse topics.

THE PRESENT MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

In the January member of the *Chūō Kōron* six writers state their opinions on the qualifications for his present post possessed by Mr. Haseba Junkō. We can only find space for a brief summary of Count Ōkuma's and Dr. Miyake's remarks on this subject.

I. Count Ōkuma.—In the formation of the present ministry the two most suitable appointments were those of Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Haseba. Mr. Haseba knows nothing about education, but things will go all the smoother for that. A specialist at the head of the Education Department is a hindrance to the discharge of the duties of the Department. A Minister who has no special views as to how things should be done will be guided by the permanent officials of the Department and so will not be given to experimenting in the field of education.

Our Department of Education is in a most helpless condition to-day. However much it may desire to carry out reforms of a drastic nature that are called for, liberty to do this it does not possess, owing to the existence of Civil Service Regulations and the Diet. Officials that are no longer of any use to the State have to be kept on according to the present Civil Service Ordinance (*Jiyū ni rōkyū wo tōta shi, tekisai wo tekisho ni oku koto ga dekinu*). "The Department is not at liberty to sift out the superannuated, and find suitable places for talented men."

The Middle Schools in the provinces are now well supplied with teachers who have graduated at the Imperial Universities, so that there is no longer any need for the High Normal Schools, and, moreover, their existence, with all the protection they give graduates, interferes with free competition in education, but they will be kept on nevertheless.

The present examination system is very useless and many of the examiners employed by the Department are quite unfit for the work entrusted to them. But here again existing ordinances stand in the way of change. But if anybody can work the oracle in the Department and straighten things out somewhat, the present Minister of Education is the sort of man to do it. He is a man with a fine record: as a member of a Prefectural Assembly, as the Head of a District, as a man who suffered imprisonment for his resoluteness in propagating his opinions,* as the leader of a political party. In all the various situations he has filled he has displayed great aptitude. He certainly has sufficient ability and force of character to do all that is possible in the way of educational reform.

II. Dr. Miyake Setsuuei.—It is astonishing how often the portfolio of Education has been given to Satsuma men.—Mori, Ōyama, Kabayama, Makino and Haseba all belong to that Clan. As warriors the Satsuma men had no equals in the early days of Meiji. If Mr. Haseba had been born in 1843, instead of in 1853, so intrepid a warrior was he in his early days, he would most probably have lost his life on the battlefield. The age has changed and the Chōshū men are now pre-eminent. Satsuma men to-day have to conform to the spirit of the age and can no longer observe the precepts of the great Saigō Takamori. But there is one characteristic they still retain, and that is strength of purpose and a certain blunt honesty which serves as a wholesome check in an age of laxity and com-

* He fought on Saigō's side in the Satsuma rebellion and was severely wounded, but it was not for this that he was imprisoned.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

promise. In point of learning and general intelligence they are recognized to be inferior to Chōshū officials, but as administrators of government they have often shown great proficiency.

The appointment of Mr. Haseba to his present post is in some respects a happy arrangement. It brings common sense to the Department, the lack of which was so conspicuous under Mr. Komatsubara's administration. Mr. Haseba will fall into none of the errors whose commission exposed the department to ridicule early last year. The last Minister of Education literally deluged the schools with new orders, so much so that they entirely lost their effect on the school Directors. Mr. Haseba will make no mistake of this kind. His wide intercourse with men of the world has taught him much that will stand him in good stead in his present post.

But notwithstanding all this and much more that might be said in his favour, if asked to decide whether he is the right man for the office he now holds, I should hesitate to answer in the affirmative. It is an open secret that he had no desire to receive the portfolio of Education, though he did wish to enter the Cabinet. He hoped that the portfolio of Justice might have been offered to him, but this was given to Mr. Matsuda, so he had to be content with a post that no politician ever desires to fill, with a position that is regarded as a sinecure. To get with considerable difficulty what nobody else wants is somewhat humorous. (*Yatto no koto de hito no konomanu tokoro ni tsuita to iu wa, yo no naka ni kokkei no rui to naru*). Mr. Haseba held a high position in the *Seiyūkai* and had he not expressed a desire to enter the Cabinet now, he would certainly have filled the office of President in the new House of Representatives this year, and that would have prepared the way for his entrance to the Cabinet at some future time under happier auspices. But he seems to have thought that a bird in the hand, even though it might be by no means one of the finest specimens of the feathered tribe, was worth two in the bush, and so he took the office that went begging. He had ambition enough to wish to become a Minister of State once in his life, apparently fearing that unless he did this, the world would not set much value on him, as he felt he had no title to be considered a very great man.* When a man has reached the age of sixty, chances of reaching the top of the official ladder are not likely to be so numerous that he can afford to let one of them slip by unused, and so Mr. Haseba gladly accepted the post offered him. Mr. Haseba has never had much connection with the educational world and he is not much of a scholar, but still, like the man whom he first made his master (Saigō), he takes a keen interest in the improvement of the state of society. Though he is by no means so well educated a man as Baron Makino, he has enough culture to enable him to discharge the duties devolving on him efficiently. His success will depend much on his tact and the attention he pays to his work. His appointment has excited ridicule in some quarters, but unless I am much mistaken, he has it in him to outlive that and to win the respect of the nation by the way he acquits himself in his present post. His mind has hitherto been concentrated on politics, he must now allow it to be absorbed by educational problems. If he succeeds in making his mark in the educational world, he will doubtless rise to a still higher post. Saigō used to say "Do all that you can do and await Heaven's decrees." (*Jinji wo tsukushite, Tenmei wo matsu*). If the new Minister of Education acts on this principle, despite the drawbacks that attend the office he fills, his administration of affairs can not but prove beneficial to the nation.

* *Nombu Daijin to natta junjō wa rippa de naki, Daijin ni naritaku bakari ni natta to shika mizu. Ikani shite mo ikina jimbutsu to uke-torarenu ga, Daijin to naravanda naraba, aruwa issō neuchi ga nai to mirareta ka mo shiren. Soko de naru demo kan demo, Daijin to natta kō ga tokusaku to shite, &c.*

FIRES.

A fire broke out about 1 a.m. on Friday morning last in a large foreign style building standing on lot No. 29 Omarudani, Ishikawa, 1-chome, known as the "Villa Diana."

The fire must have had a good hold before it was discovered, for by the time the brigades had arrived on the scene the building, a three-storied structure of lath and plaster, was burning furiously. Nothing could be done to save it, so the firemen confined their efforts to saturating the neighbouring Japanese houses, some of which were at one time in great danger. A detached annex behind the "Villa Diana" was also involved in the destruction. Luckily there was very little wind and the fire was confined to these two buildings.

The cause of the fire and the insurance are still under investigation.

FUKAGAWA LICENSED QUARTERS DESTROYED.

While the destruction by fire of the Yoshiwara licensed quarters, that occurred about this time last year, is still fresh in the memory, another disastrous fire has occurred in the licensed quarters of Tokyo, this time at Susaki, Fukagawa. About one o'clock yesterday afternoon the alarm was given that a fire had broken out at a house called the Hanai ro. The gale that was raging at the time caused the flames to spread rapidly in all directions, in utter defiance of the desperate efforts of the five brigades assembled from every quarter of the City.

The fire was at its height about a quarter past two, when it had already destroyed five hundred houses within, and more than a hundred houses without the licensed quarters. At one time the flames threatened to cross the river, but ultimately the fire brigades were successful, but the flames were barely brought under control about half past three. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Fire broke out about 2 a.m. on the 13th inst. at a barber's in Nagazumi-cho, Asakusa, resulting in the partial destruction of two houses.

A fire started at the Fukagawa Jojo Hospital, Tokyo, early on Friday morning last, destroying the building completely, and burning to death Mr. Niino, the head of the institution.

Fire broke out at a carpenter's shop in Hara-machi, Ushigome, Tokyo, in the small hours of Sunday morning last, resulting in the partial destruction of the house.

About half past three on Sunday morning last, fire broke out in a vacant house on lot No. 938, Yoshida-machi, Yokohama, but was quickly extinguished after slightly damaging the ceiling.

Another fire occurred about four o'clock the same morning at a house occupied by a rice dealer named Kaneko, No. 796, in the same street, resulting in a partial destruction of two houses. The cause of the fire is suspected to be incendiarism.

About half past seven on Monday evening a fire started at the Kinkikan cinematograph show in Chōja-machi, Isezaki-cho, resulting in the complete destruction of five houses. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

In the small hours of Tuesday morning, a fire started in the house of a wine merchant in Tamahime-cho, Asakusa, with the result that one house was destroyed completely and four others partly damaged. The cause of the fire was the upsetting of a brazier.

A despatch from Utsunomiya reports that at about two o'clock on the morning of the 19th inst., fire broke out in a house owned by a grocer named Gunji, in Hi-ashi Hanawa-machi. A strong wind was blowing and the flames quickly spread in all directions. Thanks to the desperate efforts of the firemen assembled from every quarter of the town, the flames were brought under control in less than an hour, but not before some thirty-four houses had been completely destroyed and six others damaged. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

A fire occurred late on the night of the 19th instant in the engine room of the Asano Cement

Company, Fukagawa, but fortunately the flames were quickly brought under control after slightly damaging the floor.

Another fire broke out on Wednesday about 10 a.m. in a carpenter's shop at Minowa, Minami-Senju, destroying 18 houses completely and damaging 5 houses partly. The cause of the fire is unknown.

A telegram from Sapporo, Hokkaido, reports that about nine o'clock on Monday night, fire started at the Urakawa Branch of the Municipal Office, resulting in the complete destruction of seven houses, including the Municipal buildings and a post office.

THE GAIETY CINEMATOGRAF.

Another bumper house welcomed the Cinematograph show at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday night last, every seat in the building being sold. It is remarkable how the pictures have caught on with the community; and the management should be congratulating themselves on the result of their venture. Among the films shown on Saturday evening were "The Delhi Durbar," "The return to London of King George and Queen Mary" and "The Dance of the Shadows." The Durbar pictures were exceedingly interesting but suffered slightly from being run too fast. In spite of this, they gave one an infinitely better idea of those wonderful scenes than that obtained from the pictures in the illustrated weeklies and magazines. The return of their Majesties to London was also very interesting and gave the audience a vivid impression of the really Arctic weather prevailing in London at the time. These also suffered from being run too fast. "The Dance of the Shadows" gave us exiles an idea of the classical form of dancing prevalent in Europe, and cannot justly be described as over exciting. The Return of the Big Game Hunters and The Living Blackboard were excellent and amusing. In fact the entire show was exceedingly good.

The next performance will be on Saturday, March 30th, both Matinee and Evening.

THE "MADELEINE RICKMERS" ACCIDENT.

The Yokohama tug-boat *Noge Maru*, with Captain Tipple (Lloyd's Surveyor) on board, left Yokohama on Thursday last for the scene of the stranding of the above steamer. It is reported that she is lying on the rocks about a mile off Sezu-mura on the north-eastern side of Vries Island and is believed to be in a bad condition. The place is considered to be one of the worst in Japanese waters. Up to yesterday afternoon, information had reached the local agents that the vessel was still safe.

We learn that Messrs. Simon, Evers & Co., have commissioned the Yashima Marine Engineering Office of Tokyo to undertake the salvage of the German vessel, *Madeleine Rickmers*, from where she is lying off Vries Island, and that a salvage steamer has already been despatched to the scene of the accident. The weather has been of such a bad description, that the steamer has naturally suffered. She is reported to have a list of about twenty-five degrees.

JAPANESE COLONY IN BRAZIL.

The Tokyo Syndicate, organized by Viscount Oura and a few others, to obtain land of some 150,000 *chobu*, suitable for rice growing, at San Paulo in Brazil, for the purpose of encouraging Japanese farmers to settle there, last spring despatched Mr. Aoyaki Ikutaro as representative of the organization for negotiation with the Brazilian Government concerning the project. The latest report from him now states that after repeated negotiations the application of the Syndicate has been sanctioned, and he will accordingly

leave for home before long. Upon his return, the syndicate will commence the collection of public contributions towards the immigration fund and take other necessary steps. In this connexion experts observe that as the rice-fields in Brazil are for the most part swamps, there is some fear that the health of the Japanese immigrants will suffer, accustomed as they are to live in conditions quite different from those in Brazil. They are confident, on the other hand, that as years go on they will easily get acclimatised and all will go well with them. If only properly undertaken, therefore, rice cultivation by Japanese farmers in Brazil will prove a success.

A CORRECTION.

Our attention has been called to a misprint in the translation of the speech made by the Minister of Finance before the Bankers' Association. Referring to the unfavourable balance of trade, Mr. Yamamoto said:—

"The Government would, of course, not fail to give this matter serious attention and it was desirable that the nation should do everything in its power to stimulate the development of the various branches of domestic industry, to promote the export trade, and also cultivate the habit of using domestic products in preference to foreign goods."

By a misprint, the word "stimulate" appeared in our issue of the above mentioned date as "moderate."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHARITY PERFORMANCE OF "CASTE"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—May I ask you to find space for the enclosed statement of accounts of the Charity Performance of "Caste," given at the Shoreikai on the 20th ult.?

RECEIPTS.	Yen.
Sale of Tickets @ 3, 2, and 1 yen.....	401.00
EXPENDITURE.	
Scenery, Stage Properties, Decorations...	60.18
Lighting and Heating Hall.....	67.39
Advertising, Printing, and Sundries	46.53
Piano Hire	15.50
Caretaker's Services and Coolie Hire ...	31.40
Balance.....	180.00
	401.00

The Balance of 180 yen. has been handed over to Capt. F. S. G. Piggott, R.E., Treasurer of the St. Hilda's Mission Re-building Fund. Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, dear Sir, Yours faithfully,

W. E. LAXON SWEET.

Tokyo: March 19.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

STRAIGHT-SPEAKING AT THE CONFERENCE.

WELSH OWNERS SIT OUTSIDE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 14.

The returns of the twenty-four leading railway companies last week show a total decrease in the gross receipts by half a million sterling,—a severer loss than that occasioned by the railway strike.

There is an 85 per cent. decrease in the goods traffic.

Reports of the negotiations are confused and perplexing, but opinion is generally more pessimistic.

There is even talk of a complete deadlock. Yesterday's discussions, it is reported,

were sometimes chaotic, straight speaking being indulged in.

Once the Welsh owners left the room and sat outside in order to emphasize the fact that the proceedings did not interest them.

London, March 15.

The Coal Conference was resumed at the Foreign Office to-day. The prolonged nature of the proceedings and the absence of reassuring statements has had a depressing effect.

The Conference has been adjourned till to-morrow, after four hours' discussion.

The official statement says the position is being further discussed.

COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE.

A MINIMUM WAGE BILL TO BE INTRODUCED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 15.

The position is still critical.

The resolution of the Miners' Federation of the 14th inst., as submitted to the joint Conference, makes it clear that the assent to negotiate locally refers only to the wages of employees other than coal-getters.

The concession thus does not refer to the minimum schedule, on the acceptance of which the Federation insists before entering upon the district negotiations.

London, March 16.

Both the owners and miners are pessimistic as to the outlook.

The miners of North Wales are expressing anxiety to resume work.

To-day's feature is that two small Lanarkshire pits have been re-opened. Others are expected to follow.

Later.

The Miners' Federation announces that the negotiations are broken off.

The Miners' Federation states that their executive has been authorised to consider a Minimum Wage Bill which could be introduced immediately. With a view to safeguarding the miners' interests, however, they could not recommend the resumption of work until they saw the Bill in its final shape.

It is announced in an official statement that Mr. Asquith, the Premier, informed the Conference that, although the Government had done its utmost, it had regretfully concluded that an agreement was impossible.

Other measures must therefore be taken.

The Government would ask Parliament for a legislative declaration that a reasonable minimum wage, accompanied by safeguards for employers, should be a statutory portion of the contracts of underground coal-miners.

London, March 17.

Mr. Asquith has had an audience with the King and explained the strike position.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 15.

While the Ministers, coal-owners and miners' representatives continue their discussions, very brief particulars of which are published, many strikers are displaying a desire to return to work, particularly the Scotch non-unionists, who do not receive any strike pay.

The iron business at Birmingham is at a standstill, and 15,000 men are without work. Eight thousand Staffordshire potters are idle.

London, March 16.

The Government's attempt to settle the

coal strike by joint conferences has ended in a definitive rupture.

The Government will immediately introduce a minimum wage Bill, including adequate safeguards for the protection of the employer.

The Miners' Federation has resolved not to resume work until the Bill has become law.

The King and Queen are so impressed with the gravity of the crisis that they have cancelled their proposed visits to foreign Courts.

London, March 18.

Unemployment owing to the strike has greatly increased.

Over 1,340,000 are idle, including 849,000 miners.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COAL MINES BILL.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 18.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, has announced that he will introduce the Coal Mines Bill to-morrow, the second reading to take place on Wednesday, and the last on Thursday.

The Bill will be sent up to the Lords on Friday and receive the Royal Assent on Saturday.

Mr. Asquith added that he would defer a statement of the position until to-morrow, but the Government considered the early passage of the Bill as seriously imperative.

THREATENING SPEECHES BY LEADERS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 19.

A number of the miners' leaders made speeches yesterday evening, several of a threatening tone, declaring that if the Strike Bill is not satisfactory they will not hesitate to bring the country lower than its knees.

The most hopeful speech indicated that at least a fortnight must elapse before resumption is possible.

A ballot of the miners will probably be necessary.

THE COAL MINES BILL.

A TEMPORARY MEASURE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 20.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, in introducing the Coal Mines Bill said it was a temporary measure to continue in force for three years.

The wage fixed will be retrospective, the men receiving it from the day they returned to work.

There are no penal provisions on either side.

District Boards are to settle the minimum wage in each district and draw up regulations safeguarding the owners.

Later.

The Minimum Wages Bill has been read for the first time without a division.

It is generally understood that it will be passed.

London, March 21.

The decision of the Miners' Federation to-night has complicated the situation.

They insist on a minimum of 5s. for adults, except piece workers, and 3s. for boys.

The Unionist leaders have decided to move the rejection of the measure.

Mr. Balfour will move the rejection, but this is regarded more as a demonstration of protest than an indication of a determination

to wreck the Bill, which it is still thought will pass.

The Federation's attitude causes grave anxiety among the Ministerialists regarding the fate of the Bill.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 20.

The Miners Minimum Wages Bill, introduced by the Premier, will become Law on Saturday.

It is a temporary, experimental measure, lasting three years and designed to terminate the existing crisis.

It is generally recognised that the question of the prevention of future deliberate strikes and the readjustment of the relations between labour and capital, must be vigorously handled in the near future.

The country is suddenly awakening to the dangers of syndicalism in the modern labour situation.

London, March 21.

The position regarding the Government Minimum Wage Bill is unexpectedly changed.

The Unionist leaders have decided that the provisions are illusory and will not secure permanent peace.

Mr. Balfour will move its rejection on Thursday.

The Miners Conference had adopted an uncompromising attitude.

Their demand for the immediate inclusion of a specific rate of minimum wage has virtually killed the Bill.

The coal owners also desire an amendment.

The whole situation is most complicated.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

STATEMENT BY FIRST LORD OF ADMIRALTY.

REORGANISATION OF NAVY.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 19.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, made a very important speech in introducing the Navy Estimates.

He stated that the Government was determined to maintain the standard of 60 per cent. superiority over the next strongest Power, but would meet further German increases by two keels to one.

"We must have a large margin of safety," continued Mr. Churchill, "but the idea of our attacking any European Power is absurd. If, however, any single Power is able to back the strongest fleet by an overwhelming army, then the whole world is in jeopardy."

Mr. Churchill gave details of the complete reorganisation of the Navy, including the formation of First, Second and Third Fleets, comprising eight battleship squadrons of eight battleships each, with attendant cruisers, etc.

The First Fleet will comprise four battle squadrons, three with their bases at home-ports and the fourth at Gibraltar.

The Second Fleet would be composed of two battle squadrons on an active basis, and the Third Fleet of two battle squadrons, with the nucleus of the crews.

In consequence of this arrangement, the Admiralty will be able to assemble, if necessary, 65 battleships, compared with 38 of the next strongest Power.

Mr. Churchill also announced that it was

the Admiralty's intention to promote about a hundred younger warrant officers to a rank equivalent to that of sub lieutenant, and to give commissions to senior midshipmen.

THE KING OF ITALY.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THEIR MAJESTIES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, March 15.

A man fired several shots at the King of Italy yesterday.

The King was uninjured.

The assailant, who was arrested, was named Dalba.

It is not believed that there was any plot, but that he is an individualist anarchist.

The crowd deliriously cheered His Majesty's escape.

The King later drove in an open motor to visit Major Lang, who was wounded by the shot and taken to hospital.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 15.

After the shots had been fired the King preserved the utmost calm.

The Queen threw herself in front of the King to protect him.

When returning from the service at the Pantheon their Majesties received from the vast crowd a passionate demonstration of loyalty.

This was repeated in the Chamber, all the members going to the Quirinal to express their devotion.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

DISASTER TO P. & O. LINER.

London, March 17.

The four-masted barge *Pisagua* struck the P. & O. liner *Oceana*, which sailed yesterday for Bombay, broadside on four miles west of Beachy Head.

The passengers and crew of the liner were landed at Newhaven and Eastbourne.

The *Oceana* sank two miles from shore, while being towed towards the beach.

The *Pisagua* afterwards arrived at Dover in a sinking condition.

Later.

Captain Hutchinson, one of the passengers on board the *Oceana*, says that there were about 16 first-class passengers and 30 second-class.

All the passenger were in bed at the time of the accident. It was a clear night. At 5 in the morning they felt a terrible crash, which made the *Oceana*, which was under full steam, shiver from stern to stern.

The passengers immediately rushed on deck.

The conduct of the women and of the white men was splendid, but that of the Lascars was abominable.

The P. & O. Co. states that all the passengers except seven have been accounted for.

London, March 18.

Enquiries at Eastbourne show that there is no news of the missing occupants of the first boat, and it is now regarded as certain that its seventeen occupants have been drowned in the violent gale in the Channel.

London, March 18.

The identity of the seventeen persons who were drowned in the *Oceana* disaster is not yet established, but it appears certain that

they included seven passengers, five stewardesses, and five of the crew.

The liner was in charge of a pilot.

One boat made for Eastbourne, but most of the boats remained alongside, sheltering under the lee of the *Oceana* until the Sussex lifeboats arrived, when 157 members of the crew and 27 passengers were transferred.

The remainder of the crew stayed on board till the increasing list compelled them to leave and take to one of the tugs that were towing the vessel.

London, March 19.

Bodies have been washed up by the sea at Hastings, one of which is believed to be that of the Rev. Mr. Leishman, a passenger on the *Oceana*, who accompanied the Naval Brigade to Peking at the time of the Boxer rebellion.

[The *Oceana* was a steel vessel, built in 1888, with a registered tonnage of 6,610.—Ed. J. M.]

CHINESE LOANS.

London, March 15.

Replying in the House of Commons to Mr. Arthur Fell, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the English group contributing advances to the Chinese Government, had been informed that they were entitled to look to His Majesty's Government for support in the event of difficulties occurring regarding repayment, but the Government would take no pecuniary liability.

FRANCO-CHINESE BANQUET.

London, March 16.

A remarkable Franco-Chinese demonstration has taken place at a Paris banquet organised by the Chinese Minister to Rome.

The company was a large one and included M. Monis, the ex-Premier, M. Anatole France, many deputies, the Chinese diplomats from London, St. Petersburg and Vienna, and many students.

All the Chinese were in European costume. The Minister to Rome made an excellent speech in French, in the course of which he proclaimed that the policy of the republic was essentially pacific, and its motto—liberty and justice.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, March 16.

Italy yesterday replied to the inquiry of the Powers as to her minimum terms for ending the war.

JAPAN AND CHINESE FINANCES.

London, March 17.

At a luncheon at New York in honour of the new Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Jacob Schiff declared that American and European bankers had consented to invite Japan to help finance China.

Japan, added Mr. Schiff, was the greatest peace guarantee in the East and was standing sentinel over Asia. They were thankful that it was Japan, instead of Russia, which was victorious.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, March 18.

Reuter learns from a competent Italian source that the reply of Italy to the Powers was couched in a conciliatory tone, calculated to facilitate pourparlers.

UNOPPOSED ELECTION.

London, March 19.

Mr. Fitzherbert Wright, a Unionist, has been returned unopposed for Leominster, in the place of Mr. Rankin, who retired.

THE GERMAN COAL STRIKE.

London, March 20.

The Westphalian coal mine strike has

collapsed, the Miners' unions declaring the vigorous measures of the authorities and the hostility of the Press make it hopeless to continue.

GERMANY AND THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.

London, March 20.

The German Press, while moderate in tone, is generally unfriendly to Mr. Churchill.

They declare that his declaration will do no harm, as Germans have an unwavering determination to have a fleet sufficiently strong to make war a matter of life or death to any enemy attacking Germany.

THE PEACE OF EUROPE.

London, March 20.

Reuter has elicited in diplomatic quarters in London that there are no grounds whatever ascertainable for the disquieting reports regarding the peace of Europe.

CHINESE LOANS.

London, March 21.

Reuter's Agency understands that the Eastern Bank which is participating in a loan of a million sterling to China, is not receiving the support of the British Government.

LAUNCH OF BATTLE CRUISER.

London, March 21.

The battle cruiser *Queen Mary* has been launched at Jarrow.

She is the most powerful in the world.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

TROUBLE IN PERSIA.

London, March 15.

There is a serious situation at Lingab, where the tribesmen are marching on the town to avenge the seizure of arms by Great Britain.

Warships, with detachments of Indian troops, have arrived.

THE PERSIAN ARMY.

London, March 16.

The Persian Government is delaying in answering the Anglo-Russian Note as to foreign officers.

It desires to employ only officers from the minor Powers in reorganizing the army, but Russia wants only Russian officers to be employed.

London, March 18.

Great Britain and Russia have announced that they have no desire to limit the size of the Persian Army, and do not object to the employment of the officers of minor Powers.

COPPER.

London, March 16.

Copper is quoted at 65—65¾.

The market is quiet and firm.

THE BELGIAN LOAN TO CHINA.

London, March 16.

Dr. Morrison telegraphs from Peking that the Four Nations' Banks have asked the Legations to protest against the million loan contract signed by Tang Shao-i with an Anglo-Belgian Syndicate, as infringing their agreement.

London, March 18.

Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, telegraphs that Tang Shao-i vigorously defends the signing of the Anglo-Belgian loan contract, which he thinks was necessary because of the procrastination of the Four Banks.

No previous engagements with Anglo-French Banks would be disregarded.

In view of the constant talk of the open

door and equal opportunity it was preposterous to contend that China was precluded from engaging in financial transactions outside of the Four Banks.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, March 18.

On the Stock Exchange, Chinese and Japanese stocks are weaker.

DRAINAGE WORKS IN EGYPT.

London, March 18.

Lord Kitchener has inaugurated new drainage works at Gharibich, which will benefit an immense area and render fit for cultivation a thousand acres now waterlogged.

The work will take four years at a cost of £2,250,000.

TURKISH PRESS LAW.

London, March 19.

Additions have been made to the Turkish Press Law, forbidding officers to write on politics, and a new law has been sanctioned further restricting the right of public meeting.

ROYALIST MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL.

London, March 19.

The Northern garrisons of Portugal are being strengthened, as there are indications of a Royalist movement on the frontier.

AEROPLANE GUN.

London, March 19.

Messrs. Vickers have produced a quick-firing gun for use on dirigibles or aeroplanes.

The gun weighs about one hundredweight and is easily trained and worked.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL POLICY.

London, March 19.

The statement made by Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, as to Britain's naval policy, has been received with widespread approval.

Mr. Churchill openly stated that the extent of British construction depends upon German expansion.

The British Government, he said, considered the British standard to be a sixty per cent. superiority over Germany in Dreadnoughts on the basis at present existing.

The German Navy Law might remain a convenient guide to Britain during the next few years, but afterwards the British standard would probably have to be increased.

Should Germany extend her programme, Britain would immediately decide to build two ships to her one. If Germany reduced her programme, Britain would do the same.

Mr. Churchill also stated that the Admiralty was prepared to guarantee absolutely the main security of the country for the next few years, and that prospect might be indefinitely extended if the House of Commons would grant the money asked for in the future.

The Times declares that whatever Germany may do, Great Britain was resolved to maintain her naval superiority.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, March 20.

The German Press comments on Mr. Winston Churchill's speech are almost all unfavourable.

There is a general sense of irritation and disappointment at the British determination to maintain naval supremacy.

The Conservative *Kreuzzeitung* declares that Britain intends to prevent further

development of Germany by annihilating her navy.

Other papers furiously protest at the danger of Germany being caught by Mr. Churchill's snares.

GERMAN POLITICS.

London, March 20.

The position of the German Chancellor has become very difficult.

From the beginning of the campaign for increased armaments he has differed seriously with the Secretary of the Navy, and had to shift his ground in order to reach even an apparent settlement of the financial difficulties.

THE MOROCCAN QUESTION.

London, March 21.

The Spanish Government has made fresh offers to France with a view to settling the Moroccan loan question.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF KING AND QUEEN OF ITALY.

Berlin, March 14.

The King and Queen of Italy, on the occasion of a visit to the Pantheon at Rome, where they intended to place a wreath on the tomb of King Humboldt, were shot at by an Italian bricklayer.

Three shots were fired, but their Majesties escaped injury. An adjutant was, however, wounded. The would-be assassin was immediately afterwards arrested, and the King and Queen continued their journey to the Pantheon. On their return they were enthusiastically cheered by the populace.

NO MORE TROOPS FOR CHINA.

Contrary to the former demands for an increase of German troops in China, the whole Press now states that the despatch of further reinforcements to China will not be carried out without a special demand from the German Legation at Peking.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The French Press suspects that the withdrawal of the Russian Ambassador from Constantinople is the first step of a common policy of Russia and Italy with regard to the Dardanelles question.

Mercantile steamers and sailing ships of neutral Powers have to be piloted through a channel in the Dardanelles which is free from mines.

The Italian troops have again fought victorious combats with the Turks at Benghazi, the latter suffering severe losses.

THE COAL STRIKE.

The owners of the German coal mines demand more effective protection of the miners who have not joined the strikers. The representatives of the miners' unions also plead for the maintenance of order. Of the total number of miners numbering 311,257, only 119,125 still continue to work.

RUSSIA MAKING LARGE PURCHASES.

Russia intends to purchase material for the Amur Railway to the amount of 25 million roubles.

CONFERENCE WITH GERMANY ON ARMAMENT BILLS.

Field-marshal Lieutenant von Schemua, the new Austrian Chief of the General Staff, has arrived at Berlin. Besides various other important matters the new armament bills of the two allied Powers will be discussed.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to February

29th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on March 14th.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE ITALIAN KING.

Berlin, March 15.

The would-be assassin of the King of Italy was arrested immediately after the attempt on the King. He is reported to be an anarchist and not to have had any accomplices.

The German Reichstag has sent a telegram of congratulation to the King on his fortunate escape. The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* express the warmest sympathy of the German Government and people with the King and people of Italy. The Kaiser and the sovereigns of the Confederated States have also sent telegrams of congratulation to the King.

A NEW RULE IN THE REICHSTAG.

The Reichstag has accepted an alteration of its order of business. The members of the Reichstag are given the right to direct on two days of the week interpellations to the Chancellor, which will have to be replied to by the latter before entering on the bill of the day. It is, however, not admissible to open debates on these interpellations.

ARMAMENT BILLS.

The conference of the Chancellor with the Ministers of Finance of the various Confederated States has resulted in a complete understanding on the Government's proposals for covering the expenses for the new armament bills.

The Reichstag will commence discussion on the new armament bills immediately after the Easter vacation. Some alterations of the new bills are expected.

COUNTER MOVE AGAINST RUSSIA.

The Turkish Government, with the intention of preventing Russian interference, has opened negotiations with Persia for the appointment of a joint frontier commission in the frontier districts near the Urmiah Lake.

If an understanding should not be arrived at, the whole question will be transferred to the Arbitration Court at the Hague for decision. The convening of a joint conference, which had been proposed by Russia, has been refused by Turkey.

POWERS' LOANS TO CHINA.

The Russian Government has advised the Russian Banks to participate as far as possible in the advance loans given to China by the banks of the other Powers.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

As a possible successor to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, M. von Giers, the present Russian Minister at Bukarest is mentioned.

THE COAL STRIKE.

Military guards have been dispatched to the various German coal districts which are affected by the strike.

The percentage of strikers in the Ruhr coal districts is gradually decreasing and the populace has become much quieter.

ARMAMENT BILLS.

Berlin, March 16.

The introduction of the Inheritance Tax for covering the expenses of the new Armament Bills has been given up in favour of levying the full amount of the alcohol consumption and selling tax.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* states that the revenue of the Treasury must

be increased owing to the new Armament Bills, but that no new consumption or communication taxes will be levied.

DR. WERMUTH RESIGNS.

Later.

Dr. Wermuth, the Germany Secretary of State for the Treasury, has resigned owing to the withdrawal of the Inheritance Tax Bill by the Government. His successor will be Privy Councillor Kuehn, Under-Secretary of State for the Treasury.

ASIATIC SOCIETY BANQUET.

The annual banquet of the German Asiatic Society has been held at Berlin, the Chinese Minister and the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires being in attendance. Field-marshal Freiherr von der Goltz, the President, in a speech expressed himself absolutely confident as to the further development of Chinese affairs.

SIAMESE PRINCE IN BERLIN.

Prince Shiras of Siam is staying at Berlin incognito.

RUSSIAN CONTRADICTION.

The Russian Government contradicts the rumour according to which the troops of the South-Western provinces are stated to have been mobilised.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.

The Italian journal *Il Popolo Romano* states that the attempted assassination of the King has been traced to a conspiracy. Nine persons who are suspected of complicity in the plot, have already been arrested.

YOUNG TURKS ACCUSED.

The Italian Press suspects that the attempted assassination of the King is in close connection with Young-Turkish machinations.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES NOT THREATENED.

The Portuguese Prime Minister, speaking in the Chamber, said that the Portuguese colonial territory was in no way threatened by either Great Britain or Germany.

HOPEFUL OUTLOOK IN GERMANY.

The percentage of striking miners has decreased to only 40 per cent.

The strike of the German coal miners continues to abate.

Berlin, March 17.

The strike in the Westphalian Coal district is also steadily abating. The mine unions in Upper Silesia have refused to join the strikers.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION TAX APPROVED.

The German Liberal Press welcomes the new Government Bill for levying the whole amount of the alcohol consumption tax. The Conservative papers state that the resignation of the Secretary of State for the Treasury, Dr. Wermuth, is unintelligible, his financial policy having been approved by the Bundesrat.

EMPRESS TO TAKE A REST.

The Kaiserin will go to Nauheim for a cure in April.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE ALLIANCE.

The Portuguese Government publishes an Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of Alliance, by which both countries are bound to mutual aid in the case of war or the invasion by a hostile Power of their colonies. Great Britain promises an armed intervention in the case of an attack by either Spain or France against Portugal's colonies. The Azores and Cape Verde Islands in the Atlantic will

be fortified by Portugal with the financial assistance of Great Britain.

STEAMER ASHORE OFF MOROCCO.

The steamer *Axenfels*, of the Hansa Line, has gone ashore off the Moroccan Coast on her way back from Rangoon. Two lives are reported to have been lost.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, March 16.

Marchese di San Giuliano, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has presented to the Ambassadors of the various Powers the Italian reply to the question of fixing the eventual proposals for concluding peace with Turkey.

Italy has specialised her conditions of peace, the first of which is the demand for withdrawal of all Turkish troops from Tripoli, a demand which will probably meet with a refusal.

Berlin, March 17.

The further proposals of Italy for conclusion of peace with Turkey are the following: recognition of the Turkish religion in Tripoli, a universal amnesty, transfer of the Tripolitan and foreign debts to Italy and acquisition of the Chalfan domains in Tripoli by Italy.

Berlin, March 18.

A Ministerial Council at Constantinople has decided to declare the following conditions for the conclusion of peace, as proposed by Italy, as unacceptable to Turkey: Withdrawal of the troops from Tripoli and Cyrenaica, the acceptance of compensation for the cession of the territorial sovereignty in Tripoli and Cyrenaica, the annulment of the capitulations, and the protection of the religious Turkish Caliphate in Tripoli by Italy.

BRUSSELS' SUGAR CONVENTION PROLONGED.

The Brussels Sugar Convention has definitely been prolonged to the year 1918.

THE COAL STRIKE.

The feeling amongst the strikers in the Ruhr coal district has abated; the strike is regarded as futile even by its leaders. The mining unions in Sachsen have, however, entered an organised strike.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to March 3rd ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on March 18th.

MEETING OF MONARCHS.

Berlin, March 19.

A meeting between the Kaiser and King Victor Emanuel of Italy will take place in Venice on March 24th. The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the German Ambassador at Rome will be in attendance.

KAISER'S CRUISE POSTPONED.

The Mediterranean cruise of the Kaiser will probably be postponed to next week. To-day, the Kaiser is accepting an invitation of the French Ambassador to a dinner.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Sublime Porte states that any attempt of interference is hopeless as long as Italy maintains her declaration of annexation of Tripoli and the Cyrenaica.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

The German Press expresses itself satisfied with the prolongation of the Sugar Convention as a result of a Russo-German compromise.

RUSSO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Rumours, which are spread at Paris and

according to which the relations between Russia and Germany are stated to have become severed with regard to the Orient question, are declared at St. Petersburg to be obvious exchange manoeuvres.

ANOTHER RUMOUR DENIED.

The Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been ordered to officially deny the report, according to which the Anatolian Army Corps was stated to have been dispatched to the Russo-Persian frontier.

KOREAN RAILWAYS.

The "St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency" reports from Seoul, that the construction of the Pyongyang Gensan Railway in Korea has been postponed in favour of the construction of 124 miles of roads.

HONGKONG'S PART IN CHINA'S REFORM.

INFLUENCE OF BRITISH CIVILISATION.

An interesting paper, entitled "Hongkong's Part in China's Reform," was read by the Rev. E. Judd Barnett (Archdeacon of Hongkong), at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute held in the Whitehall Rooms, London, on the 27th ult. The chair was taken by Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Levan Edwards.

In opening his paper, the lecturer referred to the cession of Hongkong to Great Britain under the Treaty of 1842. He said: This small island of not more than 30 square miles in area was then little better than a huge barren rock, rearing its peak nearly 1,800 ft. above sea level, and providing a precarious living for not more than 2,000 natives, who were fishermen and pirates in turn. To day Hongkong is a veritable garden, standing as the far eastern sentinel of British power, a Crown Colony in which is exhibited the best traditions and characteristics of our world-wide civilisation; whilst its fine harbour is so busy that its trade, reckoned in gross overseas tonnage, exceeds that of every other harbour in the world, not excepting the Port of London. This is one result of 70 years of British enterprise in the Far East. Many find a difficulty in keeping pace with to-day's breathless march of events in that once-moss covered overgrowth of ancient humanity in China. From being the most backward of nations China is now forging her way to the front with unparalleled rapidity. We may deplore the fact that the modern world's most ancient Empire is being transformed into what, at first sight, seems an unwieldy Republic. We may fear lest the political corruption, which seems to root so readily in a republic form of government, should throttle in its infancy the aspirations of the Republicans after righteous rule. Yet no man with the spirit of a Briton can withhold his sympathy from the people that is struggling for freedom from oppression within, for the inspiration of enlightenment from without, and for a just enfranchisement of itself among the other great nations of the world. For greatness is China's destiny. There are those who smiff contemptuously at the possibility of China ever becoming great. In evidence thereof they point to the Boxer outbreak of 1900. They are just eleven and a half years behind the times. The development of all the great movements which make for advance belong to these last twelve years. Given a righteous Government, a national exchequer, an honest administration in the provinces, with a reformed system of education such as is proposed, who can gauge the possibilities of a united people of 350,000,000 arising refreshed from the sleep of ages under the consciousness of a new manhood, inspired with a virile national spirit?

THE REPUBLIC'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

Still the question is asked by newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic: Can a Republican Government satisfy the requirements of China? From our point of view there are many reasons

why the answer might be given in the negative. On the other hand, the chances of success lie with the Republic. The patriarchal form of village government to a large extent is self-sufficing. Individual Viceroyalties have had the power to impose their own taxes, promulgate their own laws, mint their own coinage, levy their own troops, raise their own loans, and act generally as a despotic magnate ought to act. The Emperor's name has always been a power to conjure with; the year was dated from his accession; he prayed for his people once in twelve months, and spent with Eastern extravagance the proceeds of their heavily weighted taxes. But the Government that will lighten taxes, administer justice, stamp out pirates, and abolish "squeeze" is the administration that the industrious, peace-loving, practical Chinaman will appreciate, whether it be under an Emperor or a President of the biggest Republic imaginable. All depends upon the moral fibre of the men who take the lead during the next ten years. If they will become disciples of the patriot Sun Yat sen, and place patriotism above personal advancement, a bright future lies before the Republic. If, on the other hand, personal jealousies prevail, history will weep as she unfolds the story.

Now upon this enormous section of Eastern Asia, Hongkong, and all that the Colony stands for, has exerted an influence in inverse ratio to its size. For 70 years past Hongkong has been an example to the Chinese of British enterprise and British rule. More than those of any other nation, the distinctive characteristics of our race have been repeated with limits in all the chief centres of Chinese life throughout that Empire. Bearing in mind the pre-eminence of the Cantonese for forging ahead against strenuous odds, and tenaciously holding to their purpose in spite of rebuffs, we shall the better appreciate the influence of Hongkong over China, more especially through the neighbouring province of Kwantung. Many changes of the past few years in Canton are imitations, in part, of what was to be observed in Hongkong. To these belong the police force, street cleaning, water supply, electric lighting, a more wholesome administration of the law, a provincial balance sheet (probably the first of its kind) covering the last two months of 1911 under the new régime. In certain country districts Hongkong's example has also encouraged afforestation. For all these changes the minds of the people had been prepared by the thousands of visitors who come to Hongkong weekly by means of the half-dozen or more passenger steamers, which ply daily between Hongkong and Canton. During 1910 Hongkong supplied 33.2 per cent. of the whole of the foreign trade with China. What the near future holds in the way of commercial expansion, when foreign merchants, without let or hindrance, will be allowed to settle and trade throughout China's vast territory, it is difficult to foresee. We who are jealous to see the British mercantile flag maintaining its lead in the great trading ports of the East are anxious to be assured that the enterprise of our manufacturers and merchants will be prepared to capture its full share of those benefits which will fall to those who are early afield. Last summer, Hongkong, or more correctly Kowloon across the harbour, was joined to Canton by railway. The last section of a continuous railway across two continents from Kowloon to Calais is being laid simultaneously at either end, Canton and Hankow. When these extremes are linked up (a distance of 730 miles) Hongkong will then be some 17 days from London, i.e., nearer to London than to San Francisco.

THE INFLUENCE OF HONGKONG'S BRITISH JUSTICE.

The theory of government with the Celestial, as with the Britisher, is for the benefit of the people. Its practice in the former case has been for the personal aggrandisement of the man in power. "Justice" in Law Courts was wont to fall to the highest bidder. Vice has been justified if it could be turned into a means of revenue, while corruption and cruelty stalked through the land, uncondemned either by law or by public opinion. Were it possible to trace adequately the

inner history of present changes in China, it would be found that the moral effects of a just though sympathetic Government among the 441,000 Chinese residents in Hongkong have possessed an educative value on the observant Chinese mind beyond the imagination of most men. When the law, as administered in Hongkong, sent to the gallows the white man who murdered the Chinese, as it did the Chinese who murdered another, making no difference, the native press could not withhold its surprised satisfaction. When an outdoor inspector in Government employ was dismissed for accepting a small bribe, and judgment was passed on law-breakers according to desert, and not by bribery; when gambling and other vices were made punishable by law, and even the coolie compelled to carry home the live fowl for his master's dinner in a basket, and not with head trailing groundward, there arose in tens of thousands of minds the oft repeated question: Why this difference?

Here the lecturer referred to the completion of the new Law Courts in Hongkong, and as illustrating the influence of Hongkong's administration, referred to the suppression of gambling in Canton, following the example of the British Colony. Last month, under military rule in Canton, he said, men caught gambling were being shot for inflicting the law. He continued: There are influences which go to make a nation great that are more potent than armies and navies, commerce and finance; and a Britisher in a Crown colony, facing a civilisation which was ancient before his own was begun, is proud of his race and heritage because, below the material might and the visible grandeur of our ennobling Empire, there stands the foundation of a moral majesty which makes for righteousness and approves itself to the eyes of less fortunate neighbours. I may not pass on to personalities. The corollary to what I have said is that the personal element alone can supply life to our dearest institutions, and these are being commended by men who are worthy to represent the British name and to maintain its honour before the eyes of a people who, at least in theory, value virtue beyond the success of either military or commercial enterprise. The Chinese, as you know, are essentially a literary people. But without alphabet, without declension or conjugation, without case or gender, mood or tense, with pictures and ideographs in place of words, and with sentences so carefully constructed that they may be construed into opposite meanings, it is questionable how long the survival of archaic writing can withstand the impact of Western institutions and thought without considerable modification. Certain conceptions of life enshrined in written characters must become transformed under the spell of an enlightened rule now promised by Chinese patriots. "Happiness" has been represented by a picture of one mouth to one field under the care of the spirits of the earth, i.e., plenty to eat. "Home" is a roof over a pig; and "Peace" a woman under a cover. The new generation of Chinese womanhood which is so active in reform at home will surely insist upon some revision here.

CHINA'S STUDENT PROBLEM.

The student is China's problem, as he is India's problem—with this difference, that whereas the diffusion of education is a new departure in India, it has been for numerous centuries a customary practice in China. Education in China possesses a recognised value and commands a respect which is unique in the history of Asia. Our influence, therefore, upon civic life of China should reap its richest fruit in the congenial culture of education. In 1910 there were 70 schools in Hongkong subject to Government supervision. The majority of these were under Missionary or Church management. In them 6,350 pupils were being educated. Our recognised British policy of non-interference in religious matters has, of necessity, made the Government schools strictly secular. It is being brought home to some of our administrators abroad that no-religious education is not what the people of the East either understand or desire.

With us, impartiality frequently connotes irreligion: with them it is far otherwise. The religious element in education is to them a *sine qua non*. They are accustomed to base their morality upon religious sanctions. Under the influence of Western knowledge and science taught without reference to religion, their ancient conceptions of life are being rudely shaken. The common result is a crude materialism which fosters selfishness, degrades social ties, and endangers the well-being of the State. No thoughtful man can contemplate without misgivings a China materialised by an education with Western flavour, apart from our moral and religious safeguards. It may be asked, Why disturb the morality of China which has stood her in such good stead down through the centuries? Disturb China's stagnant condition by any means, and you at once begin to shake the foundation of her moral fabric. The present breakdown of the old form of Government is the death knell to these ancient political systems which have been based upon her Confucian ethics. And if these ethics fail to withstand the impact with the West politically, how shall they fare socially, morally, and commercially? These are not the words of an alarmist. The two most prominent men in China to day are alive to this danger. They are looking to education to ennoble China, but the education they rely on is that which shall meet the claims of every faculty of man. Yuan Shi-kai has encouraged to the utmost of his power the new learning in China, but with a perspicacity that is not uncommon among his countrymen he has selected for the education of his four sons and a nephew, not one of the new Government institutions, but the College in Tientsin, under Dr. Lavington Hart, of the London Missionary Society. This leader in China has also made large personal donations to the building fund of this College. Coming now nearer home, to the colony of Hongkong, we find a similar discrimination among educated Chinese. About a decade ago some of them came to Bishop Banister, then Archdeacon of Hongkong, and suggested that the Church Missionary Society should open a College for Western knowledge and science coupled with moral instruction for the benefit of their sons. Nine years since I was entrusted with the task of starting St. Stephen's College, where are now being educated some 160 youths drawn from influential families in Hongkong and Canton. There was no question of competition with other schools. The fees charged were higher than those of any educational institution in the East, and four times as much as those paid in the Government College in Hongkong. In addition, morality, based on the Christian Scriptures, was a special subject which which the Government was not free to offer. The experiment has justified itself. Not only has St. Stephen's been self-supporting from the first, but by way of marking their appreciation of our methods two years ago, the parents of the students (non Christian) gave the College a new wing at a cost of £30,000. Further still, the College has won official commendation.

THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

The crowning achievement of Sir Frederick Lugard's administration is the University of Hongkong, a monument of successful rule among a cosmopolitan people of which any man or race may be proud. The University is to be opened this spring before the departure of the Governor, and until the Royal Charter has been granted the University of London will conduct examinations. Whatever in the past Hongkong has contributed to China's awakening, its influence in the future, exercised through the University, must be multiplied manifold. There is a distinct advantage in having this only centre of advanced learning south of the Yangtze situated in Hongkong. Chinese from many quarters have already endowed it with handsome gifts. From its doors will go forth men of intellect and power, trained for their country's service. The almost filial attachment of the student to his teacher in China will supply the fullest meaning to our rather hackneyed term "Alma Mater."

No other influence in Hongkong will tend like the University to maintain a friendly feeling towards us when the great Republic has come to its own. And in those days Hongkong can be held only by a friendly Power. This has been the great achievement of Hongkong's present Governor. But this is not all. With the penetration of a true statesman, Sir Frederick Lugard has seen what lies at the base of Eastern society, and has foreseen the danger of undermining that structure. "I am determined," he says, "so far as lies in my power, that the education afforded by this University of ours shall be such as to educate the moral character, and indeed, I may add, the emotional side of the students, as well as merely the intellectual and material side." It is proposed in Hongkong to solve the most knotty of Eastern problems by the happy combination of University and Hostel for the intellectual and moral advancement of the men who are destined to rule China; and I am sure that in appealing for your appreciation of the difficulties to be confronted, and for your sympathy with those who are endeavouring to overcome them in the name of God and of the civilisation which we value so highly, I shall not appeal in vain. Hongkong's part in enlightenment has in the past raised up Chinese competitors in many of life's avenues, and it will continue to do so. But Great Britain's mission in the world has ever stood for the betterment of the human race. Following this guiding star, Hongkong will not lose but gain, if while frankly recognising the possible dangers in competition, she nevertheless chooses to act the nobler part towards the uplift of that great people who "rarely forget an injury and never a benefit." (Cheers.)

At the conclusion of the lecture a number of views of China, and particularly Hongkong, were thrown on the screen and explained by Archdeacon Barnett. Much interest was taken in a plan of the new University.

THE DISCUSSION.

In opening a brief discussion, Admiral Sir Nathaniel Bowden-Smith said he was pleased to note the optimistic tone in which the lecturer had spoken of the future. He hoped that when China became a great nation we should be allowed to retain Hongkong and live amicably with her, and he thought there was every hope we should do so. He had been twice invalided from Hongkong, first as a midshipman in 1853, and later on as a young lieutenant—on both occasions for the preservation of his life, and here he was still going strong.

Captain Slack enlarged on the inconvenience of carrying about Mexican dollars in China when travelling there, and mentioned that at some railway stations in Manchuria he himself had to have Chinese Mexican dollars, Russian roubles, and also Japanese money, as he never knew which would be taken, and unless a traveller had the exact money there was no chance of getting a ticket.

The Chairman said he had the honour of serving in China under his old brother officer General Gordon, and having been brought into touch with Chinese armies he could confirm the fact that they had the makings of as fine, intelligent, and brave soldiers as any nation in the world. He thought our position in China had arisen entirely from the way in which we had always behaved in our wars there. On no occasion had we taken advantage of the numerous opportunities to occupy Chinese territory, and he considered that a great feature in the position we now held with regard to the Chinese. Then, when he was in China 21 years ago, he was mainly instrumental in the Government at home acquiring the territory on the mainland in front of Hongkong. The Foreign Office were not even aware that that was already British territory and had been ceded to us in the year 1842. The earlier cession was a most fortunate circumstance, because we entered into an arrangement on fair terms to rent the territory concerned from China. Thus we had got everything we wanted for the expansion of Hongkong, and at the same time left the land Chinese territory. Between the

English who knew the Chinese and the Chinese who knew the English there was a firm and lasting friendship which nothing would disturb. He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer.

In a few concluding words Archdeacon Barnett said he had learned to have great respect for the Chinese character, and his conviction based on experience was that in the character of the Chinese there were those qualifications and characteristics which made for greatness, and must issue in greatness if they had a fair chance. As a testimony to their commercial honesty, he related how one Chinese trader walked back over a mile to return a dollar the speaker had paid him in mistake. An expression of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Marylebone team left Australia for England on the 8th inst.

Prince and Princess Higashi Fushimi left Shimabashi for Dzuishi on Tuesday by the 11.50 a.m. train.

H.I.H. THE Crown Prince has announced his intention to return to Tokyo from Hayama on the 17th inst.

In the International Rugby Football match at Belfast on the 9th inst., Ireland beat Wales by twelve points to five.

The keel-laying ceremony of the armoured cruiser *Kirishima* took place on the 17th instant at the Nagasaki dockyard.

In the international Association football match at Wrexham on the 11th inst., England defeated Wales by two goals to nil.

Mr W. A. HEWINS, Secretary of the Tariff Commission, has been returned unopposed as Member of Parliament for Hereford.

The Oriental Life Assurance Company held its general meeting on Wednesday, when a dividend of six per cent. was declared.

PRINCE YASU who has been spending the winter season at Kamakura, is expected to leave there for Tokyo on the 30th instant.

PRINCESSES TAKEDA and Kitashirakawa repaired to Hayama on Friday morning last and paid a visit to the Crown Prince and Princess.

PRINCE Higashi Fushimi, Commander of the Yokosuka Reserve Squadron, returned to Tokyo on Sunday afternoon last by the 4.30 train.

The Oxford crew have rowed from Barnes Bridge to Chiswick Steps in 3min. 52sec. The previous record for this distance was 4min.

It is officially announced that Sir Henry Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G., Governor of Northern Nigeria, has been appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands.

OWING to the heavy snowfall in North-eastern Japan, the telegraph service between Tokyo and the districts concerned is temporarily suspended.

THE unveiling ceremony of the bronze statue erected in Ueno Park to the late General Prince Komatsu took place on Monday morning.

MRS. PANKHURST is suffering from bronchitis. The suffragettes who were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour are refusing to take their food.

MR. ASQUITH has announced that he will introduce the Home Rule Bill in the week after the Easter recess. It is anticipated that it will be introduced on April 11.

THE Russian Ambassador, H.E. M. Malletitch, who has been home as one of the Russo-Chinese Treaty revision committee, is said to have decided to leave for Tokyo on the 23rd instant *via* Yokohama.

divotstock, with a view to directly negotiating with the Japanese Government regarding the Manchurian question.

THE graduation ceremony of the Aoyama Gakuin, Shiba, Tokyo, will be held in the lecture hall of the school on the 27th instant at half past nine in the morning.

MR. HORI MOTOR, Member of the House of Peers, who has been suffering from consumption since last year, is now reported to be lying in a most precarious condition.

DR. MAWSON'S ship *Aurora*, of the Australian expedition to the Antarctic, has arrived at Hobart. She reports that Dr. Mawson's party landed in the Antarctic on January 19th.

THE Training squadron *Soya* and *Aso*, which left Singapore on the 20th inst., entered Oosam on the 16th. They are expected to weigh anchor for Yokosuka about the 21st.

THE Hungarian Premier, Count C. Khuen-Hédervary, has resigned owing to acute differences with the Austrian Government and the General Staff about the army.

MR. J. H. M. KIRKWOOD, Conservative Member of Parliament for S. E. Essex, has resigned his seat. Mr. Rupert Guinness will be the Unionist candidate at the bye election.

MR. KIVOOKA HITOSHI, ex-President of the Morioka Electric Company, who was arrested on a charge of embezzlement, has been sentenced to penal servitude for a term of eight years.

A FIRE broke out at the house of a baker, Tanumachi, Yotsuya, at midnight on the 20th instant, but fortunately the flames were promptly suppressed before they could do serious damage.

THE Imperial Railway Association will hold its seventh general meeting on the 26th proximo at 9 a.m. at the Seiyō-ken Hotel, Uneme-cho, presided over by the President, Count Terauchi.

THE epidemic of typhoid fever which broke out last month in the Aoyama Normal School, Akasaka, appears to be spreading, the cases reported up to the 15th instant numbering seven.

MR. HAVELOCK WILSON, the Secretary of the National Seamen's Union, after watching the working of compulsory arbitration in Australia, says that he is now in favour of the principle.

TYPHOID FEVER, which broke out on the destroyer *Unikase* some time ago, is rapidly spreading among the warships and naval schools; several fresh cases found on the battleship *Fuji* have ended fatally.

MR. OKINA TAKEMATSU, Consul General at Hamburg, who has been home on furlough, left Shimonoseki for Fusan on Thursday evening last, whence he is expected to go to Germany *via* Siberia.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Otaru, Hokkaido, on Saturday afternoon at about four o'clock a fire broke out in a house owned by a flour dealer by the name of Ono, Inabo-cho, in the city, destroying fifteen houses.

THE Australian Board of Control has appointed Mr. S. E. Gregory (N. S. W.) captain of the Australian team which is to visit England, and has confirmed the appointment of Mr. Crouch as manager of the team.

AT a fire in a lodging house at Chicago on the 9th inst., where 200 inmates were asleep, many jumped into the fire nets held by the firemen and were injured. So far it has been ascertained that six persons were killed.

THE Japanese Government, states *The Times*, have purchased 10, Grosvenor-square, at the corner of Duke street, formerly the residence of Sir Samuel Wilson. It possesses large reception rooms, including a ball-room, and has nearly 30

bedrooms. It will be used by the Japanese Government as their Embassy in London. The agents who carried through the sale are Messrs. Collins and Collins, of 37, South Audley-street.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Tōbu Railway Company will be held on the 30th instant at one in the afternoon, when the project of increasing the capital by 90,000 yen will be discussed.

A BRITISH Royal Commission has been appointed under the chairmanship of Lord Macdonell to inquire into the methods of appointment and promotion at present in vogue in the civil, diplomatic and consular services.

THE N.Y.K. steamer *Sanuki Maru*, which left Seattle on the 27th ultimo, and was due in Yokohama on the 15th instant, arrived on Monday evening, being delayed by the violent storms experienced on the voyage.

THE King has laid the foundation of the new London County Hall. He knighted the Chairman of the County Council, Mr. Edward White, and the chief engineer to the Council, Mr. Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G.

SIGNOR SARCOLI, the well-known Italian tenor, who is now staying in Tokyo, will give a grand concert in the Imperial Hotel on the 26th at 8 p.m., under the auspices of the Italian Ambassador and the *Corps Diplomatique*.

BARON ISHIMOTO, Vice Minister of War, who has been confined to his bed at his official residence since last month, is now reported to be declining still more in health, and it is feared he will be unable to long maintain his post.

THE Crown Prince will pay a visit on the 20th instant to the residence of Prince Oyama at Sendagaya, accompanied by the Chief Military Attaché Muraki, Prince Ichijo, Lord Chamberlain, and a few other Court attendants.

A PRIVATE, named Kanamurs, belonging to the 2nd Company of the 49th Infantry Regiment, committed suicide early on Sunday morning. The reason is said to be shame over a severe reproof he received for some fault.

DESPATCHES from Sapporo report heavy snowstorms to be raging throughout Hokkaido for the past few days, with the result that both telephone and telegraphic communications are cut off and traffic suspended in several districts.

MISS CHRISTABEL PANKHURST, who has not yet been tracked by the police, has issued a manifesto, which was scattered broadcast throughout London on the 9th inst., in which she defends the attacks of the suffragettes on private property.

PRINCE FUSHIMI will give a banquet at his residence, Kioi-cho, on the 19th instant at 7.30 p.m. to the *Corps Diplomatique*. Marquis Saionji, the Premier, the State Ministers and Vice-Ministers, Court dignitaries and officials will also be present.

THE Yokohama Economic Association will meet at half past five on the afternoon of the 22nd inst. at the Yokohama Bankers Club. The President of the Keiō University, Mr. Kamada Eikichi will, it is said, give a lecture on the future of Yokohama.

ABOUT two o'clock on Thursday afternoon last a wind storm visited Ariake village, Nagano prefecture. A building of over fifty *tsubo* in course of construction was blown down, killing one man in his fall and fatally maiming five others engaged in the construction.

PRINCE KANIN, in his capacity as President of the Japan Red Cross Society, and Princess Kanin, in her capacity as Chief of the Japan Patriotic Nursing Association, held a dinner party on Friday afternoon last in honour of Marchioness Nabeshima, Viscountess Ogasawara, Mr. Inouye, the Third

Military Surgeon, and many other members of the Red Cross Society who are to leave Japan for Washington on the 26th instant to represent the Association at the International Red Cross Society Conference to be held there in May.

THE arbitration committee dealing with the strike of London taxi-cab drivers, who demanded that they should retain all "extras," has now issued its award. This is largely in favour of the men, who are to retain all "extras" and to receive other concessions from their employers.

A LONDON JEWELLER, named Geoffrey, while sojourning at Hongkong a few days ago, was robbed of rings, brooches and other valuables valued at ten thousand yen. The culprits, two in number—one being a Japanese and the other an Englishman,—are suspected to have escaped to Nagasaki.

PRESIDENT TAFT, speaking at Chicago on the 11th inst. on the subject of immigration, said: "Some say that we should not take so many immigrants because foreigners are not always fitted for popular government, but we have tried the experiment and find that foreigners are fitted for liberty."

A GAS explosion took place in the Ginza, about eight o'clock on the morning of the 20th instant Tokyo, while some operatives of the Tokyo Gas Company were engaged in repairing a gas pipe in front of the *Shinseido*. The incident caused great confusion for a time, but no one appears to have been injured.

A VERY serious accident took place last week in the Ikoma tunnel, now being constructed between Osaka and Nara, when owing to a sudden collapse of earth over two hundred coolies were buried beneath the debris. About 60 have been rescued alive, but it is feared that there are no hopes for the remainder.

IN the House of Commons, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, Colonial Secretary, replying to Mr. W. Joynson-Hicks, Conservative Member for Brentford, said that he entirely approved of the conditions imposed by Sir John Anderson upon the Eastern Shipping Co., Ltd., of Penang, in connexion with the building of the new docks.

SIR A. B. MARKHAM, M.P. (Lib. Mansfield), who is himself a large coal owner, in a forcible speech delivered at Mansfield recently before a large audience of miners, declared that the profits of the trade had been understated by many millions of pounds. He contended that the owners could pay a minimum wage of eight shillings per shift.

BARON TAKAHASHI, President of the Bank of Japan, gave a dinner at the Bankers Club in Nihonbashi, on Thursday evening last; Mr. Yamamoto, Finance Minister, Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, Baron Shibusawa, and many other leading bankers and business men of Tokyo, Osaka, and Yokohama, being among the guests.

THE opening ceremony of the second Industrial Exposition will be held on the 20th instant at Ueno under the auspices of the Tokyo Industrial Association. The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, Minister for Education, Governor of Tokyo-fu, Mayor of Tokyo City, and many other distinguished officials will participate in the day's function.

THE Tokyo Electric Bureau has decided to run special through trams from Aoyama and Shinjuku from the 21st instant for the convenience of people desiring to see the cherry blossoms. The cars starting at Aoyama will run round by Kudan, Ueno, Asakusa and Tsukiji, while those starting from Shinjuku will go *via* Tsukiji, Asakusa, Ueno and Kudan.

MR. KABAYAMA HISANCBU, holder of the Sixth Class Order of Merit, who has long been confined to his bed from sickness, breathed his last at his residence, Azabu, Tokyo, on Thursday afternoon last at one o'clock. He was 82 years of age. Be-

fore his death, His Majesty raised him to the Sixth Rank of the Junior Grade. Mr. Kabayama was born in Miyazaki prefecture, and rendered distinguished services at the time of the Restoration. The funeral will take place on the 16th instant at the Tohokuji Temple, Shibuya, Tokyo-fu.

HUNDREDS of poor, by permission of the landlord, the Duke of Norfolk, have been digging coal in the outcropping near the streets and on waste ground in Sheffield. Nine persons were injured by subsidences. The colliers on the 14th inst. drove away the diggers and sold the coal at high prices. The Duke of Norfolk has rescinded his permission.

We learn from an announcement in the last Shanghai papers that the well-known Chinese bank—"The Imperial Bank of China," has notified its clients that henceforth it will be known as "The Commercial Bank of China." Old residents here who frequent the Race Meetings in Shanghai during their visits to the port, may remember that the only Chinese Bank Notes the Race Committee would accept, were those of the Imperial Bank of China.

ITCHING ECZEMA ON HANDS AND FINGERS

Scratched Constantly. Long Cracks Bled and She Cried Bitterly with the Pain. Convinced Case was Incurable. Cuticura Soap and Ointment Completely Cured Her.

"I have suffered for nearly five years now from a very unsightly form of eczema on my hands and fingers, in spite of the constant attentions of doctors, herbalists and chemists. The places began by small watery pimples. They burst, became long cracks and often bled. I developed two large sores on the back of my right hand and on my right wrist. These became raw as if skinned and as large as five shilling pieces. The irritation was so bad that I constantly scratched until they poured with blood, and I was exhausted with the agony and cried bitterly with the pain. "I had grown firmly convinced that my case was quite hopelessly incurable. My right hand for months looked so terrible that I was compelled to wear a glove night and day, and it irritated me so that I tore it till the blood poured from several places at once. I was distracted with the ceaseless pain and itching. I thought I would try the Cuticura Soap and Ointment, and my delight was great when I found places that had been sore and painful for years gradually but surely healing up. They are absolutely cured now through the use of Cuticura Soap and Ointment, which I applied constantly, binding up the worst places.

"I can do my work now like any other woman, but before I dreaded even to think of it. I felt relief after the first two or three washes with the Cuticura Soap and applications of the Cuticura Ointment, and now, after using only one and one-half boxes of the Ointment, my hands are soft and white. The Cuticura Soap we use daily, it is so soothing to the skin. Cuticura Soap and Ointment cured my hands when doctors said I never should get them healed." (Signed) Mrs. Alice Watson, "Hazemere," The Avenue, Starbeck, nr. Harrogate, Eng., July 16, 1911. Samples with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: E. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Sq., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney, N.S.W.; Lennon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

American Cotton continues to arrive in large quantities, and local values still remain below the level of prices in the producing countries. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains the same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, conditions are generally unchanged.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	33.50 to 33.50
Indian Broach	33.50 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	32.50 to 33.00

COTTON YARN.		PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.		
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	...	5.75 to 11.00

Grey Shirtings:—		
A. 43 1/4" x 45 yards	...	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/4" x 45 yards	...	5.50 to 5.80
C. 44" x 46 yards	...	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—		
A. 44" x 45 yards	...	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 45 yards	...	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	...	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—		
44" x 46 yards	...	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	...	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/4" x 47 yards	...	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	...	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	...	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	...	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	...	0.35 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2 1/2 to 3 1/2 24-25 yards, PAR PIECE.	...	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3 1/2 to 5 1/2 24-25 yards,	...	2.50 to 3.65

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	...	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	...	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.		
Union Italians	...	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,	...	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,	...	0.31 to 0.33

Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union,	...	—
54 to 56 inches	...	—

METALS.		
The market is dull, with very little business doing.	...	—

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	...	Y. 4.00 to 4.50
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	...	5.20 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	...	6.20 to 6.40
Sheet Mild Steel	...	6.80 to 7.10

Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	...	10.70 to 11.00
" " Flat	...	11.30 to 11.50
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	...	6.80 to 7.00
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	...	7.60 to 8.10
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redclaf"	...	2.25 to 2.35

KEROSENE.		
The market is not active.	...	—

Chester	...	Y. 4.18
Victory	...	3.92
Nonpareil	...	4.80
Somatra	...	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	...	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	...	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	...	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura	...	3.77
Total	...	—

SUGAR.		
Little business has been done in imported Refined.	...	—

Brown Manila	...	Y. 10.50 to 12.40
Brown China	...	—
Brown Java	...	9.90 to 10.55
White Java	...	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	...	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	...	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.		
No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.	...	—

Calcutta first	...	Y. 240.00
" second	...	200.00
Java, first	...	320.00
" second	...	280.00
Madras, first	...	—
" second	...	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	...	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	...	2.00

FLOUR.		
The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.	...	—

Gold Drop	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	"	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	"	11.65 to 11.70
Portland	"	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	"	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—		
Rising Sun	6 kwamme	2.80
Takasago	6 "	2.75
Fuji	6 "	2.85
Pine	6 "	2.80

WHEAT.		
Prices have risen.	...	—
White Walla Walla, 100 kin	...	5.30
Red	...	5.25
Blue Stem	...	5.35

EXPORTS.		
RAW SILK.	...	—

The market is quiet.	...	—
On March 15th stocks were: Filatures 4,000 piculs; Re-reels, 150 piculs; Kakeda, 200 piculs.	...	—

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	...	930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	...	895
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	...	905
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	...	880
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	...	930
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	...	920
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den	...	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	...	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	...	855
Re-reels—Extra	...	—
Re-reels—No. 1	...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	...	870
Re-reels—No. 2	...	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	...	890
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	...	860
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	...	850
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	...	840

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE.			
March.	March delivery.	April delivery.	May delivery.

16h	86.70	87.20	88.00
18h	86.80	87.40	88.10
19h	86.30	87.00	87.60
20h	85.40	86.20	86.00
22nd	84.90	85.80	86.30

WASTE SILK.		
Small business doing.	...	—

On March 14th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,500 piculs; Kibiso, 4,000 piculs; Sundries, 1,000 piculs.	...	—
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QUOTATIONS.		
Noshi—Filatures, Best	...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	...	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	...	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	...	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	...	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	...	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	...	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	...	110 to 120

HABUTAE.		
Fukui:—The market is somewhat dull.	...	—
Kanazawa:—There has been no change in prices and the market is in a quiet condition.	...	—
Kawamata:—The market is in an unsettled state.	...	—

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)	...	—
6 me. 6 1/2 me. 7 me. 7 1/2 me. 8 me.	...	—
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...	—
22 1/2" 8.0 7.95 7.95 7.60 7.70	...	—
27" 7.90 7.80 7.70 7.55 7.50	...	—
36" 7.95 7.70 7.70 7.55 7.7	...	—

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)	...	—
4 1/2 me. 4 1/2 me. 5 me. 5 1/2 me.	...	—
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...	—
22 1/2" 7.70 7.70 7.65 7.55	...	—
27" 7.60 7.55 7.55 7.60	...	—
36" 7.55 7.50 7.50 7.45	...	—

KAWAMATA.	...	—
3 me. 3 1/2 me. 4 me. 4 1/2 me.	...	—
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.	...	—
20" 7.00 7.60 8.50 9.30	...	—
25" 7.30 8.20 9.40 9.90	...	—
27" 8.80 10.10 11.10 11.70	...	—
36" 11.80 13.20 15.10 16.10	...	—

COPPER.		
According to a London telegram of March 18th the quotation was £66 1/2.	...	—

Refined per 100 kin	...	43.50-45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	...	38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	...	47.00-50.00
Ore	...	29.50-33.00

RICE.		
The market is quiet.	...	—

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	...	615.254 bags.
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	...	61.955

Delivery.	Closing Price.
March.....	19.47
April.....	19.35
May.....	19.37
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
March..... 19.74	March..... 19.77
April..... 19.29	April..... 19.34
May..... 19.31	May..... 19.24
RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.	
(Tokyo.)	
Superior.....	Yen 21.10
Medium.....	20.00
Common.....	18.61
Average.....	19.90

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery.	Yen.
March.....	141.35
April.....	138.95
May.....	135.71

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 15th March amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choice.....	nominal.
Choice.....	—
Finest.....	—
Fine.....	—
Good Medium.....	—
Medium.....	—
Good Common.....	—
Common.....	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Mar. 22.

London silver $\frac{1}{4}$ lower for spot and $\frac{1}{2}$ for forward delivery. Shanghai sterling quotations declined $\frac{1}{4}$ yesterday but to-day have not yet arrived, and local rates on China rule slightly firmer but no change otherwise.

London—Bank T.T.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Sight.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— 60 days.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— 4 months sight.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Credits 4 months sight.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
— 6 months sight.....	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Australia Docty 30 days.....	2/1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight.....	257 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months sight.....	261 $\frac{1}{2}$
America—Bank sight.....	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 30 days sight.....	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months sight.....	51
Germany—Bank sight.....	208 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 4 months sight.....	213
India—Bank sight.....	152
— Private 30 days sight.....	154
Hongkong—Bank sight.....	per \$100. 95 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 10 days sight.....	do 95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shanghai—Bank sight.....	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
— Private 10 days sight.....	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bar Silver (London).....	261 $\frac{1}{2}$

* Nominal.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Nubia, British steamer, 3,824, F. J. Fox, 15th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 15th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, J. Nagao, 15th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tamon Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 15th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
O. J. D. Ahlers, German steamer, 4,736, Gronau, 15th Mar.,—Hamburg via Takao, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 16th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 16th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Tsurugisan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,559, S. Watanabe, 16th Mar.,—Ocean Island, Phosphate.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Oceano, British steamer, 1,739, Davis, 16th Mar.,—San Francisco, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Den of Glamis, British steamer, 3,416, A. Low, 16th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kalomo, British steamer, 3,208, W. Kearsley, 17th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazer Ltd.
Shinko Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,872, N. Murase, 18th Mar.,—Rangoon, Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 18th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, S. Ishikawa, 18th Mar.,—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Princess Alice, German steamer, 6,721, P. Grosch, 18th Mar.,—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co.
Shokubi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,350, A. Yamashita, 19th Mar.,—Yokosuka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushihi, 19th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Telomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 19th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 19th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).
Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 20th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Kichin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 20th Mar.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Ailland, 21st Mar.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurozumi, 15th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Telemachus, British steamer, 4,802, J. H. Goodwin, 15th Mar.,—Marseilles, Havre and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Indrasamha, British steamer, 3,367, N. P. Pilcher, 16th Mar.,—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Glenelg, British steamer, 3,319, A. Hart, 16th Mar.,—Kusunutsu, Ballast.—Sale & Frazer Ltd.
Tourane, French steamer, 2,338, Lancelin, 16th Mar.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.
Tamon Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, J. Tsuda, 16th Mar.,—Hakodate, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Oceano, British steamer, 1,739, Davis, 16th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 17th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 17th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 17th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, M. Abe, 18th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,617, Y. Yamanaka, 18th Mar.,—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Nelus, British steamer, 4,260, R. Day, 19th Mar.,—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Nubia, British steamer, 3,824, F. J. Fox, 19th Mar.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,418, J. McCurdy, 19th Mar.,—Hakodate, Phosphate.—Otto Reimers & Co.
Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, A. G. Stevens, 19th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 19th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Den of Glamis, British steamer, 3,416, A. Low, 19th Mar.,—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Tsurugisan Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,559, S. Watanabe, 19th Mar.,—Mojji, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
O. J. D. Ahlers, German steamer, 4,736, Gronau, 19th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Benalder, British steamer, 1,959, A. Tough, 20th Mar.,—Bassett via Kusunutsu, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.
Telomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker,

20th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 20th Mar.,—Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.).

Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushihi, 21st Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 21st Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 21st Mar.,—Hongkong direct, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, S. Ishikawa, 21st Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yamaguchi Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—15 Japanese and 1 child and 2 Chinese and 1 child in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. R. Masujima and Mr. O. H. Kerry in cabin; Mr. S. Shimizu, Mr. K. Minagawa and Mr. Mrs. and Miss Callaco in second class; 22 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Prof. E. B. Greens and Mr. S. Katsuno in cabin; Mr. H. Nakamura and Mr. I. Kunimatsu in second class; Mr. T. Takatsuji in intermediate; 12 Japanese and 2 Russian in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. S. Nishimura in cabin; 21 Japanese in steerage. For Moji:—4 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. Ta Chi Quo in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. Muir and child, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Harding, Mrs. M. L. Focher, Mr. F. Swain, Mr. R. Crow, Mr. E. M. Ledyard, Dr. S. Youngbarg, Mr. J. R. Grove, Mr. C. B. Gullrey and Mr. C. V. Skrimshire in cabin; Mr. A. Pearson in second class; Mr. C. Johnson in intermediate; 3 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Tourane* for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Weill, Mr. B. Bochir and Mr. Desmaitons in cabin.

Per N.Y.K. steamer *Hilachi Maru*. From London Feb. 17.—To Yokohama: Mrs. S. Hirota, Mrs. and the Misses A. and Y. Frost.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Mongolia* for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 14th inst.:—

TRA.

	S. F.	N. Y.	Chicago.	Omaha.	Baltimore.	Honolulu.	O. City.	Total.
Shanghai.....	258	3,367	—	—	—	—	—	3,625
Focchow.....	465	—	1,279	—	—	—	—	1,744
Kobe.....	—	1,203	—	—	—	—	—	1,203
Yokohama.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H'kong.....	182	36	209	192	57	—	—	676
Total.....	182	723	4,606	—	1,488	192	57	7,248

	SILK.	Mexico	
From S. M'ter. N. Y. Holyoke. City.			Total.
Shanghai ...	74	—	174
Hongkong ..	312	20	332
Yokohama...	699	93	792
Total	1,085	93 20	1,198

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Tourane*:—

	RAW.	WASTE.
Marseilles	—	—
Lyons	—	—
Moscow	—	—
Milan	—	—
France	—	—
Italy	—	—
Trieste	—	—
Belgium	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	357	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	109	41
W. Pestalozzi	91	—
Hara Yoshitsuten	80	—
Nabholz & Co.	67	—
Mitsui Bussan K'sha	61	—
F. Strahler & Co.	41	—
Jewett and Bent	20	—
Samuel Samuel & Co.	41	—
Bavie & Co.	20	—
Pila & Co.	20	—
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	20	—
C. Eymard & Co.	—	277
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	5
Total	826 143	282

SILK SHIPPERS.

Silk shippers per *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 19th inst.

	Raw Silk.	N.Y.	Holyke.
P. Dourille.....	70	—	—
L. Mottet & Barmont	69	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.....	122	—	—
China and Japan Trading Co....	20	32	—
Jewett & Bent	10	—	—
F. Strahler & Co.....	15	—	—
Nabholz & Cie.....	70	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	250	—	—
Jardine Matheson & Co.....	10	—	—
Hara Yushutsuten	90	—	—
Comptons Soies	10	—	—
Kiito Gomei Kaisha.....	148	50*	—
Pila & Cie	25	—	—
Total	909	82	—

* Easton.

Per Japanese steamer *Mexico Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 20th inst.

Vivanti Bros.....	90
Siber Hegner & Co.....	62
China and Japan Trading Co.....	60
Comptons Soies	25
F. Strahler & Co.....	20
Kiito Gomei Kaisha.....	240
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.....	144
Cornes & Co.....	136*
Yanagisawa Shokai.....	3*
Total	789

* Waste Silk.

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Sept. 9th, 1911. S. 17



MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IN DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Vancouver.....	B. L.....	Suveric	Su. Mar. 24
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Tenyo Maru	Su. Mar. 24
Hongkong.....	B. L.....	Hercules	W. Mar. 27
America.....	P. M.....	China 1	F. Mar. 29
Seattle	N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru 2	F. Mar. 29
Seattle	G. N.....	Minnesota 3	Sa. Mar. 30
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Monteagle	Su. Mar. 31
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Chicago Maru	Tu. Apr. 2
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	Persia	F. Apr. 5
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Panama Maru	Sa. Apr. 6
Europe	N. D. L.....	Luetzow	Su. Apr. 7
America.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 13
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17

- 1 Left San Francisco on the 12th inst.
- 2 Left Seattle on the 12th ult.
- 3 Left Seattle on the 16th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	Siberia	Sa. Mar. 23
Europe	N. D. L.....	Princess Alice	Sa. Mar. 23
Shanghai	N. Y. K.....	Hakui Maru	Su. Mar. 24
Hongkong.....	B. L.....	Suveric	Su. Mar. 24
America.....	T. K. K.....	Tenyo Maru	Tu. Mar. 26
Seattle	N. Y. K.....	Kamakura Maru	W. Mar. 27
Europe	N. Y. K.....	Kaga Maru	W. Mar. 27
Seattle	B. L.....	Hercules	Th. Mar. 28
Europe	M. M.....	Australien	Sa. Mar. 30
Australia	N. Y. K.....	Kumano Maru	Sa. Mar. 30
Tacoma.....	B. & S.....	Talhybuis	Sa. Mar. 30
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Monteagle	Su. Mar. 31
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru	M. Apr. 1
Hongkong.....	G. N.....	Minnesota	Tu. Apr. 2
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Chicago Maru	W. Apr. 3
Shanghai	P. & O.....	Oriental	Th. Apr. 4
America.....	P. M.....	Persia	Sa. Apr. 6
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Panama Maru	Su. Apr. 7
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	M. Apr. 15
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17

NOTICE.

THE Manager of the *Japan Mail* invites attention to the fact that the system called *Perikae-Chokin* enables accounts to be paid to persons at a distance without the expense of a Post Office Order. Any one desiring to transmit money due to this journal need only pay the amount to the nearest Post Office by filling in the form which accompanies the Bills sent from the *Japan Mail* and handing in the form, with the amount in question, to the nearest Post Office. The number of the *Japan Mail's* Post Office Savings Bank account is 6,498.

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明治廿五年三月廿日
第三種郵便物認可

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAR. 30TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

HEASLETT.—On the 23rd at Kojimachi, Tokyo, to the Rev. and Mrs. S. HEASLETT, a Son.

DEATHS.

CAMERON.—On Sunday, 24th inst. at 3.15 p.m. WILHELMINA GRANT CAMERON, aged 19 years and 3 months. Funeral from 72-c Bluff on Tuesday, 25th inst., at 2.30 p.m. Friends kindly accept this, the only intimation.

POLLARD.—At Westcliffe, on 22nd instant, FREDERICK LESSEY POLLARD, formerly of Yokohama, in his seventieth year. By cable.

WRIGHT.—On March 26th, 1912, at St.

Luke's Hospital, Tsukiji, Tokyo, WILLIAM NICOLL WRIGHT (of Wright's Hotel, Yokohama), aged 54 years.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of the Duchess of Buccleuch.

TEN bales of Rhodesian cotton have been sold in Liverpool at 7½d. per lb.

THE death is announced of Major-General Frank Shirley Russell, C.M.G., M.L.

PROFESSOR Sir Joseph J. Thomson, Kt., has been decorated with the Order of Merit.

THE training fleet *Aso* and *Soya* arrived at Yokosuka at 7.20 on Thursday morning, thus finishing their training cruise.

THE general meeting of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce will be held at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the 29th instant.

CONSUL HAYAMI in Chientao wires that the ice on the Tuman and the Hailan rivers began to melt on the 26th instant.

M. MALLEWITCH, the Russian Ambassador to Japan, who has been home on furlough, returned to Tokyo on Tuesday morning.

A very slight earthquake shock was felt at Yokohama about three o'clock on Thursday afternoon last, lasting about one minute.

THE *Official Gazette* of the 26th instant announces the redemption of 20,000,000 yen of national bonds on the 30th of April by means of lottery.

HIS MAJESTY the Emperor was pleased on Thursday to promote Baron Fujita, who is now lying dangerously ill, to the Fourth-class Rank of the Junior Grade.

FIELD-MARSHAL PRINCE YAMAGATA, who was some time ago reported to be lying seriously ill at his villa at Odawara, is now said to be convalescent.

THE running of another fast express between Shimbashi and Shimonoseki, contemplated since last year by the Railway Bureau, will be commenced on June 1st.

WE are informed that Mr. F. H. Bugbird has been elected Chairman and Mr. J. Koerting Vice Chairman of the Foreign Board of Trade for the ensuing year.

H. M. THE EMPEROR gave a banquet on Wednesday to the State Ministers, Presidents and Vice-Presidents of both Upper and Lower Houses, and the members of the Diet.

THE British Consul-General at Seoul, Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, has resigned his post on account of ill health. Mr. R. de Layard, Consul-General at Kobe, is believed to be his successor.

A FIRE insurance company has been newly established in Tokyo under the name of Toyo Kwasai Hoken Kwaisha, with a capital of one million yen. Mr. Kabayama Sukahide is the President.

THE marriage took place on the 20th inst., at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Walford, Herefordshire, of Alfred George, only son of Mr. A. G. Hayman, of Hapsford House, Frampton, Somersetshire, and Marjory Vivian Mary, elder

daughter of the late G. W. Butt, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Mrs. Butt, of Holcombe, Walford, Ross-on-Wye.

MR. JUIN, Minister at Peking, arrived at Seoul on the 27th instant and attended the banquet given in his honour by Governor-General Terauchi. The Minister left for home on the 28th instant.

THE death is announced of Mr. Sato Noboru, son of Baron Sato Susumu, Head of the Juntendo Hospital, the sad event taking place on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was in his thirty-seventh year.

ON the 22nd instant there died, at the advanced age of 79 years, Takano Kiku, who had been, for 37 years, the faithful and devoted servant of Mr. J. Favre-Brandt's family. Such a long service is probably unparalleled in Yokohama.

THE students and teachers of the Yokohama Commercial School have presented a set of silver cups to Mr. W. Walker, one of the teachers of the institute, as a token of their appreciation of his faithful services for the past twenty years.

ABOUT half past eight on the morning of the 25th instant, another powder explosion occurred at the Itabashi Powder Mill, Kita-Toshimagōri, in the suburbs of Tokyo. Two men were killed on the spot and thirty others were seriously injured.

THE death is announced of Mr. Kakiage Junshiro, Auditor of the Yokohama Life Insurance Company, the sad event taking place on Monday afternoon at his residence in the suburbs of Yokohama. The deceased was in his 66th year, and was well known among silk traders.

COUNT OKUMA gave a banquet on Saturday afternoon last to the chiefs of the different Army Divisions now in Tokyo, among them being Prince Kanin, Chief of the Imperial Guards Division, General Hasegawa, Chief of the General Staff, General Nogi and General Kawamura.

WE learn that the Rev. W. T. Austin, the popular Chaplain of the Seamen's Mission in Yokohama, will take temporary charge of the Seamen's Mission in Hongkong during the well-earned holiday of the Chaplain at that Port. It is believed that he will leave here early in April.

WHEN the S.S. *Minnesota* arrives in Yokohama on Tuesday next, it is believed that she will have on board a British General who is known by all as the defender of Mafeking. Lieut. General Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell's tour round the world in connection with the "Boy Scout" movement, of which Mr. Clarence Griffin is the representative in Yokohama. It may be safely assumed that some of the sturdy youngsters of Yokohama will be on the *Hatoba* to welcome the arrival of the gallant officer.

A TERRIBLE explosion occurred on the 22nd instant at the Yoshizawa Powder Mill, near Yori-masa Park in the outskirts of Takasaki. The building caught fire, but the efforts of the firemen prevented the conflagration from spreading. The Powder Mill in question covered 60 *tsudo*, and was one of the biggest powder factories in the Kwanto district. The explosion occurred when the workers in the employ of the mill were entering the factory after the midday meal. Five of them were killed on the spot, and five others seriously injured. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

CHINA.

The situation in China does not show any marked improvement. There are four centres of disturbance, namely, Shansi, Kwangtung, Shantung and Manchuria. In each of these places a state of great lawlessness exists and there does not appear to be any prospect of the Central Government taking effective steps to restore public peace and good order.

Meanwhile Japan's adherence to the loan syndicate is said to have produced a very good effect, and similar action on Russia's part is earnestly waited for. Russian financiers, however, are understood to insist that before any further instalments are paid over, the whole of the arrangements shall be clearly and explicitly formulated. That this very natural precaution will be taken there can be little doubt. In fact as has been more than once asserted in these columns, the solution of the loan problem being in the hands of men who are constrained by large interests, it may be taken for granted that a *modus vivendi* will be found.

We may mention incidentally that, by way of rider to this question, a sharp controversy is going on between the *Jiji Shimpō* and the *Japan Chronicle*. The latter journal, briefly epitomized, takes the ground that whereas Japan went into the recent war as avowed champion of the principle of equal rights and opportunities, she now openly advocates special rights and opportunities on her own account in Manchuria. It is easy for the *Japan Chronicle* to build a case against Japan upon these foundations, and with superficial observers such a case might have great weight. But it is easier for the *Jiji Shimpō* to prove the extravagance of contending that after waging such a stupendous fight as Japan waged in Manchuria she can be for a moment expected to step down from a position she won by victories, and to range herself on precisely equal terms with Powers which made no such sacrifice of blood and treasure. Small as is the *Japan Chronicle's* sympathy with the country of its adoption, and great as is its proclivity to find fault with Japan, it cannot persuade us to believe that it intends to assume such an unfair attitude. No publicist of ordinary intelligence has ever attempted to deny that Japan acquired special rights and privileges in Manchuria in the sequel of the war of 1904-5. The reservation of those rights and privileges must be explicitly recognized in the preamble of any agreement now formulated.

Things seem to be as far away as ever from the restoration of tranquility. The Nanking statesmen are standing firm in their approval of the Belgian loan, and the representatives of the Four-Powers Syndicate have lodged a formal protest against the transaction. Yuan Shih-kai himself appears inclined to disavow all previous knowledge of the Belgian affair. But it is improbable that he will persist in holding that attitude, inasmuch as the resignation of Tang Shao-i would be the obvious outcome. Russia is believed to sympathise with the Belgian capitalists, though she has not as yet taken any public step of that nature. As for Japan, she has not protested, because she was not one of the original parties to the Four-Powers Loan. There is a strange rumour that Russia is supporting the Belgian capitalists, because she apprehends that if the large loan by the Four-Powers Syndicate were

consummated, a considerable part of the proceeds would be applied by China to warlike preparations on the Russian frontier. It seems to us, however, that not much credit attaches to this interpretation. The more credible explanation of Russia's reluctance to join the Four-Powers Syndicate is that she prefers to keep a free hand along the frontier. St. Petersburg must see clearly that on the solution of this problem depends the solidarity or the disruption of China, and with such great issues in sight there is a natural hesitation about taking any definite line. The world cannot forget the action taken by Russia towards the United States' neutralization proposal, which, if consummated, would have involved much the same consequences as those now foreseeable in the sequel of joining the financial syndicate of six Powers. We ourselves entertain no doubt that a satisfactory exit will be found from the dilemma, since the alternative is too serious to be contemplated calmly.

We may refer briefly here to an argument advanced by the *Asahi Shimbun* in the sense that Japan's financial strength is not sufficient to shoulder a loan of a hundred million yen at 5 per cent. with an unredeemed period of five years. She would have to sell the bonds to some Occidental country, and with their sale she would lose the right of participating in the control of the money. The answer to this has been made to the *Asahi* by an anonymous Japanese diplomat. He explains that if the bonds were sold, the purchaser would be England, and that the transaction would not impair the seller's rights, inasmuch as the articles of agreement contain no restriction on the subject of actual tenure.

There is no important change in the Chinese situation. The loan question and the state of the provinces continue to monopolize attention. It would seem that the Belgian loan has emerged from the status of pourparlers and has become an actual fact, the Belgian financiers having paid over to the Nanking Government a sum of a million taels, being the first instalment of a loan of a million sterling. Moreover, Russia has been induced to coöperate in the Six-Power transaction, and thus things have assumed a very satisfactory condition from the point of view of Yuan Shih kai and Tang Shao-i. But it has to be observed that Russia's attitude towards this transaction is the subject of much suspicion. Thus it is believed that while secretly assisting the Belgian syndicate, St. Petersburg is in reality placing obstacles in the path of the Four Powers. Very complicated theories are advanced upon this topic, and it seems useless to devote time to their discussion. The fact remains that the Powers will have to discover some method of joining financial hands, for the alternative is too serious to be contemplated.

We observe that the *Jiji Shimpō* prefers a very strong indictment against China in connexion with this incident. Some authorities allege that the Belgian loan had been practically contracted before any negotiations were opened with the Four Powers, but others maintain that the latter event preceded the former. In either case the *Jiji* charges the Chinese Government with a flagrant want of sincerity, and says in effect that the Peking statesmen have had recourse to their habitual trickery in international affairs. They appear to our Tokyo contemporary not to appreciate the gravity of the situation

confronting their country. To us (*Japan Mail*), however, it seems incredible that there can have been any successful concealment about this Belgian transaction. Loans of a million sterling cannot be effected in such a hole-and-corner manner.

There are suggestions with regard to the Han-Ya-Ping Loan that the Chinese Authorities have resorted to their Rights-Recovery Policy. If that be so, China's condition is indeed parlous.

As for the provincial disturbances, they show no sign of abatement. It now appears, according to information collected by General Cheng from the various commanding officers, that it will be necessary to pay to each soldier a sum of 15 taels by way of solatium, and 5 taels as travelling expenses, whereas the original estimate was that 10 taels per man would meet all the requirements of the situation. General Cheng is further informed that this money must be paid before the dissolution of the Nanking Council, for if that order be reversed, the soldiers, fearing to be left without a responsible *vis-à-vis*, will at once mutiny. Estimating that 400,000 men have to be dealt with, this calculation would mean that a sum of at least 8 million taels must be at once forthcoming, to say nothing of the compensation that will have to be paid for lost property.

There is nothing definitely known yet as to the personnel of the Provisional Government, but considerable progress is said to have been made towards a settlement. Indeed, by some authorities, the personnel is said to have been actually fixed, but reticence is observed inasmuch as it is feared that some changes of view may take place at the eleventh hour. There is talk of giving a portfolio to an Imperial Prince for the purpose of placating the Mongolians, and Prince Pu ling is actually indicated as the most probable candidate. But in other quarters this is thought improbable. What is certain, is that Sun Yat-sen resigned his position as President on the 27th instant and that Tang Shao-i accepted the post of Prime Minister. It is said that Sun's intention is to proceed to Canton, where he will devote his best efforts to promote the smooth working of the new Republican regime. As for Hwang, the indications now are that he will enter the cabinet after all, though nothing at all definite is known publicly. The idea is that he cannot well stand aloof and that he will accept the portfolio of war. On the whole, therefore, the situation is easier and the present expectation is that two or three days more will suffice for the final settlement.

In the provinces, however, no further progress towards complete pacification seems to have been made. There are rumours of a conflicting nature as to General Sheng's pro-Imperial movement. One story is that he and his men have been placated by a liberal sum of money, but another equally confident statement is that the insurgent General has established touch with Manchuria and is devising an insurrection, having for its object the overthrow of Yuan Shih-kai and the elevation of Prince Ching to the Throne. As for Shantung and the Metropolitan Province, nothing effective has been done in the way of restoring order, and it is rumoured that Canton will not long remain quiet under the Presidency of Yuan Shih-kai. It is in anticipation of disturbance in the southern province that Sun Yat-sen has chosen Canton for residence, his object being to extend all possible sup-

port to Yuan. In fact, nothing could exceed the loyalty and good faith that Sun has shown throughout the whole of this disturbance. He is undoubtedly worthy of all the encomiums that have been lavished on him. As for Manchuria, it is reckoned among the disaffected districts. But Viceroy Chao's attitude remains difficult to interpret. The impression his acts convey is that he is inclined to sit on the fence as long as possible. Mongolia, Szechuan and Yunnan are all scenes of potential trouble, but there was no definite news from them yesterday. On the whole, the impression conveyed by collating the telegrams that have reached Tokyo within the past few days is that a large part of China will not consent to submit for any length of time to a Government organized by Yuan Shih-kai. On the other hand, our readers will have observed that the tendency of Japanese correspondents from the outset has been pessimistic to a degree scarcely justified by events.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

It must be confessed that the Chinese idea of a Republic leaves something to be desired. Our readers are aware that the Provisional Government desires to leave the Provincial Governors in their former posts. In other words, while abolishing the distinction between Viceroy and Governor, and applying to each the latter term, the Government does not propose that these officials shall be chosen from the outset by popular vote. That will be the method ultimately pursued, as is the case in Occidental Republics, but for the time being the idea is to leave the present Viceroys and Governors in office, changing their title to "Governor-General." That is simple enough and might be expected to command the approval of all moderate men. But the provincial assemblies insist that the privilege of electing their Governors-General must be left to the people governed, and Shantung has set the singular example of declaring that unless its wishes in this matter be complied with, it will enforce them by a military occupation of Peking. That is an interesting amalgam of republicanism and despotism.

A NEW MARE'S NEST.

So long as public opinion in Tokyo remains under the control of the present despots there appears to be no chance of getting any question discussed on its merits. The latest example of this difficulty is furnished by the case of electric lighting. An important newspaper alleges that the agitation now fomented in favour of furnishing plant for a million lights is inspired not by any real solicitude for the convenience of the citizens, but simply in the interests of the Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company, which has contracted for furnishing the power. We have often had occasion to remark that if the Tokyo folks are as corrupt as certain emotional newspapers accuse them of being, the metropolis of Japan must be a veritable sink of iniquity. On the Directorate of the former Tokyo Railway Company there were several men who obeyed in everything the highest canons of commercial morality. These are the men against whom the sensationalist newsmonger has now levelled this poisoned pen.

THE METROPOLITAN PROVINCE IN CHINA.

The tradesmen of Pehchili have not yet taken down their shutters. They are understood to declare that until they get some distinct promise of compensation for the losses they have suffered already and some engagement as to the future security of life and property, they cannot venture to resume business. That is the attitude taken in Peking at all events and expected to be taken in Tientsin and Paoting also. One cannot be surprised. The heaviest blow was given to the prospects of the new polity when Yuan Shih-kai's troops took the law into their own hands and set about sacking the metropolis in order to collect a few dollars of arrears of pay. As to the damage actually done by these troops one is prepared to hear that the original estimates were great exaggerations. A hundred million *taels* were spoken of in the case of Peking and seventy millions in that of Tientsin, but now the losses incurred outside the walled portion of the metropolis are said not to exceed two million *taels*. Doubtless the ruin wrought within the walled city was much more extensive, but there has not yet been time to make an estimate. Never in history has there been a moment when the power of money was more forcibly illustrated. So far as we can see at present the restoration of peace and good order as well as the resumption of business throughout the realm depend upon the Government's ability to find a few millions of *taels*. There is even some indication that this "problem of dollars may interfere with the tenure of the Premiership by Tang Shao-i, and may lead to his replacement by Wu Ting-fang.

It is now stated that the insurrection in Shansi under Sheng Yun is not a protest against republicanism but is due merely to Sheng's difficulty in disbanding his forces. He is said to have informed the emissaries of President Yuan that if a million *taels* are paid over to him, he can undertake to disband his troops peacefully. If all the mutinous troops now under arms can be disposed of with equal ease, the situation is not so bad as it seems to be. But we observe that the *Asahi Shimbun* takes a very pessimistic view. It estimates that, including Manchuria, no less than fourteen provinces may be said to be under arms, and it appears to think that the state of affairs could not well be graver than it is.

THE WEATHER.

There has seldom been a more striking meteorological conflict than that witnessed within the last few days in Japan. In Tokyo and places further south the sun rose bright and cloudless on the 21st instant; the fires over which people had been cowering twenty-four hours previously, quickly became a nuisance, and on the night of that day restless sleepers were throwing off their coverlets to court the cool freshness and crispness of the atmosphere. On the same day a fierce snow storm was raging in the northern districts; the flakes accumulating to a depth of several feet and all traffic being suspended by the heavy drifts. We have had many examples of the localizing of temperature in Japan, but it may be doubted whether any has been more signal than the case just experienced.

OBJECTS OF VIRTU.

Quite an excitement has been created by the prices bid at a recent sale of objects of art, the property of Mr. Ikushima of Osaka. The total sum realized is said to have been 245,000 *yen*. Whether such an amount was wisely or foolishly expended cannot be judged of course without an accurate estimate of each of the objects sold. But in this case what surprises onlookers is not the total figure but the amounts obtained in a few particular cases. Special attention is directed to a Cochin Chinese censer which was purchased by Mr. Fujita for a sum of 90,000 *yen*, and in the next rank, at a long distance, it is true, but still in a sufficiently remarkable position, stands a brazier of the ware known as *Chosen Karatsu* which fetched 16,289 *yen*. For the benefit of the uninitiated, it may be explained that Cochin Chinese ware is a particularly coarse kind of semi-porcelain, which has nothing whatever to recommend it from an artistic or technical point of view, and that *Chosen karatsu* is a stone-ware belonging to the same category of ugliness and roughness. Such specimens derive attraction solely from association, historical or personal. The prices at which they sell on occasions like the recent auction in Osaka are dictated solely by romantic fancy. This special rage for rococo objects has been cultivated solely by the tea-clubs, and to discuss its rationale would be mere waste of time, for it has no bases whatever in reason. Some Tokyo newspapers are inclined to be clamorous over the incident, and to draw a conspicuous contrast between the outcry about increased price of necessities on the one hand and this extraordinary extravagance in luxuries on the other. But so long as there are men possessed of more wealth than they can usefully employ, so long will *bizarre* methods of finding amusement be devised. In many periods of Japanese history similar spectacles have been recorded, but no attention is paid to the criticisms they excite or to the recklessness of the expenditure they illustrate.

THE SHENSI TROUBLE.

There has been quite a heavy engagement at Tungkwan in Shensi. The Republican leaders invited General Sheng Yun to meet them at a place three miles from that city on the 20th instant, and submitted to him an offer of three million *taels* if he consented to disband his troops. It will be remembered that a previous telegram described General Sheng as willing to break up his organization and dismiss his troops for one-third of that amount. But apparently that telegram was an optimistic exaggeration. At any rate the immediate consequence of the offer was an engagement which lasted for three days and resulted in the discomfiture of the Republican forces with very heavy loss. Thereafter, the Imperialists occupied Hsian, the old Chinese capital under the Tang and Han Dynasties, and it is evident that the movement has assumed much more formidable dimensions than the public had supposed. It would be strange if a new Dynasty raised its head on the site of the ancient Chinese capital. One telegram says that the Republican force sent from Hsian to fight the Imperialists, went over to the latter and that an orgie of pillage and violence ensued.

FIELD MARSHAL HWANG.

Field Marshal Hwang persists in refusing to associate himself with the Provisional Government and persists also in withholding his reasons for such aloofness. President Yuan has addressed a direct appeal to him, setting forth the advantages that might be expected to accrue from his acceptance of the portfolio of War; insisting that he possesses all the qualities necessary to secure success in that post, and explaining that his coöperation had always been counted on by the nation. The President has also addressed a document to the Yangtze statesmen, engaging their assistance to influence Hwang. But all this effort seems to be unavailing. Hwang cannot be induced even to state the reasons of his reluctance, and of course such a sphynx-like attitude renders discussion doubly difficult. Altogether, each day that passes strengthens the impression of a split in the ranks of the Republicans.

Major Idogawa, who has just returned from a visit to China, offers the first reasonable explanation of Field Marshal Hwang's reluctance to accept the portfolio of War in the Provisional Government, and an explanation also of the Field Marshal's reticence on this subject. Major Idogawa alleges that the great problem of the hour in China is the disbanding of troops. It must have often occurred to the students of the time that in view of the immense issues at stake, the forces ranged under the banners of the Republican and Imperial leaders were remarkably small. One heard of a few hundreds here and a few thousands there, but no impression was produced of anything like an army on either side adequate to deal with the situation. We now learn from Major Idogawa that the reports were signally incomplete and that the number of troops under arms in the Yangtze Valley aggregated some 400,000 men. The problem which has now to be faced is the disbanding of this great force. Certainly not less than 100 taels per head can be offered to the men, and it is very questionable whether that amount, even though paid in hard money without any mixture of dubious notes, would satisfy the soldiers. Assuming that it would, however, the result is that four million taels has to be found immediately, and where to get it is scarcely more perplexing than to ensure its acceptance by the disbanded troops. The former part of the problem is left for solution to the Provisional Government, but as to the latter part, Yuan Shih-kai and his confederates repose great confidence in Field Marshal Hwang, for whom the men have such respect that his persuasion would probably prove very eloquent. Hwang, however, is naturally reluctant to essay such a task without full surety of success, and he accordingly hesitates; while, at the same time, it is obvious that this reason for hesitation cannot be publicly stated without seriously accentuating the difficulties of the task that would devolve upon Hwang. Therefore, the Field Marshal stands aside and so he also keeps silence. It is a perplexing situation, but this interpretation, if correct, removes a much more anxious feature, namely, the hypothesis that Hwang is unwilling to serve under the Presidency of Yuan Shih-kai. After all, it is another form of the monetary question. That problem meets us at every turn.

THE FINANCIAL CRUX IN CHINA.

As might have been anticipated, and was indeed anticipated in these columns, the financial question is occupying close attention and causing much discussion in China. President Yuan is understood to contend that in no circumstances will he consent to an arrangement which involves China's surrender of the right to borrow in any market to which she can obtain access and from any capitalists who are prepared to lend. The Four-Powers Syndicate, on the contrary, while not denying this right, insists that China is not in a position to exercise it. She is not bankrupt, but for all practical purposes she can not be treated as a perfectly solvent debtor, since she already owes to Western countries more money than she can command in the ordinary course of finance. In short, the Syndicate, while refraining from any explicit declaration of the kind, must nevertheless be interpreted as insisting that if China is to be extricated from her present financial difficulties with all their ominous contingencies, she will have to place her estate under the direction and management of a foreign receiver. The Government at Nanking is understood to be prepared to support Yuan in this matter, and that indeed may be regarded as a foregone conclusion. It is the "rights' recovery" doctrine in a revised form, and one cannot but regret that sufficient tact was not exercised to avert the recurrence of that troublesome problem at this particular juncture. We are not informed as to whose advice China is following in the matter, but we are persuaded that she will find herself greatly mistaken if she thinks that European capitalists will consent to be played off against one another in a transaction of such magnitude. One may talk of Paris, New York, Berlin and Brussels, but when all is said and done, London is the dictator wherever great monetary problems have to be solved, and China will be much mistaken if she expects to shift the centre of financial gravity in this instance.

Meanwhile, reports continue to arrive from the provinces, showing that the evil example set by the troops in Peking is finding followers everywhere. Shantung is especially unfortunate in this respect. Robbery, murder and incendiarism are rife there, and it will be strange if the rioters fail to come into conflict with the German residents. Confirmation has also been received of a plot against the life of Viceroy Chao. But what reason the plotters allege, we do not yet learn. Altogether the situation in Shantung is difficult to comprehend, for while the capital of the province is in a state of anarchy, troops continue to arrive at Chefoo from Shanghai.

CHINA'S FINANCE.

The latest news about the Belgian loan is that President Yuan does not attach paramount importance to the protest of the Four-Powers Syndicate. He takes the ground that the transaction has already been completed and a portion of the money handed over, so that there can be no going back now. Apparently the amount which has thus changed hands totals 2,800,000 taels, of which one million has been paid, or will be immediately paid, to the Nanking army, and 900,000 taels each

have been apportioned for the troops at Tientsin and Wuchang. In fact, this Belgian loan was a more or less forced transaction, since money had to be found at all costs to purchase the tranquility of the troops. Rumour alleges that Yuan has not made any explicit reply to the remonstrance of the Four-Powers Syndicate. He is quite clever enough to see that this is a matter of pure sentiment, and that the Powers must eventually marshal themselves along the financial line indicated by China. It is thought that he will consent to change the nature of the security by omitting the lien on the Peking Hankow Railway; but if he does this, it will be merely for the sake of a quiet life. The Four-Powers Syndicate appears to have based its complaint on the plea that a lack of sincerity was shown by Yuan when he entered into negotiations with another Power without saying anything to the Syndicate, to which, nevertheless, he was about to incur an immense obligation in connexion with the issue of 60 millions sterling of Reorganization Bonds. Yuan has not thought it necessary to reply explicitly to this complaint. He is said merely to have expressed his regret that a misunderstanding should have arisen. He knows very well, though he is careful not to say, that the money-market of the Occident is fully open to him in almost any circumstances. The one thing which China will be obliged to concede is the appointment of foreign financial advisers who will wield the power of Inspectors.

The attention of our readers will be attracted by the term "Reorganization Bonds," here used for the first time in connexion with the Chinese loan. The expression seems well chosen, for the purposes to which the money will be applied are numerous and diverse, but all constitute factors in the formation of a new polity.

THE MINISTRY AND THE ELECTIONS.

In the matter of official interference in the general elections, Mr. Hara Kei, Minister of State for Home Affairs, is acting up to his high reputation for enlightenment and impartiality. There has been no instance of a Japanese general election which was believed to be absolutely free from official meddling, and naturally the partisans of the statesmen not in power are apprehensive of the results of interference. A deputation from the Popular Party is reported to have waited upon Mr. Hara and solicited an expression of opinion from him on this subject. Nothing could be less equivocal than his reply. He declared that he was totally opposed to interference of any kind, whether direct or indirect, and that he intended to issue instructions to that effect. It has hitherto been the custom to require the local police to furnish reports as to the state and progress of the general elections. But experience shows that in order to compile these reports the police have recourse to a system of inquiry, which is apt to lapse into interference. The Minister of Home Affairs has therefore decided that all such reports shall be dispensed with in the elections in May, and that any police or other officials convicted of interfering in however small a degree shall be severely punished. The deputation retired thoroughly satisfied with this declaration.

THE DIET.

Among the remarkable features of the twenty-seventh session of the Diet which has just closed, one is the great number of representations and petitions adopted by the Lower House for submission to the Government. It does not appear that in estimating the character of these documents, the House exercises much discrimination. The members are ready enough to propound queries if a petition or representation is left unattended to, but certainly they do not exercise their own right of scrutiny with conspicuous care. Thus, one of the representations adopted by the House for submission to the Government, as our readers doubtless have perceived, was a suggestion that the old time practice of expiatory suicide should be revived. That is to say, a man convicted of a crime might save his reputation and his family's property by killing himself instead of living on as a convict. The idea of the framers of this proposal was that it would help to revive the old respect for honour which formed such an important element in the *bushi's* character.

The Imperial Diet brought its twenty-eighth session to a completion on the 26th instant. This was the third House of Representatives that succeeded in serving its full term for four years without dissolution. Tokyo newspapers are tolerably unanimous in their verdict. They say that the Cabinet cannot be credited with anything more than negative virtue. The interval at its disposal before the Diet met was not sufficient for any radical change of programme or for the drafting of any really important bill. The Diet therefore took the Ministry on trust. It accepted the latter's promises of taxation readjustment to be planned and elaborated in the interval between the two sessions, and thus it may be said that not actual peace but only a truce, exists at present. The Diet has accepted the Government's promises, but it is prepared to insist that those promises shall be fulfilled, and that they shall take the form of a reduction of taxation. Nothing else will satisfy the nation. Our metropolitan contemporaries speak in terms of some contempt about the traces of the pending election which were visible in the proceedings of the Lower House. Many of the members sought to win the favour of electorates by a display of not very sapient activity in presenting petitions, preferring representations and putting questions. There was a great want of statesman-like judgment in these respects, but the House treated the whole pageant with indulgence, evidently regarding it as a preface to the general election which takes place in May.

THE MOTOR-CAR AFFAIR
IN TOKYO.

In a recent issue we referred to a paragraph in the *Nippon* which described a collision between a woman on foot and a motor car driven by Dr. Bliss of Tokyo. The tone of the paragraph and its heading conveyed the impression that the foreigner had behaved in a very arbitrary manner and that the unfortunate woman would be obliged to appeal to the law for redress. But on

inquiry we find that the supposed collision existed only in the imagination of the paragraphist. What seems to have happened is that Dr. Bliss, driving his well known motor with his usual skill and without a chauffeur, emerged on a street so narrow that a little give and take was necessary for persons passing to and fro. The woman happened to be in the way, and Dr. Bliss, who was proceeding at a very slow pace, stopped his motor and invited the woman by gestures to make room for passage. As she paid no attention, however, the motor was driven gently onwards and she was compelled to step aside. There was no collision; still less was any one injured. It is hard to decipher any ground for preferring a claim in such circumstances. Nevertheless a claim seems actually to have been preferred, and Dr. Bliss naturally declined to recognize it. Doubtless sympathy is due in many cases to pedestrians who are terrified or bespattered by rapidly moving motors in crowded streets. These splashings seem to be the great grievance, and after rain it often happens that a *jinrikisha* driver cannot effect his escape from a shower of mud that disfigures his garments and his legs from the waist downwards. But that may be described as a sentimental grievance. Certainly some consideration is due to the motorists, and nothing could be more unjust than to assume that they must necessarily be in fault in every instance. We trust that Dr. Bliss will stand to his guns, and that his case will help to elucidate the rights and wrongs of these questions.

THE CONSTITUENCIES' BILL.

An anonymous representative of the *Kenkyū kai* is quoted by the Tokyo press with reference to the collision between the two Chambers of the Diet in the matter of the Constituencies' Bill. The *Kenkyū kai*, as most of our readers are aware, is the conservative section of the Upper House, and commands the largest number of votes among the parties into which the Peers are divided. The explanation given by this anonymous representative is not particularly convincing. He alleges in effect that the measure was defeated, not on account of its explicit demerits, but on account of its lack of perceptible merits. No one could prove from either experience or theory that small constituencies are superior to large, and in the absence of such proof there was no inducement for the Peers to pass the Bill. The general election which is to come off in May will furnish an opportunity for practically testing once more the validity of the arguments for or against large constituencies, and the election will be watched closely with that purpose. Thereafter, if convincing material is collected, the Upper Chamber will be found willing to pass the Bill, since it has no desire whatever to stand in opposition to the Lower House.

That is all sufficiently plausible in its way, but we have to remember that this Bill went up to the Peers with the full endorsement of the House of Representatives, and that its effects will be felt by the Lower House and not by the Upper. Consequently, to say that the measure was rejected merely because it did not carry conviction to the Peers though it did to the Representatives for whom it has important bearings, is a decidedly disjointed kind of contention.

COLLECTION OF JAPANESE
COLOURED PRINTS.

Mr. James Orange, who for many years practised as civil engineer and architect in Hongkong, and Dr. T. C. Thornicroft, the eminent Kobe physician, have combined to give the public an opportunity of acquiring some of the choice specimens of Japanese chromoxylogy which came into their possession during the many years of their residence in Hongkong and Kobe, respectively. The sale was to take place on the three days ended the 27th of March, and no less than 508 specimens were included. Naturally we know nothing as yet about the prices realized, but in view of the great knowledge possessed by the two *connoisseurs* and of the long period covered by their collections, we cannot doubt that the sale has been eventful. An illustrated catalogue was published showing 449 of the specimens, and from these we judge that the collections included many of the choicest examples of their kind. The salesmen were Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, of Wellington Street, Strand, London, and almost without exception, the great masters of Japanese *genre* pictures were represented. The catalogue itself is quite an important affair, though naturally the colours of the originals were not reproduced.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Superstitious folks will be disposed to detect a special visitation of Providence in the calamities that have overtaken during the past two years places licensed for carrying on the social evil. Twice within a twelve-month these temples of vice in Tokyo have been almost wiped out of existence by fire, and in the case of the Fukagawa quarter the purification of a tidal wave had taken place a few months previously. The amount of property lost by the three calamities must have been stupendous. In the last instance, namely, the Fukagawa district, the insurance offices alone are said to have suffered to the extent of 700,000 to 800,000 *yen*. We do not doubt that opponents of the licensed system will take this opportunity to enter the arena once more, and we most heartily wish that complete success may attend their efforts. But when we speak of success in such a context we do not indicate the abolition of the vice in one place to make room for its appearance in another. Our conviction is that this problem is insolvable, and that until some radical change is effected in human nature the social evil is bound to stay with us. Surely, then, the wiser plan is to regulate it, which is possible, rather than eradicate it, which is impossible?

EXTRADITION TREATIES.

As a sequel to the Extradition Treaty concluded by Japan with Russia in August last year, steps have been taken to negotiate similar agreements with other Western Powers. The English realm being the most widely spread of any country in the world, questions of this nature are conspicuously likely to present themselves in connexion with Great Britain or some of her numerous colonies. Hence the order of procedure has been to push on the negotiations, with England at the head of the list.

CHINESE LOANS.

Friday, March 22.

The negotiations in regard to the Six Powers' loan are now at a deadlock, the Representatives of the Syndicate awaiting instructions from home. The action of Yuan Shih-kai and Tang Shao-i is being severely criticised in Diplomatic circles in Peking. The official note issued by the Japanese Government as to participation in the loan has considerably impressed the Chinese authorities as well as the Syndicate, and the determination of Japan's attitude will, it is believed, greatly facilitate the negotiations.

The acting Russian Minister is credited with having stated to an interviewer that he has not yet received any official report from his home Government as to Russia's participation in the loan, but the Russian Government has brought forward two conditions; that is, that the advances heretofore paid to China should form a distinct loan, in which Russia will participate, and that no more advances shall be made to China until after the Six Powers' loan contract has been concluded. Russia will participate in the loan if these conditions be accepted by the Four Powers.

The Ministers of the nationals concerned in the Four Powers' Syndicate have decided to present a formal protest against the Belgian loan.

Chinese official organs published in Peking argue that the Four Powers' protest against the Belgian loan has no validity, as it is a national sequence of the right of loan negotiations reserved to China, to which Tang Shao-i obtained the consent of the Four Powers' Syndicate.

It is reported that the provisional agreement of the Belgian loan has been approved by the State Council.

Saturday, March 23.

The British, American, French and German Ministers met in conference on the 21st instant and resolved to demand from the Chinese Government a substantial assurance as to its financial policy, to protest against the Belgian loan, and to advise China as to the necessity of observing commercial morality in regard to future transactions with the foreign bankers' syndicate. The Ministers of the Four Powers will enter forthwith into formal negotiations with the Chinese Government in consonance with these resolutions.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires in this context that apparently the representatives of the Four Powers' Syndicate have petitioned their respective home Governments that a protest should be lodged with China, through the Ministers in Peking, against the Belgian loan. The Four Powers do not seem to have as yet decided their attitude. The Syndicate is of opinion that, while it has no desire to monopolize all the loans that China may desire to raise in future, as it entered into an agreement with the Chinese Government early in February last to make advances to China every week, in accordance with the needs of the Chinese Government, up to the end of August next, to the limit of 50 million *taels*, at 5 per cent. interest, with net proceeds at 97½, such loans to be uncovered by security until the Six Powers' loan had been concluded, the Syndicate thereby reserved to itself the right of priority in regard to Chinese loans. The Syndicate has, therefore, good reasons to protest against China's present action. Should China conclude loans with any other parties in future, it would give European

investors a sense of insecurity concerning Chinese loans which would cause a depreciation of the market price of the loan bonds. The Syndicate confidently believes that the European and American Governments are justified in their present protest, which is made in order to protect their investments. The Belgian Syndicate is also fully aware of the inadvisability of lending money to China in competition with the Four Powers' bankers. The present action of the Belgian Syndicate may therefore be interpreted as signifying a desire to participate in the Six Powers' loan, from which it may be concluded that a Seven Powers' Syndicate will ultimately come into existence.

According to a Peking dispatch, says a Shanghai telegram to the *Jiji Shimpō*, the representatives of the Six Powers' Syndicate sat in conference with the Ministers of the six Powers concerned, on the 21st instant, when it was resolved to interview Yuan Shih-kai, to demand an explicit explanation of China's financial policy, and at the same time present a protest against the Belgian loan negotiated by Tang Shao-i. It is understood that the Six Powers will withdraw their financial assistance should the Belgian loan be brought to a successful conclusion.

Our contemporary quotes an unnamed diplomat as saying that the negotiations on the Six Powers' political loan will, of course, remain at a deadlock until after the Belgian loan question has been solved. Nothing definite is as yet settled. The amount of the talked-of loan is merely a rough estimate. Even if the loan comes up for negotiation it will not be very easy to arrive at a final settlement. Moreover, it is most probable that a section of the Chinese will raise an objection to the acquisition by the Syndicate of the right of supervision over China's finances, as well as to the nature of the security the Syndicate may claim. The Syndicate must therefore be prepared to face considerable difficulties in the negotiations. From a diplomatic point of view there is no harm in the Syndicate granting to China short term advances, even before the official recognition of the new Chinese Government, but it is otherwise in regard to the proposed large political loan, which, if concluded prior to official recognition, would give rise to a misunderstanding concerning the relations between the Provisional Government and the foreign Powers. The conclusion of the loan must therefore be reserved till after official recognition has been given by the Powers concerned, until when there can be no alternative but to continue the short-term loans.

It is impossible to predict the date of the official recognition by the Foreign Powers of the Chinese Republic, but usually such recognition is given on the completion of the organization of a new Government. Whatever necessity there may exist for a hasty recognition of the Republic, it is unlikely that the Governments of the foreign Powers will give their recognition before the arrangements for the election of President, the formulation of a Constitution, and the convocation of a National Assembly, etc. have been completed.

The Provisional Constitution, and all other declarations issued after the installation of Yuan Shih-kai to the provisional Presidency, name September as the time by which all the necessary arrangements must be made. In view, however, of the troublesome question

raised in regard to the Belgian loan, and also of the fact that there is no guarantee against unforeseen troubles occurring in all parts of China, the situation is not very reassuring, and it remains doubtful whether the Chinese Government can complete all the necessary arrangements within the prescribed period.

Sunday, March 14.

According to a Peking dispatch, quoted in a Shanghai telegram to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the position of Tang Shao-i as Minister-President has been shaken owing to his attitude on the Belgian loan. The representatives of the four Powers concerned have presented to the Peking Government a protest against the action of Tang Shao-i, and the four Powers' Syndicate will hereafter place no confidence in him. Yuan Shih-kai also finds himself in rather a difficult position, as he had signed the Belgian loan contract, acting solely on the advice of Tang Shao-i, without obtaining the concurrence of the Nanking Government, whereby he has incurred the strong censure of the Nanking authorities. The money which Yuan Shih-kai has now in hand does not exceed about one million dollars, which he received from the Belgian syndicate on Wednesday last. The Government has to make a heavy outlay very shortly, and the pay-day of the soldiers is also drawing near. Moreover the Government has to pay interest on, and redeem a portion of, the 150 million *taels* of the Peking-Hankow Railway loan concluded in 1909, the creditors, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, vigorously demanding payment. The whole political situation has thus been rendered very difficult. A belief obtains in Peking that Tang Shao-i will resign shortly, and Wu Ting-fang is talked of as the probable successor to the Minister-Presidency.

Tang Shao-i has issued an official explanation, wherein he says that the conclusion of the Belgian loan is not a breach of good faith *vis à vis* the Four Powers' Syndicate. Some weeks ago the Chinese Government entered into an agreement with the Four Powers' Syndicate, whereby advances were to be received at definite periods and afterwards incorporated in a large loan. The first installment of three million *taels* was duly received. At the time when the second instalment was about to be received the riots in Peking broke out and the bankers concerned suspended payment. The terms of the Belgian loan are similar to those of the four Powers' loan, that is to say the advances made are to be incorporated in a large loan later, for which the Peking-Changkiakau railway is to be hypothecated. The negotiations with the Belgian syndicate have been pending nearly two months and the representatives of the Four Powers' Syndicate were fully aware of what was going on concerning the loan. Tang Shao-i does not deny that the French capitalists have prior rights on the Peking-Changkiakau railway, but he thinks there is no reason why the French capitalists should raise an objection to giving the Belgian Syndicate a second lien on the railway. The Customs revenue of China is hypothecated for several loans.

Monday, March 25.

The Belgian loan now forms the burning question in Diplomatic circles in Peking. The matter has been taken up direct with Yuan Shih-kai by the Ministers of the Four Powers concerned. Yuan holds

that the present complication is due to a misunderstanding on the part of the Four Powers' Syndicate, and contends that the Chinese Government reserves to itself the right of negotiating loans with any other Powers. He even openly announces that a rival foreign syndicate will gladly accept China's loans if the Four Powers Syndicate be indisposed to accept them. The Four Powers' Syndicate contends that the acceptance by the six Powers most deeply interested in Chinese affairs of loans to such an imperfect and insincere government as that of China, which is virtually on the verge of bankruptcy, depends upon a supervision of the finances; also that the conclusion of a loan with some other syndicate without the concurrence of the Four Powers Syndicate can not be tolerated in the interests of the holders of Chinese bonds. This point will be strongly insisted on by the Ministers of the Four Powers in the negotiations and a demand will be made to Yuan Shih-kai for various privileges concerning the loan.

A Peking telegram to the *Fiji Shimpō* reports that as a result of the conference of the Ministers of the Four Powers, it has been decided to present to Yuan Shih-kai a protest against the Belgian loan. Inasmuch, however, as a formal protest to a Government which is not yet officially recognized will prove futile, the Ministers concerned have decided to pay a joint visit to Yuan Shih-kai to demand the cancellation of the Belgian loan contract.

The Russian Government has, on consideration, decided not to participate in the Four Powers' loan. This decision is said to be based on the ground that there is no adequate guarantee as to the amount of the loan to be appropriated for Chinese armaments and also that the present loan tends to give rise to an incident similar to the Sino-American scheme which once strategically menaced Russia in the Far East.

The *Novoe Vremya* criticizes the abrupt decision of the Russian Government to stand aloof from the Four Powers' China loan, and states that the Government gives as a reason for its decision the insufficiency of security for the loan. This explanation can hardly be accepted, however. The paper expresses an apprehension that Russia will be isolated in financial matters in the Far East.

A Peking telegram to the *Fiji Shimpō* reports that the Russo-Chinese Bank has paid to Yuan Shih-kai half a million *taels* as part payment of the Belgian loan. In view of the report that the State Council at Peking has already approved the loan contract, it is not wholly incredible that the Belgian Bank has paid the advance through the Russo Chinese Bank, as reported.

It must be noted, however, that the *Niroku* and other Tokyo papers publish telegrams in quite an opposite sense to the above. These messages state that on further consultation, the Four Powers Syndicate has decided to withdraw its protest and announces that it will not interfere with any loans that China may negotiate with other Powers. The conclusion of the Belgian loan has thus become a matter of certainty. This report must, nevertheless, be received with some reserve.

Tuesday, March 26.

The British, American, French and German Ministers forwarded to Yuan Shih-kai on the 25th instant a joint Memorandum concerning the loan question, pointing out the

breach of good faith on the part of the Chinese Government in the matter of the Belgian loan. The Memorandum also demands a substantial guarantee as to the future financial policy of China.

It is reported that the Ministers of the four Powers concerned will have an interview with Yuan Shih-kai in a few days, when the attitude of the Four Powers' Syndicate will be definitely settled.

A well-informed authority is quoted by the *Fiji Shimpō* as saying that the Ministers of the four Powers concerned have at last entered into direct negotiation with Yuan Shih-kai concerning the Belgian loan trouble. China contends that not only has the Chinese Government reserved to itself the right of negotiating loans with other syndicates, but the Four Powers Syndicate must have been fully aware of the Belgian loan, since it was negotiated prior to the agreement with the Syndicate, and China has never kept it secret. There is therefore no reason why China should be accused of a breach of good faith in the transaction. China thus shows a strong front in the matter. The Four Powers Syndicate also takes a resolute attitude, however, and has demanded the cancellation of the Belgian loan. As the Syndicate has no reason to take up the matter direct with the Belgian Syndicate, but only with the Peking Government, a solution will not be easily reached.

Russia's attitude needs to be closely watched at the present juncture. The Belgian Syndicate is said to consist of a group of Belgian and British capitalists, the backbone of the syndicate being the Sino-Belgian Bank, which has a branch in Tientsin. A belief generally obtains in diplomatic circles that Russia is at the back of the Belgian Syndicate, and the present loan is in reality a Russian loan. Although it is difficult to say how far the belief is correct, it is said that the Russian Government has signified its intention not to disapprove of the Belgian loan, even if it does not give it open approval. This fact gives an insight into the Russian attitude towards the Belgian loan. Inasmuch as the Japanese Government has not taken part in the conference of the Four Powers Syndicate, it can neither protest against nor veto the Belgian loan, but will have to stand by and watch developments.

The Foreign Office authorities anticipated Russia would participate in the Four Powers' loan, but the latest telegram from Europe confirms beyond all doubt the report that the Russian Government will not participate. The reason given by Russia for non-participation is said to be that no adequate guarantee is made as to the portion of the loan to be appropriated to Chinese armament which is calculated to menace Russia's position in the Far East. Although the allusion is not clear, Russia evidently views with displeasure the colonization scheme planned by China to strengthen the frontier. Moreover, Russia demanded from China the withdrawal of the barracks at Kulon, when Outer Mongolia recently declared its independence. When these points are taken into consideration, it is not difficult to see that the absence of a guarantee as to the portion of the loan to be used for armaments is the most potent, if not the sole reason, for Russia's non participation in the loan. It may also be presumed that Russia differs from the Japanese Government as to the recognition of the right of priority of the Four

Powers Syndicate in the matter of Chinese loans.

This right of priority is the point at issue in the Belgian loan dispute. So long as Russia refuses to take part in the Four Powers' loan, so long must she reserve to herself the right of independent action. She must therefore either try to abrogate the right of priority of the Four Powers Syndicate or secure some other substantial guarantee. Even if Russia were to participate in the Four Powers loan, there would still be room for deliberation as to the wisdom or otherwise of placing the right of priority entirely in the hands of the Six Powers Syndicate, although the danger of allowing China to reserve the right of negotiating loans at her option has been clearly proved by the present incident. If any disagreement occurs among the six Powers and the question has to be decided by vote, the dissident country must choose between abandonment of her rights or a blind submission to the dictates of the others. Such would be unendurable for Russia, which has close territorial relations with China. It is also extremely doubtful how long Japan will be able to maintain equal pace with the four Powers. The question of the right of priority over China's loans, therefore, needs the most profound deliberation at the present juncture.

The financial distress of the Chinese Government has reached its height owing to the complication with the Four Powers' Syndicate concerning the Belgian loan. Yuan Shih-kai has decided, says a Peking dispatch, to issue 10 million dollars worth of convertible notes to relieve the situation, and the proposal is said to have been approved by the State Council. The notes will be issued on the completion of the organization of the new Ministry.

Wednesday, March 27.

A Peking telegram to the *Fiji Shimpō* reports that the British, American, German and French Ministers paid a visit to Yuan Shih-kai on Tuesday afternoon last and presented a voluminous protest, accusing Yuan and Tang Shao-i of a breach of good faith, the protest being based on the memoranda and the verbal promises exchanged between the syndicate and Tang Shao-i since February last, concerning the right of priority in Chinese loans. It remains still uncertain what answer Yuan Shih-kai will give to the protest, but it seems that he has arguments to disprove the charge of breach of faith brought against him.

A member of Yuan Shih-kai's Government has announced that when Tang Shao-i first made overtures to the Four Powers' Syndicate for a loan, he stipulated that if advances were granted monthly, China would not seek from any other Power a loan on similar or better terms, and in the event of desiring to raise another loan, the Syndicate would be notified of the fact. At the time when the proposal was made, the negotiations on the Belgian loan were in progress, and when Tang Shao-i agreed to the total amount of the Four Powers' loan, the Belgian loan was subtracted from the amount, so that the Chinese Government had no necessity for giving further notice or obtaining the consent of the Syndicate to the Belgian loan.

Yuan Shih-kai has succeeded by clever manipulation in inducing the State Council to approve the Belgian loan, and availing himself of the opportunity of Tang Shao-i's

arrival at Shanghai, has caused the Belgian Syndicate to pay 1,000,000 *taels* to the Nanking Government in advance, at the same time making a movement to raise a loan from Russian capitalists. It is reported that Yuan succeeded in raising a loan of half a million *taels* on the 24th instant.

The Belgian Syndicate, it is reported, paid to the Nanking Government on the 25th instant a sum of one million *taels* as a part payment of the one million sterling loan.

A Peking dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* reports that the Governments of the Four Powers concerned have decided to induce their home capitalists to grant advances to China to enable Yuan Shih-kai to pay off 500,000 soldiers, and to give China diplomatic aid.

According to intelligence reaching a certain quarter, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, the Russo-Asiatic Bank had paid half a million *taels* to Yuan Shih kai's Government as part payment of the Belgian loan, the bank participating in the Belgian Syndicate. Russia has sent a note to the Four Powers' Syndicate stating that she will not take part in the Four Powers' loan. When the activity of the Belgian Syndicate, with whom Russia stands in close relations, is taken into consideration, says our contemporary, it would seem that Russia is determined to show economic activity in China in opposition to the Syndicate. An impression obtains in some quarters, however, that Russia may have in mind a diminution of the power of the Syndicate before she ultimately joins it, since if she joined it empty-handed like Japan, she might be brought into blind submission to the high-handed actions of the Four Powers. Russia's attitude towards the Chinese loan must be based on either one of these hypotheses, but her real intentions still remain obscure.

THE HANYA-PING CORPORATION.

A special committee of the Nanking State Council submitted a report on the 25th inst. in regard to the proposed joint undertaking by Chinese and Japanese capitalists of the Hanyu-Ping Iron and Coal Corporation, which it considers illegal. The Government, the committee points out, failed to give a reasonable explanation concerning the matter, and the State Council was not consulted, so that the committee could not give its consent to the provisional contract, irrespective of whether the shareholders had approved it or otherwise. Sheng Huan-huai had no authority to enter into a contract with the Japanese capitalists, and the arbitrary consent given to the contract by the Government was illegal. The Government is, therefore, under obligations to forthwith cancel the contract and to settle all the disputes that might arise from it.

A Dairen telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* says that, according to a report received in an official quarter, the corporation's new loan contract was vetoed by the general meeting of shareholders because the manager of the corporation, in the name of the Nanking Government, threatened the shareholders who approved the contract with capital punishment. Sun Yat-sen and other Ministers of State could not stop the intimidation. The matter will form the subject of diplomatic negotiations between Japan and China.

DEATH OF THE RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP HONDA YOICHI.

We greatly regret to announce the death of the Rt. Reverend Bishop Honda Yoichi, which took place at Nagasaki on the 26th instant. The deceased was in his sixty-fifth year. He had proceeded to Nagasaki from Tokyo for the purpose of attending the annual meeting of Methodists, and he appears to have been seized by typhoid fever at Kobe, the disease terminating fatally a few days later at Nagasaki. Bishop Honda was Chief Inspector of the Aoyama Methodist College, and he enjoyed the highest possible reputation among the Methodists in general. His death will be a great blow to the cause which he so ably championed for over forty years. He was a pupil of the Reverend Dr. Brown and the Reverend Dr. Ballagh, so that he may be counted among the pioneers of second-period Christianity in Japan.

Bishop Honda came from the Hirosaki clan of Aomori, and was the eldest son of the late Mr. Honda Tosaku, a retainer of the clan under the Tokugawa regime. In the early years of Meiji he went to Yokohama and studied under the celebrated Dr. Brown of the Baptist mission, by whom he was baptized in the 5th year of Meiji. He had Messrs. Oshikawa and Uemura amongst his schoolmates. Afterwards he worked in the propagation of the Gospel in Sendai and Hirosakai, when he joined the Methodists. When the Aoyama Gakuin was established, he was chosen President, which post he ably filled until 1908, when he was appointed the first Bishop of the Methodist mission in Japan.

A story is told of how Bishop Honda came to devote his life to evangelical work. He went to the United States in the 19th year of Meiji (1886) to prosecute his studies in a theological school in New York. Being a man endowed with the qualities which make a statesman, and having had political experience, he took to the study of politics more than theology, and when the Imperial Diet was first convened in Tokyo, he received telegraphic advice from the late Prince Konoe to enter parliamentary life. He was much inclined to accept the invitation, and while considering which course he would take, he narrowly missed being run over by a train. His escape greatly impressed him and he made up his mind to devote his life to evangelical work. He thus became a pillar of the Christian faith in Japan.

THE CONSPIRACY IN KOREA.

It is expected that the preliminary inquiry into the Korean conspiracy will be concluded in two or three days and that a *prima facie* case will be established against the whole of the ninety men engaged in the plot. It is now an open secret that the object of the conspiracy was to make away with the Governor-General, but particulars will not be known until the finding of the preliminary tribunal is published. It will probably turn out that Christianity had very little, if anything, to do with this affair. There have evidently been grave misunderstandings. One of the most flagrant was that a Christian missionary had been arrested for complicity. The name of the apprehended man was actually wired to Tokyo, and naturally credence was given to this statement. Equally untrue is the

allegation that the Japanese Local Authorities seized this opportunity to strike a blow at Christianity. It may not be generally known, but it is nevertheless a fact, that in one of the earliest proclamations issued by the Government-General in connexion with Amalgamation, an explicit statement was contained in the sense that Buddhism, Christianity and Confucianism all ranked equally in official estimation as ethical codes. There can therefore be no idea of discriminating against one or the other at this juncture.

A CURIOUS CASE.

A strange libel suit has been laid in Tokyo by the proprietor of a weekly journal called the *Tokyo Shinbun* against the shareholders of the Imperial Theatre Company. In a drama recently acted at that theatre, the principal male character was given to the proprietor of a daily newspaper called the *Tokyo Shinbun*. He was represented as having married a *geisha*, and all sorts of consequences, both tragic and comical ensued. It may be confidently affirmed that among the thousands of persons who frequented the theatre during the presentation of this piece (*Hinode*) not one knew of the existence of a periodical named the *Tokyo Shinbun*, and it may be equally certainly asserted that the writer of the drama never dreamed of any one identifying this imaginary *Tokyo Shinbun* with the periodical of that name whose proprietor figured on the stage. Nevertheless, the owner of this periodical instituted legal proceedings against the Theatrical Company, and is said to have claimed damages in the first instance at 18,000 *yen*, though the report of the proceedings in court indicates that he asked for nothing more than the publication of an apology in three consecutive issues of all the principal newspapers of Japan. The case has gone forward for trial, and the Tokyo public are laughing heartily at the affair.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The returns of the foreign trade of Japan for the first quarter of the current year are attracting some attention. Up to the 20th instant, imports and exports totalled 235 million *yen*. This meant an increase of exports to the extent of five millions and an increase of imports to the extent of 19 millions. Considering that last year's figure for imports included goods bought in anticipation of the new tariff, this result must be counted very encouraging. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, commenting on these figures, notes a great increase in the import of machinery. Up to the 20th instant, this increase totalled 1,128,000 *yen* as compared with the corresponding aggregate for last year. If these returns could be interpreted as indicating solely a development of productive energy, Japan might congratulate herself heartily. But our contemporary calls attention to the fact that much of the machinery now arriving was probably ordered in 1910 and 1911, and the proximate cause was the lowering of the rates of interest in Japan owing to the operations of the Finance Department. Nevertheless, this explanation is only partial, and on the whole, the *Nichi Nichi* thinks that the country may congratulate herself on the opening of a new era of productive enterprise.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The Government submitted to the House of Representatives on the 25th inst. the following written answer to the interpellation brought forward by Mr. Hattori, on Japan's diplomatic policy *vis-à-vis* the United States:—

According to information received by the Government, the amendment introduced by Senator Bellingham contained in Article 3 the clause:—"The entrance of aliens coming under one of the following headings is vetoed," after which a list of disqualified aliens is given including "those not qualified to become citizens of the United States by naturalization." The Bill was subjected to some amendments in the Senate, but the clause relating to the exclusion of disqualified aliens was passed by the committee and reported to the Senate. Subsequently an amendment was introduced to the same clause, which was approved by the Committee of the whole chamber. The Bill is still in the hands of the committee. The interpellation states that the committee has decided to insert the clause, "Unless otherwise provided for by treaty, convention or special arrangement regarding passports," but this is apparently an erroneous translation, as according to information received by the Government the clause reads, "So far as no provisions exist to the contrary in treaties, conventions or agreements relating to passports."

The revision Bill above referred to is still in the hands of the committee of the whole chamber, and has not yet come up for debate in the Senate. The Government must reserve its answer as to the position on the passage of the Bill through the Senate.

The naturalization problem in the United States is very complex, and it seems that the question whether the Japanese have or have not a right of naturalization has not received a final solution. In view of the importance of the question, the Japanese Government has the matter under close observation, although an opportunity has not yet presented itself to attempt its final solution.

The Diplomatic Notes exchanged between the two Governments concerning the insertion in the ratification by the Senate of the clause that the new treaty shall not be considered to either abrogate or affect in any way the clause of the United States Immigration Law, promulgated on February 20th, 1907, were published in the *Official Gazette* of April 4th, 1911. As may be seen from the Diplomatic Notes, the Immigration Law is applicable to all nations without distinction, and the Japanese Government had no reason to oppose the proposal. The Government must reserve its answer as to the relations between the conditions in the ratification and the Revision Bill until its passage through the Senate.

No special treaty or convention exists between the two Governments as to control or restriction in the granting of passports to intending emigrants to the United States. In view, however, of the exigencies of international intercourse between the two countries, the Japanese Government sometime ago decided to regulate Japanese emigration to the United States, and notified the American Government of its decision. The United States Government expressed its satisfaction at the measure decided upon voluntarily by the Japanese Government, and the views of the Govern-

ments came into perfect accord on the question. At the time of the signing of the new commercial treaty, the Japanese Government officially announced that Japan was prepared to maintain effectively the restriction or control which she had enforced for the past three years to regulate the emigration of Japanese labourers to the United States. The announcement was published in an extra issue of the *Official Gazette* on April 4th 1911. The Government has not received any new proposition from the United States concerning the immigration question.

THE TAIYA IRON MINE.

PROPOSAL FOR JOINT UNDERTAKING VETOED.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Fiji Shimpō* reports that over 400 shareholders of the Hanyu-Ping Corporation met on the 22nd instant at the Y. M. C. A. Hall to consider the provisional agreement concluded with the Japanese capitalists concerning the proposal for a joint-undertaking, when a resolution was adopted vetoing the provisional agreement. The shareholders present subsequently dispatched to Japan a telegram, which read:—"A general meeting of shareholders of this corporation was held on the 22nd instant, and was attended by 440 shareholders, representing 208,838 shares. The meeting unanimously vetoed the proposed joint undertaking of the corporation with Japanese capitalists. The number of shares represented at the meeting corresponds to eight-tenths of the total shares of the corporation, and the meeting was thus entitled to pass a resolution by virtue of the Articles of Association. The provisional agreement has thus been invalidated. It is therefore desired to have it forthwith cancelled."

Commenting on the above telegram the *Fiji Shimpō* states that the result was anticipated. The provisional agreement refers to the proposal of increasing the capital of the corporation from 20 million (of which 18 million is paid up) to 30 million dollars, and of transferring the business to joint enterprise of the Chinese and Japanese capitalists, subject to the approval of a general meeting of shareholders. The provisional agreement was signed on January 21st last. When the revolutionists rose in insurrection they called upon the corporation to contribute 2½ million dollars towards the war fund, and when the revolutionists began to feel keenly the dearth of war funds they commenced to press for a contribution. Thereupon the shareholders decided to ask the Japanese capitalists for assistance to protect their own interests. The negotiations were undertaken by Sheng Hsuan-huai, and developed into a proposal for a joint enterprise. At an early stage no opposition was raised to the proposal, and if the settlement of the situation had been a little delayed the agreement might have become an accomplished fact. But Yuan Shih kai successfully established his influence and brought the situation under control, and being of opinion that it was not conducive to the consolidation of his influence to allow the Nanking Government a free hand in negotiating foreign loans over which he ought to have entire control, he instigated the shareholders of the corporation to raise opposition to the proposed joint enterprise. The opposition movement gradually assumed large proportions and the fate of the proposal is now sealed. The Japanese capitalists have

thus been compelled to abandon the scheme. There will, however, be ways and means of preventing the corporation from being carried on by foreign capitalists, and the three million yen loan advanced to the corporation on the security of the products of the Taiyu iron mines will of course remain valid.

FOREIGN LOANS IN FUKIEN PROVINCE.

Taking advantage of the financial distress of the Magistracy of Fukien province, American capitalists are reported to have for some weeks past been making strenuous efforts to lend 12,000,000 dollars on the security of the railway and mining rights in that province. The people of Fukien, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, have now approached Japan with a proposal for a loan of 5,000,000 dollars, which has caused the American capitalists to renew their efforts. The Americans have for a long time past been casting covetous eyes on Fukien province, according to our contemporary, and have established there schools, churches and hospitals to curry favour with the people. When the revolutionary insurrection broke out, the teachers of the movement were graduates or students of these American schools, and the American authorities extended to them all possible convenience. When the walled town of Fuchow fell into the hands of the revolutionists, the American warships in the harbour all dressed in honour of the occasion. They tried to make the Fukien people believe that the Japanese had ambitions in that province and that the Fukien people could rely on the support of the United States to give a check to Japan's ambitious designs. This action gave rise to various speculations, and it was suspected that the Americans had some end in view. This suspicion was confirmed by the American loan movement towards the end of last month. American capitalists placed before Chen, Chief of Foreign Affairs of the Fukien Government, on behalf of the Standard Oil Company, a proposal for a loan of 12 million dollars on the security of the railway and mining rights in that province. As the leaders in the Magistracy consist mostly of pro-Americans, the loan negotiations promised to make favourable progress, but Yeh Chung-lu, Director of the Fukien Railway, raised strong opposition and the authorities and citizens of Fuchow and Amoy joined him and vehemently attacked the Magistracy, which was thus compelled to suspend the negotiations. Financial difficulties, nevertheless, have become so keen that the Magistracy finds it has no alternative but to resort to a foreign loan. Public opinion is in favour of raising the loan from Japan, with whom the province has close relations in political, as well as financial matters. Accordingly, the Mitsui Bussan was approached with a proposal for a loan of 5,000,000 dollars. The Mitsui Bussan, however, refused to comply with the request, inasmuch as it found it rather difficult to accept the loan single-handed and also because it was thought unwise to incur the enmity of the United States. The Magistracy is endeavouring hard to raise the loan in Japan. The news came to the Americans as a surprise and they have started a desperate movement to induce the Magistracy to sign the loan contract.

JAPAN AND CHINESE FINANCES.

Mr. Odagiri, representative of the Specie Bank, who is now on his way to Peking in connection with the Six Powers' loan, has been interviewed by a Press representative in Kobe, to whom he gave some information concerning the loan. Russia and Japan were invited by the Four Powers syndicate, stated Mr. Odagiri, to participate in the political loan. On consultation with Russia, the Japanese Government decided to join the syndicate and accordingly the Specie Bank was appointed to represent the Japanese capitalists. The future of China is shrouded in darkness, and it is almost impossible to predict the future development of the loan question. The Syndicate proposed to subscribe a loan of 600 million *taels* in equal proportions. Belgium was eager to join the syndicate. Although he was not at liberty to disclose the details, he might say the loan would fall through if any one of the Six Powers vetoed the terms. Prior to the conclusion of the loan contract, the Six Powers have to advance to China 6,500,000 *taels* during the four months from April to July. The allotment of the advances amounted to a little over 1,000,000 *taels* each. On the conclusion of the large loan after September next, these advances are to be redeemed, so that no Power would have any difficulty in meeting the advances. It was immaterial what form the advances took. During the absence of Tang Shao-i from Peking, Tsai Nai-huang will take charge of the negotiations, but nothing definite would be settled until after the return of Tang Shao-i from Nanking.

Turning to the question of the proposed joint enterprise of the Hanyu Steel and Coal Corporation, Mr. Odagiri stated that the question will be decided at the general meeting of shareholders of the corporation to be held in Shanghai on the 22nd instant. A section of shareholders in Hunan, Hupeh and Kiangsi provinces strongly oppose the proposal, contending that the provisional contract was arbitrarily concluded by Tien Chian-hsuan. The provisional contract would probably be vetoed at the general meeting, but it seemed almost certain that the matter would be taken up by the Nanking Government with the new Government of China, and the corporation be finally brought under the joint management of Chinese and Japanese capitalists. The two and a half million *yen* recently advanced to the Nanking Government by the Japanese capitalists would positively not be affected by the success or failure of the Hanyu problem, because the loan took a distinct form independent of the joint enterprise proposal.

SITUATION IN MONGOLIA.

According to a telegram reaching Harbin from Mongolia, the Chinese authorities in Ummut having received from Yuan Shih-kai an order to suspend warlike action, are urging the revolutionists at Tsingpo to forthwith disband the troops and surrender their arms. The revolutionists refuse to listen to the proposal and are making preparations for a march on Hailu.

The new Kulan Government has rejected the advice offered by the Nanking Government to incorporate with the Republic of China, and dispatched to Yuan Shih-kai a telegram informing him of this decision,

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT.

The Government introduced to the House of Peers on the 25th instant a written answer to the interpellation brought forward by Mr. Nakajima concerning Japan's financial policy. The answer reads:—

The Government has always taken care to check any abnormal increase in the convertible notes in circulation, but an increase of the issue of convertible notes was rendered unavoidable owing to the heavy outlay of war funds, coupled with the expansion of post-bellum enterprises and the development of economic circles. The Government purposes to check the tendency by effecting a readjustment of the administration and finances, within such limits as not to affect economic circles.

The Government possesses an ample specie reserve, which will not become exhausted in the near future, but in view of the Empire being a debtor-country, the Government is paying great attention to the specie reserve, and will refrain, as far as possible, from purchasing foreign articles on the one hand, while on the other it will make assiduous efforts to promote domestic industry and the export trade, with a view to improving the natural tendency for the influx of specie from abroad.

The Government also is not neglecting the encouragement of the development of domestic industries. The capital invested in various branches of industry during the period from the latter half of 1905 to the end of 1911 reached a total of about 763 million *yen* or about 170 million *yen* a year on an average. Industry cannot be said to be inactive.

Even if an industrial depression now prevail, it cannot be wholly attributed to the increase of the price of commodities.

The Government has not issued national loans or permitted local loans to be issued in the foreign market, except where it was thought profitable and necessary for the development of the State, and it will make it a principle to raise loans on the home market as far as practicable in future.

A MISSIONARY KILLED.

According to a Hankow dispatch, reports the *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent, while a party of American missionaries was travelling from Ichang to Chungking, they were set upon by bandits and one of the party sustained serious injuries to which he finally succumbed. Two other members were also wounded, but managed to reach Chingking. These missionaries were returning to Szchuan without knowing of the disturbances prevailing there. The riots do not seem of an anti-foreign character.

The American who was attacked and killed while travelling from Ichang to Chungking, and the two other Americans who were severely wounded, are not missionaries as at first reported, says a Shanghai telegram, but professors of the American University in Chengtu. While the three American professors were returning to Chengtu, the party was set upon by bandits at Wushan in Szchuan on the 22nd instant. The foreigner murdered was Mr. Hicks of Wisconsin, and those injured Mr. A. N. Sheldon of California and Mr. Philip Hopman of Ohio.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL LOAN BONDS.

The Tokyo Municipal Aldermen's council met on the 23rd instant to consider the proposed issue of 45 million *yen* worth of municipal bonds and approved the following Municipal Loan regulations:—

Article 1.—Forty-five million *yen* worth of Municipal Loan Bonds shall be issued to raise funds needed for the expansion of the municipal electric business, street improvements and the improvement of the mouth of the Sumida river.

The loan-bonds to be issued in the 45th fiscal year shall be limited to ten million *yen* face value, and the balance shall be issued after the 46th fiscal year according to actual requirements.

Article 2.—The rate of interest on the loan shall be fixed at 5 per cent.

Article 3.—The certificates issuable for the loan shall be unnamed bonds; but endorsed bonds may be issued if so desired by subscribers.

Article 4.—The interest on the loan shall be payable twice a year.

The interest shall be computed according to the number of days from the date of payment of subscription at the time of issue to the date of reimbursement at the time of redemption.

Article 5.—The loan shall be floated through the accepting banks or credit mobilizers.

Article 6.—The loan shall be redeemed out of the State subsidy granted for the improvement of drainage, the revenue of the electric business, the special tax for street improvements, the proceeds of the sale of reclaimed land, etc., by lottery or other means, within twenty-two years following the 48th fiscal year.

Article 7.—The nature of the certificates of the loan and the method of payment of interest and redemption shall be fixed subject to the approval of the Aldermen's Council.

The regulations with be submitted to the Municipal Council on the 29th instant for confirmation.

DISORDER IN SHANTUNG.

General Ma Lung-piao, Commander of the Fifth Division, has telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, jointly with the commanders of the 9th and 10th Brigades, reports a Peking dispatch, that Hu Yin, who calls himself the Magistrate of Shantung, has encroached upon various districts, thus throwing the whole province into disorder. Business and industry are paralyzed and panic prevails. Taking advantage of the situation Germany has detailed her troops in the province to protect the railway and mining enterprises, while Great Britain has also largely reinforced the Weihaiwei garrison. The crisis has thus reached a climax. It is desired that President Yuan Shih-kai shall take immediate steps to deport Hu Yin from the province and place Chang Kwan-chien in the magistracy.

According to a Peking telegram to the *Tokyo Asahi*, on the 22nd instant a bomb was thrown at Wu Plug-hsiang, the Chief of Police. The thrower was arrested on the spot, and on examination confessed that he was one of the party who arrived at Tsinan to assassinate Magistrate Chang and his subordinates. Another band of assassins has entered Manchuria for the assassination of Viceroy Chao Erh-sun.

A FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

It is clear that Japan will have to place on the foreign market the portion of the China loan she has agreed to accept, and it is equally clear it is more profitable to make use of foreign capital at low interest on the home market. The Government, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, has had a plan under consideration since the early spring, which has since made steady progress. It refers to the establishment of a Franco-Japanese Bank, to form a financial medium between the two countries. It is proposed to organize the bank with a capital of ten million *yen*, subscribed jointly by the Banque de Paris, the Société Générale, the Crédit Lyonnais, the Japan Industrial Bank and another French Bank, the name of which is uncertain in the Japanese *kana* transcription, but which may perhaps be the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris. The object of the new bank will be the introduction of French capital to the Far East. The authorized capital is to be subscribed by the Japanese and French Banks in equal proportions. The provisional agreement is said to have already been signed, and the Bank will come into existence in the middle of next month.

It is stated that the scheme originated on the French side, the proposal being put forward some time last year, but the negotiations were for a time suspended, as Japan did not think such a bank necessary. Later Japan began to recognize the necessity of the introduction of foreign capital in consequence of the civil commotion in China, and the negotiations were resuscitated by the Japanese bankers and have now been brought to a successful conclusion. The Industrial Bank may take steps to increase its capital in consequence.

We read in Tokyo newspapers that arrangements have finally been concluded for the establishment of a Franco-Japanese bank. The Japanese Government of course has no direct part in this project, but is understood to strongly approve of it. Indeed, considering the nature of the financial relations between France and Japan, it is somewhat singular that such an institution is not already in existence. Mr. Loonen's unhappy adventures cannot have failed to delay the consummation, but it may be hoped that French financiers have learned to estimate the story of those escapades at their true worth.

With reference to the proposal, the *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a financial authority as saying that the question of the organization of special machinery for the introduction of French capital has for several years past been discussed between French and Japanese capitalists, but the idea has so far been left unrealized, as the French capitalists, who are not so thoroughly conversant with Japanese affairs as British and Americans capitalists, entertained a sense of insecurity and also because a few French investments in Japanese enterprises have ended in failure. Since that time many eminent French capitalists have paid this country a visit and conducted a personal investigation of the economic conditions of the Empire, with the result that they commenced to show an earnest desire to invest capital in Japan. Just as this juncture the Chinese trouble arose, during which French capitalists came into contact with Japanese capitalists, and came to an agreement. The scheme was thus resuscitated and the

negotiations are making favourable progress. The Government would welcome the establishment of a Bank of this nature, especially as it would have a close relation with the Chinese loan. Japan can utilize the foreign capital in financing the portion of the Chinese loan which may be allotted to her. Although the Government is not a direct party to the proposed organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank, it is by no means an outsider.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

The Russo-Chinese Bank in Peking remitted to Tientsin on the 26th instant a sum of 900,000 *taels*, which is payable to China as part payment of the Belgian loan.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Tokyo Asahi* also reports that the Belgian Bank paid to Tang Shao-i one million *taels* in advance, which sum was afterward handed over to the Nanking Government. The Bank also paid 900,000 *taels* to the Peking authorities on the 26th, and another advance also to the Wuchang Government.

The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a well-informed authority as saying that the protest of the Four-Powers' Syndicate against the Belgian loan took the form of a memorandum presented to Yuan Shih-kai. The protest is based on the ground that the large loan which the Four Powers Syndicate proposes to accept is intended for the reorganization of China, whereby the Syndicate undertakes a heavy responsibility. The conclusion of another loan by China without notice to the Syndicate amounted to a breach of good faith. Yuan Shih-kai has not yet given a definite answer to the memorandum, beyond expressing his sincere regret at the incident. Although the Syndicate bases its protest on this ground, in reality it takes exception to the Peking-Changkiakau railway being offered for the Belgian loan as security. It does not, however, openly state this as the real cause of opposition, as Yuan Shih-kai might then proceed to alter the security offered to the Belgian Syndicate and the object of the Four-Powers' syndicate, to have the Belgian loan cancelled, would be defeated. Now that the Four-Powers' Syndicate has lodged with China a formal protest, it will be compelled to take some action. It is nevertheless clear that the Syndicate is reluctant to abandon the loan, and it may ultimately be persuaded by Yuan Shih-kai to accept conditions that may satisfy Russia, who is at the back of the Belgian Syndicate, and thus allow Russia and the Belgium syndicate to participate in the Four Powers' loan.

SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT.

The rumour is repeated, this time on better authority, that Sir Francis Piggott, Chief Justice in Hongkong, has been appointed Legal Adviser to President Yuan. We trust that this news may be confirmed. Nothing could conduce more to the stability of the Chinese Republic in Western eyes than its association with a juriconsult of such altogether exceptional ability and reputation as Sir Francis Piggott. He would be a second Sir Robert Hart in some respects, and a greater Sir Robert Hart in others. If Yuan Shih-kai has really succeeded in securing Sir Francis Piggott's services, the new Republic is to be sincerely congratulated.

A STATE OF ANARCHY.

REPORTS FROM INTERIOR.

According to Dr. Purdon and his party, who have arrived at Peking from Linchow in Kansu, wires the *Tokyo Asahi's* correspondent, Kansu, Shensi and Honan are in a state of anarchy. Twenty thousand soldiers, mostly composed of Mahomedans, under Sheng Yin, are pillaging Shensi and Kansu provinces and have collided with the revolutionary army. The Kolao-hui wield considerable influence in Hsian and its members are plundering the people with impunity. Mahomedan residents are being murdered. The foreign refugees were attacked by the rioters on several occasions on their way to Peking but were fortunate enough to escape. When they reached Hsu chow in Honan, they found the Government troops were fighting with the insurgents. They concealed themselves behind an embankment, but were discovered by the rioters and plundered, while one of the party was badly beaten. The party, nevertheless, succeeded in arriving at Honan-fu in safety. A detachment of Government troops is stationed in the neighbourhood of Tungkwan, but the force is very small.

A later dispatch reports that President Yuan Shih kai has issued to General Chiang Kuei-tai an order to dispatch two regiments to Shensi for the suppression of the disturbances.

From Shanghai it is reported that robbery, arson and murder are being freely committed at Tsingchow and Saichow in Shantung Province, and at Shouchow in Anhui. Bandits are also rife on the North Kiangsu and Anhui frontier. The soldiers are setting fire to houses and plundering the people in Hsian in Shensi province.

News also comes from Tsingtao that at midnight on the 22nd instant over 300 soldiers of the Tsingchow garrison started plundering. Over ninety banks and pawn-brokers were ransacked. The dare-to die party dispatched from Nanking has also entered various towns in Shantung province. The more Yuan Shih-kai brings pressure to bear, the greater the magnitude the situation threatens to assume.

ADULTERATION OF LIQUORS.

The Home Office has now under consideration the control of the cheap brandy and other liquors, adulterated with methyl alcohol, which are having a detrimental effect on the public health. A Home Office authority is quoted as saying that the practice of adulterating wines with aniline dyes was in vogue a decade ago, when the Government caused the police to collect wines from the wine dealers and subjected them to analytical tests at the Hygienic Laboratory to ascertain their quality. They then enforced a vigorous control over the adulteration until a stop was put to the evil practice. It is therefore not impossible to suppress the use of methyl alcohol, if similar control be exercised. At present the sale of adulterated beverages is punishable according to the Police Regulations, but the penalty prescribed is too light to extirpate the evil. The Home Office proposes to submit the matter to the Central Hygienic conference, with a view to formulating special regulations to prevent adulteration.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTRY.

Sun Yat-sen, Tang Shao-i, Hwang Hsing and the members of the State Council are now conferring as to the selection of candidates for the portfolios in the new Ministry. Their decision is to be published on the 27th instant. It has been decided to appoint Sung Chao-jin as Chinese Minister to Japan.

According to a later dispatch from Nanking the Nanking Cabinet met on Tuesday evening last, when matters relating to the retirement of Sun Yat-sen and the portfolio-holders in the new Ministry were settled. The decision was to be submitted to the State Council on the 27th, for confirmation.

The Chinese papers in Shanghai publish the following forecast of the appointments:—

War	Tuan Chi-jui
Navy	Sah Chin-ping
Finance	Chin Kun-tao
Foreign Affairs	Lu Cheng-chang
Communications	Chin Chi-nuei
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Commerce and Industry	Prince Pu Lun or Lu Ping-yan
Education	Tsai Yuan-pei
Justice	Wang Cheng-hui
Agriculture and Forestry	Sung Chia-jen

The list is said to have been arranged by Tang Shao-i, but there is no confirmation of the report.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen's family went to Shanghai on the 25th instant. They are waiting for the arrival of Dr. Sun to return to their native place.

According to a dispatch, since his arrival at Nanking Tang Shao-i has been in consultation with the Nanking Government concerning the organization of the new Ministry and a list has already been drawn up of the portfolio holders, whose names have been submitted to President Yuan Shih-kai for approval. The list was to be submitted to the State Council on confirmation. It is said to comprise several of the present Cabinet in Nanking, but it is thought inadvisable to disclose it before the final settlement. On the completion of the organization, the provisional Nanking Government will resign and the new Ministry will meet in Peking without delay.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* correspondent wires that Tang Shao-i has repeatedly asked Hwang Hsing to remain at the War Office, but Hwang is resolute on retirement, so that the war portfolio will be assigned to Tuan Chi-jui. The new Ministry is to be formed within three days after the 25th instant and the transfer of the official business is to be concluded within two weeks. Sun Yat-sen relinquished the Presidency on the 27th instant and transferred the administration to Tang Shao-i. The loan question will be discussed on the formation of the new Ministry, but the disbandment of the troops will be deferred to a future occasion.

A later dispatch from Nanking reports that having obtained the concurrence of both the Nanking Government and Yuan Shih-kai, Tang Shao-i submitted to the State Council the nominees to the portfolios of the new Ministry as under:—

Foreign Affairs	Lu Cheng-chang
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-tung
War	Hwang Hsing
Navy	Sah Chin-ping
Finance	Hsiang Chi-lin
Education	Tsai Yuan-pei
Justice	Wang Cheng-hui
Commerce and Industry	Chen Ghi-mei
Agriculture and Forestry	Sung Chi-mei
Communication	Liang Shih-i
Chief of General Staff	Tuan Chi-jui

It is also wired from Nanking that Tang Shao-i practically received from Sun Yat-sen the transfer of the administration on the 26th instant, and subsequently submitted to the State Council a list of portfolio-holders of the new Ministry, whereby Hwang Hsing is named as Minister of War and Tuan Chi-jui as the chief of the General Staff. Tang Shao-i proposed to make an official announcement of the formation of the new Ministry on the 26th instant, but this was deferred owing to the resignation of some of the nominees. Hsiang Chi-lin was first named as the Minister of Finance, but Hsiung refused to serve. The portfolio was then offered to Chin Kin tao, who also declined it. Difficulty is thus being experienced in the selection of a suitable candidate for this portfolio.

Tang Shao-i had decided to convoke the new Ministry in Peking, but a member of the Nanking Government openly declared that while the Nanking Government had consented to Yuan Shih-kai's installation to the Presidency in Peking, it had never given its consent to the transfer of the seat of the new Government. This declaration came to Tang Shao-i as a surprise.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chunwa* reports that the State Council has approved the Government nominees to the portfolios of the new Ministry, excepting that of the Department of Communications. The appointments will be officially announced on the 28th instant. As to the portfolio of Communications it is stated that Yuan Shih-kai nominated Liang Shih-li, to which the Nanking Government consented, but the people in the Yangtze Valley are in favour of Chan Tien-yu, who was formerly chief engineer of the Yeh-Han railway. Inasmuch as the Department chiefly deals with railway business, the people are of opinion that Liang Shih-li, who has no experience in railway business, is unfit for the post. The portfolio will probably be assigned to Chan Tien-yu. The nominees to other portfolios are as under:—

War	Hwang Hsing
Navy	Shih Chin-ping
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Finance	Hsiung Chi-lin
Foreign Affairs	Lu Cheng-chang
Education	Tsai Yuan-pei
Justice	Wang Cheng-hui
Agriculture and Forestry	Cheng Tsi-chun
Commerce and Industry	Chen Chi-mei

Tuan Chi-jui is to receive the post of Chief of General Staff, and Sung Chao-jen, who was once nominated to the portfolio of Agriculture and Forestry, is to receive the post of Chinese Minister in Tokyo.

It is stated that Hwang Hsing has made up his mind to join the first Ministry of the Republican Government through strong persuasion of the commanders of the army, who have 200,000 men under their command. Hwang's retirement from the public service is calculated to lead to a commotion in military circles, and Hwang is conscious of his responsibility in the reorganization up the revolutionary army. This consideration is said to have prompted him to join the coalition Ministry.

JAPAN'S CHINA POLICY.

The Government laid before the House of Representatives on the 25th instant the following answer to the interpellation brought forward by Mr. Sasaki on Japan's China policy:—

The Government believes that perfect

harmony has been maintained between its diplomatic organs in dealing with the China question. In view of the fact that Japan has serious political and economic interests in China, and also a close historical and geographical relation with that country, the Government has not failed to take adequate measures commensurate with the circumstances, and has acted in concert with various Powers for the protection of the common interests. It goes without saying that Japan has exchanged views with Great Britain in accordance with the alliance treaty, to ensure concerted action. Japan has, nevertheless, special rights and interests in South Manchuria, and her interests in that region are identical to those possessed by Russia in North Manchuria. The Government has not neglected to uphold its rights and interests in that region acting, in full concert with the Russian Government.

The Minister at Peking has at no time made any attempt to interfere with China's polity and has, therefore, not acted in defiance of the instructions of the home Government. The Government has no intention whatever of replacing the Minister by some other diplomat.

The Government will not grudge to accord an asylum to foreigners who desire to enjoy security for their lives and property in the dominions of the Empire, but must take adequate measures if such foreigners endeavour to make Japan the basis of a political movement and thus injure the international relations that exist between Japan and foreign countries.

The Government considers the riot in Peking already settled, but can not predict on the possibility or otherwise of the recurrence of similar disturbances in future. The Government has not failed to take proper measures for the protection of the lives and property of Japanese residents and for the maintenance of the interests of the Empire in case of emergency.

The Japanese Government is in negotiation with the various Powers concerned on the Chinese loan, but the time is not yet ripe to make public the result and progress of the negotiations.

The Government must reserve its answer to other points raised in the interpellation, which are based on hypotheses.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

CLOSING CEREMONY.

The closing ceremony of the twenty-eight session of the Imperial Diet was held in the House of Peers at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Shortly before the appointed hour the members of the Houses assembled, Marquis Saionji and all the other Ministers of State, as well as the Government Parliamentary Delegates, being present.

Marquis Saionji read the Speech from the Throne as under:—"We announce to the members of the House of Peers and the House of Representatives that we this day order the prorogation of the Imperial Diet and express our appreciation of the diligence with which you have discharged your duties."

All the members stood uncovered while the Speech was read.

The Premier afterwards handed the scroll to Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers. This brought the ceremony to a close.

THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF JAPAN.

The Government submitted to the House of Representatives on the 25th instant the following written answer to the interpellation brought forward by Mr. Sawa on military affairs:—

By military secrets are meant matters requiring secrecy for military purposes. They admit of two broad divisions: (A) War plans; organization of army and navy in time of war; mobilization; and matters connected with fortification, which directly concern the national defence. (B) Organization of army and navy in time of peace; specification of arms and drawings of a specified nature, which require survey for the protection of the interests of Japan's armaments. The matters mentioned under (A) require absolute secrecy, while those mentioned under (B) require only relative secrecy. The broad lines of national defence have for their object the protection of the rights and interests of the empire, for the prosecution of the national policy. The Government believes that a due balance is maintained between the army and navy commensurate with the broad lines of the national defence policy, and also thinks it necessary to train a force sufficient to cope with a foreign force for the purposes of self defence.

In view of the conditions of national defence and the financial circumstances, the Government, after the late Russo-Japanese war, decided to establish nineteen Army Divisions, and also adopted the two years' conscript system. The Government also extended the term of service of the reservists in order to obtain a comparatively large force in time of war.

The Government must, however, keep secret the policy of defence in Chosen, though it can say that at least two Divisions are needed to protect the peninsula in time of peace. As to the defence of Formosa, the Government thinks it necessary to keep a Division (minus a commissariat battalion) and an independent garrison consisting of six battalions.

The number of conscripts enlisted every year is as under:—

Active service.....	103,784
Reservists.....	153,080
Total.....	256,864

The army complement in time of peace is as under:—

Officers.....	14,360
Petty officers.....	28,820
Privates.....	266,624
Total.....	244,804
Horses.....	39,364

According to the experience obtained in the late Russo-Japanese war, the cost of keeping a soldier at the front is 1,069 yen per diem, while the expenses for keeping a warship in the battle line amounted to about 58 sen per ton.

While the Government implicitly believes that the members of the two Houses of the Diet can keep State secrets, the laws and regulations forbid the disclosure of military secrets to outsiders, and the Government regrets its inability to give an explicit answer to the interpellation. It must also reserve its answer to the other points therein raised.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

We read in Japanese newspapers that success has at length been achieved in the matter of wireless telephony. A mechanical engineer, named Kitamura Masajiro, is credited with having effected the last steps of the process and it is alleged that Yokohama and Tokyo can now be placed in communication. The inventor does not claim, however, that his system is yet perfect or even that it is greatly superior to the methods now in use. Nevertheless, even partial success would be welcomed by the public, for there is ample room for improvement.

It has been asserted that the number of victims claimed by the aeroplane is not in excess of that claimed by any other great invention. But certainly the impression conveyed by facts is that a large percentage of those that meddle with this perilous machine fall victims to their temerity. Captain Tokugawa is the latest sufferer. He has been badly burned by an explosion of gas, and though the results are not expected to be serious, his recovery will take some days.

It is now stated that the amount of insurance carried by the Susaki buildings which were recently destroyed was only 120,000 yen. Considering the number of houses said to have been reduced to ashes, it would appear that each house was insured for only 80 yen on the average. That, of course, is an absurdly small figure, especially when we remember that included among these edifices were many of a costly and solid character. It is evident that fire insurance in dangerous quarters of the Tokyo city cannot be obtained except at prohibitive rates. For buildings under ordinary safe conditions the price charged by insurance companies is, on the contrary, quite moderate.

Lieutenant Shirase has telegraphed from Wellington asking for a further sum of 20,000 yen to defray the expenses of his polar expedition. Nothing seems to be known as to what he and his party accomplished, but it appears that the furthest point reached by them was Edward VII. Island. The men who supported this essay from the outset will doubtless feel bound to finance its final stage, but one certainly cannot refrain from regretting that the enterprise was not inaugurated with greater modesty. Probably, however, the answer will be that it was necessary for financial reasons to invest the affair with as much *éclat* as possible from the outset.

The Kang-gyong-Kunsan section of the Konan railway of Chosen has been open to traffic since the 6th instant, the distance being thirty-two miles. This completes the Korean branch of the Seoul Fusan railway, which branches off at Tai lyon and runs to Kunsan, a distance of 69 miles. The opening ceremony was held at Kunsan on the 24th instant, and was attended by Mr. Yamagata, Director-General of the Civil Administration, and over one thousand officials and civilians. The town presented an unprecedented scene of animation.

The Manchu Princes and the Imperial Household authorities have been conferring as to removal to the Summer Palace. Princes Ching, Chun and Feng were the only Princes who attended the conference. It was decided to remove to the Summer Palace on April 1st, when the Imperial Household office will be abolished, with the

single exception of the Internal Affairs' Bureau, which is to be presided over by Shih-Hsu. Prince Feng will also remove to the Summer Palace at his own request.

A Mukden telegram reports that Viceroy Chao invited Mr. Ijuin, the Minister to Peking, to stay at the viceregal *yamen* but the Minister declined the offer with thanks. Mr. Ijuin, however, has accepted an invitation to a dinner to be given in his honour by Viceroy Chao on the 24th instant.

A Japanese engineer, Mr. Kobayashi Shukichi, working at a factory at Kambe in Miye prefecture, is said to have invented a device which dispenses with the use of a rudder in navigating a ship. The particulars given are somewhat complicated, and so many of these inventions do not get beyond the stage of idle rumour that we refrain from entering into particulars, but it need hardly be pointed out how great would be the convenience and advantage of being able to dispense with the present somewhat clumsy method of steering ships. Of course the invention would be applicable to vessels navigating the air as well as the water.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has presented the *Soya* and *Aso* with a handsome silver bowl each, as a token of appreciation of the assistance given to the *Empress of China* in her disaster off Shirahama in Boshu in July last year. The bowls were presented through the British Embassy and were taken to the Naval office by Lieut. Cox, Naval Attaché, for presentation.

The Chinese paper *Ta-Han-pao*, published in Wuchang, recently invited a popular vote as to the probable candidates for portfolios in the new Ministry, when the following statesmen polled the highest votes:—

Minister-President.....	Cheng Tei-chuan
Foreign Affairs.....	Wu Ting-fang
Finance.....	Chen Kin-tao
War.....	Tuan Chi-jui
Navy.....	Chen Pi-kuang
Justice.....	Chin Cha-pen
Home Affairs.....	Chang Tei-chuan
Education.....	Wu Ping-lin
Agriculture and Industry.....	Chang Chi-en
Communication.....	Tang Shao-chien
Colonial Affairs.....	Wen Sung-yao
Chief of General Staff.....	Li Yuan-hung

A Shanghai dispatch reports that another attempt was made on the life of Hwang Hsing on the 23rd instant. The would-be assassin made good his escape.

The Department of Finance has issued an official announcement that twenty million yen worth of war bonds (numbered "wo" and "wa") will be redeemed on April 30th, and will be drawn for on the 1st of the same month; and also that 50,000 yen worth of the old Sobu railway debentures (second issue) will be redeemed on May 1st, the date of drawing being April 1st.

Sheng Yun, the rebel leader in Shensi, has addressed a note to Chang Tso-lin and Piao Lin-kau at Mukden, wherein he states that although everyone stated that opposition to the republican cause would end in failure, when he unfurled his banners for the righteous cause many loyal people responded to his call. He hopes that two influential generals, who enjoy high popularity and confidence among the people in the Three Eastern Provinces, will join hands with him in an attempt to restore the Manchu dynasty, and bring about the downfall of Yuan Shi-kai and Prince Ching, who caused the destruction of the Dynasty.

THE RISE IN PRICE.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 23.)

THE rise in the price of commodities which has been witnessed of late has been several times a matter of discussion in the Diet and certainly deserves serious consideration. The idea that the Government should be able to devise measures to check, or even reverse, the increment, however, appears to be based on a mistaken idea of governmental powers. As stated by the Vice-Minister of Finance in a recent utterance, the increase of prices is undoubtedly due to various complex causes and cannot be traced to any one simple fact. Thus the increased standard of comfort, the increased taxes, and the increase in import duties, all undoubtedly play a part, but none of them is overwhelmingly predominant. The crux of the situation does not so much lie in the increase of prices as in the failure of the wealth of the nation to keep pace with this increase. To keep prices down while at the same time increasing the wealth is what no nation has ever yet accomplished. All experience goes to show that the purchasing power of money decreases as wealth increases, which is, after all, a natural and normal condition of affairs. The difficulty in regard to Japan is that while the purchasing power of money has decreased, the wealth has not increased in the same proportion. The issue of an excess of convertible notes has been freely offered as the main cause of the increase in prices, and although this view has been refuted by an eminent banker, it still seems to hold sway, even in Government circles. The question is one which has in the past been much discussed by political economists, opinions varying. Those who support the currency theory apparently base their arguments on the fact that as notes are merely symbols of wealth, their issue in excess gives an appearance of wealth which is not borne out by actual facts, and thus the apparent wealth of the country goes to decrease the purchasing power of money. This, however, is only a theoretical argument, as will be apparent when it is considered what would be the effect of any large withdrawal of the notes. Such action would certainly result, as the Vice-Minister of Finance pointed out, in something like a commercial panic, or at least a serious disturbance of economic conditions. Whether it was wise to issue such excess of convertible notes is another question, but once being issued any attempt at withdrawal can only be fraught with trouble. The question is how this apparent wealth can be changed into real wealth. One suggestion made is that Japan should seek to depend more upon her own resources and should eschew foreign-made goods, so that the excess of imports may be checked. This procedure cuts both ways, however. Certainly, purely from the

economic point of view, no one would buy foreign-made goods when they could procure the same quality in home-made goods at less cost. This is such a natural procedure that it requires no arguments to enforce it. But when the foreign-made article is superior in quality, and therefore more economical, or both superior in quality and lower in price, it is very questionable whether true economy consists in preferring home-made goods. Such preference may be classed as patriotism or charity, but certainly not as economy. The same question has been raised in England, where the advocates of home-made goods succeeded in passing a law by which all articles have to be stamped with the place of production, so that the purchaser should know whether he was buying a foreign or a home-made article. The cry of "Support home industries" is certainly a sound one, when the purchase of foreign goods is made merely because they are foreign or fashionable. But other things being equal the public will continue, and rightly continue, to buy in the cheapest market. As before stated the argument cuts both ways. An industrial country which exports goods abroad expects to find foreign markets. If all countries adopted the principle of buying only home-made goods, the trade of industrial countries would be seriously injured, if not killed. It is a matter of give and take, and Japan cannot reasonably exclude foreign goods from her shores and at the same time expect other countries to buy her productions in increasing quantities. The interdependence of trading countries is becoming more and more striking every year. The old fallacy that a country's exports consist of the excess of her productions has long since been exploded. A country exports those articles which by her climatic conditions and her manual skill she is best fitted to make and can produce at the lowest cost, the quality being equal. In return she takes those articles which she is not herself able to produce or to produce of equal quality at similar cost. It does not of course, follow that a country must expend all the wealth earned by her exports in purchasing imports. If she has special resources or special skill in certain lines, the demand for her goods will certainly be large enough to more than cover the cost of the necessary imports and thus her wealth will increase. But it is exceedingly problematical whether the wealth of any country can be increased by purchasing home-made goods, simply because they are home-made, and the consequent artificial fostering of industries which are not specially adapted to the country or the people. It thus seems injudicious to carry the principle of using home-made goods to extremes. Under the present protective tariff any home industries which are likely to prove of practical benefit to the country have ample scope for development, while the already

established industries may be still further developed. Another small, but not unimportant factor in bringing the actual wealth of the country up to its apparent wealth, lies in the practice of economy, by which is not meant so much the abstention from anything in the way of luxury as the prevention of waste. To take one instance: Japan loses a large amount of her wealth every year from fires, which in most cases arise from carelessness and are augmented by the absence of efficient fire-fighting appliances. Efforts made to prevent waste in this direction alone would do something to increase Japan's wealth.

THE TWO CHAMBERS IN JAPAN.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 25.)

THERE can be no question that the final action of the House of Peers in rejecting the bill sent up by the House of Representatives must be interpreted as a protest by the Upper Chamber against party politics in any form. The bill itself need not be discussed in any detail. Its merits or demerits did not really occupy much attention. It may be briefly described as a measure for reducing the size of the Constituencies so as to increase the number of members of the Lower House by 130 approximately. It is generally admitted even by the opponents of the measure that an increase in the number of representatives is warranted by the progress which the country has made since the opening of the Diet. But even a superficial examination will show that the effect of the proposed change would be to increase the influence of political parties. Local interests would become more powerful if the size of the Constituencies were diminished, and, moreover, the cost of an election would be lessened so that property would exercise less influence. It was against these effects of the bill that the Peers rebelled, though the fact was not brought out very clearly in the debate. In short, the incident may be described as a plain evidence of the Chamber's hostility to anything resembling government by Party. The present Cabinet cannot justly be called a Party Cabinet. It is true that its President and a few of its most influential members are party politicians in the strict sense of the term. But it is also true that among the portfolio-holders are to be found several statesmen of independent, if not conservative, views, who might serve with equal consistency under a Katsura régime. Such a Cabinet is not unacceptable to a majority of the Peers, but they rebel at once when the Ministry attempts to legislate in a party sense. That, it seems to us, is what has happened now. Of course the proposed legislation derived vivid interest from the fact that a general election will take place next May, and thus, had the new system become law, its effects would have been immediately

felt. Very probably that reflection had the effect of accentuating and concentrating conservative sentiment among the Peers, but the main fact is that the incident discloses a continuance, and even a widening, of the breach between the two Chambers. Talk is heard of a reform of the bicameral system in Japan and of curtailing the powers of the Upper Chamber. But that is probably premature.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 27.)

ONE sometimes despairs of Nations; especially young ones. Not from the points of view of their honour, their strength, their courage, their energy, or their wealth; but for their absolute failure to grasp and take advantage of the mishaps, reverses and failures of countries that were old before the young ones were admitted into the ranks of Colonial Powers. It would be thought that with the numerous and almost complete illustrations, open to all to see, of the mistakes made by the older colonizing Powers, the youngsters at the game would be careful to steer clear of similar misfortunes happening to themselves; and yet, we have another attempt on the part of a Great Power to launch into what looks to some like a great act of chivalry and magnanimity, and to others, like sheer foolishness. We refer to the Bill that is to be introduced into the American Senate for the granting of Independence to the Philippine Islands. According to telegrams received in Japan, the proposed Bill bears a striking similarity to the one introduced by the Democrats in 1902, but which was promptly thrown out. It is proposed that a two-chamber Parliament shall be elected from the people and given a trial for eight years; viz. from 1913 to 1921. The President of the Philippines will be appointed by the American Government and the American President; and naturally, will of course be a Filipino. If at the expiration of these eight years of probation, the Filipinos have behaved properly and shewn themselves able to conduct their own affairs, the reservation held by the American Government of conducting all diplomatic business and relationship between the Powers and the Islands, will be withdrawn. The Philippines will no longer be an American Protectorate. They will be absolutely independent. We take it for granted that the gentlemen who are making themselves responsible for the introduction of this Bill and who hope to see it passed, are all honourable men; men of upright character; of implicit faith in humanity; and with confidence in the equality of all races. But we are also forced to believe that they are so imbued with the egoism of their own beliefs,

that their vision has become dimmed and blurred. They may have convinced themselves that such an act of magnanimity would startle the world by its splendid isolation and that their names would be handed down to posterity. And as far as the latter is concerned, we firmly believe that in the event of the Bill becoming law, their names would be handed down; but it would be with execration and not with praise. For disaster and nothing but disaster, must inevitably be the result of such a dangerous venture. One is more inclined to believe that the proposers of such a bill are acting from the selfish and narrow outlook of curtailing responsibility—that to put it bluntly, they are afraid of their country planting its feet too firmly in the Pacific and thus bringing trouble to their native shores. We are all aware that the great majority of the Americans regret the day they went to the Philippines and wrested them from Spain. But the fact remains that having done so, having occupied them, spent millions and millions upon their improvement, encouraged the inflow of enormous sums of foreign capital, and so given the world the belief that America was there to stay, the abandonment of them within a decade from now would almost constitute a moral breach of faith. Even to-day, the action of the Government in the Islands disgusts both Americans and Europeans alike. A feeling of unrest prevails among the white people there; for they know what these members do not know—or will not know—viz., that without the strong arm of the American military and naval garrison, their lives and property would soon be sacrificed. It may be argued by the advocates of Philippine independence that wonders may be performed in ten years. Such arguments are absurd, for they might be applied to the natives of Africa, Java, Sourabaya or Formosa with equal truth. However, we are of opinion that the good sense of the American people and their Press may be relied upon and that the Bill will be as summarily rejected as was its predecessor. At the same time, the introduction of such a measure with the approval of the Committee of Insular Affairs of the Senate, produces a feeling of unrest and uncertainty that does incalculable harm.

A MEMORIAL AGAINST THE USE OF ARMED AIR-SHIPS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 28.)

MORE than two hundred of the most eminent British subjects in every branch of science and business have appended their signatures to the following memorial:—

We, the undersigned, protest against the use of aerial vessels in War. We appeal to all Governments to foster by every means in their power an international understanding which shall preserve the world from what will add a new hideousness to the present hideousness of Warfare.

Without universal agreement, no single Power can

stay its hand: every day of ingenuity and every pound of money spent diminishes the chance of such agreement.

The occasion is unique. The civilised world is now alive to the ghastliness and economic waste of War; the Hague Conference is an established fact. For the first time, in the face of a new development of the arts of fighting, Nations possess both the conscience and the machinery necessary to check that development effectually.

All Civilisation protests its desire for Peace and Goodwill; protests its wish to reduce the already grievous burden of armaments. Unless its protestations be those of a hopeless hypocrite, it cannot stand and watch the conquest of the air, that most glorious of men's mechanical achievements, callously turned to the usages of destruction; it cannot idly acquiesce in a new departure that must heavily increase this burden of armaments.

There are many who believe that aerial warfare, by reason of its sheer horror, must prove a blessing in disguise, frightening men from War. To those we say: Civilisation does not sanction the ravages of a new and arrestable form of disease, in order that men through horror may be the more eager to join hands in stamping out all forms of sickness. And further: You under-rate the fortitude and adaptability of human nature, which has long proved that it can endure all forms of terror.

There are some who insist that the art of flying will never reach full development without the stimulus of War. To such we suggest that the story of mankind does not leave us without hope that where there is demand, even when only for the purposes of peaceful life, there will also be supply. If the art of flying be delayed a few years by the resolve of men to use that art for mutual help, and not for mutual destruction, the world will be no loser.

There are many who argue that because men fight on earth and water, they may just as well fight in the air. To these we answer: There has never yet been a moment when it was practically possible to ban the War machines of earth or water. There is a moment when it is practically possible to ban those of the air. That moment is now—before the use of these machines is proved; before great vested interests have formed.

Governments are Trustees not only of the present, but of the future of mankind. Fortune has placed this moment in the hands of the Governments of to-day. We pray of them to use it wisely.

We remember that just five years ago an article in the above sense was published in these columns and it evoked an almost angry protest from a local contemporary which ridiculed as altogether "previous" the hypothesis of airships being used in war. However, we are now face to face with the fact, and it is as certain as anything human can be certain that some form of air-ship will be very soon included in the armament of every up-to-date country. In fact, the irresistible tendency of the world at present is to grant the crown of civilization to the Power that commands the greatest destructive force. How futile it is to attempt to check this proclivity, the arguments of the above memorialists demonstrate. The interval between the air-ship and the weapons of war actually in use is not greater than was the interval between dynamite with its torpedo capacities and the old smooth-bore of Peninsula days. If it were possible to marshal the arguments of reason in an effective protest against the air-ship as a weapon of war, it would be equally possible to bring the civilized nations of the world into line for general disarmament. The thing is hopeless. We shall soon see air-ships reckoned, just as Dreadnoughts are, among the effective units of a nation's belligerent resources. None the less, we heartily welcome the efforts of institutions like the International Arbitration League which circulates the above memorial, backed

by the most brilliant Anglo-Saxon opinion of the era. Nothing is impossible. When Englishmen take up these subjects and pursue them with the force and perseverance characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon temperament, they do honour to themselves and civilization. It is the duty of every man, and every woman, too, to strive to recall the nations from the mad rivalry in which they are now engaged.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, March 29)

THE Right Honourable JAMES BRYCE, O.M., British Ambassador at Washington, has contributed to the pages of the "International Review of Missions" an article from which the following extracts are made by the *Literary Digest*—

A lance is set in rest on behalf of foreign missions by no less a person than the Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington. He writes from the standpoint of "a traveller among non-Christian races," and by what he has seen, shows himself disturbed by the moral status of both the Christian and the non-Christian inhabitants of these distant lands. These conditions, he thinks, account for the comparatively slow progress of Christianity in the last four centuries in comparison with its power "to overspread and conquer the world against the forces of imperial persecution in the first four centuries after it had appeared." He points out one reason which he thinks is "not sufficiently appreciated by those who have not seen with their own eyes the phenomena that attend the coming together of civilized and uncivilized man." In the new *International Review of Missions* (Edinburgh) he writes:

"Missions are not the only form in which the contact of advanced and backward races has taken place. This appeared from the first days of the spreading forth of the European races."

"Everywhere the native has suffered; everywhere the white adventurer or trader has attempted to treat him as if he had no rights, or has regarded him as a mere instrument by the use of which he can profit. To some extent it is inevitable that the weaker race should suffer by this contact, but there has also been much wilful and needless wrong-doing on the part of the white men who have gone among the aborigines. The governments of those nations which have within our own time annexed native territories are now more disposed to protect the inhabitants, though within the last few years there have been, as you know, shocking and horrible things done in some parts of Africa by some so-called civilized governments."

"The work of bearing the white man's burden, too, takes the form of filling the white man's pocket. It is no wonder that the behaviour of men who are nominally Christians—Christians in profession if not in practice—has checked, and still checks, the progress of Christianity. Thoughtful men from non-Christian countries will sometimes tell us that they and their fellow countrymen have, when drawn toward Christianity, been repelled by seeing how little influence it seems to have over the conduct of its nominal adherents. The missionary comes preaching the gospel of peace and love, but when the natives see the rapacity and injustice of men professing the religion which the missionary preaches, the preachings lose their power."

"Accordingly, the feeling and the conclusion which the traveller can not but bring back with him are of the necessity that exists for the most constant and strenuous vigilance on the part of governments to protect and help the native, and to repress every attempt to exploit him; to secure for him full justice and considerate treatment, to endeavor to inculcate upon the adventurer and trader, and the man who employs natives to work for him in agriculture or in mining, that he should treat the natives with the same justice which he is obliged to show to a man of his own race."

"The force of public opinion in countries like Great Britain and the United States ought to support governments in endeavouring to maintain this high standard, not only among their own officials, who I believe in nearly every case are animated by the sincerest wish to do right, but also among their other

subjects, who go among aboriginal races for the purposes of gain."

The second reflection that Mr. Bryce indulges in, places him among that growing class who are not blinded by the material success and superior prowess of Western nations so as to see no evil in their thoughtless disregard of the rights of weaker ones. We read:

"It is perhaps the most critical moment there has ever been in the history of the non-Christian nations, a moment most significant in its bearing upon their future. In these days of ours the European races have obtained the control of nearly the whole world, and their influence is felt far more deeply and widely than before, even in those parts of the world over which they do not exercise political control. Our material civilization is permeating every part of the earth, and telling, as it never told before, upon every one of the non-Christian peoples."

"In another fifty years that which we call our civilization will have overspread the earth and extinguished the native customs and organizations of the savage and semi-civilized peoples. They are being exploited as they never were before, and the means of transportation by land and sea which have penetrated among them have brought foreigners everywhere, and are completely breaking up and destroying, not only the material conditions of their life, but also their ideas and beliefs and worships, their ancient customs, and all that is associated with these customs and beliefs. Their morality, such as it was, with all its tolerance of vices and all its degrading practices, was, nevertheless, for some purposes, a sanction which did restrain them, and which elevated their notions and directed their actions for some good purposes."

"All of this is crumbling away and disappearing, perishing under the shock and impact of the stronger civilization which the European peoples have brought with them. Unless the backward races receive some new moral basis of life, some beliefs and precepts by which they can live, something to control their bad impulses and help them to form worthy conceptions of life and work, their last state will be worse than the first."

"The process of destruction and disintegration which I have described is inevitable, and it is advancing swiftly. This, then, is the critical moment at which we are bound, since we have destroyed the old things, to replace them by new things of a better kind, to give something by which they may order their life and through which they may bring a truer progress than was possible under their ancient ways. And what we give we must give by example as well as by precept: by showing that what our missionaries teach is the rule of our own conduct, both as governors and as private persons."

"There is needed a revival of the true spirit of the gospel among Christian nations in order that they should fulfil their Christian obligations to those who are passing under their control and influence."

One might be led to imagine that Mr. BRYCE's utterances on this subject were novel, but, as a matter of fact, what he says has been said before by several writers. Even here in Japan, illustrations were furnished in the past of Mr. BRYCE's contention, and it goes without saying that other countries of the Far East have been similarly pointed to as furnishing a flagrant contrast between Christian life and Christian canons. The foreign community which had its headquarters in Macao during the past century made the name of Christian stink in the nostrils of the Chinese, and as for Japan's case, we have it on record that the fifth count of HIDEYOSHI's indictment of the Portuguese, placed in the hands of the Vice-Provincial, COELHO, charged him with allowing the merchants of his nation to buy Japanese subjects and send them as slaves to the Indies. Moreover, it is stated by Bishop CERQUIA, with regard to this question of slavery, that "even the very lascars and scullions of the Portuguese purchased and carried away slaves at Hirado, many of whom died on the voyage, because they were heaped up on each other, and if their

masters fell sick (these masters were sometimes Kaffirs and Negroes of the Portuguese) the slaves were not cared for. It even often happened that the Kaffirs could not procure the necessary food for them." The Bishop concludes by saying that these scullions gave a scandalous example by living in debauchery with the girls they had bought, whom some of them introduced into their cabins on the passage to Macao. "I have here omitted," the Bishop adds, "the excesses committed in the lands of the pagans where the Portuguese spread themselves to recruit youths and girls and where they live in such a fashion that the pagans themselves were stupefied at it." The Vice-Provincial, in reply to the above charge preferred by HIDEYOSHI, could find nothing better to urge than that "the Fathers had left nothing undone to prevent the Portuguese from purchasing Japanese to sell them as slaves to the Indies." Such an explanation must have seemed almost farcical to the Japanese Regent when placed in the context of the almost supreme power exercised by the prelates of the Roman Catholic Church over their countrymen in Japan in those days. But of course it is not to Japan or even to China in particular that Mr. BRYCE refers in his article. The people he had chiefly in mind were the Indians of the American Continent and the Negroes of Africa. Moreover, to make his review complete, he should have referred to the exemplary lives led by Christian propagandists in the Far East and on the American and African Continents also. We do not mean to say that the lives of ordinary Christian laymen are conspicuously faulty in those parts of the world. They are probably no better and no worse than the ordinary standard in the home countries. What we desire to call attention to is the fact that if Christianity is often handicapped by the conflict between its profession and its practice by ordinary laymen, the balance may be said to be fully readjusted by the highly moral standard attained by ninety-nine Christian propagandists out of every hundred. If one set of conditions militates against the spread of Christianity, the other must be admitted to promote it in at least an equal degree.

JAPAN AND AMERICA.

The five-year period of the Arbitration Treaty between Japan and the United States terminates next July, and at present, there is very little prospect of its renewal. No case has occurred for testing its value, and the citizens of the United States, by their recent treatment of the Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty, showed that this kind of arrangement does not commend itself to their mood at the moment. It is most improbable, therefore, that the Tokyo Cabinet will take any step towards renewing the Treaty, and there does not seem to be much likelihood that the United States will come forward with any proposal for rewriting the document. It is certainly curious that America, which professes so much admiration for the principle of neutrality in the Far East, should be so lukewarm towards the practical application of the cognate theory in the Occident.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

SITUATION AT SWATOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Swatow, March 22.

The town is quiet to-day, but the exodus of refugees continues and business is almost wholly suspended. The Lin army is on the alert and the soldiers are so sensitive that a single rifle report will bring a large number of soldiers from various directions. Another collision took place in the direction of Chao-chow. The detachment under Wu sent out from Canton is expected to reach here shortly and it is feared that the Canton troops will collide with the Government troops. The commanders of the foreign warships in the harbour met in conference on board the *Suma* on the 22nd instant and came to an agreement for concerted action in case of emergency. According to a telegram from Canton, over 40,000 recruits were disbanded up to the 21st instant.

DISTURBANCE AT LAICHOW.

Chefoo, March 21.

A disturbance arose in Laichow on the 17th, when a large number of shops were looted.

Chefoo, March 21.

Over 100 shops were looted in Laichow, consequently the town-gates are all kept closed. Looting is also rampant in Hwang-hsien district.

THE CANTON MAGISTRATE.

Canton, March 21.

It is reported that Wang Ho-shun, Commander of the Hui army, who was defeated and fled to Hongkong, is brooding over a scheme to continue the opposition to Magistrate Chin of Canton, who is bringing pressure to bear upon the revolutionary troops in Canton. The recent conflict is due to a breach of good faith on the part of the Magistrate. Wang is determined to offer armed resistance until Chin resigns the Magistracy, and is trying to prevail upon the naval men to join him.

The disquieting rumours have apparently put the British authorities on their guard. It is due to this circumstance that the British authorities notified the Magistracy of the dispatch of British troops to guard the railway.

THE LU ARMY.

Chefoo, March 31.

The officers of the Lu army met in conference on the 20th instant in the presence of Brigadier-General Tu of the Ming army, when a resolution was adopted to make a joint attack on Tsinan under the leadership of Hu Ying. Brigadier-General Tu, however, refused to sign the resolution. The Lu army is bent on attacking Tsinan, but their force is too small to ensure success, so they are trying hard to obtain the cooperation of the Ming army in this movement.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

Peking, March 21.

Yuan Shih kai is very glad that neither Russia nor Japan show any opposition to the Belgian loan, which is strongly protested against by the Four Powers' Syndicate, and desires to sign the formal contract very shortly.

ANTI-REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chunuo* reports that an anti-Republican Federation has been formed by the Imperialists in Shensi and Shansi provinces. The movement is

assuming large proportions. Shen-Yin, Deputy Viceroy in Hsian, has beheaded the envoy sent by the Republican Government to persuade him to desist, and announces that he will take General Chiang's army on his side and march on Peking to overthrow the Republican Government.

POSITION AT SWATOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Swatow, March 23.

The commanders of various foreign warships in harbour have decided, on consultation, to take joint action in case of emergency, the prime object being to safeguard the foreign residents by allotting to each Power a specified area of defence. Japan is to protect the Japanese Consulate, the Post Office, and the local branch of the Bank of Formosa, but the protection of the railway has been assigned to some other Power. The Japanese Consul applied to the commander of the *Suma* for the dispatch of a detachment of marines to protect a large number of Japanese and Formosan residents who have assembled in the Consulate.

The Chao army laid siege to a section of the Chia-ying army, who are remaining in Chaochow, on the 20th instant. The Chia-ying army was defeated. On the receipt of the news a detachment of the Lin army was sent thither for the relief of the vanquished. An exodus of refugees is taking place, and tumult and confusion reigns in the town. The Japanese Consul convened a meeting of Japanese residents on the 21st instant, when arrangements were made as to taking refuge if necessity arises for an exodus. The telegraph wires between Swatow and Chaochow are severed, and communications are interrupted.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.

Chefoo, March 23.

Three hundred Shanghai soldiers withdrew to Shanghai from Fengchow by the transport *Puyen* on the 22nd instant. A Fukien infantry regiment and a detachment of cavalry arrived at Chefoo from Shanghai to-day on two transports.

THE MINISTER OF THE NAVY.

Shanghai, March 23.

It is reported that Yuan Shih kai has again recommended Lan Tien-wei to the portfolio of the Navy and a final decision is to be made in two or three days regarding the appointment.

MONETARY TROUBLES.

Nanking, March 23.

The Nanking Government is confronted with great financial difficulties. Since the Government is unable to pay the soldiers, a falling of dissatisfaction has begun to prevail in the rank and file. The soldiers have begun to show a lack of discipline.

TROOPS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, March 23.

Five hundred infantry and 20 cavalry men of the Lin army arrived at Chefoo by two steamers from Shanghai this morning.

NARROW ESCAPE OF HWANG HSING.

Nanking, March 23.

On Thursday afternoon last a rifle bullet was fired into Hwang Hsing's room in the War Office in Nanking, through the window; Hwang's adjutant was wounded and afterward succumbed. At one time a rumour of the attempted assassination

of Hwang Hsing was circulated, but it seems that the incident was a mere accident.

TANG SHAO-I.

Shanghai, March 23.

Tang Shao-i arrived at Shanghai on the 22nd instant. He is to leave for Nanking to-day or to-morrow.

RIOTS NEAR SHANHAIKWAN.

Chefoo, March 23.

A band of rioters has risen in the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan and is trying to start an open revolt by joining hands with the troops stationed there. These rioters are believed to be confederates of those who were captured and beheaded for plundering the locality.

SITUATION IN MONGOLIA.

The Mongolian Government has sent an envoy to Tibet to join hands with the Dalai Lama in the attempt to throw off the yoke of the Chinese Republic. The Government has also sent an emissary to Russia, reports a Peking telegram to the *Tokyo Asahi*, to solicit her assistance in the movement. The Mongolian soldiers are plundering the villages and subduing the Chinese merchants in Ulyastai, who are offering heavy bribes to the Russian soldiers for protection.

KANSU AND SHENSI PROVINCES.

A Peking special to the *Kokumin* reports that the financial destitution of the soldiers under his command, led Sheng Yin, ex-Viceroy of Kansu and Shensi provinces, to assume a hostile attitude towards the Republican polity. As a result of the advice of the Empress Dowager and Yuan Shih-kai, he has now consented to recognize the polity, and sent his son to Yuan Shih-kai with a proposal that he would disband his army and arrange for a peaceful solution, if one million dollars be paid him in cash. It is believed that peace will soon be restored in Kansu and Shensi provinces.

THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

A Cabinet Council of the Nanking Government was held on the 21st instant, when it was decided, according to a Shanghai dispatch to the *Tokyo Asahi*, that immediately after the arrival of Tang Shao-i at Nanking, Sun Yat-sen shall resign the presidency and the Ministers of State shall transfer their seats to the portfolio-holders of the new Ministry on its coming into existence. The Government officials are now busily making preparations for the transfer of official business. Tang Shao-i is expected to arrive on the 25th inst.

NEW PRESS LAW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, March 23.

The Press Law recently promulgated by the Nanking Government will go into operation on and after April 1st next. The law prescribes a heavy penalty on editors and publishers for publication of seditious articles against the Republican Government.

TANG SHAO-I.

Peking, March 23.

The Diplomatic Corps in Peking regard Tang Shao-i as incompetent to undertake the State administration and think it very dangerous to place China's finances under his management, since he, like Yuan Shih kai, has no scruple in resorting to underhand tactics. The Ministers have come to an agreement to warn the Consular Bodies

against dealing with Tang Shao-i in the matter of loans.

THE DISORDER IN THE PROVINCES.

Chefoo, March 24.

The soldiers in Tsing-chow have plundered about sixty houses and killed and wounded several people. Tumult reigns in the town. Several thousand rioters have started a disturbance at a place 50 li outside Tsaochow. The prefect has applied to Peking and Tsinan for the dispatch of troops for their suppression.

THE MAGISTRATE OF SHANTUNG

The title of Viceroy has been changed to Magistrate; and Deputy Viceroy Chang has been appointed Magistrate of Shantung. Magistrate Hu Ying tendered his resignation, but Yuan Shih-kai ordered him to remain in office and endeavour to restore peace and order in the province. The Lu army will be retained. Yuan has ordered the production of estimates, as the deficit in the war fund will be made good by the Central Government.

TANG SHAO-I AT NANKING.

Nanking, March 24.

Tang Shao-i arrived here at 5 o'clock this afternoon and went to the Presidency immediately on arrival. The Minister-President is to stay at the old Civil Administration *yamen* during his sojourn in Nanking.

MANCHURIA AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Peking, March 24.

Yuan Shih-kai has of late repeatedly dispatched commissioners to Mukden to investigate the condition of affairs in order to establish a thorough understanding between the Three Eastern provinces and the Central Government. The commissioners have been cordially treated by Viceroy Chao, who evidently reciprocates the desire.

KOLAHOUI LEADER MURDERED.

Kueichwo, March 24.

Hwang, the leader of the Kolaohui, who assumed the Magistracy after the declaration of independence at Tsz-chow and gained notice for his high-handed dealings, has been murdered by the guards under his command. The people in the locality are suffering greatly from the outrageous actions of the Kolaohui.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS DEFEATED.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that a mixed brigade, composed of the Army Divisions in Chihli, arrived at Feng-shui on the 14th instant, crossed the Hwang river on the 20th, and marched on to a point about 10 li from Tung-kwan. The commander invited Deputy Viceroy Sheng Yun to surrender, on the promise that 3,000,000 dollars would be paid him. Sheng Yun definitely rejected the offer and showed a strong determination to resist. When the brigade pressed on Tung-kwan, soldiers in ambush rose in all direction and completely surrounded the Government troops, who were routed after fierce fighting lasting three days and nights.

The insurgents took possession of Ting-chow, Feng-hsiang and Hanchung. Vigorous martial law is enforced. Sheng Yun has raised 5,000 new recruits. The insurgents are in very high spirits.

A detachment of the Government troops crossed Ishin on the north-east of Hsian, to recover Hsian. They encountered the

insurgents at Hanchang, but were enticed into the Hwang river where they were massacred.

The insurgent are composed of hardy men of Shensi and Kansu, but lack modern arms and ammunition. Inasmuch as a large quantity of old rifles and powder are stored in Lanchow arsenal, the Government will find it rather difficult to suppress them.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 24.

The portfolio-holders of the Coalition Ministry have now been settled as under:—

Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	Wu Ting-fang
Vice-Minister	Liang Tuan-yen
Minister of Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Vice-Minister	Wu Chen
Minister of Finance	Hsueh Ching-liang
Vice-Minister	Chen Kin-tao
Minister of Education	Tsai Yuan-pei
Vice-Minister	Fan Yuan-lien
Minister of Navy	Chen Pi-kuang
Vice-Minister	Lin Kuan-hsiung
Minister of War	Tuan Ch-jui
Vice-Minister	Tien Wen-li
Minister of Agriculture	Hu I-tei
Vice-Minister	Chien Chia-sheng
Minister of Industry	Yin H u
Vice-Minister	Chen Hwang
Minister of Commerce.....	Chen Te-chuan
Vice-Minister	Chung Tseng-chang
Minister of Justice	Wang Cheng-hui
Vice-Minister	Chin Chih-pen
Minister of Communications	Chan Tsia-yu
Vice-Minister	Yeh Kun-cho

The portfolio holders of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs are not yet selected.

THE SITUATION AT TSINAN.

Chefoo, March 25.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to the Chefoo Magistrate, directing him to suspend the dispatch of troops to Tsinan, as it is calculated to endanger the general situation. Yuan promises to cause investigations to be made into the insurrection in order to take adequate measures for its suppression, but expresses a desire that the Magistrate should abstain from all independent action.

YUAN'S ENVOYS AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, March 25.

The two special envoys dispatched by Yuan Shih-kai have arrived at Mukden and been cordially received. Two other military envoys have also arrived. They are exerting themselves to pacify the civil and military officials in Mukden.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Peking, March 25.

The Magistrate of Kwansi has telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, the State Council, and the Magistrates of other provinces, urging the necessity of the speedy organization of a provisional government on the model of the French Republic, and also recommending Sun Yat-sen as the Minister-President of the new Government.

THE LU ARMY.

Chefoo, March 24.

One hundred new recruits belonging to the Lu army arrived at Chefoo from Dairen on the 24th.

THE TROUBLE AT CANTON.

Canton, March 25.

According to the authorities of the Military Government, the Hui army, which was taking refuge in the Humen fort, has been disarmed and disbanded, and both Humen and Hwangpu forts recovered by the Government troops. The water-way between Hongkong and Canton is now safe.

Sun Yat-sen highly appreciates the efforts made by Magistrate Chen in connexion with the recent trouble and urges him to remain in office. Sun has also instructed the commanders of the Canton army to coöperate with Magistrate Chen in restoring peace and order. Chen's position is thus now secure.

ATTACK ON KOWLOON TRAIN.

Canton, March 25.

A train on the Kowloon Canton railway was attacked and ransacked by a band of bandits on the Chinese frontier of the British leased territory on the 24th.

A CONSUMPTION TAX.

Hankow, March 25.

The Wuchang Magistracy has decided to levy a consumption tax in the Hupeh provinces, and tax offices have been established in all the principal towns.

THE HANKOW FACTIONS.

Hankow, March 25.

Internal strife is still rampant between the two rival factions at Hankow and the outbreak of serious disturbances is threatened. Li Yuan-hung is trying to bring about peaceful mediation.

THE SOLDIERS' PAY.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that in response to an inquiry made by the Magistrate of Kiangnan, the chief of the general staff of the Kiangsu army submitted a report in which he stated that unless twenty *taels* were paid to each recruit before disbandment, serious disturbances were bound to occur. The new troops, mostly drawn from the labouring class, number about 40,000. The Government of Nanking Garrison computes the Kiangsu and Chekiang recruits approximately at 100,000. If twenty *taels* be paid per head for disbandment the Government needs 2,000,000 *taels*, which the Nanking Government is unable to disburse, before the dissolution of the Government. If the money is not forthcoming in time there is a danger of an outbreak of serious disturbances.

LOOTING BY TROOPS.

Mukden, March 25.

The troops, assisted by bandits, started looting at Chinchow on the 24th instant. A detachment was forthwith sent thither from Mukden for their suppression.

CHINESE MEDALS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, March 26.

The War Office of the Chinese Republic has established decorations to be awarded to the officers and men who rendered meritorious services in the revolution. The medals will be awarded according to the character of the services rendered.

AMERICAN TROOPS.

Tientsin, March 26.

Two hundred and eighty-four American officers and men arrived here from Manila on the 25th instant.

MURDER OF CHINESE.

Chefoo, March 26.

It is reported that the Chinese garrison near Tsingtao in Shantung province has been murdered by the Manchu soldiers.

WITHDRAWAL OF GUARDS FROM TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, March 26.

The guards have been withdrawn from Tientsin, it having been considered that

there is no fear of a resuscitation of the disturbances.

SOLDIERS' PAY.

Hankow, March 26.
The Wuchang Government is experiencing great difficulty in raising the 5,000,000 *taels* necessary to pay to the soldiers on disbandment.

RISING OF MONGOLIAN TROOPS.

Harbin, March 26.
According to a telegram from Ulyastai, the Mongolian troops have risen in mutiny to ventilate their grievance as to their non-payment, and have commenced to plunder and murder the Chinese residents.

FIGHTING IN CHINA.

March 27.
According to a report from Kueichow the Miao tribes, in the neighbourhood of Chin-yuenfu, have risen in revolt and burned down the town of Hwangpingcheng. The rebels fought with the Revolutionary Army, and about 300 Miaos were killed. They then reorganized the attack and succeeded in routing the revolutionary army.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the State Council was to sit in conference on the 29th instant to give a final decision as to the portfolio-holders in the new Government, and the official announcement was to be published on the conclusion of the conference. It is stated that the list so far, does not materially differ from that foreshadowed by the Press. Tang Shao-i recommended Prince Pu Lun to a portfolio, and the proposal was endorsed by Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and other Nanking leaders.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

It is reported from Shanghai that the Nanking Government has received from the Belgian Syndicate one million *taels* as part payment of the Belgian loan, and is paying the soldiers. However strongly the Four Powers' syndicate may protest, the Belgian loan is now actually concluded. Tang Shao-i does not attach much importance to the protest.

THE TROUBLE IN THE PROVINCES.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chuwo* says that the news from Ichang of the Szechuan disturbances is evidently exaggerated, but the situation is sufficiently grave. The town of Chungking is not yet in the hands of the rioters, though it is a fact that a large number of them have assembled there to commit plunder. The town of Kueichow, and other towns near it, are infected by rioters. The Magistrate of Chungking is strongly guarding the town, and has mounted 17 guns on the top of the town walls. The soldiers, however, are not any better than the rioters, and may at any moment turn into bandits.

No news comes from Chengtu, but it seems that rioters are rampant on the banks of the Ming river. The commander of the new Revolutionary army has organized a volunteer corps to defend the locality, and the Chamber of Commerce has raised a public subscription to reward the soldiers for the maintenance of peace.

A DESPATCH from Morioka reports that at about nine o'clock on Tuesday morning a fire occurred in the suburbs of the city, resulting in the destruction of fifty houses.

THE HOKKAIDO COLLIERY DEBENTURES.

As a sequel to the resolution adopted by the recent general meeting of shareholders of the Hokkaido Colliery and Steamship Company concerning the issue of 6,000,000 *yen* worth of debentures, it is reported that the delay in the issue, which was to have taken place immediately, is mainly due to a proposal advanced by a section of shareholders that the 7,500,000 *yen* face value of Nippon Steel Foundry shares, held by the Company, should be offered as security for the debentures. Inasmuch as the Company's whole property, including the Steel Foundry shares, is hypothecated for the 6,000,000 *yen* worth of old debentures to the Chartered Bank, the Company applied to the Bank for its consent to the hypothecation of the Steel Foundry shares for the new loan. The Bank gave this matter its consideration and formulated a series of questions, which the Bank addressed to the Industrial Bank. A reply was promptly given to the inquiries. The Chartered Bank has the matter under consideration, and a final decision will be arrived at in a week or a fortnight. In the event of the Bank refusing to give its consent to the proposal, some trouble may occur in the issue of the new debentures.

PROCEDURE IN PAYMENT OF TAXES.

With a view to simplifying the procedure in the payment of taxes, the Tax Administration Bureau has inaugurated a new system, which will no doubt prove a boon to busy taxpayers in dispensing with the time and trouble necessitated in taking the tax paper to the ward or city office for payment. By the new method the taxpayers receiving the demand note may take it to the nearest post-office and pay in the amount demanded within the period specified in the note. No postage or any fee is charged for remittance, but no cheques or bills will be accepted in payment, which must be made in cash. Tax-payers may also pay their tax by Furi-kaichokin or transfer savings' account, stating on the specified form the number of the demand note and amount of tax payable. No stamps need be affixed on the slip. The new methods of payment will go into operation on and after April 1st.

JAPAN'S CHINA TRADE.

According to an official investigation, Japan's trade with China for the second ten days of March, as compared with the corresponding term of the preceding year, shows a tendency for a steady increase, except in transactions with North China, which, on the contrary, reveal a downward tendency, due, of course, to the disturbance in that quarter. The details are as in the following table:—

	EXPORTS.	
	1912. Yen.	1911. Yen.
North China	365,240	572,183
North and South China.....	2,706,835	2,663,478
Since January.....	12,400,883	16,545,302
	IMPORTS.	
	1912. Yen.	1911. Yen.
North China	95,433	105,968
North and South China.....	722,081	794,852
Since January.....	6,964,199	13,647,016

TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

GENERAL MEETING.

The general meeting of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha took place in the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, and was attended by 639 shareholders holding 135,970 shares.

The proceedings opened in a very lively manner, Mr. Asano, who presided, being bombarded with questions as to the increase in loans, the interest paid, shipping expenses and the so-called vessel loan redemption fund. Another shareholder demanded an explanation concerning the suit brought against the Company.

These questions were resented in another quarter and the proceedings became very disorderly. It was not before half past three that the meeting could proceed with its ordinary business, after explanations has been given by the Vice President and Mr. Ito.

After the approval of the report and accounts, the Directors laid before the meeting the following statement for their approval, and it was unanimously passed:—

APPROPRIATION OF PROFITS.

	Yen.
Net Profits	386,735.280
Brought over from last account ...	7,636.466
Total	394,371.746
Reserve fund	2,000,000
Dividends for Shareholders	367,250.000
To be carried forward	7,111.695

The Directors were re-elected, and the meeting came to an end about 4 o'clock.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, March 22.

The market yesterday opened dull and weak and nearly all shares tumbled down, N. Y. K.'s taking the lead. A weak tone prevailed throughout yesterday's session.

Saturday, March 23.

The market on Saturday opened rather weak, but a stronger tone began to develop later. All the shows were quoted firm towards the close of the session.

Monday, March 25.

The market yesterday opened strong and all shares rallied. The firm tone was maintained throughout the session.

Tuesday, March 26.

The market yesterday opened active and all the shares continued to move up. The tone began to collapse towards the close of the session, however.

Wednesday, March 27.

The market yesterday opened dull and all shares moved down. The weak tone prevailed throughout the session.

Thursday, March 28.

The market yesterday was characterized with activity. All shares rallied in quotation. The afternoon session was closed to prepare for settlement. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

Mar. 27th. Mar. 21th.

Kel-Hin Railway.....	51.95	—	—
Yusen Kaisha	117.60	117.60	—
Toyo Kisen	47.65	47.95	+ .25
Specie Bank.....	216.80	217.65	+ .85
Tanko Kisen	25.05	25.10	+ .05
Tokyo Gas	72.95	72.75	— .20
Tokyo Dento	73.05	72.95	— .10
Fuji Gas Spinning	90.00	90.75	+ .75
Tokyo Spinning	54.20	53.95	— .25
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	110.60	111.70	+ 1.10
Beer	88.50	88.50	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	68.05	69.25	+ 1.20
Nippon Oil	76.15	76.25	+ .10
Rice Exchange.....	113.95	113.00	— .95
Stock Exchange	167.70	168.35	+ .65

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama S.P.C.A. was held on the 28th inst., at the old Court Room of the British Consulate, kindly lent for the occasion.

Mr. S. Isaacs took the Chair and there was a fairly large attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting it was agreed to take the minutes of the last meeting as read.

The Chairman said that the report had been in their hands for some time. It had been drafted from the minutes of the Society, which had been carefully kept by Mr. J. F. Drummond, the Hon. Secretary, from the reports given by the Inspectors. The only thing to be noted was the reduction in the number of members. A great many had left for other ports and some had left Japan entirely. Among the Japanese members quite a number were under the impression that one payment of 3 yen made them members for life. The funds of the Society had in consequence fallen to a very low ebb, and they had only 168.65 yen to meet the current expenses, for which money had been advanced by members of the Society. The only way to keep the Society running would be to get more members, and to do that the Committee proposed to send out receipts to all the residents in Yokohama. He hoped they would receive a hearty response, for failing that he did not see how they could continue the work. They had been fortunate to get the hearty support of the foreign firms last year, and it was to be hoped that they would respond as readily this year. Quite a number did not respond to the notice last year, but promised to give their support this year. He regretted to say that Mr. Okada, the Hon. Japanese Secretary, was unable to be present. He had been a source of great help to the society. The chiefs of the different police stations in Yokohama had also given them great assistance. With regard to the general work of the Society, the horse-troughs had been repainted and re-tinned. It was noticed that very few horses fell down under the heat last summer, contrary to what was witnessed two years ago. If the funds of the Society permitted they would like to put up three or four more troughs, one at Hiratsuka Station, and one near Kanagawa Station, by the premises of the Warehouse Company. Last year there were sixty straw hats for the horses distributed among the carters, and he thought they helped to ease the sufferings of the animals pulling the carts. One of the carters saw fit to use one of the hats for himself, and it was suggested to him that if his ears had been longer he might have put them through the holes for the purpose. This year they hoped to distribute 100 more hats, and to assist in the work of the Society they intended to ask the principals of the schools to allow the children to do the printing on the hats, which was done by the Society itself last year. This, it was thought, would give the children an interest in the work. After referring to some criticism of the Society by a local weekly journal, the Chairman said that the Society received reports from similar societies in Europe, which invited correspondence from them, and on several occasions they had written to ask them for advice. Unfortunately the laws in Japan did not give them all the help they would like, and they could only rely on the good will of the chiefs of the police-stations, who had done as much as could possibly be expected under present conditions.

Mrs. Marshall Martin proposed that the subscription for Japanese should be reduced to one yen, instead of 3 yen, as it would enable them to get many more subscribers than at present.

The Chairman said he thought the suggestion was a very good one. It would be placed before the incoming committee.

In regard to the Committee, the Chairman said that they had lost two members during the

year, Mr. Carillon, who had gone home, and Mr. H. V. Summers, who had gone to Kobe. Mr. J. F. Drummond had taken over the secretaryship on Mr. Summers' departure, but as he was moving to Tokyo he could not continue it. Mr. Curjel had kindly consented to act as secretary. The present address of the Society was No. 27, the office of Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Co., but he proposed it should be moved to his office, where Mr. Curjel would look after the interests of the Society.

Later the Chairman announced that Governor Oshima had kindly consented to take the place of Baron Sufu as patron of the Society.

On the motion of Mr. P. E. Jenks, seconded by Mr. A. W. Sheriff, the following Committee was elected for the ensuing year: Mr. S. Isaacs, Mrs. C. K. Marshall Martin, Mrs. W. T. Payne, Mrs. M. Spencer Smith, Mr. Spencer Smith, Mr. E. Curjel, Mr. E. O. Hermann, Mr. F. L. Elliott and Mr. Okada Kataro.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman expressed appreciation of the work done by Major Sasaki, the Chief Inspector. They knew he was always about and reported on everything that happened. He was very well situated to fill the position, as he was military instructor to the police of Yokohama, and thus all the police knew him and did all they could to help him.

Mr. Nakagawa translated the report and the proceedings of the meeting for the benefit of the Japanese gentlemen present.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The following are the report and accounts for the past year:—

The Committee have pleasure in submitting herewith their Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1911.

While they have reason to congratulate themselves on the progress made in the work of the Society, and while there is evidence to show it is more largely appreciated, it is to be regretted that there is again a falling-off in Membership by about 10 per cent. to be recorded, both as regards Japanese and Foreign Members. It is to be hoped, however, that with the continually growing interest, particularly on the part of the Japanese Public, our roll of Members will show considerable additions this year.

The activity of our Inspectors was mainly centred in looking after the better treatment of cart-horses in Yokohama, and it is gratifying to note that some improvement has been seen in the way the animals are now handled by the carters. Still, there have been a considerable number of cases that had to be reported: there were 12 instances of overloading, as many of unsound, old, weak or underfed horses, 8 cases of overworked animals, and 6 of ill-treatment.

The attention of our Inspectors was not, however, confined to horses, and other cases reported had reference to dogs (4), cats (1), in the skinning of live snakes (1) and to the treatment of sheep landed from French Mail steamers. In several of these instances the Society were indebted to private individuals for giving reports, which were always promptly followed up by our Inspectors, who, besides attending to these duties, also examined a number of stables. It may be observed in this connection that of the large number of stables for cart-horses in Negishi only two were found to be clean.

There is, however, no little evidence that the aims of the Society are now better understood by the men in charge of the horses, and as an example your Committee have pleasure in citing the case of a carter who, of his own accord, removed two bags of rice from his cart to ease his horse and carried them up the hill himself. This man was rewarded for his action with the Society's small Silver Medal, and it is to be hoped that he will have many imitators amongst his colleagues.

The Society is again greatly indebted to the Police, who have invariably supported the work of our Inspectors promptly and effectively. The police imposed fines for ill-treatment of animals in five cases, the amount ranging from 50 sen to 3.00 yen; they also administered several reprimands, and thus greatly assisted our work.

Also the Japanese Press has brought the aims of the Society before the Public; the *Yokohama Boyei Shimbun*, the *Yokohama Kasei Zasshi*, and the *Toitsu Trushin Shimbun* had lengthy articles on the topic, and of the one in the last-mentioned paper 100 copies were bought and distributed. On the other hand, it is to be regretted that amongst the Foreign periodicals there has not always been that uniform

sympathy which a Society like ours is justified in expecting.

In addition to the newspaper articles mentioned, lectures delivered on several occasions by our Inspector, Major Sasaki, helped in bringing the aims and the work of the Society before the Japanese public. Translations of our last report were printed. Notifications were also sent to owners of carthorses asking them to provide Matting-Shades for their animals during the summer months, but beyond this the low state of the finances of the Society did not allow of any propaganda. It may be stated in this connection that the straw hats which were supplied to horses last summer, and which were gratefully received by the carters, were not provided by the Society, but were the gift of some Japanese and Foreign members, and it is to be hoped that their example will be emulated by others. These hats not only gave protection and comfort to the horses, but incidentally helped to carry the name of the Society all over the town and suburbs.

While the subscriptions show a falling-off of 10 per cent. against last year, your Committee gratefully acknowledge the receipt of contributions of over 400.00 yen from Yokohama firms and of 65.00 yen in other donations, which, we venture to think, reflects a general feeling in the community that the Society deserves the support for which it asks. A great deal still remains to be done, and the operations of the Society are to be extended we must have more members. While giving thanks, therefore, to all those who have assisted us with subscriptions and donations, your Committee again appeal to all lovers of animals for contributions.

Mr. H. V. Summers, who was such an indefatigable worker in the interests of our Society, has unfortunately for us—moved to Kobe, and he will be much missed here; but our loss is Kobe's gain.

The water drinking-troughs have been kept clean and sweet and in good repair.

WORKING ACCOUNT.—JANUARY 1ST—DECEMBER 31ST, 1911.

Brought Forward	23.65
300 subscriptions	600.00
Contributions from Yokohama firms	404.00
Other donations	65.00
Interest on Current account	1.98
	1,094.57
Inspectors' Salaries	802.50
Water Rent	25.25
Repairs to Bicycle	11.35
Stationery, Printing and Postage	5.55
Advertising	20.20
Translating report	14.00
100 copies of "Toitsu Shimbun"	12.00
Repairing Drinking-troughs	13.02
Collector's charges	22.05
	925.92
Balance at Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	168.65
	1,094.57

THE SUMITOMO BANK.

It is announced that, in order to meet the ever increasing requirements of clients, due to the general economic development of the country, it has been decided to transform the Sumitomo Bank into a joint-stock company with limited liability under the title of the Sumitomo Ginko Kabushiki Kaisha ("The Sumitomo Bank, Limited"), with an authorized capital of 15,000,000 yen divided into 150,000 shares of 100 yen each, of which one half is paid up.

The new bank is to take over the whole business of the Sumitomo Bank on the 31st March, 1912, as it stands then, and commence business on and after the 1st day of April.

At the Inaugural General Meeting of the Bank held on the 23rd February last, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected Directors and Auditors: Baron Sumitomo Kichizayemon, Director, Mr. Suzuki Masaya, Director, Mr. Nakada Kinkichi, Director, Mr. Yukawa Kwan-kichi, Director, Mr. Iba Teigo, Auditor, and Mr. Kubo Munio, Auditor, among whom Baron Sumitomo Kichizayemon was elected President and Mr. Nakada Kinkichi, Managing Director.

The Bank was registered at the Government Registration Office on the 1st March, 1912.

FIRES.

As already briefly reported, about half past five on the afternoon of the 25th instant, a fire broke out in the bath-room of the house of Mr. Murai Yakichi, brother of Viscount Mishima, at No. 74, Samban-cho, Kojimachi. The flames quickly spread, and in less than an hour completely burnt down both the foreign and Japanese-style buildings, which covered some 200 *tsubo*. As the residence of the Prince Yamashina was not far removed from the scene of the outbreak, some troops from the 2nd Regiment of the Imperial Guards Division were despatched, while the Kizawa Hospital near by sent out its salvage corps, consisting of eleven hospital nurses. The flames were brought under control about half past six. The cause of the fire is believed to have been sparks from a chimney.

It may be added that the house was constructed only last summer at a cost of some ten thousand *yen*, and, with the contents, was insured for fifteen thousand *yen* with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The loss is estimated at about one hundred thousand *yen*.

A disastrous fire broke out on Tuesday morning in the bath room of the residence at Shitaya of Mr. Ishikawa Mitsuki, Professor at the Tokyo Fine Arts Academy and also a member of the Arts Committee attached to the Imperial Household. About midnight a servant was suddenly aroused by crackling sounds coming from somewhere near the bath room, and found that the flames had already caught the entrance of the drawing-rooms and were about to attack the sitting rooms. An alarm was at once started, but it was too late, the whole dwelling being totally destroyed before the fire brigades got the flames under control. Nearly all the precious curios and valuable works of art in the artist's possession were reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at about 40,000 *yen*. The cause of the mishap is unknown, but is believed to be due to incendiarism.

A telephone message from Chiba prefecture reports that about two o'clock on Thursday afternoon fire broke out in the main building of the Kashima Shrine, resulting in the destruction of some fifty houses. The cause of the fire is believed to have been a spark from a chimney.

Another fire is reported to have started about four o'clock the same afternoon in another village, destroying some 120 houses completely. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

A fire started in the small hours of Sunday morning in the kitchen of a house occupied by a blacksmith by the name of Tezuka Rikizo, at the top of Jizo zaka. There was a smart wind blowing, and the flames quickly spread to the adjoining houses, so that when the fire brigades of Kotobuki cho and Yamate cho arrived on the scene, five houses were already well on fire. Despite the firemen's efforts, it was not before seven buildings had been reduced to ashes that the fire was brought under control. The loss is estimated at some 12,000 *yen* and the amount insured for is 4,000 *yen*. Fortunately, no casualties are reported.

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

At the time of the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition the Japan Society published some historical documents exchanged between England and Japan during a period from the latter part of Keicho, or about the year 1614, to that of Genroku, corresponding to about the year 1703, which were preserved in the British Museum and at the Record Office.

The Society has now brought the documents together in an elegant form and has asked his Majesty's gracious acceptance of a copy.

In this context Mr. Ono, Chief of the Business Department of the Bank of Japan, interviewed by a representative of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, states that the year before last, when the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition was being held in London, Mr. Kuroda, who was then in England as

one of the Exhibition committee members, found among the interesting exhibits a collection of old memoranda exchanged between England and Japan during a period from the beginning of the 17th to the 18th century, that is, from the time of Will Adams to the 12th year of Keicho, when a trading port was opened in Hizen province for British traders. Taking a profound interest in those historical exhibits, Mr. Kuroda suggested to the President of the Japan Society that a copy would be greatly appreciated by the Emperor of Japan. The Society therefore reproduced the memoranda to present to His Majesty. The collection contains "Impressions of Japan" penned in the form of a diary and many other interesting notes and memoranda exchanged on various occasions between the two countries.

THE GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

According to the Railway Bureau, the returns for the current fiscal year are reassuring. The total revenue is expected, judging from the present state of things, to aggregate over 100,000,000 *yen*, which is an increase by some eight to nine million *yen* as compared with the figures estimated in the Budget. This remarkable increase of the revenue is chiefly due to the rise in the number of passengers and in the amount of freight, on account of the Commemoration Fete at Honganji Temple at Kyoto, and the Hundredth Anniversary of the Kotohira Shrine in Sanuki province, each of which attracted a multitude of pilgrims from every part of the country. On the other hand there was an increase in the expenditure as a result of the development of business, which necessitated the introduction of a supplementary budget of some 1,000,000 *yen*. The net profits will, however, amount to not less than a million *yen*, as the following table showing the monthly income during the present fiscal year, confirms:—

	INCOME FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.	
	Yen.	Amount of Increase.
April.....	10,153,737	1,430,543
May.....	8,746,009	770,796
June.....	6,978,393	544,491
July.....	7,432,705	670,564
August.....	7,791,849	1,593,073
September.....	8,006,254	808,954
October.....	8,618,100	627,868
November.....	8,240,202	669,085
December.....	8,371,294	689,332
January.....	7,609,939	615,741
February.....	7,534,067	821,954
March (First 10 days)...	2,797,458	270,202
March (Second 10 days)...	2,839,993	272,829

THE DEATH OF MR. W. N. WRIGHT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. W. N. Wright, the proprietor of "Wright's Hotel" in Yokohama, that took place in the St. Luke's Hospital in Tokyo on Tuesday evening. Mr. Wright had been ill for some time and his illness necessitated an operation, which, although successful, left the patient so weak that he finally succumbed.

Mr. Wright was only fifty-four years of age, and was born in London in 1858. He came to Japan in 1884 as a steward on the P. & O. Line and afterwards decided to make this country his place of residence. Within a brief space of time, he became attached to the British Consulate-General as constable, which position he held for several years. After vacating the post on the abolition of extra territoriality, he started the hotel known as Wright's Hotel.

The sympathy of the community will be extended to Mrs. Wright in her great loss.

An explosion of coal dust has occurred at the San Bois mine in Oklahoma, 105 men being entombed. Hope of rescuing any of these men alive has been abandoned. The rescuers located twenty bodies which, however, were unrecognizable.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. SAYCE'S SERMON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The charge is so often made that the man who has no religion is more likely to be lacking in moral integrity than the man with religion, that many uninformed people seem to believe it.

The Rev. Mr. A. H. Sayce, L.L.D., D.D., echoes in his Sermon preached at St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo, on 17th March and reproduced in the *Japan Mail* of the 20th, the common idea put forward by the Christian advocates of the last few decades,—that religion means morality and that morality means religion and that a society which is more or less governed by the moral code is—whatever the theologian may say—a religious society. The fact that religion concerns itself only with man in his supposed relation with his God, and his supposed future existence, and that morals have to do only with religious duties to himself and his fellow creatures, seems to have little weight with even some defenders of the faith.

The reverend gentleman says: "Systems of morality are excellent things for people who have been well brought up, who are kindly and honourable by nature, and who are sufficiently well off to have comparatively few temptations put in their way. But for the great mass of mankind something more is needed than a system of morality." He believes that a motive force supplied by Christianity is better than any other religion. Oliver Wendell Holmes well says: "The truth is that the whole stem of beliefs which came in with the story of the enlightened human... gently falling out of the enlightened human intelligence, and we are hardly in condition to realize what a tyranny it once exerted over many of the strongest minds."

The situation at present in civilized countries is better than has been known before, as concerns both morality and enlightenment; yet at no period has the entanglement of people from religion been so pronounced as it is to-day. The Middle Ages were religious. Our age is not. During the reignance of the dark night, practically all may be said to have been steeped in Christianity as then interpreted. When at present not an hour a week is given to religious questions by the average man, ten hours were given five centuries ago. Christianity has in it the germs of asceticism. A rigid adherence to the gist of the teachings of Jesus Christ compels an ascetic life or something closely approximating it; nor need we be surprised that with the early church when something of Power seemed still really to animate it, that so many professing Christians retired for long periods from the activities of the world. Palpably, progress can not be achieved through cherishing of such ideals; while as for morality, its flower is to be plucked only in social relations with one's fellow beings.

Dr. Sayce has much credited the worship of God and Christ, the Christian religion in a word. If the spirit of the Christian religion alone is the source of comfort, why have we not some evidence of it during the long weary centuries when it was all powerful? The gentleman says all that is born must die. Brothers of a thousand Christian faiths, how is it with you? Are you composed—happy, to believe that a few souls are saved and many lost? How selfish is the man who feasts rejoicing, while his neighbours are starving; what is death? is a question yet unanswered, except by spiritualists. They claim to have a personal knowledge. If we must not reason along these lines, why not accept their view by faith? I have heard them mourn for fear that they had committed some sin that they had forgotten, or that through mistake, they might miss the life with the Saviour they loved so well. Let death be what it may, when I reach the end of life, when Ministers are using my death to scare others,—not to live better than I have but to accept their faith, and thereby enable them to gather in a few more "ignorants" while you dress in rags, please hand them a few *yen* to replace their fine silk and broad cloth.

The history of Christianity is largely a record of vice and crime; of wars and assassinations; of robbery and plunder; of treachery and persecutions; of cruelties too multitudinous and horrible to relate, but I shall not enter in discussion on this matter as the Reverend Gentleman states that they no longer go to war for the Glory of God. However, we must remember that the Turco-Italian war is looked upon by the Catholics as another form of Holy war. The Italians went to the front with the full blessings and encouragement of the priests and one of the pretenses put forth for this wicked act of aggression was that the Italian missionary interests in Tripoli needed to be protected. Yours truly,

A CRITIC,

March 24th, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE. OPPOSITION TO THE WAGE BILL ACTION OF COAL OWNERS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 21.

Whatever may be the fate of the Minimum Wages Bill, the question of the termination of the strike depends upon the Miners' Federation, whose resolution for a specific rate of minimum wage was carried by a Scotch-Welsh coalition by a majority of only twelve.

The Labour members have agreed to move corresponding amendments in the Commons.

At the coal owners' meeting yesterday it was decided to insist upon drastic amendments.

This, together with the new attitude of the Opposition, is expected to prolong the proceedings in connection with the Bill.

It is recognised that the Government's position is very perplexing.

London, March 22.

The House of Commons was more crowded than it has been for years.

Mr. Balfour received a universal ovation from the members on entering.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, formally moved the second reading of the Minimum Wages Bill.

Mr. Asquith said the Government would not allow the people's industries to be starved. The Bill was a preliminary to any further steps that might be necessary, which God forbid!

Mr. Balfour received another ovation on rising. He said that no one was satisfied with the proposed solution of the trouble.

The country, said Mr. Balfour, had never faced such a crisis as the present one.

After the Opposition had tested the Government methods at the second reading of the Bill, they would see that the Government policy had a chance.

He moved the rejection of the Bill on the broad grounds of national policy, and concluded by assuming that if the Government were defeated there would be no dissolution, as they could not add the confusion of a general election to the strike.

On a division being taken the second reading was carried by 348 to 225.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 21.

The Government, assisted by the Labour members and the Nationalists, has carried the second reading of the Minimum Wage Bill by a majority of 123.

The passage of the Bill is now practically certain.

It is understood that the Cabinet is resolved not to accept the Miners' Federation amendments.

It is doubtful how far the miners will accept the Bill, as a settlement.

Mr. Asquith intimates that if the miners are obstinate, other measures will be adopted

to enable those desirous to do so, to return to work.

WAGE BILL IN COMMITTEE. STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 23.

The House of Commons has concluded the Committee stage of the Minimum Wages Bill.

After the debate on the Committee stage, Mr. Asquith, the Premier, said he had reason to believe that the discussions had so far narrowed the points at issue that the Government was calling a conference of the owners and men on Monday, with a view to still further narrowing the difficulties between the parties with reference to the minimum wages of 5s. for men and 2s. for boys, which was the real outstanding point at issue, though he would not say it was the main point.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the leader of the Labour party, speaking on behalf of the Federation, said the men would attend the conference, which it was hoped would result in an agreement, without which the Bill was useless.

FIVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED. WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 25.

It is estimated that three million workers are unemployed, making a total of five million including the women and children, many of whom are on the verge of starvation.

The closing down of factories is now extending to the South of England.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 25.

The country is anxiously awaiting the conference between the Ministers, the coal owners, and the miners, to be held on Monday, with a view to agreeing to the minimum wage of 5s. a day for men and 2s. for boys.

The men's leaders insist on this concession and the owners are resolved not to yield.

Whether an agreement is reached or not the Government intends to proceed with its Bill.

NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. MINERS RETURNING TO WORK.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 26.

The coal negotiations have been adjourned till to-morrow.

Some 12,000 men in Scotland and North Wales, forcing the hands of the leaders, resumed work to-day.

The collieries in North Wales have posted notices inviting the men to return to work and granting the minimum wage.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 26.

The coal deadlock continues, both sides being unyielding.

The Premier and other Ministers were conferring all day with the two parties unsuccessfully.

The North Wales Miners' funds are exhausted.

Distress is daily growing throughout the North.

All the railways have drastically curtailed their services.

SITUATION BLACKER THAN EVER.

LABOUR MEMBERS AND THE WAGE BILL.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 26.

The prospects in the coal strike were blacker than ever yesterday evening.

The conference between the owners and the men, whereof so much was expected, has not been held.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, and his colleagues conferred with the owners and two of the miners' executive for four hours, but failed to bring them into agreement.

London, March 27.

The amendment to the Minimum Wages Bill, to insert 5s. and 2s. as the minimum wages for men and boys, has been rejected in committee by 326 to 83.

The Labour members have decided to oppose the third reading.

London, March 27.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, speaking in the House of Commons, announced that the coal negotiations had been wholly fruitless.

He urged the rapid passing of the Minimum Wage Bill, whereby the principle of a reasonable minimum wage would be guaranteed.

Impartial machinery would be provided to ascertain that wage and those then responsible for the continuation of the stoppage would incur heavy responsibility.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the leader of the Labour Party, said that the failure of the negotiations was entirely due to the owners not budging an inch.

If they wished to go to the public clean-handed they must meet the men before the Bill was passed, and agree to something substantial, enabling the leaders to tell the men that the Bill was acceptable.

Otherwise the responsibility for the continued deadlock was theirs.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, March 27.

The negotiations for a settlement of the coal strike have been abandoned.

Mr. Asquith, speaking with emotion in the House of Commons, announced that the Government attempt to solve the difficulty had failed.

The Ministry was now hastening to pass the Wage Bill, hoping it will afford the miners an excuse to resume work.

It is expected the War Office will call out the reserves to protect the miners who desire to return to the pits.

The prospects of a compromise are remote, as the Scottish miners have increased their demands.

MINIMUM WAGE BILL PASSED BY COMMONS.

BALLOT OF THE MEN TO BE TAKEN.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 27.

The Minimum Wage Bill has been read a third time by a majority of 213 votes to 48.

The vote was taken at 2.50 in the morning.

The House of Lords immediately sat and

anean cruise has at last been fixed for March 22nd.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Owing to the arbitrary attitude Turkey has adopted towards the Italian proposals for peace, the Powers have postponed the formal presentation of the Italian conditions of peace to the Sublime Porte.

CHURCHILL AND THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The latest speech of the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill, on the British Navy Estimates, although directed against Germany in a very outspoken manner, is received with absolute calmness in German official and private circles.

The speech of Mr. Winston Churchill on the British Naval Estimates is not expected to unfavourably influence the progress of the Anglo-German negotiations on an understanding between both Powers.

STRIKE CONCLUDED.

The strike of coal miners in Ruhr coal district has been concluded and work was resumed by all workmen on March 19th. The demands of the strikers have been rejected. A voluntary increase of wages has, however, been promised.

The number of striking miners in Germany has further decreased to 44,43 per cent.

GERMAN STRIKE A FAILURE.

The German Press of all civil parties unanimously states that the strike of the coal miners has been a failure.

ANGLO GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Berlin, March 21.

According to certain intimations of the semi-official British and German press, which are not contradicted up to now by either Government, the pending Anglo-German negotiations have the purpose of fixing a broad formula of understanding in political matters, which will be followed by a relaxation of the tension on the naval question. Further conventions on the colonial questions will be decided case by case.

RUSSIA SATISFIED.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the dispatch of a division of troops to the Caucasus has no aggressive aims. The Russian Government declares itself absolutely content with the reply of Persia to the Russo-British Note.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

Berlin, March 22.

The Sultan has despatched a special deputy to salute the Kaiser at Corfu.

The Kaiser has left Berlin for Vienna, in company with Prince August Wilhelm and Princess Victoria Louise.

KAISER RECEIVES PRESIDENTS OF THE REICHSTAG.

Later.

The Kaiser has received the President, Vice-President and second Vice-President of the Reichstag in audience.

PROVISIONS OF ARMAMENT BILL.

The new Armament Bill provides for the formation of two field artillery regiments and of the telegraphic corps, the formation of two new Prussian army corps and the institution of a seventh army inspection staff on the Western German frontier.

The two new army infantry corps will be each supplemented by railway battalion engineer corps and by special aeroplane detachments. Two new regiments of cavalry will be formed in Prussia and Saxony

and a new regiment of infantry and one of cavalry in Bavaria. Each regiment of infantry will be strengthened by a machine-gun company.

The whole increase of the army will amount to 29,000 men.

The pay of private soldiers will be increased, with the exception of that of warrant officers.

PROVISIONS OF NAVAL BILL.

The new navy bill provides for the formation of a third active squadron, including the flagship of the reserve squadron and four battleships of the second reserve: the squadron will be supplemented by three new battleships, which will be gradually constructed.

Further the construction of airships and an increase of submarine boats is provided.

The navy bill is accompanied by a plan of construction of battleships for six years. One battleship will be laid down in the year 1913 and one in 1916.

The average increase of the personnel every year totals 75 officers and engineers and 1,600 men.

The expenditure for the two Bills demands 97 million mark in 1912, 127 million mark in 1913 and 114 million mark in 1914.

These will be met by the alcohol tax and current revenue, the rest by the surplus of 1911.

THE MEETING OF MONARCHS.

The meetings of the Kaiser at Schoenbrunn with the Emperor Franz Joseph, and at Venice with King Victor Emmanuel, will strengthen the personal friendship of the three monarchs of the Triple Alliance, but will have no effect on the Italian Turkish conflict. The Italian Foreign Minister will not join the meeting at Venice.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Russian Government has declared to the Sublime Porte its strict neutrality in the war with Italy. In agreement with the Powers Russia will not acknowledge the annexation of Tripoli.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to March 7th arrived at Berlin on March 22nd.

THE ARMAMENT BILLS.

Berlin, March 23.

The majority of the German press express themselves in favour of the new armament bills. The "Germania," the organ of the Centre Party, demands a detailed examination of the Bills. The "Vorwärts," the principal organ of the Socialists, alone states that the party will absolutely reject the new Bills.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

The Kaiser has arrived at Vienna and will continue on his journey to Venice this evening. The Chancellor will meet the Kaiser at Corfu during Easter week. His position, in spite of all contrary rumours, is stated to be absolutely unshaken.

THE PROGRESS OF KIAUTSCHOW.

The Imperial Navy Office reports that the progress of Kiautschow during the year 1911 has been very remarkable. Chinese capital has increasingly entered the leased territory. This progress still continues since the beginning of the current year, especially in commercial ventures. The revenue of the maritime Customs office has increased by about 9 per cent., and the total value of trade by about 8 per cent. The import of

German wares has risen to 19 million mark, and the tonnage of ships to 218,508 tons.

RUSSIAN MILITARY REFORM.

The Duma has passed a Bill providing for reform of the state military service law.

THE CRETAN QUESTION.

The Protective Powers have communicated to the Porte that Crete would be again occupied by them in the event of Cretan deputies being sent to Athens.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to March 10th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on March 24th.

"AXENFELS" PLUNDERED.

Berlin, March 24.

Rif pirates, on the Moroccan coast, have plundered the wreck of the stranded Hausa steamer *Axenfels*; the Governor of Ceuta is reported to have taken steps to protect the steamer against further attacks.

THE COAL STRIKE.

Miners' strikes still continue in Belgium and Spain.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Urmiah question has become much less serious since Turkey has given a promise to Russia not to increase the troops of the Urmiah garrison. The Sublime Porte has sent special officials to Urmiah Lake for the purpose of suppressing the anti-Russian agitation.

The captain of the Hapag steamer *Cincinnati* has refused to enter the Dardanelles owing to the great danger of mines.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

Berlin, March 25.

Italian papers, in welcoming the Kaiser to Italy, state that the maintenance of the Triple Alliance is absolutely necessary for the interests of Italy. King Emanuel has arrived at Venice, where he has met the Kaiser. Mediation for the conclusion of peace with Turkey has been touched upon in the conference, but no steps for realisation have yet been decided. The Sublime Porte has declared itself willing to accept Italy's proposals, if the annexation of Tripoli is excluded.

COLLISION IN FOG.

A collision has taken place during a heavy fog between the battleship *Elsass* and the Swedish steamer *Pollux*, with the result that the latter was sunk. The battleship was not damaged, and no lives were lost on either vessel.

RESIGNATION OF M. CROZIER.

M. Crozier, the French Ambassador at Vienna, has resigned owing to ill health.

GOVERNOR OF SAMOS ASSASSINATED.

The Turkish Governor of Samos has been assassinated by a Greek subject, by which the ill-feeling against Turkey in Greece has been accentuated.

ANGLO GERMAN RELATIONS.

Berlin, March 26.

The report of the *Times*, according to which the Kaiser is stated to have sent a private letter to the Tsar on the progress of the Anglo-German negotiations, is stated, in influential Russian circles to be inaccurate.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

King Victor Emanuel of Italy, in the course of a conference with the Kaiser at Venice, stated that Italy did not demand that pressure should be brought to bear on Turkey

by Germany or any other Power. The King further urged that the attitude of Italy favours the restoration and maintenance of peace, and especially the preservation of the *status quo* in the Balkans.

The two Monarchs were enthusiastically cheered by the public at Venice.

The Kaiser has left Venice for Isola Brioni on the south-western coast of Istria.

SIAMESE ROYALTY IN BERLIN.

Prince and Princess Shira of Siam have arrived at Berlin.

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN POLITICIAN.

The well-known German Liberal politician, author and poet, Albert Traeger, has died at Berlin at the advanced age of 82 years.

THE HAMBURG-AMERICA LINE.

Director-General Ballin, speaking at the General Meeting of the Hamburg-America Line, stated that business was absolutely satisfactory and that the commercial situation was never more peaceful than at present.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

The following diplomatic changes are reported from St. Petersburg: M. Korostowetz, the former Russian Minister at Peking, will go to Tangiers, his successor being M. Krupensky, up to now Councillor at the Russian Embassy at Vienna. M. Stschekin the present first Secretary of the Russian Legation at Peking, has been appointed councillor at the Embassy at Tokyo.

THE KAISER'S TOUR.

Berlin, March 27.

The Kaiser has met the Austrian Successor to the Throne at Brioni Island, and, after a day spent in cordial intercourse, left for Corfu.

BERLIN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY FLOODED.

Water from the River Spree has inundated the tunnel of the Berlin Underground Railway. Traffic was suspended for some time.

KIAUTSCHOU PROGRESS.

Admiral von Tirpitz, the German Secretary of State for the Navy, speaking in the Budget Committee of the Reichstag, stated that the Kiautschou Leased Territory has made considerable progress in spite of all difficulties. He further advised leaders of German industries to direct their attention to the improved chances offered in this territory.

MINISTER ON CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Herr Zimmermann, the German Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, speaking on the Chinese Revolution, said that Yuan Shih kai merited full confidence, and that Germany was in full agreement with the other Powers in her policy of not interfering in China. If, however, interference should prove necessary, united action with the other Powers should be considered. Germany was against the partition of China and in favour of the "open-door" policy.

COST OF INCREASED GARRISON AT PEKING.

For the strengthening of the Peking garrison by 500 men, who were to have been sent back to Germany in August, 1913, 650,000 marks were demanded.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The "Koelnische Zeitung," writing on the possibility of interference for the restoration of peace between Italy and Turkey, says that Germany cannot do anything for the present. Germany will neither exercise any

pressure on Turkey, nor advise Italy to transfer her belligerent actions to the Aegean Sea.

The *Temps* at Paris also declares that the Kaiser has not offered himself as arbitrator or mediator to Turkey or Italy.

THE POPE INDISPOSED.

The Pope is slightly indisposed.

THE SHARE MARKET.

The "Yamakuri Shoten," Tokyo Stock Exchange Brokers, send us the following report for the 22nd:—

The approaching date for the transfer of the Tokyo Tramway purchase money does not apparently cause any smart enhancement of values, most operators being ready to dispose of their holdings. In consequence, the share market continues to remain quiet and dull in tone. Prices have gone down by 70—80 *sen* for N.Y.K. and Tokyo Spinings. Quotations of Hoken Oil shares, which were some time ago decidedly enhanced by the Company's financial readjustment, and also the appreciation of oil, have again declined by one *yen*. So far as Tokyo Stock Exchanges are concerned, they went down by 90 *sen* for old, and 1.85 *yen* for new.

March 24.

The Tokyo Municipality's decision to float another 40,000,000 *yen* worth of loan bonds, when the repeated issue of debentures in many quarters is depressing the tone of the market, has naturally weakened the attitude of the bulls. Consequently the morning market closed quite dull, shares going down by some 20 to 40 *sen*. Tokyo Stock Exchanges, however, more or less stiffened, influenced by the decided appreciation of values in Osaka, quotations going up by 85 *sen* for new.

Afternoon transaction showed steadier signs of activity, prices appreciating all round by some 50—90 *sen*, though New Tokyo Stock Exchanges remained quiet, due to the operators withdrawing their holdings from the market.

March 25.

The morning market opened quite active, influenced by the improvement of the situation. The quotations for Nippon Yusen went up by 65 *sen*, while there was an appreciation all round by 30 to 50 *sen*. Kinugawa Hydro-Electrics rose by 1.35 *sen*. The strong attitude of the bulls caused a revival in the tone of general shares, Fuji Spinings being carried up by 1.95 *yen* and Kanegafuchi Spinings by 2.20 *yen*. Tokyo Stock Exchanges remained rather quiet as compared with other shares, quotations going up by 55 *sen* for old and 1.70 *yen* for new.

Owing to the sudden rise in the morning transactions, the afternoon market opened half an hour late. Throughout the session the general tone of the market remained firm, though the quotations of Spinning shares dropped by 50 to 70 *sen*.

March 26.

The approaching date of the transfer of the Tokyo Tramway purchase money, coupled with the easy state of the money market, greatly strengthened the attitude of the bulls, and the morning session started quite active. Quotations witnessed no smart enhancement, however, most operators withholding their shares in anticipation of further advances. Consequently, excepting Hypothec Banks and Fuji Spinings, which went up by 3.40 *yen* and 1.25 *yen* respectively, the rise was within the narrow range of from 30 to 50 *sen*. Tokyo Stock Exchanges rose by 55 *sen* for old and by 1 *sen* for new.

Transactions in the afternoon remained rather quiet throughout the session.

March 27.

The morning market opened dull on the rumour of a second issue of short term Railway Debentures, and prices were all subject to a decline. Among others, Kinugawa Hydro-Electrics

dropped by 85 *sen*, Fuji Spinings by 1.40 *yen*, and Tokyo Stock Exchanges by 1.25 *yen* for old and 60 *sen* for new.

The market remained dull throughout the afternoon session, business being limited to transfers.

March 28.

Influenced by the transfer of the Tokyo Tramway purchase money, as well as the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank, the morning market started rather active, prices witnessing more or less appreciation all round. Among others, Hypothec Banks and Kanegafuchi Spinings went up each by one point, Fuji Spinings by 70 *sen* and Hoken Oils by some 50 *sen*. Tokyo Stock Exchanges were quoted higher by 1.30 *yen* for old and by one *yen* for new.

Owing to the settlement the afternoon session was adjourned.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A CONFERENCE of Prefectural Governors will be held about the 7th proximo.

BARON FUJITA, who has been confined to his bed since last autumn, is said to be in a very precarious condition.

THE death is announced of Mr. Aitken, barrister-at-law, and formerly a member of the Legislative Council, Singapore.

A PROLONGED conference between members of the British Government and the Irish leaders took place on the 21st inst.

THE Bill providing for the enfranchisement of women will be introduced in the House of Commons on March 28th.

THE late Lord Wandsworth left an estate valued at £1,500,000, of which he set apart £1,250,000 to establish an orphanage.

THE Marchioness of Crewe, youngest daughter of the Earl of Rosebery, has been successfully operated upon for appendicitis.

MR. JUSTICE LAWRENCE, Judge of the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, has resigned on account of ill-health.

NEGOTIATIONS are in progress in London with a view to amalgamating the headquarters of the Conservatives and Liberal Unionists.

THE Tomei Fire Insurance Company will hold its 5th general meeting of shareholders on April 5th at its office at Marunouchi, Kojimachi.

VISCOUNT HORI MOTOKI, Member of the House of Peers, who was some time ago reported to be ill, is said to be in a most precarious condition.

THREE men, supposed to be spies, were arrested on the 19th inst. inside the fort at St. Helens, in the Isle of Wight. Another arrest has since been effected.

A TELEGRAM from Sendai says that snow has fallen continuously in the district for the past week, accumulating to the depth of five feet. Traffic is practically suspended.

THE Japan Hypothec Bank will hold a banquet at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, at 11 p.m. on April 11th, in celebration of its tenth anniversary. A number of leading business men and statesmen will be invited.

THE British Post Office announces that the mails which went down in the *Oceana* included registered correspondence and parcels for Gibraltar, bags of letters for Zanzibar, Bombay, British men-of-war, Aden and Singapore, and parcels for Egypt, Berbera, Aden and India.

THE decrease in the value of traffic on the various English railways last week amounted to £571,000. The North Eastern has suffered to the extent of £89,000, while the Midland has lost

£83,000 and the North Western £82,000. Certain well known companies are making experiments with oil fuel.

Four persons were killed and five wounded, while four houses were demolished, by an explosion of bombs in a house at Oporio where they were being manufactured.

The Labour agitators Constantino and Castro have been arrested in connexion with the murder of the Mayor of Moita, who was cut to pieces by the mob with axes on January 31st.

Mr. ISHII, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, will give a banquet at his official residence on the 27th instant, to the *Corps Diplomatique*, Prince Tokugawa and high officials of the Foreign Department.

The Directors of the Japan Spinning Company, which has a capital of 2,750,000 yen already paid up, have in contemplation an increase by some 1,500,000 yen for the installation of 20,000 more spindles.

Mr. HENRY KESWICK, son of the late Mr. W. Keswick, who was the Conservative Member of Parliament for the Epsom Division of Surrey, has been returned unopposed to Parliament in his late father's constituency.

The shares of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. made a remarkable spurt to 285 last week on rumours being circulated of a general consolidation of Far Eastern shipping interests. The shares of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. rose to 113.

The suffragette incendiary who attempted to set fire to the porch of the General Post Office, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second division. The Judge said that the sentence would have been more severe but for the fact that the prisoner had been ill.

HOW TO TREAT PIMPLES



AND BLACKHEADS

Successfully and speedily, at a trifling cost, is learned from the special directions which accompany Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment. Sold by druggists and dealers everywhere. A liberal sample of each with 32-p. skin book, post-free from nearest depot, to all who desire to test before purchasing.

Depots: Newbery, Dept. 12, 71, Charterhouse St., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney; R. B. W. Leatham, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta; and Bombay; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U.S.A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, March 30.

American Cotton continues to arrive in large quantities, and local values still remain below the level of prices in the producing countries. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains the same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, conditions are generally unchanged.

RAW COTTON.		PER PICUL.
American Middling	...	31.00 to 33.50
Indian Broach	...	33.00 to 33.20
Chinese (Old crop)	...	—
Chinese (New crop)	...	32.50 to 33.00

COTTON YARN.		PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in. ... 5.75 to 11.00

Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43 1/4" x 45 yards ... 5.20 to 5.50

B. 43 1/4" x 45 yards ... 5.50 to 5.80

C. 44" x 46 yards ... 5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 45 yards ... 6.20 to 6.60

B. 44" x 46 yards ... 6.60 to 7.20

C. 44" x 47 yards ... 7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 46 yards ... 7.80 to 8.50

44" x 47 yards ... 8.50 to 9.75

44 1/4" x 47 yards ... 9.75 to 11.00

45" x 48 yards ... 11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ... 3.80 to 4.70

Cotton Italians ... 0.25 to 0.38

Cotton Venetians ... 0.35 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.

30 inches ... 1.90 to 2.20

Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards,

32 inches ... 2.50 to 3.65

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ... 14.50 to 17.50

Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ... 1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels ... 0.44 to 0.70

Union Italians ... 0.27 to 0.29

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,

30-32 inches Common to Medium ... 0.31 to 0.33

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,

30-32 inches Good to Best ... 0.31 to 0.33

Cloths—Filos, Presidents, and Union,

54 to 56 inches ... —

METALS.

The market is dull, with very little business doing.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square ... PER PICUL.

square ... 4.00 to 4.50

Iron or Mild Steel, Plate ... 5.20 to 5.40

Sheet Iron ... 6.20 to 6.40

Sheet Mild Steel ... 6.80 to 7.10

Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated ... 10.70 to 11.00

Flat ... 11.30 to 11.50

Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ... 6.80 to 7.00

Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. ... 7.60 to 8.10

Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar" ... 2.25 to 2.35

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester ... 4.22

Victory ... 3.90

Nonpareil ... 4.90

Somatra ... 2.70 to 2.85

Nurneo ... 3.02 to 3.40

Hokuyetsu ... 3.00 to 3.55

Nippon ... 2.78 to 3.35

Ogura ... 3.77

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

Brown Manila ... 11.90 to 12.40

Brown China ... 9.90 to 10.55

White Java ... 14.40 to 22.50

White Refined (German) ... 15.50 to 18.30

" (Hongkong) ... 14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first ... 240.00

" second ... 200.00

Java, first ... 320.00

" second ... 280.00

Madras, first ... —

" second ... —

Artificial "horse and lion" brand ... 2.00

Artificial "Kenshin" ... 2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Yen.

Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ... 10.95 to 11.00

Flag ... 10.95 to 11.00

Royal ... 10.95 to 11.00

Trophy ... 4 sacks ... 10.95 to 11.00

Red Seal ... 10.95 to 11.00

Lion ... 11.65 to 11.70

Portland ... 11.15 to 11.20

Premier ... 11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—

Rising Sun ... 6 *hwamme* ... 2.80

Takanago ... 6 " ... 2.75

Fuji ... 6 " ... 2.85

Pine ... 6 " ... 2.80

WHEAT.

Prices have risen.

Yen.

White Waiia Walla, 100 *hin* ... 5.30

Red " " " ... 5.25

Blue Stern ... 5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On March 15th stocks were: Filatures 4,000 piculs, Re-reels, 150 piculs; Kakeda, 200 piculs.

Yen.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ... 930

Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ... 895

Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ... 905

Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ... 880

Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 9-11den ... 930

Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 10-17den ... 920

Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 13-15den ... 865

Filature—No. 1 1/4-2, 11-13den ... 910

Filature—No. 1 1/4 Shinyelsha ... 855

Re-reels—Extra ... —

Re-reels—No. 1 ... —

Re-reels—No. 1 1/4 ... 870

Re-reels—No. 2 ... —

Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ... 890

Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ... 860

Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ... 850

Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ... 840

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE.

March.

March delivery.

April delivery.

May deliver.

yen. yen. yen.

23rd ... 84.80 85.80 86.40

24th ... — — —

25th ... 85.30 86.20 86.76

26th ... 84.80 85.60 86.10

27th ... 84.70 85.50 86.00

28th ... 84.50 85.20 85.90

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.

On March 14th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,500 piculs; Kibiso, 4,000 piculs; Sundries, 100 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Yen.

Noshi—Filatures, Best ... —

Noshi—Filatures, Good ... —

Noshi—Oshiu, Good ... 155 to 175

Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ... 135 to 155

Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ... 115 to 135

Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ... —

Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ... —

Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ... —

Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good ... —

Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium ... 80 to 90

Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior ... 60 to 80

Kibiso—Filatures, Best ... —

Kibiso—Filatures, Good ... —

Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ... —

Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ... 110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is quiet.

Kanazawa:—There has been fractional changes in prices and the market is dull.

Kawamata:—The market is in a little dull.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

6 *me.* 6 1/2 *me.* 7 *me.* 7 1/2 *me.* 8 *me.*

Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.

22 1/4" ... 8.5 8.00 7.80 7.60 7.70

27" ... 8.05 7.30 7.65 7.65 7.70

36" ... 7.85 7.60 7.70 7.60 7.70

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

4 1/2 *me.* 4 1/2 *me.* 5 *me.* 5 1/2 *me.*

Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.

22 1/4" ... 8.20 8.00 8.00 7.20

27" ... 7.55 7.55 7.45 7.35

36" ... 7.55 7.50 7.50 7.45

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 in.	3 1/2 in.	4 in.	4 1/2 in.
10/11	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
20/21	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
25/26	8.80	10.10	11.20	—
30/31	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of March 18th the quotation was £69 1/4.

Refined per 100 kin	43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00—50.00
Oré	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is firm

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	597.060
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	61.645
Delivery.	Closing Price.
March	19.83
April	19.65
May	19.54
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
March	19.83
April	19.50
May	19.46

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior.....	Yen	21.30
Medium.....		20.20
Common.....		18.80
Average.....		20.10

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is slightly eased.

Delivery.	Yen.
March	—
April	130.20
May	136.45

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 15th March amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choice	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, Mar. 29

London silver 1/2 higher spot and forward, China sterling quotations not yet received, sterling rates for Private Paper are lower but all other rates unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2 @ 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	3/0 1/2 @ 1
— 6 months' sight	3/1
Australia—Docty 30 days	2/1 1/4
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 95*
— Private 10 days' sight	do 93*
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2*
— Private 10 days' sight	77 1/2*
Bar Silver (London)	261 1/2 @ 3/4
	* Nominal

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 22nd Mar.,—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)
Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 22nd Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 22nd Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 22nd Mar.,—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,147, M. Winckler, 22nd Mar.,—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yeterofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 22nd Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, M. Bent, 23rd Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,936, O. A. Cowin, 23rd Mar.,—Middlesbro via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Winnipeg, British steamer, 2,965, A. B. Sawden, 23rd Mar.,—San Francisco, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Sumatra, British steamer, 2,976, W. R. Le Mare, 23rd Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Belgravia, German steamer, 4,254, Hildebrandt, 24th Mar.,—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, Reipenhausen, 25th Mar.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 25th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798, K. Soeda, 25th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wardha, British steamer, 2,563, F. R. Cammack, 25th Mar.,—Rangoon, Rice.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.

Atsuta Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,284, W. Thompson, 27th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Glentworth, British steamer, 3,026, R. Webster, 27th Mar.,—London and Middlesbro via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Suveric, British steamer, 4,011, F. S. Cowley, 27th Mar.,—Portland and Seattle via Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,418, J. McCurdy, 27th Mar.,—Hakodate, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.

Tjilaroom, Dutch steamer, 3,666, P. Zwart, 28th Mar.,—Batavia and Soerabaya via ports, General.—Ed. L. Van Nierop & Co.

Benlomond, British steamer, 1,752, A. Webster, 28th Mar.,—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Comes & Co.

Kurama, Japanese steamer, 1,600, Capt. S. Hideshima, 28th Mar.,—Sagami Bay.

Annan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,870, T. Tsukamura, 28th Mar.,—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 23rd Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 23rd Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Princess Alice, German steamer, 6,721, P. Grosch, 23rd Mar.,—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahren & Co., Nachf.

Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 24th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 24th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kalomo, British steamer, 3,208, W. Keasley, 26th Mar.,—Boston and New York via ports, General.—Sale & Fratz Ltd.

Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, Ernest Bent, 26th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kaga Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,907, M. Tabusa, 27th Mar.,—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Winnipeg, British steamer, 2,965, A. B. Sawden, 27th Mar.,—Itzaki, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798, K. Soyeda, Mar.,—Seattle via Victoria, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Belgravia, German steamer, 4,254, Hildebrandt, 27th Mar.,—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 28th Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tjilaroom, British steamer, 3,666, P. Zwart, 28th

Mar.,—Batavia and Soerabaya via ports, General.—Ed. L. Van Nierop & Co.

Wardha, British steamer, 2,563, F. R. Cammack, 28th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Suveric, British steamer, 4,011, F. S. Cowley, 28th Mar.,—Hongkong via ports and Manila, General.—American Trading Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. M. D. Hill, Miss W. M. Hill, Mrs. F. B. Noble and Miss M. J. Noble in cabin; Mr. T. Nojima and Mr. T. Takiguchi in second class; 6 Japanese and 16 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kumano Maru* from Sydney and Melbourne via ports:—Mr. C. E. Ackman, Mr. and Mrs. H. Clark, Miss B. Cohen, Mr. F. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. L. Darbo, Miss M. L. Fooks, Mr. W. H. Mahoney, Mr. Nakayama, Miss A. Rothbone, Mr. Tominaga, Miss G. Tom, Miss H. R. White, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bibby, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cohen, Miss W. Cohen, Mrs. L. S. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Ellis, Mrs. M. McLaren, Mr. C. McCracken, Mr. and Mrs. W. Rothbone, Miss G. P. Stitt, Mrs. E. Toms and Mr. Tanaka in cabin; Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Mrs. B. E. Short, Mr. T. Zamora, Mrs. Wong Kai Fan and 2 children, Mr. J. D. Palma, Mr. B. Jackson, Mr. R. Zamora, Mr. Wong Kai Fan in second class; 2 Japanese in intermediate; 8 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage. For Kobe:—Mrs. Hamada, Mrs. Minamioji, Mr. Kamiye, Mrs. Tong Su and Mrs. Yeng Su and 3 children in second class; 3 Japanese and 3 Chinese in intermediate; 20 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Siberia* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. Edith F. Britan, Mrs. G. E. Engstrom, Mr. D. W. Fisher, Chaplain Matthew C. Gleason, U.S.N., Mr. Edw. Guirala, Miss Elsa Hamann, Miss Isabella M. Hargrave, Miss Lida P. Hilands, Mr. R. De L. Hordern, Mr. Anhre Koechlin, Mr. A. C. Laughnan, Miss Alice Mack, Com. Chas. B. McVey, Jr., U.S.N., Miss Genevieve Mott, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Perry, Master V. D. Perry, Miss Elizabeth A. Plankenton, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Pince, Mrs. J. W. Potter, Mr. Chas. Schlumberger, Miss Amy H. Stockbridge, Mr. W. O. Strachler, Mrs. A. E. Winterbotham, Mrs. Katherine Winterbotham, Lieut. Com. Daniel W. Wurtsbaugh, U.S.N., Miss Maria Averill, Miss H. E. Averill, Capt. Geo. B. Beardsley, Mr. and Mrs. H. Goldman, Mrs. C. R. Hewitt, Miss C. Luther, Miss Constance Mailly, Mrs. Theodore D. Sutton, Miss H. Walter, Mrs. W. F. Wilson, Miss N. Canfield, Miss E. H. Craig, Miss M. F. Craig, Mrs. H. B. Chapman, Miss Anne R. McKenna, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Neville and Lieut. Calvin P. Page, U.S.N., For Kobe:—Rev. and Mrs. F. S. Curtis, Mr. P. D. H. Grant and Mrs. M. L. McFarland. For Nagasaki:—Miss A. F. Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Reynolds, For Shanghai:—Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Carl, Mr. James Donald and Mrs. Henry V. K. Gilmore. For Hongkong:—Miss H. C. Barbour, Mr. H. S. Chapman, Mrs. M. Brady, Miss O. Brady, Mr. Donald Lamont, Mr. McLaughlin, Rear Admiral R. F. Nicholson, U.S.N., Mrs. R. F. Nicholson, Miss M. J. Nicholson, Mr. James J. Robins, Mr. Russell, Mr. F. E. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Arvid H. Sjovald and Mr. Geo. T. Sturtevant in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Kamakura Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. N. Okamura, Mr. K. Jomoto and wife in cabin; Mr. B. W. Green in second class; 30 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Miss A. C. Rice, Miss L. L. Phillips, Mr. H. Garrow and Mr. H. E. Collins in cabin; Mr. G. W. Welburn in second class; 9 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Tenyo Maru* for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 26th inst.:—

	TEA.	
	S. F.	Chicago.
	N. Y.	Omaha.
	Baltimore.	Honolulu.
	City.	Total.
Shanghai	231	834
Yokohama	—	64
Total	231	898
	SILK.	Mexico
	From S. M'ter. N. Y. Holyoke.	City.
Shanghai	147	—
Hongkong	451	—
Yokohama	15	998*
Total	15	1,596
	87	—
	—	1,683

* 978 Raw Silk and 20 Douppioni Silk.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota 1	Sa. Mar. 30
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Monteagle 2	Su. Mar. 31
Europe	M. M.	Polynesien	Tu. Apr. 2
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	Tu. Apr. 2
Hongkong	P. M.	Persia	F. Apr. 5
America	P. M.	Manchuria 3	F. Apr. 5
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	Sa. Apr. 6
Europe	N. D. L.	Luetzow	Su. Apr. 7
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru 4	M. Apr. 8
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru 5	F. Apr. 12
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 13
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17
Vancouver	B. L.	Luceric	Th. Apr. 18
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th. Apr. 18

- 1 Left Seattle on the 16th inst.
- 2 Left Hongkong on the 23rd inst.
- 3 Left Honolulu on the 27th inst.
- 4 Left Hongkong on the 26th inst.
- 5 Left Seattle on the 26th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Monteagle	Sa. Mar. 31
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kosai Maru	Su. Mar. 31
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	M. Apr. 1
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. Apr. 2
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	W. Apr. 3
Shanghai	P. & O.	Oriental	Th. Apr. 4
Europe	N. D. L.	Luetzow	Sa. Apr. 6
America	P. M.	Persia	Sa. Apr. 6
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	Su. Apr. 7
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru	W. Apr. 10
Europe	N. Y. K.	Atsuta Maru	W. Apr. 10
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	M. Apr. 15
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17
Hongkong	B. L.	Luceric	Th. Apr. 18
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 20

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGERS, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of the Marquis of Hertford.

THE death is announced of Mr. Willie James, who was a friend of the late King Edward VII.

A PRIVY COUNCIL was held on Tuesday morning at the official residence of Marquis Salooni.

THE British cruiser *Cambrian* arrived at Nagasaki on Tuesday, and will stay there about four days.

THE general meeting of the Yokohama Economic Association will be held on Thursday afternoon at three.

THE Mansei Bridge Station being now completed, the Shoheshashi Station will be abolished from April 1st.

A REVISION of freight rates, for which the Railway Bureau has been conducting investigations, will be published early next month. The revised

rates are said to be based on the rates now charged on the Tokaido line.

MR. SUZUKI, Consul at Nanking, has been ordered home. Mr. Funatsu is expected to take his place.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL NOJIRI, who is dangerously ill, has been promoted to the Fifth Rank of the Junior Grade.

MR. UCHIDA, the new Minister to Sweden, will leave for Europe on the 20th instant to enter on his new duties.

WORKMEN, about 1,300 in number, engaged in the first factory of the Kure Naval Arsenal, went on strike on Saturday last.

THE general conference of the Chief of Local Police Bureaux will be held about the 20th inst. in the Home Department.

THE Government will make another issue of railway debentures in the course of April. The amount is not yet decided.

H. H. THE CROWN PRINCESS, who has been stopping at the Imperial Villa at Hayama, returned to Tokyo on Monday afternoon.

THE trial run of the battleship *Hayoki*, now building at the Mitsubishi Dockyard, will be made in the latter part of April.

MR. KIMURA EICHI, Councillor of the Foreign Department, has been appointed Third-class Secretary to the Legation in Belgium.

A TRIAL communication of the newly laid cable line between Nagasaki and Sakito island was made on Sunday with very satisfactory results.

PRINCE HIGASHI FUSHIMI, who has been on a voyage as commander of the Yokosuka Reserve Squadron, returned to Tokyo on Sunday morning.

SNOW is reported from several districts in Northern Japan, at Yamagata, to a depth of two inches; at Nagaoka three inches; and at Nagano five inches.

MR. E. C. MACDOWELL, Professor of the Chicago University, who has been on a tour of inspection through Manila and China, arrived in Yokohama a few days ago.

MR. TAKATA KOJRO, President of the One Hundredth Bank, who is now dangerously ill, was on Friday last decorated with the Sixth Rank of the Junior Grade.

THE Chiefs of the different Mine Superintendence offices met in conference on Monday morning at the Mining Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

A FIRE occurred on Monday evening at a house owned by a green-grocer living at Minami Tera-machi, Yotsuya. The flames were quickly got under control, but not before three houses had been gutted.

MR. IJUN, Minister at Peking, returned to Tokyo on Saturday afternoon last. He was received at Shimbashi by Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and a number of other high officials of the Foreign Department.

THE authorities of St. Paul's Guild have obtained an admirable site for the rebuilding of St. Hilda's School, Tokyo, which was destroyed 15 months ago by fire. There has been an increase of the Japanese parents' contribution to £1,800, and it is hoped that English Church-people will raise the

£2,500 still required to complete the scheme. The Treasurer is Mr. Basil Aglionby, Guild of St. Paul, Church House, Westminster.

A DESPATCH from Yamanashi reports that a fire broke out on Sunday night near the Omon post-office, Ichikawa-machi, destroying some 28 houses, including the post-office.

THE death is announced of Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, the sad event taking place on Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. The deceased was in his fifty-ninth year.

As *The Mind the Paint Girl* (a play now running in London) is proving such a success, states our good friend *Punch*, it will perhaps be followed by *The Keep off the Grass Widow*.

THE graduation ceremony of the Peers' School, takes place on Tuesday at half past eight. Those students who graduate with honours will be awarded silver watches by the Emperor.

A MARINE Products Experimental Office has been established in Kanagawa Prefecture. Mr. Nagaoaka Ryuichiro, Head of the Prefectural Industrial Bureau, is appointed Chief of the institution.

JAPAN'S foreign trade for the last ten days of March resulted in an excess of imports over exports, to the amount of 6,466,000 yen, the former aggregating 21,012,000 yen and the latter 14,556,000 yen.

MR. HARA, Minister for Home Affairs, gave a banquet on Monday evening to the higher officials of the Home Department and Railway Bureau who represented the Government during the 28th session of the Imperial Diet.

THE popularity of the two previous cross-country races in Yokohama is responsible for yet a third one. This has been fixed for Saturday, April 13th. The Seiyoken Hotel has kindly offered a prize in the form of a silver goblet on behalf of Messrs. Munro's Whisky.

"PUNCH" of March 13, is responsible for the following gentle sarcasm: "The Chinese troops in Peking are evidently suffering from swelled head. They have been looting the city as though for all the world they were the representatives of all the leading European Armies."

As a result of the expansion of municipal and prefectural expenditure, local taxes have generally increased to such an extent that they surpass even the national taxes in some cases. It is therefore small wonder that scores of the tax items which were passed by the municipal or other local assemblies are now found quite unenforceable. In view of the situation, the Home Department is said to have decided to effect a radical readjustment of local taxation, so that the local administration may be improved.

As already briefly reported, Mihara Yama, the famous volcano on Oshima (Vries Island), which has been in a more or less active state for the past twenty days after a peaceful interval of some forty years, is now in violent eruption. About noon on the 1st instant the volcano began to show signs of activity, and about eight o'clock in the evening masses of molten rock were suddenly flung up into the air to a height of 150 to 200 feet, followed by streams of red-hot ashes. Simultaneously a terrific rumbling was heard. The inhabitants of the island, about six hundred in number, are panic-stricken, and are preparing for flight.

CHINA.

Saturday, March 30.

The difficulty of organizing a Cabinet does not appear to be approaching solution. A novel feature is introduced by a rumour, confidently asserted, that President Yuan does not desire to give the portfolio of War to Field Marshal Hwang, but would prefer General Tuan Chih-jui. This is the first intimation that Nanking's wish to have Hwang in the Cabinet is not shared by the President. Of course, the situation may resolve itself at any moment, and after all it seems not unnatural that there should be a great deal of reluctance and hesitation about accepting ministerial positions in existing circumstances. Meanwhile, Hwang himself keeps silence, thereby showing that there is no want of discretion in his disposition. The talk is now of the beginning of April as a probable date for announcing the names of Ministers, but evidently great uncertainty prevails.

As to the loan complications, there appears to be a disposition to make a scape-goat of Mr. Chow, Vice-Minister of Finance, but that of course would be a mere matter of form. We can only repeat what has often been said in these columns, that a settlement of this question is morally certain to be reached in a sense favourable to the foreign Powers. Already indeed there is talk of the admission of the Belgian Syndicate to the Four-Power group, and negotiations in that sense are already said to have made much progress.

Sunday, March 31.

A very perplexing situation is created in Tokyo by conflicting news. On the morning of the 30th ultimo there were telegrams from Peking confidently asserting, as stated above, that the Cabinet would not be formed without considerable delay. But on the following day, namely, the 31st, the leading newspapers announced that a list of the new Ministry had actually been drawn up and submitted for the approval of the Nanking Council. It is difficult to be certain as to which of these statements is credible, but probably some intelligence, confirmatory or contradictory, will reach us before going to press. In the meanwhile, considering the explicit nature of the confirmatory assertions and the fact that the names of the new Ministers are actually given, we are disposed to think that the difficulties, which on the 29th ultimo looked so formidable, were overcome at the eleventh hour. It is certain at all events that Yuan Shih-kai is extremely anxious to get the Cabinet into working order with the least possible delay, and he has already shown such capacity in dealing with difficult problems, that it is not extravagant to credit him with having solved the latest. Nevertheless the *Chuo Shimbun*, which seems to have special sources of information, published telegrams entirely of a negative character up to the morning of the 31st ultimo, and even went so far as to say that Tang Shao-i had resigned the Premiership in deference to the protest of the Four-Powers Syndicate, adding that Yuan himself was not unlikely to leave the political arena for the same reason. The most credible report is made public by the *Jiji Shimpō* which calls it semi-official. It is that on the evening of the 29th ultimo a meeting of the Council at Nanking was convened to consider the personnel of the proposed Ministry with Tang

Shao-i as Premier. The number of Ministers in the complete Cabinet is ten, but the portfolio of Communications remains unassigned.

Field Marshal Hwang's name does not appear among those of the new Ministers, and Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, who was spoken of as the probable Representative of the first Chinese Republic in Tokyo, is set down as Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. As to Hwang's reasons for standing aside they remain still obscure. On the 29th ultimo in the forenoon, he gave an interview to the *Asahi Shimbun's* representative, but he carefully abstained from explaining the cause of his abstention. The statement he offered was simply that he had been invited to take the portfolio of War, but not being a trained soldier himself and in view of the onerous military duties that would devolve on the holder of the post, he had declined the nomination. He went on to explain the great difficulties that had to be overcome in connexion with disbanding the troops, and he intimated that it had been decided to carry out the process gradually, getting rid of the least desirable elements in the first place. In fact, from the tone assumed by the Field Marshal at this interview, one might suppose that he attached no serious importance to his own inclusion in, or exclusion from, the list of portfolio-holders. The *Jiji's* correspondent makes no comment, and altogether this feature of the situation remains most perplexing. Meanwhile, from another source, the same journal learns that the troops at Nanking have been looking forward confidently to Hwang's acceptance of the portfolio of War, and they are said to be very indignant on learning of his having declined to take office.

With regard to the Representative of the first Chinese Republic at the Court of Japan, it is stated that Mr. Hu Han-min has been appointed. This gentleman is recognized as one of the partisans of the Republican polity.

It is natural that in view of the anxiety with which the organization of the new Cabinet was expected, the event should evoke much comment. There has scarcely been time yet to learn the general opinion, but such telegrams as have been received indicate that the prospects of the Ministry are regarded with many misgivings. It is noted that among the portfolio-holders there are several statesmen who are known to hold conflicting views, and who cannot be expected to work together for any length of time. On the other hand, one apparently credible criticism is that the new portfolio-holders are, for the most part, bureaucrats, who will be at the beck and call of Yuan Shih-kai, and that among them there are no statesmen who have been conspicuously associated with the Republican movement. At the same time, we must again remind our readers that the tendency of many Japanese journals from the very outset has been uniformly pessimistic towards Chinese republicanism. It might be asserted with equal truth that the fact of the new Cabinet consisting mostly of bureaucrats who will subserve their own views to those of the President, is perhaps the best factor of stability that could have been devised in framing a Ministry at this juncture.

Another interesting feature of the new Cabinet is that it does not include the name of Mr. Wu Ting-fang. Probably we shall be justified in concluding that Mr. Wu was unwilling to serve under Tang Shao-i, who is

his official junior. The portfolio of Foreign Affairs in the new Cabinet is given to Mr. Lu Cheng-hsiang, who was Minister to Holland in 1905 and 1908, and who served as Delegate to the Hague Conference in 1907. Doubtless Mr. Lu is a very competent statesman, but his name has been little heard of up to the present, and his appointment to a post for which public opinion has uniformly designated the celebrated Mr. Wu Ting-fang, confirms the comment that the personnel of the Ministry is not associated conspicuously with Republican leaders.

We observe also that the so-called Baron Shibusawa of China, Mr. Chang Chien, who was confidently expected to hold the portfolio of Finance, seems to have stood aside altogether.

PRESIDENT YUAN AND JAPANESE OPINION.

Mr. Ijuin, Japanese Representative in Peking, is quoted as expressing much regret that the tone of Japanese public opinion should tend so strongly towards condemnation of Yuan Shih-kai. The reason of this mood among Japanese publicists is evident enough. They condemn Yuan for subserving his practice to his politics. He takes as a statesman, the principle that the ends justify the means, and such a canon of conduct is diametrically opposed to the creed of the *bushō*. But Mr. Ijuin justly observes that a romantic judgment of that kind had better be confined to appreciations of one's own country. The tenets of *bushidō* may be all very well amid Japanese circumstances, but they may not be equally applicable in China, and Japanese critics should remember this vital difference. There can be no doubt, Mr. Ijuin thinks, that Yuan is the man for the situation in China, and that, so far as human intelligence can perceive, no one could have done better than he did amid conditions of the greatest difficulty and of altogether exceptional character. Yuan has naturally been offended by the tone of the Japanese press, and the ultimate effect upon the relations between the two neighbouring Powers may be very injurious to both alike.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

There is no new development as yet of the Chinese loan problem. The telegraph alleges that after all has been said and done, neither English nor French capitalists are disposed to raise serious objection to the Belgian transaction as they are themselves participants in its benefits. This is exactly what might have been expected. Belgium does not lend money herself to any great extent. She invariably invites the participation of London and Paris, which two financial capitals were therefore well aware of what was going on in China's case and were consenting parties. It is said to be from the United States of America that objection was raised, Mr. Calhoun, not unnaturally, opposing anything calculated to leave his own country's capitalists out in the cold. It follows, therefore, that France and England do not endorse the Four Powers' protest.

As to Mr. Willard Straight's return to New York, an evidently fanciful reason is assigned; namely, that he has hitherto worked too exclusively in the interests of his own nationals.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER TO PEKING.

Mr. Ijuin, Minister to Peking, has been interviewed in Seoul by a Press representative, to whom he is credited with having stated that it is impossible to judge Chinese affairs by ordinary standards. Japan would have a troublesome country for her neighbour, and it would be very difficult to effect the unification of her vast dominions. The future of the new Republic is not very reassuring, as the nation might at any moment desire the resuscitation of the monarchical polity if the new Government failed in its administration. The future of China is thus uncertain, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen may have relinquished the Presidency in favour of Yuan Shih-kai, because he felt conscious of his inability to master the situation. Since the recent riot, Peking had been quiet. The Six Powers loan will be brought to a successful conclusion, because China must borrow money somehow, and the six Powers were disposed to lend it. The *status quo* is now maintained in Peking politics pending the return of Tang Shao-i from the south, and no serious diplomatic question is likely to occur in the meantime. In conclusion the Minister said that his sojourn in Tokyo would not exceed a fortnight.

His Excellency Mr. Ijuin reached Shimomoseki on the morning of the 29th ultimo, and was of course quickly interviewed. He confirmed the semi-official statement already published in these columns that he is coming to Japan to receive medical treatment, and not for any political reason. As to the Chinese Cabinet, his Excellency is quoted as saying that nothing will be published probably until after Tang Shao-i's return from Nanking, and that consequently the organization of the Ministry is not likely to be officially announced before the middle of April. Mr. Ijuin alleges that perfect accord exists between Yuan Shih-kai, Sun Yat-sen and Prince Ching, but we suspect that a mistake has occurred in the transmission of this statement, for Prince Ching is no longer a person of political importance. Immediately after the organization of the Cabinet, an announcement will be made as to the proportions in which the various provinces are to be represented in the National Assembly, and steps will then be taken with all possible expedition to constitute this Assembly. The first duty of the Assembly will be to elect a President of the Republic, and it is thought improbable that this can be accomplished in less than half a year. As to the Loan Problem, Mr. Ijuin showed some unwillingness to be communicative, but he explained that arrangements have been made for Japan to enter the group of creditors at any moment, and that Mr. Odagiri's recent visit to China was in connexion with this matter. With regard to the security for this Loan, there can be no doubt that it will be the Salt Gabelle. Already that source of revenue is hypothesized in connexion with the Boxer indemnity, but the income at present derived from the Gabelle, namely, 50 million *taels* annually, can easily be doubled by employing a more efficient system of collection. The security, therefore, is ample. Referring to the attitude of the foreign Representatives in Peking, Mr. Ijuin is reported to have stated that in dealing with any great question the foreign representatives act with perfect un-

animity, and constitute in fact a solid body. The ex-Emperor is residing in Peking, and so also are most of the Imperial Princes. They are living unmolested, in peaceful enjoyment of the incomes secured to them by the Republican Government, and they are treated with all respect by the people.

Mr. Ijuin confirms the statement frequently made by newspaper correspondents that the most perplexing problem of the hour is the method of dealing with the troops. To induce them to disband peacefully, would require an expenditure of money which President Yuan is not in a position to make unless he obtains a large foreign loan. In fact, this is one of the topics to which Mr. Ijuin refers in markedly pessimistic tones. He was pressed by a correspondent of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* to elicit some opinion as to the alleged vacillation with which the Japanese Cabinet is charged by some publicists in connexion with the Chinese problem. But Mr. Ijuin seems to have turned the tables completely upon this question. He alleged that Japanese public opinion was largely responsible for much of the recent complications in China. Japanese journalists and other exponents of public opinion do not seem to be fully sensible that their propinquity to China endows their utterances with special potency. What foreign journalists write to their own countries about China cannot become known to the Chinese for five or six weeks, whereas what the Japanese write reaches their western neighbour in a few days. The impression conveyed to the Chinese by the organs of public opinion in Japan cannot have been very favourable to the cause of peace, nor can it have suggested much unanimity of opinion. A great drama was in the course of being played upon the Far-Eastern stage and would probably be a drama in many acts. The unanimity and solidarity which marked the attitude of the Japanese nation during the Russo-Japanese war was unfortunately conspicuous by its absence from the scarcely less important stage of the Chinese problem, and in the best interests of the Orient, Mr. Ijuin thought this very regrettable.

AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN PEKING.

The *Hochi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent sends to that journal a delightfully *bizarre* item of intelligence. It is to the effect that during the sack of the Chinese capital by the riotous troops, American missionaries were observed to be taking part in the looting. When the fact was brought to the notice of the United States Representative, he replied that the law-breakers were doubtless men in the service of the missionaries but not under their direct orders. The *Hochi's* correspondent, however, gives a different explanation. He alleges that the missionaries, instead of converting the Chinese to Christian ethics, are perverted by the Chinese to pagan habits. In short, the assimilation takes place in the wrong direction. Some of our readers doubtless remember that a charge of receiving stolen property was laid at the door of the missionaries after the Boxer *emeute*, and was proved to be wholly groundless. There can be little doubt that the present tale will share the same fate, but it deserves to be perpetuated for the sake of its quaint corollary.

REPUBLICANISM IN CHINA.

It will be observed from the figures published elsewhere in these columns that the number of soldiers who have to be dealt with in China aggregates a very large figure. If a sufficient solatium were given to these men for inducing them to lay down their arms and retire quietly into private life, an immense sum would have to be appropriated. This is a difficulty to which we have several times alluded already, and we revert to it now for the purpose of noting a method of solution which is said to be finding some favour. The idea is not to disband the troops immediately, but to abolish the artillery and cavalry and reduce the whole force to infantry, which is the cheapest form of warlike engine. If this were done, the men could be kept with the colours for three years at less expenditure than would be required to disband them immediately, and during the course of that long time they could be dealt with in small sections. One unexpected difficulty, however, stands in the way of this device. It is that to keep the soldiers in an organized form would facilitate their combination for political purposes, and it appears that the general conviction of the Chinese soldiers who took part in the recent struggle is that, as Republicans, they are entitled to elect their own officers. If they were allowed to exercise that privilege, they would certainly choose their rank and file for promotion and the final issue would be that the political machine would be driven by military hands. As there is very little chance of the three-year device being carried into effect, the above contingencies are not, perhaps, very important, but they constitute an interesting illustration of one of the first outcomes of Chinese republicanism.

MR. STRAIGHT.

In our issue of the 30th ultimo we published a rumour which we described as "evidently fanciful." It was to the effect that Mr. Straight's return to New York had been caused by his too exclusive consideration for the interests of his own nationals in the Four-Powers Syndicate. The Japanese Representative in Peking, who is now on a visit to Japan, confirms our estimate of the motive of Mr. Straight's movements. His Excellency alleges that Mr. Straight had never been actuated by pecuniary considerations in his management of the Syndicate's affairs. He is a wealthy man, quite independent of such motives, and his work in China ever since he left the Consular service has been entirely of a political character. Mr. Ijuin is quoted as adding that he does not expect Mr. Straight to return to the East.

DEATH OF BARON FUJITA.

Baron Fujita Denzaburo expired in Osaka at half past five on the morning of the 31st ultimo in his seventy-first year. The Baron was one of Japan's great capitalists. He had not the picturesque distinction of starting life in penurious circumstances, for he possessed sufficient capital to undertake the work of contracting for the building of Government railways in early *Meiji* days and of engaging also in mining enterprises. He gave large sums for public purposes and his elevation to the peerage in 1911 was universally recognized as a well deserved honour.

FIELD MARSHAL HWANG.

The point of chief interest in the situation in China is the attitude of Field Marshal Hwang. It is not yet certain whether he has consented to join the new Cabinet or irrevocably decided to stand aloof. At this moment of writing, however, (Friday morning) rumours agree that at the earnest solicitation of Yuan Shih-kai, Hwang will receive the portfolio of War. A great deal depends upon his decision, for no less than nine generals, commanding an aggregate of 200,000 troops, are devoted thoroughly to Hwang, and would regard as hostile any Ministry not including his name. It may be said, therefore, that Hwang controls the situation, and the President's anxiety to obtain his cooperation becomes altogether intelligible. As for the views taken by Hwang himself, the reticence he has hitherto observed is now interpreted to mean that he does not believe in the possibility of a really stable Yuan Cabinet. He thinks that a Ministry formed with Yuan as President and Tang Shao-i as Premier can not be long-lived, and he is therefore reluctant to associate himself with such a Ministry. On the other hand, President Yuan sees that Hwang's association with the Cabinet is essential in the interest of the latter's stability, and he has brought correspondingly urgent arguments to break down Hwang's hesitation. On the whole, it looks as though Hwang had signified his intention of joining the Cabinet, but Messrs. Inukai Ki, Soyejima and Terao, who have just returned from the Yangtze Valley, declare themselves incredulous as to Hwang's acquiescence. We may here mention that Mr. Inukai, whose opinion is very valuable, does not take by any means an optimistic view of the prospects of the Yuan regime. He thinks that if Yuan succeeds in fashioning a stable polity out of the materials at his command, he will deserve to hold in Chinese political history a position similar to that held by the great Saigo and Okubo in Japan's annals. Mr. Soyejima takes pretty much the same view as Mr. Inukai. He regards Hwang as the great factor in the problem, and he considers that the future of the situation depends upon the Field Marshal's attitude, which, however, he does not look to see clearly defined for some time. Before these words are in type, news is likely to be received of a definite character. For now that rumour interprets his action in such a sense, Field Marshal Hwang must be induced to declare himself finally without more delay. One fact which the situation illustrates vividly is the public conviction of Hwang's statesmanship. He is evidently regarded as a man little swayed by personal ambition and guided by perspicacious foresight.

It may be mentioned here that the prospect of the Cabinet being announced at a very early date is said to be unlikely to be realised. A delay has been caused by the discovery of a number of bombs outside the Chao-yang Gate of Peking. The incident is regarded as indicating that the proclamation is likely to cause disturbances, against which full precautions must be taken.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Nanking correspondent wires some details of an interview he had with Hwang Hsing on the 29th ultimo. Hwang stated that he took part in the conference regarding the selection of candidates

for the portfolios in the new Ministry, which was to be finally decided that evening and officially announced on March 30th. He was asked to take the War portfolio, but he had no military training and was conscious that he was not equal to the onerous duties devolving on the post. He was thus strongly determined to retire from the public service. The disbandment of the army was a troublesome problem. It had been decided to introduce a gradual retrenchment in the course of a year or eighteen months, instead of a hasty disbandment at the present juncture. On the completion of the organization of the new Ministry on March 30th, the Minister-President is to proceed to Peking within twenty days.

After all the expressions of opinion and congratulations with reference to the appointment of Field Marshal Hwang to the post of Chief of the General Staff in Peking, there now appears to be some uncertainty as to whether he has consented to serve in that capacity. Telegrams received on the 1st instant from Shanghai and Peking contradict each other flatly on the subject. The former say that Hwang has agreed to serve as Chief of Staff with the rank of Field Marshal and the treatment of a Minister of State. Moreover, these telegrams allege that the appointment has given satisfaction to the troops in the Yangtze Valley. Peking, on the contrary, wires that Hwang has declined the post of Chief of Staff and has merely accepted an appointment to serve in Nanking in connexion with the disbanding of troops. The Peking news adds that General Hsu Chaochen will be Chief of Staff. General Hsu commanded the Insurgent troops in their successful operations against Nanking, and after Hwang, has prestige eminent throughout the Yangtze Valley. Some further intelligence is needed to elucidate the situation; but according to present appearances, it would seem that the difficulties lying in the path of Hwang's association with the Yuan Shih-kai Ministry have not yet been overcome.

In connexion with this subject we may mention that Field Marshal Hwang is reported to have telegraphed to the Viceroy of Manchuria, seeking information about the disbanding of the troops. Hwang explains that this operation is beset with embarrassments, and that one plan proposed is to draft a number of the men to the Three Eastern Provinces where they might become a local militia. He asks Chao's advice as to the feasibility of this programme. It is a very interesting question, and if the Chinese Government seriously entertains such a project, the consequences might be important. At all events, the step would suggest a very practical policy of protecting Manchuria against foreign aggression.

THE SHENSI TROUBLE.

It looks as though the Chinese Government really had recourse to the assistance of the Throne for putting an end to the Shensi menace. When General Sheng's series of successes against the Government forces were reported to Peking, an opinion was expressed that, in the absence of any army adequate to deal with this emergency and capable of being despatched immediately to the scene of the disturbance, the only feasible course open to President Yuan was to ask the ex-Emperor to issue an

Edict rebuking Sheng and his followers, and informing them that so far as the Imperialist purpose of their project was concerned, they must count on the opposition, not the sympathy, of the Palace. To have recourse to such an injunction, however, would have plainly suggested the inference that the Republican Government was not competent to manage its own affairs, and that the cooperation of the dethroned Monarchy was essential to the preservation of peace and order. Now, however, it actually seems that the Imperial Court was asked to take that step, and moreover that it took it. A telegram from Peking says that in consideration of the ex-Emperor's advice, General Sheng has retired from the field and that the back of the Shensi insurrection is broken. But this satisfactory result has been attended by consequences which seem likely to become the normal sequel of any military disbandment in China. Sheng's soldiers have taken to looting in order to make up for their disappointment in the field. One outcome of all these troubles is undoubtedly a demonstration of the great perils attending the organization of military forces in China.

It will be observed from the telegrams we publish elsewhere that the conduct of the Shensi soldiery is paralleled by similar events in various parts of the realm and peace seems as far as ever from being fully restored. We may presume, however, that this phase of the trouble will be satisfactorily dealt with so soon as the Peking Government has full command of money.

TAXATION.

The officials of the Finance Department have thought it necessary to give a warning which appears in the columns of all the Tokyo journals. Our readers are aware that the present Cabinet has signified its intention of revising the taxation system and seeking the Diet's consent to the revision in the twenty-ninth session. But it is now explained that the revision will take the form of reduction in the case of three taxes only; namely, the income-tax, the business tax and the salt tax. As for the idea that there will be a diminution of the tax on stock-exchange transactions, it is entirely erroneous. There may be and probably will be extensive amendments in that particular line of taxation, but they certainly will not take the form of reductions of rate. With regard to the amount of reduction that will be effected in the three taxes enumerated above, it may be broadly stated that in the case of the income-tax the diminution will reach the figure indicated in the bill which the Katsura Cabinet introduced in the twenty-seventh session. That means a total reduction of five million yen, but it has to be noted that the Katsura plan of a progressive rate (*riushinritsu*) will not be carried out. Since that plan was drafted incomes have increased so largely that the progressive method would give prohibitively large figures. As for the salt-tax, if the reduction be made on the basis of a loss of 3 per-cent. of revenue, the result would be a diminution of 3 millions in the tax, which is probably the figure that will be taken. About the business-tax nothing positive can be alleged, as probably any attempt to reduce that tax would bring the land-tax again upon the tapis.

JAPANESE OPINION.

It is very noticeable that Japanese on-lookers, for the most part, have hitherto taken, and still take, a pessimistic view of the Chinese situation. Considering the enormous difficulties that their own country had to grapple with at the time of the Restoration, and considering the success that crowned their statesmen's efforts, one is disposed to marvel that they form such a hopeless estimate of the Chinese situation. Thus the well-known engineering scientist, Mr. Haraguchi, who held a high post in the Chinese Railway Bureau under the late Viceroy Chang, has just returned from the Yangtze Valley, and is quoted as speaking in very gloomy terms of the outlook. He says, in effect, that while the Chinese individually have learned the value of foreign protection in times of trouble, they have no intelligent conception of how to utilize that protection; and while they appreciate the necessity of recourse to foreign funds, they immediately begin to clamour about Rights-Recovery and other equally unpractical problems when they are invited to deliver a collective opinion on the subject of finance. According to Mr. Haraguchi there are over 300,000 men of substance and intelligence in Shanghai who see clearly enough whither their country is drifting, but do not see where or how an anchor can be cast to check the drift. They understand well that if, in addition to previous indebtedness, China is about to saddle herself with a loan of 600 million dollars from foreign countries, the end will certainly be that the control of her finances will pass completely into foreign hands. On the other hand, the troops have to be disbanded and money must be obtained for that purpose. The men who planned the Republican insurrection walk with high heads as though their purpose were achieved, but they fail altogether to consider the things that lie before them in the near future. Altogether Mr. Haraguchi has not brought back from his residence in China a very favourable estimate of that country's prospects.

Japanese opinion, so far as we can judge from newspaper utterances, is decidedly pessimistic as to the future of the Chinese polity from a Republican point of view. Considering the personnel of the new Ministry, many Japanese publicists consider that the South is shown to have practically surrendered to the North. There are scarcely any genuine representatives of the Yangtze Party among the new portfolio-holders, and it seems difficult to avoid the conclusion that what has been established in China is a bureaucracy, not a Republic. From this conclusion, which can scarcely be escaped, these analysts deduce proof that the caution shown by responsible Japanese statesmen in not associating themselves practically with either side has been fully justified by events. In other words, China is not really ready for a radical change of polity. Even the most zealous advocates of such a change have shown themselves willing to surrender their principle on the altar of expediency. Had Japan been guided by the impulsive statesmanship of the men who advocated the Southern cause in her midst, she would now find herself in a very equivocal situation. To this we may add what certainly seems to deserve attention more than it receives in Japan, that the chief blame, if blame there be to distribute, rests with the newspaper

press of Tokyo and the politicians of the Opposition. Had their precipitate advice been adopted, the country would now have either to face grave responsibilities or to accept a not over-credible situation.

Naturally, most unequivocal censure is awarded by Japanese public opinion to the soldiery of China. In the eyes of the Japanese, who regard military service as the chief rampart of national prestige, the conduct of the Chinese troops is execrable. They have shown themselves zealous in pursuing profit and pillage only, and the country cannot for a moment reckon on any loyal service performed by such a rabble. It is needless to elaborate this theme. We mention it merely to show how execrable it appears in Japanese estimation. The natural corollary is that no one can set limits to the evils of the present situation. Appetite comes in eating. Whatever money may be given to the mutinous soldiers in China to induce them to desist from arson and pillage, there can be no guarantee that they will consider the sum sufficient. The satisfaction of their present demands may merely preface the proffering of fresh and larger extortions.

THE ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE HWANG.

The rumour circulated of the attempted assassination of General Hwang Hsing has turned out entirely groundless. A Nanking dispatch to the *Tokyo Asahi* says the murder of Hwang's adjutant, wired on the 21st, is wholly baseless, and also the report of two pistol shots being fired at Hwang's residence on the 29th instant. As a matter of fact, a thief broke into the house next door on that evening and Hwang's body-guards arrested him. Hwang is said to be embarrassed at receiving so many sympathetic inquiries.

When the first bullet was fired in the vicinity of Field Marshal Hwang there was a disposition to regard it as a stray shot not intended to take the life of the illustrious general, but when another bullet was projected in the same direction a few days later, the theory of accident had to be abandoned. What is now offered as explanation comes from anti-Japanese sources. It is to the effect that Hwang incurred unpopularity by his well known pro-Japanese tendencies, and that he has long been suspected of endeavouring to prevent a union between the North and the South. It will occur to impartial observers as decidedly singular that the would-be assassin in both cases remained undetected. Rifle-bullets and pistol-balls can not be sent upon a deadly mission without attracting the attention of some by-standers and furnishing some kind of clue to the use of fire arms for such purposes. But in Hwang's case there has been no detection, and the impression conveyed is that the Authorities have shown themselves suggestively inactive.

According to an influential Chinese authority, wires the *Nichi Nichi's* Nanking correspondent, there are many who regard Hwang Hsing as the leader of the pro-Japanese party and who think his refusal to join the new Ministry the source of all the trouble in its organization. The attempted assassination of Hwang is probably the action of these malcontents.

THE FIRST CHINESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

It is evident that President Yuan intends to keep things moving very briskly. He is obviously determined to give the people something to think of. The telegrams announce that orders have been issued for the election of the members of the new National Assembly within the extremely brief space of one month. The process of election is to be somewhat complicated. In the first place the people have to elect local assemblies, and any districts which have not yet been furnished with machinery for that purpose, are to take steps forthwith for remedying the defect. These assemblies are then to elect representatives of the locality for the National Assembly, five of such representatives being chosen for each province. There is as yet nothing telegraphic from which the public can learn clearly how many provinces are to be included in this arrangement; but we cannot be far wrong in assuming that the eighteen provinces of China proper and the three provinces of Manchuria will constitute the main items of the list. In that case the first Chinese National Assembly will contain only 105 members—a very small and manageable body. Nothing is said as to the processes to be observed in registering votes or as to the qualifications for the franchise. If these vital questions have already been determined, the decision is not yet publicly recorded. What is certain is, however, that the whole problem of enfranchising a nation of at least 300 million people is being carried to solution with extraordinary rapidity. Never again in the history of the world is it likely that a chapter so crowded with events will have to be indited.

OIL IN HOKKAIDO.

It will be remembered that a few years ago the International Oil Company abandoned its enterprise in Japan, selling to Japanese at a considerable sacrifice its refineries in Echigo and its works in Hokkaido. The engineers of the Company had doubtless convinced themselves that to continue operations in Hokkaido would be simply to throw good money after bad, and they advised the speediest possible withdrawal from the unprofitable scene. The Japanese company which then came into possession of the works, went on boring here and there, and it is stated that at a place near Ishikari indicated by an eminent Japanese engineer, Professor Otsuka, a large source of oil has been tapped. This statement must be taken with reserve. On no subject has there been a greater disposition to exploit public credulity in Japan than on the subject of oil wells. There is an element of speculation in searching for this hidden treasure, and operators upon 'Change have often profited by skillfully circulated rumours. It is true that the International Company entered the Japanese field as much for the purpose of proving the non-existence of oil in these islands as for discovering it in quantity. But the Company had in its employment experts of the highest experience and knowledge, so that we hesitate to credit any statement impugning the soundness of their judgment. The newly-found well at Ishikari may turn out to be a very ephemeral affair.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTRY.

With reference to the organization of a new coalition Ministry in China, the *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires that the nominees to the portfolios have now been informally settled as under:—

Foreign Affairs	Lu Chung-chang.
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun.
Finance	Hsiung Chi-lin.
Justice	Wang Chung-hui.
War	Hwang Hsing.
Navy	Liu Kuan-hsiung.
Communications	Liang Ju-hao.
Agriculture and Forestry	Sheng Huan-huai.
Commerce and Industry	Chin Chi-mei.
Education	Tsai Yuan-fel.

The list will be submitted to the State Council, after the approval of Yuan Shih-kai and Dr. Sun Yat-sen have been obtained.

SELECTION OF THE STATE COUNCIL.

The State Council met on the 29th ultimo to consider the selection of the new Ministry. The Council, which was the largest held for several months, was attended by Tang Shao-i, who explained the progress made in the formation of the new Republic and the present condition of China's diplomacy and finance, which necessitated foreign loans. The following list of candidates was then submitted:—

Foreign Affairs	Lu Chung-chang
Navy	Liu Kuan-hsiung
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Justice	Wang Chung-hui
Finance	Hsiung Chi-lin
Agriculture and Forestry	Sung Chao-jen
Education	Tsai Yuan-fel
Commerce and Industry	Chin Chi-mei
War	Tuan Chi-jui
Communications	Liang Ju-hao

Thirty-eight members beside the President were present in the Council. During the debate, the strangers' gallery was cleared of foreigners. At 8.40 p.m. the candidates' names were put to the vote when they polled the following number of votes:—

Su Chung-chang	39
Chao Ping-chun	30
Chao Kwan-hsiung	35
Wang Chung-hui	38
Hsiung Chi-lin	30
Sung Chao-jen	34
Tsai Yuan-fel	38
Chin Chi-mei	21
Tuan Chi-jui	29

Twenty two black balls were cast in the case of Liang Ju-hao, who was consequently excluded. A substitute is not yet nominated. The Council rose at 9.30 p.m.

The *Fiji Shimpo* publishes short sketches of the careers of the probable portfolio-holders of the new Ministry.

Lu Chung-chang started his official career in the diplomatic service, being appointed the Chinese Minister in the Netherlands in 1895. He was later transferred to Russia, which post he holds at present. He took the initiative in the joint representation of Chinese diplomats abroad, urging the Manchurian Emperor to abdicate.

Chao Ping-chun is the right-hand man of Yuan Shih-kai. He represented Yuan in the Council before the Throne last year, when he strongly insisted on the necessity of the abdication of the Manchu Emperor. He is a Honan man, and has commanded the army. He held the portfolio of Home Affairs in the last Ministry.

Hsiung Chi-lin is a Honan man and a prominent authority on finance in the new Government. He held the post of diplomatic commissioner in Hupeh, Superintendent

of Finance, and Salt Commissioner of the Three Eastern Provinces.

Wang Ching-hui is a Canton man and holds a degree of an English University. He is the youngest and one of the most brilliant men in the new Ministry.

Tsai Yuan-fel is a Chekiang man. He studied in Germany and enjoyed high reputation for his learning. He recently represented the Nanking Government in the negotiations with Yuan Shih-kai.

Tuan Chi-jen is an Anhui man. When young he joined the army, and received the command of the Fukun brigade in 1896, being thence promoted to be vice-commander of the Yellow Flag army of the Hans. In 1910 he was promoted to the command of the Sixth Division. He took part in the revolutionary war on the Imperial side, but when peace was negotiated, he exerted himself in presenting a joint memorial urging the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu Emperor.

Sung Chao-jen is a Honan man. He has long espoused the revolutionary cause, and lived for many years as an exile in Japan. On the outbreak of civil commotion in Hupeh he returned home and assumed charge of the diplomatic affairs of the province, being later transferred to an important post in the Nanking Government. He proceeded to Peking with Tsai Yuan-fel and others of the Nanking deputation, when his meritorious services were universally recognized. He is the only pure revolutionist in the new Ministry.

Chen Chi-mei is of an illustrious house in Kiangsu. When that province was taken by the Shanghai revolutionists he was elected the Magistrate of Kiangsu, and rendered brilliant service in the organization of the new Government.

Lin Kuan-hsiung is a man whose name is little known to the public. He was an officer in the Chinese battleship *Ting Yuan* at the time of the Sino-Japanese war and afterwards commanded the Chinese battleship *Feiyang*.

A well-informed authority on Chinese Affairs is quoted by our contemporary as saying that the new Ministry seems to be bureaucratic in its composition, the revolutionists being not represented. Lu Chung-chang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs, Hsiung Chi-lin, Minister of Finance, Tuan Chi-jui, Minister of War, and Lin Kuan-hsiung, Minister of the Navy, are all of bureaucratic origin and the faithful adherents of Yuan Shih-kai. Wang Ching-hui, Tsai Yuan-fel, Sung Chao-jen and Chin Chi-mei may be regarded as representing the revolutionists, but they are now at the beck and call of Yuan Shih-kai. It may safely be said that the new Ministry is wholly composed of Yuan Shih-kai's adherents. The appointments seem to have been entirely left in his hands. It also appears that some pains were taken to distribute the portfolios fairly all over the provinces. It is presumable that the affairs of the new Government will be administered at the dictation of Yuan Shih-kai, and the revolutionists will probably not influence the administration. The question is how long will the new Ministry last. The new Government takes on itself the whole responsibility of building up the new Republic and in so doing, many difficult problems will present themselves for solution. If the Government measures are disapproved, all

the provinces will unreservedly raise their voice in opposition, and prefer various demands, which would ultimately lead to ministerial changes or to partial reorganization. The formation of the new Ministry will thus at once form a cause for political commotion and difficulties will continue to confront it.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that Yuan Shih-kai was to notify the Diplomatic Corps on the 31st ult. of the official appointments of the Ministers of State. Hwang Hsing has accepted the post of Chief of General Staff, and Tang Shao-i is to assume the duties of the Department of Communications pending the nomination of a suitable candidate for the portfolio. The leaders of the southern army met in conference at Hsiaokan and adopted a resolution that if Hwang Hsing did not join the new Ministry as the Field Marshal, 30,000 men detailed on the Peking-Hankow railway line might rise in mutiny. The resolution was forwarded to Nanking. The southern soldiers are generally dissatisfied with Hwang's refusal to accept the War-portfolio in the Ministry. General unrest prevails.

A Peking telegram dated the 30th ult. received by the *Fiji Shimpo* reports that the following appointments to the new Ministry are officially announced:—

Foreign Affairs	Lu Cheng-chang
Home Affairs	Chao Ping-chun
Finance	Hsiung Chi-lin
War	Tuan Chi-jui
Navy	Lin Huan-hsiang
Education	Tsai Yuan-fel
Justice	Wang Ching-hui
Agriculture and Forestry	Sung Chao-jen
Commerce and Industry	Chen Chi-mei
Chief of General Staff	Hwang Hsing

H. E. Tang Shao-i the Minister-President, will assume the duties of Minister of Communications *ad interim*, but Liang Yu-hao is named as probable candidate for the portfolio. Hu I-tei will be in charge of Foreign Affairs until the return of Lu Cheng-chang from Russia.

The majority of the members of the new Ministry are southerners. Hwang Hsing was appointed Chief of General Staff in view of the importance of the control of the large army assembled in South China.

The official business of the Nanking Government was transferred to the new Government on the 30th ult., excepting that of the naval office.

A Peking telegram to the *Kokumin* states that in the new Ministry, seven, that is Lu Cheng-chang, Lin Huan-hsiang, Tsai Yuan-fel, Wang Ching-hui, Sung Chao-jen, Chen Chi-mei and Hsiung Chi-lin, are nominees of the Nanking Government and only two, Tuan Chi-jui and Chao Ping-chun, are Yuan Shih-kai's nominees. This fact is sufficient to show the small influence Yuan has in Chinese politics.

Tang Shao-i has submitted to the State Council a proposal to establish the new Government at Peking, in order to obtain the consent of the Council to the removal and avoid all possible future controversy regarding the site of the capital.

Yuan Shih-kai will send a letter to the foreign Powers who have maintained strict neutrality during the civil commotion, in sympathy with the republican polity, expressing his thanks, and at the same time asking for official recognition of the new Republican Government.

The *Fiji Shimpo* quotes a certain diplomat

as saying that the personnel of the new Chinese Ministry is a theme for various speculations. Tang Shao-i, Chao Ping-chen and Tuan Chi-jui are no doubt first-rate statesmen, but all the others are second or third-rate men, though Lu Cheng-chang has a claim to the rank of senior diplomat. The composition of the new Ministry is chiefly due to the indisposition shown by Li Yuan-hung, Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and other first-rate men to join it. President Yuan Shih-kai has taken adequate measures to muzzle all the influential men who were not selected and has also under consideration the assignment of suitable posts to Lan Tien-wei, Hu Ying and other claimants. There is thus very little chance of the Ministry being attacked from outside and it is therefore possible for it to maintain its position until the permanent Government comes into existence. The most noteworthy figure is Hwang Hsing, whose appointment as Chief of the General Staff has been officially announced. It still remains doubtful whether Hwang will accept the appointment, however. A Peking telegram attributes Hwang's indisposition to join the new Ministry to a desire to pave the way for joining the second Ministry, but the chief cause lies in the grave apprehension felt as to danger to his person in Peking. It would seem that perfect harmony is not yet established between the northern and southern factions, and the present situation indicates only a transient lull, the trouble lying hidden under the surface. The first work of Yuan's administration will be the re-election of the State Council, and its removal to Peking, together with the new Government, in order to concentrate all the power in the capital. After that will come the convocation of the National Assembly to frame a constitution and the election of the President for the establishment of a permanent Government. When all these things are completed the time will have come for official recognition by the foreign Powers. Tang Shao-i may claim official recognition of the Chinese Republic by the foreign Powers on the completion of the new Ministry, but he will probably not prefer the demand at the present juncture.

JAPAN'S NAVAL PROGRAMME.

Referring to the new standard of strength for the British Navy as defined by Mr. Winston Churchill in introducing the Navy Estimates, the *Fiji Shimpō* says:—

In spite of the similarity to Great Britain of the insular position of Japan, our Naval force is not sufficient to organize a squadron composed of eight Dreadnoughts; while Great Britain is going to have eight squadrons. The Ministry proposes to introduce to the House in the next session of the Diet a naval increment programme, upon the completion of the financial readjustment. We do not hesitate to predict that the programme will fail to satisfy the actual demands for our national defence. The administrative and financial reforms will be shorn of their essence unless the grand policy of the national defence be clearly defined by fundamentally solving the question of relative urgency or otherwise of naval and military increment. We hope that all statesmen, in and out of power, will alike take to heart the new naval programme announced by our ally.

THE BELGIAN LOAN AND THE FOUR POWERS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* reports that although the Ministers of the Four Powers presented an indirect protest to the Chinese Government against the Belgian loan, they think that the suspension of the Four Powers' loan would inevitably lead to China's bankruptcy and the partition of her dominions, a result which the western Powers view with disfavour. As the Four Powers' loan would save China from this fate the Ministers have decided to accept Yuan's explanation, which was that, not understanding English, he signed the Belgian loan contract relying on Tang Shao-i's statement that the loan was not in contravention of the agreement with the Four Powers, and to exonerate Yuan from all responsibility. A certain Minister who is on very cordial terms with Yuan Shih-kai made a proposition on the 29th ult. concerning the revival of the Four Powers' loan.

Tang Shao-i is reported to have issued a declaration under the date of the 22nd ult. concerning the Belgian loan. In the declaration he states that the loan contract does not constitute a breach of good faith. When the Four Powers loan was concluded it was agreed that the advances should be paid in monthly instalments, which were to be incorporated in the large loan to be concluded at a future date. On this stipulation the Four Powers Syndicate paid China two million *taels*, but when the second instalment was about to be paid the disturbance arose in Peking, and the Four Powers' Syndicate, repenting of the stipulation, suspended payment. The Peking Government badly needed the money, and so was compelled to borrow money from the Belgian Syndicate, the advance made being part of a larger loan to be concluded in the future. The negotiations had been pending for nearly two months, and there was no reason why the Four Powers Syndicate should be ignorant of the proposal. While it was true that the Peking-Changkiakau railway had been hypothecated for the French loan, there was no impediment to granting the Belgian Syndicate a second lien on the railways, seeing that the Customs revenue was hypothecated for several loans.

THE SUGAR FRAUD.

On the 29th ultimo, the apparently interminable trial of Akiyama Ichiyu and Isomura Otosuke, in connexion with the Sugar-Company fraud of four years ago, was carried one stage further towards the end. These two men were among the Directors of the Company. They were found guilty by the Tokyo Local Court and they appealed first to the Tokyo Appeal Court and then to the Court of Cassation. By the latter tribunal the case was ordered to be retried in the Miyagi Appeal Court, which reduced the sentence and deferred imprisonment for two years. Against this very lenient judgment the public procurator appealed, and the case was sent by the Court of Cassation to the Nagoya Appeal Court, which has now pronounced sentence of three years imprisonment without any postponement of execution. It remains to be seen whether there will be any appeal from the Nagoya sentence. This case is an illustration of the terrible tediousness of legal procedure in some instances in Japan.

STRIKES IN JAPAN.

Like nearly all the rest of the world, Japan seems to be entering upon an era of strikes. The first really important demonstration of this nature was at the time of the nationalization of the railways. There had of course been minor disputes between capital and labour, but nothing of very serious magnitude had occurred until then. This was followed by the New Year's demonstration on the part of the employees of the Tokyo Tramway, which was one of the most unjustifiable acts of its kind that stand on record. To-day we have a strike at the Government ship-building yard in Kure, and although there has been some disposition to regard this affair as insignificant, later news shows that all the yards and work-shops are not unlikely to become involved, and that the trouble may therefore assume quite serious dimensions. At present the outcome is not visible, but we note that the point at issue is not a question of merely increasing salaries. The main reason given by the men for protesting publicly, is that they are treated in an arbitrary manner by the officials in charge of the works, and that the reserve-funds accumulated by subscriptions from their wages are employed without sufficient reference to their discretion and their opinion. The Authorities are said to be of opinion that the problem will soon be solved, but the Press does not take the same view.

FORGERIES.

It appears that there have been extensive forgeries of State Bonds and bank notes. The issue of this false paper is said to have attained the dimensions of half a million *yen*, the principal counterfeits being hundred-*yen* bank notes and thousand-*yen* war-bonds. Nagoya seems to have been the scene of the chief forgeries, and the false notes were circulated mainly in Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Yokohama, Kobe and Hakan. The discovery is said to have been made in connexion with debts owed by a seal-maker in Osaka. His principal creditor invited him to a dinner at a tea-house and offered to cancel his obligations if he would consent to carve a false seal for a hundred *yen* bank note. The man, much alarmed, gave instant information to the police, and an immediate search disclosed several false notes and bonds in the house of the creditor.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

Last Saturday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes the amendment of the Customs tariff recently passed by the Imperial Diet.

The following clause is inserted below Clause 3 of tariff number 299:—

4. Bleached plain linen fabric and linen-cotton mixed fabrics (not exceeding 17 kilograms per 100 square metres):

A. Linen cloth (the number of threads in the woof and warp in five square millimeters over 25 but not exceeding 30) Free.

B. Linen and cotton mixed cloth (the number of threads in the woof and warp in five square millimeters over 21 but not exceeding 30).....Free.

The revised tariff goes into operation on and after the 1st instant.

DISBANDMENT OF THE CHINESE ARMY.

The question whether China can or can not successfully disband the new recruits enlisted during the recent civil commotion provides a theme for various speculations. The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain eminent publicist as saying that the recruits hastily enlisted in various provinces since the outbreak of the commotion reach a large number. A rough estimate puts the figures at 70,000 in Hupeh, 40,000 at Annan, 30,000 each in Anhui and Kiang-si, and 120,000 under direct control of the Nanking Government, while those in the Yangtze Valley aggregate over 200,000. In North China the new and old forces mobilized during the civil war reached a total of 110,000. Again in South China the recruits enlisted in Canton number 30,000, exclusive of 20,000 raised in Fukien. The majority of the new recruits on the Yangtze Valley will have to be disbanded, as well as no less than thirty or forty thousand men in North China.

The disbandment of this large number of soldiers at one time will not only require heavy disbursement, but is also calculated to arouse opposition. Due time must be allowed for the work. The best means for effecting the object would be to convert all the different soldiers into foot soldiers, to dispense with the extra cost involved in the maintenance of horses, artillery, &c. The troops may then conveniently be detailed all over the country as local guards, and the sick or invalided soldiers discharged with three months' pay. The disbandment can thus be peacefully effected in about three years' time at a comparatively small cost. The leaders of the army are evidently inclined to effect the disbandment in this way. Unfortunately, however, the leaders cannot deal with the troops as they wish, as a democratic spirit permeates the rank and file, where every thing is settled by popular vote. In some cases the commanders are appointed or dismissed by the votes of the subordinate officers and men, who are sure to raise objections to disbandment, when the leaders will be powerless to bring them to submission. When an attempt was made recently to disband the recruits in Wuchang, a strong opposition was raised by the subordinate officers and men, who adopted a resolution in favour of the creation of three Army Divisions to prepare for fixing the future capital of China at Wuchang. This incident sufficiently illustrates the difficulty of disbanding the men. If the disbandment be enforced without due care, the subordinate officers and men who have practical command would mutiny and might turn into bandits, committing murder and pillage without discrimination between natives and foreigners. Moreover, China's finances will not admit of any heavy outlay for the cost of disbandment.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent wires that the financial embarrassment of the Chinese Government has now reached a crisis, it being inundated with pressing demands for the payment of the soldiers in various provinces. The financial sources are exhausted owing to the trouble over the Belgian loan question, and the proposal to issue 10 million dollars' worth of convertible notes is also found impracticable. Strong

disaffection is rampant amongst the soldiers, and threatens to lead to serious consequences. The Government views the situation with anxiety.

A Shanghai dispatch reports that in accordance with instructions received from Shanghai, the Anglo-American Tobacco Company in Nanking has removed all the stock lying outside the city walls to Hsiao-kwan. Wild rumours are rampant in Nanking, but the local authorities are confident of their ability to maintain peace and order in that city. The city is, however, thronged by unpaid soldiers, and there is a probability of these disaffected men joining their confrères in Suchow. This fact must not be overlooked. The commanders of the troops in Nanking met in conference on the 31st ult. to consider the partial disbandment of the troops, when they found it impracticable owing to the lack of sufficient funds.

About 300 prisoners at Changte in Honan broke jail, assisted by bandits, and have plundered the town. Great consternation prevails. Bandits are rampant in Honan, which is now thrown into a state of anarchy. Brigandage is also rife in Chihli province.

Sheng Ying, the rebel leader, has dissolved his army in conformity with the desire of the Empress Dowager and retired to Lanchow. This has proved a death-blow to the anti-Republican faction in Peking which has begun to disperse.

From Canton comes more optimistic news. The conference of the leaders of the republican troops in Canton which was in session came to a close on the 31st ult. All the troops agreed to disbandment. The Magistrate has organized a police force, in which the soldiers of 1½ brigades have been enlisted. The leaders of the troops have obtained a concession of certain coal mines to give employment to the disbanded soldiers.

DEATH OF THE MINISTER OF WAR.

We regret to announce the death of Lieut.-General Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, the sad event taking place at 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

Baron Ishimoto has for several days past been confined to his room, suffering from asthma and bronchitis. Worse symptoms suddenly developed on Tuesday morning when Drs. Aoyama, Okada, Army Surgeon Hondo and other eminent physicians were sent for. All efforts proved futile, however, and he finally succumbed.

The deceased Baron came from the Himeji clan, being the sixth son of the late Mr. Ishimoto Katsuzemon. In the early part of Meiji he entered the South College of the Tokyo University, and afterwards studied in the Army Cadet School. He took part in the Saigo Rebellion and was decorated with the Sixth Class Order of the Rising Sun for his brilliant services in the field. After the civil war, he was ordered abroad to pursue his studies in the Military Academy in France. Returning home in 1882, he was again sent to Italy, where he stayed for four years. After his return, he served mostly in the War Office, until he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General in 1903. During the late Russo-Japanese War he held the post of Vice-Minister of War, and his services were rewarded with a first-class order and a peerage. He was only 59 years of age.

THE UNIONISTS ("SEIYU-KAI")

On the 29th ultimo, the parliamentary representatives of the Unionists held their usual general meeting in Tokyo to mark the close of the Diet's session. Marquis Saionji attended, and made a speech which, though couched in general terms, was listened to with close attention. His Excellency thanked the representatives of the Party for their staunch unanimity and coöperation during the past four years, and reminded them that the Party would have to deal with several fundamental questions of its policy in the next session. He therefore expressed a confident hope that all petty differences of opinion would be subserved to great ends, and that they would show themselves fully worthy of the trust reposed in them by the nation. The Marquis referred also in grave tones to the Chinese situation, and reminded his hearers that the responsibility of maintaining a peaceful situation devolved largely upon Japan. He touched briefly on the difference of opinion which had arisen at the close of the session between the two Chambers, and he said that he greatly regretted the incident.

In the evening of the same day, a banquet was given by the Marquis at the Maple Club, but the speeches made on that occasion contained nothing remarkable.

THE READJUSTMENT OF TAXATION.

An authority in the Finance Department is quoted by the *Tokyo Asahi* as saying that it would seem that the announcement of Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, concerning the readjustment of taxes is grossly misunderstood by a section of the public. The Minister alluded to the introduction of reforms in the income and business taxes and the salt monopoly, with a view to the reduction of these taxes, but he had never announced a reduction of the Exchange tax, though he stated that a radical reform was contemplated in the present tax system. The extent of the reduction in the income and business taxes remains uncertain until the conclusion of the investigations now being conducted by the Readjustment Committee, but it is presumable that the reduction in the income tax will not fall under 5,000,000 yen, while some amendment will be made in the graduated scale under the present law. Presuming that the present revenue of the salt monopoly is decreased by one third, the curtailment will amount to about 3,000,000 yen. The reduction of the business tax presents greater difficulty, as it will give rise to a demand for the reduction of the land tax.

FINANCE IN TOKYO.

On the 28th instant the money representing the price of the Tokyo Railway was paid out to the shareholders. It aggregated 65½ million yen, and the amount actually paid out by the Mitsui Bank was 53 millions. The effect was conspicuously felt at the Tokyo Clearing House, where the transactions for the day reached a total of 55,180,981, being a larger amount than anything hitherto recorded. There were no very notable results from this big transaction, except that several millions found their way into the coffers of the Bank of Japan, and call money fell to a very low figure.

CHINESE FINANCES.

The Bank of Belgium paid to Li Yuan-hung 1,000,000 dollars on Friday last, according to a Shanghai telegram in the *Nichi Nichi*, as part payment of the Belgian loan. It is believed that the money was really paid by the Russo-Asiatic Bank.

Another dispatch states that in order to avoid complications the Belgian Syndicate has decided to participate in the Six Powers' loan.

With reference to Six Powers' loan, the *Fiji Shimpō* learns that the details are still undecided between the Powers concerned. Great Britain holds that about 80 per cent of the 600 million *taels* loan should be appropriated to the reparation work in the valley of the Yangtze and the Hwang river, the extension of the Tsin-Pu Railway to Kailu in Anhui, and the payment of the Boxer Indemnity, which is in arrear since September last, the balance of 20 per cent. being used for the military and naval reorganization. Although it is not clear whether the cost of the disbandment of the new recruits is or is not included in this 20 per cent., it appears to be agreed that the salt tax should form the security for the loan. According to British calculations the revenue from the salt tax now amounts to about 40 million *taels* a year, but it is possible to raise double the amount from this source on a readjustment of the business. Supervision over the revenue can be entrusted to the Chinese Customs. The present arrangement seems to be that 600 million *taels* should be paid to the Chinese Government in five annual instalments, but it is still undecided whether foreign supervision shall or shall not be exercised over the disbursement of the proceeds of the loan. The Powers interested in the loan would not object to the appointment of a foreign supervisor, but it remains doubtful whether the Chinese Government would consent to it, especially at the present moment when an anti-foreign sentiment prevails throughout the country. Moreover, it is unthinkable that 600 million *taels* should be sufficient to meet all the requirements for the restoration of peace and order, and for accelerating the growth of commerce and industry. Each province is virtually in a state of independence, so it is doubtful whether they will consent to share the burden of administrative expenses of the Central Government, especially as they are now split up into several sections, which even refuse to acknowledge the authority of the provincial magistracy. In the circumstances it is extremely difficult to attain any unity in the finances. Well informed authorities on Chinese affairs view the future of China with grave apprehension and are rather pessimistic about the country being restored to a healthy condition as anticipated by the Governments of the Six Powers concerned.

THE FUTURE OF CHINA.

VIEWS OF JAPANESE PUBLICISTS.

Mr. Inukai and Drs. Terao and Soyejima arrived at Nagasaki on the 28th ultimo by the China-Japan Steamship Company's liner *Chikusen Maru*, and were interviewed by the Nagasaki correspondent of the *Tokyo Asahi*. Both Mr. Inukai and Dr. Terao were extremely reticent, wires the correspondent, but Mr. Inukai, when pressed,

stated that the Southern Government now existed in name only, all power having virtually been passed into the hands of the Northern Government. It was now immaterial when Yuan Shih kai assumed the presidency or Dr. Sun Yat-sen wielded the sceptre of state. The Council was also to be removed to Peking shortly, and Dr. Sun Yat-sen was about to retire from the public service, and to live in seclusion in his native province. The question was whether the administrators of the new Ministry would be able to readjust affairs, and how long they would remain in power. The future of new China did not admit of optimistic views.

Dr. Soyejima stated that he entirely concurred in Mr. Inukai's views. The progress of events up to now was nothing but a successful execution of the programme arranged between Yuan Shih kai and Dr. Sun Yat-sen. His personal view was that only Hwang Hsing could be relied upon. If Hwang rose in arms things in China would quickly change. The outbreak of a second revolution was not wholly impossible. It was nevertheless an open question whether Hwang would take action at the present juncture. In the circumstances, Dr. Terao and himself saw no need to remain in Nanking any longer, and had therefore decided to return home.

Afterward Mr. Inukai and party landed and went to the Daikaku restaurant, and Dr. Soyejima left for his native place. The correspondent again interviewed Mr. Inukai at the restaurant and elicited from him a statement that any disclosure of facts would do discredit to many people. The newspaper reports are not free from errors and misunderstandings. The Northern Government might make a venture at the administration for a time, but the manipulations of the Manchus, Mongolians, Mahomedans and Tibetans, the solution of the loan question, the selection of provincial magistrates, etc., were not very easy problems to solve. Yuan Shih-kai would indeed be a great man if he successfully solved these questions. If he should fail half way, however, a dark cloud would again overhang China. It would be wiser if Hwang Hsing grasped the situation and fostered his influence in retirement, watching quietly the future developments of the situation.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

According to a report from Kulon, a mass meeting of Mongolians is to be held there shortly, when the independence of Inner Mongolia will be declared. The representatives of various parts of Inner Mongolia have already arrived, and it is expected that the Princes of Eastern Mongolia will also be present. The question of the annexation of Kalka by Inner Mongolia will be discussed at the meeting.

A Peking telegram to the *Tokyo Asahi* also reports that at the united conference of Mongolian Princes it was decided to maintain intact the titles, allowances and rank of the Dalai Lama and Mongolian Princes, to abolish the Chinese authorities in order that Mongolia should be ruled by the Mongolians themselves, and also to demand the incorporation of the old Mongolian territories, such as Jehol, Changkiakau, and Kui Huacheng in Chihli province, into the Mongolian administrative district.

THE KURE NAVAL DOCK STRIKE.

An official dispatch to the Admiralty reports that some misunderstanding existing amongst the numerous workmen employed in the Kure Naval Dock concerning the abolition of the Mutual Relief Hospital, the authorities took great pains to explain the reasons for the proposed abolition, and everything was making smooth progress towards a settlement, when, on the morning of the 29th, some 350 workmen struck work, followed by 570 men on the following morning. The strike was nevertheless, limited to the First Works, those employed in the other works taking no part. The strike is said to be due to the instigation of a small number of malcontents and it is clear that it has nothing to do with the hospital question. A later dispatch reports that the strikers agreed to return to work from the 1st instant.

2500 MEN OUT.

Despite the optimistic tone of official reports the strike in the Naval Arsenal at Kure seems to have assumed serious proportions. According to a telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* the strike has spread to the 4th, 7th, 9th and 14th factories, no less than 2,500 men being out on the 1st instant. The workmen belonging to the 14th factory, by permission of the police authorities, held a meeting at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, when over 1,000 men assembled to consider the demand to be advanced. The meeting was quiet and the men behaved themselves in a most orderly manner. The workmen belonging to the first factory returned to their workshops on the 1st instant, but practically no work was done. The 13th factory is the motor station which supplies the power to all the other factories, and its the suspension would paralyze the works. The men in this factory have not yet joined the movement, but the strikers are making strenuous efforts to persuade them to join. Mr. Hagiwara, Chief of the Hiroshima police, has arrived at Kure and is making inquiries as to the cause of the trouble. The workmen employed in the 3rd and the 6th factories also show an inclination to join the movement.

SILK VIA THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The representatives of the Russian and Japanese railways and steamship companies met in conference at Vladivostok on the 21st ult. to discuss the conditions and procedure in the transportation to the European markets *via* Siberia of Japanese raw silk. Raw silk has heretofore been transported to Europe *via* Suez, which takes some forty-four days, whereas it will take only thirteen days if transported to Moscow by the Siberian railway *via* Vladivostok. The freight is also comparatively cheap, it being quoted at 4 roubles and 80 kopeks per *poond* (equivalent to 4,300 *momme* in Japanese weight) between Yokohama and Moscow, and 5 roubles and 51 kopeks between Yokohama and the Russo-German frontier. The Japanese delegates also put forward a proposal for the transportation of tea. The conference was to last five days and the resolutions adopted are to be notified to the Chinese Eastern Railway Company and put into operation. It is stated in this context that the Director-General of the Chinese Eastern Railway will visit Japan shortly in connexion with business relating to connective services between the Russian and Japanese railways.

JAPAN IN MANCHURIA.

In a leading article published yesterday morning the *Japan Times* claims that its country's presence in Manchuria constituted a steady point during the recent disturbance, and thus helped not only to preserve peace and good order, but also to promote the uninterrupted development of the material resources of the Three Eastern Provinces. We are entirely of our Tokyo contemporary's way of thinking. There can be no doubt that the neutral zones maintained by Japan in Manchuria proved an effectual barrier to the spread of disturbance, and we may justly add that her manner of utilizing her position was at once sagacious, effective and moderate. In fact, Manchuria, during the recent revolution, furnished an example of what the whole of China might become if the vested interests of the great Occidental Powers were asserted in the same efficient manner. There is one point, however, which invites partial dissent from the views expressed by the *Japan Times*. Our contemporary speaks of the bean industry as though it has been built up entirely by Japanese enterprise and with Japanese capital. We cannot forget, indeed, that the Mitsui firm acted as pioneer in this great development, but neither can we forget the part taken by the eminent British firm of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Company.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that as the Belgian Syndicate comprises British and French capitalists, Great Britain and France do not feel their interests much affected by the Belgian loan, but the United States Minister started an active movement, lest American capitalists should be left out in the cold. The Minister thus prevailed upon Great Britain, France and Germany to present China with a joint protest against the loan. The protest was drawn up by the United States Minister.

The same correspondent also wires that Mr. Straight has been disclosing the secrets of the syndicate in the interests of the American capitalists, which action has angered the representatives of the capitalists of the other Powers and rendered harmonious relations impossible. This is said to account for Mr. Straight leaving Peking.

The Bank of Belgium paid to the Chinese Government the sum of half a million taels in Peking and one million taels in Shanghai on the 25th instant, together with 300,000 taels through the Russo-Asiatic Bank and one million taels to the Peking Government on the 26th instant. The advances made thus amount to 2,300,000 taels. The Russo-Asiatic Bank is at the back of the Belgian Syndicate.

THE NANKING SUFFRAGETTES.

The amazons of Nanking continue their agitation. For several days past they have been making things hot for the Authorities and have been resorting to every kind of device short of actual personal violence. Members of the Council have in vain endeavoured to induce them to postpone their demands until the National Assembly shall have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon their legitimacy. But the suffragettes seem to have borrowed a leaf

verbatim from the record of their British sisters. They resort to everything short of armed demonstrations, and their latest declaration is said to have been that if their demands remained unrecognized up to the 1st of April, they would resort to the argument of rifles. One is almost tempted to doubt the evidence of one's senses when one hears of such things happening in China. A few years ago it used to be in fashion with some annalists to extol the dignified conservatism of the Chinese in comparison with the indiscriminating frivolity of Japanese liberalism. Which side does the shoe fit now?

A Nanking telegram reports that the suffragette movement has of late assumed increased proportions. The State Council has resolved to submit the question to the National Assembly in its first session, but the suffragettes are not satisfied with this, and insist on the official recognition of woman's suffrage before the dissolution of the Council. They recently repaired to the Council and behaved themselves in an obnoxious and defiant manner, threatening that they would appeal to armed force if a satisfactory answer were not forthcoming on the following day.

GERMAN AND JAPANESE ARTILLERY.

We read an interesting telegram in the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*. It is to the effect that an order for machine guns was contemplated some time ago by the Tsinan Local Government, and Japanese and German manufacturers were invited to submit specimens for competitive examination at Kiaochow. Twenty guns, namely, sixteen Japanese and four German, are said to have been tested, and the superiority was so palpably on the Japanese side that the Germans devised a pretext for suspending the tests. The order was accordingly given to Japanese, but exactly how many guns are contracted for, the telegram does not add. We reproduce this cablegram with all reservations. It is difficult to believe that the Japanese have developed skill superior to that of the Germans in such a matter, and the probability would seem to be that the result, if rightly reported, was due to some conditions with which the sender of the telegram was unacquainted. Another difficulty is that the only arsenals where such weapons are manufactured in Japan are official. The guns are to be used, it is said, in operating against the mutinous troops who are giving so much trouble in Shantung.

MONGOLIA.

Mongolia continues to be a troublesome jewel in the Chinese crown. But what the situation there now is we have much difficulty in deciphering. The princes and prelates appear disposed to shake off the Chinese yoke in a practical manner, but at the same time to remain on friendly terms with their big neighbour. That at least is the most obvious interpretation of the telegrams given to the world, and no attempt is made to explain how such an arrangement can be placed on a working footing. Everything seems to point with more and more insistence to Russian intervention in the affairs of the Khanats.

THE COAL STRIKE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Japanese Consul-General at New York wires that the contract between the owners of the smokeless coal mines and the miners expired on March 31st. Negotiations have for some time past been in progress between the mine-owners and men concerning future contracts, but having failed to come to an agreement the miners notified the mine owners that they would go on strike. Inasmuch, however, as the representatives of the mine-owners have accepted the miners' proposition and agreed to an increase of wages, the trouble is likely to be speedily settled even if the men strike. The strike will affect 751 mines and 168,000 miners.

The trouble between the owners of the lignite mines and the men is now considered settled, the mine-owners having agreed to the increase of wages.

CHANGES IN DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

Some changes in diplomatic appointments are predicted by the Tokyo Press. According to the report, Baron Kurino, Ambassador to Paris, will join the Privy Council, being replaced by Baron Ishii, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Nishi Genshiro, the First Secretary on the reserve list, will go to Berlin as Councillor, and Mr. Funakoshi, Secretary of the Foreign Office, and Mr. Tadzuki, Chief of the Establishment section of the Foreign Office, will go to Austria and Russia respectively as Councillors to the Embassies. Mr. Kurachi, Chief of the Political Affairs Bureau, will assume the duties of Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, pending the appointment of a successor.

Official announcement will be made shortly of the appointments.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Saturday, March 30.

The market on Saturday last opened strong and all shares rallied. A weak tone began to prevail towards the close of the session, when the shares collapsed all round.

Monday, April 1.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness and prices were irregular, but were maintained towards the close.

Tuesday, April 2.

The market yesterday was characterized by an active tone, and a large business was recorded, all shares moving up in price.

The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

	Apr. 1st.	Apr. 2nd.
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	118.25	—
Toyo Kisen.....	47.95	47.80
Specie Bank.....	220.00	—
Tanko Kisen.....	25.05	25.05
Tokyo Gas.....	73.20	73.65
Tokyo Dento.....	71.80	73.85
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	89.90	92.35
Tokyo Spinning.....	54.30	55.05
Kanegafuchi Spinning.....	111.65	113.30
Beer.....	88.80	88.50
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	68.95	69.45
Nippon Oil.....	76.40	76.60
Rice Exchange.....	110.95	111.00
Stock Exchange.....	167.20	166.95

THE CHINESE CABINET.

(The Japan Daily Mail, April 2)

ALL doubts about the organization of the new Cabinet are now at an end; it has actually come into existence, and people are already beginning to talk about the time it is likely to last. The personnel are not first-class men with a few exceptions. They are, for the most part, statesmen who are recognized as followers of YUAN SHIH-KAI in the days when the latter served as Viceroy of the Metropolitan Province. YUAN has thus obtained a Ministry upon whose staunch support he may reckon confidently, but it has been at the cost of exposing the fact that many of the political leaders in China are unwilling to associate their names with those of men whose tenure of office is so precarious. Still the portfolios have been distributed, which is, after all, a great fact. Only one Department of State remains without its own chief viz.—that of Communications, which Premier TANG has been obliged to take in conjunction with his own special office. Strange to say, very little comment has yet been evoked by Field Marshal HWANG's acceptance of the post of Chief of the Headquarter Staff. To most onlookers the inference suggested is a compromise. HWANG has agreed to associate himself in a military sense with the Republican Cabinet, but he stands aloof from it in politics. In fact the reasons assigned by some Japanese correspondents for his apparent unwillingness to serve under President YUAN are now seen to be curiously erroneous. The world was informed by these news-vendors that HWANG himself attributed his reluctance to want of military knowledge, whereas we have him now accepting a post where the highest military attainments are essential. One analysis of the situation finds evidence of serious trouble in the fact that Field Marshal HWANG will remain the actual military leader in the Yangtze Valley, whereas the new Minister of War, General TUAN CHI-JUI, will be supreme in the northern districts. This is regarded as the presence of two Richmonds in the field, and is considered to be indicative of serious trouble in the future. Another analysis of the situation is that HWANG remains in office merely for the purpose of disbanding the troops now under arms. But if that were the case, we should expect to find him in a position different from that of Chief of Staff. At all events his action in this matter has succeeded in keeping his name very prominent before the public. Meanwhile the predominant fact is that President YUAN has again proved himself master of the situation. Up to the last moment people were shaking wise heads and predicting that it would be impossible for him to form any working Cabinet; but he has completely proved the unreality of this pessimism, and we have to add another page to the record which shows him

to be the man of the time. It is scarcely to be doubted that other triumphs still lie before him. Meanwhile the nation cannot choose but congratulate him.

CHINESE LOANS.

According to a Frenchman interested in the Four Powers' Syndicate, wires the *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent, whereas the Six Powers' loan is of a political nature, the Belgian loan is purely economic, and the two loans are thus incompatible in their nature. In his private opinion the Four Powers' Syndicate will positively not allow the Belgian Syndicate to participate in the Six Powers' loan. While it is true that there are French and English capitalists in the Belgian syndicate, the Governments of France and Great Britain will not interfere with them. Russia will join the Four Powers' syndicate sooner or later. So long as Chinese bonds do not come on the Paris Bourse for transaction, so long will there be no likelihood of any foreign Chinese loan being successfully concluded.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

San Francisco telegraphists persist in assigning covetous purposes to Japan in connexion with the ownership of Magdalena Bay in Mexico. Our readers will remember that this topic was brought upon the tapis some time ago and that Japan's action was then semi-officially interpreted as being devoid of all imperial purposes and limited to a project of obtaining coals for the steamers of the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha*. The canard has now again found its way into circulation. San Francisco flatly accuses Japan of ambitious designs, and Japan will doubtless reply in the previous terms. That appears to be all that need be said about the matter.

The Stock Exchange was closed on Friday last for the monthly settlement, which was effected without a hitch. The shares delivered for settlement numbered 98,340, representing 4,896,100 yen in value, the average price per share being 49.569 yen. As compared with last month, this shows an increase of 10,170 shares and 414,010 yen in value, but a decrease by 1.04 yen in the average price.

From Antung it is wired that at 4 a.m. on the 28th ultimo a fire broke out in the saw Mill at New Wiju. The electric motor room and over ten other buildings were burned down, the loss being estimated at about 1,020,000 yen.

The British, American, French and German Consuls have made claims to the Chinese Government for compensation for the damages sustained by their respective nationals during the civil commotion. It is stated that the claim of the Standard Oil Company in Hankow is the heaviest.

Under the auspices of Baron Iwamura and ten other well-known persons, Mr. S. Takagi is exhibiting a large collection of his works at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo. Altogether some 180 pictures, mostly executed during his recent tour abroad, and some, we understand, exhibited in the Royal Institute of Oil Painters in London, are displayed. Mr. Takagi's name is not very well known, but his work shows him to be among the first rank, and the exhibition is well worth

visiting by admirers of the fine arts. Tickets to view are obtainable free of charge on applying to Mr. S. Nagai, care of Messrs. Fukushima & Co., 12, 1 chome, Honcho, Yokohama. The exhibition will remain open to the 3rd inst. inclusive.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to the Magistrates of the provinces that the members of the State Council will be elected by popular vote, each province to elect five members, and on the organization of the new State Council, the present one will be dissolved. Yuan further telegraphs that the election shall be conducted with one month, and the provinces where there are no provincial assemblies in existence, shall take steps to organize assemblies prior to the election.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen was to announce his abdication of the Presidency before the State Council on the 29th ult., but the Council withheld its consent to the procedure. It has been decided, according to a Shanghai telegram, to hold the abdication ceremony on the 1st instant, to show respect to the retiring president.

According to an official dispatch reaching the Admiralty the equipment of the battleship *Kawachi* having been completed, the vessel was transferred to the charge of Captain Tsuchiyama, commander of the new warship, on the 31st ult. The battleship will be incorporated in the First Squadron, and an official announcement will be made public in a day or two.

The preliminary examination in the alleged plot to assassinate Governor-General Terauchi has now being completed and 82 accused persons have been committed for trial. They will be prosecuted on the charge of attempted murder. Over thirty others who were arrested on suspicion have been acquitted on the ground of insufficiency of evidence.

The Japanese Consul at San Francisco reports that complaints have been made as to the tinned crabs exported by Japan, owing to the irregularity of the quality and the frequency of bad tins. The export of this article will be seriously affected, writes the Consul, unless the defects be improved. Official inspection is needed.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chunguo* reports that the insurgents in Tatung under Hsu Pao-shan gained a signal victory over the Government troops sent from Kiukiang. Some 1,500 insurgents are marching down to capture Antung, carrying everything before them. The Magistrate of Antung has applied to the Nanking Government for reinforcements.

We observe that Japanese interested in fire insurance are to hold a meeting on the 5th instant for the purpose of insisting that all the provisions of Japanese law shall be applicable to foreign companies carrying on this business in Japan. No particulars are given to show that foreign companies enjoy any legal advantage as compared with Japanese, but we may assume that the complaint takes that form. It would be a bad day for the Japanese people if they succeeded in driving out the foreign insurance companies which have agencies or offices in this country. They would be thus depriving themselves of the vicarious use of a great sum of capital, and of competition which exercises the most useful influence in the business of insurance.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, March 27.

The Belgian loan will be concluded immediately on the approval of the State Council being obtained, and Tang Shao-i is making an effort to secure its approval. The British, American, French and German Ministers paid a visit to Yuan Shih-kai on the 26th instant, when a strong protest was lodged. The question threatens to lead to a serious diplomatic complication.

THE MINISTER OF WAR.

Nanking, March 27.

Hwang Hsing still reserves his consent to accept the portfolio of War in the new Ministry.

THE TROUBLE IN THE INTERIOR.

Shanghai, March 21.

According to a dispatch from Tsinan, dated the 27th instant, the disturbances in Tungbohsien are not yet suppressed. The Second Battalion of the 18th infantry regiment was dispatched there on the 28th to reinforce an infantry battalion sent on the 11th instant.

RIOTS AT SUCHOW.

Shanghai, March 28.

On the night of the 27th instant the soldiers in Suchow rose in mutiny, and plundered the people. Fire broke out in the town. Another riot also occurred in Chinkiang.

Shanghai, March 28.

The whole of the 46th Regiment stationed at Suchow started looting on the night of the 27th instant, and the riots continued until this morning. The town-gates are closed. The Japanese residents shared in the disaster but no one was either killed or wounded. One thousand men stationed in the neighbourhood of Shanghai started for Suchow this morning. The Shanghai station of the Shanghai-Ningpo railway is guarded by about a dozen foot and six mounted soldiers.

Shanghai, March 28.

During the disturbance in Suchow the Japanese residents were all plundered, but their lives are safe. The mutineers had plunder for their sole object. A rumour is current that 3,000 mutineers will effect their entrance into the walled town on the night of the 28th instant.

Shanghai, March 29.

The cause of the Suchow disturbance is attributed by some to disaffection at the decision in the recent trouble amongst soldiers at Changchow, while others attribute it to the non-settlement of their pay. Three ringleaders were arrested and are being subjected to examination. A director of the Shanghai Ningpo Railway left for Suchow accompanied by the local authorities for the inspection of the condition of affairs.

OPENING OF RIVER.

Tiehling, March 28.

The ice on the Mafeng river has melted and the water is navigable, but no vessel has yet ventured on the river.

GOVERNMENT TROOPS ROUTED.

Mukden, March 27.

The insurgent army under Sheng Yun in Shensi engaged the Government troops on the plain about 100 li to the north of Hsian. The Government troops were routed and retreated, leaving over 100 dead

on the field. It is rumoured that the Nanking General, Tieh Liang, is giving Sheng's army assistance. Sheng Yu does not show any disposition to surrender.

PANIC AT PEKING.

Peking, March 29.

Wild rumours have been current for a few days past. The shops have again closed their doors.

Peking, March 29.

About 300 soldiers belonging to the Sixth Division, acting in collusion with the troops stationed outside Chaoyang Gate, planned to start general looting. The plot was disclosed in time and preventive measures were taken. There is, however, a likelihood of an outbreak of disturbances some time or other.

THE POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chunwa* reports that on the 28th instant Tang Shao-i repaired to the State Council, where he outlined the administrative policy of the Republican Ministry, his proposals receiving the unanimous approval of the Council. The portfolio holders in the new Ministry have been settled with a few exceptions, and the appointments have been ratified by Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen. Dr. Sun Yat-sen took the opportunity to publicly relinquish the Presidency. Tang Shao-i will proceed to Wuchang to have an interview with Li Yuan-hung.

SCENES IN THIBET.

The spirit of independence is running high amongst the Thibetans, according to a Peking dispatch to the *Tokyo Asahi*. For two days—the 16th and 17th instant—the Thibetans attacked 300 Chinese soldiers and slaughtered 140 of them. Thibetans announce the wholesale murder of the Chinese residents at Jans (?). Danger is also imminent at Lassa, the capital of Thibet.

CHINESE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, March 29.

Hu I-tei, Chief of Foreign Affairs, sent to the members of the *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking on the 29th instant a circular note to the effect that as North and South China having been unified, any contracts touching local enterprises which may be concluded between either the local governments or people and foreigners without the sanction of the Central Government will not be recognized.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Peking, March 29.

Yuan Shih-kai is reported to have told an interviewer on the 28th instant that he had no preference in the composition of the new Ministry. He only desired to see it come into speedy existence. He was greatly annoyed at the delay experienced owing to the difference of views between the Nanking and Hupeh authorities.

THE DISTURBANCES AT SUCHOW.

Shanghai, March 30.

According to a report of Commander Katsura, when was dispatched to Suchow, the shops, excepting those located in close proximity to the foreign Settlement, are all closed and the people engaged in search of the plundering soldiers. A small *emeute* occurred in Changmen road on the night of the 28th and rifle reports were heard in the town. Yesterday the town gates were closed earlier than on the preceding days,

and to-day rifle reports were no longer heard. Altogether eight Japanese houses were plundered, but the lives of the Japanese residents are safe. The women and children are all taking refuge in the Post Office in the foreign settlement. The Magistrate dispatched two small gunboats, for the protection of the foreign settlement, but the Consuls did not ask for protection as the bluejackets dispatched could not be relied upon. Steam-launches are kept in readiness for leaving the settlement. The cause of the riot is attributed to the non-payment of the soldiers' pay. Although it is difficult to predict, it seems unlikely that the disturbances will be resuscitated.

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE TROOPS.

Shanghai, March 30.

The commander of the warship *Tatsuta*, which touched at Taling on her way to Kiukiang, reports that according to information elicited from the Chinese warship *Chukuan* in harbour, there is a rumour that two warships and a number of land troops will be sent to Kiukiang to prepare for emergencies connected with the contemplated dissolution of the Military Government, as it does not seem that the disbandment of the troops can be peacefully effected. The troops stationed there number about 3,000. The town is now pacific. The above information was corroborated by the Military Government.

TROOPS FOR SWATOW.

Swatow, March 30.

General Wu, who received orders to proceed to Swatow, left Canton on the 29th instant. General Chin's soldiers, who are remaining in Chaochow, contemplate the expulsion of General Lin, joining with General Wu. It is improbable that General Wu will come into collision with Lin precipitately.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

Shanghai, March 31.

The Belgian syndicate sent a remittance of 1,000,000 dollars to Hankow from Shanghai on the 30th instant. This brings up the total advance to 3,000,000 dollars.

CANTON AND THE NEW MINISTRY.

Canton, March 30.

The people of Canton are disappointed, as their proposals concerning the selection of portfolio-holders in the new Ministry were entirely disregarded. There are some who advocate the independence of Kwantung and Kwansi provinces.

TROUBLE IN SHANTUNG.

Tientsin, March 30.

The disagreement between Hu Ying and Chang Wuan-chien in Shantung province is gradually assuming serious proportions and a conflict is threatened. The provincial assembly is trying to effect mediation without success. The troops under the two leaders number about 30,000 on each side.

ANTI-LOAN AGITATION.

Tientsin, March 30.

The provincial assembly and people of Chihli province generally resent Yuan Shih-kai having arbitrarily concluded the Belgian loan on the security of the Peking-Changkiakau railway. The outbreak of a violent anti-loan agitation is threatened.

LI YUAN-HUNG.

Peking, March 30.

A belief obtains here that Li Yuan-

lung will come up to Peking simultaneously with the completion of the organization of the new Ministry. Viceroy Yuan of Hu-Kwan will be appointed Li's successor in Wuchang.

SITUATION AT TSITSIHAR.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Tsitsihar, March 30.

A number of suspicious characters recently entered the town and seem to be concocting a plan. The Magistracy is subjecting to close scrutiny those who arrive here by the light railway or by overland route from the west. A notification was issued on the 29th instant subjecting to punishment those who carry arms and other contraband articles.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

Peking, March 30.

An official note has been received from the Waiwupu announcing the appointment of the portfolio-holders of the new Ministry. The note adds that Hu I-tei will be in charge of Foreign Affairs until the return of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lu Cheng chang from Russia.

TROOPS FOR CHEFOO.

Chefoo, March 30.

Hsu Sung-chi, commander of the Fukien army, arrived here by the steamer *Anping* on the 30th with 150 guards.

TAXATION QUESTIONS.

Hungchow, March 30.

The tax offices established in various towns on the 15th instant are vigorously enforcing the collection of taxes. In some cases the tax is imposed over and above the net cost, the consumption tax being sometimes levied on vegetables on transit to the town. The tax is thus larger than the likin tax formerly levied, and traders are put to great annoyance. They have suspended the transportation of goods and petitioned the Magistracy for the revision of the tax law. In some towns the people have attacked and demolished the tax offices. The Government is disposed to introduce some amendment to the tax law and has issued to the tax offices telegraphic instructions to export daily necessities and those articles intended for domestic consumption, as well as those, the amount of tax on which does not exceed 50 *sen*.

TUMEN OPEN.

Hungchun, March 30.

The ice of the Tumen River has melted.

ANARCHY AT LAICHOW.

Chefoo, March 31.

According to a dispatch from Laichow the soldiers of the 93rd regiment are bombarding and looting the houses in that town. The commander is powerless to suppress the riot. The town is in a state of anarchy.

CONDITIONS AT SUCHOW.

Suchow, March 30.

The defensive measures adopted by the Ministry have proved successful, and peace and order are being gradually restored in the town. Nor does it seem that the disturbances will be resuscitated. According to an authority of the military administration, the mutinous soldiers are those belonging to the 46th regiment from Nanking and number about 400. A number of bandits have joined them in the riot. After plundering the town the soldiers changed their dress and threw away their arms and dispersed in various directions. Already

about sixty men have been arrested and shot. There is no likelihood of a resuscitation of the riot.

NANKING GOVERNMENT DISSOLVED.

Nanking, March 31.

The Presidency of Nanking was formally dissolved on the 30th instant. All the Departments, excepting the War and Naval Offices, were also dissolved. The War Office is to be dissolved in a few days. The candidate for the portfolio of Communications is now being selected on consultation with the Peking Government.

THE MISSION TO MUKDEN.

Mukden, March 31.

The southern envoys who proceeded to Mukden returned to Peking on the 30th instant. The envoys who represented Yuan Shih-kai, Sun Yat-sen and Li Yuan lung were accompanied to Mukden by two men, who are closely connected with the Mukden authorities. Cordial feeling existed between the envoys and the Mukden authorities.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Chefoo, March 31.

An extraordinary session of the Shantung Provincial Assembly sent to Yuan Shih-kai on the 30th instant a telegraphic petition that Magistrate Chou Tzu chi should be replaced by Hu Ying.

It is reported that unrest prevails in Kueichow, and rioters have risen in various districts.

BANDIT RAIDS.

Hsinmintun, March 31.

The mounted bandits have of late made frequent appearances in this district. They plunder and commit other excesses with impunity. The women are taking refuge. The bandits skilfully evade the attack of the Government troops. The Mongolian bandits have joined the party. Lin, bandit leader in Ichow, is enlisting recruits under the pretence that he holds credentials issued by Lan Tien wei. The local authorities are terror-stricken.

DEPARTURE OF WARSHIP.

Nanking, April 1.

The British warship *Hawk* has left for the lower part of the river, with the bluejackets whose time has expired.

THE RIOTS IN ANHUI.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that according to intelligence from Kiukiang, the riot in Tiahing was due to the instigation of the Kolaohui. The famine stricken people in Anhui began to assemble in the town of Tiahing since the 30th ult., those assembled there numbering over four thousand. The Magistrate gave the men a pledge that they would be promptly paid, but the men refused to listen to the remonstrance and started looting. The commander of the army threw in his lot with the mutinous soldiers. A wild rumour is circulated by the leaders of the Kolaohui that the Nanking Government has been dissolved and the revolutionist leaders all surrendered to Yuan Shih-kai. The riot threatens to spread all over Anhui province.

THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 1.

It is officially announced that Yuan Shih-kai has appointed Hsu Shao-chien as the

Chief of General Staff, Hwang Hsing having received the order to remain in Nanking as Commander-in-Chief of the Southern armies.

ORDER RESTORED IN SUCHOW.

Suchow, April 1.

The Japanese residents who were taking refuge in the settlement, returned to their houses in Chang-men to-day, as there no longer exists any apprehension. All their merchandise was either stolen or destroyed, and they find it difficult to resume business. The Chinese traders have adopted a resolution that they will not resume business until the damage has been compensated, and have commenced a movement to induce the authorities to make good the losses they sustained at the hands of the rioters.

THE VICE-MINISTERS.

Peking, April 1.

The Vice-Ministers of State are to be selected by the Ministers of State subject to the approval of the Minister-President and President Yuan Shih-kai. The official announcement of the appointments will, therefore, be deferred until after the return of Tang Shao-i from the south.

BANDITS IN KILIN.

Mukden, April 1.

Mounted bandits are rampant in Kilin. There are many Russians amongst them, and they are committing plunder every where with impunity. A rumour is rife that the bandits will invade Mukden. A strict watch is kept by Viceroy Chao.

SOLDIERS MUTINY.

Canton, April 1.

The Kwansi soldiers rose in mutiny at Pinglepu owing to the non-payment of their wages. The mutineers were, however, repulsed by the Kwanping army, when many of them were killed or wounded. The situation in the upper part of the Yangtze has assumed gravity.

TOKYO FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOL.

As already briefly noted, the graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Foreign Language School was held on the 28th ult.

The total number of graduates was 177, of whom 106 took the ordinary course, one the special course, and 70 the evening course. Of the 106 taking the ordinary course, 19 graduated in English, 21 in French, 17 in German, 7 in Russian, 4 in Italian, 8 in Spanish, 21 in Chinese and 9 in Korean. There was only one graduate in the special course, who graduated in French. In the special evening course, 32 graduated in English, 7 in French, 18 in German, 3 in Russian, 1 in Italian, 6 in Chinese and 3 in Korean.

After the presentation of the diplomas, Mr. Murakami, the Director, gave an address, followed by Mr. Haseba, the Minister of Education.

Speeches by representatives of the graduates preceded the presentation of the special prizes given by Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Ambassador, M. Auguste Gérard, the French Ambassador, the Société Franco-Japonaise de Paris, M. Melevski-Malevitch, the Russian Ambassador, Marquis Guiccioli, the Italian Ambassador, Count von Rex, the German Ambassador, and M. Fioravanti Chimenz.

Mr. Kuwabara responded in French on behalf of the recipients of these special prizes.

The visitors present included M. Auguste Gérard, the French Ambassador, Marquis Guiccioli, the Italian Ambassador, and Prince Henry of Reuss.

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE NEO-BUDDHISTS TO THE RELIGIOUS POLICY OF THE HOME OFFICE.

Mr. Tokonami's attempt to make the three religions serve state purposes has been condemned by all the leading Buddhists and especially by the Neo-Buddhists. The March number of the *Shin Bukkyō* devotes over 30 pages to the publication of articles on this subject. Dr. Miyake Satsurei says that the proposed scheme is just the kind of plan that would be likely to be evolved from the brains of a Satsuma man. To him it appears to be no other than an attempt on the part of Christians to put new life into a sinking cause. The Christians have lots of money, so they can build grand Churches and make a big show in other ways, says Dr. Miyake, but they are making no headway in the country. The attacks on their Bible are so formidable that they are at a loss what to do with it (*Konmichi wa enisho hitotoku de sae motte amashite oru yo na shinaitaru de wa nai ka?*). The expositions of scripture that passed muster ten years ago are not accepted to-day. That the Christians should welcome any help the Government can give them is not surprising, seeing that the support they are obtaining from Western countries is not what it formerly was and that the hope of converting all heathendom to their way of thinking is no longer so enthusiastically entertained as it used to be.

Regarding the matter from the point of view of the State, proceeds Dr. Miyake, it must not be overlooked that there are doctrines taught by religionists which are opposed to the pre-eminence of the Civil authorities in all things. It is somewhat odd to find a Government depending on anti-State creeds in order to promote State-worship among our people.*

As for introducing religion into our schools, this would be a retrograde movement on our part. We want more scientific teaching. We are behind the world in our knowledge of science and our future progress is solely dependent on the spread of Western thought among us. The religion taught by Christians and Buddhists would certainly prove a hindrance rather than a help to the spread of scientific knowledge here.

The other writers in the March number of the *Shin Bukkyō* adopt the same attitude to the policy of the Home Office as that taken by Dr. Miyake. As the subject has been pretty fully discussed in these columns, we will not dwell on it further.

DR. MOTODA ON SHINTŌ DOCTRINES.

Writing in the Episcopalian organ, the *Kirishitan Shinhō*, Dr. Motoda makes the following observations concerning Shintō doctrines. There are 13 Shintō sects in this country. What do they teach? They have no sacred writings that rank with our Bible, the Koran of the Mahomedans or the Buddhist Scriptures. Their articles of belief are extremely simple. They exhort the people to respect the Gods, to be patriotic, to reverence the Emperor and obey his commands, and they profess to explain the laws of nature and to teach morality. But there are five characteristics of Shintoism which it is important to note. (1) It is a religion for this world only. It has no doctrines bearing on a future life. (2) Its gods are apotheosized historical personages, and it is essentially a polytheistic religion. (3) Though it has something to say about spirits or ghosts, it has no fixed doctrine concerning the soul of man.

* Both Christianity and Buddhism teach that there are limits to civil authority and that their objects of worship are higher in rank than any earthly potentate. Hence it has happened again and again that men and women have gone to prison or suffered death rather than obey commands that they regard as contrary to the teaching of their religion. It is to this element in religion that Dr. Miyake alludes and Dr. Katō too refers, when asserting that there are anti-State elements in religion.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

(4) It is a religion that is centred in the Japanese State and has no connection with the big outside world. (5) It is clear that some Shintō sects have borrowed much from Confucianism and others have taken big slices from Buddhism.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP NICOLAI.

The last few numbers of the *Seikyō Shimpō* have been full of articles on the late Archbishop Nicolai, some of which were written by members of the Greek Church and are reprints of the magazine and newspaper biographical sketches that have appeared. Though most of the facts which we are now about to set forth in order here may be known to some readers, we need no excuse for placing them on record in this Summary, considering how great a figure the late Archbishop was in Japan's religious world. Nicolai Kasatkin was born at Melyocza, Belui, Smolensk, Aug. 1st, 1836. In addition to being descended from royal princes, the Kasatkin family was blessed with talent, the Archbishop's father and grandfather having been distinguished priests of the Greek Church. Nicolai's desire to come to Japan as a missionary dates from the time of his perusal of Rear-Admiral Golownine's Diary. This Admiral was imprisoned in Matsumae by order of the Bakufu in 1811. He wrote very favourably of the Japanese. For some years Nicolai had to wait for an opportunity to put his resolve into execution. In 1860 it came. After being ordained, he was appointed Chaplain to the Russian Consulate in Hakodate. He travelled across Siberia in a wagonette, in which he slept at night, for there were no inns on the route. His progress was greatly delayed by the winter snow, so that it took him nearly a year to reach Hakodate, where he landed July 2nd, 1861. Mission work at that time being impossible, Nicolai spent all his time in learning the language, which he did without the aid of foreign dictionaries or grammars. Those Japanese who fraternised with him were threatened with assassination, so he had to exercise great caution in teaching religion. His first convert was a Tosa Buddhist priest, called Sawabe Takuma, who, with two others, was baptized in 1868. In 1869 Nicolai returned to Russia and the following year he obtained the consent of the Holy Synod for the establishment of a Mission in Japan. In 1872 a Russian Missionary called Anatoli, reached Hakodate and laboured under Nicolai for 18 years, after which he returned to Russia in ill health, where he died shortly after.

The late Archbishop had great faith in the power of an imposing structure to draw the attention of the public to the religion which he came to Japan to teach. So at the cost of 177,575 yen, the magnificent Surugadai Cathedral was erected. The largest subscriber to the building was a Moscow merchant whose name was unknown to Nicolai.

Not more than 10 foreigners were associated with Nicolai in mission work during the whole of his long life. All the business of the Church was superintended by him. The Rev. K. Ishikawa, the editor of the *Seikyō Shimpō*, once said that the Archbishop got through as much work in one day as is accomplished by eight Ministers of State. He stuck to his post winter and summer. In addition to all his mission work he found time to peruse a great many books written in divers languages, for he was said to be equally at home in reading Greek, Hebrew, Latin, German, French, Japanese and Chinese. For many years he devoted seven hours a day to the study of Japanese, and in order to get a thorough mastery of the colloquial, at one time he regularly attended the preaching services held at the Zōjōji temple, Shiba. As a result of his prodigious powers of application to study, he obtained such a knowledge of the Japanese language as no foreign scholar can claim to have acquired. In the translations he has left behind him he embodied the results of his wide research.

According to recent statistics the present strength of the Japanese Greek Church is:—39 Native Ordained priests; 117 Unordained helpers; 32,246 Members; 265 Organized Churches; 174 Church Buildings; 1 Boys' Boarding School, with

67 students in it, and 2 Girls' Boarding Schools with 76 students in them.

It is stated that the maintenance of the work has been costing 72,000 yen a year and that last year the Japanese supporters of the mission only provided 12,000 yen of this money. Seeing that the late Archbishop seems to have devoted the whole of his private income to paying the salaries of Christian workers and to supporting other Christian objects, the question of how the Church is going to get on without this pecuniary aid can not but be an anxious one. It will be difficult to find a successor to such a worker and organizer, and in proportion to the extent to which the whole Greek Church in Japan has relied on one man to help them out of every serious difficulty, financial or otherwise, the removal of this striking personality will be felt by Greek Church Christians throughout the length and breadth of the land.*

EDUCATION AND EXISTING RELIGIONS.

As an organ of high thought, religious, ethical and philosophical, the *To-A-no Hikari* has no rival in Japan to-day. As we observed in a former Summary, the Magazine has been enlarged and efforts are now being made to obtain contributions from Christian writers as well as from avowed Agnostics. The March number of the *To-A-no Hikari* contains an article on Christ by Dr. Ebina and an article on Christianity by Mr. Uchigasaki. On the question of how far it is desirable to allow ministers of religion to explain their doctrines in schools, Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō naturally has a great deal to say, and he occupies 16 pages of the Magazine in saying it. The opinion he holds on this subject, we may observe in passing, is firmly held by the majority of Japanese scholars, who see endless difficulties in the way of allowing any religious sect to openly do proselytizing work in State Schools. We will quote a sufficient number of Dr. Inoue's remarks to show the tenor of the whole essay. The policy of keeping religious teaching out of the schools was inaugurated by Tokugawa Iyasu and has been continued ever since his time. Prior to the establishment of the Tokugawa Government, in what were called *terakoya* (temple elementary schools), the Buddhist priests regularly taught religion to the pupils. But the early Tokugawa Shōguns being of opinion that Confucian morality was all that was needed for educational purposes, Buddhists were not allowed to propagate their doctrines in State Schools. Since Christianity has come to this country, with its numerous sectarian differences, the necessity of keeping all sectarian religious teaching out of the schools has been increasingly felt by our educational authorities. What is worthy of observation is the fact that almost all Western countries have gradually come round to the belief that the policy adopted by Japan in this matter is the only wise one to follow. So it has happened that not only in America, but in France, Switzerland, Italy and other countries, Christianity is being excluded from State schools.

Many Christians and Buddhists are in the habit of saying that much of the immorality that prevails shows how insufficient is the moral instruction imparted in State Schools. Dr. Inoue's reply to this is that the schools are no more to blame for existing wickedness than religionists, who are always at liberty to teach the pupils attending State Schools out of school hours as much as they please.

One of the greatest objections to allowing

* One part of the funeral ceremony held in honour of the late Archbishop Nicolai struck many people present at the obsequies as very peculiar. We refer to the kissing of the dead man's face that took place. Concerning this a correspondent of the *Japan Chronicle* writes:—"At 9 o'clock the lid of the coffin was removed, and a yellow cloth covering the face of the dead priest was drawn back. M. Vaskevitch, who represented the Russian Embassy, then bent over the coffin, and kissed the cheeks of the dead man, followed by all the members of the Church, young and old alike, who kissed first the Archbishop's face, and then his crucifix and Bible."—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

religious teachers to propagate their doctrines in schools, says Dr. Inoue, is the superstitious and mythical character of Buddhist and Christian teaching. Schools exist for the purpose of spreading scientific knowledge, and of giving pupils reliable information on various subjects. If authority were given to teachers to spread all manner of superstitious notions among pupils and to claim for them the same credence as is given to demonstrated scientific theories or to indubitable historical facts, great harm would certainly be done. Education and the existing religions can not then join hands. Their standards are radically different.

DR. J. TAKAGI'S DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY.

It would be impossible to speak too highly of this gigantic work. It represents many years of arduous work. The size of the page is 10 inches by 7 1/4 and, exclusive of the appendices and the indexes, there are 1,542 closely printed pages. As the type used is small, when one considers how the Japanese language lends itself to the compression of a large amount of material into very little space, it would be no exaggeration to say that if the matter found in this dictionary were rendered into English, over 2,000 pages would be required for its reproduction. The number of subjects treated, is over 3,100. These subjects are classified under 88 headings, such as, for instance, the names of religions, the names of sects, the names of schools of thought, theological or philosophical, and so on. There is an English as well as a Japanese index. The English index covers 29 pages. In addition to notices of all the great leaders of thought of former ages, the Dictionary contains short biographical sketches of a number of well known preachers, authors, poets and philosophers such as Matthew Arnold, Thomas Arnold, Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Bushnell, Lord Byron, Robert Burns, Guizot, Mill and Spencer. So it will be seen that though in name a Dictionary of Theology, it goes outside theology and aims at being a book of general reference for the use of students of ancient and modern thought. Though no doubt primarily designed for the use of the numerous Japanese pastors who know no foreign language, it certainly will also prove a valuable book of reference for school teachers and others who desire to obtain accurate information concerning the persons, things and places which are mentioned in the text-books they are engaged in explaining to their pupils.

It is perhaps unnecessary to observe that the strongest part of a dictionary of this kind is its historical part and the weakest its doctrinal and controversial parts. Take a subject like miracles. Dr. Takagi gives us his own views and quotes a good deal from Professor Harnack's writings on this topic. How many Japanese theologians will agree with what Dr. Takagi says on this subject it is impossible to say. The article gives personal opinions only. It could do nothing else; as in all Protestant sects sharp controversy is going on as to the possibility, the nature, the object and the desirability of what are called Christian miracles. Dr. Takagi admits that miracles are regarded as a hindrance to the propagation of Christianity rather than a help, and he rejects the theory that they are a proof of the truth of the Biblical Revelation. He says that the miraculous occurrences recorded in the Bible are not all to be interpreted literally and affirms that miracles are not an essential element in Christianity (*Mata Kiseki wa Kirisutokyo ni kakubekarasaru yoken* (要件) to iu ni wa arasaredomo, &c). It is quite plain that on such a subject Dr. Takagi has no authority to speak even for the Methodist Church to which he belongs, since opinion differs widely even in that Church on this question, much less for that of the numerous other sections of Christendom. In numerous articles on controversial topics such as sin and the atonement, Dr. Takagi furnishes abundant proof that the views of leading theologians have changed from age to age and that again and again error has been propagated with the authority that truth alone can rightfully claim to possess. This effectually disposes of the theory that on any

subject the teaching of the Church at any given time is wholly reliable. The contention that in all theological teaching truth and error, the certain and the uncertain, are so mingled that to separate them becomes an impossibility is proved up to the hilt by Dr. Takagi's scholarly work. Dr. Takagi has endeavored to show his readers where theology stands to-day, and in as far as any one man expressing largely his own opinions can do that, he has succeeded, but neither he nor any man living can tell us where it will stand 30 years hence, as the process of eradication of useless elements is going on apace all the time. "The question what dogmas, if any, we shall teach our school-children, is a burning one in English politics just now," said Dr. A. H. Sayce in the sermon he preached in Tokyo on the 17th instant.*

One of the most valuable parts of Dr. Takagi's learned work is the history he gives of the principal Churches established in this country. Among Protestant Missions the Presbyterian Church is first dealt with, which was founded by Doctors Hepburn, Brown and Verbeck, whose pictures are given in the Dictionary. Then comes the Methodist Church, followed by the Congregationalists, the Protestant Episcopal Church and the Greek Church. A full history of Roman Catholic Christian work in Japan is given in the article headed *Nihon*. That article covers 20 pages and describes minutely the development of mission work in this country during the past 50 years, as well as the part played by the early Roman Catholic pioneers in preparing the way for the reception of Christianity.

This Dictionary of Theology is undoubtedly the greatest work that has issued from the Japanese Christian press. In its preparation Dr. Takagi received much assistance from Messrs. Tomizu, Bessho, Shiraiishi, and Yamaji and from Dr. Harada Tasuku, he tells us in the Preface, but since the Dictionary is published in his name only, undoubtedly most of the work of compilation was done by this one man and, seeing that all the historical material used has been culled from foreign books and all the rest is the product of the author's brains, the publication of a such a book may be regarded as a triumph of mind over matter of a grand order.

The Dictionary is excellently printed by the Keiseisha, sells at 15 yen per copy, and weighs 8 1/2 lbs. Its wide circulation is, we should say, quite sure.

STATE RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIANITY.

In past years when religious controversy has become complicated, when all sorts of separate questions have been mixed together and few people know what the hubbub is all about, it has repeatedly happened that the *Koe* has published an article which by the elimination of all side issues and a clear statement of the points to be settled has enabled people to know how things stand. The March *Koe* has a leader of this kind bearing on the recent action of the Home Office. Among the remarks made in that article the following seem to us worth recording here. It is a comfort to us to know that the Government does not propose to turn Ministers of religion into officials, or "to speak unreservedly, into slaves" of the Home Office. Yet it is asserted that they desire closer relations between Christians and the State. But while expressing this desire they are careful to tell us that on no account will they allow religion to be taught in the schools. "We want religion to help the State education imparted," say they, "but this must be done outside the schools." This looks like trust and distrust combined. We do not see how a religion that is carefully excluded from the schools can aid the moral education imparted in these schools.

The idea of the Vice Minister of Home Affairs seems to be that Christianity here needs more Japonizing before it can be used by the State. But Christianity is a world religion and any attempt to narrow it down to a mere nationalistic creed like Shintoism can not succeed. There are European countries where Christianity has become the slave

of the Government. In consequence of this, however, it has ceased to be respected by the general public and its ministers are no longer ministers of religion, but officials (*Sono kyoshi wa shukyo no kyoshi de nakute seifu no yakunin to natta*). Is it seriously contemplated to follow in the wake of these countries in respect to the use to be made of Christianity here? To employ Christianity as a Government tool for political ends would be to debase it. Rather than see such a dangerous policy as this followed, we would prefer to witness the open renunciation of Christianity by the Government (*Moshi shiite kakaru aimai, kiten naru seisaku wo mote asobô to suru naraba, sono yori mo mushiro mattaku Kirisutokyo wo sudsuru ga yoi*). When we say that our religion is not to be modified to suit anybody, that neither our doctrines nor our principles can be altered at the command or suggestion of politicians, that the Christianity we preach is not capable of being transformed so as to serve State purposes in Japan, we shall be denounced as bigots and as lacking true patriotism. But this is only what we expect. Had the propagators of our Catholic faith allowed themselves to be influenced by abuse of this kind in past ages, Catholic Christianity would never have occupied the pre-eminent position it now holds. To yield to the pressure of secular power in things that concern religion has never been our way. To make compromises would be to betray our sacred trust.

What is meant by giving State recognition to Christianity? If its alliance to the State is to be understood as implying subservience to political ends and if that is what is contemplated by the Authorities, then all we say is that this is the surest way of making Christianity commit suicide.

It is worth contrasting the great mistrust displayed by the Roman Catholics with the jubilation shown by many Protestant writers over the recent action of the Home Office. Time will show which analysis of the existing situation is correct.

THE SELF-ADVERTISING WAYS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

The March *Rikugô Zasshi* devotes an enormous amount of space to articles on Mr. Tokonami's proposals culled from all available sources. Among the articles on other subjects published there is an anonymous one which deals with the above-named topic, the gist of which we now proceed to give. There is far too much self-advertisement going on in the Churches. At Prayer Meetings numbers of people get up and talk about their own personal feelings in a way that seems to me very objectionable. It is weary work listening to these substitutes for the prayers that ought to be offered up but that are not forthcoming. Then many of the prayers that one hears have a ring of insincerity about them. The tone of voice is frequently very artificial. First and foremost among the things that call for reform in our churches are the hypocritical and flippant prayer-meetings that are held*. Our Christian magazines and newspapers are full of very worldly-looking advertisements of sundry kinds. Notices of meetings to be held or that have been held are worded in an exaggerated style. Then one constantly hears Christians speaking in a boastful manner concerning what the Church is going to do in future. We have been 50 years making some 100,000 converts and nobody supposes that these are all true Christians. There is nothing more conducive to the collection of a number of faithless professors of religion than the worldly advertising methods followed by some of our Christian pastors.

COMMENTS ON MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S ARTICLE ON JAPAN'S NEW RELIGION.

The Japanese press has been almost universally silent on the topic discussed by Mr. Chamberlain in the essay he wrote for the *Literary Guide*. But a few periodicals have ventured to draw attention to its publication or to translate certain parts of

* *Warera wa konnaichi no kyôkai ni okeru shoshukwasu no uchi ni tsukite, kaitaku subeki mono no dai ichi to shite, madan kono rui no gisen, kishaku naru kôkai wo ageru.*

* Published in the *Daily Mail* of the 20th instant.

it. The *Chūgō Eiji Shimbun*, a student's paper, owned and edited by Mr. Isobe Yaichirō, gave a concise summary of Mr. Chamberlain's article, and announced that it was impossible to publish a translation of the whole of it because of the attitude of the authorities towards criticism of this kind. The *Kirishutokyo Sekai* (Congregational) did venture to translate some part of the article, carefully omitting, however, all references to the Imperial House and to the comparison of the Jewish and the Japanese religions of patriotism. The translator makes it quite clear that it was the fear of consequences that prevented him from giving a translation of the whole essay (*habakaru takoro ate*). But readers are informed that "some very outspoken remarks are to be found in the original."

In the March number of Mr. Matsumura Kai-kei's organ the *Michi* we find an article entitled *New Phenomena in the Religious World*, which contains the following reference to Mr. Chamberlain's article:—"Mr. Chamberlain in an article of great length has endeavoured to prove that we have given divine authority to our Emperor and thus have set up a religion which aims at conquering the whole world (*Nihon no Tenkō ni Shinken wo fushi, kore wo yo (我) shite, sekai wo seijuku sen to mazu ichi no daishūkyō kwan de aru*)*. Mr. Chamberlain then proceeds to ridicule the notion of the superiority of this creed. I have no hesitation in saying that I am unable to regard all Mr. Chamberlain's assertions as founded on fact. A great deal that he says comes from his own imagination. But still such dangerous thoughts as these are no doubt given utterance to by certain rascals (*hase-mono*), flatterers, and ignorant bigots and also by a certain set of army men" (*oru ichibu no gunjin*).

Mr. Matsumura then proceeds to denounce such people, comparing them to those who take the Lord's name in vain. Though he does not deny that there are persons in Japan who hold the views which form the subject of Mr. Chamberlain's essay, he regards them as an insignificant minority.

Mr. Matsumura then proceeds to discuss another tendency in the Japanese religious world. He is of opinion that one result of the Russo-Japanese war was a dangerous increase of national vanity on the part of the Japanese, accompanied by a good deal of anti foreign feeling. "We are a superior race of people to the Occidentals," said many a Japanese after the war. Religious teachers like Dr. Ebina Daijō and Mr. Uchigasaki are now engaged in trying to dissipate this notion, in endeavouring to show how far behind Western nations Japan is. The wave of nationalism that swept over the country after the war is now giving place to a pro-foreign movement, which though only a small ripple at present, may yet grow into a wave, in obedience to the law that action in one direction invariably produces reaction in another. The working of these counter movements will be closely watched by all interested in Japan's progress.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR R. BADEN POWELL.

The S.S. *Minnesota* was late in arriving at Yokohama on Tuesday, it being about seven o'clock before she dropped anchor in the harbour. In view of the fact that Lieutenant-General Sir R. Baden Powell was a passenger on board the vessel, the local contingent of boy scouts, under the command of Mr. Clarence Griffin, journeyed out to the steamship to welcome the founder of their force to the premier port of Japan.

This morning, the General has promised to review these sturdy youngsters and to give them cheering encouragement; whilst at 12.30, the British Association has the pleasure of being the hosts of Sir Robert at tiffin at the Yokohama Union Club.

* It is perhaps unnecessary to point out that Mr. Chamberlain's statements will not bear this interpretation. The Japanese religion of conquering the world is purely imaginary.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY)

YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club was held on Friday afternoon last at the Board of Trade Rooms, Mr. V. R. Bowden, the Vice President, presiding in the absence of Mr. D. H. Blake, the President. There was a fair attendance of members.

The Chairman, in calling the meeting to order, said he very much regretted to state that owing to the absence of Mr. Blake, their President of many years standing, and his own absence in Kobe, the usual speech from the Chair would be very much curtailed. He had only just had the report and accounts placed in his hands, and it was therefore impossible to detail all the points of interest. They would see from the report that they had suffered a further loss of members, which was much to be regretted. They were also going to lose one who had worked very earnestly on the Committee. Mr. Blake, as they knew, was leaving them for some time, and they would lose his services, which he was sure all would agree had been of great benefit to the Club. (Applause.) Mr. Blake had been Vice-President and President for a good many years, and it would be difficult to fill his place;—in fact, he did not envy the chairman who was elected to fill the position vacated by one so energetic and able. Messrs. Cornes, Kellogg and Buckle were also leaving and their places would have to be filled. Turning to the list of members, it now numbered 270 against 285, the previous year, which meant a still further falling off. Of course this was only to be expected in the disorganised state of the Club. In fact they ought to congratulate themselves they had so many members. Regarding the ground, he would just call their attention to what was stated in the Annual Report. They had no further information as to when it was likely to be available. A good deal of work had been put in by the committee for the purpose of obtaining ground for the use of the Club. The Committee had something in view, but was unable to take the members into its confidence at present. The matter was in very capable hands and in the course of a comparatively short time, the Committee would have something to put before them, which might result in the Club having permanent grounds of its own. (Applause.)

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and accounts, the motion being seconded by Mr. P. A. Cox and carried unanimously.

In regard to the election of officers, the Chairman said he expected to go away shortly, so he would not be able to fill the position of Vice-President, even if the members desired him to do so. It had been suggested that Mr. S. Isaacs should be elected President and he had very much pleasure in moving his election. Mr. Isaacs had been a regular attendant at the committee meetings and had taken a keen interest in the club, more especially in connection with the endeavour to obtain a new and permanent ground. If they succeeded in doing this it would be largely due to his efforts.

Mr. W. D. S. Edwards seconded the motion.

No other nominations being forthcoming, the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the result being greeted with applause.

Mr. A. J. Cornes proposed that Mr. E. F. Crowe should be elected Vice President of the Club. He had taken a great interest in cricket and in the cricket ground.

Mr. G. H. Bell seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. K. Hardman expressed his regret that after being elected Captain of cricket he had been unable to take part in any matches. He would like to propose that Mr. W. D. S. Edwards should be elected captain of cricket for the ensuing year.

The motion was seconded by Mr. P. A. Cox and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. D. S. Edwards, in thanking the members,

said he was sorry that Mr. Hardman had not been able to play last season. As Mr. Hardman was not likely to be here this year he (the speaker) had consented to take his place, on the condition that Mr. Hardman gave his support while in Yokohama.

The Chairman said the following gentlemen had consented to serve on the Committee if elected; Messrs. Postlethwaite, R. F. Moss, V. A. Hearne, G. H. Bell, and K. Hardman.

Mr. Cox proposed and Mr. Spencer Smith seconded that the Committee, as read by the Chairman, be elected *en bloc*.

The motion was later put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. S. Isaacs, in thanking the members for electing him President, said that he was afraid he had done very little to deserve the honour. All the members of the Committee during the past year had done everything possible with reference to the ground, and if in a short time they were able to put something tangible before them, it would be due almost entirely to Mr. Blake, and the other members of the Committee, who had shown great energy in the matter.

Mr. E. F. Crowe also thanked the members for electing him Vice-President, and took the occasion to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring committee, but for whose work the Club would probably have gone to pieces.

Mr. Strome seconded the motion.

Mr. W. D. S. Edwards said that before the motion was put to the meeting he would like to endorse what had been said, more especially in regard to Mr. Blake, who had done a lot of work not known to the members. Mr. Blake had very much regretted that he would be unable to attend the meeting, as he wanted to explain to the members what had been done in connection with the ground. At no distant date they hoped to put something tangible before the members at an extraordinary general meeting.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

In reply to a question as to the possibility of holding an athletic meeting this year, Mr. Isaacs pointed out that the Nippon Race Club would probably always be ready to lend its track for the purpose.

Mr. Spencer Smith asked whether it would not be possible to get up an athletic competition with some of the Japanese Colleges, as this would cause greater interest to be taken.

The Chairman pointed out that lists had been sent round last year in regard to the holding of an athletic meeting on the race track but there had been so few entries, that the meeting was called off. Mr. Spencer Smith's suggestion was a good one and might be taken up by the incoming committee.

After some further discussion the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the annual general report of the Club:—

The Committee regret that the Report which they have to present for the past year is very unsatisfactory.

The Club still continues in a more or less disorganized condition.

We were fortunate in being able to participate in the usual Interport Events during the year, but the same remarks apply as stated in last year's report, that this was only possible on account of extra exertions put forth by individual members in order to get the various teams together.

COMMITTEE:—Messrs F. J. Abbott and L. C. Sharman having resigned, owing to their departure for home, Messrs. A. J. Cornes and N. Buckle were invited to join the Board, which they duly accepted.

LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS:—35 New Members were elected during the year, but there have been several resignations, and the total Membership is now 270.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:—This was raised to *just* 5 per annum in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Annual General Meeting.

GROUNDS.

The new Ground was opened to public use during October, but was not availed of to any extent by the Club, as the turf had not had sufficient time to set

property, and consequently was not in good condition. During the spring and late summer, the authorities gave permission for the use of the old grounds for baseball practice and matches, and, of course, the same facilities were extended for Cricket, but owing to the absence of turf, it could not be utilized for that particular sport. However, some Cricket practice was indulged in, and one match was played on the new ground before the regular Interport fixtures took place in October.

Although the new Ground was considered too small for practical purposes, it was found after the high wire net fence was erected that very few balls were put out of bounds. This may be due to the soft state of the turf at the time.

The Committee are pleased to record their appreciation of the courtesies extended to the Club by the Japanese authorities in connexion with the arrangements for the Interport Cricket and Baseball matches. It was thought at one time that the Ground might not be available for these events, in which case they would have had to go by default, but through some special efforts on the part of the Municipal authorities this misfortune was averted.

After the conclusion of the Baseball and Cricket season, Football was, as usual, taken up, and there was no thought, either on the part of the Committee or members but that the new ground would be available. It, therefore, came as a great shock and disappointment to all concerned when, right at the Football season, the authorities announced that the turf was in bad condition, and that consequently the ground would be closed for an indefinite period.

The Committee made strenuous efforts to get permission to use the ground for just one occasion—the Interport Rugby match—but without avail. The authorities did, however, make a special concession in granting the use of the old grounds for practice; but as the space was not sufficient, the privilege was not exercised to any great extent.

It must be accepted as fairly certain, that the Club is not likely to get the use of the Ground for both summer and winter sports.

During the whole year, the Committee have been on the look-out for some suitable ground that might be acquired for the exclusive use of the Club, but their endeavours have been in vain. Quite recently some negotiations have been going on with the Yokohama Tramway Company, having in view the purchase or lease of some suitable property in the reclaimed area at Honmoku, but no satisfactory progress has been made, although it is hoped that some further report may be ready for the General Meeting.

The Committee take the liberty of reminding members that the acquisition of new Grounds is a problem very difficult of satisfactory solution, as in each negotiation there are the important items of accessibility, suitability and price to be taken in account.

CRICKET.

It is satisfactory to report that the Club was able to get a little Cricket during 1911, although the actual playing season only extended over a period of one month.

The authorities allowed the use of the ground for practice at certain fixed times, and the Club had several practice games.

Two matches were played on the new ground, both of which were won. The game against the Fleet was chiefly noteworthy for some good batting by F. Syme Thomson, and the Interport game with Kobe for an excellent innings by P. E. Bousfield and useful bowling by F. Syme Thomson in the first innings, followed up by a sensational bowling performance by Captain Figgott in the second.

The batting prize for the best score in the Interport Match, kindly presented by Mr. Hardman, and the bowling prize for the best bowling average, kindly presented by Mr. Cornes, were won by Mr. Bousfield and Captain Figgott respectively.

BASEBALL.

Baseball, like the other branches of sport indulged in by members of the Club, was played under great disadvantages during the season. While permission was given to use the old ground at intervals, the diamond was in such crude condition as to make useful practice for the Interport almost impossible.

The opening game of the year was played against the Officers of the American Fleet in port in the latter part of May, and was won by the Club, but during the same week the Club was beaten by the New Orleans, the crack team of the Fleet. This was the only opportunity of playing teams other than the local Japanese. In the games played with the latter, honours were about even. We were permitted to get on the new ground only a week before the Inter-

port Matches, which was too short a time for the men to tune up to their best capabilities. Neither the Kobe nor Yokohama Interport team was up to the standard of the last five years. Kobe proved the better, and took back the pennant after it had rested here three years.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

The ballot for Officers resulted as follows—N. Buckle (capt.), A. C. Kellogg & S. A. Vincent (Vice-captain).

The first game of the season was played in October against the team of H. M. S. Monmouth, who had a pretty strong team. The Y. C. & A. C. won by one goal and 1 try to nil.

The only other games during the season were two very unsatisfactory matches with Keio University on their ground, and one practice game on the new Recreation ground in November.

The Interport Match with Kobe took place at Kobe on March 2nd, and resulted in a win for Kobe, for the first time in history, by 1 goal and 2 tries to nil.

It is very satisfactory to note the sporting spirit shown generally this year, in spite of the lack of a ground, and the Club was able to put two fifteens into the field on the same day against Keio on the second occasion. This shows that the interest in Rugby is getting very large, and it is to be hoped that a large and suitable grass ground will be forthcoming before long.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

The elections of Captains resulted as follows:—V. A. Hearne, Captain; W. B. Mason, Jr. & T. A. Levack, Vice-Captains.

Only three Club games were placed this season, and we may justly call this the most unsatisfactory Association Football Season we have had.

In addition to the Club matches, a game was played against H.M.S. Monmouth, and in this game the Club was beaten by 5 goals to 1.

The annual match against the K.R. & A.C. was played in Kobe on 17th February, and the Y.C. & A.C. were beaten by 6 goals to 1.

In response to an invitation from the Shanghai Football Association an All-Japan team (comprised of members from the Y.C. & A.C. and the K.R. & A.C.) was sent to Shanghai at the end of last year. Three games were played in Shanghai, viz:—

All-Japan v. Shanghai, won by Shanghai by 5 goals to 1.

All-Japan v. Shanghai Recreation Club, won by S.R.C. by 1 goal to nil.

All-Japan v. Shanghai Football Club, won by Japan by 2 goals to nil.

The Japan team were most hospitably entertained in Shanghai, and are looking forward to meeting a Shanghai team this year, either in Kobe or Yokohama.

Opportunity must be here taken to thank those gentlemen who so generously contributed towards the expenses of the team to Shanghai, and also to the P. & O. S. N. Coy., who very kindly gave the team a great reduction from their usual passage rates.

ATHLETICS.

A list was circulated in the spring, but the entries did not come up to the expectations of the Committee, therefore the meeting was called off. It is hoped that during this spring a better result will be forthcoming.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY, 1912.

RECEIPTS.		Yen
To Balance from Account	616.61	
To Subscriptions collected during the year...	1,270.00	
To Entrance Fees for 35 new members at yen 7.50	262.50	
To Collections in connection with Interport Football Matches and Dinners	1,076.97	
To Interest on Credit Balance	18.36	
To Gear: sale of cricket gear to Mr. Hulm	25.00	
Total	3,269.44	

PAYMENTS.

		Yen
By Working expenses, including Wages, printing and sundries	841.55	
By Interport and other Matches expenses...	1,483.31	
By Balance at Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	941.58	
Total	3,269.44	

E. & O. E.

Yokohama, January, 1902.

G. H. BELL, Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and Found Correct:

W. M. DENISTON.

THE JAPAN SILK GOODS ASSOCIATION.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Japan Silk Goods Association was held at the Botanical Gardens, Koishikawa, at half past two on the afternoon of the 27th instant, and was attended by over thirteen hundred members. Prince Fushimi, President of the Association, honoured the meeting with his presence. Among the prominent guests invited were Viscount Makino, Minister for Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, Baron Shibusawa and Baron Sakatani.

The opening of the proceedings having been announced by Baron Matsudaira, Head of the Association, Prince Fushimi rose and read the following speech:—

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the meritorious services of those who have employed their efforts in the improvement and development of our silk industry, and to confer Badges of Merit upon those who have made special endeavours for the development of the Association.

"In view of the decided increase marking of late years the amount of raw silk produced in this country, the silk-weaving industry takes a by no means insignificant place, as contributing towards the promotion of the national wealth and the development of the state economics. There is still, however, not a little room for improvement, and the goal of the Association yet lies very distant. It is my sincere wish that you, Members of the Association, ever being aware of the weighty responsibilities devolving upon your shoulders, will all the more unite in your untiring efforts for the further development of the Association and the improvement of this particular branch of industry, with a view to the promotion of our national welfare."

In response, Baron Matsudaira stated that it was the bounden duty of the people to employ every possible effort for the improvement and development of the raw silk industry, which occupies the first and foremost place among exports, in view of the present condition of the State economics. The amount of the silk export now surpassed that of the whole European product. This reassuring state of things was due, in great measure, to the constant encouragement His Highness had, as President, given to the members of the Association, and also to the sincerity and assiduity with which the latter had discharged what they considered their duty, for the attainment of the objects for which the Association was organized. The members had resolved to do their uttermost for the further development of the industry they are engaged in, that they may prove themselves worthy of the trust reposed in them.

After the Secretary's report upon the Association's work for the past year had been read, those members who had rendered meritorious services in the development of the Association and the silk weaving industry, were duly rewarded.

A speech by the Minister for Agriculture and Commerce and a congratulatory speech by the Minister of Finance brought the proceedings to a close.

YAMAKURI SHOTEN.

STOCK EXCHANGE DAILY REPORT.

March 29th, 1912.

To day being devoted to Settlements, there is no market.

The following is the number of shares that changed hands.

March Delivery	98,340
Yen.	
Value of the above	4,876,100
Average price per share	49.569
Compared with last month's transactions:—	
Increase in number of shares ...	10,170
Yen.	
Increase in value	41,401
Average per share	1.04 1/2

PRESENTATION TO MR. W. WALKER.

As already briefly announced, Mr. W. Walker, Instructor in English at the Yokohama Commercial School, was recently presented by the School Association with a handsome silver cup, the occasion being the twentieth anniversary of Mr. Walker's joining the School staff.

The following letter, which accompanied the presentation, is a tribute to the ability with which Mr. Walker has discharged his duties during this long period:—

To William Walker, Esq., Instructor of Y. C. S.
Most honoured Sir,—Availing ourselves of this memorable occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Yokohama Commercial School, we deem it our greatest honour and pleasure to celebrate your 20 years' career as an Instructor of our School, expressing our heartfelt gratitude for the faithful and conscientious care you have taken in our commercial education.

At the beginning of your career, the present institution was still in its infancy, and the art of commerce was yet regarded as beneath the attention of the people at large. From those days onward you have exerted yourself to your utmost, assisting the Principal Misawa, in the painstaking work of training youth for business life and stimulating the growing interest for commercial competition with single-eyed devotion and unswerving honesty of purpose. To your untiring efforts and cordial attention, with those of the Principal, are mainly attributed the present prosperity of our school and business successes of hundreds of graduates, for which the city of Yokohama is undoubtedly grateful.

It may not be improper for us, therefore, to take this opportunity of asking you, Sir, to accept this trifling present, which, humble as it is, is the unique and visible proof of our warm affection and everlasting gratitude. "Take from our mouths the wish for Happy years."

May you enjoy health, longevity and happiness, and continue your long exemplary career of usefulness to

THE KOYUKWAI,
Yokohama Commercial School.

March 20th, 1912.

SIGNOR SARCOLI'S CONCERT.

Owing to the weather being far from inviting on Friday evening last, only a small audience, both Japanese and foreigners, assembled at the Gaiety for the concert given by Signor Sarcoli, who was ably assisted by Madame Shibata, Madame Todoravitch, Mr. Komori and M. Dubraveich. It was regrettable that the attendance was not larger, for the singing was of a very high order. Madame Shibata was in exceptionally fine voice and rendered her various selections with sympathy and remarkable purity of tone, fully earning the enthusiastic applause that greeted her. Madame Todoravitch at the piano also charmed her audience with her selections from *Liadow* and *Liszt*; whilst Mr. Komori and M. Dubraveich were also in splendid form. Signor Sarcoli was especially good in his songs from Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and Puccini's *Butterfly*. The following is the full programme of the evening:—

- I.
1. Wanderer Schubert
Mr. Komori (Baritone)
2. Nozze di Figaro Mozart
Madame Shibata (Soprano)
3. Bohème Puccini
Signor Sarcoli (Tenor)
4. Rondo Capriccio Saint Saens
Mr. Dubraveich (Violin)
- II.
1. A. Barcarolle Liadow
B. Rhapsodie Liszt
Madame Todoravitch
2. A. Pagliacci Leoncavallo
B. Tosca Puccini
C. Fedora Giordano
D. Butterfly Puccini
Signor Sarcoli (Tenor)
3. Barbieri di Siviglia Rossini
Madame Shibata (Soprano)
- III.
- GRAND DUO.
- Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni
Madame Shibata and Signor Sarcoli.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The much talked-of million electric light scheme, projected by the Tokyo Municipality, seems to have been decided on, as a result of a conference between Mr. Kōmatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, Mr. Nakaya, Chief of the Electric Bureau, Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, and Mr. Katsuda, Chief of the Finance Bureau, on the one side, and Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs and Mr. Mizuno, Chief of the Local Affairs Bureau on the other. In what form the problem has been solved is not yet known, but the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, quoting the following opinions as being entertained by the above three Departments respectively, believes that the project will finally be sanctioned on some minor conditions.

The Communications Department, viewing the question chiefly from the business standpoint, seems to hold that as Tokyo City has already two electric light companies, namely the Tokyo Dento and Nippon Dento, to sanction the million light plan of the Municipality, would give rise to keen competition in lighting charges. Under these circumstances, if the million-light project is to be permitted, it must be accompanied by conditions placing a limit on lighting charges for a certain period of time.

The Home Department attaches more importance to the preliminary investigations than to the scheme itself, wishing to ascertain whether such a public undertaking might not press unduly on private enterprise. The Department therefore thinks that the scheme of the Tokyo Municipality, if sanctioned, should be only on such conditions as may ensure the maintenance of order.

The Finance Department holds that with a view to preventing any possible disturbance in economic circles as a result of such a Municipal enterprise, the issue of the public bonds necessary for the carrying out of the scheme should be accompanied by certain conditions, and a certain limit placed on both the amount and term of the loan.

YOKOHAMA ROWING CLUB.

LAST SATURDAY'S REGATTA.

Bitterly cold weather greeted the opening day of the Yokohama Rowing season last Saturday afternoon, and was responsible for the very small attendance of visitors; whilst the heavy sea prevailing outside, did not tend to make climatic conditions any more comfortable. The racing, however, was good, every event being closely contested.

The Fours were rowed in two heats, the first two crews in each heat competing in the final. In the first heat Flanagan's crew (W. Graham, N. Brockhurst, and H. J. Taylor) was first, beating by half a length the crew stroked by J. L. Graham and comprising W. H. Kirby, H. A. Scott, and H. E. Gilbert. In the second heat a close race was witnessed, the winning crew being stroked by L. Stornebrink, the other members being R. H. Box, P. Hornstein, and L. Andreis. The second boat was stroked by S. A. Vincent, with whom were G. L. James, G. Charlesworth, and M. Apar. In the final Vincent's crew secured the verdict, after a close race, from Stornebrink, the other boats being some distance in rear.

The Pairs were also rowed in two heats. In the first V. G. Bowden and W. Graham defeated F. M. Flanagan and O. F. Moccock by a length and a half, and in the second J. L. Graham and W. H. Kirby defeated S. A. Vincent and W. G. Nicolle. In the final Bowden and Graham won by about two lengths.

At the close of the races the President of the Club (Mr. V. R. Bowden) presented the prizes won in the recent Cross-country races, Mason and Bardsen being the first and second men in

the first race, and Box and Russell the winners in the second event.

The chief prize for the first race—a silver bowl—was presented by Mr. Maurice Russell, and that for the second race was contributed anonymously.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE PRESS.

A delightful evening was spent on Thursday last by representatives of the Tokyo and Yokohama Japanese and Foreign Press when His Excellency the Governor of Yokohama, Mr. Oshima, courteously invited the journalists to dine with him at his official residence, so that he might meet them and informally discuss things in general. Nearly all the leading newspapers were represented, the party, including the host, numbering twenty. At the conclusion of the dinner, His Excellency drank to the health of his guests and the Press and in the course of his speech, expressed his pleasure in welcoming them in his house and his hopes that during the time he occupied the position of Governor of Yokohama, he would be able to accomplish much for the benefit of the Port and the community. The entire absence of formality made the evening a marked success and it was close on ten o'clock before the guests dispersed. It is to be hoped that the journalists left as good an impression with the Governor as he did with them; for concerning the latter, his fine soldierly appearance and his courtesy and charm of manner, thoroughly conquered the representatives of the Fourth Estate.

"THE GAIETY" CINEMATOGRAPH.

The popularity of "The Gaiety" Cinematograph shows no signs of waning; for both in the afternoon and evening of Saturday last, large audiences were present to enjoy the excellent films presented by the management. The evening audience was naturally the largest and it can be truthfully stated that the shows were excellent. The evening production was exceptionally good, especially the lengthy film devoted to Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. This film is said to be 1,300 feet in length and is undoubtedly one of the best that has been shown in Yokohama. The acting was splendid and the pictures were remarkably clear. At the same time—more in sorrow than in anger—we would gently and sadly call the attention of the musical director of the theatre to the selections played by the orchestra during the presentation of this tragic play. They opened well with classic music that was in perfect harmony with the scenes depicted; but at the end, when the full tragic note was struck, they gave us rag-time music and comic songs. Perhaps the leader of the orchestra did not desire us to be too miserable; or may be the present critic lacks a proper sense of humour.

The next performance will be on Saturday, April 6.

THE CUSTOMS DUTIES IN CHosen.

The Government has decided to abolish the Custom duties on exports from Chosen except in the case of wheat and seven other items. This, it is thought, will affect the price of rice in the domestic market, and will be a severe blow to the rice exporters of British Burmah and Saigon. The British and French Governments recently applied to the Japanese authorities for an explanation, pointing out that Japan pledged herself at the time of the annexation of Korea to leave the Customs duties unrevived for ten years to come. In reply, the Japanese authorities some time ago forwarded to the two Governments a memorandum explaining that the Customs dues which she promised to leave unchanged for ten years referred, not to the export, but to the import duties only, further pointing out that there were many instances where under the Conventional tariff, the export duties had been reduced or even completely abolished.

THE SHARE MARKET.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their report for the 30th ult. state:—

In yesterday's settlements for March deliveries a scarcity of scrip was experienced, which caused this morning's market to stiffen all round, with the exception of Sugats which declined fractionally. Specie Bank rose 2.30 yen. Spinning shares were in demand and rose 75 sen to 1.00 yen. Stock Exchange old and new rose 1.45 yen and 35 sen respectively.

The afternoon market ruled weak all round in sympathy with the depression on the Osaka market. Yusen declined 60 sen, Spinnings 80/90 sen, Oils 40/50 sen, Stock Exchanges 1.35 yen for the old and 1.00 yen for the new.

April 1.

The influence of the share market, which was upset by the destructive slump following the boom after the Russo Japanese War, has now not only entirely recovered, but the outlook has become much stronger, which is vindicated by 100,000 shares changing hands last month.

The easy tone of the money market, stimulating the price of shares, has prevented the bears from taking advantage of the situation. Purchasers are now looking out for sound and profitable investments to replace the defunct Tokyo Railway shares.

The new month's market started quiet but somewhat firm in tone. All shares fluctuated 30/70 sen. Stock Exchange old went up 1.05 yen, new 60 sen. The afternoon session opened somewhat unsettled on account of the excess of imports of 6,140,000 yen, but the tone of the market seems quiet and firm. Exchange old 60 sen down and new 20 sen up.

April 2.

As there is a large amount of surplus money still lying idle from the receipts of the Tokyo Railway Shares, investors are keenly on the look out for sound and good dividend-bearing stocks and in consequence the following shares were in especial favour, viz. Tokyo Electric Light, which advanced 1.45 yen, Nikkan Gas 90 sen, Fuji Paper 1.35 yen, Fuji Gas Spinning 1.90 yen, Kanegafuchi 1.55 yen, Nishins 55 sen. Sugars were also in fair demand with rises of 30 to 50 sen.

Although Stock Exchange old dropped 25 sen and new rose only 8; sen, the undertone of the market seems strong.

The afternoon session opened ½ hour late, the boom still continuing. Fuji Paper Shares made a further rise of 1.60 yen for old, 75 sen for new. Owing to an alteration in import duty, the Company's dividend is expected to increase by 3 per cent. Stock Exchange shares remained dull.

THE INCREASE OF FREIGHT RATES.

The Shipping Conference has decided to raise the freight rates from June 1st by some ten per cent. all round. This sudden increase in the rates is a severe blow to the Japanese traders, and the Yokohama traders unions have decided to make a protest against the increase. In the districts of Nagoya and Yokkaichi, most of the exporters concerned are reported to have resolved to start a movement against the decision of the Shipping Union by reserving their goods for the time being.

It is feared that under the new freight rates such cheap goods as wicker trunks and Aizu chinaware will practically disappear from the market abroad. Under these circumstances the question is one that claims a considerable share of public attention from the point of view of the export trade. In view of these considerations the Communications Department is said to have not yet sanctioned the increase of freight rates by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

JAPANESE FISHERMEN IN CANADIAN WATERS.

YOKOHAMA RESIDENT'S OPINION.

The following letter on "Japanese as Fishermen" appears in the *Victoria Daily Colonist* (British Columbia), from Mr. Allan Owston, of Yokohama:—

"As the monopolising of the fishing industry of British Columbia by the Japanese appears to be becoming a serious problem for the British Columbians, perhaps the views of a Britisher who has had close on forty years' experience of the Japanese in their own country may, while not offering a complete remedy, at least point the direction in which remedy may be legitimately and effectively sought.

If our rule of life were simply an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, it would only be necessary to take the Japanese fishing laws and customs as applied to Britishers in Japan, and enforce them against the Japanese in British Columbia. The Japanese would have sore eyes and toothache with a vengeance.

But we are white men and the white man's law is to do unto others as he would they should do unto him. So we cannot, without doing ourselves dishonour, stoop to the lower standard of the Japanese, whose motto is not "Give and take," but "You give, I take," every time.

However, let us be just and consider why the Japanese should show such excessive greediness compared with other people. The reason is the same as with the Siwash, who takes your cow and converts it into deer meat. You have more than plenty to eat while he has not enough. Therefore if the Japanese are to be condemned because their views as to the proper distribution of property do not entirely coincide with those of their neighbours, they are also to be pitied. It is starvation which presses them to try for all the short cuts in life, and makes them prefer to fight for their food rather than work for it. A false policy, of course, but when a man is starving he has no time to think of anything but the quickest way to get food. How false a policy this is becomes easily apparent when you consider that, what with conscription and war taxes, the country is becoming more and more impoverished, while at the same time the Japan stream contains enough fish to feed the whole of Asia, if Japan were to devote half her present military waste to the taking of this food which lies at her very doors. There is no need to cross the Pacific to find it.

It would be folly to drive all the Japanese precipitately out of British Columbia. It would ruin the fishing industry for a long time. The only permanent way of solving the present difficulty is to displace the Japanese fishermen with better men from the Atlantic as quickly as possible, and if there should be a Britisher amongst them who thinks that he cannot compete against "Japanese efficiency," send him over here and let him see for himself what this much-vaunted "efficiency" amounts to. Deprived of the advantage of superior numbers the Japanese cannot begin to compete with the Britisher. He is not in it. He cannot live in the same water on anything like equal terms. The Japanese themselves are very much alive to this fact, and that is why they dare not facilitate the introduction of capital and skill and brains into their own country by those who already possess them, and enormous is the loss and retardation of Japan in consequence. In fact, to some careful observers it appears that in spite of her marvellous acquisition of foreign ideas during the past fifty years, Japan is in reality rapidly falling behind in the great international race.

What a warning this should be to British Columbia to avoid narrow-minded policies, and to seek only the highest ideals, so that with her enormous resources she may see her sons take their share in the peaceful domination of the Pacific Ocean.

MARRIAGES IN JAPAN ACT.

The text has already been published, we believe, of the Marriages in Japan (Validity) Act, but in view of the measure having now been passed by Parliament we reproduce it again:—

Whereas doubts have been entertained with respect to the validity of certain marriages (both or one of the Parties thereto being subjects or a subject of this realm) solemnised in the Empire of Japan since the sixteenth of July eighteen hundred and ninety-nine (being the date when a treaty between Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, dated the sixteenth of July eighteen hundred and ninety-four, came into force), and it is expedient to remove those doubts:

Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. All marriages (both or one of the parties thereto being subjects or a subject of this realm) solemnised before the passing of this Act in the Empire of Japan, which would have been valid if solemnised immediately before the said sixteenth of July, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, shall be and shall be deemed always to have been as valid in law as if they had been solemnised within His Majesty's dominions with the due observance of all forms required by law:

Provided that this Act shall not render valid any marriage which before the passing of this Act has been declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, or affect any right dependent on the validity or invalidity thereof, or render valid any marriage either of the parties to which has subsequently during the life of the other lawfully intermarried with any other person.

2. This Act may be cited as the Marriages in Japan (Validity) Act, 1912.

PROGRESS AT PORT TAIREN.

The Austro-Hungarian Consul-General in Yokohama, reporting on the business of the port of Tairen, observes that the Japanese province of Kwantung, previously under Russian control, including the towns of Port Arthur is developing rapidly, from the business point of view. In 1910 there was an increase in total business done of 17 per cent., compared with that done in the previous year. This included an 11.5 increase in the European and American importations and a 1.5 increase from Japan. The exportations increased by 4 per cent. The Japanese Government is doing what it can to divert the trade that used to go through Newchwang to the Tairen route. Newchwang is the natural port for Manchuria; it freezes up, however, in winter; nevertheless it was quite capable of dealing with the trade of the province. It lies nearer the producing centres than Taiwan, and it should be the natural port for the Manchurian oil beans. But the Japanese Government resorts to artificial means to divert this traffic, such as lower railway rates and port dues, whilst, on the other hand, it has improved the equipment of the port. The cost is certainly not being repaid at present, but with a growing Manchurian trade it will no doubt come back all right. It is proposed to establish in Tairen a commercial exchange. It appears that the equipment of the port is about finished, on the lines originally projected under the Russians. Quayage and a breakwater have been erected and a lighthouse and signalling station are to be built at the northern end of the harbour. The warehouses will number 21, with 123,371 square metres floor space, and abundant lightage has been provided. It is expected to become an important port for the shipment of coal. There is a chemical laboratory in the town, owned by the Southern Manchurian Railway, for the analysis of export goods, principally bean oil, wild silk, China clay, spirit, soya beans, oil cakes, also minerals used in glass-making.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

MINIMUM WAGES BILL.

RIOTS IN MIDLANDS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 28.

The House of Lords has passed the second reading of the Minimum Wages Bill.

Strike riots against the miners who have returned to work have broken out in the Midlands.

Soldiers have been sent to the scene.

It is stated that ten thousand troops at Aldershot are in readiness to proceed to the coal-fields.

Five hundred West Yorkshires from Litchfield have gone to the Littleton Colliery at Huntingdon, in Staffordshire, where, in spite of appeals from their own agent, several thousand strikers threw missiles into the pit to prevent eighty men, sent down to make repairs, from reascending.

The rioters also fired too sheds and threw the tubs into the road.

Much other damage was done.

The police, although they made baton charges, were powerless to quell the riot.

Later.

It is expected that the miners' ballot will result in favour of a resumption of work.

London, March 29.

The House of Lords has passed the remaining stages of the Coal Bill.

ACTION OF THE LEADERS.

FUNDS OF THE MINERS' UNIONS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, March 29.

The miners' leaders are now touring the districts, impressing on the men the importance of the concessions gained and advising them to return to work.

A bare majority on the ballot is sufficient to end the struggle.

Attempts to send down a few men at Mexborough, Great Wyrley and Walsall, yesterday resulted in some rioting and stoning of the police.

The miners at Chirk and Littleton were working quietly yesterday, owing to the presence of the troops.

The Miners Unions have disbursed £1,043,250 as strike pay, the balance remaining, nominally £950,000, mostly belonging to the Durham, Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottingham funds.

The North Wales, Warwickshire, Cumberland, Somerset and Bristol funds are exhausted and others are vanishing.

London, March 30.

The Secretary of the Miners' Federation is advising the men to ballot for a resumption of work.

The Scottish coal-owners have conferred and arranged for the opening of the pits.

Small batches of men resumed work in several coalfields yesterday, but the movement was not general.

The Secretary of the Federation says he has only intervened because the men are being wrongly advised, and a non-resumption of work would be a disaster.

The results of four ballots were announced

yesterday evening. All were against the resumption of work.

It is estimated that 2,200 miners are working in Scotland, 2,000 in Warwickshire, 800 at Chirk and 15 at Dudley.

The ballots declared yesterday evening were for collieries near Manchester, Butnley, Darwen and Staffordshire.

The Lothian Miners' Federation has resolved to remain out till the Wages Boards have settled the minimum to be paid.

The situation is complicated by the determination of the surface workers not to resume until the grievances are settled.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 1.

The first results of the Miners' ballot show a majority in favour of resuming work.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE KAISER AT CORFU.

London, March 28.

The Kaiser has arrived at Corfu.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

London, March 29.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of *The Times* says Russia favours the Belgian loan and objects to the Four Nations' loan to China, on the ground that any financial aid to the young Republic must not involve an increase of the military burdens of the Powers whose dominions are coterminous with China.

TROUBLE AT NANKING.

London, March 30.

Telegrams received at Peking from Nanking report serious disorders among the soldiers, who are looting extensively.

UNIVERSITY BOATRACE.

London, March 31.

The University boat-race started with a strong wind blowing, the water being very rough.

The Cambridge crew was swamped off Harrod's and abandoned the race.

Several of the crew swam ashore.

The Oxford crew was waterlogged off Chiswick Eyot, when they landed, emptied the boat and finished the course in 29m. 38s.

The race has been declared off, however.

BRITISH REVENUE RETURNS.

London, March 31.

The British revenue returns for 1911-12 are £185,090,286, showing a decrease of £18,760,302 with a surplus of £3,492,286 over the Estimates.

London, April 1.

The revenue for the past year was £185,090,286, an increase over the estimate of £3,492,286.

The expenditure was £178,545,100, compared with an estimated expenditure of £181,390,000.

The surplus is thus £6,500,000, which is larger than the most optimistic expectation, though the figures show a large decrease in the revenue and an increase in the expenditure, compared with 1911, the figures of which were abnormally swollen by the huge arrears from 1910.

The revenue for 1912 is the largest recorded with the exception of 1911.

The increase of the revenue over the estimate is mainly due to receipts from excise.

The decrease in expenditure is due to the

fact that less was spent on the supply services.

SUIT AGAINST STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

London, April 1.

The United States Government has filed a suit for the dissolution of certain companies trading between New York and the Far East *via* Suez.

The Companies are charged with pooling the freight rates and granting rebates.

THE FRENCH PROTECTORATE OVER MOROCCO.

London, April 1.

The *Matin's* correspondent at Fez states that the Treaty establishing a French protectorate over Morocco was signed on the 30th ult. by the Sultan.

RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

London, April 1.

M. Bronevsky, the Councillor at the Russian Embassy in Tokyo, has been transferred to Berlin.

M. Shékine, the First Secretary of the Legation at Peking, replaces him.

THE HUNGARIAN ARMY BILL.

London, April 1.

A sensation has been caused in Austria and Hungary by the news that, at an audience granted to Count Khuen-Héderváry, President of the Hungarian Council, on Friday, the Emperor Franz Josef threatened to abdicate unless the resolution passed by the Hungarian Parliament limiting the power of his Majesty to call out the reserves, were withdrawn.

The Hungarian Cabinet unwillingly acquiesced in the resolution with a view to ending the Opposition's obstruction to the Army Bill.

It was the Emperor's resolute refusal to assent which led to the crisis and finally induced the Cabinet to abandon the resolution and seek to placate the Opposition otherwise.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.

London, March 29.

Colonel Roosevelt is losing ground and shows some annoyance.

He is violently attacking the organisation of the Taft republicans and declares that he is fighting representatives of the powers of pillage.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

London, March 29.

The House of Commons has rejected the Women's Enfranchisement Bill by a majority of 14.

A meeting of militant suffragettes at the Albert Hall collected £10,000 for promoting the movement.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.

London, March 30.

The Teheran Cabinet is very anxious at the Viceroy of India's intimation that the Government of India may be compelled to deal directly, through the British Consul-General at Bushire, with the unruly tribes in South Persia.

COPPER.

London, March 30.

Copper is quoted at 69½-70½.

The market is active.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

London, April 1.

The Emperor Franz Joseph is making

great efforts to settle the differences between Hungary and Austria.

During a recent conversation with the Hungarian Premier he threatened to abdicate unless the situation improved.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

London, April 1.

A very high authority says the U.S. Government does not contemplate intervention in Mexico, though prepared to cope with any emergency, should Congress order action to be taken.

CAPTAIN SCOTT'S EXPEDITION.

London, April 1.

Captain Scott remains in the Antarctic regions for another winter to complete the work of exploration.

His ship, the *Terra Nova*, has returned to New Zealand.

Those on board state that on the 3rd of January Captain Scott had reached a point 150 miles from the South Pole and was still advancing.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE BRITISH NAVY.

FROM CAPTAIN IDE, NAVAL ATTACHE TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

London, April 1.

The new organization of the British squadrons comes into force from April 1st.

THE AMERICAN COAL STRIKE.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL-GENERAL.

New York, April 1.

The coal miners' strike in the United States has been settled as far as the lignite mines are concerned, but the miners working in anthracite coal mines struck on April 1st. Negotiations are in progress between the strikers and the mine-owners. It is expected that the trouble will be amicably settled.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

M. SAZANOFF'S RESIGNATION CONTRADICTED.

Berlin, March 28.

The rumours which report the resignation of M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to be imminent, are officially contradicted at St. Petersburg.

HARBOUR RECONSTRUCTION AT HAMBURG.

The Hamburg Municipality has passed a Bill providing for the expenditure of five million marks for the construction of new quays in the old harbour of Hamburg.

BERLIN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

The inrush of water from the River Spree into the Berlin Underground Railway tunnel, has, up till now, not been stopped.

THE KAISER.

The Kaiser and Austrian Successor to the Throne have jointly sent a very cordial telegram to the King of Italy from Isole Brioni.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to March 13th, ex-Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on March 28th.

BERLIN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

Berlin, March 29.

The inrush of water from the Spree river into the Berlin Underground Railway is gradually ceasing, and the water is subsiding.

EASTER VACATION.

The Reichstag and the different German

Landtags have adjourned till April 16th for the Easter vacation.

ARMAMENT BILLS PASSED.

The Bundesrat has passed the Armament Bills without any alteration.

PARISIAN RUMOUR DENIED.

The report of the *Matin* at Paris, according to which the Chancellor intends to go to Rome and Vienna for conferences, on his return from Corfu, is said to be not based on facts.

THE BAVARIAN PREMIER.

Freiherr von Hertling, the Bavarian Premier, speaking in the Landtag, defended himself against an attack of the Liberals, according to which he is accused of favouring, as leader of the Clerical party, the restoration of the regime of the Pope, and of being an enemy of Italy and the Triple Alliance.

RUSSIA.

The Tsar and Tsaritsa have left for the Crimea.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Consul at Beirut, by order of his Government, has lodged a protest against the expulsion of Italian nationals from Syria, and has gone so far as to announce a bombardment of the Lebanon coast.

THE CRETAN QUESTION.

The British Government declares categorically that, on the least sign of an attack on Mohammudans in Crete, the island will be immediately occupied by troops of the Powers. The status quo and the sovereignty of Turkey will be maintained; and the dispatch of Cretan deputies to Athens prohibited.

CONFIDENCE RESTORED IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The people of Constantinople are gradually showing more confidence, which is also proved by the sharp recovery on the exchange. This tone of confidence is the result of the neutral attitude of the Powers and the conciliatory attitude of Russia in the Urmiah question.

TURKISH MINISTER'S PALACE BURNED.

The palace of Assim Bey, the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been destroyed by fire. The children of the Minister were saved by the German Ambassador, whose residence adjoins the palace, and all the members of his family were accommodated in the German Embassy.

GERMANY AND CHINA.

Berlin, March 30.

According to a correspondent of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, who was granted an interview at the Chinese Legation at Berlin, the declaration of the German Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the Reichstag, to the effect that Germany stated she would strictly adhere to the policy of the maintenance of the integrity of China, has created a very good impression. It was further stated that new China badly lacks practical republican officials. Yuan Shih-kai was stated to be seriously intending to apply the Four Powers' Loan for the organisation of the new Republic. The Legation official also stated that it was very fortunate that Germany did not intend to send any troops into the interior of Shantung province, except with the agreement of China.

HERR ROEHREN RESIGNS.

Herr Roehren, one of the leading members of the Centre Party, has resigned his man-

dates in the Reichstag and Prussian Landtag, owing to the party not being in consonance with Catholic views.

COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Freiherr von Hertling, the new Bavarian Premier, speaking in the Chamber, said that the Committee of the German Bundesrat for Foreign Affairs will in future be more regularly convened for the discussion of pending questions.

MARCONI STATION WRECKED.

The recently erected steel tower of the wireless telegraphic station at Nauen has been demolished in a tempest, no lives being lost.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian press demands a new demonstration on the part of the battlefleet against Turkey.

The Italian Government will postpone any new naval demonstration against Turkey until after a joint attempt at mediation of the Powers at Constantinople has proved abortive.

According to a report of the *Temps* the Turkish Government, before entering into any negotiations for the conclusion of peace with Italy, demands the withdrawal of all Italian troops from Tripoli.

THE DUMA.

The Duma has been adjourned until April 21st.

M. CAILLAUX.

M. Caillaux, the former French Premier, has left Egypt for a visit to Japan.

NEW HUNGARIAN ARMY BILL.

Berlin, March 31.

The Emperor Franz Joseph, in connection with the dispute concerning the introduction of a new army bill in Hungary, has directed a personal letter to the Chamber, stating it to be his firm wish that the rights of the nation remain as inviolate as his own sovereign rights. He further entreats the Chamber to ease the task of the Government, so that Constitutional administration may continue to progress. The letter is said to have made such a deep impression on the deputies that a settlement of the differences is expected. The Emperor is stated to have announced in former negotiations with the Minister his abdication in the event of a continuation of the conflict.

EAST ASIATIC ASSOCIATION.

The annual banquet of the East Asiatic Association, which was held at Hamburg in the presence of Prince Heinrich, has proved a great success. Dr. Burchard, the Chief Burgomaster of Hamburg, in a speech, emphasized the friendly attitude of Germany towards China and Japan.

He further commented on the revolution in China, stating that it had, up to the present, passed without any anti-foreign agitation, which was to be principally ascribed to the willingness of the Powers to preserve the integrity of China.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to March 17th ex-Yokohama arrived at Berlin on March 31st.

CHANCELLOR LEAVES FOR CORFU TO MORROW.

Berlin, April 1.

The Chancellor will leave Berlin on April 3rd for Corfu, where he will meet the Kaiser.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The situation in Mexico, especially in the

capital, is reported to be very serious. The telegraphic service is, however, not disturbed up to the present.

WILD STATEMENT IN THE PRESS

Some of the American papers, especially those of the Hearst group, accuse Germany of preparing for military intervention in Mexico, which is, however, refuted by the better-class American journals.

This wild statement is also strongly refuted as an absurd invention by the German Government, which emphasizes that Hearst, by means of manoeuvres, seeks only to cover his own policy of annexation.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Press announces the occupation of an island in the Aegean Sea by Italian sailors.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MARQUIS SAIONJI, Prime Minister, will give a banquet on April 1st to the Parliamentary Delegates of the Government.

The annual meeting of the Japan Maritime Association was held on Thursday afternoon last at its office, Uchisaiwai-cho, Kojimachi.

A CASE of typhoid fever has been discovered among the crew of the torpedo-boat *Fumizuki*, now at anchor at Yokosuka naval port.

The graduation ceremony of the Tokyo Higher Normal School took place on Sunday morning last at ten o'clock. Mr. Hasebe, Minister of Education, attended the function.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE, has announced his intention to pay a visit to the Imperial Breeding Grounds at Sanrizuka, Chiba prefecture, on the 6th instant.

Two operatives were killed and a few others injured in an explosion on Thursday last of the steam engine installed in the factory of the Azumamura Fertilizer Company in Tokyo.

A NEW spinning company has been established in Osaka under the name of the Asahi Bōseki Kaisha. The capital is five million yen and Mr. Fujino, Head of the Mitsui Bussan Branch Company, is the President.

A DESPATCH from Tsuruga reports that a Japanese resident at Vladivostok named Tanaka Sadakichi has been deported by the Vladivostok Military Governor. The Japanese Consul asked for reasons, but no explanation was given.

ABOUT six o'clock on Sunday morning last, the *Umetaka Maru*, of the Volunteer Squadron, while passing through the Shimoda strait, came into collision with the steamship *Bandai Maru*. Both vessels sustained some damage. The passengers were safely landed at Moji.

THE Oji Tramway Company has decided to run a decorated electric car from the 21st ultimo every four minutes between Asukayama and Oisaka, for the convenience of passengers desiring to see the cherry blossoms on Asukayama Hill. During the season the above two stations will be illuminated every evening and five arc electric lamps lighted on the Hill.

THE Japan Industrial Company held its first general meeting of shareholders on the 28th ultimo. The Company was established only last December. The report on the business for the past two months, laid before the meeting for approval, was as follows:—

	Yen.
Income	31,738 750
Expenditure	23,223 475
Net Profit	8,515 275
Legal Reserve Fund	430,000
Bonus for Officers	850,000
Dividend	6,700,000
To be carried forward	135,000

TERRIBLE RASH ALL OVER LIMBS

Scratched Until Blood Flowed from Sores. Worse in Bed. Used Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Improvement from the First. Now Completely Cured.

"A terrible rash broke out all over my arms and legs. The spots came out about the size of the points of pins and I suffered very much particularly after I went to bed. I was reluctantly forced to scratch my arms and legs until the blood flowed from the sores. I took all sorts of medicine but without avail and I also consulted a doctor. He sent me two boxes of ointment and told me to rub the ointment well into the parts affected before going to bed. I did as directed but instead of getting relief I only got worse.

"The rash was always increasing but it only affected my arms and legs. I used to feel worse after getting warm in bed, so much so that I dreaded going to bed at night. Never shall I forget the pain I endured all along. I would scratch the very flesh off as well as the skin. I wrote to a friend about it and he sent me a box of ointment, but it did no good. I read about the Cuticura Remedies in the paper and I decided to give them a trial at any cost. I got two cakes of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment and began using them as directed. From the first there was an improvement and in about three months' time I was completely cured and am now able to sleep quite soundly." (Signed) J. E. Stanton, Carnarvon, Ballyglass, Co. Mayo, Ireland, April 16, 1911.

For more than a generation Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment have afforded the speediest and most economical treatment for skin and scalp humours, of young and old. A single set is often sufficient. Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold throughout the world. A sample of each with 22-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Sq., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. S. S. Lemon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter D. & Co., sole agents, Boston, U.S.A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, April 6.

American Cotton continues to arrive in large quantities, and local values still remain below the level of prices in the producing countries. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains the same. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, conditions are generally unchanged.

RAW COTTON. PER PICUL.

American Middling	31.00 to 33.50
Indian Broach	33.00 to 33.20
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	32.50 to 33.00

COTTON YARN. PER BALE.

Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
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Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43½" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43½" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.80
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 45 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 45 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44½" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches 3.80 to 4.70 |

Cotton Italians 0.25 to 0.38 |

Cotton Venetians 0.35 to 0.70 |

Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb 2.25 yards, PER PIRCH. |

30 inches 1.90 to 2.20 |

Turkey Red—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards, |

32 inches 2.50 to 3.65 |

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches 14.50 to 17.50 |

Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches 1.25 to 2.70 |

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	Y.
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.90
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,	
30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,	
30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union,	
34 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The market is dull, with very little business doing.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	Y. 4.00 to 4.50
Sheet Iron	5.20 to 6.40
Sheet Mild Steel	6.20 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.70 to 11.00
Flat	11.30 to 11.50
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	6.80 to 7.00
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.60 to 8.10
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.25 to 2.35

KEROSENE.

The market is not active.

Chester	Y. 4.22
Victory	3.90
Nonpareil	4.90
Somatra	2.70 to 2.85
Nurneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.35
Ogura	3.77
Todai	—

SUGAR.

Little business has been done in imported Refined.

Brown Manila	PER PICUL.
Brown China	Y. 10.50 to 12.40
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.55
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is dull, and business is entirely absent.

Gold Drop	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.00
Flag	"	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks	10.95 to 11.00
Red Seal	"	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	"	11.05 to 11.70
Portland	"	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	"	11.35 to 11.40

Japanese:—

Rising Sun	6 swagm	2.80
Takasago	6	2.75
Fuji	6	2.85
Pine	6	2.80

WHEAT.

Prices have risen.

White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	Yen.
Red	5.30
Blue Stem	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On March 15th stocks were: Filatures 4,000 piculs, Re-reels, 150 piculs; Kakeda, 200 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	930
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	895
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	905
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den	880
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den	930
Filature—No. 1½-2, 13-15den	920
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den	865
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha	910
Re-reels—Extra	855
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	870
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	890
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	860
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	850
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	840

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

March.	March delivery.	April delivery.	May delivery.
29th	yen. 84.60	yen. 85.60	yen. 86.30
30th			
1st	86.70	87.40	88.20
2nd	86.50	87.10	87.80
4th	86.60	87.40	87.90

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.
On March 14th stocks were:—Noshi, 1,500 piculs; Kibiso, 4,000 piculs; Sundries, 100 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	155 to 175
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	135 to 155
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	115 to 135
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is firm.
Kanazawa:—Due to the strong attitude of bulls, the market is firm.

Kawamata:—The market remains quiet.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
21 1/2"	yen. 8.05	7.80	7.70	7.40	7.50
27"	7.80	7.65	7.65	7.30	7.50
36"	7.55	7.45	7.50	7.40	7.50

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/4 ms.
21 1/2"	yen. 7.45	7.40	7.40	7.25
27"	7.45	7.40	7.40	7.35
36"	7.55	7.40	7.40	7.25

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.
20"	yen. 7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
27"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
36"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of March 18th the quotation was £69 1/2.

Refined per 100 kin	yen. 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	" 47.00—50.00
Ore	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is slack

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags. 573.754
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	55.147

Delivery.	Closing Price.
April	19.62
May	19.53
June	19.50

(Osaka.)

(Kobe.)

April	19.62	April	19.65
May	19.61	May	19.49
June	19.66	June	19.51

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen. 21.30	
Medium	20.20	
Common	18.80	
Average	20.10	

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 15th March amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery.	Yen.
April	141.70
May	141.40
June	146.05

EXCHANGE.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/4
— 66 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/4
— 6 months' sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/4
Australia Docy 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/4
America—Bank sight	49 3/4
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	213
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 95 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	93 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	78 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	26 1/4 @ 1/2

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America	P. M.	Manchuria 2	Sa. Apr. 6
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	Sa. Apr. 6
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru 3	M. Apr. 8
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru 4	F. Apr. 12
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 13
Europe	N. D. L.	Kleist	M. Apr. 15
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17
Vancouver	B. L.	Luceric	Th. Apr. 18
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th. Apr. 18
Hongkong	B. L.	Ryrya	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30

- 2 Left Honolulu on the 27th inst.
3 Left Hongkong on the 26th inst.
4 Left Seattle on the 26th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N. D. L.	Luettow	Sa. Apr. 8
America	P. M.	Persia	Sa. Apr. 6
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Panama Maru	Su. Apr. 7
Hongkong	P. M.	Manchuria	M. Apr. 8
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Tamba Maru	W. Apr. 10
Europe	N. Y. K.	Atsuta Maru	W. Apr. 10
Europe	M. M.	Polynesien	Sa. Apr. 13
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru	M. Apr. 15
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	W. Apr. 15
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17
Hongkong	B. L.	Luceric	Th. Apr. 18
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 20
Tacoma	B. & S.	Bellophone	Sa. Apr. 27
Australia	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Apr. 27
Seattle	B. L.	Ryrya	M. Apr. 29
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

<i>Awa Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Irizawa, 29th Mar.,—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Tatthybiut</i> , British steamer, 5,800, H. Allen, 29th Mar.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
<i>Shikishima</i> , Japanese battleship, 14,500, Com. K. Suzuki, 29th Mar.,—Yokosuka.
<i>Umikaze</i> , Japanese torpedo boat, 1,150, Com. Kujima, 29th Mar.,—Tokyo Bay.
<i>Benten Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 29th Mar.,—Kushiro, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Kita Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 1,934, Y. Yamanaka, 30th Mar.,—Mojji, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Banri Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 30th Mar.,—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Riojun Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 30th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Montrose</i> , British steamer, 2,884, D. Reid, 30th Mar.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co.

China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 30th Mar.,—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 31st Mar.,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Achilles, British steamer, 4,484, R. C. Thompson, 31st Mar.,—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mikawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,853, I. Noma, 31st Mar.,—Kelung, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 1st April,—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

Lusatow, German steamer, 5,134, Bortfeldt, 1 April, —Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Oceano, British steamer, 1,739, Davis, 1st April, —Hongkong via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,637, A. E. A. Baker, 1st April, —Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,442, A. Kobayashi, 1st April, —Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 1st April, —Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inaho Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, K. Kaneda, 1st April, —Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 1st April, —Olaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Polynesien, French steamer, 2,916, Bruno, 2nd April, —Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Glenorchy, British steamer, 3,019, W. M. Higgins, 29th Mar.,—Rangoon via Kutsutsu, Ballast.—Otto Reimers & Co.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, S. Nishio, 29th Mar., —Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tatthybiut, British steamer, 5,800, H. Allen, 30th Mar.,—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Australien, French steamer, 2,900, Aillard, 30th Mar.,—Marseilles via ports, Mails & General.—M. M. Co.

Umikaze, Japanese torpedo boat, 1,150, C. m. Kujima, 30th Mar.,—Yokosuka.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 30th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,870, T. Take-mura, 30th Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,147, M. Winokler, 30th Mar.,—Sydney and Melbourne via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 31st Mar.,—Vancouver, B. C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976, A. Mocker, 31st Mar., —Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, S. Nishio, 31st Mar.,—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 31st Mar.,—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Taitoku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,733, I. Sato, 31st Mar.,—Osaka, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Kurama, Japanese cruiser, 14,600, Capt. S. Hideshima, 31st Mar.,—Yokosuka.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, T. Irizawa, 1st April, —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 1st April, —Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Kita Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,917, Y. Yamanaka, 1st April, —Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sumatra, British steamer, 2,976, W. R. Le Mare, 2nd April, —Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Glenhurst, British steamer, 3,033, R. Webster, 2nd April, —Vladivostok, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 2nd April, —Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Maria Rickmers, German steamer, 2,356, Rupp, 2nd April, —Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Alcinous, British steamer, 4,278, Reipenhause, 2nd April.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Bentomond, British steamer, 1,752, A. Webster, 2nd April.—Bassein (Burma) via Kutsumutsu, Ballast.—Co nes & Co.

Oceanic, British steamer, 1,739, Davis, 2nd April.—Seattle and Portland, (Ore.) via Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 2nd April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer **Kosai Maru** from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. J. J. Denton, Mr. J. Denton and Mr. K. Kataoka in second class; 36 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer **Awa Maru** from Seattle, Wash.:—12 Japanese in cabin; 5 Japanese and 1 European in steerage. For Kobe:—36 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. A. De Bord in cabin. For Hongkong:—Mr. C. I. Halsey in cabin; 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer **China** from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. P. S. Bent, Miss F. E. Boynton, Miss G. Bulkeley, Mr. F. L. Gruenwald, Mrs. Mary Gill, Mr. C. A. Hoffart, Miss E. E. W. Hughes, Mr. J. B. Hyde Smith, Mr. C. H. Johnson, Mr. Karl Larson, Rev. J. M. McCaleb, Mrs. H. L. Morris, Master Robert Morris, Mr. 3rd Mrs. T. Nagan and infant, Mrs. J. L. Rees, Mrs. C. L. Thompson, Miss A. R. Tierney, Miss T. H. Tripler, Mr. S. Yamasaki and Mr. D. Yonekura. For Kobe:—Mr. A. R. Kepler, Mr. T. N. Miller, Mr. T. Mori and Mr. Fred. Pinch. For Seanghai:—Mr. H. P. S. Foo, Mr. M. C. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hallard, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gracey and infant, Master Arthur Gracey, Mrs. J. G. Lindberg, Mrs. V. G. Lyman, Miss Dorothy Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Newman and infant, Master R. R. Newman, Master W. F. Newman, Miss Claire Newman, Mr. J. K. Shen, Mr. C. F. Wolsifer, Mr. Ying Cheun Woo, Mrs. J. R. Grove and Mr. Sea Po Tsai. For Hongkong:—Mr. G. Abrahamson, Mr. J. Alderson, Mr. W. K. Bachelder, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Baumgarten, Mr. B. Conduitt, Mr. W. T. Crichton, Mr. R. E. Connell, Mrs. M. Dancy, Miss M. Dancy, Mr. W. H. Dobson, Mr. J. M. Jones, Mrs. A. J. Jones, Mr. G. Jones, Miss A. Harding, Mr. E. M. Ho, Mr. and Mrs. David Levy, Mr. Wm. Loftus, Miss J. McElannon, Mr. W. R. MacDonald, Mrs. W. R. MacDonald, Mr. G. S. Morse, Mrs. M. O. Muri, Mr. E. D. Miller, Mrs. D.

O'Connell and infant, Mr. Ow Yang Num, Mrs. E. Y. Peterson, Mr. Earl Ritchey, Mrs. H. C. Scofield, Mr. G. E. Shanahan, Mrs. Shan Kans, Master Edmund Sun, Master Edward King Sun, Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Standish, Mrs. Sun Ah Mi, Mr. G. M. Stewart, Mr. Sun Chung, Mr. E. B. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Wong Sam Ark and Mr. Wai Wing in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer **Riasan** from Vladivostok:—Mr. V. Shnor, Mr. T. Fukushima, Mr. Fukushima and Mr. Kawaguchi in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer **Chikuzen Maru** from Shanghai via ports:—Rev. A. J. Nicholls, Mr. M. Simon, Mr. G. A. Farrest, Mrs. G. W. Read, Mrs. Williams and child and Mr. S. Yamashita in cabin; 20 Japanese and 6 Chinese in steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer **Miyasaki Maru** from Europe via ports:—Mr. N. Mo.i, Mr. Y. Akutagawa, Mr. H. Shibata, Com. G. Shigemura, Mrs. W. S. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. S. Howard, Miss H. D. Brinkley, Miss L. Brinkley, Miss A. C. Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Pratt, Miss C. Pratt, Miss H. Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Roberts and Mr. B. M. Tatham in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer **Australien** for Marseilles via ports:—Mademoiselle Aitland, Mademoiselle Albertson, Mr. J. Handal, Mr. Ourgaud, Mr. Ourgaud, Mr. Ho King and Mr. Chothram in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer **Montague** for Vancouver, B.C., on the 31st March:—

	Raw Silk.	Waste
N.Y. Easton. S. Ma. H'yoke. Silk.		
Mitsui Bussan K i 267	—	—
Pila & Co. 165	—	—
Hara Yushutsu. 160	—	—
Kiito Gomei K'sha. 98	10	20
China Japan Trad- ing Co.	—	82
L. Mottet and	—	—
Barmont 54	—	—
F. Strahler & Co. 40	—	—
Nabholz & Co. 30	—	—
Sieber Hegner and	—	—
Co. 30	—	—
Bavier & Co. 20*	—	—
Japan Vita Stearns	—	—
Co. 15	—	—
Total ... 879	10	20 82

* Tamaito Silk.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer

Australia:—	Raw.	Waste.
	Marseilles	Lyons.
Sulzer Rudolph & Co. 235	—	—
Hara Yushutsu. 215	—	—
Mitsui Bussan K'sha 101	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co. 50	40	—
W. Pestalozzi 47	—	—
Nabholz & Co. 34	—	5*
Jardine, Matheson & Co. 30	—	—
Jewett and Bent ... 23	—	—
F. Strahler & Co. 16	—	—
L. Mottet and Bar- mont 10	—	—
C. Eymard & Co. 51	—	263
Samuel Samuel & Co. 76	—	—
Pila & Co. 25	—	34
Kiito Gomei Kaisha. 10	—	—
Vivanti Brothers. 5	—	—
Bavier & Co.	—	59

Total 766 151 5 — 373 — —

* Peignes.

† Desruptant.

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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of Admiral Edward Field, C.B.

THE death is announced of Mr. Edward Terry, the comedian.

SNOW fell in Vladivostok on the 4th instant, covering the ground to the depth of a foot.

ON Monday night at nine o'clock a slight shock of earthquake was felt in Yokohama, lasting about a minute.

THE death is announced of the mother of Viscount Okabe, the sad event taking place on the 5th instant.

THE trial run of the battleship *Settsu*, now building at the Kure Naval Dockyard, will be held early in May.

THE Russian Ambassador to Japan was received in audience by His Majesty on Tuesday morning at half past ten.

MR. IJUN, Minister to China, who has been home on furlough, will leave Tokyo for Peking about the 22nd instant.

A PROJECT is on foot among the businessmen of Fusan for establishing a commercial bank with a capital of 500,000 yen.

MR. IIDA TAKAOKI, Judge of the Annotsu District Court, was appointed Judge of the Court of Cassation on the 4th instant.

H. M. THE EMPEROR will pay a visit to the Field Guntery School at Shigaido, in Chiba prefecture, early next month.

THE trial of the newly laid cable between Fusan and Shimonoseki was completed on April 1st with satisfactory results, and the line is now open.

THE repairs of the Hama Palace at Shiba, having been completed, the Imperial Cherry Blossom Party will be given there about the 20th instant.

CONSUL GENERAL OTORI has been ordered to proceed to Habarovsk to confer with the Governor there concerning the fishing trouble at Vladivostok.

MARQUIS SAIONJI will give a dinner at noon on the 10th instant at his official residence to the Cabinet, Governor Abé, and other Governors of local prefectures.

THE death is announced of Lord Holden, four times Mayor of Bradford, and Liberal Member for East Bradford, 1885-6, and the East Riding of Yorkshire, 1892-90.

MR. MITSUI MOTOMISUKE, Director of the Mitsui Mining Company, is spoken of as the probable successor of the late Mr. Mitsui Saburoku, as President of the Company.

MR. IKEDA KENZO, Managing Director of the One Hundredth Bank, has been appointed to the post of President of the Bank, vacated by the recent death of Mr. Takata Kojiro.

THE text of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation concluded between Japan and Denmark at Copenhagen on February 12th, is to be submitted to the Privy Council on the 24th inst.

VISCOUNT UCHIDA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will give a farewell banquet on the 12th instant, in honour of Baron Kato, the Ambassador to the Court of St. James, who is leaving Tokyo for

London on the 20th instant. Sir Claud Macdonald and other members of the British Embassy staff have also been invited to the function.

THE funeral Service of the Reverend Honda Yoitau, Bishop of the Japan Methodist Church, will be held in the Chapel of Aoyama Gakuin, Tokyo, on Saturday, April 9th, at two o'clock.

MR. YOSHIDA, the Japanese Minister in Bangkok, wires to the Foreign Office under the date of the 7th instant that the visit of the Empress Dowager of Siam to Japan has been indefinitely postponed.

It is generally believed that Major-General Yamada, Chief of the Personal Affairs Bureau in the War Department, will be appointed to succeed Lieut.-General Uehara as Commander of the 14th Division.

THE death is announced of Mr. Kato Keisuke, a well known metallurgist, to whose efforts the present development of the mining industry in Japan owes a great deal. The deceased was in his fifty-ninth year.

IN view of the approaching season for tea transactions, the Union of Tea Traders of Yokohama has decided to hold a general meeting on the 18th instant with the view to deciding the standard quotations for the present fiscal year.

MR. HARA, Minister of Home Affairs, will give a banquet on Saturday afternoon, the 13th instant, at the Imperial Hotel, to the Governors and Chiefs of the Local Police Stations now holding their annual conference in the capital.

THE Training ships *Soya* and *Aio*, now in anchor off Shinagawa, will go to Yokosuka on the 10th and Maizuru on the 19th inst. The Training Squadron for the present year will include the armoured cruiser *Asuma* of 9,426 tons.

A FIRE broke out in the bar room of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo on Thursday morning about eleven o'clock, but the flames were promptly suppressed by the efficient fire appliances to hand before they could do any serious damage.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce has ordered the Agricultural Experimental Institute in Shiga prefecture to expand its work, and has decided to grant for the purpose an annual allowance of 1,200 yen for five years from the 45th fiscal year.

T. H. PRINCE and Princess Kanin will proceed to Otsu in Shiga prefecture on the 19th instant to attend the annual convention of the Red Cross Society and the Women's Patriotic Association. Their Highnesses will return to Tokyo on the 21st instant.

IN view of the gradual extension of its lines, the Yokohama Electric Railway Company is said to have decided to increase the number of cars by ten from the 1st proximo. The Company has also under contemplation the construction of a bathing place on the seashore at Negishi.

THE *Official Gazette* of the 10th instant announces a revision of the Chosen Customs Tariff. According to the new regulations, imports into the Peninsula are, for the convenience of the imposition of Customs dues, divided into 218 items, under 16 groups. The exports are all placed on the free list, except eight items, namely, wheat, soja beans, red beans, seeds of *Perilla Ocimoides*, cows, hides, coal and iron ore, each of which will be subject to five per cent. *ad valorem*. The revised tariff came into force from April 1st.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

COLCHESTER.—March 20, at Horelli Woking, wife of F. E. Colchester, of Yokohama, son.

DEATHS.

DINSDALE.—At 157-A, Bloff, Yokohama, on the 11th instant, GEORGE K. DINSDALE, aged 71 years.

PRICE.—At the Yokohama General Hospital, on the 11th instant, ARTHUR G. PRICE, aged 36 years.

CHINA.

Wednesday, April 3.

It appears now tolerably certain that Field Marshal Hwang is to remain in Nanking and combine the offices of Chief of Staff and disbander of the armies now organized. But the rumours are still more or less contradictory. Thus one story has it that Hwang's immediate followers would have mutinied unless he had been appointed Chief of Staff, whereas another account says that the sole reason of his remaining in Nanking is to superintend the arrangement of breaking up the forces. We note, however, that yet another story represents the Peking Government as unwilling that Hwang should come to the capital lest his presence there should prove a disturbing factor. Whatever be the truth as to motives, however, the accounts all point to Hwang's ultimate acceptance of the position of Chief of Staff. One perplexing feature of the situation is that General Hsu Shao-ch'en was stated by a previous telegram to have been officially appointed Chief of Staff, but no explanation is now offered of Hsu's disappearance from that post. Of course if it were a mere question of personal ambition, the public would not attach paramount importance to Hwang's position, but evidently the outcome of this matter is deeply concerned with the stability of the Cabinet and the restoration of perfect peace.

Meanwhile there are indications of a want of cohesion among other members of the new Cabinet, but as yet it is impossible to distinguish how much this instability may be due to Chinese etiquette, and how much to genuine reluctance to accept office in the circumstances.

President Yuan is said to be showing much appreciation of Sun Yat-sen's services and loyalty. He has made arrangements for granting to the Republican leader a substantial yearly pension. As for General Lan, who has been for some time an uncertain factor in the situation, he is reported to have accepted the sum of 560,000 taels, upon which he will retire from active life. This incident furnishes another illustration of the great need that President Yuan has of money at this juncture.

Thursday, April 4.

The latest intelligence to hand seems to make it quite certain that Field Marshal Hwang will not accept the office of Chief of the General Staff. He is said to have expressed his willingness to remain in Nanking for the purpose of effecting the necessary arrangements for the orderly disbandment of the troops, but as to a portfolio in the Cabinet or the office of Chief of Staff he has positively declined them both, and is now alleged to have made up his mind to retire to Hunan, when he will devote his energies to the organization of a political party. Thus General Hsu is definitely indicated as Chief of Staff. Rumour alleges that this arrangement is satisfactory to Peking, where, in view of the great power wielded by the Chief of Staff, the idea of placing Hwang in that position has always been regarded with some misgivings. Sun Yat-sen is also to devote himself to the education of the people, so that from one point of view the Republican leaders would seem to have recognized the necessity of educating the

sentiment to which they appealed in the first instance. That seems somewhat like reversing the natural order of things.

There appear to be some difficulties also in connexion with the portfolio of the Navy, but these troubles seem to be due mainly to professional jealousy and therefore can be dealt with without much difficulty. Other resignations, however, are spoken of as inevitable, and on the whole it seems probable that the new Cabinet will not be in working order for some time.

On the 2nd instant the Council at Nanking, after a long debate, decided by twenty votes to six that steps should be immediately taken to transfer the administrative capital to Peking, commencing with the Foreign Office, whose presence in the northern city is imperatively necessary.

Meanwhile disorder in the provinces continues. From Kilin comes news of a Japanese hotel being wrecked by the soldiery, but this incident seems to belong to a separate category.

Friday, April 5.

It now appears that the perplexity about Field Marshal Hwang's position as Chief of Staff is due to the fact that he actually was appointed at the outset but that he subsequently declined the office. The explanation given is that General Tuan, the new Minister of War, raised some objection to Hwang's appointment, the two men being on bad terms. Hwang immediately intimated his resolve not to accept the post, which, for the rest, he described as unimportant from his own point of view. President Yuan made every possible effort to reconcile Hwang and Tuan, and while this matter was undecided, rumour busied itself with stories which tended to greatly perplex the public. The fact is that, at this moment of writing, the office of Chief of Staff remains still unfilled. It is thought likely that Yuan will make some further attempt to reconcile the two officers and that the post will continue unoccupied pending the outcome of these efforts.

It must be confessed that the first Republican Cabinet has not been a marked success, as out of the ten portfolio-holders no less than five are showing reluctance to proceed to Peking. In other words, one half of Yuan's nominees may be said to have rejected the honour of serving in his Ministry. Add to this, that the two great Republican leaders, Hwang and Sun, are standing aloof from the administrative arena, and it is at once seen that nothing like stability has yet been attained. All China's friends must profoundly regret this state of affairs. The old saying that circumstances beget men to deal with them, seems likely to receive another contradiction on this occasion.

Saturday, April 6.

Prince Ching with all his family has set out for Mukden and rumour has it that from thence he will proceed to the United States of America, where he will have his final residence. The reason for this step is not clear, but an impression prevails that the Prince has apprehensions for his personal safety if he remains in China.

Premier Tang Shao-i was to set out for Peking on the 7th instant. He is said to have remitted a sum of a million taels to Field Marshal Hwang in Nanking for the purposes of meeting the expenses of the recent campaign. As for Sun Yat-sen, it is now said that he also will proceed to Peking

in a few days, but nothing appears to be known as to his ultimate destination.

The members of the new Cabinet who are displaying unwillingness to serve in that capacity now total six. Strenuous efforts are being made by President Yuan to induce them to accept portfolios, but there are as yet no indications of success. Six recalcitrants out of a total of ten Ministers is a very large proportion. One is perplexed to understand how it comes about that Yuan did not convince himself of these statesmen's willingness to coöperate before he openly announced their names.

It is rumoured that President Yuan has obtained conclusive evidence as to the presence of a number of anti-Republican desperadoes in Manchuria. In fact, his investigations have shown that the Three Eastern Provinces are the headquarters of these folks. He apprehends therefore that the removal of the Court to the Summer Palace, which step, according to the original programme, was to be taken on the 1st day of the fourth month of the Chinese calendar, may be seized as an opportunity for a violent pro-Imperial demonstration by these conspirators. Yuan has accordingly intimated to the Court that as the Government has not any need of the buildings now occupied by the Imperial Family, there is no occasion to adhere to the date primarily arranged for removal to the Summer Palace. It is not likely that the Imperialist Party could accomplish anything signal unless it acted in direct collusion with the Court, but Yuan is naturally anxious not to discredit the Republican cause by any other scenes of bloodshed.

Chinese journals are quoted as saying that the first symptoms of clique quarrels have manifested themselves among the men in power. Premier Tang, Field Marshal Hwang and ex-President Sun Yat-sen are represented by these papers as scheming to isolate Yuan Shih-kai. But the only evidence in support of this premature suggestion is that President Yuan is vehemently urging Premier Tang to leave the Yangtze Valley and to repair to Peking without delay. It must have struck many observers that Premier Tang finds a great deal to detain him in the Yangtze Valley.

Sunday, April 8.

Fresh troubles have occurred in China according to this morning's telegrams. Disension has broken out between the troops of the Insurgents who formed the army that marched against the Imperialists at the outset of the insurrection. We have as yet no information as to the origin of these troubles, but it may be presumed that some question of pay and allowances has presented itself. The province of Anhui is the chief scene of commotion, and the most disturbed places at present are Anking, Wufu and Pukau. It is apprehended that this trouble will greatly delay the organization of the Cabinet in Peking. In fact, Tang Shao-i's departure from Nanking is already said to have been postponed, and the reluctance of Yuan's nominees to accept portfolios is increasing.

Telegrams received in Tokyo say that the Southern soldiery has become divided into two camps, namely, the Kwangtung camp and the Chehkiang camp, the former being under the leadership of ex-President Sun and Field Marshal Hwang, and the latter under that of Chang Ping-lung. President Yuan is making every possible endeavour

to reconcile these factions, but as yet his efforts have not been crowned with success. If the intelligence now to hand be not exaggerated, serious complications again menace the south of China.

Ex-President Sun has left Shanghai for Wuchang via Nanking. He is said to have taken this step at the request of General Li, who wishes to confer with him, but by some onlookers his procedure is regarded as withdrawal from the Nanking stage.

Meanwhile the last meeting of the State Council was to be held on the 6th instant, and instructions were about to be issued for a reassembling of all the Councillors in Peking by the 21st instant. This does not look as though Yuan's plans had suffered serious dislocation.

The last news with regard to Prince Ching is that he has decided to reside permanently with all his family in the German Settlement in Tientsin. It thus appears that the story told of his intended retirement to Mukden was groundless. In fact, if the accounts reaching Japan be correct, the capital of Manchuria is not exactly the place that a Chinese Prince would be likely to select for a peaceful retreat in his declining years, as the accounts from the Three Eastern Provinces indicate a state of great unrest. All the troops in Antung are said to have become bandits and to be pillaging everywhere in small groups, while at Hsinmintung the state of affairs is no better.

Monday, April 8.

There is some reason to think that President Yuan and his colleagues originally contemplated a pageant of considerable magnificence in connexion with the entry of the first Republican Cabinet into the capital. The Senate, as our readers will have observed, at its last session in Nanking on the 6th instant, decided to rise for an interval of nine days preparatory to setting out for Peking, in which city the members were to assemble by the 21st instant. The project in fixing these dates was to contrive a striking ceremony, in which a guard of honour, consisting of 10,000 men, should take part. But the telegraph now says that the troops have fallen into such disfavour owing to their recent excesses as to invest with apprehension their connexion with any public ceremonial on a large scale. Yuan has been made sensible of this feeling, and the dimensions of the proposed guard of honour have been reduced to a thousand men, while the programme of a simultaneous entry into the capital by the new Ministers has been practically abandoned.

Tokyo newspapers allege that an attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition to the Shensi Imperialists has been made by German merchants of Hankow. The rifles and cartridges were packed in beer barrels, and consigned to General Sheng, but they were discovered by the Customs officials, who are now said to be discussing the course to pursue. We do not see that there is much room for discussion.

It becomes more and more evident that great difficulties will be experienced in disbanding the troops organized during the recent insurrection. The men seem determined to support each other in law-breaking practices. Thus at Chefoo a number of soldiers who had broken into a restaurant, made free with its contents, and being subsequently apprehended by the police, were forcibly rescued by their comrades. Until

all these men have been safely disposed of the feeling of unrest in China cannot be allayed. Even at Wuchang, where comparatively good discipline was supposed to prevail, riots are said to have broken out, and a conspiracy has been discovered for the assassination of General Li himself.

Tuesday, April 9.

We have more than once called our readers' attention to the fact that the intelligence telegraphed to the *Chuo Shimbum* from China differs often radically from the news received by other Tokyo journals, and in several cases the Unionist organ has shown itself well informed. It now confidently affirms that a second insurrection is about to break out with Wuchang and Hankow for bases and it associates this forecast with the journey undertaken by Sun Yat-sen to Wuchang. Sun has certainly set out for that place and the reasons of his going remain obscure; but no explanation is offered to account for the alleged insurrection or for Sun's journey. It would appear, however, that a movement is on foot to oust Tang Shao-i from the post of Minister President of State. It would also appear that Premier Tang and President Yuan have had a grave difference of opinion. It will be remembered that according to the new Constitution the viceroys and governors of provinces are henceforth to be of equal rank and to receive the title of Governor-General, being nominated to that position by the President. Premier Tang has now suggested, however, that the Governors-General should be chosen by the local assemblies, and that the names thus indicated should be submitted to the President for selection and nomination. This proposal is said to have greatly offended President Yuan, who considers that such a change of system would wholly disturb the unification of the realm and would at once precipitate a division into North and South. In fact it would mean a disruption in China. The language that Yuan is alleged to have employed when rejecting Tang's suggestion is said to be of such a nature as to render the future co-operation of the two statesmen impossible. The whole story, however, may prove to have been made out of whole cloth.

Wednesday, April 10.

There appears to be some truth in the rumours that dissensions have arisen in the camp of the Republicans. In Peking some time ago a party was formed for the purpose of co-operating with President Yuan in the unification of the Chinese nation; a most necessary process if Republican institutions are to be consummated. The leaders of the society are said to be Mr. Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs in the new Cabinet, and Mr. Tuan Chijui, to whom the portfolio of War has been offered. These two statesmen are staunch adherents of President Yuan and their words carry corresponding weight. They and the other leaders of the above society are said to have represented to Yuan that Premier Tang Shao-i is playing altogether into the hands of the Nanking party, and that his manifest partiality must have the effect of breaking up the solidarity of the Unionists. Yuan is said to have acted upon this advice and to have summoned Tang Shao-i to the capital at once. Reading between the lines of these telegrams

we see plainly that the South and the North have already begun to diverge. There are evidences of other dissensions between Yuan and his nominees, but these things are of minor importance, and must have been anticipated. The really important feature is that Nanking and Peking should not set up different banners, and unfortunately that seems to be just what they are doing.

The trouble at Kiukiang has evidently been temporarily disposed of by the vigorous action of the United States, Great Britain and Japan in landing marines. The trouble had its origin in the presence of a large number of Imperialists, who would have broken out into open war had they not been peremptorily dealt with. The squadrons of the three Powers mentioned landed a force aggregating 750 men, and forty arrests were made, the ultimate result being six executions. From other parts of the country also comes intelligence of disturbances but these are not so formidable as rumour recently represented them to be.

The Council of State held its final meeting at Nanking on the 9th instant, and the members were to set out from the following day. It is expected that the Council will resume its sittings in Peking towards the close of the month.

It is now stated that the guards appointed to escort the members of the Council of State and other high dignitaries from Nanking to Peking are to be limited to the number of three thousand, not one thousand, as stated in our last issue. The original idea of the Council of State and other high officials who are about to make the journey was to have ten thousand troops to be told off for the purpose. But Peking, after recent experiences, cannot easily reconcile itself to the presence of such a large force under arms, and even Yuan Shih-kai is opposed to the procedure. How this will end there is no suggestion, for the Nanking dignitaries shrink from making the journey without guards, and the Peking folks have no desire to renew their acquaintance with troops such as those who recently sacked the city.

Thursday, April 11.

The pessimists are determined apparently that the public mind shall have no rest with regard to the Chinese problem. Their reports as to dissensions between a section of the Republican leaders and President Yuan are now supplemented by statements that a party has been formed in Peking to agitate against the projected loans on the ground that the conditions accompanying them are certain to be injurious to China's sovereign prerogatives. This is a revival of the Rights-Recovery movement, and the reappearance of such agitation is certainly disquieting. But it is scarcely possible to conceive that the movement will receive any military support in the circumstances. The major part of the proposed loans will have to be applied to providing solatia and honoraria for disbanded soldiers, and it will therefore be entirely in the interests of the army that the loans should be negotiated successfully. If that fact is kept in mind, it will be seen that from this particular form of the Rights Recovery agitation, nothing very serious need be apprehended. The dissensions among the Cabinet Ministers are also probably exaggerated. We have to remember that the Chinese nation is not all Republican. There are many supporters of a monarchy, and naturally those men see

their immediate opportunity in sowing seeds of division among the statesmen who are engaged in organizing a Republican regimen. The plan adopted is to create an impression that Premier Tang is disposed to join hands with the Southern instead of the Northern party, a rumour which involves the idea that the leading statesmen are already divided into two such parties. Of course if that be really the case, the prospects of the Republic are very gloomy, but we are inclined to think that the present interregnum is being taken advantage of by mischief-makers in the interests of Imperialism. On the other side of the account we may fairly set the facts that Field Marshal Hwang himself is about to repair to Peking; that Premier Tang is already en route for that city, and that all the portfolio-holders in the new Ministry and all the members of the Council of State are expected to arrive there in time for the grand conclave on the 21st instant.

A NEW STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

There has just been formed a new steamship company to ply between Japan and the South Sea Islands. It is called the *Nanyo Kisen Kaisha*, and its principal projectors are Messrs Harada, Itaya and Oaki. There is still some uncertainty as to the locality of the head office. Kobe and Yokohama are both struggling for the honour, and it is thought likely that the latter will carry the day. From next October, two vessels of 3,000 tons each will be placed upon the line, and they will receive official assistance to the extent of 75,000 yen, which will be doubled when three steamers are at work. The above three projectors are well known as proprietors of tramp-steamers (*shagaisen*), but they are not among the prominent capitalists of the country. They are said to have satisfied themselves, however, and to have convinced their supporters, that an important maritime carrying trade awaits development between Japan and the Southern islands, as Batavia, Java, Hongkong, Saigon, Sumatra, Samoa, and Manila.

With reference to this project the *Niroku Shimpō* quotes an anonymous Japanese official as saying that the money to be spent by the Treasury in subsidizing the proposed line of steamers will not be a new charge upon the State. More than the requisite sum was economized in the Budget by amendments of the application of the shipping law, and the necessary consent was given by the Diet. Therefore there will be no pecuniary difficulty whatever in carrying out the programme. On the other hand, the enterprise presents great prospects of success. The great difference in distance between Europe and the territories in question constitutes an advantage which Occidental countries will in vain seek to dispute. Moreover, the most important inhabitants of the Islands in question are men of Chinese nationality, who not only use Japanese goods in large quantity, but also are much dissatisfied with the very crude arrangements made for the transport of merchandise coming to or going from the Islands through Chinese hands. These men will certainly welcome any improved system which aims at providing them with greater convenience and facilities. In these conditions the Government in Tokyo saw ample justification for encouraging the establishment of a special service of steamers.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

Saturday, April 6.

Tokyo is in receipt of intelligence that the tenders for fishing in Russian waters, which were opened on the 28th ultimo when the Japanese tenderers were victorious, have been pronounced invalid and fresh tenders have been called for. This is much resented by the Japanese tenderers, who, believing that the matter had terminated in their favour, left Vladivostok for home, and are now placed at a great disadvantage. They allege that the Russian Authorities, in declaring the tenders illegal, were prompted by unjust complaints emanating from Russian subjects whose tenders had been rejected. Not only will the victorious tenderers be subjected to great trouble and inconvenience, but they also allege that the fishing season will be shortened by this arbitrary action on the part of the Russian officials. We are not in possession of information as to the details of the difficulty, and we are therefore unable to form any idea as to the justice of the Japanese contention, but most people will be disposed to believe that some irregularity did actually occur in connexion with the tenders, and that the Russian Authorities had no choice but to repeat the operation.

Sunday, April 7.

By the Treaty of Portsmouth the privilege of engaging in the fishing industry within Russia's northern seas is extended to Japanese subjects. Last December, however, the Russian Authorities unexpectedly announced that the exercise of this privilege would be limited to a space within a radius of one nautical mile at each of the fisheries. This restriction was much criticised at the time, and now that the fishing season is approaching, the question attracts fresh observation. It is not denied that by the Portsmouth Treaty Russia is entitled to fix the limits of the fisheries at her own discretion, but naturally no one supposed that she would depart from the long-recognized rule which assigns a radius of three miles as the boundary of national waters. Japanese experts assert that by reducing the area to a circle of one-mile radius, fishing will be rendered practically impossible, except in the case of fish like salmon, which are caught mainly at the mouths of rivers when they are on their way to their spawning grounds. The Japanese Government at once entered a protest and the matter is now under discussion in St. Petersburg. But the imminence of the fishing season directs attention again to the problem. Doubtless Russia has some good reason for her action, but so far as we know, her case has not yet been stated publicly.

Thursday, April 11.

The difficulty which arose in connexion with the tenders for fishing licenses in Russian northern waters has been satisfactory disposed of. It appears that there was actually an irregularity in the manipulation of the tenders. According to the rules, these documents should not be opened until the whole have been handed in, but, on the present occasion, they were opened one by one as received. Nobody is understood to claim that this departure from the law was made for dishonest purposes or that it led to any unfairness. But it certainly was illegal, and when the tenders showed that the great bulk of the fishing would fall to Japanese hands, the

Russian tenderers found in this irregularity a pretext to object. For a moment it seemed that new tenders would be called for, but the Japanese Consul pointed out that this would involve a loss of two months at the beginning of the fishing season, and would also subject the Japanese to other expenses, the whole amounting to about a million yen. In consideration of these facts the Governor-General of Amur has agreed that the tenders shall be regarded as valid.

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

Mr. Kamei, a travelling correspondent of the *Fiji Shimpō*, makes some shrewd remarks about the Anglo Japanese Alliance. He refers specially to the attacks directed against the Japanese Government by the opposition during the recent session of the Diet. The leaders of those attacks would have had some reason on their side if they could have accused the Cabinet in Tokyo of failing to consult English official opinion and of not taking sufficient pains to keep themselves au courant of English views. But the assailants of the Japanese Ministry adopted precisely the opposite line. They charge their country's statesmen with waiting cap in hand on England and following her guidance perpetually. But what, after all, should be the attitude of the parties to such a compact? Are they to turn their backs on each other the moment any difficulty arises? Are they to behave like blood-relations who acknowledge the ties of consanguinity only so long as the sun of prosperity is shining? It is obviously Japan's duty as a faithful ally to keep in the closest possible touch with England, and the Japanese statesmen become blameworthy from the moment they neglect that duty. England has given ample evidence of her loyal attitude towards the Alliance in connexion with the Fakumen Railways, the problem of Manchurian neutralization and the Four-Powers Loan. If the truth were known, it would be found that the people who cry out about the uselessness of the Alliance are old fashioned foreigners who retain the views of fifty years ago about Oriental and Occidental distinctions. After all, the prime purpose of the Alliance is to preserve the peace of the East, and neither of the allies can possibly show too much assiduity in cementing the bonds of the union.

THE ASSEMBLY OF PREFECTS.

The usual annual assembly of prefects is to commence this year on the 10th instant. There are many opinions as to the utility of this conclave, and indeed, a majority of publicists appear to regard it as superfluous. However, it has become customary to hold such a convention every year, and no exception will be made on this occasion. One prominent subject of discussion is expected to be the supply of cheap capital to provincial districts. That was one of the main purposes with which the Postal Savings Banks were organized, and the Banks did actually lend to the farmers 2½ million yen in 1909; 1½ millions in 1910 and 2 millions in 1911. But the deposits at the Banks have ceased to grow at anything like their recent rate, and the question now is how to find some other source of obtaining money. The prefects will doubtless discuss the problem but they are not expected to find a solution.

MAGDALENA BAY.

Thursday, April 4.

It is claimed that a Tokyo telegram is responsible for the excitement existing in the United States with regard to Magdalena Bay, but we cannot recall or discover that any such wire was sent from the Japanese capital. At all events the purport of the telegram is confidently asserted to have been that the Japanese Government had opened negotiations with the Mexican Authorities for the acquisition of a colony and a coaling station in Magdalena Bay. Of course the whole story is a pure canard. The Mexican Authorities have no competence to grant a site for such a purpose to a foreign Power without the consent of the Mexican people explicitly conveyed through their parliamentary representatives, and moreover, there would be no conceivable gain to Japan in the alleged acquisition. But the Senate in Washington, by passing a resolution as reported this morning by Reuter, has imparted a fictitious importance to the story. There are evidently a great many people in America whose knowledge of Japan is of the most fragmentary character, and who make it a rule to credit almost any accusation preferred against their Far Eastern friend.

Friday, March 5.

It is now stated that the proverbial grain of truth assumes somewhat larger dimensions in the Magdalena Bay affair than was originally supposed. An enterprising Japanese, Mr. Yokoyama Ippai, in conjunction with some others of his country and of the United States, has been seeking permission to engage in fishing operations in that remote part of the world, and Senator Lodge, from whom the public was not prepared to see any emotional display, has jumped to the conclusion that these Japanese fishermen are conquerors of the Pacific in disguise. Mr. Yokoyama attracted some attention at one time in Japan when he controlled a body of *soshi* and showed himself more adventurous than law-abiding. He is evidently imbued with the spirit of enterprise, though the notion that any herring-catching operations of his in remote Mexican waters can be twisted into a violation of the Monroe doctrine is really too extravagant to be entertained for a moment. The incident derives its whole interest from the evidence it furnishes of American nervousness about Japanese doings in the Pacific. Tokyo journals express great astonishment that a publicist like Senator Lodge should associate himself with such a chimera. But may it not prove that Senator Lodge's sole object is to allow the wholesome atmosphere of facts to permeate the realm of fiction? He may have seen that reticence in this instance is calculated to do more mischief than the most blatant rumour and in that conviction he may have invited a declaration from the United States' Government.

Saturday, April 6.

This morning's telegrams throw still further light on the affair. They say that in response to the inquiry addressed by the Senate at Mr. Lodge's instance, the State Department in Washington replied that an application for land to be devoted to colonization purposes and the construction of a coaling station in Magdalena Bay had actually been made by the directors of

the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha*. Thereupon the American owners of large tracts of land along the shores of the Bay had applied to the State Department for instructions, and had been directed not to endorse the application on any account. We presume that this information will satisfy the American Senate and the American nation, but we are compelled to regret that such a step should have been taken by the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha*. America's extreme sensitiveness in everything that concerns the Monroe doctrine directly or indirectly is well known, and it is scarcely conceivable that any foreign steamship company should have formulated an application so obviously inconsistent with the spirit of that doctrine. The essay was doomed to failure from the outset and could scarcely fail to suggest misconstruction.

Sunday, April 7.

The strangest feature of the whole affair is that the Directors of the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha* deny emphatically that they have ever made any request for a coaling station or a colony in Magdalena Bay. They say that such an acquisition would be quite useless to them, as Magdalena Bay is far removed from Manzanilla where the steamers of the Company call. They further point out that a similar canard was flown some three years ago, and was then fully exposed. Doubtless the matter has again been brought upon the *tapis* by land owners in Magdalena Bay, who hope to induce the United States Government to buy up their properties for international reasons.

Monday, April 8.

It appears that the *New York Times* telegraphed direct to Marquis Saionji for information as to the doings of Japan in connexion with Magdalena Bay. The Marquis replied through the American Embassy. He explained that the whole story evidently had its origin in an application made by the Far-Eastern Whaling Company to the Mexican Government, asking that the same privileges as those enjoyed by other countries should be extended to the Japanese Company. There was absolutely nothing more to be said about the affair, nor was there ever talk of a coaling station or a colony. We read, however, that the action taken by Senator Lodge is welcomed in the United States as an evidence that the validity of the Monroe doctrine cannot be queried without previous reference to Congress.

Wednesday, April 10.

It is really little creditable to American journalists that they should persist in making such a commotion about the Magdalena Bay question. Apparently the ball was set rolling by a reporter of the *San Francisco Examiner*, who obtained news that a certain Japanese, by name Noda, was about to proceed to Southern California for the purpose of purchasing land from a Mexican company which owns more of that commodity than it knows how to utilize. The reporter appreciated the value to which this "scoop" might be raised and he applied himself to exploit it for all its worth. That is the way with reporters now-a-days. They think a great deal more of making a sensation than of instructing the public. It is all very miserable and very contemptible, but there is no apparent remedy. The reporter can still count on a credulous audience however flighty may be his statements.

Thursday, April 11.

The outlines of the Magdalena Bay phantom are now tolerably discernable. It appears that an association called the Chartered Company of California owns a large tract of land at Magdalena Bay, and has of late been making strenuous efforts to interest Mr. Noda, a San Francisco capitalist, to purchase the property. After many representations from the Company, Mr. Noda decided to pay a visit to the place, as, after all, it might prove a favourable site for a Japanese colony. Of this journey the *San Francisco Examiner* obtained intelligence, and immediately began to write up the matter, with the result that the public obtained an altogether exaggerated idea of the dimensions.

It is evident, also, to any one perusing Senator Lodge's language in the Senate, that this Magdalena problem figured largely in his interpretation of the application of the Monroe Doctrine. The words used were:—

Suppose, for example, some great Eastern Power should directly or indirectly take possession of a harbour on the west coast of Mexico for the purpose of making it a naval station and a place of arms. I am using no imagination in suggesting such a case. It is not very long since an indirect movement was begun, and it is apparently still on foot, to obtain possession for a foreign Power of Magdalena Bay, so I may fairly suppose that such a case might arise. If it did we should immediately intervene. We should declare that this was a violation of our constant policy known as the Monroe Doctrine. The nation seeking the station on the coast of Mexico would then say: "Very well, let us take this to arbitration." We could not help ourselves, for under the terms of the treaty, either party to a dispute can bring the other before the High Commission of Inquiry, and the Monroe Doctrine would then be submitted to them by us as a bar to the arbitrariness of the question.

"The Monroe Doctrine, as a doctrine, in general terms, would not and could not, as an abstract proposition, come before the Commission, but it would appear there inevitably as incidental to the taking of the harbour on the west coast of Mexico as proposed by the foreign Power. A year may, and in practice would, certainly elapse before the matter would be taken up by the Commission, and during that time the foreign Power would go on strengthening its hold upon the position which it had taken. Then comes the investigation of the Commission. Under the general principles of international law, the foreign Power would have a perfect right to secure that land by purchase or treaty. The bar that we could plead to their doing so would be that the action of the foreign Power threatened our safety and violated our settled policy; that is, the Monroe Doctrine. What chance do you think the Monroe Doctrine would have before a commission made up in part of persons not Americans? The Monroe Doctrine is not international law. It is a policy of the United States, declared after ample consideration as essential to its safety, and the strength of the doctrine is exactly that of the power of the United States and of its Navy. Suppose that Commission decided that it was an arbitrable question. Do you think the American people would arbitrate it? I do not, and I do not think it ought to be arbitrated. We should decline to arbitrate it, and the treaty would be disregarded, with all the unpleasant consequences which a disregard of treaty obligations always involves."

CHINA'S BUDGET.

Tokyo journals publish a startling statement about the Chinese Budget for next year. They say that the amount on the side of income is only 130 million *taels*, whereas the sum total appearing in the column of expenditures is 530 millions. No particulars are given, and in their absence it is idle to conjecture. But the inference which immediately suggests itself is that the new Republican Government intends to purchase popularity by a wholesale reduction of taxes during the first twelve-months of its administration. Still it is difficult to suppose that the foreign bond-holders *in esse* and *posse* can be induced to agree to such a policy.

CHINESE LOANS.

Wednesday, April 3.

This morning's (3rd instant) news seems to indicate that no serious notice has been taken of the Four-Powers' protest against the Belgian loan. On the contrary, the transaction proceeded with exceptional celerity, the last instalment of the loan having been paid over on the 30th ultimo, so that China may be said to have contracted a new debt of a million sterling. Moreover, the telegrams indicate that a new group has been formed in connexion with this transaction, Belgium, Russia and England combining to carry it through. The only effect produced by the protest was that the idea of hypothecating the Peking Chankiakau Railway as security has been abandoned. According to present appearances, the greater part of the capital for the transaction has been furnished by Russia. It will be remembered that when the association of Russia with the loan was first spoken of, the public were disposed to regard the transaction as a device on the part of St. Petersburg to get command of the Peking-Chankiakau Railway. We do not observe that this suspicion is at all dispelled by the new development, namely, the omission of the Railway from the security given for the loan.

Saturday, April 6.

Since the sack of Peking, the unfortunate inhabitants of that city have been urging the Government to accept the responsibility of compensating them in some degree, at any rate, for the crippling losses which they then encountered. Their goods stolen or destroyed and their stores wholly or partially reduced to ashes, these traders find it impossible to resume their industry without some access to ready money. But ready money is just what the Government itself has most need of, and it is said that the Authorities are reluctantly obliged to turn a deaf ear to these applications for aid. Accordingly the citizens have decided to raise a foreign loan on their own account, and in pursuance of that purpose they have approached Belgium and France with a proposal for a loan of 10 million *taels* on the security of the Municipal revenue. There appears to be no reason why such a transaction should not be successfully negotiated. The security is good, the sum moderate, and the Municipality will doubtless acquire, on the morrow of the Republican Government, a sufficiently ample measure of local autonomy.

Something of the same kind is reported from Tientsin. A German firm has offered the Municipality accommodation to the extent of 10 million *taels* for rebuilding purposes, but the Municipality is said to have replied that it was not in a position to consider such a transaction until the Government's decision with regard to compensation was known. Should that decision prove unfavourable to the citizens, however, the German firm has been promised primary rights.

Monday, April 8.

It is alleged that Russia has agreed to enter the Loan Syndicate on condition that her special rights in Sinkiang, Outer Mongolia and Manchuria are recognized. England and France have agreed to this, and thus the Syndicate becomes a Seven-Power confederation. This constructively signifies that Japan's special rights in Manchuria are also recognized, which indeed goes without

saying. The attempts recently made in certain quarters to prove that by asserting those rights Japan was flagrantly departing from the principle of the open door and equal opportunity, must be classed with the well established fact that one law for me and another for thee is the guiding theory of some Western publicists.

Tuesday, April 9.

Since the above was in type news from various sources indicates that on the 18th of March Japan signified her intention of joining the Four-Powers Loan, with due reservation of all the special rights already acquired by her in Manchuria. The Loan then contemplated was to be handed over by instalments, namely, 12 million *taels* in March and 6,200,000 *taels* in each of the five consecutive months, commencing with April and ending in August. It will be remembered that some uncertainty then existed about Russia's attitude towards this transaction, but it now appears that as a matter of fact Russia had taken a similar step five days earlier than Japan did, namely, on the 13th of March. The St. Petersburg statesmen, however, restricted their action to a short-period loan and asked for time to consider their attitude towards a long period transaction. Russia of course explicitly reserved her already acquired rights and her special interests in Outer Mongolia and Northern Manchuria as well as Western China.

As for the Belgian Loan, it is now expected to end just as was predicted in these columns, namely, the transaction is permitted but China is invited to act with greater frankness on similar occasions hereafter. In other words, it is suggested to the Peking statesmen that when they have already opened negotiations with one group of Powers, they ought not to have private recourse simultaneously to another group.

We may mention here that a controversy has been going on between the *Fiji Shimpō* and the *Japan Chronicle* with reference to this loan. The latter journal seems to have taken a strange position. It seems to have claimed in effect that the policy of the open door and equal opportunity should have retrospective value, and should wipe out all the special rights and privileges acquired by Japan in Manchuria at the cost of 100,000 Japanese lives and 2,000 millions of *yen*. No Occidental statesmen has ventured to assert the proposition advanced by the *Japan Chronicle*, and the *Fiji Shimpō* now points with derision to its southern contemporary's isolated attitude.

Nevertheless it has to be noted that this reservation on Russia's part with regard to Mongolia seems to have produced a startling effect upon President Yuan. He recognizes that Mongolia has practically ceased to occupy the position of a buffer state and that the frontiers of China and Russia in that part of Asia will soon be contentious. That is one outcome of the fall of the Manchu Dynasty.

Wednesday, April 10.

Peking financial officials are quoted as saying that the funds in their coffers will suffice to meet the needs of April only, and that unless the Four-Powers Loan begins to be productive before May, serious complications must ensue. Rather than run the risk of being found utterly impecunious, these officials will have recourse again to Belgium, and fresh difficulties will thus be created. We should think that no ap-

prehension need be entertained on this score. *Nolentes volentes* the Powers will have to finance China until she is able to walk alone, whenever that may be; and whether the money comes from Belgium or from London or from some other source, come it will. But what will be the sequel? That is the question that presents itself in the most ominous proportions to every thoughtful onlooker.

THE "GENRO" AND THE PACIFIC.

In the recent session of the House of Representatives the committee of ways and means closed its doors for the purpose of discussing the country's naval programme. A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, referring to the *in camera* debate, is quoted by the *Far East* without comment as follows:—

It is impossible to say how a communication made in secret session can have found its way to the Press, but as, in Japan, the publication of anything affecting the national interest which the Government wish to keep secret is followed by an invitation to "honourable editor" to visit "august prison," it is evident that, for some reason or another, the Government wishes this estimate to be made public. The reason is, perhaps, not hard to guess. The Saionji Cabinet came into office on a programme of the "Genro," which is to secure the mastery of the Pacific for Japan, and requires naval strength. The present moment of national excitement over China is a favourable one for appealing to the nation to make the necessary sacrifices.

The last two sentences in the above critique really cannot be passed over in silence. The *Saionji Cabinet* came into office on the programme of the "Genro," which is to secure the mastery of the Pacific for Japan and requires naval strength. We have no idea who the writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* may be, but one of two things is certain, namely, either that he has allowed himself to be persuaded by a grotesque falsehood, or that he manufactures his news out of his own imagination. Who are these "Genro" with their programmes securing the mastery of the Pacific? Since Prince Ito's death the Elder Statesmen are unfortunately reduced to four, namely Princes Yamagata and Oyama and Marquises Inouye and Matsukata. Which of these statesmen can be honestly credited with the programme of winning the mastery of the Pacific for Japan? We can speak from direct intercourse with each one of the four and from intercourse with many who enjoy their closest friendship and confidence, and we have no hesitation in saying that the writer of the *Pall Mall Gazette* misrepresents them all in the grossest manner. Their idea of the Pacific is not that it is an arena for testing the naval strengths of Japan and other Powers, but that it is on the contrary an avenue of friendly intercourse between the Far East and the great American Republic. As for the allegation that the Saionji Cabinet came into office pledged to this masterful programme of the *Genro* our readers will agree that no more crassly ignorant statement has been devised. The Saionji Cabinet does not hold office at the beck and call of the Elder Statesmen. That is precisely what it does not do. If Prince Katsura were in power there might be some reason for assuming the existence of an understanding between him and the *Genro*, but the *Seiyun-kai* Ministry occupies the diametrically opposite camp. It would have been well nigh impossible to convey more misleading intelligence through the columns of a newspaper than the *Pall Mall Gazette's* correspondent has conveyed.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

The Cabinet seems to have greatly increased its popularity by giving the portfolio of War to Lieutenant-General Baron Uehara, and by recommending his Majesty to nominate to life membership of the House of Peers Messrs. Ebara Soroku and Sugita Teiichi. The Peers themselves also are said to be assuming a much more friendly attitude towards the Representatives. Although the proposed amendments of the Election Law were rejected by an overwhelming majority of the Upper House, the method pursued by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Hara Kei, in introducing and supporting the Bill, won universal approval. No attempt whatever was made to employ official pressure or to have recourse to any devices that were not perfectly plain and above board. Hence, though the measure was thrown out so decisively, the resultant impression was favourable to the Cabinet as evincing a sincere desire to depart from the methods of bureaucracy and to settle questions solely on their own merits. But much more influential than this occurrence have been the unflagging efforts of Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers, to remove the fiction that has existed for many years between the two Chambers. Prince Tokugawa has neglected no opportunity of furthering this end, and success is now said to be crowning his endeavours. Altogether it is thought that the Cabinet will emerge from the general elections next month with a greatly increased majority. The nation is disposed to credit the sincerity of the Ministry's programme of fiscal reform, and nothing will be done to impede the Government's efforts in that direction. At the same time the Saionji Cabinet has undoubtedly inspired large hopes by its promises of reform, and the people will scrutinize very closely the outcome of those promises when it begins to take definite shape in the autumn.

A *Seiyukai* leader, speaking through the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, makes an interesting suggestion. He thinks that all the indications point to a coalition between the Satsuma men and the *Seiyukai*, the Chōshū magnates being left to shift for themselves. This analysis of the situation has received its final feature from the appointment of General Baron Uehara to the portfolio of War. There are now no less than four portfolio-holders who may be called Satsuma adherents, namely, Baron Makino, Mr. Haseba, Baron Saitō and Baron Uehara. Baron Saitō is not actually of Satsuma extraction, but he has always been regarded as the *alter ego* of Count Yamamoto. Further, among Vice-Ministers there are three Satsuma men and to these may be added the Chief of the Metropolitan Police, Mr. Anraku. It would certainly be an interesting development of Japanese politics if the two great southern clans, whose union forty-five years ago made the Restoration possible, should now separate and join political parties as above suggested—especially interesting inasmuch as the founder of the *Seiyukai* was the great Chōshū leader, Prince Ito.

STRIKES IN JAPAN.

Until a few years ago there existed in Japan a comfortable conviction that, however things might fare in the Occident, this country was secure against labour unions,

strikes and corresponding disturbances of industry. It is true that some onlookers described this assurance as very fallible, but nevertheless people in general took an optimistic view. From the year 1897, however, things began to look a little ominous, and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce thought it worth while to compile statistics, albeit in a perfunctory and inaccurate manner. The figures thereafter showed the following results:—

Year.	Number of Strikes.	Number of labourers involved.
1908	24	4,188
1909	18	1,498
1910	9	728
1911	17	2,456
Totals	68	8,870

Assuming that these figures represent only one-half of the reality, it would appear that the total number of strikes in the whole four years was 136, and the total number of labourers engaged, 17,740. The current year, however, has shown a very marked tendency to increase. The year commenced with the strike of the Tokyo Railway employees, which was incomparably the most extensive thing of the kind that had hitherto occurred, as well as incomparably the least justifiable from the point of view of the strikers. Then followed in rapid succession a strike of coal-lighter coolies on the Sumida, involving 1,500 men; a petty strike among the employees of the Yusen Kaisha, and similar small commotions among the boat-men of the Tokyo Municipality and the employees of the Tokyo Electric Company, followed by the strike of Messrs. Helm and Company's Yokohama cargo-men. It will be seen that, great and small, these strikes totalled six. March saw a large and sudden increase. There were strikes in Aomori, Fukushima, on the Gan-Yetsu Railway, in the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, in the Hydro-Electric Company of Shikoku, in Gifu, in Okayama (in this women operatives were engaged), in Miye, in Kure and in Osaka. Among these, four were successful, namely, those of Aomori, the Gan-Yetsu Railway, the Mitsui Bussan and Gifu. The total number of strikes in the one month of March thus amounted to ten, involving 7,700 employees. This is certainly a striking development and we look with great interest for the analysis of reasons which is promised by a correspondent of the *Asahi Shinbun* writing over the signature of "Shisui." If Japan is to be deprived in any considerable degree of the advantage she enjoys at present in the matter of cheap labour, her development will receive a serious check. Yet she cannot hope to escape the influence of such incidents as the recent colossal strike of coal-miners in England. It may be urged that the coal-miners failed signally, but we cannot conceal from ourselves the facts that they cost the country an enormous sum and that they compelled Parliament to legislate specially on their account.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Looking at Mr. de Becker's translation of the "Law of Weights and Measures in Japan" we are again reminded of the perennially stupid conservatism—we cannot find any gentler term—of the English-speaking races with their dreadful system of nomenclature in this branch of every-day life. When history tells us that in ancient Japan the unit of length was the distance between the

tips of the fingers of a man's outstretched arms, and the unit of agricultural area the space needed for growing 360 days' rations of rice for an adult, we are inclined to laugh at the uncivilized systems which were in force in those days. But we forget our own bushels and furlongs and perches and pints and all the other items of the absolutely unscientific list. In fact, in this matter England falls far behind nations whose civilization she has in other respects notably outstripped. Very few of us are cognizant even of the fact that for several years back a party of scientific and practical men of the United Kingdom, under the name of the "Decimal Association," have been working industriously and unremittingly to rescue their fellow-countrymen from the chaotic system inherited by them from their remote forefathers. Perseverence conquers all difficulties, and we do not entertain any doubt that this great blot on Anglo-Saxon civilization will be ultimately removed. In fact, some gratifying results have already been reached. Thus the Australian House of Representatives, in 1910, passed, by thirty-five votes to two, a resolution in favour of the compulsory adoption of the metric system throughout the Empire, and from the 1st of January of the current year a bill for the enforced adoption of that system in Malta went into force. These are small beginnings, but it is at least consolatory to read in the last circular, issued by the "Decimal Association" that "there is no doubt that the metre and kilogram are gaining ground in every direction and that the number of non-metric countries is being steadily reduced." The writers of the circular do not hesitate to say that the metric system "is gradually closing in upon the British Islands."

PUBLIC OPINION IN CHINA.

It would seem that the first impression produced in China by Republican institutions is a perception of the danger of freedom of speech. A memorial has been addressed to President Yuan in the sense that in the present stage of national development it is highly dangerous to remove all restraints upon public expression of opinion, and that the safest plan is to temper liberty with scrutiny for the time being at all events. Freedom of speech and pen is apt to be perverted to dangerous uses and a little wholesome despotism may well be exercised in the interests of public peace and good order. The names of the memorialists are not given by the telegraph, but it is said that their advice has found favour with Yuan Shih-kai and that he will consult the new Cabinet on the expediency of legislating in the above sense so soon as the Ministers have assembled in Peking. As might have been anticipated, the incident has produced a commotion in journalistic circles where it is appreciated that newspapers would be the first to suffer from the imposition of the projected restraints. It is certainly a curious and interesting fact that the first Republican legislation in China should take the form of narrowing the limits of free speech, but when we consider the heterogeneous nature of the materials out of which Yuan and his colleagues are required to manufacture a Republic, we cannot be surprised that powers of exercising restraint and discipline should seem primarily necessary.

THE WAR OFFICE IN TOKYO.

Lieutenant-General Baron Uehara Yusaku has been appointed to succeed the late Baron Ishimoto as Minister of War. General Uehara is now in command of the Fourteenth Division at Utsunomiya, and in point of ability and experience, no one questions the justice of this nomination, but a good deal of attention is attracted by the fact that he is a native of Satsuma. Choshu influence has hitherto been supposed to be paramount in the army, and it was not imagined that any Prime Minister would think of recommending for Imperial nomination a member of another clan. This conviction was believed to be interfering more or less with the efficiency of the Army, inasmuch as it produced a feeling of uncertainty among officers of high rank who did not belong to the favoured clique; and a good deal of satisfaction is expressed by newspaper organs, since Marquis Saionji has had the courage to depart from the mischievous rule. The satisfaction is not lessened by a rumour that the Marquis had the support of Prince Katsura in adopting this policy. Of course there was no lack of duly qualified Choshu officers, whose title to distinction was at least equal to that of Baron Uehara. Among these, General Viscount Oshima and Lieutenant-General Baron Nagaoka may be prominently mentioned, but they have been passed over in favour of Baron Uehara.

Since the above was in type the formal investiture of General Baron Uehara Yusaku has taken place in Tokyo (5th instant). The leading newspapers of the same day speak in most unequivocal strains of applause with reference to the fact that the Army has at last emerged from the Choshu trammels. The more moderate papers, like the *Jiji Shimpō*, do not go so far as to allege that any idea of clan influence as such swayed the councils of the War Department. They hold, however, that Choshu influence had inevitably asserted itself so that all the high posts fell into Choshu hands, and anything like radical reforms became impossible. As for extreme journals like the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, they take off the gloves altogether and write in such tones that one would suppose the country to have emerged from a crippling abuse. They say that it now only remains for the new Minister to join hands with the Cabinet in a wholesale system of reform, and that if unsuccessful, the Ministry should lay down the reins of power simultaneously with the resignation of Baron Uehara.

THE KURE STRIKE.

Thursday, April 4.

The optimistic forecasts attributed to the officials with regard to the strike at Kure Arsenal have not been justified by results. Out of the thirty thousand employees engaged at the works, nearly six thousand had struck by the 1st instant. The behavior of the men was for the most part quiet. But in one workshop some destruction of property took place, and the Authorities promptly had recourse to the police and the gendarmes. Moreover it was given out on the 2nd instant that if these measures did not suffice, troops would be called out promptly and used with determination. Nevertheless the men still remain on strike but are behaving themselves in

an exemplary manner. The causes of the trouble are somewhat complicated, but the ultimate aim of the strikers is to obtain an increase of pay to the extent of 30 per cent. There is a good deal of talk about arbitrary conduct on the part of officialdom in the matter of a charity hospital built at the cost of the hands in the yards. It is alleged that if Vice-Admiral Baron Yamanouchi and Lieutenant General Arisaka had remained at their posts, the disturbance would never have arisen, inasmuch as the tactful and sympathetic conduct of these officials made all their doings popular. But discontent about the management of the hospital and cognate matters seems to be only a secondary consideration. The real basic motive is a desire for higher pay.

Since the above was written the strike has been brought to an ignominious end. The fact is that the strikers were not furnished with funds to support their wives and children during the cessation of work. Starvation therefore was the alternative of submission. Moreover, it does not appear that public sympathy was with the strikers. They were in advance of the time and their demands about payment for extra work were unreasonable.

Saturday, April 6.

The Authorities appear to have behaved with great resolution in the matter of the strike at Kure. Wholesale arrests were made, even men who had not quitted their work being apprehended asingleaders. It was announced that no mercy would be shown, and that, if expedient, the Government would close the work-shops altogether for the present. Such a step would have meant starvation for the families of thousands of hands, since no funds are available against an emergency of the kind. Of course the paramount object of the Government was to prevent the strike from spreading to the shipbuilding yards, where over ten thousand men are employed. Great pains were taken to demonstrate to the men the unreasonableness of their demand, and success seems to have crowned these efforts, for work is said to have been resumed quietly. It is felt, however, that the situation is somewhat insecure, and that better organization and preparation on the part of the men might have greatly augmented the difficulty of the Authorities. The fact is that Japan is not ready as yet for any resolute conflict between capital and labour.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

It is stated that Mr. Soyeda Juichi, President of the Industrial Bank, is to start for Paris very shortly in order to complete the agreement recently negotiated with the *Société Générale* for the establishment of a Franco-Japanese Bank. Mr. Soyeda has been eminently successful in everything with which his name is connected and there can be no doubt that he will carry this transaction through in a satisfactory manner. No details are yet published as to the capital or the organization of the new Bank, but there can be no question that the agents in Japan will be the Industrial Bank. Some critics will doubtless object that this means a continuance of the policy of confining the inflow of foreign capital to official channels. There is certainly room for such a criticism, but apparently the Japanese find the system work well.

ENGLISH IN JAPAN.

We find the following in the *Kerry News*:-

English is the language of the Japanese Foreign Office—in its intercourse with foreign diplomats, and even in its telegraphic correspondence with its own representatives abroad. All telegrams from Tokyo to the foreign agents of the Japanese Government are written and ciphered in English, and replied to in the same manner.

Unfortunately this is not true. There was a time, just forty-six years ago, when history seemed likely to shape itself in the form now indicated by the *Kerry* journal. The Foreign Office in Tokyo had then almost made up its mind to adopt English as its official language, but strange to say, an English Representative, and that no less patriotic a person than Sir Harry Parkes, prevented the consummation of the purpose. The thing fell out in this way. A troublesome complication having arisen between the Yokohama Customs and the British Legation with reference to the use of private landing places by British subjects resident in Yokohama, a correspondence took place, and the Custom House, having just then acquired the services of the late Mr. Lowder, sent its despatches in the language in which they were written by him, namely, English, and in that form they were passed on to the British Legation by the Japanese Foreign Office. But it happened that Mr. Lowder, in withdrawing from the British Consular service, had given some offence to Sir Harry Parkes, and the latter, recognizing his handwriting, although the despatches were marked "copies," declined to receive them, and in fact returned them to the Foreign Office, asking for the Japanese originals. This incident of course had the effect of turning the Japanese from their purpose in the matter of adopting English as their diplomatic language. Of course these facts are not explicitly stated in any record, but they are nevertheless trustworthy. There is thus a great hiatus in the history told by the *Kerry* newspaper.

IMPERIAL NOMINEES.

Our readers are aware that one element in the House of Peers is composed of Imperial nominees selected by the Emperor on the ground of their scientific attainments or State services. His Majesty, on the recommendation of Marquis Saionji, has just nominated two well known Unionist politicians, namely, Messrs. Ebara Soroku and Sugita Tefichi. This has raised the question whether political partizanship is to be considered a proper qualification for this distinction. The enemies of the Unionists of course answer in the negative, but the Unionist partizans point out that on the retirement of the Katsura Ministry the Throne similarly nominated Messrs. Tokutomi and Kamada. Moreover, the leaders of the Unionists (*Seiyu-kai*) are understood to claim that nominations of this nature must always be contemplated under representative institutions, inasmuch as, from the point of view of political parties, services rendered to them deserve to be reckoned among services rendered to the State. Of course the example of all parliamentary countries should have prepared the builders of the Japanese Constitution for the development of some such feature, and to note its occurrence as a matter of historical interest rather than of public importance.

DEATH OF DOCTOR DIVERS.

Reuter's telegram this morning announcing the death of Doctor Edward Divers will be received with profound regret by a wide circle of friends. The deceased scientist came to Japan as Professor of Chemistry in the Engineering College about the year 1872, and when that college was amalgamated with the Imperial University, he filled the chair of chemistry in the latter institution for many years, so that the whole period of his service in Japan exceeded three decades. He was universally recognized as a man of altogether exceptional ability, and the Royal Society conferred on him its fellowship, an honour which falls to few men. Dr. Divers was well on in years at the time of his decease. He spent the last few years of his life in London and the public had no intimation that his health was broken. In Japan he very soon came to be regarded with eyes of veneration and affection, for he was not less lovable as a man than brilliant as a scientist. We venture to offer our sincere condolences to his two daughters, the sole remaining members of his family.

Dr. Divers, who was born in London in 1837, was educated at the City of London School, the Royal College of Chemistry, and Queen's College, Galway. In 1870 he was appointed Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in Middlesex Hospital Medical School, and three years later came to Japan as Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial College of Engineering in Tokyo. In 1882 he was appointed Principal of the College and on retiring was made Emeritus Professor of Chemistry in the Tokyo Imperial University. From 1900 to 1902 Dr. Divers was Vice-President of the Chemical Society, and in the latter year was President of the Chemical Section of the British Association. He was appointed Vice-President of the Institute of Chemistry and President of the Society of Chemical Industry in 1905. Dr. Divers published many papers on chemical subjects, some of which he contributed to the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Japan. He was a fellow of the Royal Society, and was honoured by his Imperial Japanese Majesty with the 2nd Class Order of the Sacred Treasure and the 3rd Class Order of the Rising Sun.

Dr. Divers was married in 1867 to Miss Margaret Theresa Fitzgerald, who predeceased him, and leaves two daughters.

THE GERMAN-JAPANESE SOCIETY.

A banquet was given on the evening of the 10th instant in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, to welcome the nomination of the new German Ambassador as an honorary member of the German-Japanese Society. About two hundred persons were present including Prince Katsura, who spoke in German, felicitating the Society on welcoming its illustrious guest. Count Rex in reply recalled the fact that some bitterness had existed between Japan and Germany when he left for Berlin a few months ago. It was a difference caused mainly by newspaper criticism, but it rendered specially desirable the good offices of the Society such as that to which he had now the honour of being admitted. He expressed a confident hope that the efforts of the Society would constantly tend to bring the two countries into closer fellowship.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN TOKYO.

The dispute continues about electric lighting in Tokyo. The Government, it is said, insists on limiting the quantity of light which the different companies will be allowed to furnish, and the companies claim that by imposing such limitations their business will be seriously impeded, if not destroyed. Of course the object of the Government is to save the streets from being perpetually torn up for the purpose of laying pipes. Already the companies have permission to supply 20,000 kilowatts, and the Authorities estimate that 10,000 more should suffice for all the reasonable needs of the city. But the companies deny this theory, and the Municipality, which has succeeded to the privileges enjoyed by the Tokyo Railway Company, alleges that with such limitations it will be obliged to pay for half as much power again as it actually utilizes. We have explained this point already. It is connected with the Municipality's contract for hydro-electric power furnished by the Kinugawa Company. Of course, the ideal state of affairs would be to leave the competing companies to struggle for the survival of the fittest, but that would mean that the streets, which already suffer terribly from such enterprises, would become practically impassable.

The Department of Communications is evidently anxious to keep the Tokyo Municipality outside the range of injurious competition. Hence the official decision that the Municipality's application for permission to instal apparatus for a million electric lights must be refused. The refusal is not complete. Permission is given for developing 10,000 kilowatts of lighting power, but that means only one-tenth of the amount applied for by the Municipality, and thus the Department's decision may be said to be a flat negation. The idea of the Authorities is plain enough. They do not want the city to run heavily into debt in connexion with an enterprise of a dubiously lucrative character. Even in granting permission for an additional 10,000 kilowatts of electric power, it is stipulated that the necessary money must be obtained by means of a domestic loan and that the latter must be spread over a period of three years. This is a serious blow to the projects of the Municipality and there is some talk of the resignation of Mr. Ozaki Yukio, which would be a great misfortune for the city.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The 28th of next December will witness the expiration of the Great Northern Telegraph Company's charter of the Shanghai-Nagasaki and the Vladivostok Nagasaki cables. It appears to be thought that the Japanese Government will seize that opportunity to buy up the Company, or, at any rate, to amend the terms of its charter. At present, messages in the Japanese language cannot be transmitted across the wires, and moreover the charges are very high. Thus from a strategical as well as an economic point of view some radical change is called for. Nobody denies that the Great Northern Company has done its work ably in the past, but certainly the ownership of two foreign cables between Japan and Russia as well as China is a distinct anomaly. No Western country would be content with such a situation.

MANCHURIA.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* Antung correspondent wires an item of intelligence which indicates the straits into which the finances of the Three Eastern Provinces have fallen. He says that in order to meet the expenses resulting from military operations in Manchuria, it became necessary to close all the Middle Schools, and since the military outlays still continue and seem likely to continue, either the schools must remain closed, or funds to reopen them must be obtained by contracting a loan. Peking made no difficulty in consenting to this proposal, and the correspondent adds that Governor-General Chao—we give the Viceroy's new title—has approached the Mitsui Bank with proposals for a loan of 2 million *taels*. The Bank is said to have agreed and the details are now under discussion.

A few days ago news reached Tokyo and was reported in these columns, to the effect that a party of Chinese soldiers had wrecked a Japanese restaurant in Kilin, destroying a good deal of property and injuring two of the inmates. We now learn that this episode has terminated in the usual manner. The Chinese Authorities have apologized, have indemnified the sufferers, have punished the ring-leaders, and have condemned one to seven hundred blows of the bamboo and two others to two months' imprisonment. The amount of the indemnity is not stated.

MONGOLIA.

Among the somewhat contradictory reports reaching Tokyo during the last few days, the one thing certain seems to be that President Yuan's invitation to Mongolia to send representatives to the Chinese National Assembly elicited from the *Gegen* a protest that Mongolia desires independence and has no intention of throwing in her lot with a Chinese Republic. We cannot be sure, however, whether, in response to that declaration, President Yuan proposed that the question should be referred to the Hague conference or whether the Mongolians themselves suggested a conference between Chinese, Russian and Mongolian commissioners. One account attributes to Yuan a very unequivocal menace in the event of Mongolia proving obdurate, but there is no confirmation of the rumour. At any rate it is evident that this question must soon come up for practical discussion. At present, all appearances indicate that the country of the Khans will become a Russian protectorate without any serious commotion whatever. Russian diplomacy has shown its usual cleverness in this matter, but it must be confessed that circumstances have favoured it.

RUSSIA IN MONGOLIA.

It is rumoured by this morning's telegrams that Russia, in response to the request that she should enter the Loan Syndicate, has declared that she considers it essential to reserve some rights in Mongolia, especially if any part of the funds derived from the Loan are devoted to Mongolian purposes. This attitude on the part of the great northern Power is said to be causing delay, and in order to conduct the negotiation as speedily as possible, the President of the Bank of Russia has proceeded to London to conduct the discussion in person.

DEATH OF MR. MITSUI SABUROSUKE.

As already reported on the 6th instant, at 5 p.m., Mr. Mitsui Saburosuke expired at his villa in Kamakura after a long and painful illness. The Mitsui house consists of six principal branches, by three of which the affairs of the house may be said to be arranged. Those three are Mitsui Hachirōjirō, Mitsui Saburosuke and Mitsui Takayasu, the first and the last having the title of Baron. In affairs of very grave moment the heads of the six branches are consulted, but in all other matters the opinion of the three here mentioned is conclusive. Mr. Mitsui Saburosuke was in his sixty-third year and his death will be a serious loss not only to the great Company he represents but also to his country. Some weeks ago it was known that the condition of the invalid offered no hope of recovery, and his physicians addressed themselves to the task of prolonging his life so that he might meet on this side of the grave his eldest son, who was *en route* from America. Happily this aim was accomplished.

The death is announced of Mr. Mitsui Saburosuke, one of the leading businessmen of the country, the sad event taking place at his villa at Kamakura early on Sunday morning. The deceased was in his sixty-third year. Previous to his demise, the Emperor was pleased to decorate him with the Third Order of Merit and the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

He was born on Feb. 28th in the third year of Kaei, some twenty years before the Restoration. In his early life, he went to America where he studied for some two years. Returning to Japan in the 25th year of Meiji he became the President of the Mitsui Mining Company. The Fifth Rank of the Junior Grade was conferred on him for his contribution to the coast defence equipment fund and later he was promoted to the same Rank of the Senior Grade. Among the several meritorious services the deceased rendered to this country as the President of the Company, may be mentioned the undertaking of the Miike coal mine, the construction at the cost of some five million *yen* of the Miike harbour, and the establishment at Miike of a Mitsui Industrial School which has produced quite a number of able mining engineers.

THE YOKOHAMA LOAN.

It is announced that the Yokohama Municipality has placed a loan for 1,200,000 *yen* with Messrs. Sale, Frazar and Company. The loan carries 5-per-cent. interest and the Municipality receives 92½ *yen* for each hundred *yen* bond. The proceeds of the loan are to be applied to extending the city's gas works. It is not to be understood that official sanction has yet been obtained, but there is no probability of difficulty in that matter.

On the 4th instant the City Assembly of Yokohama unanimously sanctioned the loan negotiated by the Municipality through the agency of Messrs. Sale, Frazar & Company. It remains now to obtain the Government's consent, but of that there can be very little doubt. The figures are as given in our last issue, but it is now added that the negotiations commenced at the fall of last year and were delayed owing to the unfavourable state of the money market, which did not allow the English firm to offer more than 96 at 6 per cent. It has now been deemed possible to give better rates, namely, 5 per cent. at 92½.

CHINA'S REPUBLIC.

We take the following interesting article from the *Literary Digest*:—

Sometimes the success of a revolution means the beginning, not the end, of trouble. It was so in France; it may be so in Mexico—and it is not impossible in China. Mr. J. Rodés, the correspondent of the *Paris Temps*, who has recently visited Peking, Hankow, and Shanghai, thinks that many of the revolutionaries have been fighting the Manchus under the impression that with the fall of Manchu rule the recent reforms would be abolished. When these revolutionaries find that the republic means even more reform, they will be just as ready to rise against the new rule. Only the leaders were real reformers, he writes:

"Of course, small groups of young men who have studied abroad and have adroitly taken the lead in recent movements are really imbued with modern ideas, but the masses are actuated by motives diametrically opposite. For the moment these masses are united by a common hatred of the Manchus. On all other points they are at variance, and it will be curious to watch whether elements so inharmonious can ever coöperate. We may, however, safely declare that the population have simply risen for the purpose of ousting the old Manchu usurpers. As for the modernizing policy of the court, it has merely intensified and roused to a paroxysm of fury the general hostility of the people."

All the Government reforms and so-called improvements, causing, as they do, an increase of the burden of taxation and interfering with the habits and amusements of the people, have deepened popular discontent, and we read that China is not really being Westernized. To quote:

"The introduction of reforms, the building of schools, of barracks, of prisons, and the expenses of free education, the new military organizations, burdens aggravated by the rule of the mandarins, have laid upon the Chinese loads which day by day grow greater and more intolerable. The suppression of the opium trade and the closing of gambling-houses have increased the general discontent. The institution of a body of general police has thrown out of employment and turned into the street a number of old watchmen and petty law officers who formerly lived peacefully on the small profits of their profession. All those who are affected by these innovations, as well as those who have simply been disturbed in their habits and customs, have risen against the Government with even more enthusiasm than the very revolutionaries who have incited them to revolt."

The riffraff and dregs of the people for the same reason have joined the revolution, but are quite ignorant of the meaning of liberty, democracy, or equality, and merely desire a return to the old ways:

"It is thus that in ports of the Yangtze the medieval archers of yesterday show themselves in crowds, armed with ancient scimitars and obsolete firearms. The pirates, who have been recently driven off the seas with greater strictness than heretofore and are not able to make a living, come forth to swell the number of the discontented, but can never be transformed into sincere republicans. These are the men who, with the members of secret societies, to whom they stand as brothers, furnish the great number of revolutionary recruits. In certain provinces even criminals have been pressed into the revolutionary army. I am forced to conclude that with the majority of the rebels the movement is very much more a reactionary protest than an explosion of modernism."

This writer might have added that the mass of the Chinese population regard the establishment of a Republic as an opportunity for obtaining freedom from taxes. Hitherto it had been a custom in China that a new dynasty should grant a remission from taxation for a period of three years. There is no prospect of anything of the kind on this occasion and the unpopularity of the new Republic will be correspondingly great.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

An American contemporary gives the following interesting account of an important feature in Sun Yat-sen's career:

"His father was a poor Cantonese who emigrated to Hawaii, worked first on a sugar-plantation and

finally obtained a small rice-field in the island of Oahu, about three miles from Honolulu. Here, almost in the shadow of the famous precipice of the Pali, where the conqueror Kamehameha the Great won his decisive victory, Dr. Sun Yat-sen was born. With customary Chinese industry and frugality his father supported his family, a wife and four children, and, about the time that Sun Yat-sen was twelve years of age, had saved money enough to enable him to return to Canton with his wife and daughters, leaving his two sons in Honolulu.

"The elder, Sun Alimi, moved to Maui and engaged in the cattle business. He placed his young brother in the school of Bishop Willis, in Honolulu, where the boy remained for several years. He became a convert to Christianity, and his brother at once advised the father, who wrote his younger son to come immediately to Canton. Sun Yat-sen obeyed, and at Canton began the study of medicine. He refused, however, to worship the ancestral gods and was baptized by a missionary, uniting with the Episcopal Church. He has steadfastly clung to his new faith ever since, although many times importuned by influential friends to resume the old religion in order to strengthen his political following. His most intimate friend, Chang Chau, whom he has summoned from Oahu to China to help him, is also a Christian. His wife, however, still follows the old faith.

"His father, though subsequently reconciled to him, turned him out of his home. The penniless lad made his way to Hongkong, obtained employment in the Alice Memorial Hospital, and by reason of the kindness of the dean of the medical faculty connected with that institution, was enabled to graduate in medicine. Sun Yat-sen then went to Macao, a Portuguese settlement near the coast, and there became interested in the revolutionary movement, to which he has devoted his life.

"His story since is a thrilling one, full of perilous incidents—thrice escaping in disguise from Chinese towns, arrested in London at the instance of the Chinese Minister and released by English law, suffering deprivation in many lands and reduplicated disappointments in his own, working ever at the hazard of his life with a price set upon his head, and finally achieving the glorious success to which he has attained.

"We are proud of Lincoln and of Garfield, each of whom rose from poverty to the Presidency. The Chinese with equal reason can honour the name of Sun Yat-sen."

To the above may be added the facts that General Li, Vice-President, and Mr. Wu Ting-fang are both earnest Christians.

DAILY WAGES IN KOREA.

We take the following from the *Seoul Press*:—

With the advent of milder weather various works have been started in Seoul and elsewhere and the demand for workmen and labourers has greatly increased. It is stated that in spite of this their wages have not advanced as compared with those of a few months ago. According to the latest investigation made by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Seoul the daily wages earned by Japanese, Korean, and Chinese workmen and labourers are on an average as follows:—

Occupation.	Japanese. Yen	Korean. Yen	Chinese. Yen
Carpenter	1.50	1.00	1.20
Plasterer	1.50	1.20	—
Sawyer	1.80	1.00	1.20
Bricklayer	2.00	—	1.50
Painter	1.50	—	—
Finissh	2.00	—	—
Well-sinker	1.00	—	.70
Paper hanger	1.00	.80	—
Blacksmith	1.40	—	—
Compositor	.85	—	—
Riksha-man	1.45	1.20	—
Thatcher	—	1.00	—
Tile-layer	2.00	1.20	—
Stone-mason	2.00	—	1.50
Coolie	—	.60	.40

It will be seen from the above figures that Japanese labour commands in the Korean capital higher rates of remuneration than either Chinese or Korean. Many people, however, claim that the Chinese are more efficient workmen than the Japanese, and some go so far as to say that the Korean is better than either.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT.

We are not surprised to observe that many Japanese journals are much perplexed to account for Colonel Roosevelt's reappearance on the stage as a candidate for a third-term Presidency, in spite of the very explicit declarations that he made at one period of his political career. Colonel Roosevelt is quoted as using the following words:—

"My position on the third term is perfectly simple. I stated it as clearly as I could in 1904, and reiterated it in 1907. I said I would not accept a nomination for a third term under any circumstances, meaning of course a third consecutive term."

"It must be clear to any reasonable man that the precedent which forbids a third term has reference solely to a third consecutive term. It grew out of the fact that a President of the United States under the present convention system of electing delegates can, if he knows how to use the machinery at his disposal, renominate himself even though the majority of the party is against him."

"But after he has been out of the office for a term he has lost control of that machinery. He is in the position absolutely of any private citizen. The machinery then is in the hands of the man occupying the office of President."

According to the above statement it would appear that the holder of the Presidency has competence to abuse the machinery at his disposal for his own renomination. But surely that applies to a second term as well as to a third? We are not sufficiently acquainted with American politics to determine the full scope of the Colonel's allegation, but as a matter of plain language it appears to us quite evident that any objection arising out of the danger in question must be apprehended in the case of the second term as well as in that of the third. If so, the explanation is practically useless, and as we entertain no doubt whatever of Colonel Roosevelt's sincerity, we venture to hope that some more intelligible solution of the perplexity will be provided.

OBSEQUIES OF GENERAL BARON ISHIMOTO.

The obsequies of the late General Baron Ishimoto, Minister of War, were performed on the afternoon of the 5th instant at the Aoyama cemetery according to the Buddhist ritual. The procession from the official residence of the deceased was accompanied by a whole regiment as a guard of honour, and the floral tributes, as well as other objects incidental to the Buddhist ceremony, were of an especially striking character. At the cemetery great numbers of distinguished personages, both foreign and Japanese, were in attendance, conspicuous among them being the British Ambassador and his colleagues of the *Corps Diplomatique*. A salute of nineteen guns was fired at 11 o'clock, and the usual routine at Buddhist obsequies was observed, representatives of the Emperor, Empress and the Crown Prince taking the lead in burning incense. The remains were then carried to Yoyogi for cremation and were ultimately interred at Yanaka on the 7th instant.

JAPANESE EXPORTS.

It appears that in consequence of the pooling agreement to which the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is a party, the latter Company has been obliged to announce its intention of increasing its rate of freight by 10 per cent. upon exports to Europe. This step has produced something like consternation

among Japanese manufacturers. The principal articles affected are porcelain, pottery, toys, screens, lanterns, bamboo ware, straw braid and so forth. Already 50 per cent. is added to the price of these articles by the cost of freight and insurance, and they are barely able to hold their own against their European competitors. An additional 10 per cent. of freight charges would be fatal, and several Japanese Chambers of Commerce are interesting themselves to prevent the proposed augmentation of rates. Of course, if the project of increase cannot be abandoned, there will be nothing for Japanese manufacturers to do except to effect a saving in the quality of their work.

LAND IN KOREA.

Mr. Tawara, Vice-Director of the Land Survey Bureau in Chosen, has just returned to Japan and is quoted as saying that the Authorities attach great importance to completing the cadastral survey of the country. Until this is accomplished no accurate estimate can be formed of Korea's material resources or of their capacity for taxation. The work commenced vigorously two years ago, and in those two years a sum of 2,200,000 yen was expended out of 30 millions allotted for the purpose. But it has now been decided to increase the grant by 15 millions and to shorten the period of survey to seven years. It appears that there never has been in Korea anything approaching an accurate estimate of the area of arable land. So confused have been the accounts and so little notice has been taken of changing conditions, that tracts of absolutely barren land are now shown in the returns as liable to heavy taxes, whereas areas yielding abundant products are not taxed at all.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY STONE.

Japanese journals publish well deserved panegyrics of the services rendered by Mr. William Henry Stone to the Japanese Government. On the 27th of last month Mr. Stone completed forty years in the employment of the Department of Communications. That is a record which no other foreign employee can boast. Throughout this long period Mr. Stone's valuable offices have been employed on many important occasions, and his Majesty the Emperor has recognized his zeal and ability by conferring on him the Second-Class Order of the Rising Sun. Mr. Stone is now said to be conducting investigations for the purposes of the purchase of the Great Northern Company's cables between Nagasaki, Shanghai and Vladivostok. There is no idea of his retirement on the completion of this service. On the contrary, though well on in years, he is hale and hearty, and he is able to discharge his duties as efficiently as ever.

TRANSLITERATION.

General Count Terauchi spells his name in Roman letters "Terautsi." Of course persons familiar with methods of transliteration will have no difficulty in recognizing that the Count, having studied military science for three years in France, adopts the French methods of transliteration. But we do most sincerely desire that uniformity should be observed in this matter. The great balance of literary opinion is in

favour of discarding the exceptional method of transliteration adopted outside Anglo-Japanese countries, and studying uniformity above everything. *Chi* can never have the sound of *ssi* so long as the true phonetic value is given to the Roman letters. It does not so much matter what form of orthography is employed in the names of insignificant people, but when there is question of a statesman and general of such calibre as the Governor-General of Chosen the defective spelling presents itself to the world with vicarious authority.

OFFICIAL PERSONNEL.

In recent issues we have alluded to changes of personnel believed to be pending in the staff of the Imperial Foreign Office in Tokyo. The *Hochi Shimbun* now declares that these forecasts are correct and that they involve the following alterations:—Viscount Kurino, now Japanese Ambassador in Paris, to be appointed a member of the Privy Council and replaced in Paris by Baron Ishii. Mr. Kurachi, Head of the Political Bureau in the Foreign Office, to succeed Baron Ishii in the post of Vice-Minister, and to be himself succeeded by a Secretary of the Foreign Office. Mr. Ijuin, now Minister in Peking, to be sent to an European Embassy, and to be succeeded in Peking by Mr. Yamaza, now Counsellor of the London Embassy.

"PUNCH" AND JAPAN."

Punch is beginning to take a practical interest in Japan. One of those inimitable parodies of poetry that it prints from time to time appeared in its columns on the 28th of February as follows:—

THE DISAPPOINTED DEMON.

A Japanese artist of old took a chisel,
And a chunk of smooth ivory, soft as is such,
And, wrinkle by wrinkle and bristle by bristle,
A little old demon had life in his touch,—
A squat little figure
All sword-belts and vigour,
With claws that could clasp with a terrible clutch!
A tea-house acquired him, he sat in its porches
For years of red lacquer and joss-stick and fan,
The sun on the fir-trees at noon, and the torches
Of gay paper lanterns at nightfall, he'd scan,
Blind to both for a geisha,
The brightest in Asia,
Whom he loved, as a demon in ivory can!
She was small and delightful, her silk robes would rustle
When she slid o'er the matting with tea-tray
and pot,
She'd a flower in her hair and a snash like a bustle,
And she loved her old demon, he fancied, a lot;
For she laughed at him often,
He'd thrill then and soften:
She was called something San, though I never
learnt what.
But alas for his fancies, he'd misunderstood her;
One day, when the peach-bloom was pink on
the trees,
There came a Mikado's Court Captain who
wooed her
And wed her and carried her off in his case;
And a P. & O. seaman
He looted the demon,
And brought him to London across the high seas!
* * * * *
Now he sits on my chimney in all his regalia,
As bored as a Bhudda. He dreams of Japan,
Of hill-sides of cherry and banks of azalea
And pines that would whisper to maiden and
man,
But mostly of laughter
That rang in the rafters,
The laughter of blossom-cheeked somebody San!

CHINESE FINANCES.

A Peking dispatch reports that the advances made to China by the Belgian syndicate up to date reach 4,400,000 *taels*. The Belgian loan is outwardly an economic loan, but in fact the proceeds are to be used for political purposes. Another advance of 3,000,000 *taels* is to be made in Peking, to bring up the total to 7,400,000 *taels*.

In the State Council strong opposition has been raised to the loan because the Council was not first consulted by the Government, but the impression obtains that official approval will be given by the Council to the Belgian as well as the Four Powers' loans. It is also reported that the British Minister in Peking has presented to China a strong protest against the hypothecation of the Peking Changkiakau railway for the Belgian loan, regarding it as a breach of the pledge given to Great Britain at the time of the Boxer trouble. Russia's refusal to join the Four Powers' Syndicate shows her inclination to frame an independent China policy in the matter of politics and finance. A dark cloud thus overhangs political circles in Peking. The return of Tang Shao-i from the south is being anxiously awaited to bring matters to a final solution.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes a well-informed authority as saying that the Chinese Government and the Belgian Syndicate assume a strong attitude on the loan question, and the Belgian loan is fast coming into actual existence, the money being rapidly paid in the name of advances. The Peking Government could not do otherwise, since the advances by the Four Powers Syndicate are now suspended, but the honour and dignity of that Syndicate have been seriously hurt by the transaction. The Syndicate has now assumed a strong attitude, which will render the solution of the problem more difficult. The matter would be settled at once if the Four Powers decided to admit Belgium into the Syndicate, but if this were done, the Italian, Austrian, and Dutch capitalists would also prefer a demand for participation. Besides, considerable inconvenience would be felt in amalgamating the Four Powers' political loan with the purely economic loan of the Belgian Syndicate, and the plan seems almost impracticable. There can be no doubt that the Belgian Syndicate now forms a potential factor in Chinese finance, and it seems highly impracticable for the Four Powers to attempt to exclude it. If the Four Powers are unwilling to admit the Belgian Syndicate to take part in its loan, they have no alternative but to recognize the Belgian loan with some modification in the terms. The Four Powers Syndicate may demand the cancellation of the hypothecation of the Peking-Changkiakau railway revenue for the loan, but this also seems impracticable, as all reliable and hopeful financial sources in China are already hypothecated for previous foreign loans, and therefore China can not positively raise any loan if the railway revenue be vetoed. China would then have to accept any terms that might be dictated by the Four Powers, or the Belgian Syndicate would have to accept unreliable security for the loan. From the point of view of the Four Power syndicate, the recognition of the Belgian loan would mean in one way a weakening of their rights of priority on

Chinese loans. Yuan Shih-kai is evidently disposed to recognize the right of priority of the Four Powers Syndicate, but the Syndicate cannot rest reassured until a more substantial guarantee has been obtained, though the attitude of Russia and Japan on the right of priority remains yet obscure. The solution of the problem thus seems rather difficult. The Belgian syndicate will, nevertheless, be satisfied if it gets some profit out of the transaction and the Four Powers' Syndicate is also unwilling to withdraw its hands from China. In the event of the Syndicate standing firm in its refusal of advances, second and third Belgian loans may come into existence, which will not be very pleasant for the Four Powers Syndicate. It is therefore presumable the problem will be ultimately solved by mutual concessions of the two Syndicates.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the Republican Government has officially announced that the salt tax will be hypothecated for the four or six Powers' loan, and that although the present revenue from this source is limited to 48 million *taels*, it is possible, when the tax is readjusted and the method of its collection improved, to obtain about 100 million *taels*, which is sufficient to pay interest and redeem the loan. The chambers of commerce and other public bodies throughout China oppose the hypothecation of this tax as security for foreign loans, and a movement has been started for the abolition of the Government monopolization of salt. The Chinese press vehemently denounces the high-handed action of the Four Powers' Syndicate, and the problem is likely to lead to serious trouble.

A Peking telegram reports that the negotiations for Russia's participation in the Four Powers' loan, which are being held in London, are at a deadlock owing to Russia's demand for the recognition of her predominant rights in Mongolia and the guarantee to Russia of special privileges in the investment of foreign capital in that province. An amicable settlement is anticipated, however, as the Vice-President of the Russo-Asiatic Bank has left St. Petersburg for London to bring matters to a speedy solution.

A Peking special to the *Jiji Shimpō* gives the gist of the contract for the Belgian loan as published by a Chinese newspaper. According to this, the syndicate is called the Anglo-Franco-Belgian Syndicate, and the proceeds of the loan are to be used for the organization of the central and local governments, and the relief of citizens. One million sterling worth of treasury bills is to be issued under the guarantee of the Central Government and delivered to the Syndicate; the revenue of the Central Government, the property of the Peking Changkiakau railway, and the net profit of the railway revenue, amounting to 800,000 *taels* a year, being hypothecated as security for the loan. The loan is to carry 5 per cent. interest, payable twice a year, the net proceeds being fixed at 97. The treasury bills which can afterwards be converted into national loan bonds, are to bear the signature of the highest official in China, and also those of the Belgian Minister in Peking and the Chinese Minister in Brussels, if necessary. The period of redemption is one year. In the event of the loan being redeemed out of the proceeds of the loan that is to be raised in Europe, the treasury bills shall be repurchased by China at the rate of

98½, irrespective of their face value, in silver currency and the new currency that may be issued in future. Rights of priority shall be accorded to the syndicate for the acceptance of any loans that China may raise in future on similar terms. The full amount of the loan is not to exceed five million sterling, and the terms are to be notified to the Ministers of Great Britain, France and Belgium after the contract has been signed.

The telegram also reports that the Syndicate, which has already granted to China advances of 7,400,000 *taels*, is now ready to make further advances.

The *Tokyo Asahi* states that all the attempts of the Four Powers to cancel the loan have proved unsuccessful. The State Council has already approved it, and instalments of the loan have been paid. As a final measure the Four Powers' Syndicate invited the Belgian Syndicate to participate in the Four Powers' loan, along with Russia and Japan, and according to intelligence reaching a certain reliable quarter, the negotiations between the two syndicates have been brought to a successful conclusion and the Belgian Syndicate has decided to join the Four Powers' syndicate in the 10 million *yen* loan, which is to be redeemable with the proceeds of a large loan which is to come into existence about September next. The question of the security of the Peking-Changkiakau railway will thus be finally settled. It is now an open secret that Russia is closely interested in the Belgian loan, and it goes without saying that Russia has consented to the Belgian Syndicate's participation in the Four Powers' loan, which signifies her readiness to join the Four Powers' loan along with Japan. A seven Powers' Syndicate will thus come into existence, but it remains still obscure whether Belgium will be satisfied with undertaking the portion of the loan allotable to Russia, instead of joining the Syndicate as an independent party.

As a condition of participation in the Four Powers' loan, Russia demands the recognition of her predominant rights in Mongolia and also a guarantee of the reservation to herself of special privileges in the investment of foreign capital there. It is believed that the Four Powers will accept those conditions. Russia has apparently made no reference to her position in Manchuria because of the understanding existing between her and Japan that the Japanese Government will demand the recognition of her predominant rights in Manchuria and the reservation of special privileges in the investment of foreign capital there, which renders any Russian reference to Manchuria unnecessary.

A Shanghai special to the *Chuwo* reports that the negotiations between the Four Powers' Syndicate and the Belgian Syndicate are drawing near a conclusion. Russia, who is behind the Belgian Syndicate, is disposed to modify her policy of putting a stop to the Chinese administration in Mongolia, with Changkiakau for a line of demarcation of Mongolia, and is inclined to draw the boundary line across Dailinor, which belonged to Hsuan-huanfu under the regime of the Manchu dynasty. While Russia has in mind to veto political and economic loans in these Mongolian territories, including the whole of Eastern Mongolia, she is disposed to permit the Belgian Syndicate to participate in the Four Powers' loan, with the reservation of matters relating to Mon-

golia, in order to obtain a settlement of the loan question.

Putting all the information to hand together the conditions of the Four Powers loan comprise the following salient points, according to the *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent. The proceeds of the loan are to be used for payment of the troops on disbandment and readjustment of the State administration. The sum of 10,000,000 *taels* is to be advanced by March, in addition to 6,400,000 *taels* to be advanced in April and May, together with a similar sum before July, if necessary. Treasury bills are to be issued on April 30th—the date of payment of the advance—at 95½, plus 1 per cent. to cover miscellaneous expenses, and are to be redeemable in September from the large loan to be then raised. The large loan is not to exceed 60 million sterling and is deliverable in five annual instalments of 12 million sterling each, with the salt tax as security. A foreign adviser is to be engaged to readjust the method of collection of the tax. The Chinese Government is not to raise loans from other countries, but the Four Powers do not object to the participation of Russia and Japan in the loan. The Syndicate takes no responsibility if the Chinese Government is unable to fulfil these conditions owing to political and economic reasons.

The *Iiji Shimpō* writes in this context that Russia has at last decided to participate in the Four Powers loan and has appointed the Russo-Asiatic Bank as her representative. Russia's hesitation has given rise to various speculations and she was suspected of backing up the Belgian loan. These rumours seem to have decided the Russian Government to participate.

The Japanese Government some months ago agreed to the American proposition concerning joint action for the common interest of all the Powers, and when it notified the Powers concerned of its decision to participate in the loan, it took special care to announce its strong belief that the loan would in no way prejudice Japan's special interests in Manchuria. The Russian Government has also now declared that Russia's special interests in Manchuria and Mongolia shall form an exception to the joint action of the various Powers in China.

It has now become clear that Russia is not in any way countenancing the Belgian loan, and also that so long as the Four Powers' Syndicate have no reason to directly oppose the Belgian Syndicate, so long is it impossible to obtain the cancellation of the Belgian loan. According to a reliable authority, although the Four Powers' Syndicate shows a strong attitude against the hypothecation of the revenue of the Peking-Changkiakau railway for the Belgian loan, the treaty rights on which the Four Powers base their opposition are not sufficient to cancel the loan. The Belgian loan contract stipulates that the advance of one million sterling already made shall form a part of a ten million sterling loan, but it is evident that the Four Powers will not recognise it, so that the Belgian Syndicate will ultimately have to make the one million sterling loan an independent loan and put an end to the proposed 10 million loan. Moreover, it will be difficult for the Belgian Syndicate to claim participation in the Four Powers' loan. The surrounding circumstances remain unaltered in this respect.

It is therefore difficult to predict a final solution of the loan problem. Mr. Odagiri, representative of the Specie Bank, is reported not to have entered into official conference with the representatives of the Four Powers Syndicate, but has informally exchanged views with them and commenced active movements in various directions.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that having obtained from the Four Powers' Syndicate a special assurance concerning Mongolia, Russia has decided to participate in the Chinese loan and the Belgian syndicate it also expected to join in the loan. Thus a Seven Powers' Syndicate is about to come into existence. Public opinion has begun to oppose the Seven Powers' loan and Yuan Shih-kai has issued to the newspaper offices a strict injunction against the publication of seditious articles.

JAPAN'S POLICY IN CHINA.

ADDRESS BY MR. INUKAI.

Mr. Inukai, speaking at a dinner given in his honour by the Popular Party at the Seiyoken restaurant on the 8th instant, said that the future of China is enshrouded in darkness and it is difficult to predict the course of events with any degree of certainty. Japan's best policy is to lead China on along the path of civilization, in order to maintain peace in the Extreme Orient. He firmly held this view and he did not doubt that it was fully understood by Chinese patriots. He was bent on the realization of his ideal by paying repeated visits to China, when opportunity presented itself. It was very regrettable to see the anti-Japanese sentiment now rampant throughout China, and it was all the more regrettable because the blunders committed in the brief space of a week by Japanese diplomats had left an irreparable rift in the bonds which had taken centuries to consolidate. Not only had diplomatic blunders been committed by the Government, but it was also undeniable that the actions of Japanese businessmen had been improper. A section of publicists severely criticized the Revolutionists for coming to terms with Yuan Shih-kai, but in fact the circumstances compelled them to accede to the terms. They had intended to raise war funds on the Hanyu-Pinghsien colliery and other securities by the beginning of February last, to enable them to advance their northern expeditionary force to the banks of the Hwang, so as to decide the issue of the war; but the representatives of the Japanese bankers' syndicate had preferred highly improper demands and refused to accept the loan when the prescribed time drew near, to the great embarrassment of the Revolutionists. Financial difficulties thus compelled them to conclude peace with Yuan Shih-kai in order to obtain the money to pay the new recruits. The revolutionary leaders decided to throw the heavy duty of the suppression of the disaffected soldiers and the increase of national taxes to raise a fund for the readjustment of the State administration, on the shoulders of Yuan Shih-kai, and they are now organizing a political party instead of joining the new Government, in order to lay plans for the future. The most noteworthy fact was that instead of being powerless organizations the political parties

in China were strongly backed. When Hwang Hsing retire to Hunan province the troops would attend him there, the same being the case with Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Canton. They were thus in a position to realize their political views at the point of the bayonet. Should Yuan Shih-kai fail to readjust the situation, it was not very easy to predict into whose hands the actual power might fall. Viewed from this point there was almost no room for doubt as to an eventful future in China. He therefore hoped that his countrymen would give guidance to the people of the neighbouring Republic with sincerity and closely watch the development of the situation in order that they might be able to make a proper move at the right moment.

THE STRENGTH OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

Tracing the history of political parties in the House of Representatives the *Tokyo Asahi* notes that the relative strength of parties in the 24th session of the Diet was:—*Seiyukai*, 180; Progressists, 89; Daido Club, 59; *Yukokai*, 36; and Independents 16. The *Seiyukai* was then not strong enough to command a clear majority in the House, but after the tenth general election, that is in the 25th session, the relative strengths underwent the following changes:—*Seiyukai*, 191; Progressist, 65; Daido Club, 30; Moshin Club, 42; *Yushinkai*, 45; and Independents 6. The *Seiyukai* thus began to command a majority, while the Moshin Club came into existence as a section of the Progressist and Daido Club parties. The *Yukokai* and other elements also combined to form the *Yushinkai*. The relative strength was maintained throughout the 25th session, but in the 26th session five members of the Moshin Club, a member of the Daido Club and two members of the Progressist joined the *Seiyukai*, and thus the *Seiyukai's* strength increased to 200 members. In March 1910 the whole of the Daido Club coalesced with about one-half of the members of the Moshin Club to form a new party, known as the *Chuwo* Club, while a coalition was also effected between the Progressists and the *Yushinkai*, with a sprinkling of some other elements, resulting in the formation of the Popular Party. As a result of these changes, the relative strength at the close of the 26th session stood as under:—*Seiyukai*, 204; Popular Party, 92; *Chuwo* Club, 50; *Yushinkai*, 18; and Independents, 15. During the 27th session the *Yushinkai* was dissolved and the members joined the Independents. With this single exception the relative strength remained unchanged, but in the 28th session four or five members of the Popular and Independent parties joined the *Seiyukai* so that the relative strength at the close of that session stood as under:—*Seiyukai*, 207; Popular Party, 87; *Chuwo* Club, 50; and Independents, 34. To sum up, the *Seiyukai* had only 180 seats in the House before the tenth general election but it now possesses 207 seats. The Popular Party, which once decreased to 65 members, now holds 87 seats. The *Chuwo* Club, formerly the Daido Club, which held 59 seats in the 24th session, lost 29 seats in the next session, but it regained 20 seats in the 28th session. The result of the coming general election will thus be watched with peculiar interest.

THE STRIKE AT KURE NAVAL ARSENAL.

As already reported the strike at Kure naval arsenal assumed large proportions, those joining the movement reaching a total of 5,394 on the 2nd inst. The strikers began to behave rather disorderly. Seditious bills were placarded in conspicuous places and an attack was made on those still at work, by smashing the window-panes, and compelling them to take refuge in a place of safety. Anarchy reigned in the arsenal for a time, until the naval authorities decided to take drastic measures, leading to the arrest of some fifty ringleaders by the morning of the 2nd instant. Outdoor meetings of the strikers were vetoed by the police. It is stated that the strikers have signed a declaration with their blood to continue the strike.

The cause of the disaffection is said to be connected with the Kyosaikai or Mutual Relief Association. It is stated that some years ago the association was formed by over 30,000 workmen for the purpose of mutual relief, each contributing a certain percentage of their wages. The establishment of the Kyosai hospital was the outcome. A proposal was recently mooted to form a separate Kyosai-kai Kumiai in accordance with the ordinances, and the question arose as to the advisability or otherwise of the amalgamation of the two associations. This caused a conflict of views between the naval authorities and the workmen. The trouble was, nevertheless, tided over by an amicable arrangement, and was only resuscitated quite recently when a certain arsenal authority attempted to bring pressure to bear upon men to force them to consent to the unconditional surrender of all the property of the Kyosai-kai to the new Kyosaikai-Kumiai. The workmen contend that the formation of an additional association means an increased burden on their purses, and they must demand 30 per cent. increase of wages. A belief nevertheless obtains amongst the arsenal authorities that the Kyosai trouble is merely a pretext for the strike, the real cause being dissatisfaction at the reforms recently introduced into the arsenal. Dissatisfaction has long existed and the present trouble was anticipated. The authorities, however, are determined to enforce the reforms, even at a sacrifice.

The drastic measure adopted by the arsenal authorities are said to have so far proved successful that the strikers have consented to return to work from the 4th instant. The Commander-in-Chief and other authorities of the Kure Naval Station are holding a conference to devise some plan for the readjustment of the trouble.

According to an official dispatch the workmen all returned to work on the 4th instant excepting those belonging to the second factory.

The strike at Kure Naval Arsenal has been suppressed by the drastic measures taken by the authorities and most of the workmen have since returned to work, although some 939 men absented themselves on the 6th instant. The absence of such a number is, however, not unusual, as over 30,000 men are employed. A vigilant watch is still being maintained, policemen being posted at a distance of every two hundred yards around each factory during the night time, every one approaching being subjected to close scrutiny,

and suspicious persons taken to the police-station. Up to the 6th, 14 persons had been arrested by the police. They are being examined by judges sent from the Hiroshima District Court. One workman named Takeuchi and four others, who are recognized as ringleaders in the strike, have already been committed for trial.

THE MILLION LIGHT SCHEME.

As already reported the Government has decided to reject the application filed by the Tokyo Municipality for sanction to a scheme for the extension of the electric light to one million lamps, but the same time has consented to the Municipality filing an application for an extension of the electric lighting in conformity with any restrictions that may be imposed by the Government. The reasons for the rejection are said to be that when the Nippon Dento Kaisha was mooted last year the Government investigated the probable demand for electric lights in the metropolis, when it was ascertained there was ample room for three electric light companies in Tokyo. A licence was accordingly granted to the Nippon Dento Kaisha to supply 11,000 kilowatts of electricity to the city. The demand for electric lights has since not shown any decrease, but the granting to the Municipality of official permission to the scheme of supplying one million lamps would render the licence granted to the Nippon Dento Kaisha meaningless, and would lead to the oppression of a private undertaking by the Municipality, which has the privilege of using the public roads free of charge. The limitation which the Government proposes to put on the Municipal electric light business is said to comprise the points that the Municipality shall not supply more than 10,000 kilowatts of electric current (about 300,000 electric lamps of 10 candle-power), that the work shall be completed within three years, that the plan and estimate of the work shall be submitted to the inspection of the proper authorities, that the Municipality shall not impede or delay any applications that may be filed by other electric light companies for the use of the public roads, &c. and that the fund for the execution of the work shall be raised in the home market as far as possible, instead of floating a loan on the foreign markets.

The Tokyo Aldermen's Council sat on the 9th instant, when an animated debate took place concerning the rejection by the Government of the application for the extension of the Municipal electric lighting business. The Aldermen argued that the Municipal authorities had repeatedly announced that the business would be run at a loss unless the capacity were extended to one million lamps, and asked how the authorities would make both ends meet, now that the application has been vetoed and its supply limited to 300,000 lamps. The Aldermen also moved that a written remonstrance should be presented to the Government to demand the reconsideration of its decision.

It is stated that the veto has completely upset the Municipal electric scheme and entails a decrease of from 400,000 to 600,000 yen in the annual revenue of the Municipality. A section of the Aldermen contemplate introducing a vote of censure against the responsible municipal authorities in the next session of the Council.

BRAZIL FOR JAPANESE EMIGRANTS.

The Japan Traders Association on the 8th inst. gave a farewell dinner to Mr. Uchida, formerly Japanese Minister at Brazil, who has been transferred to the same post in Stockholm. In the course of his after-dinner remarks Mr. Uchida said that he believed an excess of population was at the bottom of the present economic depression at home. The country was not large enough to feed a population increasing by 500,000 or 600,000 each year. Emigration to Chosen and Manchuria was unsatisfactory and it was well high impossible to emigrate to the United States and Canada. Brazil offered the best field for emigration. It covered an area five times the size of Japan, but its population did not exceed one third that of this country. Japanese emigrants were welcomed in Brazil, and the Japanese should not lose any opportunity of emigrating to that country. Italy once suffered from financial distress, but the remittances sent home by her emigrants in North and South America had saved her from probable bankruptcy. Japan should make Italy her model, and encourage the emigration of married couples instead of bachelors. The emigrants should take care to assimilate themselves to their environment in order to acquire political rights and make the fullest development in the land of their adoption. The Brazilian Government afforded married emigrants encouragement in the form of travelling expenses, residential quarters, rations and farming implements.

THE NEW AUSTRO HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR.

A Vienna telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* reports the appointment of Baron Müller, Chief of the Political Bureau in the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office, as the ambassador to Tokyo. Commenting on the telegram a Foreign Office authority is credited with stating that although no official dispatch is yet to hand, rumours have reached the ear of the Foreign Office. If the telegraphic report be correct, the appointment may be taken as an indication of the importance attached to international intercourse by the Austro-Hungarian Government. The Chief of the Political Bureau in Austria-Hungary corresponds to a Privy Counsellor in Japan. Baron Müller is an influential official who assisted the late Count Aerenthal in achieving the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the illness of Count Aerenthal, when the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador was recalled to the Foreign Office, he was appointed successor in Constantinople, the most difficult post to fill in European diplomacy. He enjoys the confidence of the Austro-Hungarian nation. He is an excellent diplomat, speaking several languages, and endowed with an amiable and sincere disposition. He has also a very warm feeling towards Japan, which fact is proved by his investiture by H. M. the Emperor of Japan with the Grand Cordon of the Chrysanthemum on the occasion of H. M. Prince Fushimi's last visit to that country. His appointment to Tokyo cannot fail to promote the cordial relations existing between the two countries.

THE GUBERNATORIAL CONFERENCE.

ADDRESS BY MARQUIS SAIONJI.

Speaking at the Gubernatorial Conference in Tokyo on the 10th instant, Marquis Saionji, the Prime Minister, said that since his installation in the Premiership, he had taken the general trend of administration into consideration and had come to the conclusion that it was of prime importance to readjust the finances in order to foster the sources of the national strength, and also to reform the administration in order to accelerate the development of the national destiny. In view of the magnitude of the work, very careful study was needed to ensure success. In framing the Budget for the present fiscal year the Government had adopted the broad principle of maintaining the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure, and at the same time organized the Readjustment Commission for the purpose of effecting administrative and financial reforms, in order to be able to frame the Budgets for the 46th and subsequent fiscal years on a sound basis. He had presided over the Commission in person and the investigations were making fair progress. In many cases, however, satisfactory results were unobtainable unless the central and local governments co-operated. He therefore desired those present to spare no efforts in introducing a readjustment in the local administration and finances.

With reference to Chinese affairs, the Government earnestly desired to see a speedy restoration of peace, in order to maintain the peace of the Far East jointly with the friendly Powers, and had devoted great attention to the maintenance of Japan's rights and interests and also towards the fulfilment of a neighbourly spirit with China. Fortunately the effect the Chinese affair had had on Japanese commerce and industry was not very serious, but the nation should devote its energy to the study of future plans.

As they were fully aware, the Anglo-Japanese alliance treaty was some time ago revised and the diplomatic relations with foreign Powers thereby increased in intimacy. The work of treaty revision was on a fair way towards completion, and the nation should endeavour to reap the highest results. Modern development in the facilities of communication brought to this land many foreign tourists. The nation should accord them every facility to enable them to enjoy the beautiful scenery of this country to their satisfaction, and for this much depended on the exertions of those present.

The urgent need of the time was to readjust the administration and to develop domestic industries, in order to foster the sources of national wealth, and also to accelerate the development of the national destiny in order to consolidate the peace of the world and to contribute to the blessings of civilization and progress. He desired that those present would take this to heart and inculcate the idea broadcast amongst the people they were called upon to rule.

The Budget and other Bills passed through the Imperial Diet concerned in no small degree the official functions of those present. The Ministers of State would give them due instructions respecting them, and he had no doubt that he could rely on the tact and diligence of those directly respon-

sible for the local administration, to ensure a satisfactory working of these laws and ordinances.

In conclusion, the Premier expressed his high appreciation of the sincere and impartial manner in which the official functions of those present had been discharged.

REDEMPTION OF NATIONAL BONDS.

The amount of the national bonds redeemable in the course of the current fiscal year is 50 million *yen*, in addition to 20 million *yen* standing unredeemed from the 44th fiscal year, making a grand total of 70 million *yen*. Of this sum 20 million *yen* is to be redeemed on the 30th instant, lots being drawn for from the outstanding loan bonds, amounting altogether to 259,965,600 *yen*, while 10 million *yen* of the remainder is to be appropriated for the redemption of foreign bonds abroad by way of purchase. The Government contemplated the redemption of one half of the amount, that is five million *yen* worth of foreign bonds, at the beginning of the fiscal year, and the bonds are already being purchased in the foreign market as opportunity occurs. Official announcement will be made shortly of the first redemption of foreign bonds. The foreign bonds in course of redemption are said to be the 4½ per cent. English currency bonds (2nd issue), which amount to about 576 million *yen*. The nature of the 40 million *yen* worth of domestic bonds redeemable this year is not yet specified, but it is anticipated that the 20 million *yen* worth of 5 per cent. consolidation bonds, issued in 1908, which mature on December 1st, 1913, will be taken up first for redemption and the balance will be used for redeeming a portion of the 230 million *yen* worth of War bonds standing unredeemed. There is very little doubt that precedence will be given to the 5 per cent. bonds in the redemption. It also appears that the financial authorities intend to effect the redemption with the available funds in the Treasury, instead of using the specie reserve deposited abroad, but as it is impossible to wholly depend on the surplus in the Treasury, some appropriation from the specie reserve abroad will have to be made for the purpose. The Government openly announced last autumn that the proceeds of the French currency bonds would form the financial source for the bond redemption in the 44th fiscal year. Inasmuch, however, as it has now been decided that the 20 million *yen* worth of bonds left unredeemed will be redeemed with the surplus in the Treasury, it is presumable that the proceeds of the French Currency bonds will be appropriated to the redemption of the bonds to be effected in the course of the present fiscal year.

JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY IN MEXICO.

The fishery enterprise in Mexican waters originated, according to Mr. Sakurai of the Toyo Hoyer Kaisha, who is quoted by the *Chuo*, in a suggestion made by members of the Mexican tourists' party who visited Japan last year. A Mexican Fisheries Investigation Association came into existence to give the suggestion a practical result. As the first step towards the realization of the object an application was filed with

the Mexican Government through Mr. Kobayashi, for a concession of fishing rights. As a result of the application, Mr. Kobayashi secured fishing rights extending for about 840 miles off the south-west of Mexico. The Toyo Hoyer Kaisha is to succeed to the rights acquired by Mr. Kobayashi. Inasmuch as the rights did not in any way affect those of Americans or any other parties, it was not anticipated that they would lead to such a troublesome question as is now raised. Having thus acquired the fishing rights, a party under the superintendence of Mr. Tokoyama was sent out in December last in three fishing boats, fully equipped with fishing appliances, and provisions enough to last one year. The party arrived at their destination on February 3rd and set to work making investigations on the spot. The experiments proved the business to be hopeful. The waters were found plentifully stocked with fish not materially different from those found on the Pacific coast of this country. The Mexicans eat fish twice a week according to their religious customs and there is thus a brisk demand. It is also possible to widen the market if the fish be salted or otherwise preserved. The Company is now negotiating for a lease of about 400 *chobu* of land which the Company has decided to make its base. The Mexicans are generally backward in all branches of industry and the country, therefore, offers a promising field for various Japanese enterprises.

THE NEW MINISTER OF WAR.

Various speculations are made by the Tokyo Press as to the successor to the late General Ishimoto at the War Office. The selection of a candidate, it is said, will in all probability be left in the hands of Field-Marshal Prince Yamagata. Lieut.-General Ueyehara, Commander of the Fourteenth Division, would no doubt make an excellent War Minister, but his promotion to the portfolio is considered improbable in the present predominance of the Choshu element. Lieut.-General Nagaoka, commander of the Thirteenth Division, is also talked of as a probable candidate. He enjoys high favour in the Choshu clan and is one of the most promising men in the army, but it is thought his juniority amongst the Divisional Commanders will be against him. Lieut.-General Fukushima is looked upon as the future Chief of the General Staff, so that it seems improbable that he will be selected. Lieut.-General Ichinohe, Commander of the Fourth Division, and Lieut.-General Uchiyama, Commander of the Fifteenth Division, are also named as candidates, but the selection will probably be made in favour of Lieut.-General Kigoshi, Commander of the First Division, who not only claims seniority amongst the Divisional Commanders but also has a brilliant record as Director of the War Administration Bureau, where his ability is universally recognized. The most capable candidate would be General Count Oshima, Governor-General of Kwantung, but he might not consent to serve as successor to the late Lieut.-General Ishimoto. Lieut.-General Asagawa, President of the Oriental Development Company, is also named, but it is thought that he will not receive the appointment, in view of the attack on him on account of his alleged failure in the administration of the Company.

THE MAGDALENA BAY AFFAIR.

AN ELECTIONEERING SCARE.

Commenting on the Magdalena Bay question, the *Nichi Nichi* writes:—

With reference to the rumour circulated in the United States that Japan is making strenuous efforts to secure a lease of Magdalena Bay, which has led to a question being asked in the Senate, we have repeatedly stated that the report is a baseless rumour. The United States authorities do not attach any importance to the question, so much so that the Government ignored an inquiry addressed to it by the *New York Times* concerning the affair. The American newspaper accordingly sent a telegraphic inquiry to Marquis Saionji, demanding an explanation. An explanation was given through Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Japanese Ambassador in Washington, pointing out the facts that might have given rise to the rumour. The facts recounted in the explanation are, first, the exploration recently undertaken by a Mr. Noda, acting on a suggestion made to him by the Chartered Company of California, which is conducted by New York capitalists, to investigate the possibility of establishing a Japanese colony within an area of 400 miles on the coast near Magdalena Bay in Lower California, on land leased by the company. An exaggerated report published by the *San Francisco Examiner* aroused public attention in the United States. The second point referred to in the explanation is the acquirement by a Japanese of fishery rights on the coast of Mexico. The rights were sold to the Oriental Whaling Company, which dispatched thither a fishing party under Mr. Tokoyama to conduct investigations on the spot. Either or both of these facts probably gave rise to the rumour. The Foreign Office authorities explain that the fishery business in Mexico is principally undertaken by Europeans and Americans and is open to competition. There is therefore nothing surprising in a Japanese securing fishing rights in the country. A Washington telegram reaching the *Nichi Nichi*, published elsewhere, attributes the origin of the rumour to the endeavour of an American Company to induce the American Government to purchase, at an exorbitant price, a tract of land it owned near Magdalena Bay, by announcing that the land would be sold to Japanese if the Government did not purchase it. The report is not altogether incredible. In any case it is clear that no political significance attaches to the affair. Senator Lodge, in bringing forward the interpellation in the Senate, was presumably not prompted by any anti-Japanese sentiment, but merely desired to elicit an explanation of the affair. Considering, however, that when the Senator, acting in concert with Mr. Roosevelt, with whom he is on intimate terms, opposed the Anglo-American General Arbitration introduced by President Taft, he made a reference to the question and expressed doubts as to the effect of the arbitration treaty, there is a slight suspicion that he might have put forward the interpellation in support of his views. The Americans are inclined to become very excited at the time of a Presidential Election and do not hesitate to sacrifice almost everything to gain their ends. It is therefore possible that various rumours will be made use of in the contest as the political campaign advances. Intelligent persons must take these circumstances into consideration in discussing the question.

KARAFUTO AND HOKKAIDO.

Mr. Hiraoka, Director of the Karafuto Administration, is quoted as saying that there is talk of the annexation of Karafuto to Hokkaido, but it is a question for the Government to decide and one in which he has no voice. The railways, posts and telegraphs and other public works in Hokkaido are under the direct control of the Central Government, which grants to Hokkaido an annual subsidy of two million yen for other administrative expenses, while Karafuto undertakes its own railways and all other public works on special account. If Karafuto be annexed to Hokkaido and these public works be transferred to the management of the Central Government there will be left only 17 officials in the Karafuto administration. On the other hand the annexation will necessitate the creation of several new offices for the administration of the railways, postal service, mining business, etc. Karafuto now receives a 500,000 yen subsidy from the Central Government, but the annexation would mean the increase of the administrative expenditure by about 1,500,000 yen a year. It is a mistake to expect much from the adjustment of Karafuto administration, as the probable curtailment in the total expenditure does not exceed 17,000 yen.

ALIENS IN CHINA.

With reference to the rumour that certain Japanese have been expelled from Wuchang on the ground that the town is not an open port, a certain Foreign Office authority is credited with stating that the expulsion of Japanese from closed territory in Manchuria and the interior of China is a long outstanding question. The outflow of a small number of Japanese outside the limits of the treaty ports is an unavoidable phenomenon. Even the joint efforts of the Japanese and Chinese authorities to regulate the outflow proves futile. It is absolutely impossible to veto the residence of aliens outside the limits of the treaty ports. That the Japanese residents in Hankow should attempt to take up their abode in Wuchang, which lies on the other side of the river, is only natural. China, which had adopted a Republican polity as a result of the recent revolution, would be ill advised in adhering to the seclusion policy. On the contrary, she must throw the country open to alien residents. The proposed expulsion of Japanese from Wuchang will probably come to nothing. The Foreign Office has not yet received any such report, nor does it appear that there exists any anti-Japanese sentiment in that town.

THE SALT MONOPOLY.

Mr. Hamaguchi, Director of the Monopoly Bureau, is quoted as saying that the Bureau is not yet in receipt of any instruction concerning the decrease in the price of salt, and he does not know the extent and method of the proposed reduction. To effect a decrease the Government must extend the limit on the specified price of salt, or increase the burden on the national Treasury of the charges for transportation, or increase the money payable to the producers. Apart from the question of the decrease of price, the abolition of the salt monopoly advocated in some quarters must be deprecated. When

salt was monopolized by the Government in 1904, the price averaged 8.1 *sen* per *sho*, but it has now been decreased to 6.1-2 *sen*. The consumption tax does not exceed 27-8 *sen* per *capita* a year, which cannot be said to be too heavy. The tax is imposed on the people without any distinction of class, and is, therefore, the best form of tax according to modern theories.

A ROBBERY ON AN EXTENSIVE SCALE.

Prince Ching's residence, which escaped the raiders on the occasion of the sack of Peking, is said to have now been broken into, and its valuable contents all stolen. This seems to have happened after the Prince had sent his family to Tientsin and had himself repaired thither for the purpose of making that place his permanent retreat. The heirlooms and furniture made away with by the burglars are said to have a value of half a million *taels*, and there is a rumour that the robbery was effected by the eunuchs whom the Prince left in charge of the palace. That seems likely enough, but if so, it may fairly be hoped that the marauders will be apprehended.

THE CONSPIRACY IN CHOSEN.

It is stated that the number of Koreans against whom a *prima facie* case has been established in connexion with the conspiracy to assassinate the Governor-General is eighty-four. They have been transferred for public trial in the Local Court at Seoul, but nothing seems to be yet fixed as to the date of the trial. The eighty-four accused are said to include all classes of the people, not excluding *Yangban* and Christians, but it is a notable fact that not one official is to be found among them. Of course we need scarcely repeat that no foreign missionary is among the incriminated prisoners. How that mistake originally arose it is difficult to make out.

AN INTERESTING REMINISCENCE.

At a party given in his honour by the residents of Fusan when the Japanese Representative to the Chinese Court passed that place a few days ago, his Excellency Mr. Ijūin is quoted by the *Seoul Press* as having made the following interesting statement:—

"When I left Fusan more than ten years ago, I expressed a hope that I should be enabled to revisit the port by railway. You can well imagine my delight at having had my hope realised. The construction of this railway, however, was not very easy at the beginning. I was one of the men chiefly concerned in the scheme, including Baron Shibusawa and several other men of influence. We tried every means to realise our plan, but various obstacles offered themselves. At last we concluded that the railway could never be built unless help was obtained from the General Staff in Tokyo. After encountering and surmounting many difficulties we succeeded in engaging surveyors to survey the projected line. We sent them into the interior for that purpose with guides and interpreters furnished by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce at Fusan. In going into the interior they had of course to carry with them money necessary for paying their expenses. This was no easy thing to do, for in those days money in Korea was confined to *Yopchom* or bronze coins, which were small in value. So they had to take lots of them with them and they could never even dream of carrying them on their person. They hired Korean ponies for carrying money, but the coins were so numerous and heavy that it was impossible for the ponies to carry enough to pay for their hire between Fusan and Seoul! This is one of the many difficulties that confronted us in the building of the Seoul-Fusan railway."

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Tokyo press publish a forecast of some changes in diplomatic appointments. As already reported Baron Ishii, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be appointed Japanese Ambassador to Paris, being succeeded by Mr. Kurachi, Director of the Political Affairs Bureau. Mr. Abe, Councillor to the Foreign Office, will probably succeed Mr. Kurachi in the Directorship of that Bureau. It has also been informally decided that Mr. Tatsuki, Chief of the Personnel Section, will go to St. Petersburg as Councillor to the Japanese Embassy, while Mr. Funakoshi, Chief of the Archives Section, and Mr. Nishi, Secretary in the Foreign Office, will receive appointments as Councillors to the Embassies in Berlin and Vienna respectively. Mr. Otori, Japanese Consul in Vladivostok, is named as probable successor to Mr. Tatsuki in the Personnel Section.

Mr. Sugimura, the Japanese Consul at Manila, wires to the Foreign Office that two persons suffering from lung pest have been found on board a steamer arriving from Hongkong. The quarantine regulations are enforced with increased rigour. Vaccination has also been compulsorily enforced on passengers arriving from abroad. Five cases of small pox have also occurred on board the transport *Warren*.

The councillors of the Shunjikai, the most influential journalistic association in Tokyo, met on the 5th instant, when the following resolution was adopted:—"The councillors of the Shunjikai consider the action of the Chosen Governor General, in depriving the *Chosen Shimpo* of the right of publication as most improper." The resolution was afterwards transmitted to Governor-General Terauchi, accompanied by a letter stating that the resolution implies disapproval by the association of the rejection by the Governor-General's office of the application filed by the *Chosen Jiji Shimpo* on March 22nd last for official permission for the publication in Seoul of a newspaper of that name.

It is reported that on the completion of the Naval Station in Chinha Bay, Chosen, the present naval port of Takeshiki in Tsushima will lose its importance and will therefore probably cease to exist as a naval port. The destroyer fleet and torpedo-flotilla of that port have recently been transferred to Sascho and the Pescadores, and all other important administrative organs are also being transferred to Chinha Bay. The torpedo-laying corps and other necessary equipment of the naval port will, however, be retained at Takeshiki.

Mr. Sugimura, the Japanese Consul in Manila, wires to the Foreign Office that a notification has been issued declaring Hongkong an infected port and announcing that second and third-class passengers arriving from that port shall be subjected to seven days' detention in the quarantine station, excepting those who have been detained in quarantine in Hongkong prior to their arrival.

The State Council sat on the 5th instant. After the official organization of the new Government had been discussed, the President announced that an extra meeting of the Council would take place on the 6th instant and that the Council would be prorogued

for fifteen days after the 8th, so that it may assemble in Peking on the 21st instant.

Thursday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes an Imperial Decree ordering a General Election of the members of the House of Representatives to be held on May 15th next in accordance with Article 28 of the Election Law.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Japanese Law of Weights and Measures (Dōryōkō-hō), translated by J. E. DE BECKER, Solicitor and Advocate, Counsel of the Swiss Legation in Tokyo. Assisted by John Gadsby, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. The Fukuin Printing Company, Ltd., 81, Yokohama.

MR. DE BECKER has added to the debt of gratitude that the Far-Eastern public owes him by publishing an English translation of the "Japanese Law of Weights and Measures." Mr. de Becker has given so many evidences of accuracy and competence in rendering Japanese laws into English that no comment on that topic is needed now. What strikes us especially with regard to this latest outcome of his industry is that he has chosen a subject which has no attractions for the general public. He cannot, therefore, expect any large sale of the book, and indeed he shows himself fully conscious of that fact, for he writes that not only has the translation been difficult and technical, but also that there is not much demand for it, though it is a law affecting a great many people engaged in trade. Remarkably enterprising as Messrs. Kelly & Walsh have shown themselves in everything relating to Far-Eastern publications, that well known firm evidently could not see its way to take the risk of finding an audience for such a book, and thus it has been brought out by the Fukuin Printing Company at the author's expense. We may be permitted to express our hope that Mr. de Becker's courage in this matter will not prove too costly. Mr. E. F. Crowe, British Commercial Attaché, writes a short preface recommending the work, and his words should carry great weight. The book covers ninety-six pages, is excellent from a technical point of view, as well as from a scholastic, and we should say that a copy of it ought to be in every Far-Eastern merchant's office.

NEW N.Y.K. LINERS.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has decided to construct a couple of sisterships to the T.K.K. *Tenyo Maru*, in order to supplement the company's fleet. The work of construction will shortly be commenced, one at the Mitsubishi Dockyard in Nagasaki and the other at the Kawasaki Dockyard in Kobe. Both vessels will be of 10,500 tons, and will be built after the combination type, which has never before been adopted in this country. Every endeavour will be made to make the vessels ideal in point of speed, engines, furnishings, etc. The cost of construction is estimated at some 2,500,000 yen each. They will be completed in the course of next year, when one will be named the *Katori Maru* and the other the *Kashima Maru*, and both will be placed on the European route for the services of passengers only. It may be added that the Company's Steamships *Yokohama Maru* and *Shiwaka Maru*, each of 8,000 tons, now building, will be completed in a few months, and will be included among the American liners for the double service of passengers and freight.

MR. TOWNSEND'S VISIT TO JAPAN.

Mr. A. M. Townsend, formerly Manager of the Yokohama branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, is now, with his wife, revisiting this country after an absence of 32 years. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend have received a very hearty welcome from their many friends and are the recipients of many distinctions and honours.

His Imperial Majesty has been pleased to confer on Mr. Townsend the Order of the Rising Sun, and also favoured him with a special audience at the Palace. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend have also been entertained at luncheon at the Foreign Office by Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and at dinner by Baron Takahashi, Governor of the Bank of Japan, Viscount Mishima, President of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Mr. Soyeda, President of the Industrial Bank of Japan, and Count Mitsui, President of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. On these occasions they have had the pleasure of meeting many of the leading statesmen and financiers of the country.

Despite what seems a rather strenuous programme Mr. and Mrs. Townsend express themselves as delighted by their reception, the extreme courtesy and consideration shown them in every detail making their visit a continual pleasure. They leave the country, not only impressed with the wonderful development under the new order of things, but pleased to find that the spirit of old Japan still survives and that the country has lost none of its ancient charm.

The reception given to Mr. and Mrs. Townsend and the honours conferred must be very gratifying to them and must also be equally pleasing to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, in whose service Mr. Townsend has had such a long and distinguished career.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Thursday, April 4.

The market yesterday opened strong, and all shares moved up. The tone of the market began to collapse slightly towards the close, however.

Saturday, April 6.

The market on Saturday was characterized by dullness and all shares moved down in price. A weak tone prevailed throughout the session.

Tuesday, April 9.

The market yesterday opened rather weak but a stronger tone prevailed towards the close of the session.

Wednesday, April 10.

The market yesterday opened dull and shares generally were quoted at lower prices. The dullness was further accentuated towards the close of the session.

Thursday, April 11.

The market yesterday was characterized by weakness and low prices were steadily maintained to the close of the session. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

	Apr. 10th.	Apr. 11th.
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—
Yusen Kaisha	117.55	116.95
Toyo Kisen	47.40	47.05
Specie Bank	—	218.80
Tanko Kisen	25.00	25.00
Tokyo Gas	75.10	74.65
Tokyo Dento	73.00	72.00
Fuji Gas Spinning	90.30	90.00
Tokyo Spinning	55.00	55.00
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	111.90	110.80
Beer	89.05	89.00
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	66.70	66.00
Nippon Oil	75.85	75.10
Rice Exchange.....	109.50	108.85
Stock Exchange	166.30	166.05

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, April 2.

The ceremony of the relinquishment of the Presidency by Dr. Sun Yat-sen was conducted at the State Council on the 2nd instant. The Council presented to the retiring President a eulogistic address on the meritorious services rendered by him in the past.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

Peking, April 2.

Hu I-tei, Minister of Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, forwarded to the Corps Diplomatique a note on the 1st instant stating that the Waiwupu would hereinafter be called the Foreign Affairs Department.

FIGHTING AT HSUCHOW.

Nanking, April 2.

According to a telegram received at the War Office here a collision took place outside the town-walls of Hsuehchow on the afternoon of the 31st ult. between the Hwai and Canton armies, the fighting lasting three hours, with many casualties on both sides. Bandits are rife in the district.

HWANG HSING.

Nanking, April 2.

It is reported that Hwang Hsing will assume command of all the army forces in Central and South China, and that Hsu Shao-chien will be appointed Chief of General Staff instead. Hwang Hsing is, however, not disposed to accept the post offered him.

THE SITUATION AT SWATOW.

Swatow, April 3.

The Chauchow-Hsientao railway authorities are negotiating with the Chen and Lim armies for the neutralization of the railway. Traffic is still suspended on account of the rejection of the proposal by the Chen army. Locomotives are, however, being run up to a point about six miles to the north of Swatow. That portion of the railway is safe, but many railway sleepers have been stolen on the northern section. A fierce battle is taking place about two miles to the south of Chauchow and the vicinity is rather dangerous, as bullets are flying freely. The town of Chauchow is now under occupation of the Chen army, and the soldiers are rather unruly. There is no prospect of the resumption of the railway traffic for some time to come. The railway is protected by blue-jackets under the command of the commander of the Japanese warship *Suma*. The railway staff, who are Chinese, are all terror-stricken, and despite the protection of the Japanese, show a readiness to take to flight at any moment. In Chauchow station, the railway staff consists of twenty-six Japanese and Formosans, besides fifty Chinese, and the station is under the direct protection of the warship *Suma*. The streets are almost deserted but about one-half of the shops are open. A wealthy man named Kao in the town returned a few days ago, and this inspired the citizens with great confidence. The residents are mostly Chauchow men. Some of them support Chen while others support Lim. The citizens generally place reliance on Wu Tsung-to, who is expected to arrive shortly from Canton. Chen's army seems to have a good feeling towards Wu, while Lim's army remains hostile. The Chauchow disturbance may be regarded

as an outcome of the conflict between Chauchow-men and Chinyinchow-men.

Swatow, April 3.

Wu Hsing-to arrived at the town on the 2nd instant with 1,500 men on the warship *Kuanhai* and a transport. The army is expected to land on the 3rd. There is no fear of an immediate collision between the Chen and Lim armies, but all the foreign warships in the harbour are holding themselves in readiness for emergencies. A number of troops are to be dispatched to protect the refugees.

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE TROOPS.

Chefoo, April 4.

Yuan Shih-kai's envoy paid a visit to Lan Tien-wei this afternoon on board the warship *Nantun* to discuss the disbandment of the troops under Lan Tien-wei's command. The soldiers will be paid off at Chefoo, instead of being incorporated with the regular troops of the Chinese Republic.

Canton, April 4.

Magistrate Chen has not yet taken steps to disband the troops, and consequently a general unrest has begun to prevail. The outlook is rather gloomy.

RIOT NEAR TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, April 4.

The soldiers rose in riot and began to plunder a small town about 20 miles to the north of Tientsin. The riot was, however, suppressed before it assumed any magnitude.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

Nanking, April 5.

A state councillor has stated that all the Ministers of State will start for Peking on or about the 10th instant.

CHINESE UNIONIST PARTY.

Shanghai, April 5.

It has been decided to organize a political party named the Unionists under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and other revolutionary leaders, in which all the influential men in the various provinces are to be enrolled.

THE CABINET.

Peking, April 5.

Yuan Shih-kai contemplates the creation of a high advisory Board in the Cabinet, and Tan Shou-chien, Chang Chien, and Chang Ping-lin are now being approached with a proposal for accepting membership on the Board.

FOREIGN LOAN VETOED.

Peking, April 5.

Yuan Shih-kai has vetoed the proposed issue of a loan of 5,000,000 *taels* by Kueichow, on the hypothecation of the mines in the province.

HUPEH FOREIGN LOAN.

Hankow, April 5.

A foreign loan has been introduced to an extraordinary session of the Provincial Assembly in Hupeh. The Assembly has appointed a special commission to investigate and report on the actual conditions of the provincial finances and the terms of the foreign loan.

RIOTOUS SOLDIERS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, April 5.

A few Fukien soldiers created a row in the licensed quarter this afternoon. They were arrested and taken to Headquarters. Thereupon about 100 Fukien soldiers marched to the Headquarters and smashed

the windows and tore the flag to pieces. The riot was speedily suppressed. A few soldiers were slightly injured.

THE EIGHT BANNER MEN.

Peking, April 5.

The Eight Banner soldiers have been paid, but the payment to the officers is still in arrear. The officers are all dissatisfied with their treatment and a rising is threatened.

CONDITIONS AT SWATOW.

Swatow, April 5.

The soldiers under the command of Wu who have arrived at Swatow number about 1,800. The soldiers have all landed, but Commander Wu is stopping on board the warship *Kuanhai*. To-day he paid a round of visits to the Consuls of the various Powers. The interview between Wu and Lim has not yet taken place, so it is difficult to predict the future developments of the situation, but everything is now quiet.

THE FAMINE SUFFERERS.

Peking, April 5.

Yuan Shih-kai has granted an outlay of 200,000 dollars for the relief of the famine-stricken people in Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces.

TANG SHAO-I.

Shanghai, April 5.

Tang Shao-i is expected to stay here a few days longer and will afterwards proceed to Wuchang in conformity with the wishes of Li Yuan-hung, before returning to Peking. Should his sojourn in Shanghai be protracted, he will embark on board a steamer for the north direct. Dr. Sun Yat-sen is expected to start for Wuchang on the 6th instant.

MUTINY OF TROOPS.

Chefoo, April 6.

The local garrison stationed in Laishowfu mutinied on the 5th. Two detachments of troops were dispatched there from Tsinan on the 6th instant for their suppression.

THE NEW MINISTERS.

Shanghai, April 6.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen is to leave Shanghai for Wuchang this evening accompanied by Wang Chao-ming and Hu Han-min, and will return to Shanghai after a few days' sojourn in Wuchang, before his departure for his native province. Hsueh Chi-lin, Wang Chao-nung, Chen Chi-mei and other Ministers of State are now assembled in Shanghai. Tang Shao-i is alone staying here and will leave for the north in a few days, accompanied by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and others.

Nanking, April 6.

Hsu Shao-chien has resigned the post of Chief of the General Staff and has been appointed Quartermaster General. Chang Tso-lin has been appointed the Vice Minister of War. Chang is a graduate of the Japanese Military Cadet School. The State Councillors are to assemble in Peking shortly.

THE MAHOMEDANS.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the Mahomedans have held a conference at Lanchow in Kanin province to start a movement in opposition to the Christians, when they adopted a resolution that the Republican polity meant the destruction of the Mahomedans, and decided to organize an army of half a million men to defend their faith.

PLOT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

A number of rioters have been arrested

outside the Tanghia Gate of Peking on the disclosure of a plot against the life of Yuan Shih-kai.

ANOTHER INSURRECTION THREATENED.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN MONGOLIA.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Harbin, April 7.

Russia, who has already dispatched 20,000 men to Mongolia, is about to send another 15,000 men by train from Irkutsk on the pretext of holding military manoeuvres.

TROUBLE IN MANCHURIA.

Mukden, April 7.

A section of the Manchus propose to start an open revolt, by stirring up an anti-foreign agitation. Viceroy Chao is making strenuous efforts to nip the revolt in the bud.

SITUATION IN MONGOLIA.

Harbin, April 7.

The loyalists have organized a Mongolia Preservation Association and a collision has occurred between them and the troops who are endeavouring to bring about the cancellation of the declaration issued in Kulon of the independence of Mongolia. The situation is very unquiet.

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE SOLDIERS.

Peking, April 7.

It has been decided to disband the southern armies by giving six months' pay to each soldier. One half of the pay will be in silver, and the other half in national bonds.

A LOYALIST PLOT.

Peking, April 7.

An unknown person has placed with a seal-maker in Peking an order to make a seal bearing the inscription "Commander of the Loyal Army," which indicates the existence of a plot amongst the Loyalists. Yuan Shih-kai has issued an order to institute a strict search for the conspirator.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

Peking, April 7.

Yuan Shih-kai has replied to the Note forwarded by the Four Powers' Syndicate that the loan problem will be solved on the return of Tang Shao-i from the south. The Four Powers' Syndicate demand the speedy return of Tang Shao-i to Peking.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRACY.

Tientsin, April 7.

The conflict between Hu Ying and Chang Kwan-chen in Shantung has been amicably settled by the mediation of a special envoy sent by Yuan Shih-kai. Yu Tse-ta has been appointed provisional magistrate of the province.

ALARM AT KIUKIANG.

Kiukiang, April 8.

Despite the wild rumours current in the town of a probable rising, everything is quiet. A number of bluejackets with machine guns were landed from the British warship and a volunteer contingent was also organized for the defence of the settlement. Forty three bluejackets were also landed from the Japanese warship *Tatsuta*, and detailed around the settlement to defend it jointly with the British force. Armed soldiers were placed on patrol in Chinatown all night, and communication on the railway cut off. The rumour originated in the disbandment of the garrison and also the entrance into the town of a number of Loyalists. An

attempt has been made to assassinate Magistrate Li of Nanchang, and 40 conspirators were arrested, six of whom were afterwards decapitated.

Kiukiang, April 7.

The town is quiet this morning and all the shops are open. Ten Japanese bluejackets are left in the compound of the China-Japanese Steamship Company, under the command of Lieut. Yamanaka, but all the others have been withdrawn to the *Tatsuta*.

GUNS FOR SHENSI.

Hankow, April 7.

Three German merchants have been discovered in an attempt to secretly send machine guns to Sheng Yun in Shensi province from Tachimen station. One of the Germans made good his escape but two others were arrested and afterwards released. The case still remains undecided, however.

TROUBLE IN KWANSI.

Wuchow, April 7.

Wang Chi chang, the popular Magistrate of Kwansi, has relinquished the Magistracy in favour of Lu Yin-ting, and has been nominated President of the Republican Party in Nanking. While in Kwansi he administered the provincial affairs entirely on his own responsibility and this fact gave his opponents a pretext for fabricating a rumour that he was ambitious to become autocratic ruler of Kwansi. Wang greatly resented the rumour and left for Nanking, resigning the Magistracy. The present Magistrate Lu was formerly a leader of bandits, who led his followers through the province in a tour of spoliation. The people of Kwansi raised an outcry against his administration, and have called a secret conference in Wuchow to re-elect Wang as Magistrate. A second revolutionary insurrection threatens to break out in Kwansi, simultaneously with similar disturbances in Hunan province.

SUNGARI OPEN.

Kilin, April 8.

The ice on the Sungari river in Kilin province has melted and the river offers to vessels free and safe navigation.

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS.

Peking, April 8.

The appointment of Shih Chao chi as the Minister of Communications has been officially gazetted to-day.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Chefoo, April 8.

The departure of Hu Ying, the magistrate of Shantung, who was to proceed to Peking yesterday, has been suddenly postponed.

CHAO ERH-SUN.

Mukden, April 8.

Magistrate Chao Erh-sun continues to wield considerable influence and popularity in the Three Eastern Provinces. Lan Tien-wei, Tsi Yao-lin, ex Deputy Viceroy of Honan, and Chen Kuan, commander of the Twentieth Division, are making strenuous efforts to secure the appointment, but the people of Mukden are not disposed to have any man other than Chao Erh-sun for their Magistrate.

HWANG HSING.

Nanking, April 8.

Hwang Hsing opened his office in the Magistracy on the 5th instant and Hsu Shao-chen has again resigned the Governorship and returned to Shanghai. The Nanking Garrison Headquarters have been abolished.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

Nanking, April 8.

The State Council was prorogued on the

7th instant and the councillors are to proceed to Peking to-day. The Ministers of State are to arrive at Peking by the 20th instant.

RUMOURED DISTURBANCE IN HANCHOW.

Tsinan, April 8.

Two detachments of the garrison left Tsinan on the 6th instant for the suppression of disturbances in Hunhsien. The third battalion of the 18th regiment was also dispatched from Tsinan for the suppression of the riot in Tungahsien. The rumours of the outbreak of a disturbance in Hanchow is not yet confirmed.

LAN TIEN-WEI.

Chefoo, April 8.

The troops under the command of Lan Tien-wei will be disbanded in the course of a few days and Lan Tien-wei is expected to return to his native place in Hupeh province.

THE MINISTERS OF STATE.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that it is rumoured that 3,000 revolutionary soldiers will proceed northward, escorting Tang Shao-i and other Ministers of State, and 5,000 Wuchang soldiers are also about to proceed to Peking by the Peking-Hankow railway to escort Li Yuan-hung.

THE CHIHLI GARRISON.

The soldiers of the various garrisons in Chihli province threaten to assemble in the neighbourhood of Tientsin in defiance of the twenty li limit prescribed by treaty, in order to forcibly demand their pay. They also threaten to invade Peking. The situation is rather grave. Yuan Shih-kai is making efforts to prevent the troops from moving northward.

THE TROUBLE AT KIUKIANG.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Kiukiang, April 8.

The situation has become pacific and the bluejackets landed from the British and Japanese warships were all withdrawn this morning. The disbanded soldiers were sent to their respective homes in the country. The Military Government has notified the Consuls of the various Powers that there no longer exist any apprehensions of a resurrection of the disturbances.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN KILIN.

Kilin, April 8.

Magistrate Chen has ordered that the Provisional Assembly shall be composed of thirty-seven members elected by the local self-governing bodies in addition to thirty standing members, and two members each elected by the Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Education in Kilin. The new members shall be elected before the 20th so that the Provincial Assembly can be convened towards the end of this month.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Hankow, April 9.

Dr. Sun Yat sen embarked on board a warship at 1 o'clock this afternoon, and arrived at Wuchang the same afternoon, escorted by a warship and a torpedo-boat.

SITUATION AT HANGCHOW.

Hangchow, April 9.

The wild rumours which were at one time rampant have begun to subside, owing to a thorough understanding having been established between the Magistrate of Chekiang and Shao Hsing. The chief of the

civil administration of Hangchow has fled from the town for fear of assassination and he is now taking refuge in Wenchow.

SWATOW QUIET.

Swatow, April 9.

The situation remains unaltered. Both the Lin and Wu armies are holding demonstrations, but it is believed an understanding already exists between the leaders. Railway traffic has been resumed from to-day, but telegraphic communication is still suspended.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

Tsinan, April 9.

Owing to the unrest in the direction of Laichow a battalion of the 94th regiment was sent to Huai-hsien from Tsinan on the 8th instant.

THE MIN ARMY.

Chefoo, April 9.

The Min army, which was dispatched to Chefoo to take part in the northern expedition, has received an order to return to Fukien.

BANDITS NEAR PEKING.

Peking, April 9.

Rifle reports were incessantly heard during last night. A rumour was current of a resuscitation of the riot, but it was afterwards found that the rifle reports were due to an invasion of bandits from the direction of Tsaochow and Lianglianghsien.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that all the official business having been transferred to Peking, the Nanking Government has been closed. The State Council is to meet in Peking before the 25th instant.

THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN ARMIES.

It is rumoured that Li Yuan-hung will proceed to Peking, in company with Dr. Sun Yat-sen, being escorted by the Hupeh army. The southern soldiers will be billeted on the Bannermen's drill ground and other buildings in the South Garden. A conflict between the Southern and Northern armies is apprehended.

REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 10.

It is reported that the men who rendered brilliant services in the cause of the revolution and who are staying at Wuchang without fixed employment have been invited by Yuan Shih-kai to enter the government service.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Hankow, April 10.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Wuchang on the 9th instant. The Chinese Press publishes a report of the warm reception accorded to him by the citizens, but the public shows no enthusiasm.

THE MAGISTRATE AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, April 10.

Magistrate Hu Ying recently officially announced his immediate departure for Peking, but the citizens prevailed on him to stay for fear of the outbreak of disturbances during his absence. The Magistrate was therefore obliged to suspend his departure, sending to Peking an envoy in his place. The fact was telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai.

LAN TIEN-WEI.

Chefoo, April 10.

Tang Chieh-ming paid a farewell visit to

the Japanese warship *Tokiwa* on the 10th instant. He is to leave for Shanghai to-morrow morning on board the Chinese warship *Nantan*. Lan Tien-wei, is also to embark on the *Nantan*. The Lu army under the command of Lan Tien-wei, now at Chinwantao, will be transported to Tsinan, where the soldiers will be enrolled under Yuan Shih-kai's banner prior to disbandment.

FIGHTING IN MONGOLIA.

Haibin, April 10.

A telegram from Kolsatz, Mongolia, reports that the Mongolians collided with the Chinese troops last night, when the former was completely routed and fled in the direction of Ili, leaving many killed on the field. The situation in the town is extremely dangerous.

SITUATION IN THIBET.

Peking, April 10.

A Thibetan dispatch reports that the Dalai Lama now reigns supreme in Thibet, and the Chinese residents who attempt to resist his authority will be massacred.

The Chinese residents in Lhasa stand in imminent peril.

BANDITS NEAR MUKDEN.

Mukden, April 10.

Bandits have risen in open revolt at the Eastern Sepulchre, where people are being plundered with impunity. The bandits state they will massacre all the foreigners. Magistrate Chao has dispatched troops for their suppression.

TANG SHAO-I.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that despite the fact that the negotiations on the Four Powers loan and the Belgian loan have been transferred to Peking, Tang Shao-i has decided to stay in Shanghai for some time on the pretext of the loan business. Tang Shao-i has made himself very unpopular in Peking. In the event of Tang's return to Peking being unduly delayed the organization of the new Ministry will become more difficult and the convocation of the State Council will be delayed.

THE INCREASE IN FREIGHT.

PETITION BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce held an extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock, for discussion of the appointment of an Investigation Committee concerning supplementary business education, and the presentation to the Government of a petition regarding the increase of the shipping rates.

The petition in question is addressed to the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce and the Minister of Communications. The text is as follows:—

The exports destined for Europe possess so many rivals and are subject to such heavy freight rates—Japan being far removed from the central European market—that prices always show an upward tendency. This is one of the serious disadvantages Japan finds competing with rivals in the international arena of commerce. The freight rates hitherto imposed on cheap goods, such as porcelain, toys, screens, lanterns, bamboo ware, basket work and straw braid, have been fifty per cent. at the least, and in some cases on a par with or even above cost price. All these goods have quite a number of formidable rivals to compete with in the European markets, in the products of Norway, Italy and Germany. The only redeeming feature that renders competition possible notwithstanding such heavy freights, is the cheap labour and small productive cost. The fact is not to be refuted,

however, that as development proceeds a rise in the cost of labour will become inevitable. Any increase at this juncture in the freight rates, therefore, cannot but give rise to a steady appreciation of prices, and the immediate result will be practically a suspension of the export of the above goods. Such will be the case not with the said exports alone, but with ginger, pepper, and vegetable wax, which possess strong rivals in South Africa, and also soja beans, rapeseed and flax, which find rivals in Europe. As regards fish oil, too, the future is by no means reassuring, Japan's production of late being rivalled by the supply from South America. Bean oil has also received a severe blow by the appearance in Dalny of a formidable rival. Under these circumstances, it seems probable that Japan's exports will in future be gradually driven out of the European markets by the rival products of South America and Dalny, unless some measures are taken for the decrease of the freight rates.

This is the present condition of the export trade with Europe, so far as low priced goods are concerned. The European Shipping Conference, however, is said to have decided, in total disregard of the above facts, to raise the freight rates by ten per cent. It scarcely needs to be pointed out that this will result in a rise of the prices of exports, and that the necessary result will be a general decline of the export trade. So far as cheap goods are considered, the keenness of the competition entirely forbids any increase of prices in response to the increase of freight rates. Hence a rise in the cost of raw materials and labour must be anticipated, and an increase in the cost of labour and material will cause the production of inferior goods, which in turn will deprive Japan's products of confidence and accelerate the suspension of the export trade. Such a state of things being detrimental to the development of the State economics the steamship companies themselves, too, must suffer in the long run from the evil effects.

In view of all these facts, and in consideration of the actual condition of the exporters, as well as the future of the export trade, the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce has decided to present this petition to the Government in the hope that the authorities will forbid the subsidised shipping companies increasing the freight rates for the present.

A PRETTY YOKOHAMA WEDDING.

A popular member of the community, Mr. William G. Crokam of Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. of Yokohama, was married on Saturday afternoon last to Miss Evelyn Griffith of Bath, England, at the residence of Mrs. Eagling at 48, Bluff. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., the civil service having been conducted the previous day at the British Consulate-General before Mr. John Carey Hall, I.S.O. Miss Florence Eagling acted as bridesmaid, whilst Mr. J. S. Curtis looked after the bridegroom in the capacity of "best man." The reception following the ceremony was largely attended by the friends of the newly wedded couple, whilst a singularly happy speech of congratulation to the bride and bridegroom was made by the Rev. Mr. Weston.

THE GAIETY CINEMATOGRAPH.

On Saturday afternoon and evening last, the management of the Gaiety Theatre again presented two excellent shows to the people of Yokohama. The audiences were not so large as at previous productions, but that may have been due to the Easter holidays having drawn many of the residents into the country. The evening presentation was the best and as usual drew the largest attendance. Special praise is due to the film entitled *The Special Messenger*, depicting an incident from the great Civil War of America. The humorous pictures were also good and were greatly appreciated.

GENERAL BADEN-POWELL'S VISIT.

Tiffin with the British Association.

As already briefly reported, Lieut. General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., arrived by the Gt. Northern steamer *Minnesota* on Tuesday evening last. The General spent the night on board the vessel, but received a visit immediately on arriving from the local troop of Boy Scouts, under the escort of Mr. Clarence Griffin, the Scoutmaster. The troop, which is made up of all nationalities, was very kindly received by Sir Robert, who chatted with them for some time.

The General landed on Wednesday morning and proceeded to the Y. U. Club, where he was entertained at tiffin by the members of the British Association, some eighty taking part.

Mr. V. R. Bowden, the Chairman of the Association, being in Kobe, Mr. George Miller, the Vice Chairman, presided.

An excellent repast was served, on the conclusion of which, Mr. Miller briefly called upon the members of the Association to drink to the health of the gallant General, whose eminent services to the Empire were within the minds of all. He was now devoting his time and energy to the Boy Scout movement, an organisation which was exercising an immense amount of good upon the growing manhood of the nation in encouraging those manly, honourable and noble qualities which go towards making useful and desirable citizens. He asked them to drink to the health of the General and the success and prosperity of the Boy Scouts.

The toast was enthusiastically drunk with individual honours, followed by three cheers and a "tacet."

In response, Sir Robert, who was again warmly applauded, made a bluff, soldierly speech. He said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I must offer you my most sincere thanks for the kind and generous way in which you have received me, because I must say I came to Japan rather out of my proper line of tour, not expecting to be noticed at all. I merely came to see something of Japan for two or three days—to drink your *sake* and see your *grisha*. (Laughter.) Therefore to find myself in the hands of so many kind friends has somewhat astonished me and given me great gratification. I thank you most cordially. The fact is that running round the world on account of the Boy Scouts has brought me to these parts, a very willing traveller, and I must say that it is a most gratifying thing to find the movement has developed in all the parts of the world I have visited. I came here *via* the West Indies and America, and everywhere I found troops of Boy Scouts, at least three of which I had never heard of before. At Panama I found nine troops which I had never heard of before, and yesterday I was met by a young man-of-war, gallily dressed, carrying a detachment as to whose existence up to a few days ago I was ignorant. I have just got an invitation to go to Shanghai, where two large contingents had been formed, and at Manila I shall see some more, and of course in Australia and New Zealand the movement had spread very largely. I mention these facts to show that the movement has spread from its little island home to all parts of the world and that it has spread naturally. It is a natural growth that will take hold and materialise and spread round the world, do what you will to stop it. I really think the movement will do good. It has certainly done good where it first originated, in the slums of the industrial centres, where the boys get swamped out and have no chance in life. These boys are used in what are called "blind-alley" occupations, where they get boys' pay and at the end of their time have learnt nothing or nothing that is any use to them in life. When they have finished their boys' employment they are no use to take anything but boys' work, and so join the enormous army not only of the unemployed but of the unemployable, which is worse. It is no use trying to tinker. We want to go further and prevent the rising generation falling into the same slough

of despond. (Applause.) But at the same time this disease is not limited to one class. The disease is also common among the better class of boys, who catch it as easily as others. The Boy Scout movement is for the benefit of all. People sometimes say, "Oh, we don't want the Boy Scouts here." I reply "If you don't want it, don't have it. The boys will catch it whether you want it or not." The point is do you want your boys to learn to be self-responsible, to have more pluck, more endurance, more self-reliance and resourcefulness? If they can learn all that inside of four walls I have nothing to say. When a boy becomes a scout he picks those things up for himself. We merely give him the ambition and put upon him the responsibility of teaching himself. You can't give boys a high moral tone if they won't pick it up for themselves. I don't think it does boys of any class any harm to become Boy Scouts. He does really pick up attributes of manliness which stick to him for life, as those things do which one learns for oneself, and forms means of developing his character which will help him to a career in after life. There is another thing about the movement which commends itself to many and that is that it has spread itself all through the British Empire. The Boy Scouts like to think of themselves as a great brotherhood, with no difference of country, all working for the same end under the same name and the same badge. They like to make it a secret brotherhood. We are fostering that and getting them to write to each other and interchange visits. Last year a great number of Canadian scouts visited England and there were also visits from Australia and nearer places like Malta, Gibraltar and the other over-sea Colonies and Dominions. We hope to promote that to a very great extent during the coming year and help to tighten up the bonds of Empire all over the world. (Applause.) I am not so small minded as not to see that we can extend it further than that. All foreign countries have adopted the scheme of scouting. In America I have been visiting twenty-one centres of the Scout movement, where between three and four hundred thousand scouts are in training. They look upon themselves as brothers of the British scouts, and are writing to them. They are sending a troop over to England this year, and we hope to respond to it next year. In Germany there are many Boy Scouts, and four lots have been over to England and gone round the country and made the acquaintance of many connected with the movement. Lots of our Boys have also been in Holland, Denmark and Sweden during the past year. All are promoting the personal touch and forming bonds of union among them which ought to be of valuable service when the nations come to a crisis in the future. At such a time the boys will view the difficulty from each other's standpoint and a natural sympathy and sense of justice will be developed between them which, if the movement goes on spreading, must make a difference in the future in promoting the peace of the world. (Applause.) You may think that is rather a dream, but if you see the bent of my ideas I hope you will look into the details and help the boys in any way. I think you can do a great deal, even if you only give them a pat on the back and tell them to go on with the work. It is something for them if they see their efforts are appreciated, and it will help them to go on and make themselves better men. In England employment bureaux have been formed for the boys and people like to take them in preference to the ordinary boys because they find them as trustworthy and self-reliant as men—sometimes a great deal better than men. I think you will realise that there is something in the movement worthy of consideration and if you can encourage them in any way I hope you all will do so. (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. Carey Hall, I.S.O., said that the members of the Association were proud of the opportunity of meeting so distinguished a representative of the British nation. The name of Baden Powell was very familiar to him. He was interested in the

General's father before he was interested in the General himself. Professor Baden-Powell was one of the illustrious men who were associated in the publication of a work (*Essays and Reviews*) which had done much to brush away a good deal of superstition. The talent of the father had descended to the family. The General was one of three sons who had all distinguished themselves—one as a savant, another as an artist, and the third as a soldier second to none in the British Empire. They all remembered with pride his defence of Mafeking, which would never be forgotten as long as the people continued to read the history of the past. The General was also a pioneer in the great movement from militarism to pacific industry. In the course of time industry and commerce would come to take the place of militarism. Such a transition would not take place in a day or a generation, but in hastening it there was no more hopeful movement than that of the Boy Scouts. The only thing he knew to compare with it was the splendid work being done by the Society for International Conciliation in America. He put the two movements together as being of parallel importance and he was proud to say that it was the Anglo-Saxon race that was leading the world in the upward path of moral improvement. Small things often led to great results and small and insignificant as the Scout movement might at present seem, it had a magnificent future before it. Mr. Hall concluded by asking the company to drink to the success of the Scout movement coupling with it the name of Mr. Clarence Griffin, who had taken upon himself the responsibility of forming the local troop and had so successfully commanded it.

The toast was heartily drunk, and Mr. Clarence Griffin bowed his acknowledgments.

As the General had to catch a train to Tokyo, the proceedings then terminated. On his departure from the Club he was warmly cheered.

We understand Sir Robert intends to visit Nikko and Kyoto, and proceed on board the N.D.L. *Luxtoro* at Kobe for Hongkong.

DEATHS OF TWO OLD RESIDENTS.

MR. G. K. DINSDALE.

The Grim Reaper swung his scythe heavily in the community on Thursday. He moved to the lands of the great majority two men for whom residents had great respect and affection.

In the early hours of the morning, Mr. G. K. Dinsdale, passed away at 157-A, Bluff. He had practically been absent from his firm for about five years, his son having acted for him during his illness. The late Mr. Dinsdale was one of the oldest of the foreign agents here, for he first came to Yokohama in 1873 and had been in the same business in Singapore ten years previous. The late gentleman was deeply respected by all who knew him, and the sympathy of those in this Port will be extended to his widow, his four sons, and his three daughters, who are left to mourn his loss.

The funeral will take place to-morrow morning (Saturday). At the special request of the family, we learn that it will be strictly private.

MR. A. G. PRICE.

Mr. Arthur G. Price succumbed at the General Hospital on Thursday at twelve o'clock from typhoid fever. He was taken ill about three weeks ago, and about a little over a fortnight back, decided to go to the General Hospital to be taken care of. Every effort was made by the doctors in charge, and it was hoped at first that he would pull through. Unfortunately, his constitution and his heart were not equal to the great strain upon them, with the result that he passed away at mid-day on Thursday.

Mr. Price was only 36 years of age.

We understand that the body was cremated on Thursday evening and that the funeral will take place on Saturday afternoon from Christ Church in the afternoon. The exact time will be announced later.

COUNSELS FOR THE HEART.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT)

Here are samples of what my old Korean friend reads to himself. A sort of Bible it is, written in the mysterious ideographs of the East, through which, if a man once gain possession of them, he can hold counsel with the gods. They are collections from the ages of China, that have been fingered, and conned, and repeated by Koreans through centuries of time. Glimpses of God shimmer through them, and broad truths too. Words they truly are for all mortals to chew the cud of reflection over, and to write out and post upon the lintel-bars and door-posts of the soul:—

"When I sit alone in my house let me sit as circumspectly as though surrounded by the busy street. Let me restrain this heart of mine as though I held in with bit and bridle six chariot horses.

"If it were right to spend one's wisdom and strength in the pursuit of riches and honour, I suppose Confucius would easily have become a marquis. Truly mortal man, ignorant of the will of God, senselessly wears out body and soul in endless anxiety.

"An Ancient once counselling his son said: The stupidest ass in the world is intelligent in seeing faults in others and the brightest mind going in liberal in overlooking his own wrongdoings. Therefore, my son, use the mind that would find fault with others in seeing your own defects, and the mind that would overlook your own wrongdoings, use in excusing the other man.

"Confucius says: If you are wise preserve the manner of the simple minded; if the greatest in the world, disclaim every merit; if most powerful, fear still and tremble; if possessor of all that the heart could wish, be small in your own eyes and humble minded.

"Though you give a favour, expect nothing in return, and never repent after you have given it.

"Let your courage be great and your ambitions small, your mind well rounded and your actions square.

"In controlling your thoughts be as fearful as though you were entering a battle-field, and in directing your mind as steady as though you were crossing a torrent by a single pole.

"While you live in obedience to law, every morning will bring you joy, but if you live apart from justice and honour every day will be laden with anxiety.

"Let a man guard his lips as a cork seals a bottle, and let him surround his thoughts as with a city wall.

"No man lives a hundred years and yet men plan as though they would live a thousand.

"Six kinds of regret there are: regret over a slip in official life that costs one his office; regret over riches spent leaving one poor; regret over failure to study, when one was young and fresh; regret over seeing another skilled in handicraft that I too might have learned; regret over making a fool of oneself when drunk and befuddled; regret over not resting at times from labour that has cost me my health.

"Better a quiet life and poverty than anxiety and worry with riches.

"Better a thatched roof with domestic felicity than a palace of gold with the lack thereof.

"Better rough fare with health than soft dainties and a diseased body.

"If the mind be rightly adjusted, even a thatched roof is grateful, and with a bridled spirit even vegetable soup has an agreeable flavour.

"He who asleep and awake dwells on loyalty and devotion, may not be known to men, but will be gratefully thought of by God.

"If a man exercise towards his parents a devotion equal to that shown to wife and child, he will truly be a filial son; and if he manifest to the king a loyalty equal to his

earnestness after riches and honour he will be a loyal subject.

"A mind that seeks only profit will play false with religion, and a selfish spirit will extinguish justice and truth.

"If you make trouble, trouble grows; if you cover over matters, matters adjust themselves.

These are counsels for the mind, remembering always, however, that Fate rules with iron hand and supreme.

Their Book of Fate reads:

"The thousand and one things that pertain to life are decreed forever by Fate. What then are all these market people fussing about?

"There is no accident by which we can hope to escape the smittings of the Eternal Fixed Law.

"There are the sick and the blind and the deaf and the drivelling who live in opulence, and there are the bright and clever and intelligent who are as poor as poverty. Our birth year, month, day, hour, settle all these things in their train, ordered and decreed; man has nothing to do with them whatever.

So they hold that Destiny rules all. They tell the story of So Kang-chul, a famous Chinaman of the Song Dynasty, showing how the Fates will have their way whether or no.

He tried once to thwart them by safeguarding an earthen dish, made on a certain day, month, year, and hour, and so destined to come to its end at such and such a time. So's effort now was to protect this dish over the danger point and so prove Fate false.

On the decreed day he therefore placed himself on guard determined that for once the gods should not have their way with his earthenware dish. At noon his mother, good woman, but somewhat irascible, put her head out of the window and called, "Son, come in at once to your tiffin."

"I'll be there by and-by," said So. The tiffin grew cold, and the mother's patience wore thin, so again she called "Why are you not coming?" "I'll be there shortly."

But the tiffin waited. What could be the matter? The dishes too needed washing, and no end of woman's work was to be done. She was in no mood to trifle, knowing nothing of the fates or of the fore-ordained dish. She would wait no longer. Bouncing out of the room, she picked up an ironing stick, and let fly as an Indian would his tomahawk straight for the delinquent. "You son of exasperation," said she, "take that." He dodged just in time, but smash went the club into some dish or other that chanced to be in the way. Sure, it was the appointed crock that had yielded up the ghost according to the year, day, month, hour of its unfortunate creation.

This is proof that nothing can withstand the fates.

SPECTATOR.

THE SAISEI KAI.

At the general meeting of the Directors of the Saisei Kwai, held on Saturday afternoon last at one o'clock in the Home Department, it was decided to defray 250,000 yen for the present fiscal year. The cost of the construction of the Metropolitan Hospital was also discussed. According to the decision arrived at in the conference, the Hospital will consist of one Central building in the capital and of a few branches in local districts, each with a few sub-branches established in the poorer quarters. To begin with, the authorities concerned will construct the main building of the Hospital, capable of receiving some 500 patients, on the former site of the Naval Arsenal, by the side of the Akabane Bridge, in Shiba, at an estimated cost of some 500,000 yen, including the expenditure on fittings.

The Saisei Kai will hold a conference at the Peers' Club on the 22nd instant, and give a dinner the following day in commemoration of its establishment. Prince Fushimi, in the capacity of the President of the organization, will honour both occasions with his presence.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

According to the results of investigations recently completed by the Finance Department, Japan's foreign trade during the past three months this year shows an excess of imports over exports valued at 59,630,000 yen, the former aggregating for the period 165,700,000 yen and the latter 106,070,000 yen. This is an increase of 7,040,000 yen in exports and 20,560,000 yen in imports as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. It may be further observed that all the items of export show more or less increase as compared with the corresponding term, except in the cases of seaweed, refined sugar, cigarettes, wood, camphor, raw silk, habutae, lacquered ware, and umbrellas, each of which more or less decreased. In imports half manufactured and finished goods decreased, but all others, in particular raw materials, railway carriages, steamships and machinery, showed a marked increase, as will be seen by in the following table:—

Items.	Increase as compared with preceding term.	
	Amount of Import.	ceding term.
	(Thou. Yen)	(Thou. Yen)
Cotton	74,731	14,000
Woolen yarn	4,588	1,364
Oil cake	6,690	208
Iron (pig)	2,357	1,515
Iron (slabs, rods and plate)	9,383	4,252
Iron (tubes and pipes)	1,312	617
Petroleum	3,703	1,084
Iron nails	1,092	130
Railway carriages	580	420
Steamships	890	618
Machinery	6,694	249

ARREST OF BLACKMAILER.

A few days ago a smart arrest was made by a detective of the Kagacho Police Station in Yokohama. The facts are that on Thursday last a registered letter reached the hands of Mr. W. M. Cumming, making certain threats and demanding the sum of 3,000 yen. Mr. Cumming informed the police authorities and made an appointment with the man. About eleven o'clock on Monday morning a gentleman in a frockcoat called and requested an interview with Mr. Cumming, which was granted, the detective being present as a clerk. The visitor described himself as the editor of a certain paper. After a long discussion his demand was positively refused and he was informed he could take what action he pleased.

The visitor was then about to leave when the detective informed him of his identity and arrested him. He was found to be a graduate of Waseda University, named Murotani Jinshiro, 30 years old, hailing from Shiga prefecture. At the time of the Russo-Japanese War he took part as a private and was later decorated with the Eighth Order of Merit. In the course of last month he was sentenced by the Tokyo District Court to penal servitude for ten months on a charge of blackmail, though execution of the sentence was postponed. Murotani is now undergoing preliminary examination.

FRANCO JAPANESE ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the Franco-Japanese Association was held on Saturday afternoon last. Prince Kanin, President of the Association, delivered a brief speech expressing his heartfelt satisfaction at the growing increase of the friendship between the two countries, and at the same time his sincere wishes for further efforts for the attainment of the objects for which the Association was organized.

Baron Tsuji, Director of the Association, read a short speech in response, which was followed by a congratulatory speech from M. Gerard, the French Ambassador. The reports on the Association's work for the last year brought the meeting to a close.

THE CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

SECOND HEARING OF APPEAL.

On Monday last the hearing was resumed in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court, before Judge Aihara and four other associated judges, of the criminal case in which J. S. Hargreaves and Sato are indicted for forgery and utterance of official documents, and embezzlement. Public Prosecutor Kawasoye conducted the prosecution, and Dr. Kishi appeared for the defence of J. C. Hargreaves. Dr. Hanai was absent. Mr. Sotzuki interpreted the evidence. Mr. White of the British Consulate was also present.

In answer to Dr. Kishi, the foreign accused stated that no commission was ever paid to Matsumura. When Matsumura made his confession, Mr. Midzuno, the Customs official, was in another room. Matsumura asked that two other clerks in the firm's employ—Mitsubishi and Kuriyama—should be sent out of the room, as he could not speak in front of them.

Dr. Kishi stated that he would reserve until the next hearing the examination of the evidence given by Sato, as the evidence was not based on facts.

The Court remarked that according to the records of the preliminary court Matsumura stated that the whole affair was planned and executed on consultation with Hargreaves, that he paid all the money over to Hargreaves and that the blank forms were printed by a Chinese printer, and were in the custody of Hargreaves. With reference to the Moji Customs affairs, Matsumura stated that he called on Hargreaves at his villa in Kamakura to consult with him. This point was corroborated by the statement of the accused Sato. The Court made special mention of this evidence as the two points had an important bearing on the case.

The Court then proceeded to question the accused Hargreaves:—In the Court of first instance Mr. Metcalf stated that a special commission was paid to Matsumura besides the customary bonus at the end of the year. That so?—Mr. Metcalf cannot have made such a statement. I failed to find such a statement when I perused the translation of the evidence. There must be some mistake.

Dr. Kishi asked the Court whether the statement put into the Court on December 18th was in the hands of the Court. The Court replied in the affirmative.

Dr. Kishi stated that he would call the attention of the Court to the cash report to the head office in London rendered on January 7th, 1910, in which it is stated an extra one month's salary was paid to the office staff according to the Japanese custom. Counsel also pointed out that Matsumura inserted in the book in his own handwriting that 52 yen was paid to a Chinese printer on June 15th, but the Chinese printer denied having received more than 47 yen. This showed that Matsumura pocketed the balance of 5 yen, which was conclusive evidence of his character.

Dr. Kishi proceeded to ask the Court to call Mr. Waterlow to ascertain the facts of Matsumura's confession; Mr. Kuriyama, to show that Mr. Hargreaves repeated having destroyed the blank forms, through the advice of Mr. MacIvor; and Mr. Mizorogi to ascertain the fact that on the September 14th, Hargreaves paid a visit to the Toyogumi, to demand the production of the receipts. Counsel also asked that a comparative list be drawn up showing the amount of Customs duties paid by the Yokohama branch of Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox and the amounts received by the Customs.

Mr. Kawabe, Counsel for the accused Sato, asked the Court to summon as witnesses the accused Matsumura to ascertain the circumstances under which the accused Sato assisted in the commission of the crime, and also the fact that the accused Sato had no share of the money embezzled; Mr. Mizorogi, to ascertain the annual income of the accused Sato; and also Mr. Tono-

mura to ascertain the annual income of the accused Sato and also the amount paid to Mr. Mizorogi by the firm by whom Tonomura is employed.

On consultation, the Court decided to summon Messrs. Waterlow, Kuriyama, Matsumura and Mizorogi as witnesses, but all the other applications were rejected.

The proceedings were then adjourned until the 17th instant.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, Stockbrokers, in their daily report for the 4th inst. say:—

Through the stimulus given by the rise of Tokyo Electric Lights and Fuji Papers on Tuesday all shares took an upward turn this morning, especially Tokyo Gas, which made a jump of 3.35 yen for old and 2.05 yen for new and Goto Woollens, 2.80 yen. Fuji Papers made a further rise of 70 sen. Sugars were also in demand, Nitaka rising 1.50 yen, Taihoku 80 sen, and others 10 to 50 sen.

Stock Exchanges, which have remained dormant for a long time, suddenly took a turn for the better with a rise of 70 sen for old and 2.55 for new.

The afternoon session opened rather late. There were numerous buying orders put on the market, but on account of the "Bulls" being keenly on the look-out for profit-taking, prices have not advanced much.

April 6.

The rising market was checked by the hesitation of the Bulls in making further purchases, and owing to their haste in profit taking, combined with the depressing influence of the weather, caused this morning's session to succumb to the persistent Bear attacks; Yusen leading with a fall of 95 sen, followed by Specie Bank new 1.25 yen, Tokyo Electric Light 1.35 yen and Goto Woollens 1.45 yen. Spinnings and Sugars declined 10/50 sen. Exchanges old 1.20 yen and new 1.25 yen. The afternoon session opened irregular, all shares fluctuating 30/50 sen, with exception of Toyo Muslin which rose 1.10 yen; but before closing, the tone suddenly improved. Exchange Shares rose 65 sen for old and 1.75 yen for new. The tendency seems optimistic.

April 9

This morning the market was characterised by a strong Bearish movement, which forced prices down all round, especially Yokohama Trams New, which fell 1.20 yen, Specie Bank 1.00 yen, Fuji Paper old 85 sen new 50 sen, others from 20 to 70 sen. Exchange Share alone remained impervious to their attack and fell only a few sen.

There are numerous buyers coming forward to meet every fall in prices.

The afternoon market favoured by the drop in the morning. The Bulls again came to the assault and forced prices up all round, noticeably Toyo Sugars 90 sen, Nitaka Sugars 70 sen. Exchanges old 40 sen and new 5 sen. Shares changed hands yesterday at 73 89.

April 10.

This morning the "Bears" again took charge and drove all before them, with the exceptions of Yokohama Trams new and Goto woollens, which rose 90 sen and 85 sen respectively. All other shares declined 20/80 sen, owing to the weak "Bulls" throwing up their holdings, and also in sympathy with the weak tone of Exchange shares, which fell 75 sen and 25 yen for old and new.

In the afternoon the "slump" continued, although there was no bad element to account for it. All shares weakened materially. Such "gilt edged" shares as Nippon Yusen, Gas and Electric Lights fell 30/50 sen. Sugars declined nearly one point and Spinnings 15/70 sen. Exchanges old 65 sen and new 95 sen. 42,650 shares changed hands yesterday.

April 11.

The morning market ruled weak, owing to a strong "Bear" movement and their tactics in

circulating false rumours, combined with the timidity of the "Bulls" in hastening to close their transactions. The principal falls were Yokohama Trams new 65 sen, Specie Banks old 1.25 and new 65 sen, Electric Lights 80 sen, Fuji Paper 80 sen, Fuji Gassed Spinning 65 sen, Kanegafuchi 1.30 old and 80 sen new, Goto Woollens 1.10 and Oils 70-80 sen, but Sugars were firm and gained 5-20 sen. Exchange shares old lost 10 sen and new 55 sen.

The afternoon Session opened somewhat irregular, notwithstanding the report of excess of imports by 8,700,000 yen. Shares fluctuated between 10 to 50 sen, with exception of Specie Banks, which further fell 1.40 for old and 80 sen for new. Spinnings were firm and gained 10 to 70 sen. Exchange shares fell 15 sen for old and 55 sen for new. 60,890 Shares changed hands yesterday.

FIRES IN THE PROVINCES.

About two o'clock on Saturday afternoon last, a fire broke out at a timber merchant's at Fukushima-machi, Nagano prefecture, resulting in the total destruction of half the town. Among the buildings burnt down were the Koshin Bank and the works of the Kiso Electric Company.

A despatch from Aomori reports that a fire which started in Wakinozawa village in the small hours of Saturday morning last, resulting in the demolition of over forty houses.

On Tuesday afternoon about one o'clock a fire occurred at Uyenohara-machi, in Yamanashi prefecture, destroying some fifty houses. The police station was among the many public buildings burnt down in the fire.

In the small hours of Tuesday morning a fire broke out in a fisherman's house at Oiso, and resulted in the destruction of 27 houses. The cause of the outbreak is suspected to be incendiary.

On Wednesday morning a fire broke out in the laboratory belonging to the Azuma Leather Company in the suburbs of Osaka. Fortunately the flames were suppressed before they spread, but the whole buildings of the Company, covering an area of over seventy *tsubo*, were completely reduced to ashes. Two of the factory hands were burnt to death, while four of them were seriously and some others slightly injured. The cause of the outbreak is uncertain, but five hundred pounds of ether and fifteen *koku* of spirits stored in the laboratory are said to have suddenly caught fire and exploded, smashing the office in an instant. The loss is estimated at over 10,000 yen, of which 8,000 yen is covered by a foreign insurance company.

A despatch from Nagoya reports that a fire started in the small hours of Thursday morning at the biggest hotel in the city, the Yamada-ya. Owing to the desperate efforts of the firemen, assisted by some 120 troops dispatched from the Third Division, the flames were brought under control in less than an hour, but not before some twelve houses, including the hotel, had been completely destroyed. Fortunately no casualties are reported, but the loss is surmised to reach no small amount.

DEATH OF OLD SHANGHAI RESIDENT.

The death is announced of Mr. H. J. H. Tripp, one of the oldest, if not actually the senior resident of Shanghai. Mr. Tripp was well known all over the Far East and will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends. He first went to Shanghai in 1861 or 1862, and later was stationed in Hongkong for a number of years. He afterwards visited Japan, where he was employed by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha. It was as agent for the M. B. K. that he returned to Shanghai and continued to hold this post up to about four years ago, when he retired on a well earned pension.

The late Mr. Tripp took a great interest in sport, being an ex-President of the Recreation Club and Captain of the Golf Club. He was eighty-one years of age at the time of his death.

THE KEIHIN CANAL.

The Keihin Canal Company gave a dinner at the Seiyō-ken, Tsukiji, on Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock to a number of journalists and others, numbering over two hundred. After an address by Baron Kimotsuki on the future of the world's maritime marine industry and the economic position of Japan, Mr. Okada, Chief of the Organizing Committee, made the following report as to the Company's plan for the excavation of the Canal:—

The Company has for its primary object the excavation of a canal between Tokyo and Yokohama with a view, on the one hand, to the removal of inconvenience arising from the suspension of shipping services hitherto often experienced, due to the dangers attendant on navigation, and, on the other, the promotion of economic interests by the quick transport of goods between the two cities at a comparatively low cost. For convenience the scheme is spread over two terms. In the first term the Company has decided to appropriate five million yen for the construction of a canal between Haneda in the suburbs of Tokyo and Machida in Kanagawa prefecture, of a depth of 40 to 84 feet and a width of 114 to 132 feet.

It is estimated that some ninety per cent. of the gross tonnage of goods between Tokyo and Yokohama is transported by water. Assuming the greater part of those freights to be conveyed through the canal, the Company is confident that the profits arising from the enterprise will be by no means small, even if the freight rates be reduced to a minimum, in view of the income accruable from attendant business, such as warehouses along the canal, etc. Under these circumstances there are reasons to believe that it will not be long after the completion of the canal, before the Company is able to declare a dividend of at least ten per cent.

NEW COMPANIES.

According to investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce the number of companies newly established during the month of March aggregate 310, with a paid-up capital of 13,998,930 yen, as detailed in the following table:—

Class.	No. of Co.	Capital. Yen.
Agricultural	11	1,346,590
Marine	3	80,588
Forest	1	60,000
Industrial	103	1,108,786
Mining	—	—
Commercial	127	9,926,676
Traffic and Transport	11	109,800
Sundry	58	850,490
Total	310	13,998,930

PASSENGERS EXPECTED.

Per P & O steamer *China* connecting with the steamer *Oceanic* at Colombo. From London March 23.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Tivellan and children, Mr. F. Hodgson.

Per P. and O. steamer *Syria*. From London March 23.—To Yokohama: Col. C. Purchas.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nora*. From London April 6.—To Yokohama: Mr. K. Ogilvie, Mr. F. Singer, Miss G. Graham.

Per M.M. steamer *Ville de la Clotat*. From Marseilles March 10.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Brossard, Mr. Koang du Yee, Mr. and Mrs. Baillex, Mr. and Mrs. Ono, Mr. Morisot, Mr. Tso Decine.

Per N.Y.K. steamer *Kilano Maru*. From London March 16.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Tsutsumi and children, Miss A. Ward, Miss E. Aines, Dr. M. Miyajima. To Kobe: Miss J. Barlow, Miss S. Edge, Miss A. Oakes. From Marseilles March 23.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Longmire and child, Miss C. Grieves, Mr. and Mrs. O. Soroko.

Per N.D.L. steamer *Buelow*. From Genoa April 4.—To Yokohama: Mrs. Sulzer.

THE TOYO KYOKAI SCHOOL.

The graduation ceremony of the Toyo Kyokai School took place on Wednesday morning. Among the prominent guests present were Prince Katsura, Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, Mr. Motoda, President of the Exploitation Bureau, and Mr. Shirahito, Chief of the Civil Administration Department in the Formosan Government-General. The graduates for the current school year numbered thirty-eight in all. Prince Katsura and Mr. Haseba delivered congratulatory speeches, in response to which Mr. Tokuyama Rinichi spoke on behalf of the graduates. A speech from the President of the school brought the function to an end.

It may be added that the branch school at Seoul also held its first graduation ceremony on March 31st, producing some forty graduates. All these are said to have already obtained employment in the Government offices and institutes in Chosen, Manchuria and Formosa.

DEATH OF MR. HORI MOTOI.

The death is announced of Mr. Hori Motoi, Member of the House of Peers, the sad event taking place at his villa at Kamakura on Tuesday night, about half past ten o'clock.

Sub Lieutenant Yuji, the third son of Mr. Hori Motoi, died last Sunday at the Red Cross Hospital, from typhoid fever. The deceased was in his thirty-fifth year.

CHOSON CUSTOMS LAW.

Various laws and regulations concerning Customs in Chosen have been promulgated. The *Seoul Press* publishes the following translation of the Ordinances:—

ORDINANCE FOR CHOSON CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Art. 1.—Duties shall be levied, in accordance with the Chosen Customs Tariff Ordinance, on goods imported to or exported from Chosen.

Art. 2.—With regard to the entry and clearance of vessels, as well as importation and exportation of goods, the Customs Duties Law (of Japan proper) shall be followed with the exception of the provisions mentioned in Articles 1, 3 and 98 of the same, provided that the term National Tax Collection Law be replaced by the term Ordinance for National Tax Collection, the term Imperial Ordinance by the term Ordinance of the Government-General of Chosen, the term Minister of Finance by the term Governor-General of Chosen, the term Offices of City (shi), Town (cho) and Village (son) by the term Myon Office, and the term officials of City, Town and Village by the term Myon officials.

The Governor-General of Chosen may enact special regulations with respect to the period defined by Art. 45 of the Customs Duties Law.

Art. 3.—Customs duties shall be levied according to the laws and regulations in force on the date on which application concerning import or export is given. But the import duties on goods stored in bonded warehouses shall be levied according to the law in force on the date on which application for warehousing is made; the import duties on goods which have passed the period of transportation according to the laws and regulations in force on the date following the day of termination of the period; the import duties on goods stored by the Customs which have been sold by public auction according to the laws in force on the date of the public sale; the duties to be collected according to the provisions of Clause 3 of Art. 83 of the Customs Duties Law according to the laws in force on the date of the infraction of the law.

Art. 4.—A Customs Director may give, when it is considered necessary, special permission to a foreign trade vessel for entering or clearing an unopened port for repairs of the vessel, or for landing or taking in cargoes which are of bulky size and heavy weight and consequently cannot be loaded or discharged at an open port. The same official may also give, when it is considered necessary, the same permission to a foreign trade vessel to land or take in cargoes at a place which suffers from exceedingly poor means of communication with an open port.

Art. 5.—Of the Customs Duties law, provisions relating to duties shall be applied correspondingly to export duties.

Art. 6.—Provisions relating to importation or exportation shall be respectively applied to imports

to or exports from Chosen from or to Japan proper, Taiwan (Formosa), and Karafuto (Japanese Saghalien).

Provisions relating to foreign goods or to vessels engaged in foreign trade shall be respectively applied to goods shipped from Japan proper, Taiwan, and Karafuto, or to vessels running between Chosen and Japan proper, Taiwan, or Karafuto.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES.

This Ordinance shall be put into force on and after April of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

Provisions hitherto in force shall be followed for the time being with regard to importation and exportation of goods on the frontier between Sugchin, Wiju Pu, North Pyong-an Do and the mouth of the Tuman-kwang (R. Tumen), North Hamkyong Do.

ORDINANCE FOR CHOSON TONNAGE DUES.

Art. 1.—When a vessel engaged in foreign trade enters an open port a tonnage due shall be levied at the rate of 25 *sen* per ton of the registered tonnage or per 10 *koku* of the registered loading capacity. No tonnage dues, however, shall be required to be paid at any open port during full four months from the date on which the said payment has been made.

With regard to the tonnage dues referred to in the preceding clause the Tonnage Dues Law (of Japan proper) shall be followed with exception of the provision mentioned in Clause I of Article I of the same, provided that the term National Tax Collection Law be replaced by the term Ordinance for National Tax Collection.

Art. 2.—Provisions mentioned in the preceding Article shall be applied in any vessel engaged in trade between Chosen and Japan proper, Taiwan or Karafuto.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

The present Ordinance shall be put into force on and after April 1st of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

CHOSON BONDED WAREHOUSE ORDINANCE.

With regard to Bonded Warehouses, the Bonded Warehouse Law (of Japan proper) shall be followed with the exception of the provisions mentioned in Articles 4, 6 and 9 of the same, provided that the term Minister-in-charge shall be replaced by the term Governor-General of Chosen.

In the case mentioned in the preceding clause, provisions relating to importation and exportation shall be applied to goods moved between Chosen and Japan proper, Taiwan, or Karafuto.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

This Ordinance shall be put into force on and after April 1 of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

CHOSON CUSTOMS TARIFF ORDINANCE.

Art. 1.—Import or export duties shall be imposed according to the annexed tariff upon articles imported to or exported from Chosen.

Art. 2.—Duty upon an article subject to *ad valorem* duty shall be levied according, for importation, to the value thereof at the time of its arrival at the port of importation, while, for exportation, to the market value thereof at the port of exportation.

Art. 3.—The following articles are exempted from import duty:—

1. Articles for the use of the Imperial Household;
2. Articles belonging to chiefs of foreign states, their families, and suites, visiting Chosen;
3. Arms, ammunition, and explosives imported;
4. Mineral oils, other than crude oils, imported for use as fuel by the Army or the Navy, with a specific gravity exceeding 0.875 degrees Centigrade;
5. Warships;
6. Official articles transferred from the custody of one office to another, or distributed among offices, or sent back;
7. Articles for personal use of foreign Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to Japan and articles for official use of foreign Embassies and Legations in Japan;
8. Articles for personal use of the members of the Embassies and Legations in Japan of those countries which exempt from Customs duty the articles for personal use of the members of the Japanese Embassies and Legations in such countries, and articles for official use of the Consulates in Japan of those countries which exempt from Customs duty the articles for official use of the Japanese Consulates in such countries;
9. Orders, decorations, medals, and badges conferred upon persons resident in Chosen;
10. Records, documents and other papers;
11. Articles imported as specimens or objects of reference which are to be exhibited in Government or public schools, museums, commercial museums, or other institutions;
12. Articles contributed for the purpose of charity or relief;
13. Samples of merchandise which are only fit to be used as such;
14. Travellers' effects, and tools and instruments

of professional necessity to travellers, in so far as they correspond to the social status of such travellers and are recognised as reasonable by the Customs;

15. Effects of persons changing their residences provided that such effects have already been used;

16. Articles imported for receptacles of exported goods and designated by ordinance of the Government General of Chosen;

17. Machinery, instruments, explosives, and chemicals imported by miners themselves for their own use in mining, or for placer mining of gold, silver, or copper, provided that they are recognised as reasonable by the Customs;

18. Fishing vessels and fishing goods imported for use of fishermen themselves;

19. Fish, shell-fish, molluscs, sea-animal, seaweed, and other aquatic products caught or gathered by vessels which set out for the purpose from Chosen, and their manufactures by simple process, provided that they are imported by the same vessels or vessels attached thereto;

20. Animals for breeding imported by the Government, provinces (Do.), towns (Fu), and other local bodies, or public associations;

21. Plants, twigs, stems, stalks, roots and seeds thereof for use in planting, grafting, or sowing;

22. Articles for ship's use delivered in open ports to warships and vessels outward bound from Chosen;

23. Wreckage and equipment of shipwrecked vessels registered in Chosen;

24. Old timber and other materials belonging to any vessel wrecked off the Chosen coast;

25. Exported goods shipped by vessels which cleared Chosen ports, brought back on account of the shipwreck of such vessels;

26. Exported articles which are re-imported within five years without any change in character and form from the time of exportation.

27. Articles exported for the purpose of being repaired or having work done thereon and re-imported within one year from the date of exportation;

28. Vehicles and other conveyances crossing the frontiers in order to transport passengers or cargo, including equipment and articles attached thereto;

29. Provision, fuel and other consumable articles in the vehicles and other conveyances mentioned in the preceding paragraph, provided that their quantities are recognised as reasonable by the Customs;

30. Any articles which have already been exempted from Customs duty by special concession and imported by persons who secured such privilege before the enforcement of the present Ordinance.

Art. 4.—The following articles are exempted from import duty if they are to be re-exported within one year from the date of importation:—

1. Receptacles of imported goods, designated by ordinance of the Government-General of Chosen;

2. Articles imported for the purpose of scientific research;

3. Articles imported as articles for trial;

4. Samples imported for the purpose of collecting orders;

5. Article imported for use in theatrical and other performances.

Art. 5.—For the articles designated under the preceding paragraph, the Customs may require, if it is deemed necessary, a deposit in cash or negotiable papers corresponding to the amount of duty at the time of importation.

Art. 6.—The following articles are exempted from export duty:—

1. Samples of merchandise which are only fit to be used as such;

2. Parcel post;

3. Articles for ship's use;

4. Any articles which have already been exempted from Customs duty by special concession and imported by persons who secured such privilege before the enforcement of the present Ordinance.

Art. 7.—The importation of the articles specified hereunder is prohibited:—

1. Counterfeit, altered, or imitation coins, paper money, bank-notes, and negotiable papers;

2. Defunct Korean cash (yopchon), old coins, and similar things injurious to the credit of the currency;

3. Books, pictures, carvings, and other articles, injurious to public security or morals;

4. Articles which infringe rights in patents, utility models, designs, trade-marks, and copyrights;

5. Arms, ammunition and other explosives, excepting those imported by the Government, or by its admitted person or persons, or recognised by the Customs as being necessary for personal guard;

6. Red ginseng excepting that imported by the Government, or by its concessioners;

7. Articles injurious to animals and plants which have been designated by ordinance of the Government General of Chosen;

Art. 8.—Provisions of the present ordinance relating to importation or exportation respectively applying to imports to, or exports from Chosen and from or

to, Japan proper, Taiwan (Formosa), and Karafuto (Japanese Saghalien).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

The present Ordinance shall be put in force on and after April 1 of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CHosen.
Appeals defined in the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Duties and the Order No. 2 of the Governor General of Chosen of the 44th year of Meiji shall be conducted in accordance with Law of Appeals (of Japan proper).

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

The present Order shall be put into force on and after April 1 of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

NOTIFICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT GENERAL OF CHosen, NO. 144.

Notice is hereby issued by the Governor General of Chosen that with respect to the period defined by Article 46 of the Customs Duties Law mentioned in Clause 2 of Article 2 of the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Duties, its duration shall be limited to 72 hours.

TELEGRAMS.

THE COAL STRIKE.

RIOTS IN THE PROVINCES.

MORE MINERS RETURNING TO WORK.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, April 4.

Wild scenes have taken place at Glencairn, Fifeshire, where a crowd of 2,000, including many women, attempted to prevent the men working.

The police charged the mob, who responded with a volley of stones, but were eventually dispersed.

At Pontypool also the miners smashed with stones the windows of the strike-breakers, and two men were critically injured.

The Times says the strike may prove a blessing in disguise to the railway companies, whom the experience has taught much concerning the superfluity of trains and the avoidance of expensive competition.

The number of miners resuming work is steadily increasing, but no coal is expected to reach London for at least a week.

London, April 5.

The miners have lost six million sterling in wages.

The funds of the Miners' Unions have been depleted by £1,295,000.

There are reported to be acute differences between the miners and their leaders in regard to the decision of the executive that a two-thirds majority is needed for the continuation of the strike, which decision was only reached by a small majority.

One of the leaders is quoted as saying that if the conference of Saturday decides against the resumption of work it will break up the Miners' organisation.

Whatever the decision of the conference, it is not expected that the national strike will be resumed, owing to the huge abstentions from the ballot and the large number now working.

It is noteworthy that in the ballot in January 445,801 voted in favour of a strike and 115,821 against, but the voting strength was 610,000.

Despite the restricted train service and the absence of excursions, the Eastern exodus from London yesterday was enormous, the

congestion at the stations being unprecedented.

DECISION OF THE MINERS' CONFERENCE.

WORK TO BE RESUMED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 7.

The miners' conference has endorsed by 440 votes to 125 the executive's recommendation that work be resumed on Monday or Tuesday.

London, April 8.

The ending of the strike has been received with intense relief by all classes throughout the whole country, including even the miners in many districts where an overwhelming vote was cast in favour of a continuance of the strike.

Here and there some dissatisfaction is expressed.

The enginemmen in South Wales and Durham, who are striking separately from the miners, have decided to continue the struggle till a minimum wage is granted.

This threatens to prove a deadlock to the resumption of work by the miners and operations there are indefinitely delayed.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 8.

The Miners Federation has declared the strike ended and instructions have been given to resume work immediately, though doubtless there will be some obstinacy on the part of the Yorkshire men.

The country has received the news with the greatest relief.

THE BUDGET.

USE OF THE SURPLUS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 3.

Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in introducing the Budget said the surplus of £6,545,000 was the largest on record.

The prosperity of trade in 1911-12 exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

The loss of revenue up to the 31st March directly attributable to the strike was £400,000.

Regarding the surplus, Mr. Lloyd George said it must be considered as due to under-spending.

The Admiralty expenditure amounted to £1,500,000 only, but this was a postponement, not a saving.

Two other contingencies must be considered, namely the effect of the strike and the possibility mentioned by Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in introducing the Naval Estimates.

He therefore proposed to at once devote the whole of the surplus to strengthening the exchequer balance.

He estimated the expenditure for 1912-13 at £18,685,000, an increase of £5,600,000, due to the Insurance Act and the purchase of telephones.

The total loss of revenue due to the strike is estimated at £1,200,000.

The tea duty is unchanged.

The Times says the Government has set aside the surplus with the express intent of using it in increasing the building of war-

ships if the German naval programme is increased.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 3.

The kernel of the Budget statement is that a surplus of £6,545,000 has been realised, and that this surplus will be set aside by the Government with the express intention of using it for the increase of the Navy if the German programme is increased.

MISSISSIPPI IN FLOOD.

RIVER AT CAIRO FIFTY MILES WIDE.

THOUSANDS HOMELESS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 4.

Widespread distress has been caused by floods in the Mississippi Valley in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri.

Several towns are deserted and thousands are homeless.

The river at Cairo is fifty miles broad.

Fifty thousand inhabitants of the Mississippi delta have been warned that a collapse may occur and are fleeing.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 6.

The danger of Cairo being flooded is passing off, but the city is isolated, and the situation in the lower Mississippi Valley is critical.

Seven thousand people are homeless and eighteen lives have been lost.

THE FLOODS IN AMERICA.

FORTY FIVE TOWNSHIPS INUNDATED.

TWO THOUSAND MILES FLOODED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 10.

The main levee has broken at the Golden Lake, Arkansas, and it is expected that forty-five townships are partly flooded.

London, April 11.

Two thousand square miles in north-east Arkansas are flooded by the breaking of the main levee.

Five towns are covered to a depth of from 3 to 10 feet of water.

Other towns wherewith communication is cut off are probably inundated.

Vast damage has been done to live stock, etc.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE WRECK OF THE "KOOMBANA."

London, April 3.

A portion of the steamer *Koombana* and wreckage have been found at Perth, Western Australia.

It is feared that the passengers and crew, totalling 130, were lost in the typhoon of the 26th March.

JAPAN AND MEXICO.

London, April 3.

The U.S. Senate has passed a resolution asking President Taft, if such action is compatible with the public interest, to furnish all possible information as to reported Japanese activity in Magdalena Bay.

STRIKE AT CHICAGO.

London, April 2.

The *Times* correspondent at New York

reports that 15,000 carpenters at Chicago have struck work.

Building operations to the value of £7,000,000 are affected.

THE U.S. WOOL TARIFF.

London, April 2.

The U. S. House of Representatives has passed by 189 votes to 92 the Democratic Wool Tariff Revision Bill, which President Taft vetoed in 1911.

CAPTAIN SCOTT.

London, April 2.

Captain Nansen and Lieutenant Shackleton are of the opinion that Captain Scott reached the South Pole.

UNIVERSITY BOATRACE.

London, April 2.

The University boatrace has been rowed again, Oxford winning by six lengths in 22m. 5s.

Oxford led throughout.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

London, April 2.

The U.S. Government has consented to permit shipments of arms to Mexico for the Federal troops.

This does not violate America's neutrality as the revolutionists have not been recognised as belligerents.

ITALIAN BLOCKADE.

London, April 3.

The Italian Government has notified a blockade from the 1st April of the ports of Lobeia and Kameran, on the Red Sea.

P. & O. "SYRIA" IN COLLISION.

London, April 3.

The P. & O. Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Syria*, for Yokohama, has arrived at Malta a day overdue, having collided with the French steamer *Circe* near Algiers in a thick fog.

The starboard bow of the *Syria* is damaged and she will remain at Malta for repairs.

THE COAL STRIKE.

London, April 2.

The Miners resumed work on Monday in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Forest of Dean, Dudley, South Stafford, and Tamworth.

London, April 3.

Up to 2 o'clock yesterday morning the miners' ballot had resulted in 98,629 voting for a resumption and 100,189 against.

IMPERIAL BOARD OF ADMIRALTY.

London, April 3.

The *Quebec Chronicle* outlines the proposed naval policy of the Canadian Government.

While the number of ships is unsettled, it is believed that tenders will be called immediately for two super-Dreadnought cruisers.

Canada will notify the Imperial Government and the Dominions that naval autonomy is essential and that representation is imperative.

Both these can only be met by the creation of an Imperial Squadron, to which the British and Dominion Governments will contribute, and which will be under the control of an Imperial Board of Admiralty.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

London, April 4.

The Dominion Government has invited the Prince of Wales to visit Canada in 1914.

HISTORIC MANSIONS DESTROYED.

London, April 6.

Lakehouse, an Elizabethan mansion near

Salisbury, which was tenanted by Mr. Illingworth, the Government whip, was destroyed by fire yesterday morning.

Rosdhu House, the family seat of Sir Ian Colquhoun, on Loch Lomond, has been partially burned.

The historic Gibbstown Castle in Meath has also been partially destroyed by fire.

The damages are assessed at £40,000.

PEKING TO PARIS BY AEROPLANE.

London, April 6.

The *Matin* intends to organise an aeroplane race from Peking to Paris.

THE MISSISSIPPI FLOODS.

London, April 8.

The floods in the lower and middle Mississippi Valley are playing havoc with the low-lying country.

Ten thousand are homeless and it is expected that forty thousand will ultimately become destitute.

The dam at St. Clair in Tennessee burst yesterday evening, flooding St. Francis basin.

It is expected that the loss of life is small as the inhabitants had ample warning.

CHINESE LOANS.

London, April 8.

It is announced at St. Petersburg that Russia has decided to join the group styled the Four Powers Banking Syndicate for the issue of a loan to China, on the proviso that the issue in no way prejudices special Russian interests in Manchuria, Mongolia, and West China.

THE PARSEVAL AIRSHIP.

London, April 8.

It is reported from Berlin that the Japanese Government has purchased the new Parseval airship.

CAPTURE OF GREEK STEAMER.

London, April 9.

The Italian subventioned merchant cruiser *Duca di Genova* has captured a Greek steamer carrying contraband of war and has taken her to Tobruk.

FIGHTING IN THIBET.

London, April 9.

It is rumoured among the Dalai Lama officials, that there has been heavy fighting between the Thibetans and the Chinese.

It is said the Chinese soldiers attacked a Thibetan monastery near Lhasa, and the monks retaliated vigorously.

A kind of holy war is proceeding.

THE COAL STRIKE.

London, April 9.

The railways are resuming their normal services.

Preparations for the immediate resumption of work in the mines are very active, except in South Wales and Durham.

SHIPPING DISASTER.

London, April 9.

The liner *Ontario*, bound from Baltimore to Boston, was battling with a gale when a fire broke out at midnight among the cotton in the hold.

The crew and thirty-one passengers were on board six hours, with breakers sweeping the decks, till the vessel was beached on Long Island and they were rescued by a tug.

The wireless telegraph operator stuck to his post for three hours, telegraphing everywhere for help, though the flames were within fifteen feet of his cabin.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 9.

The *Times* Cairo correspondent says that

Edham Pasha, the Turkish Commander at Tobruk, has arrived from Tripoli.

He says that the Turkish troops still number ten thousand and are assisted by two hundred thousand Arabs.

They will be able to hold out another year.

The Turks recently fired and brought down an Italian aeroplane.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

London, April 10.
The imports show a decrease of £2,649,367 and the exports a decrease of £14,941.

It is considered wonderful that the latter show so little decrease in view of the strike.

There is a notable increase in iron and steel and electrical machinery, but coal and coke have declined £2,053,699.

HOLIDAY DISASTER.

London, April 10.
An Easter excursion steamer with 300 passengers on board, sank yesternight after collision with another steamer at the barrage below Cairo.

Many were rescued, but it is feared that 200 persons have been drowned.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

London, April 10.
A telegram from Urga received at St. Petersburg says that in response to the invitation of President Yuan Shih-kai, asking Northern Mongolia to join the Chinese Republic, the Kutuchta has replied that the people have proclaimed their independence in order to maintain the inviolability of their religion and territory.

The Kutuchta begs Yuan Shih-kai to respect the frontier of Mongolia and support the Mongolian Government in consolidating the internal administration and strengthening friendly relations with neighbouring States.

Even if the Kutuchta had been ready to renounce the independence of the country, it would be impossible to oppose the wishes of the people.

The Kutuchta concludes by suggesting that Yuan Shih-kai should submit the Mongolian question to the Powers interested.

DEATH OF DR. DIVERS.

London, April 10.
The death is announced of Dr. Edward Divers, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 10.
The Powers have agreed to the terms of the request to the Porte regarding the termination of the war.

They will point out the advisability of peace in the interests of Europe generally and request the Porte to signify the conditions whereon it will be prepared to terminate hostilities, with a view to the Powers offering mediation.

THE COAL STRIKE.

London, April 10.
Coal has fallen 2s. a ton, but high prices are expected to rule for some time.

The disputes of the Durham and Yorkshire engineers have been settled.

The permanent effect of the strike is expected to be greater coöperation between the railways.

THE ARMY IN EGYPT.

London, April 11.
The Times is publishing a series of articles upon the British Army in Egypt.

It praises in the highest terms Sir John Maxwell's able leadership, the keenness

of the officers and the splendid training and vigour of the men, but strongly opines that the present strength of the Army of Occupation is dangerously low, especially in view of the possibilities arising out of the Turco-Italian War.

HOME RULE.

London, April 11.
On the eve of the introduction of the Home Rule Bill, the Unionist Organization publishes a book of 350 pages, containing special articles by the leaders and others who have made Home Rule a special study, dealing with every aspect of the question.

Mr. Bonar Law writes the introduction and Mr. Balfour deals with the historical aspects of the question.

NAVAL CHANGES.

London, April 11.
It is officially announced that Admiral Meux succeeds Admiral Sir Arthur Moore at Portsmouth; and that Admiral Sir Archibald Milne succeeds Admiral Sir Edmund Poe as Commander-in Chief in the Mediterranean.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN")

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 3.
In expectation of an Italian Naval attack, the Turkish authorities at Constantinople are preparing against fire and converting the public buildings into hospitals.

THE MINERS' BALLOT.

London, April 4.
Although the miners' ballot at present shows a majority of 18,000 votes against returning to work, the executive committee has decided that a two-thirds majority is necessary.

That is now impossible.
The Secretary of the Miners' Federation says the result will be peace with honour and the men will return to work.

PARIS IMPROVEMENTS.

London, April 4.
The Paris Municipal Council is devoting a loan of £36,000,000 towards embellishing the city, improving the roads, and building new schools and hospitals.
Eight million pounds will be used for new improved dwellings for the poor.

MR. KOIKE.

London, April 4.
Mr. Koike, the new Councillor to the Japanese Embassy, has arrived in London and is staying at the Grosvenor Hotel.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, April 6.
A mischievous article has been published in the German papers from a naval source, declaring that a difficulty hitherto insoluble has arisen and obstructs the Anglo-German negotiations for an exchange of naval information.

The difficulty is that the English yards are always building many ships for foreign navies, while the German yards have not yet obtained any considerable foreign orders.

At the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War England showed her methods.

She simply bought two cruisers built for a South American State and handed them over to her Japanese allies.

Assuming that England could commandeer in war time all the ships she wanted, the article declares that an exchange of information is of no value to

Germany, since she would be unable to ascertain British strength.

THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.

London, April 8.
Of the delegates elected to the Republican National Convention, 262 are counted for President Taft, 39 for Colonel Roosevelt and Senator La Follette, and four for Senator Cummins.

AIRSHIP FOR JAPAN.

London, April 8.
Successful trials have been made at Bitterfeld of the Parseval airship built for the Japanese Government.

The trials show that it is lighter and considerably faster than the last airship built for the Prussian army.

MAGDALENA BAY.

London, April 8.
Senator Lodge's question in reference to the alleged Japanese designs on Magdalena Bay, though unanswered has served the purpose of indicating that the Americans are as earnest as ever about the Monroe doctrine.
It has also afforded the occasion for the manufacture of something very like a war-scare.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, April 9.
There is reason to believe that the Irish leader has extracted more promises in regard to Home Rule from the Government.
It is expected the bill will contain provisions for the ultimate control of the Customs and excise by Ireland.

THE POSITION IN TRIPOLI.

London, March 9.
Edhem Pasha, the Turkish Commander at Tobruk, takes a most optimistic view of the position in Tripoli.
The Turks number 10,000 and the Arabs 200,000. They are well armed and animated by an implacable spirit of revenge.
He says the Italian officers are brave, but the men are inferior.

The Italian Fleet spends an enormous quantity of ammunition with little effect.
The Turks expect to be able to hold out for another year.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, April 10.
On the Stock Exchange Nagoya Five-per-cents. are quoted at 97½.
Yokohama City loan of £120,000 has been placed privately.

COPPER.

London, April 10.
Copper is quoted at 70½—71½.
There is fresh speculative activity.

AN ANTI-HOME RULE DEMONSTRATION.

London, April 10.
A serious impression has been created by the semi-militant character of a mighty unionist demonstration at Belfast, emphasizing Ulstermen's determination not to accept Home Rule.

Eighty thousand to one hundred thousand men, drilled and well disciplined, marched past Mr. Bonar Law, the leader of the Opposition.

Subsequently a vast meeting of 200,000 men vowed never to accept Home Rule.
The Times describes the project to introduce Home Rule as one fraught with the most awful possibilities.

THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF SHANGHAI.

London, April 11.
Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent

of *The Times*, telegraphs that Chen Chi-mei, the Military Governor of Shanghai, is behaving intolerably, in deceiving Chinese from the Settlement and then arresting them.

The Foreign Ministers strongly reprobate such conduct and have authorised the Consuls to uphold the regulations.

Chen Chi-mei is afraid of reprisals and himself sleeps every night in the Settlement.

THE COAL STRIKE.

London, April 11.

Large numbers of the South Lancashire miners refuse to return to work and are parading the district and intimidating the workers.

There have been numerous violent encounters with the police and several thousand troops have been despatched to protect the collieries.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

THE PANAMA CANAL.

Berlin, April 2.

Colonel Goethals, Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal, when received by the Kaiser in audience at Berlin some weeks ago, had a long conversation on the progress of the construction of the Canal and the fortifications as planned by the United States of America.

THE RECALL OF ITALIAN AMBASSADORS.

A report of the *Matin*, according to which the Italian Ambassadors at Berlin, Wien, St. Petersburg and Tokyo are stated to be recalled, is energetically contradicted by the *Tribuna* at Rome.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO.

The *Neue Freie Presse* at Wien reports the nomination of Baron Mueller, the Chief of the Political Bureau in the Foreign Office, as new Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to Tokyo.

OPPOSITION WITHDRAWN.

The Hungarian Parliament has withdrawn its objection to the new Armament Bill as a result of the personal letter of Emperor Franz Joseph to the Chamber.

ARMAMENT BILL PASSES BUNDES-RAT.

Berlin, April 3.

The Bundesrat has accepted the Bill providing for the estimates for the new Armament Bill. The Bill providing for the application of the full amount of the alcohol consumption and selling tax will be presented to the Reichstag on April 11th, together with the new Armament Bill.

AEROPLANE EXHIBITION AT BERLIN.

Prince Heinrich von Preussen has opened at Berlin an exhibition of aeroplanes and all other airships.

THE LAW CONCERNING JESUITS.

Berlin, April 4.

The Bavarian Government has issued an edict mitigating paragraph one of the law concerning Jesuits. This act has caused a strong controversy in the Liberal camp. The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* states that a competent person will decide if the edict is a contravention of the laws of the Empire.

Berlin, April 5.

In Prussia no alteration will be introduced in the legal procedure against the Jesuits. The *Koelnische Zeitung* states that the Chancellor up to the present has learned of

the attempt of the Bavarian clerical party to mitigate the laws against Jesuits only through the newspapers. Interpellations on this very important matter are announced for the Reichstag and for the different Landtags.

NATIONAL AERIAL CONGRESS.

Berlin, April 4.

A special national Congress on aeroplane and airship affairs will be held in Germany.

A NEW SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

Prince Henry of Prussia has become a Patron of a scientific society for aeroplane and airship investigation.

KAISER AND TSAR.

Rumours are afloat of a meeting of the Kaiser with the Tsar in the course of July. These rumours have not yet been contradicted.

CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF N.D.L.

At the general meeting of the Norddeutscher Lloyd, Director Heineken stated that the favourable conditions of the company during last year continued at the present time. No signs of a slump in business are to be seen. An increase of capital, however, is not intended.

COUNT WITTE IN AUDIENCE WITH THE TSAR.

Count Witte had an audience with the Tsar before the latter's departure for Livadia. The Russian Press generally comments on the audience, expressing the hope that Count Witte will again enter the Government.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates ex Yokohama up to March 21st arrived at Berlin on April 4th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

All rumours of a premature explosion of a mine in the Dardanelles are groundless. The statement of the *Eclair* of Paris, according to which the Kaiser will again meet the King of Italy, is officially contradicted.

Berlin, April 5.

The Russian Government has presented the following mediation proposal: All the Powers shall ask Turkey for the conditions on which she would be prepared to reinstitute peace, and in the event of Turkey accepting, a combine of Italian Banks shall issue bonds to the value of 250,000,000 *lire* as indemnity for the cession of Tripoli.

THE NEW AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR.

Berlin, April 6.

Before the new Austrian Ambassador left for his post at Tokyo, the Japanese Government sounded the Austrian-Hungarian Government as to his personnel.

RUSSO-ITALIAN AGREEMENT.

The *Novoe Vremya* announces a Russo-Italian arrangement as to Albania. This rumoured agreement, however, is not confirmed by other papers.

The Italian Government has published a strong denial of the alleged Russo-Italian agreement as to Albania, as announced by the *Novoe Vremya*. No discussion whatever had taken place on that matter.

CHINESE LOANS.

Russia has joined the Four Powers' Syndicate with the reservation that her special interests in Manchuria and Mongolia shall be respected.

Berlin, April 7.

The rumour, published by the *Novoe Vremya*, according to which Japan and

Russia would object to the issue of the Four Powers' loan in China, is strongly denied by Russian and Japanese political circles in St. Petersburg.

M. SAZANOFF DECORATED.

The Tsar has conferred the order of St. Anne on M. Sazanoff. This is to be regarded as an approval of the Minister's peaceful political attitude by the Tsar, in contrast to certain anti-Turkish feelings prevalent in Russia.

WILD WEATHER IN EASTERN EUROPE.

In the middle regions of Eastern Europe tempests and heavy snowstorms have raged.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to March 24th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on April 7th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, April 8.

The Italian Government has published a notification to the effect that the blockade of the Turkish coast in the Red Sea has been extended to the village of Lohcia, 15 degrees 50 minutes north latitude and 42 degrees 43 minutes east longitude.

KAISER AND CHANCELLOR IN DAILY CONFERENCE.

Berlin, April 9.

The Kaiser is daily conferring with the Chancellor in the Achilleion at Corfu. This is regarded by the Press as a sign of the confidence of the Kaiser in the policy of the Chancellor.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Mahmud Schevket Pasha has declared in an interview that the Tripoli conflict has turned into a pan-Arabic struggle. All the Arab tribes sincerely wish a continuation of the fighting.

The Italian Admiral Taravelli is seriously ill. His successor will probably be Vice-Admiral Viale.

The Turkish Government has been convoked for April 18th.

STORMS IN MIDDLE EUROPE.

Heavy storms have caused severe damage in Middle Europe.

KAISER TO VISIT LONDON.

Berlin, April 10.

It is reported from London that the Kaiser will visit the Earl of Lonsdale in June. This report is, however, not yet confirmed.

SOCIAL AGITATION IN HAMBURG.

A movement for the better regulation of wages is being started amongst the harbour labourers and seamen at Hamburg. The settlement of the whole affair, by which the overtime and food question will be decided, has been transferred to a committee.

NEW GOVERNOR OF TOGO.

Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg has been designated as Governor of Togo.

KAISERIN IN NAUHEIM.

The German Empress has left for Bad Nauheim to undertake the "cure."

CONGRESS OF SURGEONS.

A Congress of German surgeons has been opened at Berlin.

POLITICAL RUMOURS.

Russia is stated, at Constantinople, to have taken the initiative for a revision of the Berlin Treaty. Italian papers further report that the Kaiser has directed a personal letter to King Victor Emmanuel on

the Tripoli question. Both rumours, however, are inventions and not based on facts.

RUSSO-TURKISH RELATIONS.

The Russo-Turkish Urmiah difference will be transferred to the Hague Tribunal for decision.

PERSIAN REGENT TO RESIGN.

The *Koeluische Zeitung* reports that the Regent of Persia will probably resign.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

Enver Bey, the well-known Turkish military organiser of the Arabian tribes in Tripoli and former Military Attaché at Berlin, has been nominated Governor of Benghazi.

The text of the mediation proposal, which will be presented to the Sublime Porte by the five great Powers, has been fixed. The necessary instructions for the presentation of this common Note will be given to the various Ambassadors in the near future.

Vice-Admiral Viale has been nominated Commander of the Italian battle fleet before Tripoli. The Italian press reports, in connection with this nomination, that a new naval action is imminent.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

The annual conference of Vice-Ministers was held on the 4th instant.

GERMANY has again approached Canada with a view to making reciprocity arrangements.

The Chamber of Deputies has passed the Miners' Eight Hours Bill by 355 votes to 59 votes.

A VICTORIAN loan of £1,500,000, bearing interest at 3½ per cent., has been successfully floated.

The French Chamber of Deputies has voted an additional Fr. 16,000,000 for military aviation.

TEN tourist ski-runners have been killed by an avalanche at Hochschneeberg in the Austrian Alps.

In the covered courts at Dulwich on the 30th ult. London defeated Paris at tennis by sixteen matches to eleven.

THE Japanese warship *Manshu*, which has been in South China, left Shanghai for Kure on the 2nd instant.

THE Franco-Spanish negotiations with reference to Morocco are reported to have made no progress whatever.

In the Rugby football match between Wales and France at Newport on the 25th ult., Wales won by fourteen-points to eight.

MR. GUSTAV HAMEL, the aviator, early this month flew from Hendon to Cape Grimes and thence to Paris with a lady passenger.

We note that Messrs. Masujima and Fukushima have moved their law-offices to No. 75, Yamashita-cho (Board of Trade Building).

REAR ADMIRAL JOHN MICHAEL DE ROBECK has been appointed to command the British torpedo-boat flotillas under the title of Admiral of Patrols.

LIEUT.-GENERAL Sir George Mackworth Bullock has been appointed Governor of Bermuda in succession to the late Lieut.-General Sir Frederick Kitchener.

A SOCIALIST in Australia has been fined £100, or, in the alternative, three months' imprisonment with hard labour, for preventing his son from serving under the Defence Act.

LORD CURZON, Lord George Hamilton and Sir George Reid have presented the King with the Coronation gift from the Georges of the Empire, which took the form of the badge of the Order of the Garter, studded with diamonds. The King

sincerely thanked the subscribers and announced that he will wear the badge at the first available opportunity.

THE New Zealand Tramwaymen's Union has been fined £100 for breach of the Arbitration Act by instigating the recent strike.

AN anarchist named Soudy has been arrested at Berckplage, after desperate resistance, in connexion with the motor outrage at Chantilly.

PROPOSALS for the basis of a union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church are at present being considered by the Committees of both churches.

THE Democrats have reintroduced the Wool Revision Bill which was vetoed by President Taft in 1911. This makes legislation with regard to wool duties impossible before the elections.

IN the House of Commons, in reply to a question, Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that he was not aware of any grounds for contemplating the cession of Walfish Bay.

A MAN named Corrouy, another of the men who are alleged to have taken part in the recent motor car outrages, has been arrested near Paris. He swallowed some poison, but prompt medical action saved his life.

WE are informed that the dividend paid by the Clifford-Wilkinson Tansan Mineral Water Co. Ltd. for the year ended Dec. 31st last was 10 per cent. The market value of the 100 yen shares is now 110 yen.

CONSIDERABLE damage has been done in Buenos Aires by a cyclone. Eight persons were killed and thirty were injured. The cyclone also ravaged the Junin district, where ten persons were killed and twenty injured.

IN the English Association Football Cup semi-finals played on the 30th ult. both games resulted in pointless draws. Blackburn Rovers met West Bromwich Albion at Liverpool and Swindon met Barnsley at Chelsea.

A TELEGRAM from New York under date of the 2nd instant says that the 2,600 cherry trees recently sent to the City with the compliments of Mayor Ozaki will shortly be planted near the tomb of General Grant.

TEN meat packers of Chicago, who were charged with criminally violating the Anti-Trust Law, have been acquitted after a trial lasting six months. The defendants included the Presidents of the Swift, Armour and Morris companies.

THE appeal of Frederick Henry Seddon, of Tollington Park, against his conviction and sentence to death for the murder of Miss Eliza Mary Barrow in September last by administering arsenic from fly papers, has been dismissed.

MAJOR-GENERAL THOMAS EATON SWETTERHAM (retired), a Crimean veteran, who also saw service in the China war of 1860, who died Jan. 30th last, left estate of the gross value of £13,266, of which the personality has been sworn at £12,840.

A BILL has been introduced into the Swedish Diet conferring the Parliamentary franchise on women and the right to stand for election in a similar manner to men. Wives whose husbands have not paid taxes for three years will not have the right to vote.

THE prosecution of the seaman, a naturalized Englishman who was born in Germany, who was arrested at Christiania on board H. M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Foxhound* on a charge of espionage, has been abandoned, but he has been dismissed from the Navy.

WE regret to learn of the death of Miss Annie Cameron at Yukoya near Kobe, which took place on Tuesday of last week. The young lady, who was the daughter of Captain Cameron, was only 19 years of age and succumbed to tuberculosis,

from which she had been suffering for some considerable time. The funeral took place at Kasugano Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, a large number of sorrowing friends being present.

THE great iron tower of the wireless telegraphy station at Nauen, near Potsdam, has been blown down by a violent gale. The tower, which was 650 ft. in height, was only recently erected and was regarded as one of the most remarkable feats of German engineering.

THE King has sent Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, 1,000 guineas for the relief of sufferers from the strike. Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra have each sent £1,000 to Mr. Burns, who has undertaken the distribution of the relief.

A GREEK subject, registered at the Wagons Lits Hotel, Peking, in the name of Shaver, was arrested on the 27th ult. on a charge of forging 55 notes of the Russo-Asiatic, International and Japan Banks. It is believed that, if he actually operated, he only did so for a brief period.

IN the race for the International Cross-country Championship, Bouin (France) was first past the post, with Scott (England) second and Hibbing (England) third. The English team won the contest, with a score of 41 points, as against Scotland's 88, Ireland's 110, France's 123, and Wales's 146.

THE annual regatta of the Tokyo Higher Commercial School was held on the River Sumida on Thursday morning last at nine o'clock. Owing to the fine weather that prevailed, after torrents of rain throughout the previous day and night, the meeting attracted crowds of holiday makers and was a great success.

A HUCK Home Rule demonstration took place in Dublin on the 31st ult., in which persons from all parts of Ireland took part, to a number variously estimated from 60,000 to 300,000. The demonstration took place in O'Connell St., which was lined with platforms. Mr. John Redmond, M.P., was the chief speaker.

AT Stanford University, California, George Horine has cleared 6 ft. 6½ in. in the running high jump. This constitutes a world's record, the previous best being 5 ft. 5½ in. by Mr. F. Sweeney at Travers Island, New York, on September 21, 1895, and 6 ft. 4¾ in. by P. J. Leahy, on September 6, 1898.

THE annual conference of the Central Bankers' Syndicate consisting of the bankers of six prefectures, namely Aichi, Mie, Shizuoka, Gifu, Fukui and Nagano, was held in Nagoya at the Bankers' Club on Saturday last. Mr. Hamaoka, Auditor of the Branch Office of the Bank of Japan, delivered an address on the occasion.

THE reorganization of the distribution of the British fleet described by Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, in the speech in which he introduced the Navy Estimates in the House of Commons, will come into force on May 1. The sixth cruiser squadron will in future be called the Mediterranean Cruiser Squadron.

AT the end of last month a gang of men robbed a jeweller's shop in Regent Street of £10,000 worth of jewels. They made a restaurant some distance off their base, and apparently worked in relays in tunnelling and piercing three two-foot walls and forcing the safe, returning at intervals to the restaurant for refreshment and rest. They left some dynamos, thus testifying to the use of electric drills.

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR WILLIAM NICHOLSON happily escaped the disaster of the *Oreana*, since he was to join the ship at Marseilles. But all his luggage was lost, including his V.C. and other medals, and few men living have won so many. Will he be able to get duplicates? A similar case occurred when Sir John Jellicoe lost his property and nearly his life in the *Victoria* and *Camperdown*.

disaster. He wanted to know if he could get a replica of his Board of Trade medal for an attempted rescue at sea. The Board replied that he could if he paid for it.

ABOUT eight o'clock on Thursday morning last a tramcar collision occurred on the Keihin line. As a car bound for Shinagawa from Omori was approaching Hamakawa station, some one attempted to cross the line, and the driver was obliged to suddenly stop the car. The abrupt stoppage caused another car that was running close behind to come into collision. The drivers of both cars were seriously injured, but the passengers all escaped.

BABY'S SKIN TROUBLES

Quickly
Relieved
by



CUTICURA SOAP

And Cuticura Ointment. No other emollients cost so little and do so much for eczemas, rashes, itchings and chafings that make life miserable for tender-skinned babies and tired, fretted mothers. Unrivalled for every purpose of the toilet, bath and nursery.

Samples with 25c. book free from nearest depot: Newbury, Dept. 3K, 27 Charterhouse Sq., London; B. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. B. W. Lennan, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter D. & Co. Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, April 13. Values of local stocks have been enhanced to some extent by the former markets in America and other raw cotton producing countries. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains unchanged though a somewhat healthier tone is expected to pervade the future market. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, conditions are generally unchanged.

RAW COTTON.

PER PICUL.
American Middling ... 31.50 to 34.00
Indian Broach ... 31.00 to 33.00
Chinese (Old crop) ...
Chinese (New crop) ... 31.50 to 33.00

COTTON YARN.

PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed ... 260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ... 345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed ... 520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in. ... 5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—
A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards ... 5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards ... 5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 45 yards ... 5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—
A. 44" x 46 yards ... 6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards ... 6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards ... 7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—
44" x 46 yards ... 7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards ... 8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards ... 9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards ... 11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ... 3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians ... 0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians ... 0.35 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2.8 to 3lb 24-25 yards, PER PIECE.
30 inches ... 1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5lb, 24-25 yards,
32 inches ... 2.50 to 3.65

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ... 14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ... 1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels ... Y.
Union Italians ... 0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,
30-32 inches Common to Medium ... 0.27 to 0.29

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,
30-32 inches Good to Best ... 0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union,
54 to 56 inches ...

METALS.

The market is weak, there being not much business offering.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square ... Y. 4.35 to 4.60
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate ... 5.20 to 5.40

Sheet Iron ... 5.88 to 5.95
Sheet Mild Steel ... 6.86 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated, Flat ... 11.20 to 11.30

Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ... 7.00 to 8.30
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. ... 7.60 to 8.10
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar" ... 2.20 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market remains quiet.

Chester ... Y. 4.22
Victory ... 3.96
Nonpareil ... 4.90

Somatra ... 3.12 to 3.20
Burneo ...
Hokuyetsu ... 3.02 to 3.40
Nippon ... 3.00 to 3.55

Ogura ... 2.78 to 3.35
Todal ... 3.77

SUGAR.

Little business doing all round.

PER PICUL.
Brown Manila ... Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China ...
Brown Java ... 9.90 to 10.50

White Java ... 9.20 Duty unpaid.
White Refined (German) ... 15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong) ... 14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first ... Y. 240.00
" second ... 200.00
Java, first ... 320.00
" second ... 280.00

Madras, first ...
" second ...
Artificial "horse and lion" brand ... 2.00
Artificial "Kenshin" ... 2.00

FLOUR.

The market is more or less improved.

Yen.
Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ... 11.40
Flag ... 10.95 to 11.00
Royal ... 10.95 to 11.00

Trophy ... 4 sacks ... 11.48
Red Seal ... 10.95 to 11.00
Lion ... 11.72
Portland ... 11.15 to 11.20

Premier ... 11.20
Japanese:—
Rising Sun ... 6 kwamms ... 2.70
Takasago ... 6 " ... 2.75

Fuji ... 6 " ... 2.85
Pine ... 6 " ... 2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 hin ... 5.25 to 5.30
Red ... 5.25
Blue Stem ... 5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On March 28th stocks were: Filatures 5,000 piculs, Re-reels, 30 piculs; Kakeda, 200 piculs.

Yen.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ... 930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ... 895
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ... 905

Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ... 870
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den ... 930
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-11den ... 910

Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den ... 845
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den ... 900
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha ... 835

Re-reels—Extra ...
Re-reels—No. 1 ...
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2 ... 855

Re-reels—No. 2 ... 840
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ... 857 1/2

Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ... 840
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ... 830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

April delivery. May delivery. June delivery.

5th ... 86.30 ... 86.50 ... 87.50
6th ... 86.50 ... 87.00 ... 87.50
8th ... 86.60 ... 8.10 ... 87.70

9th ... 86.40 ... 86.90 ... 87.60
10th ... 86.70 ... 87.40 ... 88.00
11th ... 86.30 ... 86.50 ... 87.46

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.

On March 28th stocks were:—Noshi, 900 piculs; Kibiso, 3,600 piculs; Sundries, 1000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Yen.

Noshi—Filatures, Best ...
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...

Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...

Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good ...

Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium ... 80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior ... 60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...

Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ... 110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is quiet.

Kanazawa:—Due to the strong attitude of bulls, the market is firm.

Kawamata:—The market remains quiet.

"PINK-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

6 ms. 6 1/2 ms. 7 ms. 7 1/2 ms. 8 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" ... 7.50 ... 7.85 ... 7.65 ... 7.45 ... 7.60

27" ... 7.85 ... 7.70 ... 7.55 ... 7.50 ... 7.55
36" ... 7.70 ... 7.55 ... 7.65 ... 7.50 ... 7.60

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

4 1/2 ms. 4 3/4 ms. 5 ms. 5 1/4 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2" ... 7.50 ... 7.45 ... 7.45 ... 7.40

27" ... 7.50 ... 7.45 ... 7.45 ... 7.30
36" ... 7.50 ... 7.40 ... 7.45 ... 7.35

KAWAMATA.

3 ms. 3 1/2 ms. 4 ms. 4 1/2 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
20" ... 7.00 ... 7.80 ... 8.50 ... 9.30

23" ... 7.70 ... 8.40 ... 9.40 ... 10.40
27" ... 8.80 ... 10.16 ... 11.00 ...
36" ... 11.90 ... 12.90 ... 14.60 ...

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of April 10th the quotation was £65.7.

Refined per 100 kin ... Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin ... " 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin ... " 47.00—50.00

Oré ... " 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market remains slack

bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa ... 594.90
Foreign rice in Fukagawa ... 73.36

Delivery. Closing Price.

April ... 19.23
May ... 19.15
June ... 19.93

(Osaka.) (Kobe.)

April ... 19.30 April ... 19.30
May ... 19.18 May ... 19.09
June ... 19.10 June ... 19.09

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

(Tokyo.) per bush.
Superior ... Yen 21.10
Medium ... 20.00
Common ... 18.60
Average ... 19.90

T.E.A.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 30th March amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choice	nominal.
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is weak.

Delivery.	Yen.
April	144.35
May	149.00
June	138.80

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 11.

London silver unchanged and Shanghai sterling unchanged but Hongkong ½ higher and local rates on Hongkong easier accordingly but no change otherwise.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— Credits 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	268
— Private 4 months' sight	273 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 95 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 93 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	76 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	78
Bar Silver (London)	26 1/2 @ 1/2
	Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 13
Europe	N. D. L.	Kleist	M. Apr. 15
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	M. Apr. 15
Europe	M. M.	Ville de la Ciotat	Tu. Apr. 16
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan 1	W. Apr. 17
Vancouver	B. L.	Lucifer	Th. Apr. 18
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th. Apr. 18
America	P. M.	Nile 2	Sa. Apr. 20
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	M. Apr. 22
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Anuki Maru 3	M. Apr. 22
Hongkong	P. M.	Siberia	F. Apr. 26
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	F. Apr. 26
Hongkong	B. L.	Rygya	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	W. May 15

- 1 Left Vancouver on the 5th inst.
- 2 Left Honolulu on the 10th inst.
- 3 Left Hongkong on the 9th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M.	Polynesian	Sa. Apr. 13
America	P. M.	Korea	Sa. Apr. 13
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Chikugo Maru	Su. Apr. 14
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sado Maru	M. Apr. 15
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Chiyo Maru	M. Apr. 15
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	W. Apr. 17
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. Apr. 17
Hongkong	B. L.	Lucifer	Th. Apr. 18
Europe	N. D. L.	Kleist	Sa. Apr. 20
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 20
Hongkong	P. M.	Nile	Sa. Apr. 21
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	Tu. Apr. 23
Europe	N. Y. K.	Hitchi Maru	W. Apr. 24
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	W. Apr. 24
Tacoma	B. L.	Bellphone	Sa. Apr. 27
Australia	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Apr. 27
Seattle	B. L.	Rygya	M. Apr. 29
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	Sa. May 15

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 2nd April.—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—G. N. S.S. Co.

Machaon, British steamer, 4,277, G. W. Long, 3rd April.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Persia, British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 3rd April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Haragus, British steamer, 3,672, James Johnson, 3rd April.—Vancouver, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Protesilaus, British steamer, 5,800, D. P. Campbell, 4th April.—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 5th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Robert Dallas, British steamer, 3,419, R. L. Morton, 6th April.—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 7th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Moto, 7th April.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,308, K. Wada, 8th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 8th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Namur, British steamer, 4,179, F. E. Andrews, 9th April.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, Hartnell, 9th April.—Anwerp and London via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Hilachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,163, Yamawaki, 9th April.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

China, Austrian steamer, 3,855, R. Paviassick, 10th April.—Fiume and Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, W. Fisher, 11th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Prinz Waldemar, German steamer, 1,737, F. Iseke, 11th April.—Melbourne and Sydney via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Muttra, British steamer, 2,985, Harry Carey, 11th April.—Rangoon, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 3rd April.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 4th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,418, J. McCurdy, 4th April.—Manila and Ilo Ilo via Moji, Ballast.—Yokohama Dock Co., Ltd.

Montrose, British steamer, 2,884, D. Reid, 5th April.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co.

Protesilaus, British steamer, 5,800, D. P. Campbell, 5th April.—Liverpool via ports and Manila, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Achilles, British steamer, 4,484, R. C. Thompson, 5th April.—Genoa, Marseilles, and Liverpool via ports, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 5th April.—Hongkong via ports and Manila, Mails and General.—G. N. S.S. Co.

Haragus, British steamer, 3,672, James Johnson, 5th April.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Shikishima, Japanese battleship, 14,500, Capt. K. Suzuki, 5th April.—Muran.

Persia, American steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 6th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Luetow, German steamer, 5,134, J. Bortfeldt, 6th April.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Arabien, Danish steamer, 3,004, Cortsen, 6th April.—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 7th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ceylon, British steamer, 2,637, A. E. A. Baker, 7th April.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Moto, 9th April.—Hongkong via ports and Manila, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 8th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Robert Dallas, British steamer, 3,419, R. L. Morton, 8th April.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Glenfarg, British steamer, 2,350, W. L. Hartnell, 10th April.—Kobe, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Atsuta Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,284, J. Nagawa, 10th April.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,308, S. Wada, 10th April.—Seattle via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Saint Patric, British steamer, 2,360, A. W. May, 11th April.—Ilo Ilo, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 11th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Dr. F. K. Ainsworth, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Archbald, Miss Marjorie Baine, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Barnard, Miss J. L. Beard, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Boswell, Jr., Miss S. F. Broadhead, Mrs. F. Connell, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Farnham, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Gale, Miss Harriett Gerber, Mrs. A. R. Greenwood, Miss Mable Greenwood, Miss C. D. Greenwood, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Jordan, Mr. A. L. Kennedy, Mrs. S. H. Kondrup, Miss A. Kondrup, Mrs. C. H. Layson, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Luthy, Mr. P. A. McLean, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Potter, Mr. A. P. Raven, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rogers, Mrs. S. M. Snyder, Mrs. and Mrs. C. Thalheim, Mr. H. T. Thompson, Mrs. C. Tower, Miss Alice Tower, Miss Gertrude Tower, Mrs. D. Ushikubo, Miss Y. Ushikubo, Mr. Raphael Weill and servant, Mrs. T. Welch, Mr. Frank Anger, Miss M. L. Hopper, Miss E. T. Hopper, Miss M. L. Peterson, Miss M. Washburn, Mr. B. Cameron, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Manning, Master Manning, Miss Jessie O'Connell, Mr. E. B. Austin, Mrs. J. Ellison, Miss E. Guitar, Miss R. Howell, Mr. L. Nitschmann, Miss M. R. Suyda, Mrs. M. O. Turner and Miss J. Turner. For Kobe:—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Campbell, Mrs. J. E. Clough, Miss M. P. Clough, Mrs. J. E. Clough, Miss M. P. Clough, Mr. and G. S. Hall, Mrs. E. S. Howard, Mr. H. Lachlan, Mr. A. McDowell, Mrs. G. Soney, Mr. J. Tyrell, Miss G. A. Toiman, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Linnard and daughter. For Nagasaki:—Mr. A. J. Corbett, Mr. H. H. Gaskin, Miss A. E. Hatch, Miss Grace Hutchins, Miss I. King, Miss H. Richardson, For Manila:—Mr. G. C. Arnold, Mr. C. A. Boggs, Mr. L. Arooks, Mr. F. S. Cairns, Mrs. S. O. Dye, Mrs. E. E. Elser, Miss G. Elser, Miss Elser, Mr. J. J. Feeley, Mr. A. R. Fith, Mr. Fitzsimmons, Mr. I. E. Gardner, Mr. A. W. Geiger, Prof. W. P. Gorsuch, Mrs. R. K. Hancock, Mr. W. C. Holmes, Mr. L. S. Johnston, Mr. G. C. Lawton, Mr. F. E. Lening, Prof. W. MacClintock, Mr. A. J. MacDonald, Mr. W. M. Monroe, Mr. Porter, Mr. W. Quen, Mrs. A. H. Quinn, Mr. J. Samuels, Dr. J. Schaffner, Mr. H. T. Smith, Mr. C. E. Sloop, Mr. Stuccator, Mr. E. H. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Waddell, Mr. G. M. Wilcox, Mr. L. T. Reisler and Mr. C. W. Hughes. For Hongkong:—Dr. and Mrs. M. S. Charles, Master Charles, Miss Charles, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dibert, Mrs. S. D. Dye, Dr. H. K. Emerson, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Force, Miss Mabel MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mellerst, Miss Mellerst, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Newcore, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Orton, Mr. E. A. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Saul, Mr. R. F. Troy, Mr. G. Casement, Mrs. S. D. Casement, Mr. R. Hirschheimer, Miss H. rscheimer, Miss D. Rockwood, Miss E. Lownstein, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Newburger, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. P-ige, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Anderson and infant, Mr. and Mrs. D. Barth and children, Mrs. M. A. Berthold, Mrs. O. S. Botsford, Mr. J. D. McInerney, Miss K. Suckler and Mrs. E. Wade and son in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakui Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. A. Remy, Mr. R. Forsk, Mr. R. Streiz, Mr. R. W. Wedderburn, Mrs. S. Nakamura and 2 sons, Mrs. O. A. Paule and 1 Chinese in cabin; Mr. R. Rattanand, Mr. T. Date and 7 Chinese in second class; 25 Japanese and 5 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. A. W. Ayton, Mr. W. H. Tindeling in cabin; Mr. H. A. Naughton and Miss B. Uorg in second class. For Seattle:—Lieut. and Mrs. R. H. Harty and child, Rev. W. C. Keir,

Dr. J. E. Skinner, Dr. and Mrs. G. G. C. Seeling, Mr. O. B. Burrell, Mr. and Mr. H. R. Caldwell and two children, Master J. Caldwell, Miss B. C. Lie, Mr. D. C. Li, Mr. D. Y. Wong, Mr. Keiji Fukushima, Mrs. Tai yendo, Mrs. Yei Ohbayashi, Mr. Geo. R. S. Spalding and Mr. W. L. Parrish in cabin; Mr. W. Fitz Gibbon, Mr. Quong Wo, Mrs. Kiyu Kanamori, Mr. M. Yoshida, Mr. Yoshimatsu Hayaishi, Mr. Minko Yamamoto, Mr. Hi-oo Shigematsu and Mr. V. Pademawabe in second class; 29 in steerage. For Vancouver:—Mr. Jiomatsu Murao in cabin. For Victoria:—39 in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Persia* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. R. M. Auld, Mr. W. H. Baugh, Mrs. S. A. Bortz, Mr. B. P. Brown, Mr. Chung Ngo, Mr. D. V. Clark, Mr. James Craik, Mr. F. B. Dunn, Miss A. Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ferguson and infant, Master E. Ferguson, Master K. Ferguson, Mrs. M. A. Fowler, Miss Jas. Futherer, Mr. F. C. Gay, Rev. W. C. Hankins, Mrs. M. R. Henchman, Mr. Ed. Heilman, Mr. B. S. Hoosten, Mr. J. M. Hynes, Dr. and Mrs. Law Keem, Miss Evelyn Keem, Miss Irma Keem, Miss Wilma Keem, Miss C. P. Langley, Mr. K. S. Latourette, Mrs. A. H. Lefebvre, Miss A. C. Lindblad, Miss M. MacKellar, Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Maxwell and infant, Mr. W. Montair, Mr. T. S. Morrison, Mrs. R. H. Oliver, Mr. E. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Richardson, Miss Donald Richardson, Miss Orene Richardson, Master Hugh E. Richardson, Mr. C. E. Rogers, Mr. A. W. Schmitt, Mr. Sze Tsan Suen, Mr. Sze Fung Suen, Mr. R. Taylor, Mr. Wah Ing Vee, Mrs. E. F. Wendell, Mr. W. A. Young, Jr., Mrs. F. Akone, Mr. G. W. Colton, Miss Norma Craven, Mrs. H. A. Harris, Mr. F. Hauswirth, Rev. H. C. Hazen, Mrs. H. Nagata, Miss A. Ne-comer, Mr. and Mrs. E. Noshkin, Miss Maria Noshkin, Mr. T. Noshkin, Mr. M. Noshkin, Mr. W. Noshkin, Miss K. Noshkin, Master S. Noshkin, Miss N. Noshkin, Master V. Noshkin, Miss L. Noshkin, Master V. Noshkin, Mrs. H. Ogata and infant, Miss C. Ogata, Master J. Ogata, Mr. K. Oshima, Miss G. E. Ryder, Miss M. Simonds, Mr. W. O. Straehler, Baroness Hermione von Preuschen-Telmann, Miss Marguerite Thompson, Miss L. M. S. White, Miss Catherine Wood and Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Vaughan in cabin.

Per British steamer *Sumatra* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Dr. C. G. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Campbell, Miss L. Rebel, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Gane, Miss Pippy, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hill, The Ven. Archdeacon A. F. King, Rev. W. T. Austen and Miss Austen in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Persia*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 6th inst.:

	S. F.	N. Y.	Chicago.	Omaha.	Baltimore.	Honolulu.	O. City.	Total.
S'hai...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Y'hama.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H'kong.	415	—	—	—	—	224	—	639
Total.	415	—	—	—	—	224	—	639
	SILK.		Mexico					
	From S. Mter.	N. Y.	Hqlyne.	City.	Total.			
Shanghai ...	—	—	—	—	8			
Hongkong ...	—	—	—	—	—			
Yokohama...	—	946	46	—	992			
Total	—	1,026	46	—	1,072			

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明治三十五年三月廿日
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.
Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

FEGEN.—April 12th, at Kobe, wife of FRANCIS H. FEGEN, of a Son.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death of Mrs. Emily Soldene is announced.
THE death is announced of Sir James Jenkins, K.C.B.
VISCOUNT UCHIDA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, despatched a telegram of condolence to the United

States Government on Sunday morning last for the death of General Grant.

A PRIVY Council was held on Tuesday morning at the official residence of the Premier.

VISCOUNT SUGI, who was for a time dangerously ill, is now reported to be convalescent.

H. M. THE EMPRESS, who is stopping at Numazu, will return to Tokyo on the 18th instant.

THE death is announced at Shanghai of Mr. Thomas Morgan Phillips, barrister-at-law.

A MASS meeting of saké brewers will be held in the 20th instant at the Kobe Chamber of Commerce.

THE death is announced of Mr. Thomas Macquoid, R.L., the water-colour painter, at the age of 92.

PRIOR to his demise, the late Mr. Kato Keisuke was promoted to the Sixth Rank of the Junior Grade.

MR. YOSHIDA, Minister to Siam, is reported to have left there for home on furlough on the 12th instant.

MR. IMANISHI, Sub-Manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank, has resigned his post for private reasons.

MR. SUZUKI, Consul at Nanking, has been ordered home, and Mr. Funatsu has been appointed to succeed him.

MAJOR J. A. MORRISON, the Conservative member of Parliament for East Nottingham, has resigned his seat.

DR. TAKATA, President of Waseda University, will shortly be nominated by His Majesty as a member of the House of Peers.

THE bronze statue erected in memory of the late Prince Arisugawa within the precincts of the Ise shrine was unveiled on Friday last.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE paid a visit on Wednesday afternoon in two, to the Kensei-kai Fine Arts Exhibition at Takenodai, Ueno Park.

THE Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamer *Yokohama Maru*, of 8,000 tons, now building at the Mitsui Bishi Dock-yard, will make her trial run on the 20th instant.

BARON KATO, Ambassador to London, who is leaving for his post on the 20th instant, was received in farewell audience by H. M. the Emperor on Wednesday morning.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD gave a farewell dinner party on Saturday last at the British Embassy in honour of Baron Kato, Ambassador to England, who is shortly to leave for his post.

CONSUL-GENERAL OTORI at Vladivostok, who is asked of as the new Chief of the Personal Affairs Bureau in the Foreign Department, is expected to return to Tokyo on the 18th instant.

THE leaders of the former *Hi Chinhoi* and others, about a hundred in all, have decided to establish a Chosen Cotton Company with a capital of two million yen divided into 40,000 shares.

THE annual general meeting of the Women's Patriotic Association will be held on April 24th instead of in May as has been the case hitherto. It is said that H. M. the Empress will be unable to honour the function with her presence this

year, but Princess Kanin will be present in Her Majesty's place. The Imperial Railway Bureau has decided to effect for the occasion a thirty per cent. reduction of fares on every railway line.

AN aeroplane model exhibition was held in Kagoshima a few days ago, when several airships made successful flights, one of them attaining to an altitude of some 930 feet in forty seconds.

BARON OZAWA, of the Japan Red Cross Society, and his party, arrived at San Francisco on the 12th instant, and were accorded a warm reception by the members of the Red Cross Society there.

A TELEGRAM from Sydney reports that Lieut. Shirase, Mr. Takeda and four others, of the Japanese Arctic Exploration Party, left for home on the 17th instant on board the N.Y.K. steamer *Nikko Maru*.

ACCORDING to a report from Kure, the workers in the first factory of the Naval Arsenal, about 300 in number, who recently went on strike, attacked and injured one of the officials on Tuesday morning.

THE first term of the herring fishing season in Hokkaido, ending the 15th instant, resulted in a catch of 117,000 *hoku*. This is a decrease of 3,000 *hoku* as compared with the corresponding term of the preceding year.

MAJOR-GENERAL YAMADA, Director of the Bureau of Appointments in the War Office, was promoted on Friday last to Lieutenant-General and at the same time appointed to succeed General Uyeda as Commander of the 14th Division.

A TELEGRAM from Vladivostok says that about a dozen teachers in the technical and primary schools at Nicolaevsk will shortly start for Japan for the purpose of sightseeing. A party of German tourists from Kiaochow is also expected to pay a visit to this country early in June.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Doshisha College at Kyoto took place on Monday afternoon. The authorities of the college have in contemplation a celebration of the event on a very large scale about the 20th of May. Mr. Haseba, the Minister of Education, is expected to be present.

THE King of Italy has been pleased to decorate, under date of January 29th, the late Lieut. General Baron Ishimoto with the First Order of the Crown in recognition of his meritorious services in promoting friendly relations between Japan and Italy as member of the Japanese-Italian Association.

CONSUL-GENERAL IWAI at Hongkong reports that a new bank has been established there by Chinese. In view of the reassuring returns of the Canton Bank in San Francisco, the leading Chinese residents at Hongkong some time ago decided to establish the Hongkong Bank with a capital of two million yen, divided into forty thousand shares. The project was enthusiastically welcomed by a number of Chinese capitalists in South China and abroad, and now, the capital having been all paid up, the Bank has been opened. The Bank is said to intend establishing branches throughout the country and to have for its object the monopolization of the business of drafts and cheques for Chinese immigrants as well as traders in Hongkong and San Francisco. The amount of money to be thus handled by the Bank is surmised to aggregate not less than twenty million dollars per annum.

CHINA.

Friday, April 12.

Rumour continues to busy itself about a growing breach between President Yuan and Premier Tang. In our last issue we published a telegram saying that the latter had already set out for Peking, and that the members of the Cabinet as well as of the Council of State were already, or would soon be, *en route* for the same place, so that the formal conferences of the Ministry and the Council would commence about the 20th instant. But the news received this morning is quite different. It represents Tang Shao-i as loitering at Shanghai, although his main business at the moment, namely, the negotiation of foreign loans, calls for his immediate presence in Peking. Moreover, it is now stated that no less than six out of the ten portfolio-recipients are hesitating to travel to the capital, being apprehensive that the Imperialists, who are still to be found in Peking in large numbers, have certainly planned some murderous *coup*, which they intend to put into execution so soon as the magnates of the State assemble in the metropolis. The statement that Field Marshal Hwang has also set out for Peking is now contradicted, and it is further added that Vice-President Li has addressed Field Marshal Hwang in very strong terms, protesting that the men chosen for seats in the Cabinet are for the most part second-rate individuals, quite unworthy in point of prestige and ability to deal with the great problems that will present themselves in modelling and operating the first Chinese Republic. The *Asahi Shimbun's* Tientsin correspondent caps all this by declaring that the great difficulties with which President Yuan has had to grapple since he agreed to emerge from his homestead in Honan have been too much for his mental equilibrium and that he is now practically insane.

We have already taken occasion to emphasize a fact which must have been patent to our readers from the first, namely, that this interval of interregnum was tolerably certain to be taken advantage of by the purveyors of sentimental intelligence, and we shall not at all be surprised if the next intelligence carried by the wires is as optimistic as the above news is pessimistic.

Saturday, April 13.

On the night of the 11th instant a battalion of the troops stationed in Nanking set themselves to follow Peking's example in the matter of raiding the town. These are said to have been old soldiers, and the cause of the outbreak was the receipt of news that the troops were to be disbanded. The Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Hwang, was absent at the time, but adequate measures to suppress the enroute seem to have been taken. Nevertheless there were from fifty to seventy casualties and a hundred of the riotous soldiers were arrested.

It is alleged that the cause of Mr. Tang Shao-i's delay in setting out for Peking is financial. Hitherto, the principal men in the Republican party have been defraying their expenses out of their own pockets, and they are now asking to be reimbursed. But Mr. Tang has no funds for such a purpose, and until he finds money he cannot conveniently leave Nanking. Rumour has it that the Russo-Chinese Bank will assist in this emergency.

With reference to the alarming rumours

current on the 11th and 12th instant as to dissensions among the political leaders in China, it is now stated that four parties are gradually differentiating themselves conspicuously. They are headed respectively by Yuan Shih-kai, by Sun Yat-sen and Hwang, by Vice-President Li, and by Chang Chien. It is not yet clear what are the exact points of disagreement among these politicians but the lack of a rupture is the important point.

There is a scarcely credible rumour that President Yuan, in view of the disturbed state of Peking, has ordered that the first meetings of the Council of State shall be held outside the city walls in a place offering special facilities for defence. Tang Shao-i and the members of the Council will not assemble in the metropolis until these arrangements have been completed. We attach little credit to this story, at all events in such a form.

There continue to be various reports all pointing to want of union in the ranks of the Republicans, but the details are perplexing, and the inferences are seldom warranted by the premises. The only thing quite evident is that several correspondents of Japanese journals in China regard the situation as extremely unstable.

A telegram from Harbin to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that, after all, Russia will probably take the lead in extending international recognition to the Chinese Republic. St. Petersburg is sending a new Representative, Mr. Koipenski, to Peking, and his credentials will be addressed to the President of the Republic. This will of course be tantamount to recognition. The telegram is somewhat difficult to believe, but history shows that Russia has never considered herself bound by the policy of solidarity in shaping her course towards Eastern countries.

It is confidently asserted that President Yuan has strictly interdicted the contracting of any foreign loans by the localities independently. The object of this veto is plain. It is evident that if each Governor-General throughout China be empowered to contract pecuniary obligations to foreign States, the solidarity of the realm can never be achieved.

The *Hochi Shimbun* has a most important wire from Peking. It conveys intelligence which, if true, can scarcely be over-estimated. We are told that the foreign Representatives in Peking have jointly informed President Yuan that the Treaty Powers are resolved to appoint an inspectorate of Chinese finance. The reason assigned for this step is that the continuance of the existing condition would be fatal to foreign trade within the Chinese realm as well as to the rights possessed by foreign capitalists in respect of the funds already accommodated by them to China. This radical measure is said to have been taken on the 11th instant. It was not embodied in a note. The Foreign Representatives adhere to the resolve adopted by them at the time of the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty, namely, that pending international recognition of the Republican Government, all communications to the latter should be made verbally.

Sunday, April 14.

Order has been restored in Nanking but at considerable loss of life. Martial law was in operation for two full days, and during that time fifty-four mutinous soldiers were beheaded and twenty-seven, shot. It is expected that the figure will be increased by

about thirty. All business and traffic in the city were suspended while the law of siege was in operation. One account says that up to the 13th instant 120 men had been shot or beheaded. The Japanese Authorities considered it necessary to land a party from the *Mogami* for the protection of the life and property of their nationals. It appears to be thought that this disturbance was not in any sense political. The cause originally assigned was an apprehension on the part of the soldiers that they were about to be immediately disbanded, but that explanation is now rejected as incorrect. The plain fact seems to be that the epidemic of looting extended to Nanking, and that the only object in sight was pillage. Fortunately the Authorities were able to obtain support and restore order by drastic measures. There are said to be about 100,000 troops assembled in Nanking, and if the majority of these had succumbed to the raiding mania the consequences might have been terrible.

Shanghai also was threatened with a similar uprising on the part of the Republican forces stationed at the arsenal, but Governor-General Cheng seems to have taken decisive steps, though whether he shot five men and decapitated five more, or whether he was merely reported to have done so, the telegraph does not clearly state. At any rate Shanghai appears to be in a disturbed condition, and a new reason is furnished for deferring Premier Tang's departure from the city.

Another telegram denies the previously circulated statement that Marshal Hwang had set out for Nanking to deal with the disturbance there. Hwang is in Shanghai and shows no signs of proceeding to Nanking.

Chinkiang and Suchow are also said to be threatened with commotion, and altogether the Yangtze Valley is described as being much disturbed. But indeed, judging from the telegrams, the whole of China, not even excluding her outlying territories, is emphatically in a state of anarchy.

Meanwhile the formation of a stable Cabinet in Peking seems to be growing less and less probable. A majority of the new portfolio-holders continue to refuse to serve, and there is evidence that an Imperialist clique is still making its influence felt in the city.

There comes *via* Shanghai a telegram conveying intelligence which probably requires to be discounted largely but may nevertheless contain several grains of truth. It professes to give the exact language in which Sir John Jordan on the 12th instant verbally informed Yuan Shih-kai that the foreign Powers had determined to appoint a board for supervising Chinese finance. The details of Sir John's statement are that no hopes are offered of solidarity between the north and South of China; that the finances of both sides had fallen into a state of extreme disorder; that reliance on foreign money had become inevitable; that the intelligence received from the provinces showed the various Governor-Generals to be organizing troops for their own protection, which troops betook themselves to raiding and looting the stores and residences of peaceful citizens; that in these circumstances the revival of commerce throughout the country was obviously impossible, and that the financial conditions threatened to become hopeless; that all these circumstances gravely affected the interests of the foreign Powers,

and that they had therefore determined to appoint a board of supervision over Chinese finance, the details of which arrangement would be subsequently conveyed to the Peking Government.

This, of course, is nothing more than the foreign receivership which inevitably promises to be placed over the Chinese estate. But we are inclined to doubt very strongly whether such an extreme measure has yet been resorted to. The appointment of such a board and the execution of its functions would require much consideration and preparation. The telegraph represents Sir John Jordan as having concluded his statement by declaring that England was not a willing party to this arrangement, but that she joined hands with the other Powers in view of their unalterable determination. It is scarcely credible that Sir John Jordan made that assertion, at all events.

The uncertainty as to the command of the Headquarter Staff in China seems to have at last terminated in the appointment of Vice-President Li to that position. A telegram from Peking affirms that Li has been offered the post, and that he will probably accept, though as to this latter point, there is still some uncertainty.

A later version of the Loans question is that the four Powers object to the inclusion of Belgium, in consideration of some special conditions arranged between the Chinese Government and the Belgian capitalists. Germany is said to have pointed out that if Belgium were admitted, Austria-Hungary would claim the same consideration. The Four-Powers Syndicate is therefore urging Yuan to settle the Belgian question without further delay, and Yuan is doubtless equally anxious to accomplish that end, inasmuch as he is said to be absolutely penniless, and to be obliged to meet administrative and military outlays with promissory notes. On the other hand, side by side with this intelligence, comes news that Mr. Lawson, representing the Belgian Syndicate in Shanghai, is arranging for the payment of a second sum of one million *taels* to the Peking Authorities. Moreover, Governor-General Tsai of Yunnan is said to be negotiating a loan of three million *taels* for military purposes with a French bank. Negotiations are also alleged to be going on between the Mitsui firm and the Fukien Authorities for a loan of several millions, the proceeds to be applied to railway-building and mine-exploiting. But the conditions are such that this transaction is not expected to mature.

Monday, April 15.

It now appears that the trouble in Nanking was of a comparatively trifling character. Two regiments had originally plotted to take part in it, but owing to precautions adopted by the officers, only some seven or eight hundred men were engaged. Nevertheless, the incident has evidently created much alarm and many of the statesmen and officials who were to set out for Peking in a few days are reported to have left Nanking hurriedly for Shanghai on the morning of the 13th.

The powers deputed to Field Marshal Hwang in his capacity of Liu shou fu of Nanking are of the most extensive character. He is practically dictator, having unchallenged command of the military and naval forces and being required to consult with the Governor-General about official appointments only. The term *Liu-shou fu* has no exact English equivalent, so far as we know.

Its literal meaning is "guardian during absence." Field Marshal Hwang, unless he discharges his functions with entire loyalty to Peking, may easily create an *imperium in imperio*.

The delay in organizing the Provisional Government appears to be creating some inconvenience. Governor-General Chao complains to Peking that the high officials in Manchuria cannot discharge their functions until the seals of office reach them, and his Excellency urges that Tang Shao-i's coming to the metropolis should be expedited as much as possible.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* publishes a telegram from Mukden indicating that the citizens of that town attribute the immunity from riot hitherto enjoyed there to the efficiency of the Japanese police and gendarmes. We have commented on this fact independently. It is certainly striking that the Three Eastern Provinces should have remained comparatively tranquil throughout the whole crisis.

Tuesday, April 16.

A pro-Imperialist current of feeling seems to be materializing in Manchuria and in Shantung. General Tieh Liang, who made such a poor display of defensive ability on the occasion of the siege of Nanking, is said to have collected 15,000 men in Tientsin and its neighbourhood and to have enrolled them for the purpose of reinstating Imperialism. Arms and ammunition are reported to be arriving through German hands *via* Kiaochow, and there is talk of an anti-German boycott among the Republicans. The Three Eastern Provinces also are rumoured to be honeycombed with disaffection to the Republic. But so far as General Tieh's movement is concerned, it will probably prove of minor importance, and for the rest, displays of disaffection to the new regime may be regarded as unavoidable.

It seems that the idea of escorting the Southern statesmen to Peking with a force of 10,000 men selected from the original Insurgent troops, has been abandoned. General Chang Hsua, whose name was much *in evidence* during the Nanking siege, is now in command at Hsuehou on the Chin-Pu Railway, and he is said to have announced that the rolling stock of the line shall not be placed at the disposal of the authorities for the purpose of transporting such an escort. This attitude on the part of Chang is believed to have had much influence in inducing President Yuan to abandon the idea of the military escort.

At last it seems probable that Mr. Tang Shao-i and his Ministerial colleagues are about to set out for Peking. Arrangements were said to have been made for their departure from Shanghai on the evening of the 15th instant by a vessel of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company. One telegram speaks as though they had actually set out, but at any rate it may be taken for granted that difficulties which lay in the way of their departure have been successfully disposed of. There is a belief that after about a month's sojourn in Peking they will return again to Nanking, but the object of such a move is not clearly stated. Nevertheless rumour continues to be busy with alleged dissensions among the portfolio-holders. It is confidently predicted that although they may arrive in Peking and commence to discharge their functions from the 21st instant, their soli-

darity will not survive the test of active administration.

Since the above was in type, news of a very different character is to hand—news that Peking will not be the administrative capital, that honour being reserved for Nanking. It is difficult to know what to believe.

Wednesday, April 17.

The news received in the afternoon of the 16th instant at the War Department in Tokyo is certainly very important. It suggests plainly that all the delay which has taken place in organizing the new Cabinet and in opening Peking as the Administrative capital has been due to a contest between the North and the South. That such a contest arose at the outset and developed for a moment a very acute phase was palpable to all onlookers. But it appeared that the question had been solved by the placable sentiment of the South and the immovable resolution of the North, so that for some time past the public entertained no doubt as to the victory having been won by Peking. But now suddenly comes the intelligence referred to above—intelligence which quite upsets the previous situation and can only be read as a practical intimation that the dispute has ended after all in the hegemony of Nanking. This probably means that a New Cabinet will have to be formed, for, after all is said and done, President Yuan is most unlikely to proceed to Nanking for the purpose of carrying on the administration there. It is of course just conceivable that the President of the Republic may have determined to reside in Peking while the Premier and his Cabinet make Nanking their headquarters. It is also conceivable that an understanding has been arrived at by which this question of the administrative capital will be left for decision by the National Assembly, and in the meanwhile the governing authority will be divided between the two cities. But such an invertebrate arrangement is scarcely possible, and would, at any rate, be regarded by the nation as a victory for the South. It had always been apprehended that this Republican movement would eventuate in dividing China into two States, one having its metropolis in the North and the other in the South. But that was before the abdication of the Manchu Dynasty. So soon as both sides were free to choose a Republican polity, there seemed to be no tangible reason for such a partition of the realm, and we are now forced to conclude that personal ambition has been the principal factor throughout. There may be, we trust that there is, some less sinister explanation of the incident just telegraphed, but in the absence of any alternative solution we are forced to conclude that China is on the eve of fresh and very formidable troubles.

Side by side with the above disquieting intelligence comes news by telegraph to the *Asahi* and the *Kokumin* in the sense that Imperialism is essaying fresh activities in China. At first the people were almost entirely in favour of republicanism; not that they clearly appreciated the academic difference between popular government and monarchical control, but that they expected greater personal freedom and largely reduced taxes under a republican regime. But the first object lesson they received as to the practical meaning of republicanism, was the destruction of their lives and properties on a wholesale scale by the soldiers of the new regimen.

Moreover, so far from having their fiscal burdens reduced, they saw the government busily engaged in borrowing money from foreign countries, which procedure, even when resorted to on a very much smaller scale, had been clamoured against as inconsistent with the maintenance of the country's independence. Finally, educated men, who had access to the classics, found that the sages of ancient days, revered a monarchical form of government and approved of it as the best instrument for preserving life and property. Many things, therefore, have conspired to bring the Monarchy into favour once more, and it is alleged that for some time past President Yuan's spies have reported to him the growth of a strong Imperialist reaction. Yuan will doubtless appeal, if he has not already appealed, to the Empress Dowager, praying her to use her influence so as to avert calamity from her own family, but if it should prove true that China is on the eve of division into Northern and a Southern camps, the strong probability is that Imperialism will obtain a footing once more in the country. It may be recalled here that on the 4th instant a meeting of the Imperial Princes, headed by Prince Ching, was reported to have decided on taking up their residence within the limits of the German concession in Tientsin, and this is now regarded as having been prefatory to a pro-Imperial movement.

With reference to the troubles in the provinces of Shansi and Shensi, General Sheng is now reported to have informed Peking that if the Imperial Family abdicated under the influence of threats from Yuan Shi kai, he (Sheng) will never be a consenting party to the abdication. But if that step was taken without any threatening procedure on the part of the Republican leaders, the supporters of the Throne will acquiesce. Sheng has therefore asked for an autograph letter from the Empress Dowager on this subject.

News from Nanking says that the recent military emeute in that city was not really inspired by a question of pay and allowance, as rumour reported, but was mainly due to instigation by the partisans of Imperialism. This allegation seems to rest mainly on the discovery of two yellow-dragon flags among the chattels of the mutineers.

Thursday, April 18.

It appears that the Empress Dowager is really exerting herself to prevent any enterprises against the newly established Republic. A step just taken by her at the instance of President Yuan shows this very plainly. In consideration of the distress caused among a number of the White-Banner-men in Manchuria as a consequence of the change in the country's polity, an application was made to President Yuan to sanction the occupation by these distressed folks of a quantity of unused land in the vicinity of the Imperial tombs. But the President, seeing in this proposal an idea of establishing an Imperialist colony, brought the subject to the notice of the Empress Dowager, who, at his instance, instructed the Banner-men to withdraw their application.

There is absolutely no further intelligence with reference to the extremely interesting semi-official telegram received in Tokyo on the 15th instant and commented on at some length in our last issue, namely, the telegram announcing that it had been determined to make Nanking the administrative centre, for

the present, at all events. In view of the source of the message, confidence was felt as to its truth, but the subsequent silence leads us to doubt very much whether the telegraphist was not grossly misled. At any rate everything now points to Peking as the administrative capital. On the 15th instant, Premier Tang Shao-i with two members of the Cabinet and twelve or thirteen Councillors of State, set out from Shanghai by a vessel of the China Merchants' S.N. Company, and were expected to reach Peking *via* Tientsin on the 18th instant. Two other portfolio-holders and the rest of the Councillors of State are expected to set out from Nanking at an early date, but as to the movements of the remaining five Ministers of State no clear clue is yet obtainable. At any rate we do not discover any foundation for the statement that Nanking is to be chosen in preference to Peking.

As time passes, the movement in favour of independence grows more formidable in the outlying regions of north-western China. Practically the whole of Outer Mongolia and of the Ili districts have now signified their desire to range themselves under the banner of independence, and to continue the rule of their former potentates. It is further alleged that the Prime Minister of Mongolia has issued a decree calling upon the people to continue paying their taxes as before and to adopt Russian usages as far as possible. The same Minister is further reported to have concluded a loan of a million *taels* from a Russian bank, on the security of a mining concession, and to have employed this money for the purpose of purchasing five thousand rifles and organizing thirty squadrons of cavalry.

AN INDICTMENT OF THE CHINESE ARMY.

The *Kokumin Shimbun*, evidently writing on the strength of observations made on the spot, pens a terrible indictment of the Chinese troops. It says that there is no distinction between commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The latter openly assert that upon them and upon them alone depends the efficiency of the troops, the commissioned officers being merely figure-heads. Therefore a sergeant or a corporal does not even salute an officer in the street, and pays no attention whatever to any orders that he finds inconvenient or irksome. As for the relations between the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers, the latter make no attempt whatever to control the former. They curry favour with the privates, and never dream of enforcing discipline, order or cleanliness. Thus the record of the military force is simply an orgie of gambling, pillage and rape. The arms served out by the authorities are tied up in the racks and left to rust. Military exercises and drill do not occupy any recognized place in the life of the troops, and the stationing of a force in any district is regarded by the inhabitants in the light of a public calamity. There have been instances of seizing a number of women, dressing them in men's garments and carrying them off for sale in some distant town. This was one of the features at Wu chien, which unfortunate place was reduced to the condition of a sacked town, although no fighting whatever had taken place in the district. The filthiness of camps and barracks is something that defies description, and the sole object of a soldier seems to be

to obtain money for satisfying his lusts. No wonder that, in such circumstances, the disbanding of troops is a serious problem.

HIS EXCELLENCY BARON KATO.

On the 12th instant a banquet was given at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo by way of farewell to his Excellency Baron Kato, who is about to leave Japan for the purpose of resuming his duties as Ambassador to the Court of the United Kingdom. It was a most brilliant affair, more than one hundred of the leading citizens of Tokyo, from Prince Tokugawa Iyesato downwards, being present. From the columns of the *Japan Times* we take the following summary of the speeches delivered by Prince Tokugawa and Baron Kato:—

Prince Iyesato Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers, who presided at the table, proposed the health of the distinguished guest in felicitous language. The Prince said that he and his friends had been greatly concerned when the newspapers circulated a rumor that Baron Kato was not returning to his post in London, but to their great relief and satisfaction the story has proved to be unfounded. That Baron Kato was going back to London was a source of unqualified gratification not only to his personal friends, but to all patriotic Japanese, because His Excellency was *par excellence* the right man in the right place. The whole nation was agreed in attaching particular importance to the relations of special friendship now so happily existing between Japan and Great Britain, and in maintaining and fostering that friendship, no man, said the Prince, was better qualified than the distinguished statesman whose health it was his honor and pleasure to propose.

Baron Kato expressed his profound thanks for the honor his friends had done him for providing for him such a magnificent feast on the eve of his departure for his post. He had represented Japan in London for eight years in all, including his former tenure of office as Minister Plenipotentiary. He had, he confessed, had very little to show for those long years. But he thought it hardly necessary to assure his friends that he had done and would continue to do his very best. He felt the honor his friends had done him all the more, because he knew that the presence of so many distinguished personages was due to the fact they held in high esteem the relations of special intimacy with the mighty power to which it pleased His Majesty to accredit him. Since the Alliance had been concluded in 1902, through the efforts of Count Hayaashi, it had done inestimable service in the cause of peace and civilisation. There were, the speaker continued, some pessimists, both here and in England, who try to belittle the usefulness of the Alliance, but such people were incapable of understanding the far-reaching benefits accruing from the treaty. He was returning to his post with the assurance given him by both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs that they attach the same high importance to the Alliance as their predecessors. And he was gratified to have this official assurance confirmed in so impressive a manner by the unanimous opinion of a gathering representing, in a particular sense, all parties and all walks of life in Japan.

SIR VALENTINE CHIROL.

We understand that in order to mark his Majesty's appreciation of Sir Valentine Chirol's eminent services as a journalist, especially in making known the East to the West, the Emperor of Japan has presented to Sir Valentine a magnificent lacquer box. The occasion of this well deserved recognition is Sir Valentine Chirol's retirement from the editorship of the foreign department of *The Times*.

We may mention here that Sir Valentine is succeeded at *The Times* by Mr. D. D. Braham, a much younger man, but already eminent in his profession. It is thought that Sir Valentine Chirol will pay a visit to India in the autumn of this year, and possibly he may take Japan *en route*. If he does, he may count on a very hearty welcome.

JAPAN AND THE CHINESE LOANS.

There has been an interesting discussion between the *Asahi Shimbun* and the *Fiji Shimpō* as to the advisability of Japan joining the Four-Powers Syndicate for furnishing money to China. A certain note of petulance pervade the *Asahi's* arguments. It complains that foreign Powers clasp hands with Japan, only when it suits their convenience, and leave her out in the cold on other occasions. The *Asahi* also seems to think that some restriction of the rights already acquired by Japan on the Continent of Asia would be imposed if she joined a union of Powers under fixed conditions. The *Fiji* takes a different view. It observes, in the first place, that the Occidental Powers certainly wish to avert the partition of China, and for that purpose it is essential that they should combine in a general understanding. Japan is equally anxious to secure her neighbour's integrity, and therefore she must form one of the combination. In the second place, any system of supervising Chinese finances for the purposes of foreign loans, must extend to the whole region of those finances, and consequently if Japan desires to have a voice in this vital supervision, she must join the combination of Powers. In the third place, prevention is always better than cure. If Japan stands outside the combination from the beginning, she will have to deal with Chinese machinations after they have arisen, whereas if she be one of the union, she can always provide against attempts on China's part to join some other Power to the detriment of Japan's interests. In the fourth place, there is the obvious consideration that the Powers forming the combination would be pledged separately and collectively not to impair Japan's rights in Manchuria. In the fifth place, there are some publicists who argue that if China contracts this large loan with foreign Powers for her *vis à vis*, she will be precluded from obtaining money for the purpose of local development. The *Fiji* meets that objection by pointing out that the loan in question is for the purposes of administrative organization, and that it has nothing to do with industrial or commercial development. For the latter purposes it will always be possible for the Chinese to obtain money independently. Finally, there is the consideration that in view of the estimation in which the Chinese hold this Four-Powers Loan, it would be exceedingly difficult to organize any competing syndicate, and therefore Japan must either join now or stand aloof permanently.

We have very little doubt that Japanese opinion in general will be with the *Fiji* in this matter. At all events, our readers will be interested to learn in what light the problem presents itself to Japanese publicists. It is very observable that independently of the question of rights or privileges, the *Fiji* argues that Japan is morally bound to join the combination in consideration of its British complexion. There can be no doubt of the political influence of such a combination, and it is Japan's duty as England's ally to promote an arrangement which is so strongly endorsed by British statesmen.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* discusses the same subject, but evidently it does not think it worth while to debate the wisdom or unwisdom of Japan joining this Syndicate of Powers. Our Tokyo contemporary takes that for granted, as indeed it may safely be

taken. But the *Kokumin* goes a great deal further. It contends that the union should be extended to every Power wishing to join, even though the interests of such a Power do not exceed those of Austria-Hungary or Portugal in the Far East. If that course be adopted, it would have the advantage of imparting elasticity to the limits of the Loan. At present 600 million *yen* are spoken of as the maximum sum, but the Tokyo journal finds that figure flagrantly insufficient and speaks of 2,000 millions as nearer the mark.

Already, indeed, the Austro-Hungarian Government is said to have signified its desire of joining the combination. An intimation in that sense is said to have reached the Foreign Office in Tokyo on the 11th instant. Italy will certainly follow suit and thus the Four-Powers Syndicate will become an Eight-Powers union. Of course, in that event, the whole original basis of the Loan will be disturbed, and it is not impossible that its first negotiators may find its attractions no longer convincing.

THE LOCAL MILITIA SCHEME.

It is said that President Yuan has approved of Field Marshal Hwang's scheme with regard to the disposal of the unneeded soldiery. Hwang's plan is to keep under arms the most promising of the present troops, and to send the remainder to Mongolia and Sinkiang, giving them a certain measure of assistance to engage in farming. In fact, Hwang's idea is to convert this riff-raff from truculent and inefficient soldiers into peaceful and industrious farmers. President Yuan is reported to have approved of the scheme, and to have allotted a million *taiels* by way of preliminary assistance. Such a sum would go but a small way in effecting such a purpose, and if Yuan has agreed to anything of the kind, we are inclined to suspect that he is merely assisting Hwang to make a big failure. All accounts agree in representing the majority of the troops enlisted during the recent trouble as good-for-nothing loafers, who joined either the Republican or the Imperial flag indifferently, their sole object being to get a day's rations. What reasonable hope can be obtained that these men will settle down quietly in remote districts and engage in the task of earning an arduous livelihood? We can imagine nothing less probable.

GENERAL SHENG.

General Sheng, whose doings in Shanghai and Shensi recently created some commotion, is now said to have arrived in Manchuria, though by what mechanism of locomotion he has accomplished this feat, we are not told. The telegram goes on to say that two of his colleagues in north-western China have pledged themselves to raise a force of 400,000 Mohammedans, and to place the whole under his leadership for the purpose of elevating Prince Tuan to the Throne of China. This is the son of the Prince who was banished from Peking for displaying marked sympathy with the Boxers at the time of the latter's *émigré* a dozen years ago. President Yuan has entrusted the duty of dealing with this danger to General Ma, an officer of whose antecedents we have no details.

FOREIGN TOURISTS.

In his address to the prefects now assembled in Tokyo, Marquis Saionji made a new departure by drawing attention to the treatment of foreign tourists. He urged that the greatest pains should be taken to give to these travellers a hearty welcome, and to afford them every facility. The *Fiji Shimpō* takes this for text and discourses on it in its usual eminently sensible strain. It tells its countrymen that they are quite mistaken if they imagine that scenic beauties or any other special attractions draw foreign tourists to this country. They visit it because, from the point of view of over-land travel, it lies at the portals of the Orient, and because the manners, customs and productions of its people present something of novelty. In fact, our contemporary evidently thinks that Japan is not in a position of any advantages which constitute a strong impulse to tourists. On the other hand, things are on the whole as dear in Japan now as they are in Europe, and if guides, hotel-keepers and curio-dealers conspire to exact high prices, the tide of tourists will easily be turned away, or, at any rate, reduced to an inconsiderable quantity. These words of the *Fiji* cannot be too strongly endorsed. Japan's worst enemies are the parasites who fatten upon the foreign tourist.

MR. HOMER LEA.

Mr. Homer Lea, Adviser to Doctor Sun Yat-sen, has arrived at Kobe *en route* for the United States. His health is said to be greatly broken, but there are hopes that rest and his native air will restore him. He did not land at Kobe, nor is it expected that he will go ashore anywhere *en route*. Interviewed by newspaper representatives, he is quoted as having said that Sun Yat-sen is a man without any personal ambition, and that his ideal of a Chinese Republic having now been achieved, his desire is to retire from political life. Mr. Lea also explains that the office to which Field Marshal Hwang has been appointed is practically that of warden of the nine Yangtze provinces. His duty is to preserve public peace and good order through that extensive district. It is scarcely necessary to add that Mr. Homer Lea endorsed the universal opinion as to finance being China's weak point. If she can obtain foreign money on reasonable terms, her position will be at once secured.

SUCHOW AND SHANGHAI.

A telegram says that in response to demands for compensation to foreigners who suffered in the recent military outbreak at Suchow, the Chinese local authorities have declined to recognize any responsibility in the case of foreigners who were residing outside the settlement. This answer is reported to have caused consternation at Shanghai among persons whose residential status thus disqualifies them for protection in case of riot and for recompense in case of injury. But of course, even if the validity of the Chinese protest be admitted, the duty of the local authorities to preserve public peace and good order throughout the whole region under their jurisdiction remains unquestionable.

THE LOANS.

Reuter's intelligence about Russia having definitely agreed to join the Syndicate of China's creditors seems to confirm the important news previously circulated that Chinese finances are to be placed under a board of foreign supervisors. President Yuan seems to be bowing to the inevitable in this matter. He is said to have instructed the various Governors-General throughout the country to place no obstacle in the path of such supervision, and to instruct the people in their several administrative districts to abstain from any demonstrations of impatience or resentment. As for the Central Government, rumour has it that President Yuan has decided to appoint foreign advisers; namely, a German subject for military matters; a French citizen for domestic affairs and a British subject for jurisprudence and finance. If this programme can be carried out without exciting strong opposition among the people, China's future will look much brighter.

Meanwhile confused rumours continue to be circulated about independent loans contracted with Belgian and American capitalists, but the telegrams on this subject are contradictory. Whatever interludes of the sort may occur, we can be tolerably certain how the situation will end.

The public has been awaiting with much curiosity the sequel of the representation said to have been made by the Foreign Corps Diplomatique in Peking through the mouth of the British Representative in the sense that the creditor Powers will require to have Chinese finances placed under their supervision. But as yet we are unable to report any definite reply from the Chinese side. The telegrams are most contradictory. One says that President Yuan declined to entertain the idea of supervision, and protested against investing the loan with any political features whatever. Another, from an equally trustworthy source, alleges that Yuan expressed his readiness to carry out the programme of foreign supervision within limits, and frankly acknowledged the pressing necessity under which China labours in the matter of financial aid from the foreign Powers. As between the two versions, the latter seems to us much the more probable, but in an affair of such importance conjecture cannot be admitted. At any rate, it is pretty plain that Tang Shao-i's financial negotiations have not the complete approval of his Chief.

Another telegram represents Vice-President Li as engaged in negotiating an independent loan of 25 million *taels* for the purpose of rebuilding Hankow and restoring its commercial facilities. British and German financiers are said to be showing willingness to entertain this project, and Li is reported to be choosing between the terms they offer.

The representatives of the Four-Powers Syndicate are said to be dissatisfied with Yuan's reply to their remonstrance about the Belgian Loan. Yuan's answer was in effect that both sides laboured under misapprehensions, and that the matter would be straightened up on Tang's return to Peking which was expected to take place by the 18th instant. The Syndicate insisted, however, that it must receive a distinct pledge that so long as China remained in debt to the Powers be-

hind the Syndicate, no step would be taken by the Chinese Government to borrow money from other sources. It is alleged that Yuan has given this pledge, but the assertion needs confirmation. Meanwhile, political parties, which are in process of formation in Nanking and Peking, seem to have become cognizant of the fact that if seven or eight foreign States are going to combine for the purpose of lending China an immense sum of money, they will assuredly insist upon securing themselves by foreign supervision of Chinese finances. The vernacular newspaper are beginning to speak in a vehemently hostile strain against this procedure, and President Yuan is reported to have appealed to Sir John Jordan for assistance. It is impossible to see, however, how Sir John Jordan or any other statesman can induce foreign nations to place a great sum of money at China's disposal without proper safeguards. With all the best will in the world towards China no one can shut his eyes to the fact that the Republican Government is not yet firmly seated in the places of Power, and that debts contracted by it might at any moment be menaced by repudiation.

OLD TIMES.

Certain Tokyo newspapers are speaking in mysterious tones of a want of due respect towards the Throne shown by some person in a responsible position. The Departments for Home Affairs and Education are connected with the incident, but as to its exact nature silence is preserved. The Japanese code of etiquette in these matters is still permeated with the atmosphere of old times. Quite recently Mr. Yamakawa, President of the Kyushu University, was very severely censured in some quarters for criticising the action of the station-master on the Kyushu Railway, who committed suicide by way of apology for inconvenience caused to the Emperor by the derailing of a train during the autumn manoeuvres of last year. Mr. Yamakawa condemned recourse to suicide in such cases, and said that there were other and better ways of displaying patriotism. Something of a similar nature, *mutatis mutandis*, appears to have recently occurred in Tokyo, but as to the details we are entirely in the dark, all explicit reference being carefully avoided. There is some impression that the story has been got up in connexion with the approaching general elections, but altogether it is very mysterious.

PENHSIHU.

The Okura Company's enterprises in the Penhsihu district seem to be progressing steadily in spite of the disturbances elsewhere in China. The working of a coal-mine was recently interrupted by flooding, but the water has been pumped out, and work was resumed some days ago. As for the iron-mine which has been discovered at a distance of some 26 miles from the coal deposits, Tokyo journals state that the Okura Company will put up one-half of the projected capital of 2 million *yen*, as the Chinese share-holders are not in a position to furnish any money at present. If these two mines fulfil the expectation of their exploiters, they may prove a very important factor in Far Eastern development.

JAPAN AND ENGLAND.

In connexion with the departure of Baron Kato who leaves Tokyo on the 20th instant to resume his duties as Japanese Ambassador to England, the *Fiji Shimpō* has a powerful article on the subject of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. It notes that there have been of late in both countries persons who queried the utility of the Alliance and even publicists who denied its expediency. But the *Fiji* dismisses these objectors as unworthy of serious consideration. It declares, in effect, that Japan could never have taken the field against Russia or subsequently annexed Korea had not the Alliance been in active existence. In fact the Alliance has had an immense influence on the course of events in the Far East during the past ten years, and the Japanese people must frankly admit that the principal benefit of that influence has fallen to their share. For a moment some doubts were suggested to a few minds in consequence of the exclusion of the United States of America from the countries against which the Alliance had potential force. But the *Fiji* declares that the Japanese nation recognizes England and America to be natural allies, so that the latter is constructively included in any alliance which the mother country makes. It never could have been supposed that England would fight against America, and any such calamity is almost equally inconceivable where America and Japan are concerned. Therefore, the exclusion of America from the possible foes of England and Japan meant merely that public expression was given to a naturally established fact. For the rest, the prime purpose of the Alliance is to preserve peace in the Orient, and it operates incessantly to achieve that purpose. The processes of its operation may not be visible at first sight; any more than people in every-day life recognize that their feet and hands are the instruments with which they achieve their objects. But the Alliance is just as necessary for the maintenance of peace as are the members of the body for performing its functions. The *Fiji* looks to Baron Kato to draw closer the ties of the Alliance by his services at the Embassy in London. His countrymen have full confidence in his great abilities.

COUNT OKUMA ON THE SITUATION

We observe that Count Okuma, in an interview granted to a *Hochi Shimbun* representative, takes the view frequently advanced in these columns, namely, that the outcome of the present commotion in China will be the economic control of the country by foreign Powers. The Count says that there is a good deal of talk among Chinese politicians about republics, monarchies and so forth, but it is for the most part superficial. In the eyes of the individual Chinaman, patriotism, in the true sense of the term, does not occupy a prominent position, and while theories are discussed, facts are ignored. Foreign capitalists have already put their hands so deeply into their pockets at China's behest that they will not consent to leave the future to chance; especially as it will be inevitable that they should furnish additional funds to secure those already provided. There can be but one outcome of such a situation. The commotion began in a Rights-Recovery agitation and it will end in a Rights-Surrendering necessity.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

It is said that the Unionists have only nineteen thorough-paced supporters in the House of Peers, and that they are making strenuous efforts to alter that inconvenient state of affairs. An opportunity seemed to offer in connexion with the bill introduced by the Government last session for creating Small Electorates. Mr. Kamada, President of the Keio Gijiku and leader of the coterie calling themselves the "Thursday Club" in the Upper Chamber, spoke in favour of the bill, and obtained the support of the members of his faction. This event appears to have been regarded as a favourable opportunity for bringing the "Thursday Club" into the Unionist camp, but it is said that no considerable success has attended his effort, Mr. Kamada's support having been extended to the Government's measure solely on its intrinsic merits and without any reference to its political bearings. Our readers will remember, however, that optimistic forecasts of the relations between the two Chambers were published recently in Tokyo, so that this matter of the electorate bill need not be taken too seriously.

Nevertheless, another analysis of the political situation is distinctly unfavourable to the stability of the present Cabinet. The analysts in this case declare that the *Seiyu-kai* Ministry came into power in consequence of an entente between Prince Katsura and Mr. Hara Kei, by which agreement the Unionists were pledged to follow the footsteps of the Bureaucrats. From this compact a marked departure was made when the House of Peers rejected the Small-Electorate Bill, and a section of the Unionists, under the leadership of Mr. Okazaki Kunisuke, are now said to be clamouring for a thorough differentiation of the *Seiyu-kai* and the *Kwanryo-ha* (Bureaucrats). Mr. Okazaki Kunisuke occupies in the Unionist Party a position somewhat similar to that held by Mr. Inukai Ki in the Popular Party. That is to say, both are vehement advocates of a radical policy towards the Bureaucracy and towards the introduction of genuine party Cabinets. The recrudescence of these strong views on the eve of the general elections is decidedly inconvenient, especially as certain leading statesmen in the conservative Party are said to have taken the field in opposition to the *Seiyu-kai*.

But any weakness caused in the ranks of the Unionists by such factors is as nothing compared with the dissensions that are said to prevail in the Popular Party. Mr. Inukai Ki, the leader of that Party, true to the unswerving fidelity that has marked his whole political career, wishes to go to the polls in frank advocacy of what is considered the consummation of constitutional government, namely, party Cabinets. On the other hand, Mr. Oishi Masami, who has a large following in the same party, and whose history exhibits a marked tendency towards bureaucratic systems, is said to be working along lines diametrically opposed to those taken by Mr. Inukai; and thus the Popular Party will go to the polls lacking the chief element of strength, namely, union. It is rumoured indeed, that the fundamental question of obtaining funds is proving very difficult of solution.

As for the Central Party, its position is little short of desperate. No one seems

disposed to provide it with funds, and the attitude of the public towards its representatives is distinctly cold.

GENERAL COUNT TERAUCHI.

In the *Independent* of the last week of February we find an interesting sketch of Governor-General Terauchi from the pen of the Reverend J. G. Gale. The New York periodical prefaces Dr. Gale's essay by the following remarks:—

"In view of the attempted assassination of Count Terauchi by some dissatisfied Koreans and the subsequent arrest of many charged with the conspiracy, including over 100 Christians, there have been published in this country (America) sensational charges that the Japanese Government in Korea is persecuting the Christians. Though Korea is still under military rule, which is always more drastic than civil rule, the missionaries, almost without exception, favour the Japanese control with its stable and incorrupt government, and introduction of enlightened reforms. The author of the following article is one of the most prominent missionaries in Korea and the Far East and his views regarding the personality of the man who succeeded Prince Im in the difficult task of governing an alien people will be read with interest in this country."

[The last sentence is an error of the *Independent*. Gen. Terauchi succeeded Viscount Sone; not Prince Im. Ed.—J.D.M.]

Dr. Gale writes as follows of General Count Terauchi:—

His face is one not to be forgotten. There are in it certain suggestions that call up the Orient of the story book, the Willow Pattern, Saladin with his curved sabre and the Mogul world of the Taj Mahal. A heavy built, somewhat ponderous man is he, with a disabled right arm, shot through in the Saigo rebellion days, so that he alone, and by special permit, salutes His Imperial Majesty with the left hand. Count Terauchi is fifty-nine years of age, a silent, almost forbidding personality, but kind underneath, and capable to a degree of dealing quietly with every task on hand. He has had a large place in guiding his country through its myriad decades of change during the past forty years. He was born in Choshiu, just over the way, and Koreans like to think that in the early days of the world his fore-fathers and theirs may have been brothers on each side of the whirling waters of Tsushima. He was clansman of some mighty lord of West Japan before the days of the modern era. When thirty years of age he went to France to finish his studies and to fix those foundation principles that were to guide him in the trying days to come. It is not necessary here to tell of all the high offices that he has held, or to enumerate the honours and decorations that have been showered upon him—Stars of the Golden Kite and of the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun. At the hands of Edward, King of England too, he was made a member of the Grand Cross of the Bath (G. C. B.). These decorations pale, however, before the actualities of life through which he has passed. He was Minister of War during the momentous campaign with Russia. On his heavy, somewhat bowed shoulders, rested the burden of the day. As his office excelled in its choice of men and means, so could the campaign be expected to go. February 8, 1904, marked the opening of Japan's fight for her life. Win it and she would lead the East; lose it and she would be but a myth and a tale of the past, like the ghosts of the ronins that used to be.

His Majesty the Emperor has among his Imperial qualities this, that he knows how to choose great and gifted men. Terauchi has for years been one of his special choice, and he it was to whom he entrusted the Empire's chance in the day of her fiery ordeal. To Togo goes rightly all honour, for he had the fleet in hand that won; and to Nogi likewise, who hammered his way through the impregnabilities of Port Arthur. These great warriors were advertised by Reuter and Press despatches, but who ever heard specially of Terauchi? He was Minister of War and from his office went forth decisions and plans that touched nearly a million of men and made victory possible. He had all the burden without the romance, the exhilaration, the desperation, that goes with the line of battle. The writer recalls one wild winter night, the wind blowing off the Yellow Sea as only a February wind can blow. Along all the lines of jetty were piles of firewood, dashed every few minutes with a bucket of kerosene, flaring up their lights into mid air till the whole arena of the harbour came into view. In

its lurid flare, horses, men, pontoons, guns, commissary supplies and what not were being landed, quietly, orderly, rapidly, every man seeming to know just where his post and duty lay, planned and arranged by the office over which presided this expert in the science of war. This showed skill and meant success and skill marked every feature of the army's movements. But think of Terauchi when the *Flatsuse* went down off Port Arthur, a prize battleship, 15,000 tons, seven hundred men and more on board, with those sorely needed twelve inch guns; and worse still, when the loss was wired home to him of the transports that had been sent off without convoy! The way seemed clear, and the move a secret one, and yet the Russian cruisers suddenly appeared and Japan (*sic*) that would not surrender went down. There had been a leak somewhere in the sources of information. Some one had spied and the unpleasant task of locating the spy fell to Terauchi. One fair morning on the seacoast at Dzushi, near the quiet Buddha of Kamakura, a posse of soldiers was seen to be encircling a French officer's house. The officer was arrested by order of the Minister of War, tried, sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary, but afterward pardoned and sent home. This was a part of the burden, added to the loss of those heavy siege guns that went down with the transports. Think of him when the news came that thousands had fallen without any visible effect on Port Arthur; or again, when the sinews of war ran low and monster loans had to be effected. But to-day these are forgotten and no one sees any trace of resentment. The Governor is the genial host toward all good friends, France and Russia included. His manner of entertainment is perfect according to modern day official functions, touched off by delicate hints and suggestions of old Japan. Korea has prospered and improved, the daisy interests him, and light *plaisanterie* finds its place in his world of sociability. He came to Chosen (Korea) as a soldier-Governor. Many feared. He was a god of war and would have his way by cold steel with no heart at back of it—so said rumour. But far from it; he has been Korea's best friend and benefactor; has brought rest and quiet to the country. His hand has the iron grip when it closes, but it can deal lightly, too, with a kind and gentle touch. He is the ideal Governor for a day like this—a good manner of governor for all lands under his administration. To those who wish well for this central portion of the Far East it is a matter of gratitude that Terauchi still holds the post of Governor, even after his resignation from the office of Minister of War. We Westerners who live here are fortunate in having for chief magistrate a man so wise, so greatly experienced and so kindly disposed to every one. May we long enjoy his rule.

THE SUFFRAGETTES IN CHINA.

Occidentals, almost without exception, who have hitherto discussed Chinese manners and customs have agreed in ascribing to the Chinese woman a particularly retiring and modest disposition. In her own household a Chinese lady reigns supreme, but in public she has always been particularly self-effacing. It is very curious, therefore, to find that numbers of these Chinese women are already agitating for female suffrage, and are determined that this question shall occupy a leading place among the problems to be discussed by the first Chinese Parliament. Quite a formidable party seems to be formed in Peking to agitate in favour of the innovation, and among its leading members are said to be Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Mr. Wu Ting-fang and Mr. Tang Shao-i. The 10th instant saw the first issue of a journal to promote the cause, and a female law school has already been established. It will be remembered that the cause of republicanism received stalwart support at Nanking from a battalion of Amazons who showed themselves intrepid in the presence of danger and prepared to endure privations. These women are doubtless heart and soul with their Peking sisters in advocating female suffrage, and altogether it may very well happen that China, until yesterday the most conservative of nations, will show herself to-day the most radical in one important respect.

YOKOHAMA'S FUTURE

The *Fiji Shimpō* has a pessimistic article about the future of Yokohama. It thinks that the settlement is gradually and steadily declining. Positive proof of such a view is not easy to obtain, and the *Fiji* places in the forefront of its argument a novel fact, namely, the comparative quantity of refuse cleared away annually by boats under the auspices of the Sanitary committee. The figures for the last five years are as follow:—

Year.	Cubic Feet of Refuse.
1907	24,928
1908	25,595
1909	25,432
1910	23,133
1911	20,004

The diminution shown by the above figures may be due in part to increased frugality on the part of the inhabitants, but increased frugality is only another evidence of diminishing prosperity. Turning to the statistics of buildings, it appears that the total number of houses in Yokohama (we speak of course of the Japanese town as well as the foreign settlement) is 87,883, and the number of houses seeking tenants is 5,000, or approximately 6 per cent. On the other hand, about eight new buildings daily are finished, but the writer in the *Fiji Shimpō* attributes this, not to a growing demand for houses, but to the fact that cheap suburban sites have become utilizable owing to the building of trams. What is happening, according to this authority, is, not that the volume of business is diminishing, but that it is finding new centres in Tokyo and Shinjuku. Several of the great houses of Yokohama have either moved to the metropolis or have established branches there, to which branches the greater part of the business is steadily gravitating. We are inclined to think that the wish of this writer is father to his thought, but on the other hand, it is scarcely deniable that Yokohama has ceased to grow with anything like its former vigour. Perhaps that was inevitable. Railways have opened up other centres of commerce, and the competition of the metropolis has been steadily increasing during recent years. But that Yokohama retains much vitality cannot be denied. It must long remain the great centre of foreign commercial capital employed in Japan, and also the centre of distribution for foreign goods.

MAGDALENA BAY.

The San Francisco correspondent of the *Asahi Shimbun* wires that the source of the Magdalena-Bay commotion has been laid bare. It appears that Mr. Hearst possesses property in Mexico to the extent of nearly a million and a half acres, and that whereas landed estate having no greater intrinsic value commands the price of about 100 dollars in Texas, not more than 3 to 5 dollars can be obtained in Mexico. Mr. Hearst and several of his Wall street friends were inspired by the idea that if the United States Government could be induced to take possession of this Mexican estate, the market price would immediately rise, and accordingly the Hearst newspapers received the word of command to write a romance about Japanese designs in Mexico. Of course we do not vouch for the truth of this analysis, but it has sufficient interest to be worth publishing.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Marquis Saionji, in his capacity as leader of the *Seiyūkai* (Unionist), has issued a manifesto, the gist of which is that in consideration of the exceedingly onerous duties devolving upon members of the Diet at present in connexion with problems of foreign policy and domestic political reform, the greatest care must be exercised in selecting capable men. The Marquis further dwells upon the fact that competitive dissension among members of the same party is suicidal. The constituencies have to remember that they are fighting for principles, not for persons, and that union is strength. That, in a very few words, is what the Marquis has to tell his followers, and most excellent advice it is. In fact, on all occasions, Marquis Saionji has shown himself an ideal political leader.

Japanese newspapers express great satisfaction at the fact that it has been decided to admit two inhabitants of Ryūkyū as representatives of those islands in the next session of the Imperial Diet. Forty years have elapsed since the Meiji Government definitely included the Ryūkyū Archipelago in the Japanese Empire, but now for the first time the islands are to be enfranchised. Apparently there will be no competition among the candidates for election, as two have been already selected, namely, Mr. Takamine, President of the Local Assembly, and Mr. Kishimoto, an official of the prefecture. For these a unanimous vote will be recorded. The two men are graduates of the Keio Gijuku, and may be said to have received their education entirely in Japan. They have been enrolled among the members of the Unionist Party through the influence of Mr. Haseba, Minister of State for Education.

FRANCE AND JAPAN.

The *Chūō Shimbun*, which is recognized as the newspaper organ of the Unionist Party, writes in very warm terms of the friendship of France towards Japan. It notes that in the days immediately preceding and following the Meiji Restoration, France rendered signal service to this country, and enjoyed corresponding influence. Circumstances subsequently interrupted these relations in a slight degree, but France has been on the best possible terms with Japan for some years past, and French friendship seems to be now assuming a concrete form by the creation of a Franco-Japanese bank. The *Chūō* does not absolutely state in so many words that it advocates a Franco-Japanese alliance. But it attributes great success in preserving the peace of the Occident to the alliances between England, France and Russia, and it recalls the excellent terms upon which Japan and Russia now are, as well as the fact that Japan is England's Ally. In these circumstances a closer entente between France and Japan is evidently regarded by the *Chūō* as constituting an occasion for still more concrete ties of friendship between Japan and the Triple Union in Europe.

CHINHAI BAY.

The progress made by the Japanese settlement at Chinhai-wan seems to be something phenomenal. When the land was originally parcelled out, it was obtainable from the

Government at the comparatively low rate of 5 *sen* per *tsubo* monthly, but the price now obtainable by those who are fortunate enough to have rented the land at that rate is said to be 100 *yen* for the title of ownership, which means at least 6 *yen* a *tsubo* per mensem. The Japanese population has grown until it now exceeds that of Seoul, and it has become necessary to add the coasts of Saitō Bay and four other adjacent stretches of water. These newly added lands are said to be particularly choice sites and tenders are invited for them. The tenders may be put in from the 17th instant at the Tokyo office of the Chinhai Gakko Kumiai at No. 17 Hirakawacho, Sanchome Kojimachi, Tokyo. The telephone number is Bancho 555. Maps and all further particulars may be obtained on application at the above address. This story reads like one of the romances which have marked Japan's career since the beginning of the Meiji era. Pigs, rabbits, roses, orchids and minor objects have absorbed the public minds from time to time, and now Chinhai-wan land has to be added to the list.

MONGOLIA.

The Mongolians are said to be much incensed by President Yuan's refusal to endorse their programme of independence, while maintaining friendly relations with their neighbours. They have decided, it is said, to take up arms against China and will be joined by the inhabitants of Ili and Sinkiang. All this may be greatly exaggerated, but it must at any rate be assumed that the birth of the Chinese Republic is menaced by many dangers.

The Mongolian statesmen persist in their resolution to throw off China's yoke, and to assert their independence under the protection of Russia. President Yuan has instructed Governor-General Chao of Mukden to lose no time in despatching the Head of the Manchurian Bureau of Foreign Affairs to negotiate with the leaders of this movement. Of course it is in the last degree improbable that China will take up arms for the purpose of enforcing her dominion over Mongolia. She has quite enough to do at home for several years to come without attempting to assert her authority beyond her own borders.

FOREIGN NAVY IN CHINESE WATERS.

Great Britain, France and Russia are said to have issued orders for the withdrawal of all their war-ships which had been specially distributed in Chinese waters for the protection of foreign life and property during the recent insurrection. Nothing is definitely stated as to the number of vessels thus employed, but it was never very large. Japan, on the other hand, has no less than fifteen cruisers or gun-boats and eight destroyers posted at various important points in Chinese waters. This considerable squadron is to remain at the posts where it has hitherto been distributed, and apparently no instructions for its withdrawal are likely to be made in the near future. We may add that these vessels of war are distributed as follows, namely:—8 in the Gulf of Pechili at the mouth of the Peiho river; 6 in Southern China, that is to say, in the waters of Canton, Swatow Fuchow and Amoy; and 9 in the Yangtze River.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

OPENING OF OVERLAND ROUTES.

Russia's tactful diplomacy in participating in the Four Powers' loan conditional on the reservation of her special rights and interests in Manchuria, Mongolia, and the western part of China has won the admiration of the world. The latest telegram reports that the complicated Russo-Chinese Overland Commercial treaty has at last been concluded, whereby not only has Russia secured free trade right in Mongolia, but also the right of free communication without resorting to prescribed routes. The Russo-Chinese commercial treaty dates back to the early years of the Manchu dynasty, but has later been repeatedly revised, until the Ili treaty of 1881. The Ili treaty was concluded at a time when China's influence was at the lowest point, and is, therefore, unfavourable to China in many respects. After the late Russo-Japanese war, public opinion was aroused as to the necessity of a revision of the treaty, which matured last year, when China seized the opportunity of advancing to Russia proposals for treaty revision. Russia showed great reluctance in abandoning the rights and interests which it had taken her thirty years to build up in Mongolia and Hsingking, and a hitch resulted in the negotiations. Matters looked grave, when the revolution broke out in China, and the negotiations had to be suspended. With the renewal of the negotiations, Russia has at last acquired freedom of trade and communications. Article 12 of the Overland Commerce treaty of 1881 stipulates that Russian subjects may engage in free trade in the Mongolian districts where Chinese officials are stationed, and also in Ili, Talpakatai, Kashgar, Ulmuti (?) and other towns and places located between the southern and northern slopes of the Tien Shan range and the Great Wall. The provisions, however, were open to revision when the future development of trade necessitated the formulation of a Customs tariff. Despite this explicit stipulation China repeatedly threw obstacles in the way of Russian trade in Mongolia and Hsingking and established the Tea Trade Boards in Ili and Talpakatai, granting to the Boards a monopoly of the tea trade in Hsingking and vetoing the sale of tea by the Russians in that territory. Further, China imposed in Manchuli a duty of 3.6 per cent. on the goods of Russian merchants trading in Eastern Mongolia and importing merchandise *via* Manchuli and Hailar by the Eastern Chinese railway, in addition to another impost of 3.6 per cent. duty in Hailar. Furthermore China levied a duty of 3.6 per cent. on exports, in addition to another impost of 3.6 per cent. levied in Manchuli. Some other public imposts were also secretly levied in Mongolia and Hsingking on Russian trade. This naturally excited resentment on the part of the Russian traders, until the Russian Government lodged with China a strong protest early last year accusing her of breach of treaty, and finally compelled her to yield. This event is still fresh in the public memory. A belief then obtained that China's proposal for the imposition of Customs duties on the ground of the Mongolian trade being sufficiently developed to warrant the imposition, would eventually fail. It is therefore not surprising that Russia has

now secured freedom of trade in those regions.

The overland trade routes between Russia and China are defined in the treaty. In regard to the trade in Hsingking and Kansu the route is to traverse Talpakatai, Ili, and Kashgar from the Russian frontier and thence reach Anchow *via* Ulmuti (?), while in regard to trade in Mongolia and Chihli the traffic is either to traverse Urga and Changkiakau from Kiakta and thence to Tientsin *via* Tungchow, or to reach Tientsin *via* Kobdo and Kuiliancheng from Sokok on the Russian frontier. The traders transporting merchandise by some other routes not only forfeit protection, but their merchandise is liable to confiscation. With the development of the Russo-Chinese trade, the Russian merchants began to deviate from the regular routes and enter the interior by any routes they pleased. The construction of the Eastern Chinese railway brought about a complete change in the trade routes. The Kiakta route was abandoned and the Manchuli-Hailar route took its place. Further improvement of the means of communication will certainly bring about further changes, and therefore the Russian Government has persisted in freedom of trade routes. China opposed this, but was compelled to yield. Now that Russia has obtained official recognition of her predominant position in Manchuria, Mongolia and the Western part of China, she is in a position to exercise free control over the vast regions of North Manchuria, Mongolia, Hsingking and Kansu.

SUBMARINE CABLES TO CHINA.

THE GREAT NORTHERN'S MONOPOLY.

Recurring to the monopoly by the Great Northern Telegraph Company of the submarine cables to the Asiatic continent, the *Tokyo Asahi* says that in consequence of the monopoly, high telegraph charges are imposed, to the detriment of commercial interests and the development of civilization. The time is therefore impatiently awaited when the existing contract expires, which is in December next. The monopoly will then become extinct as far as this country is concerned and Japan will be at liberty to lay cables to the islands in the South Seas, and thus lower the telegraph charges for the transmission of cable messages to those islands. The Company will, nevertheless, continue to hold a monopoly for China for another twenty years, and accordingly, though Japan may lay cables to the coast of Asia, she will not be able to make its terminus touch on Chinese soil. Thus many years must elapse before Japan will be able to lay cables to connect with China, although no countries in the Far East have such frequent need of telegraphic communication as Japan and China. If Japan has to wait another two decades before she can lay submarine cables between Japan and China, the expiration of the period of contract in December will be meaningless. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government authorities will enter into negotiations with the Great Northern Telegraph Company in order to make the expiration of the contract a little more effective. When that Company first laid submarine cables in Far Eastern waters, countries in this part of the world were yet in their infancy, and the Company may have found it difficult to run the enterprise on a paying basis. It might, therefore, rightly claim a monopoly for many years.

The situation in the Far East has undergone a radical change since that time, and the increased demand for submarine cables has brought about an increased revenue to the Company, which has undoubtedly reaped an unexpected profit. Probably a profit was obtained during the time of the late Russo-Japanese war which was much larger than the capital invested in the construction of the cables. It is confidently believed that the Japanese Government can succeed in obtaining a concession of the right of laying cables between Japan and Shanghai if they properly approach the Great Northern Telegraph Company, but if the Company persistently refuse the concession, the Government authorities must construct submarine cables to the Chinese coast for the exclusive use of Japanese telegrams, acting on the precedent existing at Chefoo. Needless to say, Chefoo is a part of the Chinese dominions, but Japan has laid a submarine cable between Dairen and Chefoo for the transmission of Japanese telegrams, which is recognised by the Great Northern Telegraph Company. As this submarine cable is connected with the cables between Dairen and Nagasaki, it practically serves for the transmission of Japanese telegrams between Japan and Chefoo. If this precedent is acted upon, the Great Northern Telegraph Company will possibly raise no objection to the construction of submarine cables direct to Shanghai for the exclusive transmission of Japanese telegrams. Although there will be considerable inconvenience if the cables be restricted to the transmission of Japanese telegrams, yet it is possible to substantially lower the telegraph charges for the transmission of messages between Japan and China. In order to ensure a greater effect, wireless telegraphy might be installed between Nagasaki and Shanghai. This would of course entail some loss to the Government, but it would prove effective in breaking down the monopoly. The high telegraph rates now charged by the foreign Company seriously interfere with the advancement of Japan.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

At the second sitting of the Gubernatorial Conference held on the 10th instant the Home Office issued the following instruction concerning religion:—

The Government has no doubt that due attention is paid by those present in directing the religious bodies to devote their energy to the culture of the nation, to which the Government drew their attention on the eve of the Gubernatorial conference convoked last year. The Government recently convened a religious conference and called upon the representatives of Shintō, Buddhist and Christian sects to devote their energies to the acceleration of a healthy development of the spiritual world and the improvement of the social conditions.

It can not be gainsaid that in giving guidance to the popular mind and in renovating the moral discipline much depends on the substantial assistance received from established religions. It is desirable therefore that measures should be adopted to induce those engaged in the propagation of religious teaching to devote their best energies to this course, in order that they may contribute to the development of the national destiny.

THE FRANCO JAPANESE BANK.

HISTORY OF THE PROPOSAL.

The scheme for the foundation of the Franco-Japanese Bank dates back to the time when Mr. Inoue Tatsukuro, a director of the Industrial Bank, when about to leave London for home towards the end of March 1911, was approached through Mr. Mizumachi, Financial Commissioner in London, by Baron Ginsberg, the Paris agent for the Industrial Bank, with proposals for the establishment of a bank jointly by French and Japanese capitalists, for which he desired full consideration. Prior to this, after the late Russo-Japanese War, many French capitalists appeared who desired to invest this money in Japan, and attempts were made by Japanese businessmen to enter into relations with them. The attempts repeatedly ended in failure owing to a lack of mutual knowledge and understanding. One French capitalist later made an attempt to enlist French capital in Japan through the medium of the Mitsui Ginko, but before the scheme matured, Baron Ginsberg had advanced the proposal which paved the way for the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank. Mr. Inoue returned home in April last year and laid the scheme before Dr. Soyeda, President of the Industrial Bank, who consulted with influential parties interested in Japan's finance. Baron Ginsberg proposed that the Bank should be organized under the French law, and besides undertaking ordinary banking business, should be vested with power to issue bills and become the promoter of various enterprises, to make it the medium for the introduction of European, especially French capital, to the Japanese market. The capital was fixed at about 25 million francs, subject to increase or decrease in future, the ratio of subscription being left to arrangement. The Bank was to have many influential banks for shareholders, and was to be backed by the Société Générale, the Banque Française, the Banque de Paris and several other influential Banks.

Thus the proposal, therefore, does not come from so-called French capitalists, but from an influential financial body and is therefore, reliable. In view of the need of the introduction of foreign capital having of late repeatedly occurred, and the trouble experienced by Japan in effecting it, no opposition has been raised to the creation of a medium which would facilitate its introduction. The Ministerial changes and some other circumstances caused a delay in the progress of the negotiations, but a definite answer was given last autumn in favour of the scheme, which received the support of Marquis Inoue, Baron Takahashi and several influential bankers. Official negotiations were then opened as to the conditions and other details, some amendments being made to the original scheme. The parties came to a final agreement last month and the details will be arranged by Dr. Soyeda, who is leaving for Paris on the 20th instant.

The publication of the details will be reserved until after Dr. Soyeda's arrival in Paris, but the Industrial Bank, the Specie Bank, the Mitsui Ginko, the Mitsui Bisho Ginko, and the Daiichi Ginko will take part in the organization. Japanese capitalists will accept 40 per cent. of the capital of 10 million yen, and of this allotment the Industrial Bank will accept two million yen, the other four banks subscribing half a million yen each. The president of the Tokyo branch

will be elected from amongst the directors of the Industrial Bank.

The *Nichi Nichi*, from which we quote the above, adds that the Franco-Japanese Bank differs from the Anglo-Japanese Bank or the Anglo-Japanese syndicate, which exist in name only, and will prove beneficial in the introduction of cheap European capital through France. It remains doubtful, however, whether it will have such a great effect as is generally expected by the public. Frenchmen, like Osaka merchants, are very shrewd in monetary matters, and are unlike Englishmen, who resemble Tokyo men in their character. It is undesirable to have French men for business partners, but we may feel assured that everything will go on all right so long as the authorities of the Industrial Bank, who are well versed in French affairs, have the management of the bank. It must, however, not be expected that the formation of the Bank will have any immediate effect on the money market. It also remains open to doubt whether it is possible to raise foreign loans on better terms than those heretofore obtained, though it may prove a convenient medium. As this is the first bank jointly undertaken by home and foreign capitalists, the authorities of the Industrial Bank seem to have carefully studied all the details to ensure the success of the scheme.

MR. HOMER LEA.

Mr. Homer Lea, advisor to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, arrived at Kobe on the 15th instant by the *Shunyo Maru*, en route to the United States. He did not land owing to illness. When interviewed by a Press representative, Mr. Lea stated that he was an old friend of Dr. Sun, whom he accompanied to Nanking from London at the end of last year. He was compelled to return home owing to illness which he contracted in the early part of March. Dr. Sun had no political ambition, and now that he had succeeded in realizing his ideal republican polity in China he was evidently desirous of starting on an American tour. As the present condition of China required his presence, however, his departure for the United States would be delayed by about six months. When Mr. Lea left Shanghai, Dr. Sun was staying there, but he was to proceed to Wuchang before his retirement to his native province. Hwang Hsing was left in charge of State affairs in Nanking, in order to effect the unification of the nine southern provinces. Viewed from the political standpoint, the Chinese Republican Government was almost perfect, but its weakness lay on the financial side. It was, however, believed that the Four Powers' loan would be brought to a successful conclusion in the near future, when the new Government would be able to unite Manchuria, Mongolia and Tibet, and obtain the official recognition of the various foreign Powers. There were over ten thousand soldiers in Nanking, but as a small number of them were being disbanded daily, the disbandment of the whole army would be effected at no distant date. A decade ago he visited Japan and was charmed with its beautiful scenery, and he much regretted that he could not land and enjoy the scenery now owing to illness. After recuperating his health in California, however, he intended to come over to meet Mr. Inukai and others whom he had met in Nanking, and to spend some months in Japan.

CHINESE LOANS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the dispute between the Four Powers' Syndicate and the Belgian Syndicate may be considered as solved in the following manner.

Inasmuch as eight million taels out of the one million sterling Belgian loan contracted by Yuan Shih-kai's Government have already been paid, and the balance is to be paid during this month, the Four Powers' Syndicate recognize it as inevitable; but all other loans are to be vetoed as contraventions of Article 7 of the agreement existing between the Four Powers' Syndicate and Yuan Shih-kai's Government concerning the right of priority of the Syndicate. The hypothecation of the Peking-Changkiakau railway for the Belgian loan is to be cancelled. Yuan Shih-kai's Government will raise no objection to the participation of Russia and Japan in the Four Powers' loan and the sum already advanced to China will be apportioned to the two countries in equal proportions. On the solution of the problem the Syndicate will make advances to China in monthly instalments of 6,400,000 taels for April, May or June. The three months' instalments will be paid in a lump sum in May, if necessary, and in return, Yuan Shih-kai's Government will at once issue treasury bills. The new Six Powers' large loan will date from June and the sum of 6,000,000 taels will be paid each month. The Syndicate will reserve to itself the right of supervision over the disbursement of the proceeds of the loan.

The telegram adds that Yuan Shih-kai's Government takes exception to the monopoly by the Six Powers' Syndicate of any loans which China may raise in future and also the supervision over China's finances, the objection being based on public opinion being in opposition to the restricting clauses.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that Yuan Shih-kai's Government has promised the Four Powers' Syndicate that a satisfactory reply shall be given on the 20th instant regarding the Four Powers' loan.

Yuan Shih-kai apprehends that the supervision over China's finances would place a restriction on the free action of his Government, and all the political parties and the Press vehemently oppose such supervision. Yuan has appealed to the British Minister for some modification of this condition. The leaders of the Peking Unionists argue that the Russo-Asiatic Bank is the back-bone of the Belgian Syndicate, which is merely a puppet of Russian diplomacy. Tang Shao-i, who was duped by the Syndicate, has thus endangered the safety of the Chinese Republic, and deserves strong censure. He should relinquish the reins of state. In regard to the Austrian, Italian and Dutch syndicate, which followed on the heels of the Belgian syndicate in advancing claims for participating in the loan, the leaders hold that as the Belgium syndicate is the puppet of Russia, so the Austrian syndicate is the puppet of Germany. China thus runs the risk of being sacrificed to the interests of the various Powers. Yuan Shih-kai explains that the 2,000,000 taels of the Belgian loan newly raised in Shanghai is a temporary loan to meet the urgent needs of the Nanking Government and is by no means a second loan. The loan question will receive a final solution on the return of Tang Shao-i to the capital.

THE INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL.

MINISTER OF FINANCE AT OSAKA.

Speaking at the Osaka Economic Association on the 17th instant, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, said that in consonance with the improvement of affairs both at home and abroad, economic circles had begun to show a gradual advance, and a normal tone also prevailed on the money market, as welcome activity was already discernible in the prosecution of various enterprises, especially in Osaka and the vicinity, where existing businesses had been extended and new enterprises set afoot. This was very satisfactory, as it tended to promote the sources of national prosperity. The civil commotion in China, which has a close relation with Japan's economics, especially with the economic market in Osaka, had not yet wholly ceased. The changes that the revolution had brought in national manners, and the conclusion of the foreign loans would no doubt accelerate the demand for foreign-made articles, but it was still very difficult to form any accurate idea as to the date for complete restoration of peace and order in China.

An unfavourable balance was persistently maintained in Japan's foreign trade. The excess of imports up to the beginning of this month reached a total of 67 million yen, showing an increase of about 20 million yen as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The exports likewise showed a marked increase, but the ratio of increase of imports was greater than that of exports. This phenomenon did not necessarily warrant a pessimistic view as to the future of the foreign trade, as a large portion of the imports consisted of materials necessary for productive industry; but it was by no means a phenomenon to inspire a sense of security.

The radical growth of various enterprises was apt to lead to over-estimation of commercial possibilities. Not many years had elapsed since the Japanese had had a bitter experience as a result of this over-estimation. He was constrained to make this remark, although he was confident that past experience had placed the people on their guard. Any one-sided view as to enterprises must be avoided in order to ensure a healthy development of economics. The new schemes recently made public showed that direct productive enterprises were comparatively few, while indirect productive enterprises predominated. Enterprises of the latter nature were important, but it was more important in a debtor country like Japan to devote greater energy to direct productive enterprises, in order to increase the national production.

When enterprises arose out of a spontaneous increase in capital, due to the development of economic circles, everything went all right, but when enterprises sprang up owing to a sudden increase in capital under special circumstances, they were apt to deviate from the normal path, which rendered the use of the capital less effective. The introduction of foreign capital must, therefore, be kept within due bounds, so that it may be wholly absorbed by the growing enterprises without having any radical effect on the monetary circulation in the home market. A fall in the loan rate due to the inflow of foreign capital gave evidence that the foreign capital was in excess of actual needs, which

always resulted in reckless promotion of enterprises detrimental to the interests of both new and existing undertakings.

The low wages which had heretofore been regarded as advantageous to Japanese industries were gradually rising. This was indeed a serious question to a commercial and industrial city like Osaka. An indiscreet introduction of foreign capital would tend to lower the loan rate and to increase the currency in circulation, which accelerated the increase in the prices of commodities. It might give assumption to a sudden growth of enterprises, but it must necessarily cause a rise in wages and consequently in the cost of production, culminating in industrial depression. The utmost care must therefore be paid to the introduction of foreign capital.

An appreciation of land values always accompanied social development. But if the market value of land be forced up by speculation, this would bring about a corresponding increase in the rents of houses and land, which must also culminate in a rise of wages and the cost of production.

FINANCIAL HELP FROM CHINESE ABROAD.

The financial distress in the provinces in China has now reached a climax, and the military governments find it almost impossible to raise domestic loans. Foreign capitalists are willing to accept loans, but the negotiations have repeatedly ended in failure owing to the so called rights-recovery agitation. The governments have therefore decided, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, to raise loans from Chinese emigrants in the South Sea islands and negotiations are now in progress. Chinese emigrants have a world-wide reputation and those in the South Sea islands are models. From time immemorial the Chinese people have been emigrating from Fukien and Kwantung provinces and settling down in Java, Sumatra, Borneo, the Celebes, Philippines, New Guinea, Bismarck island and other islands in the Southern Archipelago, until they now number about 1,360,000. They are engaged in mining, agriculture, industries and other trade. Their wonderful thrift has enabled them to put by large fortunes, and not a few of them have become millionaires. The remittances sent home by the Chinese abroad annually reach a total of over 70,000,000 taels, of which a large portion comes from those in the South Sea islands. They take a greater interest in their home affairs than their confrères elsewhere, and have established more than twenty chambers of commerce and several large banks to meet the demand for capital at home. In response to calls for contributions to the fund for the construction of the navy and for the relief of sufferers from natural calamities, they came forward quickly.

The military government of Anhui was the first to appeal to them for financial aid. The Government instructed a representative to conclude a loan for 3,300,000 dollars with the president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Java, to which the consent of the Provincial Assembly was obtained. The loan was alleged to be contracted for the construction of the Wu Kwan railway, which starts from Wuhu and reaches Kwantchow in that province, the cost being estimated at 3,000,000 dollars; but in reality the proceeds were appropriated to the use of the military government. The next loan

question refers to the Hanya-Ping Corporation. The proposed joint undertaking of the Corporation's enterprise by Chinese and Japanese capitalists ended in failure owing to the rights-recovery agitation. The Corporation, which lacks working capital, now contemplates raising a loan of 7,000,000 dollars from the Chinese emigrants in the South Sea islands, and Tang Shan-chen, who is nominated as highest adviser to the new Republican Government, is expected to start for the South Sea islands to undertake the negotiations on the loan, which it is believed will come to a successful conclusion. On the outbreak of the revolutionary insurrection the China emigrants in the South Sea islands sympathized with the cause and contributed 4,000,000 taels towards the war fund of the revolutionists in the Yangtze valley, together with 300,000 taels to those in Fukien province. They will most probably accept any loans that the military governments may desire to raise.

CONFERENCE OF JUDICIAL OFFICIALS.

In the course of an address delivered before the Conference of Judicial officials held on the 13th instant, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Justice, pointed out that it was necessary for the officials to bear an impeccable character so as to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. Those present should make themselves models for their subordinates to imitate. They should exercise strict supervision over the probationary judges to see that they are qualified for the dignified posts they are to fill in future. Minute provisions by laws and ordinances governing judicial procedure might impede their free actions in the discharge of their official functions, but he believed there was still room for improvement in legal procedure to methodise and facilitate legal business by discarding formalities. The judicial administration of criminal punishment was a matter of prime importance, the true value of the judgment in criminal cases depending on it. A judicial punishment would serve as a preventive for the committal of criminal offences and render the punishment really effective. Delays in criminal cases inflicted on accused persons and their families unbearable agony, and undue protraction was calculated to defeat the ends of justice. Care should be taken to ensure a speedy dispatch of criminal cases. It was, however, otherwise with civil cases, where considerations of speedy dispatch must not outweigh careful consideration to ensure a satisfactory administration of justice. There are many cases which it is desirable should be left to private settlement between the parties to the suit, especially in non-contentious personal litigation. Endeavours should be made in such cases to persuade the parties to make a private settlement of their dispute. Proper treatment should be accorded to persons applying for registration, since they are generally not well versed in the procedure, and consideration must be shown to win the satisfaction of the parties concerned. Lastly those present should maintain strict impartiality in the coming General Election, so as to leave no shadow of doubt as to the independence of judicial rights. The business must be conducted with fairness and impartiality to ensure the confidence of the general public in the conduct of the judicial authorities.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Speaking at the mass meeting of the Kwansai bankers held at the Osaka Bankers Association Hall on the 16th instant, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, said that in planning the Budget for the 45th fiscal year, the Government had taken care to maintain equilibrium between revenue and expenditure and to harmonize, as far as possible, finance and economics. The Grand Exhibition scheme, the building of a new Parliament House, etc., for which there was no definite financial source, had been suspended. The Budget was, however, framed to meet the requirements for the 45th fiscal year, while the Government fully recognized the necessity of carrying out a financial readjustment and establishing a new financial programme for the future. In the Budget of the next fiscal year the Government proposed to effect a reform of the taxation system in consonance with the readjustment of administration and finance, in order to place the fiscal policy on a firmer basis and help forward the economic development. As those present were aware, Japan owed a heavy debt to foreign countries and required an enormous sum of money for redemption of the principal and payment of the interest. Measures of relief lay in adjusting the trade balance by accelerating the development of the various branches of national industry so as to promote the export trade, while at the same time it was essential to check all causes which necessitated payment of specie, in order to lighten the international burden. For this purpose the Government had decided to adopt the policy of accelerating the development of productive industries by checking as far as possible all public enterprises of a less urgent nature. The Government was also committed to the advisability of raising necessary funds in the domestic market as far as practicable. Thirty million *yen* worth of railway bills were issued in the domestic market in consonance with this policy. The railway bills resembled Exchequer Bills in that they are issued by the discount method and are repurchasable by the Nippon Ginko, but they differed from the latter in that whereas Exchequer Bills had for their object the absorption of capital lying idle in the hands of bankers, the Railway Bills, requiring the investment of capital for a longer period, had for their object the absorption of surplus funds existing in the general economic market. Some weeks ago, the Tokyo Municipality had raised an enormous foreign loan for the payment of the purchase-price of the tramway business. The importation of this large amount of capital had imparted an easy tone to the money market. The Government had also redeemed the outstanding bonds according to the established programme which had brought about the monetary condition witnessed to day. This monetary easiness was welcome, but too sudden changes were apt to bring attendant evils. The judicious absorption and distribution of this idle capital demanded very careful study by the Government and the bankers present. The Kwansai districts had good crops for several years past and the price of rice had also risen considerably. Thus local economic conditions had changed,

and new enterprises were being mooted in Osaka and other districts. The growth of profitable enterprises must always be encouraged, but the utmost care must be exercised at the present juncture so as not to repeat the bitter experience they had some three or four years ago, as the public were apt to be led astray at such times. It was desirable that those present should pay great attention to this and give good counsel to promoters in order to ensure a healthy development of economics. The ordinary banking business had shown a marvellous development through many years' experience, but unsound banks were still not entirely absent, and small banks were competing with one another in the minor business areas. Such a phenomenon was very regrettable, as it was at variance with the actual requirements of the time. The remedial measure lay in the encouragement of the amalgamation of the small banks. Due care was necessary in the creation of new banks, and the Government had decided to veto the establishment of new banks with capital less than one million *yen* in towns having a population of over 100,000 people.

In conclusion, Mr. Yamamoto referred to the Chinese loan. The Government had decided to participate in the 60 million sterling loan, as it felt convinced that participation was necessary for the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China and peace in the Far East. The loan was an enormous one, but China would have a large expenditure for several years. The Government might call upon those present for assistance at the proper moment.

THE GUBERNATORIAL CONFERENCE.

ADDRESS BY MR. HASEBA.

In the course of an address delivered by Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, before the fifth sitting of the Gubernatorial Conference held on the 15th instant, the Minister stated that education formed the foundation of the State. H.M. the Emperor had always taken a profound interest in educational matters, and on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Inauguration of the Higher Normal School, His Majesty was pleased to send H.H. the Crown Prince to convey the Message that the growth of a healthy nation depended upon the common education and to express a desire that those engaged in school education would do their best in the promotion of educational interests. There existed in the Empire a traditional national spirit fostered by the national Constitution and standing on an historical basis. The essentials of the national education lay in developing this national spirit. On the material side it was essential to avoid empty theories and inculcate in the minds of the students such knowledge as would enable them to qualify for practical business. Elementary school education had of late made a great advance, but it admitted of further reform both in form and substance, and this demanded a careful study on the part of school teachers. The system of compulsory education was working satisfactorily, but the educational accommodation for the deaf and dumb was yet imperfect. It was desirable that special institutions for the education of these unfortunate children should be provided as far as local finances

admit. Middle school education, on the other hand, was far from satisfactory, and admitted of great improvement.

It was desirable that the school faculties should apply themselves to the work with increased energy. Girls' education had also shown a great improvement since practical lessons had been introduced into the curriculum of the girls' high schools. Many girls' schools had sprung up in various localities, but it was desirable to keep the schools within the due bounds of local finances.

The development of local education inevitably entailed an increased local expenditure, but it was desirable that greater attention should be paid to the financial aspect. The Government had appointed a Popular Education Investigation Commission, to investigate and devise the best methods for the popularization of education, and care should be taken by those present to help forward the interests of popular education so as to make it the centre of the moral and intellectual culture of the locality. He would also like to call special attention to practical education, which the present condition of the Empire demanded. The children annually passing through the elementary schools numbered about 450,000, of whom only about 250,000 entered schools of a higher grade, the remaining 200,000 staying at their homes to assist their parents in domestic and other work. These children lacked the education necessary to qualify them for business, and it was essential to give them special education in their school hours to qualify them for the trade they had adopted and also to inculcate in them moral principles. The elementary business schools now numbered about six thousand throughout the Empire, but the number was too small to meet the actual requirements. It was desirable that steps should be taken to encourage practical education in accordance with local circumstances.

A PROVINCIAL LOAN.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chunwa* reports that a provisional contract has been signed between the Anhui Provincial Assembly and Messrs. Samuel, Samuel and Company for a loan of seven million *taels*, the tea and rice taxes in that province being hypothecated for the loan. Yuan Shih-kai's Government is disposed to grant official approval to the loan contract, which is to be submitted to the State Council for final approval. It is also stated that the foreign firm has entered into an informal agreement for granting a loan of three millions in order to place the copper mine under Anglo-Chinese joint enterprise. These loan negotiations are by no means new, having been vetoed previously by the Provincial Assembly.

The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha's contract for the joint management of the copper mine raised violent opposition in the Provincial Assembly and the provisional contract had to be cancelled. The approval of Messrs. Samuel Samuel's contract for joint enterprise may therefore give rise to a suspicion of the wilful exclusion of Japanese. The Magistrate of Anhui is making strenuous efforts to suppress the opposition to the foreign loan on the ground that the failure of the loan would lead Anhui into bankruptcy. A belief obtains that the loan may come to a successful conclusion.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE.

In the course of an address delivered before the Gubernatorial Conference on the 16th instant, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, said he would confine his remarks to the subject of foreign trade, as the time at his disposal did not permit him to deal with other matters. The new tariff has been in operation for only eight months, and therefore it was premature to pass judgment on its merits or demerits. It was clear, however, that it was having a salutary effect on foreign trade and the manufacturing industry, and opened the way for the realization of the object for which it was formulated. Provisional depots of the Custom Houses had been established in the open ports to enable the importers of foreign materials to work upon them for the purpose of exportation. The innovation would prove beneficial to manufacturers. The Government desired to encourage the use of home-made articles in preference to imported articles, not so much to expell foreign-made articles as to encourage domestic industry. Home-made articles might be inferior to foreign made articles, but encouragement in the use of home-made articles had a far reaching effect on the general economics of this country, and tended to accelerate the improvement of domestic industry. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce had in view granting subsidies to the manufacturers of staple commodities for export and other work calculated to encourage foreign trade, particularly the export trade. There was still a tendency amongst experts to give preference to foreign, made goods. The Admiralty had striven hard to make exclusive use of home-made materials in building warships, and the result was that all necessary materials are now procurable in the home market. What was true of ship-building must also prove true of all other work. It might sound too extreme to say that the use of foreign-made articles was unpatriotic, but the public mind was generally governed by this national spirit. All the countries in the world were bent on the encouragement of their respective domestic industries, and this national spirit had a far reaching effect on the development and protection of domestic industry. The expenditure for the encouragement of local industry had increased from 3,200,000 yen in 1902 to 9,400,000 yen in 1912. This fund was found still too small to meet actual requirements. It was desirable to concentrate the encouragement on a small number of local enterprises more congenial to the local environment, rather than waste the funds on many enterprises. It was also desirable to bring practical business into closer touch with practical education and to diffuse a scientific knowledge in manufacturing and other enterprises. The Staple Product Guilds now in existence in this country numbered about 860, the annual expenditure reaching a total of 2,700,000 yen. These institutions did not yet come up to expectation, and means should be devised to make better use of them. The prefectural competitive exhibitions were also useful to help forward the development and improvement of local industries. During the past decade the import of materials had radically increased while the import of manufactured goods had markedly decreased, the reverse being

the case with the export trade. These were favourable signs in Japan's foreign trade, as they indicated the gradual development of all branches of domestic industry. Endeavours should be made to encourage the export trade to accelerate this tendency. The recent civil commotion in China had had a serious effect on Japan's China trade. Fortunately business had been gradually recovering since the early part of the current year, and the loss was smaller than was anticipated. The revolution had wrought a radical change in the popular ideas and tastes of the Chinese people, and had called forth a new demand for commodities. Japan's China trade had thus a bright future. Traders should give close study to the general trend of affairs in China to meet the new demand.

Baron Makino concluded by calling the special attention of those present to the unfavourable balance continuing to exist in Japan's finance and economics, and to the necessity of the coöperation of the whole nation in remedial measures, which lay in the healthy development of Japan's commerce and industry.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

HOME MINISTER'S INSTRUCTION.

In the course of an address at the second sitting of the Gubernatorial Conference on the 10th instant, Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, laid special emphasis on the coming General Election. The Election Law, said the Minister, did not come under the official functions of the local governors, but he must call upon them to fully investigate and report on the conditions in the General Election for the sake of reference. The Government had repeatedly issued instructions as to the control of elections and it was needless to recapitulate them. He would, nevertheless, call upon those present to exercise strict and impartial control over the election, according to the laws and ordinances, irrespective of the political views of the candidates. The most important object was to ensure the free exercise of their rights by voters and prevent infractions of the Election Law. Those present must endeavour to eradicate the evils arising from elections. There had of late appeared a section of candidates having no fixed political ideas but who attempted to secure election by bribes. The actions of candidates of this description must be watched with the closest attention. When he was in office last, in 1907, an election of members of the prefectural assemblies was held and in 1908 the General Election of member of the House of Representatives, when he coöperated with those present in maintaining strict impartiality. When he came again into office on the formation of the present Ministry in September last, an election of the members of the Prefectural Assemblies was held, in which the Government maintained strict impartiality, and was thus free from public censure. He must claim great care in the control of the coming General Election in strict conformity with the instructions.

The Minister also dwelt on the necessity of discarding roundabout procedure in dealing with local affairs, in order to simplify and facilitate administration, and the necessity of devoting great attention to the readjustment of local finances, with a view to a curtailment of the local administrative expenditure.

A MANCHURIAN LOAN.

According to a Mukden telegram, Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces has obtained the approval of Yuan Shih-kai's Government to raise a foreign loan of two million taels. Accordingly, the Mitsui Bussan has been approached with the proposal, and the negotiations are said to be now in progress. A certain director of the Mitsui Bussan is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as saying that a hitch was created in the negotiations on the Manchuria loan in December last, and since that time the negotiations have been suspended. The head office is not in receipt of any advice, but if the report is true, it is possible that negotiations have been resumed between the Viceroy and the representative of the firm in Mukden.

The nature of the security for the loan was the cause of the trouble in the previous negotiations. The Mitsui Bussan demand the shares of the Yalu Timber Company and the Pen Hsiu coal mines, altogether amounting to three million yen face value, in addition to a few other interests, as security for the loan, but Viceroy Chao offers a tract of land instead. In view of the situation then prevailing in China the security offered was considered unsafe and the negotiations came to a deadlock. With the general improvement in the situation, the question of security is not now so important, and the negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion if adequate terms be offered for the loan.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that Yuan Shih-kai has issued to the Magistrates of the Three Eastern Provinces, Fukien and Kwantung provinces a telegraphic instruction that the local provinces shall refrain from contracting a loan direct with foreign capitalists and that negotiations on all foreign loans shall be conducted by the Peking Government. In consequence of this instruction the negotiations on a contemplated loan between Magistrate Chao of the Three Eastern provinces and the Specie Bank, Mitsui Bussan and Formosan Bank, have been suspended.

THE CALCUTTA SERVICE.

Since the inauguration of the Calcutta service in September last, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is said to have been engaged in keen competition with the foreign steamship companies and to have carried on the service at a considerable loss. The British India Steam Navigation Company, which has Calcutta for its centre, wields a great influence, but owing to the competition, its revenue has gradually decreased. The Company recently purchased the Apar Steamship line and is in negotiation with the Indo-China Steamship Company with a view to the purchase of that concern also. A rumour is also current that the Company is contemplating amalgamation with another influential concern. These facts tend to show that it has begun to feel the unprofitable nature of the competition. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is said to be determined to hold out until an agreement is come to with the rival company and for the attainment of this object, contemplates replacing the present steamers on the service by five larger liners of 6,000 tons or over. The Company is now watching for a chance to put the scheme into practice.

THE INCREASED FREIGHT RATES TO EUROPE.

The Department of Communications is now confronted with two knotty problems for solution, namely the application filed by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for a 10 per cent. increase in the freight rates on the European route, and the petition filed by the Tea Traders Central Guild for the reduction of the freight rates now charged by the steamship companies on tea. The rejection of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's application will entail the isolation of that company in the shipping community and the sacrifice of the benefit of the rebates specified by the shipping union. The reduction of the freight rates on tea will also produce the same result. The difference existing in freight rates on Japanese and Chinese tea, which forms the ground of the Tea Traders' petition, is considered a transient phenomenon resulting from the competition in shipping circles in China. The Government is said to be disposed not to interfere in both cases, but is trying to induce the parties interested to arrive at an understanding to solve the problem between themselves.

With reference to the proposed increase of freight rates on the European route, Mr. Kato, Vice-President of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is quoted as saying that the Departments of Communications and of Agriculture and Commerce are jointly conducting investigations and it seems as if the acceptance or rejection of the application for a 10 per cent. increase is not yet definitely settled. The European steamship companies, nevertheless, enforced the increase of freight rates from the 1st instant, the German steamship companies going even so far as to make a 20 per cent. increase. There are many subsidised steamship companies in Europe, but no official permission of the Government is needed to an increase of the freight rates, which is governed by the general circumstances. The consignors are also fully aware of the circumstances necessitating the increase and do not raise any objection to it. Circumstances differ in Japan and the matter can not, of course be treated in the same way as in European countries. In view of the serious effect which the increase of freight rates will have on consignors and foreign trade in general, it is evident that the matter cannot be settled by the arbitrary decision of a single steamship company. In the present condition of the shipping business of this country, however, it is almost hopeless to veto the proposed increase agreed upon by the influential shipping conference. If the Nippon Yusen Kaisha possessed ten times its present influence it might be possible to take some adequate measure, but at present it is clear that the Shipping Conference will persistently refuse to accede to Japan's demand in any circumstances whatsoever. The European steamship companies are pressing the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for a speedy enforcement of the increase of freight rates, but the Company is under obligations to obey the commands of the Government. Should Japan fail to act in concert with the Shipping Conference in the matter of the increase of freight rates, steps will be taken to expel the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and a keen competition will ensue, when it is possible that they will impose the much higher rates which

obtained three decades ago before the formation of the shipping union. If the Nippon Yusen Kaisha be expelled from the union, the consignors may find the present bi-weekly service inadequate to meet the commercial needs and they will find it more expedient to make shipments by foreign steamers, when they will have to pay a higher freight rate. Even at present a large quantity of raw silk is being shipped to Europe by foreign steamers. This fact alone proves that the present bi-weekly service is insufficient. The increase of freight rates may prove painful to traders, but the refusal will bring about much poorer results. Very serious consequences depend on the solution of the problem.

JAPAN AND THE GT. NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Japan's foreign cable communications are hampered by the contract with the Great Northern Telegraph Company and she has to rely on the two cables laid between Shanghai and Nagasaki and the cable laid between Vladivostok and Nagasaki. Not only does the contract veto the construction of competitive cables on these sections, but the use of the cables laid between Nagasaki, Fusan and Dairen, which were purchased from the Company, is restricted to the transmission of telegrams to Chosen and South Manchuria, to the great inconvenience of this country. Japan has had to put up with this serious inconvenience during the present Chinese affair, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, the increase in the number of cablegrams going to enrich the pockets of the Great Northern Telegraph Company.

The contract which gives the Company the monopoly of the telegraphic business between Japan and the continent was first extended for twenty years in 1882 and again for ten years in 1902. The contract expires on December 28th next, when measures must be taken to remove the inconvenience which Japan has had to endure all these years. The difficulty which lies in the way is that the Great Northern Company possesses a monopoly of the telegraphic business in China until 1930, which prevents Japan laying a cable to the Chinese continent. The Company under these circumstances will not readily consent to the purchase of the Shanghai cables or to the lowering of the telegraph charges. Moreover the Company has increased its influence in China by an advance of five million *taels* made last year. The Company also will not readily part with its Vladivostok cable, in view of its connection with the Imperial House of Russia.

Japan, nevertheless, can no longer endure the inconvenience to which she is put, and must take steps either to purchase the Shanghai cable or to obtain a decrease of the telegraphic charges and the transmission of Japanese telegrams. In the event of the Company refusing to comply with the demand Japan must construct competitive cable lines and obtain, through diplomatic measures, the right of connecting the service with the Chinese continent,—that is the right of extension to Peking of either the Shanghai cable or the Fusan-Dairen lines. It does not seem that the Government policy is yet clearly defined in this respect, but it is said to have under contemplation the installation of wire-

less telegraphy as a final resort. It is therefore presumable that the Government will assume a strong attitude in the future negotiations with the Great Northern Telegraph Company, which are to be informally opened in Tokyo in June next.

THE SAISEIKAI.

In the course of an address delivered by Prince Katsura at the dinner given by the Saiseikai at the Peers' Club on the 14th instant, in honour of the prefectural governors, the speaker said that the public contributions to the Saiseikai's fund reached a total of 25,800,000 *yen*, including the Imperial donation. The internal organization of the corporation was now complete, and it was about to commence work. A meeting of the councillors was to be convened on the 22nd instant. The nature of the Saiseikai's work was to provide medical aid for the indigent all over the country, and its scope was comprehensive. If the medical aid were too freely dispensed, it might encourage habitual idleness. On the other hand, if the medical aid were limited to a smaller compass, it might deprive deserving persons of the Imperial munificence. The judicious dispensation of the medical aid was thus by no means an easy task. The Saiseikai had also to consult its finances. As the fund was to be raised by annual instalments, until the full amount had been paid in, it could not be expected to devote any large amount to the work from the start. Urgency or otherwise must be considered in the inauguration of its work, in order to ensure success.

The nature of the proposals to be submitted to the coming meeting of the councillors was then explained by Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, and views were exchanged.

THE LATE DR. DIVERS.

The following eulogy on the late Dr. Edward Divers, is published by the *Tokyo Asahi* :—

The late professor leaves an imperishable name in the history of Chemistry. He entered the service of the old Polytechnic College in the 7th year of Meiji and was afterwards transferred to the present Tokyo Imperial University, where he was engaged in instruction in chemistry for thirty-six years. He devoted his energy to the inculcation of the spirit of scientific research. The scientific essays written by himself and in collaboration with his Japanese students number over fifty. Amongst his pupil are Dr. Takamine, Dr. Ogawa, Dr. Shigechika and several other well known names in the scientific world. By reason of his meritorious services in the cause of education in this country he was appointed emeritus professor of the Tokyo Imperial University on his resignation in 1902, and his students later erected a bronze bust in front of the College of Physics in his honour. After his return home he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and held the post of Vice-President of the Chemical Society of London. He contracted a cancer in the bladder towards the end of last year, to which he finally succumbed at the advanced age of seventy-six. His death is a matter of sincere regret to the chemical world.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

VIEWS OF A JAPANESE TRAVELLER.

Mr. Toyama Mitsuru and his party arrived at Moji on the 13th instant from a tour in China. When interviewed by a Press representative, Mr. Toyama stated that he left Moji for Nanking in December last, and there had several interviews with Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and other revolutionary leaders, with whom he had contracted a warm friendship during their sojourn in Japan. The Chinese press had published reports accusing him and Mr. Inukai of being spies of the Japanese Government. Dr. Terao and Dr. Soyejima were officially appointed legal advisers to the Nanking Government and were, therefore, at liberty to have interviews with Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and the revolutionary leaders, but he was placed in a rather awkward position because of the newspaper reports. The revolutionists at the beginning had a bad feeling towards Japanese sympathizers and put the rumour of the so-called 250,000 yen affair in circulation. When he arrived at Nanking, however, he found that misunderstanding no longer existed, and the wanderers who had flocked to Nanking from Japan had already been expelled. It was argued in some quarters that Sun Yat-sen had no intention of carrying the republican polity into practice, but nothing could be more libellous. Dr. Sun had long advocated the republican polity which was now realized, and had never raised the question whether he was to occupy the presidency or someone else. When Sun was installed in the provisional Presidency in Nanking, he issued an official note announcing that it was not his desire to hold the office. He was conscious of the difficulties that lay in the way of the republican administration, because the majority of the Chinese people were ignorant of the general current of the world's affairs; but he confidently believed that the polity would bring about satisfactory results among the Chinese people, with whom individualism was so highly developed. Both Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen were taking pains to lead the people into the right path. Mr. Toyama's tour in China had impressed him with the inexplicable nature of Chinese affairs. Not only was it very difficult to foretell what would happen, but it was very easy to fall into a misunderstanding. Magistrate Chao of the Three Eastern provinces was by no means a great statesman, but he was a most capable man, to whose sagacity was due the tranquility of Manchuria. While it was true that many loyalists were at work in Manchuria, it seemed that they were not in collusion with the Mongolians.

The various provinces of China suffered from financial distress. Over half a million soldiers assembled at Nanking were to be disbanded on the conclusion of the Four Powers' loan, but it remained doubtful whether the soldiers would return to their provinces peacefully. Hwang Hsing was a practical man, but Sun Yat-sen was an idealist. Hwang was urged by his subordinates to accept an important post in the new Government, but he did not accede to the proposal. His aspiration was probably to assume the leadership of a political party. The young and capable men in Nanking had all gone to Peking to occupy important posts in the new

government, so that Yuan Shih-kai will ultimately be influenced by the southern revolutionists in his administration.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

The Tokyo Municipal Aldermen's Council sat on the 16th instant to consider the new electric programme, based on the limitation of the supply to 100,000 kilowatts of electric current, are imposed by the Government. The programme, which was referred to a special committee, comprises the following salient points. The total cost is to be 13,730,000 yen, including some 5,000,000 yen already laid out, and 460,000 electric lamps will be installed, including the 120,000 lamps already in use. The electric lamps are to be divided into 80,000 of ten candle-power, 100,000 of five candle-power, 50,000 gate lamps and 150,000 lamps charged by metre, the charge being fixed at 81 sen for ten candle-power, 45 sen for five candle-power and 40 sen for a gate lamp. By metre the charge is to be 16.2 sen per kilowatt of electric current, in addition to 5 sen for the use of the metre. The cost of installation is fixed at 28.26 yen per lamp on an average. The annual profits of the electric light business are estimated at 1,590,000 yen, of which 341,000 yen is to be paid for taxes, 130,000 yen for depreciation of plant and 108,000 yen for the redemption of municipal bonds, leaving a net balance equal to 7.56 per cent. on the capital invested in the business. This account is inclusive of the proceeds from power supplied and the business expenses involved in the transformer stations, etc. The cost of installation is to be spread over three consecutive fiscal years in equal proportions and the funds are to be raised on the domestic market. The prospective area of supply covers the whole city, but the first installation will be undertaken in the upper part of the city with Akasaka ward as a centre. It is reported that the question of the Kinugawa hydro-electric power supply was not raised at the Council. A belief generally obtains that since it is evident that the Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company is unable to commence the supply of the stipulated volume of electric current at the prescribed date, the Municipality has no reason to pay the stipulated price for the surplus of the electric current remaining unused by the Municipality.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

With reference to the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank, which it was reported would come into existence about the middle of this month, it is now stated that the organization will be somewhat delayed, although the negotiations are making steady progress. The capital of the Bank has been fixed at 25 million francs, but some difficulty is being experienced in framing the articles of association as the capitalists of the Bank belong to two nations who differ from each other in national conditions and commercial usages. Views are now being exchanged between the parties interested on this and other matters. The capitalists of the two countries are to stand on an equal footing, and the Bank is to have its head office in Paris, with a branch in Tokyo. The Tokyo branch is to be presided over by a Vice-President, and Mr. Soyeda, President of the Industrial Bank, is to be appointed

to the Vice-Presidency. The field of operations of the Bank is to cover the European continent as well as Far Eastern countries; but the principal object of the Bank is said to be to establish a medium for the investment of French capital, so that the amount of the authorized capital of the Bank is of secondary importance.

The capital of the new Franco-Japanese Bank is to be 25 million francs (10 million yen), of which amount Japan puts up 4 millions (yen) and France 6 millions. Of the Japanese portion, the Industrial Bank subscribes 2 million yen and the remainder is found by the Mitsu Bishi, the Mitsui, the Specie and the First Banks. On the 16th instant a meeting to discuss arrangements was held at the official residence of the Premier in Tokyo, and was attended by Marquis Saionji, Marquis Inouye, Viscount Uchida, Baron Takahashi, Mr. Soyeda, Mr. Mizumachi, Mr. Hashimoto and others. It has been settled that as soon as the main features are agreed upon, Mr. Soyeda will proceed to Paris as representative of the Japanese Banks.

The articles of association of the new Franco-Japanese Bank are reported to have now been drawn up after a series of conferences between the authorities concerned. The document consists of over fifty articles specifying the amount of capital, means of payment, objects of the Bank, rights and duties of the officers and the methods of distribution of profits. At a glance the articles seem to be little different from those of other banks, but in view of the international nature of the concern, they are said to have been drawn up with great care and in strict accordance with the French Civil Law.

The capital is to be 10,000,000 yen or 2,500,000 francs, and the Head Office is established in Paris with a Branch office in Tokyo. The ratio of investment by the seven French Banks and the Japan Hypothec Bank is to be decided in a special contract to be concluded later. Further details will be decided in Paris on the arrival there of Mr. Soeda, President of the Hypothec Bank.

Viscount Mishima, President of the Specie Bank, Mr. Mizumachi, Vice President of the Bank of Japan, and Mr. Soeda, President of the Industrial Bank, jointly called on Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, on Monday morning, and conferred about the new Franco-Japanese Bank.

COMPENSATION.

It was never likely that the inhabitants of Peking, Paoting and Tientsin would sit down quietly under the cruel losses inflicted on them by the mutinous Honan troops. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that they are pressing upon the President their claims for compensation. The President is thus placed in a cruel quandary. Every cent that he can borrow from foreign nations has already its visible destination and where can he possibly find tens of millions of taels to recompense the sufferers by the military riots? Yet they must be recompensed somehow or other. Living in implicit reliance on the competence of the authority which had undertaken to secure their lives and properties, they were suddenly exposed to a whirlwind of bloodshed and pillage, and unless some compensation is made, there can be no reliance hereafter upon any Governmental precautions. The Chinese newspapers seem to have ceased discussing the amount that would be required for this purpose, but it is generally agreed that an extraordinarily large sum will be required.

THE KOREAN CANARD.

(The Japan Daily Mail, April 13)

FULL particulars are now to hand as to the extraordinary falsehoods recently circulated in America with reference to Japan's action towards Christianity in Korea. The whole story is told in a page of the *Independent* which runs as follows:—

The Religious Press has been stirred by "amazing news of religious persecution in Korea—a persecution marked, according to reports, by cruelties comparable to the brutal rigors of medieval inquisitions." Information of such a nature, we are told by *The Continent* (Chicago), filters out of Korea "in letters which the American missionaries there write confidentially to their friends and to missionary secretaries at home." The missionaries are so conscious of their obligation not to take sides in any political affair, it is added, that "they have been very reticent in making complaint at the treatment which their prisoners have been receiving at the hands of the ruthless Japanese officers." Wholesale arrests of native Christians, inhuman torture, burning with red hot irons, hanging up by the thumbs, are some of the forms of cruelty that are charged against the present masters of the Korean people. Further more:—

"It is asserted by missionaries of the most trustworthy type that there are now not fewer than 6,000 Christians in jail in Korea, incarcerated under military processes which allow them no information as to the charges against them, no counsel to defend them, and no access to the civil courts to institute habeas corpus proceedings. The general accusation against these imprisoned Koreans is that they are engaged in conspiracy to assassinate the Japanese Governor-General and raise rebellion against the Japanese sway. But the missionaries do not believe that there is any ground for such charges, as they hold there is certainly no justification for torturing suspects to make them confess unproved and improbable crimes. It is true that a certain proportion of these Korean military prisoners are non-Christians, but the tremendous preponderance of Christians among those arrested, convinces the mission workers that the real impulse to the terrific dragonade is a fierce aversion to Christianity and a determination to stamp out the Church in the province of Chosen, as the Japanese have now named this subjugated territory."

Newspaper correspondents in Tokyo, it is asserted, upon hearing these stories, put to the Japanese authorities there a categorical question whether Japan is opposed to the spirit of Christianity among the Koreans. The Government, in response, "officially authorized the Associated Press to deny any animus, and it was pointed out that Count Terauchi, the Japanese civil governor of Korea, is a man openly sympathetic with Christianity." The writer in *The Continent* adds:

"This, the missionaries in Korea, would doubtless admit as readily as the Japanese assert it. They have confidence not only in Terauchi but also in Chief Justice Watanabe, the head of the civil-court system in Korea, who is a Christian outright. But the trouble is, according to the missionary analysis of the situation, that neither Terauchi nor Watanabe is really in power in Korea. At present the whole civil administration is completely overshadowed by the military establishment, at the head of which stands General Akashi. He and all his officers are typical exponents of the military party, which in Japan, as well as in Korea, is known to be heartily opposed to the whole Christian propaganda."

"These army leaders are not only in the saddle in Korea, but mean to remain in the saddle; and it is to their interest to make the authorities in Tokyo believe that Korea continues rebellious."

It is unfortunate that these libels should be circulated by an American agency, for the impression produced in Japan is that the sensational newsmongers of the United States have deliberately added another to the long list of scandals already circulated by them with regard to Japanese sentiments and actions. But a little thought will show that America has practically no responsibility for this latest libel. It is quite evident that the whole story emanated from Korean sources. An attempt was made, doubtless with

sincerity on the part of some Koreans, but in the main with deliberate chicanery, to start an anti-Japanese crusade in the United States. The plotters wisely chose a comparatively insignificant journal—*The Continent* (Chicago)—as the medium for conveying their falsehoods to the public, and they evidently contrived to lay before the editor evidence so convincing and in such volume that he had no choice except to lend his columns to their purposes or to expose himself to the charge of deliberately concealing a heinous crime. No newspaper editor thus circumstanced would be likely to hesitate long in selecting his course, and thus it happens that *The Continent* has inadvertently become the means of circulating one of the grossest libels ever put into print, and at the same time the means of associating Americans with the iniquitous falsehood. It is unnecessary to enter into details by refuting the charges brought against the Japanese Authorities in Korea. Every one taking the trouble to inquire, or thinking it worth while to do so, has obtained ample evidence of the truth already. Our object in referring again to the canard is to invite Japanese attention to the fact that America's share in putting it on the wing cannot justly be connected with any evil intention on her own part.

THE SINKING OF THE "TITANIC."

(The Japan Daily Mail, April 18)

THE greatest shipping disaster of modern times, to find a comparison for which we must go back to the wreck of the *Princess Alice*, has startled the world from its sense of security, coming as it does at a time when it was believed the wonders of modern science had taken away all the terrors of an ocean-voyage. Wireless telegraphy has already proved of inestimable service in the saving of life, and it is now hardly possible for a shipwreck to take place without news of it being communicated at once. Only in lonely and unfrequented seas can a vessel now disappear without any report of her fate. But while wireless telegraphy has thus brought safety in many cases, in the wreck of the *Titanic* it has served to increase the anguish of those whose relatives and friends were aboard. The details of the affair are still somewhat confused, but it appears certain that the *Titanic*, which was on her maiden voyage, struck an iceberg on the night of the 14th and that she sank shortly after two o'clock on the following morning. Wireless communication was opened immediately after the accident, and was picked up by several vessels, none of which unfortunately happened to be in the immediate neighbourhood. The *Carpathia*, belonging to the Cunard line, seems to have been the first to get the message and to have proceeded direct to the spot, but the distance was too great to allow

her to be in time, and when she arrived on the scene, she found only the boats with the few passengers saved and the wreckage of what but a few hours before had been the latest wonder of the shipbuilder's art. There appears to have been some confusion in the first reports, which announced that the *Titanic* was being towed by the *Virginia* and that all the passengers had been saved. How the mistake arose it is impossible to say, but so far as the news to hand goes, it does not appear that the *Virginia* reached the spot until all was over. The question that at once arises is what about the *Titanic's* own boats? Were these not enough to hold all the passengers and crew until help arrived? The answer to this question is of importance. It may be that in the disaster some of the boats were destroyed or that they were swamped, although nothing is said as to any roughness of the waters. The only alternative is that the *Titanic* did not carry enough boats to accommodate all her passengers. Even in these days of wireless telegraphy such a possibility is not one to be faced with unconcern.

As far as the cause of the accident itself is concerned, it seems to have been one for which no blame can be assigned. Extensive ice fields, we are told, have come down from the north, carrying with them immense icebergs. As the greater part of these icebergs is below the surface, their actual appearance give little evidence as to their hidden danger. The probability is, however, that in the fogs which always lie off the banks of Newfoundland, the iceberg was not seen until a collision could not be averted. At the time of writing, the fate of the many distinguished passengers on the *Titanic* is uncertain, but as those saved are mostly women and children, it would appear that their names must be enrolled among the fifteen hundred who have found a grave in the stormy waters of the North Atlantic.

THE "JIJI SHIMPO" AND THE "JAPAN CHRONICLE."

The dispute between the *Japan Chronicle* and the *Jiji Shimpō* continues but the *Jiji* declares that its third article shall be its last as it finds it quite impossible to obtain an intelligent view on the *Chronicle's* part. The subject of discussion is the open door and equal opportunities, and the *Jiji* justly notes that according to the *Japan Chronicle's* argument, no such thing as acquired rights could exist. It must be evident to every fair-minded person that the policy of the open door and equal opportunities cannot be made retrospective without explicit agreement in that sense. Things must be dealt with as they actually are, not as they might be. The *Jiji* obviously thinks that the *Japan Chronicle* reads an evil motive into every act of Japan's, and that knowing itself to be in the wrong, it nevertheless continues to fight. Certainly nothing can be more extravagant than to bracket Russia in Manchuria before the war with Japan in Manchuria after the war; yet that is apparently what the *Japan Chronicle* does.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Tokyo papers publish a forecast of coming changes in military appointments. According to the report Major-General Yamada of the War Office will be promoted Lieut.-General and appointed commander of the Fourteenth Division to succeed Lieut.-General Ueyehara, who recently joined the Ministry as the Minister of War. Major-General Kawai, commander of the 7th Brigade, will succeed Major-General Yamada at the War Office, he being in turn succeeded by Colonel Fujii, Chief Staff Officer to the Imperial Guards Division, with the rank of Major-General. Major-General Hongo, Chief Staff Officer to the Military Education Bureau, will be promoted to Lieut.-General.

The *Nichi Nichi* publishes a vague rumour as to some serious affair that has arisen in the present Ministry causing a frequent interchange of visits to take place between the Ministers of State. The authorities of the Home Office and the Department of Justice are holding conferences late into the night. Although the nature of the affair is not disclosed, it is believed that it relates to a matter for which the Ministers of Home Affairs and Justice are held responsible. The Government authorities are secretly dealing with the affair, which will be finally settled in the course of a few days.

The sale has taken place by tender of nine obsolete warships, struck out of the naval list, the sum realized being 425,949 yen. The names and prices of the vessels are:—

	Yen.
<i>Takao</i>	65,575
<i>Chinyen</i>	152,387
<i>Huoyama</i>	61,337
<i>Tenryu</i>	38,500
<i>Iwaki</i>	16,400
<i>Chokai</i>	18,165
<i>Tsukushi</i>	33,000
<i>Hiei</i>	15,615
<i>Atagi</i>	23,000

It appears that a further delay has taken place in opening the junction of the round-the-world routes which have been established by the Siberian, Canadian, Manchurian and Japanese railways. The opening was to have been effected on the 1st of May next, but Russia asked for a postponement until the 1st of July, and England has now suggested that the 1st of October would be a better date, as the fifth and the tenth months are marked by experience for such purposes. It is tolerably certain therefore, that the great operation of linking up the above lines will be put off until October.

Viscount Yi, leader of the *Il Ching hoi*, who was so long and so often prominently noticed by Japanese politicians, is now said to be lying fatally ill at Suma. He is only in his forty-fifth year, but he has long been in a delicate state of health, and it is feared that the end is now approaching. Viscount Sung Pyong-chun, the original leader of the *Il Ching-hoi*, has arrived at Suma to say farewell to his friend.

According to a traveller who has returned to Nagasaki after a long sojourn in New Caledonia and Sydney, the anti-Japanese movement has been resuscitated by the Australian Government and apprehensions are beginning to be felt that Japan will set her hands on Australia on the termination of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. All the Japanese arriving in Australia are suspected

of having some sinister designs and their movements are shadowed by detectives. At the Custom House, not only their effects but also their persons are subjected to close scrutiny. New arrivals are therefore liable to be prohibited from landing unless they have made adequate preparations.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from Washington states that the resolution recently adopted by Congress, expressing a congratulation that the Chinese people have acquired the power and responsibility of self-government, was passed by the Senate on the 14th instant.

A Nagasaki telegram to the *Nichi Nichi* reports that H. H. Prince Waldemar of Prussia arrived at Nagasaki by the *Shunyo Maru* early on the morning of the 14th instant and left for Kobe at 4'clock the same afternoon by the same steamer. When interviewed by a Press Representative his Highness stated that his father, H. H. Prince Heinrich, had paid a visit to Japan and had talked of the Japanese scenery in high terms. He had therefore decided to tour Japan for the benefit of his health. After landing at Kobe, he will travel by train. He expects to stay in Tokyo about four weeks. On his way home he will extend his trip to Tsingtao, and thence return to Europe by the Siberian railway.

On Wednesday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes Imperial Ordinance No. 84, relating to the official organization of the Chosen Customs Petition Examination Commission, whose duty is to deal with petitions concerning the Custom duties in Chosen. The Commission is under the direct supervision of the Governor-General of Chosen and consists of a president and five commissioners, assisted by a standing committee and two clerks, to be appointed from amongst the officials of the Chosen Government.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from New York reports that some weaving factories there have had to close their doors in consequence of the strike, but the factories not affected are doing a good business and inquiries are brisk for raw silk, which is now quoted as under:—

	Dollars.
Kwansai extra special (per pound).....	375
" special No. 1 (").....	370
" " No. 2 (").....	365
Shinshu special (").....	360
" " No. 1 (").....	345

We have not heard the last of the theory that the poison contained in the flesh of the Japanese *fugu* (tetradon), can be used for healing purposes. The original idea was that leprosy might be cured in this way. But that theory appears to be now abandoned, and nervous prostration, rheumatism and asthma are spoken of as the diseases for which the tetradon poison supplies an antidote. Japanese experts have been experimenting in this line since 1886, and it would certainly seem that there is some truth in what they say. Professor Tawara's name is mentioned specially in connexion with this subject. Experiments are now being conducted to ascertain whether the matter taken from the *fugu* does not differ according to localities.

The Directors of the Tokyo Stock Exchange are said to be engaged considering certain amendments of the present rules. Speaking broadly, the purpose of the

amendments is to do away with petty brokers, and to provide against merely nominal command of security-money. At present a broker has to put up 12,000 yen by way of security, but it has become a custom to obtain this money from a third party, whose property it remains, the temporary use alone being given to the broker. This is evidently a system which lends itself to great abuses and mischievously diminishes the responsibility of the broker. It is therefore contemplated to raise the amount of the security-money to 30,000 yen, and to strictly forbid all nominal transfers of the nature described above.

Mr. Koike, the *Charge d'Affaires* of the Japanese Embassy in London, wires that their Majesties the King and Queen of England and the Emperor of Germany have sent to the White Star Steamship Company personal telegrams, expressing their profound sympathy with the families of those killed in the recent disaster that befell the Company's liner *Titanic*.

According to official investigations, the deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks amounted in the 44th fiscal year to 184,532,012 yen, deposited by 11,950,158 people. This is an increase of 21,640,043 yen in the amount of deposits, and of 713,521 in the number of depositors, as compared with the figures recorded in the preceding fiscal year.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, April 12.

The market yesterday showed a slight improvement and prices were steadily maintained until the close of the session.

Saturday, April 13.

The market on Saturday witnessed a general collapse. The weak tone continued to prevail to the close of the session.

Monday, April 15.

The market yesterday opened dull, all the shares falling slightly. The dullness continued to prevail to the close of the session.

Tuesday, April 16.

The market yesterday showed a slight improvement and all shares were quoted firm. A weak tone, however, developed towards the close.

Wednesday, April 17.

The market yesterday opened showing a reaction from previous weakness, and shares rallied all round. The high prices were steadily maintained throughout the session.

Thursday, April 18.

The market yesterday opened weak and small business was done, gilt-edged shares showing a slight collapse in prices. The tone of the market began to improve towards the close, however. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

	Apr. 17th.	Apr. 18th.	
Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—	—
Yusen Kaisha	116.75	116.75	—
Toyo Kisen	47.30	47.35	+ .05
Specie Bank.....	—	217.00	—
Tanko Kisen	24.40	24.30	— .10
Tokyo Gas	74.00	74.15	+ .15
Tokyo Dento	71.80	71.65	— .15
Fuji Gas Spinning	88.70	89.05	+ .35
Tokyo Spinning	53.90	—	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	110.00	110.20	+ .20
Beer	89.30	—	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	65.40	66.20	+ .80
Nippon Oil	74.15	74.75	+ .60
Rice Exchange.....	107.00	108.60	+ 1.60
Stock Exchange	114.35	114.90	+ .55

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

TROOPS DISBANDED.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Chefoo, April 11.
The disbandment of the troops under the command of Lan Tien-wei was concluded on the 9th instant. The departure of magistrate Hu Ying of Shantung province for Peking has been indefinitely postponed.

RIOT IN KWANGSI.

Shanghai, April 11.
A riot has occurred in the neighbourhood of Holsien in Kwansi province. Preparations are being made to dispatch troops from Wuchow for its suppression.

CHINESE WARSHIPS.

Chefoo, April 11.
The departure of the *Haiyang* and *Nantan* has been postponed until the 12th instant.

SWATOW QUIET.

Swatow, April 11.
The town is now tranquil, and telegraphic communication is reopened.

UNREST AT PEKING.

Tang Shao-i and other Ministers of State are expected to leave Shanghai for the north on the 13th instant, says a Peking telegram to the *Chuvu*. The situation in the capital is disquieting and a rumour is current that a bomb outrage is being planned against Tang Shao-i. Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Tang Shao-i, directing him to proceed direct to the provisional Cabinet Council Chamber to be erected on the parade ground outside the Yingchen Gate, on his arrival, instead of entering the city, and remain there until the Cabinet is removed inside the city on the restoration of peace.

THE MUTINY AT NANKING.

QUARREL BETWEEN SOLDIERS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, April 12.
Last night the Kiangsi soldiers in Nanking rose in mutiny, but were speedily suppressed. The cause of the mutiny is believed to be dissatisfaction at the non-receipt of their pay.

Nanking, April 12.
At midnight rifle reports were heard in the city of Nanking and a fire also broke out. The rifle reports died out towards half-past two this morning. The fire broke out near the old Exhibition ground, located between the Japanese Consulate and the Horai-kan hotel, but was extinguished towards four o'clock this morning. Twenty armed blue-jackets were dispatched from the warship *Mogami* at the request of the Japanese Consul. Hwang Hsing is absent from the town, on a trip to Shanghai *incognito*.

The disturbance originated in a quarrel between the soldiers. At six o'clock this morning, soldiers, commanded by officers, were engaged in fighting on the street in front of the State Council Building. Soldiers were also detailed in the vicinity of the Japanese Consulate, and they are gradually increasing in number.

Nanking, April 13.
The disturbance was suppressed at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. Looting was committed during the night in the neighbourhood of the Northern Gate and the Sanfai railway station. The Japanese shops suffered, but the residents are all safe. The mutineers are the Kiangsi soldiers, several of

whom were wounded. Hwang Hsing returned to the town from Shanghai yesterday morning.

Nanking, April 13.

In compliance with the request of the Japanese Consul a detachment consisting of two officers and twenty bluejackets was sent to the Japanese Consulate from the warship *Mogami*. The United States warship landed bluejackets, but the warships of other Powers did not. At half-past four internal discord arose in the Kiangsi army and the rival factions fought near the Fengjun Gate, when six men were killed. Putting all reports together it seems that the disturbance will be suppressed before it assumes serious dimensions.

The detachment landed was withdrawn from the Japanese Consulate at eight o'clock this morning. The town is now quiet.

Nanking, April 14.

On the night of the 12th instant, tranquility continued to prevail in the town. Railway traffic was resumed to-day. Peace will be completely restored shortly.

RESTORATION OF ORDER.

Chefoo, April 12.

In view of the unrest in Wening district a reinforcement of about 800 soldiers is on the point of departure by a transport, for the restoration of peace.

ANARCHY AT HAILAR.

Port Arthur, April 12.

According to a Hailar dispatch the Mongolian soldiers whose pay is in arrear have commenced looting the Chinese houses there. The Mongolian authorities are powerless to suppress them and anarchy prevails in the town.

WUCHANG QUIET.

Hankow, April 13.

A Japanese naval officer who was dispatched to Wuchang from the *Chiyoda* in Hankow reports that the town is quiet. Sun Yat-sen crossed the river to Hanyang on the 11th instant in company with Li Yuan-hung and afterwards attended a popular gathering held in Hankow. Sun Yat-sen will probably leave for Peking in a few days.

STRANDED WARSHIP REFLOATED.

Taya, April 13.

The warship *Shikimi* was successfully taken off the shoal by the assistance of the *Otowa* at noon to-day. The warship is to return to Shanghai on the 20th instant according to the programme.

LI YUAN-HUNG.

Peking, April 13.

Li Yuan-hung will take charge of the business of the Chief of General Staff. Chang Tei-chuan has been appointed Magistrate of Kiangsu province.

THE WARSHIPS AT NANKING.

Nanking, April 13.

The disturbance at Nanking has ceased. The Minister of the Navy and others are to proceed to Shanghai on the 14th instant in order to arrive at Peking by the end of this month. The British warship *Astrea* will leave for Hongkong, the French warship for the west river, and the Russian warship for Vladivostok in a few days. It is reported that the Russian warship will thence start on a cruise around Kamchatka.

CONDITIONS AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, April 13.

The town continues quiet, but the authorities are exercising a strict watch against the possible outbreak of disturbances owing

to the presence of a large number of loyalists in the tower. Magistrate Chao continues to enjoy high popularity amongst the people, so that it will be impossible to disturb the peace from outside. A disagreement seems to exist between the Provisional Assembly and the garrison. The local finance is being skillfully manipulated and there seems to exist no cause for any crisis. It is confidently believed that there will be no need to apply to the Peking Government for financial assistance unless unforeseen events arise necessitating an outlay. The fact that the provincial government has decided to pay to the Manchurian Princes the proceeds of the land-taxes collected from their domains, which altogether amount to over one million *taels*, is taken as a proof that the province is not now suffering from financial embarrassment.

PEACE RESTORED AT SWATOW.

Swatow, April 13.

Wu Hsiang-ta has had an interview with Lin, when it was decided to mediate between Lin and the city notables. As a result of repeated conferences it has been almost decided to pay to Lin a sum of money enough to cover the expenses involved by Lin's army, but the matter is not yet definitely settled. The town is now safe. Telegraphic communication has already been restored and railway traffic is to be resumed shortly.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

Peking, April 13.

The Belgian loan question has at last been settled, the Four Powers' Syndicate recognising the one million sterling loan recently concluded, subject to the condition that the Peking-Changkiakau railway shall not hereafter be offered as security for any future loan. The Belgian Syndicate will probably participate in the Four Powers' loan independently, without amalgamating itself with Russia.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE TROOPS.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chuvu* reports that Wu Shao-lin, commander of the First Division, and the commanders of other Divisions met in conference to consider the method of maintaining discipline amongst the troops. The conference was held with closed doors. The soldiers stationed in Kiangnan arsenal and in the districts lying between Wusung and Paoshan show signs of commotion. Magistrate Chin is said to have stated at the conference that in the event of the mutiny arising amongst the troops the foreign Powers might act in concert to enforce their expulsion to a distance of twenty Chinese *li* from the city of Shanghai.

CHINESE WARSHIPS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Chefoo, April 14.

The warships *Nantung* and *Haiyang* carrying Lan Tien-wei and Tang Hsiang-ming, Vice-Minister of the Navy, left for Shanghai at 11 a.m. on the 13th instant.

MARTIAL LAW AT NANKING.

Nanking, April 14.

Martial law has been proclaimed in and out of the city of Nanking, and the passage of soldiers and people in and out of the city between the hours from 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. has been prohibited. Contravention will subject the offenders either to detention or capital punishment. Those who pass through the city gates are subjected to examination.

The law goes into operation from the date of issue and is enforced most rigorously on Chinese soldiers.

RUSSIAN CONSULATE AT CANTON.

Canton, April 14.
Russia has established a Consulate in Canton.

THE TROUBLE AT NANKING.

Nanking, April 14.
In the city of Nanking on the 13th, dead bodies were seen scattered about on the streets and decapitated heads exposed to view on telegraph poles. A vigilant guard is being maintained. Over 100 Kwangsi soldiers were killed during the disturbance. There still exist mutinous soldiers in the city, but the resuscitation of disturbances seems improbable. Business and traffic have been resumed to a certain extent. The Japanese shops in the neighbourhood of Sanpailo station present a most pitiful scene. All the Japanese residents are, nevertheless, safe. The cause of the disturbance is attributed to the non-payment of the disbanded soldiers.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

Chefoo, April 14.
Lan Tien-wei's flying column, composed of about 200 men, left here for Shanghai by the transport *Kwan-tsi* on the 13th instant.

THE MINISTERS AND PEKING.

Shanghai, April 15.
According to a reliable report, the Ministers of State, who have heard the particulars of the recent disturbance in Peking, have begun to regard entrance to the capital with grave apprehension and assert their unwillingness to arrive at Peking for fear of Royalist intrigues. As a result of repeated conferences, Yuan Shih kai has consented to the organization of the provisional Government in Nanking. Consequently the repair of the buildings for the use of the Government offices in Nanking has been started.

Shanghai, April 15.
Tang Shao-i left Shanghai for Peking by the steamer *Hsingchang* this evening, accompanied by Tsai Yuan-pei and Song Chia-jin. The Minister of the Navy may also follow. The date of departure of other Ministers of State still remains unsettled.

RUSSIA AND THE FAR EAST.

Harbin, April 15.
Last Saturday's issue of the Harbin paper publishes the following report:—

The Russian Government is paying great attention to the future of the Far East and has carried out a radical reform in the organization of the Russian Legation in Peking, appointing those who are well-versed in Far Eastern affairs as the Legation staff. The new Russian Minister is a diplomat having an extensive influence in China, having held the post of First Secretary during the Boxer trouble. The new First Secretary was formerly the chief of diplomatic affairs in the coast and Amur provinces, and also held diplomatic posts in several places in the Far East. He assisted in the conclusion of the Tientsin Treaty. The new first Interpreter is a well known authority on Chinese affairs, who has spent many years in Peking. Mr. Bronevski, Councillor of the Russian Embassy in Tokyo, has been transferred to Berlin, and the First Secretary of the Russian Legation in Peking has been appointed his successor.

THE CHINESE ADMIRALTY.

Nanking, April 15.
The Admiralty at Nanking was with-

drawn on the 15th instant and the office building converted into a naval academy. The new Admiralty is to be established in Peking.

THE CHINESE MINISTERS.

Shanghai, April 16.
Tang Shao-i arrived at Tientsin on the evening of the 15th instant by the China Merchants liner *Hsingchang*, in company with Tsai Yuan-pei, Sung Chia-jin and over a dozen members of the State Council. They left here for Peking immediately after arrival. Dr. Sun Yat-sen returned to Shanghai from Hankow on the 15th and saw the party off at the pier. Hsiung Hsi-lui and Chen Chi-mei are also expected to proceed to the north in a few days.

TROUBLE AT ANKING.

Nanking, April 16.
According to a Kiukiang dispatch a large body of pirates has invaded Anking and threatens to start looting. The peaceful inhabitants are seized with terror.

THREATENED ATTACK ON CHANGKIAKAU.

Mukden, April 16.
A Changkiakau telegram reports that a rumour is current that several thousand Mongolians are planning an onslaught on Changkiakau. The Magistrate of Sappolu (?) has started on an expedition to repel the attack.

THE POSITION AT CANTON.

Canton, April 16.
Magistrate Chen recently carried out the capital punishment according to martial law of a newspaper editor who had published a seditious article. The provisional Canton Chamber of Commerce has sent to the Central Government an impeachment, accusing the Magistrate of a breach of the Constitution. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Chen's opponents have put various rumours into circulation. A rumour that Lung Tsi-kuang, commander of the garrison, will shortly quit Canton and withdraw to Yunnan, has caused consternation in the city. The magistrate is, however, supported by the Charity Associations; and the businessmen in the town, who voted against the resolution adopted by the Chamber, telegraphed to the Central Government that Lung Tsi-kuang should remain in Canton. Yuan Shih-kai wired back on the 19th instant that as peace and order in Canton have been maintained by the joint exertions of Magistrate Chen and Commander Sung, the two officials should stay at their posts to meet the wishes of the Canton people. Magistrate Chen also issued a notification to pacify the popular mind, stating that about 50 or 60 per cent. of the revolutionary troops had already been disbanded, and public order is being gradually restored. Since the Magistrate would spare no efforts to give full protection to the lives and property of the people, those wealthy men who are taking refuge in Hongkong, Macao and elsewhere should return to Canton at once without being led astray by false rumours.

THE MINISTERS OF STATE.

Shanghai, April 17.
According to the Chinese papers, Lin, Minister of the Navy, will reach Peking before the 25th instant, accompanied by his confidential secretaries. All the other Ministers of State in Shanghai will also start for the north to reach Peking by the 25th

instant. The Admiralty will be established in Peking but the naval affairs bureau will continue to exist in Shanghai.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Peking, April 17.
The proposal relating to the establishment of the provisional Government in Nanking will probably be withdrawn in view of the opposition raised by the Corps Diplomatique.

MARTIAL LAW REVOKED.

Nanking, April 17.
The martial law proclaimed in Nanking was revoked on the 17th instant, but a vigilant watch is being kept over the movements of the loyalists.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.

Shanghai, April 17.
A Shanghai paper predicts the following diplomatic appointments:—

Chinese Minister to Washington	...Wu Ting-fang.
" " London	...Liang Ju-hao.
" " Berlin	...Sun Pao-chi.
" " Paris	...Wen Sung-yao.
" " Tokyo	...Tsao Ju-lin.

Two Fukien regimental troops left for their native province by a transport on the 10th instant.

CONDITIONS AT TIENTSIN.

A Tientsin dispatch to the *Chinwo* reports that in anticipation of the arrival at Taku on the 18th of the China Merchants liner *Hsingchang*, with Tang Shao-i, Tsai Yuan-pei, Sung Chia-jin and their subordinate officials, a large number of the officials of the Peking Government have assembled in Tientsin and the town presents an animated scene. Last night some one posted a placard threatening the people with murder and incendiarism, if they hoisted the five coloured flag to welcome Tang's party. The police are now busily engaged in looking for the culprit. The foreign hotels and houses in the settlement are full of Imperial refugees. Yuan Shih-kai's wife is at the Astor House. The Victoria Hotel and the Tokiwa Hotel are thronged with the families of Imperial princes and great officials.

Tieh Liang, the dreaded political enemy of Yuan Shih-kai, is believed to be hidden in the town, where there are many other loyalists. Vigilant watch is being kept to prepare for emergencies.

WIRELESS TELEPHONY.

On the 15th instant a series of experiments were conducted in Tokyo Bay for the purpose of testing the feasibility of wireless telephony. Japanese scientists have been at work on this subject since 1906, and they seem to have now achieved success. A steamer called the *Okinawa Maru*, fitted with wireless telegraphy, and a shore station fitted with wireless telephonic apparatus were employed. The experiments were conducted at first over short ranges, and the steamer moved gradually to more and more distant points until at last an interval of 20 miles separated her from the shore station. At that distance the interchange of communications was perfectly clear. It had been intended to carry out the experiment at a distance of 30 miles, but day-light did not suffice for this extreme test. Japanese experts speak of this as a new record, and their achievement is attracting considerable attention.

ANOTHER BELGIAN LOAN.

A Shanghai special to the *Tokyo Asahi* reports that the British representatives of the Belgian syndicate has signed another agreement for a loan of two million *taels*. The new loan is on the same terms as the old loan, and one million *taels* of it has already been paid to China.

The same journal quotes a well-informed party as saying that the above report is corroborated by a telegram received in official quarters. There can be no doubt as to the conclusion of the two loans by the Belgian Syndicate, and that one million *taels* has already been paid to China of the second loan. The attitude of the Four or Six Powers' syndicate will be watched with considerable interest. From China's point of view it is absolutely necessary to raise funds for administrative purposes, since the negotiations for the Four Powers' loan are now suspended. Yuan Shih-kai's Government must be held responsible for the deadlock, since if the Government had not stolen a march on the Four Powers' Syndicate by concluding an agreement for a loan of a million *taels* with the Belgium Syndicate, the stipulated instalments would have been paid to China to meet the necessary administrative expenditure. Implied consent has been given to the first Belgian loan, but it remains rather doubtful whether the Four Powers' Syndicate will give its approval to the second loan.

AUSTRIA AND THE FOUR POWERS' LOAN.

Since the outbreak of the revolution in China, Austria has supplied a large quantity of arms to the Manchu Government and has also advanced to China three or four million *taels*. According to the *Tokyo Asahi*, she has now signified to the Four Powers' Syndicate her desire to participate in the Chinese loan. There is reason to believe that the Austrian proposal is backed by Germany and that there exist circumstances which render refusal rather difficult. A belief generally obtains that Italy will also advance a claim for participation, if Austria be admitted into the Syndicate.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

MR. FUKUZAWA MOMOSUKE AND HIS BOOK.

Mr. Fukuzawa Momosuke is the second son of Mr. Iwasaki Kiichi. He was adopted by the great Fukusawa, studied at the Keiōgijuku and married one of the daughters of the Mita Sage. He spent several years in studying railway business in New York and in Pennsylvania. Since 1889, when he returned from the United States, he has occupied various important positions in the business world, being at present the President of the Japanese Gas Company. Mr. Fukuzawa, having had considerable experience of business life and knowing too well how many blunders young men are apt to make when setting out on their careers, last year resolved to give his fellow-countrymen the conclusions he had reached respecting the art of getting on in life. So he brought out a work entitled *Momosuke Shiki*. In respect of circulation the book was a tremendous success, having run through six editions in the space of a few months. It met with the approval of so well-balanced a mind as that of Dr. Miyake Setsurei, who wrote a preface for the work. In that preface, Dr. Miyake warns people against jumping to the conclusion that this book represents any-

thing more than one side, the business side, of Mr. Fukuzawa's character. To judge him solely by that work would do him grave injury. But this is just what a number of writers have done. He has been represented as a man with no ideal higher than money-making, as a corrupter of the minds of young men and as the manufacturer of mammon-worshippers. The old-fashioned folks who preach philosophic indifference to money have turned their guns on this assailant of their citadel. Among these figures Count Ōki Enkichi, a well known member of the House of Peers. In an article entitled *Ate Fukuzawa Momosuke wo wazurawasu*, published in the March 1st number of the *Jitsugyō no Sekai*, the Count denounces the methods advocated by Mr. Fukuzawa as unworthy of imitation by young men.

In the March 15th number of the Magazine this attack is fully replied to by Mr. Fukuzawa, who complains that the Count seems to have been born without a vein of humour in his mental constitution, for what was written in joke is all taken very seriously by him. Mr. Fukuzawa says that one reason why so many Japanese young men fail to make their way in life is because of their readiness to slander people or pitch on small weaknesses in their employers and make them the subject of public comment* and he recommends them to show more respect to seniors and even to praise what is good in them. Count Ōki represents this to be the preaching of a gospel of servility.

We ourselves have not read Mr. Fukuzawa's book, but we are quite sure that if it really deserved the strictures to which Count Ōki subjects it, Dr. Miyake would not have recommended it to the notice of young men in the way he has done.

THE JITSUGYŌ NO SEKAI AND DR. NITŌBE.

The *Jitsugyō no Sekai* has developed into one of the most sensational periodicals in the country. It seems to welcome personal attacks on men in power. No less than 18 pages of the March 15th number of the Magazine is occupied by a tremendous onslaught on Dr. Nitobe. The writer's name is of course concealed; the pseudonym adopted being "Fukutsu Sei" (Unyielding Student). The article is full of personalities, and attributes nothing but bad motives to Dr. Nitobe. It is hardly credible, but it is a fact that the attack on Dr. Nitobe has been going on in this magazine ever since August 1st. This is the ninth article on the same subject. They have all been signed "Fukutsu Sei." They are illustrated, and many of the cartoons are highly amusing. One of the principal objects of the writer seems to be to hold up to ridicule the articles Dr. Nitobe has been contributing to a rival magazine, the *Jitsugyō no Nihon*. The writer contends that Dr. Nitobe's moral teaching is calculated to take from young men all the energy and spirit they possess. His teaching, it is asserted, is highly approved of by Prince Katsura and Prince Yamagata, and in one of the cartoons designed to illustrate what is proceeding, Dr. Nitobe is represented as cutting out the backbone from the body of a young man, while Prince Yamagata, Prince Katsura and other leading Statesmen of the old school of thought are looking on with high approval. "Fukutsu Sei" says that Dr. Nitobe seems to have adopted many of the sentiments of his wife, who is the daughter of an American quaker, and that his great desire is to see young men becoming gentle, submissive and yielding.

The *Jitsugyō no Sekai* publishes answers to the attack on Dr. Nitobe, but they are printed in No. 7 type, whereas the articles of "Fukutsu Sei" come out in No. 5 or No. 4 type (*vide* Brinkley's

* This is greatly encouraged by the daily press which is full of mean insinuations and unworthy inferences. The pettiness of spirit shown by this class of writing and the eagerness with which slanderous paragraphs are read have recently been commented on in the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* by Mr. Ozaki Yukio. (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Dictionary under *Kwatsuyō*). If this class of writing were disapproved of by its readers, the *Jitsugyō no Nihon* would never bring out nine long articles against one man. These articles all display strong personal animosity. It is very improbable that Dr. Nitobe will take the slightest notice of them.

SOUTH AMERICAN CUSTOMS AND JAPANESE CUSTOMS.

An interesting article on this subject appeared in the March number of the *To-A-no-Hikari*, written by Dr. Inoue Enryō, (who has recently paid a visit to South America) the substance of which we now proceed to give:—(1) *Time*. In this country we speak of foreign time and Japanese time, to denote the certainty of the one and the uncertainty of the other. One also hears such expressions as "Osaka time, Shizuoka time, Kyōto time," indicating that the punctuality observed differs with the places in which people live. In South America a distinction is made between "European time" and "South American time," and the unpunctuality of the people there is just what it is here. It is considered a mere trifle for a man to be 30 minutes or an hour late in attending a meeting, as he is often two hours behind time. We have a proverb that shows how wedded to unpunctual ways we are. *Konya no asatte*, "the day after to-morrow" indicates that it is the habit of workmen who have received orders to delay their execution. The South Americans use the Spanish word *manana*, to-morrow, in the same way, describing constant postponement of the execution of orders as acting on "the to-morrow principle."

(2) *Fancy Prices*.—In many of our shops the articles are marked with fixed prices and so there is no room for bargaining, but in others much time is spent in bartering, as each article has its fancy price as well as its real one. This way of doing business is followed in South America. In purchasing things in Brazil I found it necessary to beat down everybody.

(3) *Eating and drinking*.—The principal article of food with the South Americans is rice as it is with us. The habit of pressing visitors to partake of liquors and food is as prevalent there as it is here. When stimulants are not offered, then tea or coffee is set before callers at all times of the day, and not simply late in the afternoon, as is the custom in Europe and America.

(4) *Modes of salutation and summoning servants*.—The South Americans habitually shake hands when meeting, but in the case of people who are very intimate they salute by standing back to back. I often witnessed this mode of salutation in Chili. In this country we have a similar practice. In the case of gentlemen who are on very familiar terms, when assembled together they often strike each other on the back. Servants are called by clapping of the hands in South America, as they are here.

(5) *Smoking in the presence of ladies*.—This is permitted in South America as it is here on all occasions. In Europe and America no gentleman is allowed to smoke in the presence of a lady without asking her permission, and unless out of doors it is not etiquette to ask leave to smoke. At dinners where ladies are present the South Americans smoke as much as they wish to, just as we do here when no foreign ladies are present.

These similarities in custom are very peculiar, considering how far distant from each other the two countries are. They are no doubt accidental, but still they are no less remarkable on this account. There are, however, many points in which the South Americans differ widely from us. (1) *Elementary Education* is in a very backward state in S. America.—One third of the population are quite illiterate. (2) *The Postal and Telegraph System*.—In S. America nobody seems to know when a letter or a telegram will be delivered. Many people despatch letters and telegrams at the same hour, only to find that the letter reaches its destination before the telegram. Two or three days are often required for delivering a letter in the town where one is staying (3) *Class distinctions* prevail to an enormous extent in South America. The classes keep

apart on all occasions. They are not allowed to travel together in trains or tram cars. (4) *The South Americans are glib in speech, but lack sincerity.* Nothing could be more polite than their manner of accosting strangers, but few of them mean what they say. (*Subete omote wo kasaru ga, naiyō wa sara ni ichi sen.*)

DR. KATŌ HIROYUKI ON LICENSED PROSTITUTION

Writing in the *Naigwai Kyōiku Hyōron*, Dr. Katō severely censures the Japanese leading educationists for the great indifference they have shown to the controversy that has been carried on by Christians and a few others on the question of abolishing the practice of licensing brothels. Dr. Katō is himself strongly in favour of making a clear sweep of existing houses of ill fame and he is of opinion that this step would not tend to increase the number of secret prostitutes. In proof of this he quotes the case of the Gumma-ken, where there is now not a single brothel left, yet where private prostitution has not perceptibly increased, and he says that notwithstanding the large number of licensed women plying their trade in Tōkyō, the number of private prostitutes has not diminished on this account. He goes on to observe that, though there are licensed prostitutes in other countries, there is no such place as the Yoshiwara anywhere else in the world and that its existence constitutes a disgrace to the country. Its total destruction by fire furnished a good opportunity for the Government to step in and prohibit the reconstruction of the houses. It may be, continues Dr. Katō, that public opinion is not yet ripe for the adoption of such a radical reform but surely it is the duty of all educationists and all writers on education to warmly advocate this measure. What is the use of preaching chastity to girls in schools while so many facilities are furnished by the Government for licentious conduct on their part? The silence of educational magazines on this subject has astonished Dr. Katō not a little.

ORATORY IN THE DIET.

Writing in the *Yūben*, Mr. Inoue Kakugorō, himself a well known orator, whose speeches created quite a sensation during the early sessions of the Diet, says that, through the House of Representatives has among its members men, like Mr. Inukai and Mr. Taketomi, who are capable of making great speeches, the occasions which call for such displays of oratory are few and far between. One of the principal reasons why the speeches made produce so little impression is that as a rule these speeches are not based on solid facts, but consist of rhetoric only. Till this defect is made good we shall hear no really eloquent speeches in our Diet,* says Mr. Inoue.

THE JAPANESE PRESS AND SOCIETY.

Although Japan has the name of being a very progressive country, there are some important things in which she makes no progress at all. The very low standard reached by the majority of the daily newspapers forms a constant subject of complaint among earnest-minded politicians, moralists and scholars. For thirty years Mr. Ozaki Yukio has been hammering away at this evil, and now again in the *Yūben* we find him reverting to it. Mr. Ozaki is a great admirer of English ways, and he contrasts the high regard English editors have for reputation and honour with the utter callousness to that shown by the proprietors and editors of Japanese newspapers. Whether the readers of these newspapers or their compilers are the more blameworthy, is a question which it is difficult to determine. The fact remains that the majority of the Japanese people to-day delight in scandalous and dirty stories such as, Mr. Ozaki reminds us, no respectable English newspaper would ever publish, and no indignation is shown when the name of some high-class lady is wrongly associated with alleged immoral conduct. The whole thing constitutes a

national disgrace which calls for more drastic treatment than occasional denunciation in the pages of a magazine or the columns of a newspaper.* The Law deals too leniently with blots cast on personal honour. Japanese judges need to be educated up to the standard observed in most Western countries in respect to the sacredness of reputation. The cowardly attacks on defenceless women made by scoundrels who have access to the columns of the leading dailies would certainly lead to the horsewhipping or shooting of the writers of the slanders in any Western country where the Law provides no adequate remedy for such outrages, and even in Japan in the good old days, when the *bushū* was abroad and the *otokodote* in evidence everywhere, the scurrilous defamers of character who sneak to newspaper offices with their lying reports, and the editors who allow these reports to appear in their papers, would never have been allowed to commit this offence a second time.

NATIONAL CHARACTER AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIES.

The *Yūben* is a magazine that publishes speeches delivered at various places by well known men. We are seldom told where or when the speeches were made or whence the report given of the speech is delivered, but we have reason to believe that in most cases the speakers are accurately reported by the compilers of this useful monthly. In an address on the above subject made to a Culture Society, called the Shunki Yōshūdan, by Dr. J. Soeda, President of the Industrial Bank, we find the following views expressed:—The history of the world shows that the special industries by means of which various nations have amassed wealth have not been selected haphazard. Their choice in every case has been influenced by deep-seated national characteristics, by inherited skill in special kinds of work, by pronounced tastes, by adaptability of one kind or another; for the rule holds good that success in anything depends on adaptability. English industries are a product of English character. The articles turned out by England's factories are useful, substantial, and enduring, but not as a rule ornamental. There is no flashiness of any kind about England's products. The people are serious-minded, straightforward, almost blunt, great lovers of what is solid, real and practical, unimaginative and opposed to speculation. These mental qualities are all revealed in the English industrial products.

The Americans are great speculators and worship size and number in everything. Their undertakings are all projected on a vast scale. The articles they turn out are manufactured by the thousand or the million. The American mind is made that way. It loves to grapple with big architectural or engineering difficulties and to overcome them, and consequently many of its material structures are the wonder of the world.

The Germans are past masters at imitating anything that has been made in other countries. This talent often enables them to undersell foreign producers. Japanese lacquer-ware is now made and sold in Germany at cheaper rates than prevail here, and throughout Europe the German lacquer-ware is driving our home ware out of the market.

The French are naturally extremely artistic, and consequently they provide the world with most of its ornaments. They lead the world in fashion, and France may be said to be the home of fine art. Thus we see that each nation has its mental forte and the mental forte becomes an industrial forte.

Have our people any pronounced national characteristics corresponding to those mentioned above? It is with the most profound regret that I say we have no national traits to boast of to the outside world. (*Watakushi wa kono gimon ni mukatte, Nihonjin ni wa seikai ni hokoru ni*

tarubeiki tokushitō nashi to kotoenakereba naranai no wa umōko no ikan to suru). In former times we had what is called the Bushidō, the Warriors' Way, but to-day how much of that is there left? A very small vestige; which has been preserved by military men and a few scholars only. But the fact is that this much-talked-of Bushidō even in ancient times was a code of morals that was unknown to the trading, farming and industrial classes of Japan. It had no influence of any kind on the thoughts or actions of the people belonging to these classes, who were of opinion that Bushidō precepts did not apply to them and that to observe them would prevent them from making money. So in feudal times there was no such thing as morality among farmers, traders and artisans. To talk about commercial morality being taken away by modern influence is nonsense. There was no such morality to take away (*mukashi kara nai no de aru*). Instead of deteriorating, commercial morality has greatly improved under our present system of education.

Seeing that we are without the national characteristics which serve other nations in good stead industrially and commercially, the only thing that we can do, is to develop the devotedness to country which has been displayed on the battlefield into a feeling of obligation to wage industrial and commercial conflicts against other countries with the same spirit of self-sacrifice as our warriors have displayed. The notion that we can succeed by simply imitating the ways of other nations is contrary to the history of industrial and commercial development in Europe and America. It sounds very grand to be talking about making good our deficiencies by appropriating the good qualities of Occidentals, but the history of the Meiji era shows that we have not been very successful in carrying out that programme. European customs, practices and ways of thinking have been introduced here in a very promiscuous fashion and the result has been that things good and things bad have been imported together. It is necessary for us to abandon the policy of slavish imitation and to strike out on a line of our own in reliance on such mental qualities as can be pressed into the service of industry and commerce.

OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE WITH LITERARY DEVELOPMENT.

It will be remembered that last year, as one of the numerous results of the consternation caused by the Kōtoku affair, the Katsura Government came to the conclusion that the books in circulation in this country should all be overhauled by officials or by literary experts working under Mombushō direction. So a Committee was appointed called the Bungei Linkai, which was instructed to draw up a list of books that could safely be recommended to young men for perusal. On this Committee are certain men who judge all books by a somewhat straight-laced moral standard. Mr. Ōmachi Keigetsu is one of these. Consequently certain books that were recommended by some of the members of the Committee were strongly condemned by other members. The controversy between the moralists and what we may perhaps term the belletrists a few months ago grew so hot that it looked as if things would come to an impasse and that the Committee would be dissolved by the authorities. This measure would have been welcomed by the majority of literary men; who were from the first strongly opposed to official interference with the free development of literature. But the Japanese are great at compromising, and it is now asserted that the moralist section of members have acknowledged that they were wrong in thinking that the literary merits of books should be determined by the application of a given moral standard to the doctrines they teach. The April *Taiyō** has an article on this subject written by a

* *Wagahai wa konnichi no Gikai ni oite yūben ga kaerimurenai to iu no wa, kuchi-saki bakari, naiyō jishitō ga nai kara no itasu tokoro de aru to omo.* Kono keppaku wo mitasu toki, Gikai ni makoto no yūben wō kiku foto ga dekiru de aru.

* It has often happened that the very newspapers which publish protests against the publication of slanderous reports and insinuations have themselves been constantly guilty of this offence.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* The April *Taiyō* has no English part. It is very doubtful whether the English articles which have appeared in this Magazine have ever done much to increase its circulation, for reasons which can not be discussed here.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

very well known literary critic, Mr. Kaneko Chikusui, some parts of which we propose to reproduce here in an epitomized form.

The general public seems to regard the action of the State in regard to the control of literature as fundamentally wrong in principle. But this seems to me to be an extreme view to take. People say that literature fares better when allowed to develop freely and that it needs no state patronage of any kind. But the truth is that compared to the progress made in other things in this Meiji era the progress of literature has been very slow. To me it seems that a Government has it in its power to give valuable assistance to the development of literature. In this country the number of people who read good books is very small and hence authors should welcome the adoption of measures for making their works better known.

To come to the moral aspects of this question, to say that literature is not morality and morality is not literature, and that therefore the two are entirely independent of each other is certainly a view which no Government can ever afford to adopt. Extremely well written books that spread poisonous or immoral ideas can never be allowed to circulate because of their literary value. All literary works have their moral aspects. They must teach some kind of morality, and the question whether it is an elevating or a debasing kind has to be settled by somebody.

There may be objections to leaving the settlement of this question to the authorities or to their nominees. The attitude of the Mombushō officials to the whole of this problem is wanting in clearness. It is not certain whether in establishing a kind of literary censorship their chief object was the encouragement of literature, and not the control of morality. Till this point is made clear, the Committee that has been appointed is not likely to serve any useful purpose.*

COUNT ŌKUMA ON THE BURNING QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

In the April *Taishō* Count Ōkuma comments on the signs of the times in his usual incisive way. Here is the gist of some of his remarks:—High prices and heavy taxes combined are responsible for wide-spread discontent among the lower orders. Though wages have been raised in many cases, the increase made does not correspond to the rise in the cost of living. To expect our farmers and our workmen to live the life of a dog in this 45th year of Meiji is unreasonable. One effect of the universality of education has been the creation of a desire for a higher kind of life than that to which the children of poor parents have been accustomed. Our workmen to-day are no longer content to put up with all the hardships and privations their forefathers bore. Education must mean elevation if it is worth anything. It is having that effect here. The desire to rise to a higher mode of existence is almost universal among our lower orders, and the time is past for men to go on working year in and year out without recreation or pleasure. They want to go to *yasee* or the theatre occasionally, they need new clothes every year, they wish to lay by a little money against sickness, and the money they make does not allow of this.

But the present distress is not confined to the lower orders. Small shopkeepers, school teachers and others are all suffering from the heavy taxation and the high price of commodities. Crime is on the increase. Recent statistics show that the number of criminals last year exceeded the lowest number known in any one year by 20,000.

In the meantime disease is making its ravages among us. Among the total number of deaths in this country, from 10 to 15 per cent. are caused by tuberculosis, and the lamentable thing is that cases of tuberculosis are more numerous among Primary School teachers than among any

* We think that, considering the circumstances under which the Literature Commissioners were appointed and the views of Prince Katsura and Mr. Komatsubara on the subject, the control of morality was certainly the main object in view in the establishment of this new body.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

other class. This is largely owing to the poor food that they eat. Among our soldiers venereal disease is said to be on the increase.

Our political condition is far from hopeful. The Diet accomplishes little in the way of reform. Another general election is to take place next month, but yet there are no signs that the occasion will be utilized for effecting reforms.

To me it seems that the country is in a bad way. (*Waga kuni wa byōteki jōtai ni aru to iwanoba naranu*), whether regarded from a political, social, economic or sanitary point of view. Whence is deliverance from our present evils to come? Not from the Government, nor from educationists, but from an aroused public. The nation must be awakened to a sense of its responsibilities for the present deplorable situation of affairs. If representative government is ever to be anything more than a name in this country, our general elections must be conducted in a different way. Hitherto the cost of getting one member of the Diet elected has ranged between 3,000 and 10,000 yen. How is most of this money spent? In bribery and corruption (*Korera no ōku wa wairo to ka, baishu hi to ka iu koto ni shiyō sarete*). When it is remembered how members get elected, is it any wonder that the nation does not regard them as its representatives and that the Diet is regarded with grave mistrust? Our Diet has none of the dignity that ought to belong to it.

The present is a time when the Press could effect great things if it would only stand forth boldly as an advocate of radical reform. The pen is mightier than the sword and mightier than Governments. Again and again has it both caused war and brought about peace. There is little that it can not do when adroitly used. The nation is now sighing over the evils of the time and wondering whether help will come from some quarter or other. Thus a grand opportunity is offered to journalists and magazine writers for showing the nation how to extricate itself from its present embarrassments.

I have come to the conclusion that powerful as is the Seiyūkai at the present time, the country will look in vain for salvation to come from that quarter. Despite the near approach of the General Election, beyond a proposal to largely increase the number of members by means of a rearrangement of constituencies, they have taken no steps to cleanse our Augean political stables. The seething corruption that exists there are content to leave as it is. Thus it has been made quite plain that no cure for the malady from which the State is suffering will come from political parties (*Soko de wagahai wa mohaya byōteki kokka wo netō ni yotte nuku koto no miagi wo satōta no de aru*). Since then no help can be expected from the Government or from political parties, there is nothing for it but to appeal to the nation. But the nation needs arousing and enlightening as to the real situation of affairs and the Press alone has it in its power to perform this function.

THE DEUTSCHES HAUS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING'S CONCERT.

As was only to be expected, a concert arranged by Madame Petzold and so ably contributed to by her confrères in the world of music, was certain to be a brilliant success. It was so on Wednesday evening, when an enthusiastic audience welcomed the numerous selections—both vocal and instrumental—that were put before them. In connexion with the lady who was responsible for the concert, one willingly tenders to her unlimited thanks and praise. Her exquisite touch and sympathy on the Piano, have seldom been finer illustrated than on this occasion. This was particularly evident in her three pianoforte solos: whilst in the rendering of one of her songs from Schumann, she was exceptionally fine.

Mdme. von Syburg was also in splendid voice in her Aria from Mozart. In response to the de-

mand for an encore, she gave another selection from the same composer.

One of the best items of the evening was the quartette from Gounod's *Faust*. It was given by Mdme. von Syburg, Mrs. Payne, Mr. Aoki and Mr. Funabashi. All participants sang as though they loved the music, whilst there was a dramatic touch about the rendering that reminded one of the last opera house in Europe or America where we heard the glorious strains of the great French composer.

Mr. Funabashi was also in good form in Wolfram's song from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, whilst Mrs. W. T. Payne, in her solos, took the house by storm by the purity of her voice and her histrionic renderings.

To sum up, the evening was a success from start to finish. It was an exhibition of high class music that has rarely—if ever—been excelled in Yokohama. The following is the full programme of the evening.

1. Sonate, op. 109 Beethoven
FRAU PETZOLD.
2. Quartette aus dem "Faust" Gounod
FRAU VON SYBURG, MRS. PAYNE, MR. FUNABASHI
MR. AOKI.
3. Wolfram's Aria aus dem "Tannhäuser" R. Wagner
MR. FUNABASHI.
4. a. Es muss ein Wunderbares sein G. Schjelderup
b. Im Kahn Grieg
c. Pastorale Bizet
d. Frühlingsnacht Schumann
FRAU PETZOLD.
5. a. Sapphic Ode Brahms
b. Lied Hugo Wolf
MRS. PAYNE.
6. a. Etude in C moll Chopin
b. "E dur"
c. Les jeux d'eau de la Villa d'Este Liszt
FRAU PETZOLD.
7. Pauline's Aria aus der "Zauberflöte" Mo ar
FRAU VON SYBURG.
8. a. Terzett der Knaben aus der "Zauberflöte" Mozart
b. Terzett der Damen aus der "Zauberflöte" Mozart
FRAU VON SYBURG, MRS. PAYNE, FRAU PETZOLD.

KWANSAI BANKERS' CONFERENCE.

As already reported, the annual conference of the Kwansai Bankers took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Osaka Bankers' Club. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Oyama, President of the Thirty-fourth Bank, and attended by nearly 150 bankers from Kyoto, Kobe, and other western districts. After a series of reports, the following Resolution was passed unanimously.

"The Resolution advocating the redemption of the national debt, which was passed at the previous general meeting of this Association, was duly adopted and executed by the Government. As a consequence, confidence in Japan's finances has been in great measure restored. While we are not unaware that there is still much need for financial readjustment, we cannot but recognize the imperative necessity of continuing the debt redemption policy, in view of the economic situation abroad, as well as the country's financial condition."

The meeting, which came to a close about half past five, was immediately followed by a grand banquet held at the Osaka Hotel. Among the guests present were Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Kajiwara, Head of the Branch establishment of the Bank of Japan. The dinner was opened by a brief address from Mr. Oyama as president of the Association, which was followed by the speech of the Minister of Finance already reported. Baron Shibusawa also spoke, noting that the opinion entertained by the Kwansai businessmen was entirely in concurrence with that of their fellow bankers in the Kwantō.

Congratulatory speeches from some of the local bankers brought the function to an end at about ten o'clock.

INSTRUCTION IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

Of late, dissatisfaction has been expressed in several quarters at the results of the instruction in Middle Schools, even the Minister of Education going so far as to admit that conditions were far from satisfactory. In some remarks on the subject, the *Nichi Nichi* seeks to attach the blame for this to the laziness of the masters, whose work is stated to be easier than that in any other occupation. The masters, it is contended, teach on an average only 17 or 18 hours a week, the maximum being 25, and therefore, work for only four hours daily, while the student has to work from five to six hours. At the most, says our contemporary, the masters only attend the school for six hours every day, the time when the school is open. If their working hours were made the same as those of the students, a large number might be dispensed with and the salaries of the remainder increased. The answer to this suggestion seems to be that it is made without any practical knowledge of the working of a Middle School. It certainly is necessary to raise the salaries of the masters, but raising the salaries by cutting down the staff, hardly seems to lead to efficiency. It may be taken that the average salary received by Middle School masters is 30 yen a month, which, considering the responsible positions they occupy, seems quite inadequate. But any possible reduction of the staff would hardly serve to increase the average salary much beyond 40 yen, while the increased working hours might deter those most suitable for the posts from seeking appointment, since their abilities would easily enable them to obtain more lucrative employment elsewhere at similar working hours. As a matter of fact, however, the *Nichi Nichi's* figures are not quite correct. We believe in many cases masters are required to teach during the whole of the school hours, which vary from five to six a day. At any rate, if they are not teaching they are required to be in attendance during the whole of the time the school is open, and generally have some extra work to engage them, such as the correction of home-lessons, writing up mark-books, etc. The necessary preparation for the following day's lessons, moreover, can hardly be done in school hours under present conditions, and thus a portion of the masters' leisure must be devoted to this. Various extra duties are also assigned to the masters. One is in charge of the boarding establishment, another in charge of the library, and in many schools, parents' meetings are held and have to be attended after school hours. Teaching, of course, forms the main part of the masters' duties, but the many other tasks assigned to them must not be forgotten. Further, the conditions under which the masters work are, in many schools, not conducive to that sustained energy which is so necessary in teaching. The room in which they have to sit when not teaching is very often ill-ventilated and stuffy, while there is no attempt made to give any convenience to those who desire to study. The tendency of the *Nichi Nichi's* critic to depreciate the arduousness of teaching shows but little practical knowledge. All teaching tends to become mechanical, and the more mechanical it becomes the worse it is. Freshness and vividness cannot be maintained for many hours at a stretch, more especially when the same lesson has to be repeated hour after hour, and the longer the hours of work, the more mechanical the teaching will become. It is contended that the masters should be placed on a level with the students in regard to instruction, but the positions are not comparable. The students go from one lesson to another. They have not, for instance, to study Japanese or English during the whole of their school hours. The lessons are diversified, and are, moreover, broken by the drilling and fencing lessons which are obligatory on all the students. Looked at from every side, an increase in the masters' hours of instruction would seem rather to lead to decreased efficiency than otherwise. If the results of the instruction

in the Middle Schools are not satisfactory, the reason must be sought elsewhere,—whether in the methods employed, the ability of the students, or the term of the school course. From what point of view the results are unsatisfactory does not appear. If it be from the point of view of knowledge, it must be admitted that only a very small percentage of Middle School graduates succeed in entering the High Schools. This, however, seems to be rather the result of the wide gap between the Middle and High Schools than any lack of ability on the part of the students. There being only a limited accommodation in the High Schools, a high standard is fixed in the examinations to form a barrier to exclude the incompetent. Thus a gap is formed between the institutions. A large number of students, moreover, pass through the Middle-School course under extreme pressure. That is to say, with no natural ability they yet manage to scrape through from one class to another, and emerge from the school with extremely hazy ideas as to the knowledge they are supposed to have acquired. Such students actually retard the progress of the others and steps to avoid this would be of value. This might be attained by greater classification of the students according to their ability. The instruction suitable for a clever boy, may be quite unsuitable for a dull boy, who requires much more laboured explanation. At present the students of any one year are arranged in the classes quite arbitrarily, the clever with the dull, and an average method of instruction has to be taken, which may fall short of the capacity of the clever and yet be above the capacity of the dull. If the students had term removes from one class to another according to their ability, better results would certainly accrue so far as instruction is concerned. From the point of view of general conduct, it would seem that the no small amount of insubordination shown by the Middle Schools is partly due to the shortness of the school course. The students are turned out into the world at a time when they are neither one thing nor the other—neither boys nor men. Approaching the end of their school course, they imagine that they have attained some of the dignity of manhood, with the result that they become inflated with wrong ideas as to their position. If the course were continued for another two years, they would be sobered down by the time they reached the highest class and would be able to exercise a better influence over the others. The highest class in a Japanese Middle School represents, in an English public school, the fourth or fifth form, where the turbulent elements mostly congregate. If any charge can be brought against the masters it is that they are too fond of change. Partly this arises from the fact they have no inducement to attach themselves to one school. It is certainly not good for the students to have a constant change of masters, as is now very often the case, and methods of promotion for masters who have taught for a long term in one school might prove advantageous.

FIRES.

On the 10th instant a fire occurred at Hikone Station in Shiga prefecture, destroying four car-sheds and seventeen cars. The loss is estimated at 20,000 yen.

A fire started on Thursday evening last about 8 o'clock in the mill belonging to the Tokyo Spinning Company at Higashi Daiku-machi, Fukagawa, and was not brought under control till the mill had been reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at 8,000 yen.

A despatch from Aomori reports that a fire broke out at three on Thursday morning last at Kizukuri-machi, destroying some 120 houses, including a police station and a primary school.

On Saturday night last at eleven o'clock, a fire broke out at Teniyaura-machi in Otaru, resulting in the destruction of 114 houses. No casualties are reported. The loss is estimated at 30,000 yen.

A fire started on Saturday last at Niishima, Izu

province, resulting in the destruction of 44 houses. The loss is put at some 50,000 yen.

A despatch from Aomori reports that a fire broke out on Sunday morning last at Nouchi-mura, Higashi Tsugaru district, destroying 96 houses. No casualties are reported.

A despatch from Zenshu in Chosen reports that at midnight on Saturday last a fire started at the coach office situated in the centre of the Japanese town in the said city, resulting in the demolition of some 60 houses, including a few public buildings and shops of Japanese and Chosenese. The loss is estimated at over ten thousand yen. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

A fire originated at a carpenter's house in Nanaiki-mura, Kitazumi district, on Sunday night last at nine, resulting in the destruction of 17 houses and five *chobu* of forest.

A fire started in the Akagi pasture at Fujimimura, Seta district, on Sunday morning last about eleven o'clock, and was only suppressed after it had burned for nearly twenty hours. Some 200 *chobu* of meadow land, 100 *chobu* of State forests, and 20 *chobu* of private forests were destroyed in the fire. As the land contained only a small quantity of timber, however, the loss is surmised to be comparatively small.

On Tuesday night at nine o'clock a fire broke out at a house occupied by a doctor named Tanaka, living at Kamo-machi, Minami Kambara district, Niigata prefecture. The flames were brought under control in three hours, after completely destroying 230 houses and partly damaging 30.

On Wednesday afternoon, at two, a fire broke out at the house of a timber merchant called Tahata, living at Kodama-machi, Kodama district, Saitama prefecture. Some 24 houses, including a police station, were reduced to ashes.

A fire started on Wednesday night at ten at Otsuka-machi, Koishikawa, resulting in the destruction of over 50 houses. The cause of the outbreak is under investigation.

THE SORACHI COAL FIELD.

The Sapporo Mining Superintendence Office will shortly publish the results of its investigations as to the Sorachi coal field. This, the *Chuo* regards as most timely, in view of the great attention the Hokkaido coal fields are now beginning to attract, the stock of Kyushu coal being almost exhausted. In the absence of the latest statistical investigations, it is out of the question to ascertain what are the dimensions of the coal fields in Hokkaido or the quantity of the coal deposited in them, but according to investigations made as early as 1891, the amount of the deposits in the different coal fields were as follows:—

	Tons.
Ishikari	537,820,000
Kushiro	9,295,000
Rumoi	21,780,000
Haboro	12,492,000
Soya	20,200,000
Chinuma	1,800,000
Makubetsu	4,200,000

Total..... 597,585,000

On this basis, the stock of coal in Hokkaido will last for some six hundred years if a million tons are mined a year, or some 120 years, if five million tons are mined. In reality, however, the total amount of coal deposits in the Island must be far greater than the figures given above, in view of the new coal fields that have been discovered since the investigations.

The Sorachi coal field covers an area of a hundred square miles, the breadth of the seam reaching at some spots over sixty feet, but generally ranging from three to ten feet. In point of quality the Sorachi coal is a little inferior to the Yubare coal, but in quantity the former is believed to exceed the latter. According to the calculations of experts, the amount of deposits in the Sorachi coal field reaches nearly 560,000,000 tons,—a quantity enough to last over 150 years, even if some 2,500,000 tons is mined every year.

THE SHIRASE EXPEDITION.

The *Tokyo Asahi* publishes a long telegram from Sydney giving the results of an interview obtained by Prof. David of Sydney University with Mr. Takeda, a member of the Japanese Antarctic Expedition Party. Mr. Takeda gave the following account of the results of the expedition. On December 10th, the Party reached a spot at 62° S. 68° E. where they saw an iceberg for the first time. From that time they had to voyage through ice fields all the way. When the *Kainan Maru* was at 67° S. and 17° W., the weather became stormy and she had to change her course towards the east-south-east, until she entered the Ross Sea. On January 7th, at 75° S. and 60° W. she was caught by another violent storm, and was obliged to turn to the west-north-west. Two days later at 73° E. and 73° S. she changed her course for the east-south-east until she reached Whale Bay in 67° S. on January 17th. After landing a section of the Party there, the vessel resumed her voyage, and on the 27th of the same month arrived at Edward VII. Land at 150° W. and 73° S. Making this point a terminus of the voyage, she turned backward, surveying the coast on the way.

As for the section landed at Whale Bay, consisting of Mr. Takeda and three others, of whom two were Ainu, they started on January 20th, and, advanced for ten days in a south-easterly direction, arriving at a point about 1,300 feet above the sea level, at 156° 27' W. and 80° 5' S. some 150 miles distant from the starting point. Thence they returned to Whale Bay, rushing down the sloping icefields in dog-sledges in three days. The whole Party left the Bay on February 14th, and would have come back round by Cormack island as well as Adora Cape, but were prevented by storms.

The Professor speaks in high terms of the achievements of the Shirase Party, regarding the results of their exploration as greatly benefiting the world's scientific knowledge. He further observes that the Party's reports on the results of their survey of Edward VII. Land and its vicinity furnish eloquent material for the disestablishment of the theory as to some geographical connection between South Victoria Land and Edward VII. Land. The Professor also took much interest in the results of the Party's investigation as to the constitution of icebergs, and expressed his hearty thanks for the mineral samples presented to him by the Party, appreciating them as the first samples obtained from Edward VII. Land that have ever come to Australia. He promised that he would present the Party with some mineral samples obtained in the Hadmoor ice river which would prove very helpful to their studies as to the connection of the two islands. Mr. Takeda, is said to have replied that he would on his return to Japan send the Professor a translation of the whole reports on the results of the Party's exploration and would have it submitted to Cambridge University to compare with the report from Captain Scott. He also said that he would publish the whole results of the exploration.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their Daily Report for April 12th, state:—

Owing to the weak Bulls having all cleared out and fresh buying orders coming in from the interior, coupled with the easy state of the Money Market, the morning Session opened much brighter in tone. Shares advanced all round 10.50 sen, Kogyo Ginko in particular with a rise of 80 sen, and Stock Exchanges, Old 1.35 yen and New 60 sen.

In the afternoon, in consequence of the weak and tophavy condition of the market, all shares declined some 5/60 sen, with the following exceptions: Yokohama Godowns 35 sen up, Nikkan Gas 40 sen, and Toyo Muslims 35 sen. Exchanges Old dropped 1.25 yen and New 80 sen.

As the Stock Exchange Shares are some 6 points below the High water mark, the Bulls and

Bears are fighting hard to gain the mastery: 72,040 shares changed hands yesterday.

Owing to the injurious tactics of the "Bears" in circulating rumours about the fall of Nankin, the "Bulls" got a severe scare this morning and threw all their holdings on the market, thereby causing a general slump all round, Fuji Paper excepted, which rose 15 sen. Yusen led with a fall of 90 sen, followed by Specie Bank new 1.35 yen, Tokyo Electric Lights 1.00 yen, Spinnings 30 sen to 1.30 yen. Oils were badly hit and fell 1.35 yen to 1.95. Exchanges old 1.75 yen and new 1.35 yen.

The "slump" continued in the afternoon, the undertone being weak, the "Bears" awaiting their chance to resume offensive operations. All shares fluctuated within narrow limits and business was slack. Sugars and Oils were again weak. Exchange old fell only 5 sen, and new 60 sen. Yesterday 38, 60 shares changed hands.

The market opened this morning weak and irregular, the "Bears" having resumed their assaults on certain shares, taking advantage of the weakness of the "Bulls." The principal falls were new Specie Bank 1.00, Kogyo Ginko, 1.20 yen and Tokyo Spinnings 1.20 yen. Other Spinnings fell 10/20 sen; Sugars fluctuated either way 10/30 sen, Oils were firm and regained 45/60 sen, Exchange shares old and new dropped 1.20 and 1.40 respectively.

There being no fresh buying orders coming forward, the afternoon session opened particularly weak, owing to violent "Bear" attacks, in consequence all shares collapsed. Specie Banks fell 1.20 yen, Kogyo Ginko 95 sen, Kyushu Colliery 1.30 yen, Artificial Fertilisers 1.10 yen, Woolens 70/80 sen. Spinnings were badly hammered and fell 1.10 yen for Fuji Gas, and 1.90 yen and 1.10 yen for Kanegafuchi Old and New respectively. Sugars declined 10/70 sen. Exchanges Old gained 55 sen and New were unchanged.

Yesterday 85,850 shares changed hands.

This morning the market, in reaction to yesterday's slump, was slightly better in tone. Specie and Kogyo Banks gained 50 sen each, Kyushu Colliery 80 sen, Spinnings improved 10/70 sen, Sugars fluctuated within small limits, Oils were a trifle weak and fell 10/20 sen, Exchanges Old gained 5 sen, and new declined 1.25 yen, owing to renewed assaults by the "Bears."

Owing to the outlook becoming gradually optimistic, the afternoon session opened somewhat irregular in tone. The principal gains were Toyo Kisen old 40 sen, Specie Bank new 80 sen, Nikkan Gas 30 sen, Toyo Sugar 45 sen, Artificial Fertilisers 65 sen and others 5/20 sen. The falls were Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old 70 sen, Fuji Gassed 30 sen, Taiwan Sugars 30 sen, and others fractionally. Exchanges Old dropped 55 sen, and New recovered 30 sen.

Yesterday 76,440 shares changed hands.

The favourable impression made by the Minister of Finance's speech at the Osaka Bankers' Convention, combined with the conclusion of the Six Powers Syndicate Loan and the promising aspects of the trade with China, gave a "fillip" to this morning's market and all shares moved upwards. Yokohama Trams New led with a rise of 85 sen, followed by Yusen 80 sen, Kogyo Ginko 95 sen. Gas and Electric Lights were quiet. Spinnings put on 70 sen to 1.15 yen. Sugars 65/95 sen, Oils 70 sen to 1.00 yen. Goto Woolens 1.80 yen, Exchanges Old regained 1.5 and New 2.05 yen.

In continuance of the tone of the morning, all shares advanced more or less in the afternoon Session. The reaction which has set in is in accordance with the "intrinsic" value or otherwise of the shares, as will be proved in future markets. With regard to Exchange shares, although they have already declined some 10 points the

"Bear" movement is still in force. Exchange old 15 sen down, and new 1.00 yen down. Yesterday 53,110 shares changed hands.

This morning the market opened somewhat dull and inactive and prices fluctuated either way within 10/30 sen limits. There were no noteworthy changes to report. Exchanges Old declined 25 sen, but New gained 1.10 yen.

In the afternoon the tone was much firmer, and nearly all shares advanced. Kogyo Bank rose 50 sen, Yokohama Godowns 65 sen, Fertilisers 50 sen, Fuji Gassed Spinnings old 35 sen, and new 60 sen, Kanegafuchi old 70 sen, Goto Woolens 65 sen, Toyo Muslims 70 sen, Sugars 10/40 sen, Oils 35/65 sen. Exchange Shares were keenly contested, the old gained 80 sen and new lost 5 sen. Yesterday, 48,200 shares changed hands.

HODEN OIL COMPANY.

The Hoden Oil Company will hold a general meeting of its shareholders on the 27th instant, when the following accounts will be submitted:—

Net Profit	Yen.
Brought over from last account	918,534.79
Total	1,013,948.79
Legal Reserve	50,000.00
Special Reserve	50,000.00
Dividends (12 per cent.)	757,960.00
Bonus	50,000.00
Officers Relief Fund	5,000.00
To be carried forward	100,988.79

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."
Sir,—In the picturesque account of Governor-General Terauchi, from the pen of the Rev. J. E. Gale, which you quote from the *Independent*, there appears the following statement:—

"But think of Terauchi when the *Hatsue* went down off Port Arthur, a prize battleship of 15,000 tons, seven hundred men and more on board, with those sorely needed twelve-inch guns; and worse still, when the loss was wired home to him of the transports that had been sent off without convoy! The way seemed clear, and the move a secret one, and yet the Russian cruisers suddenly appeared and Japan (sic) that would not surrender went down. There had been a leak somewhere in the sources of information. Some one had spied and the unpleasant task of locating the spy fell to Terauchi. One fair morning on the seas off Dzushi, near the quiet Buddha of Kamakura, a posse of soldiers was seen to be encircling a French officer's house. The officer was arrested by order of the Minister of War, tried, sentenced to fifteen years in the penitentiary, but afterward pardoned and sent home."

In justice to the late Captain Bougouin, who is evidently the French officer referred to, attention may be drawn to certain facts. The sinking of the Japanese transports took place in June 1904 and the Vladivostok squadron was practically destroyed in August of the same year. Captain Bougouin was arrested in June 1905 and tried the following month. In the judgment of the court, under the grounds on which the judgment is based, the dates when secret information was supplied are given. The earliest date is November 21st, 1904, three months after the Vladivostok Squadron had been so crippled that its practical utility was over. These dates speak for themselves. Further, Captain Bougouin was never charged with supplying news to Russia; the information was clearly stated to have been sent to France, for the French Press. However much Captain Bougouin may have erred in judgment, it was never suggested that he was working with the then enemies of this country.

I may also point out that Captain Bougouin was not "sent home." The pardon was an unconditional one, and the Captain left the country of his own accord.

The Rev. Mr. Gale's story is a piece of literary rhodomontade that seems to be unworthy of a Christian Minister in its remarkable lack of charity and disregard of truth.

Yours truly,
April 14, 1912,

JUSTICE.

TELEGRAMS.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GIST OF THE MEASURE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 12.

The House of Commons was crowded when Mr. Asquith, the Premier, who received an ovation, introduced the Home Rule Bill.

The Premier said that since the extension of the franchise in 1884 there had been eight general elections, but throughout the changing policies one thing had remained constant, namely the intense persistence of the Irish demand for Home Rule.

Mr. Asquith emphasized the preponderant character of the vote given in favour of Home Rule in Ireland, and pointed out that Ulster returned 17 Unionists and 16 Home Rulers.

Every year emphasized the imperative need of the emancipation of the Imperial Parliament from local cares.

Mr. Asquith also laid stress on the congestion of business in the House of Commons under the existing system.

The Bill itself, he said, expressly stipulated that the supreme authority of the Imperial Parliament should remain unimpaired.

The Irish Parliament will consist of a Senate and a House of Commons, and will only have power to make laws respecting matters exclusively relating to Ireland. The list of excluded matters wherewith the Irish Parliament will not be able to deal, as contained in the last Home Rule Bill, is maintained, with certain additions.

There are also special provisions for the protection of religious equality.

The Senate consists of forty members, nominated in the first instance by the Imperial Executive. The House of Commons will consist of 164 members.

For the present the collection of all taxes will remain in the hands of the Imperial service.

The Irish Parliament will have full power to increase or reduce taxation subject to certain restrictions.

The Irish representation at Westminster is reduced to 42, and is unfettered by any voting right.

London, April 13.

Sir Edward Carson has denounced the proposals of the Home Rule Bill as ridiculous and fantastic and the safeguards as delusions and mere palliatives to the members who, for conscience' sake, had left the Liberals.

It is pointed out by the Liberals that Sir Clifford Cory is the only Liberal opponent of the measure, the two others being doubtful.

Otherwise the party is unanimous.

The Unionists are frankly irreconcilable, and describe the measure as establishing "freedom under police supervision," while its finance is unintelligible.

The severest criticisms dwell upon the composition of the Senate and the inadequacy of the safeguards, which are held up to ridicule.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 12.

The House of Commons was crowded on

the occasion of the introduction of the Irish Home Rule Bill.

The Premier's scheme is regarded as likely to disappoint the Nationalists without allaying the fears or diminishing the hostility of the Irish Unionists.

There are two alternative balance sheets, the first with a deficit of £500,000, to be furnished by Great Britain, and the second with a deficit of two millions.

Forty-two Irish members are to be retained at Westminster, apparently for the purpose of voting great subsidies for the Irish Parliament.

The *Times* describes the Bill as identical with the two previous measures, and as an impossible Bill, full of contradictions.

STEAMSHIP DISASTER.

SINKING OF THE "TITANIC."

FEARED LOSS OF LIFE.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 16.

The Canadian and American papers report that an icefield extends for 100 miles off Newfoundland, with enormous icebergs. Such a thing is regarded as phenomenal.

The *Carmania* and *Niagara* had perilous times, the latter being twice holed. Four other liners were more or less damaged.

The White Star liner *Titanic*, the largest vessel afloat, which left Southampton on her maiden voyage on the 10th inst., with some 2,000 persons aboard, sent a wireless message that she had collided with an iceberg and asked for assistance.

The *Virginia*, *Olympic* and *Baltic* are hastening to her aid, but the *Virginia* is 170 miles off the spot and the *Baltic* 200 miles.

The last message from the *Titanic* received by the *Virginia* was blurred and ended abruptly.

A telegram from Cape Race says the *Titanic* is sinking by the head. The women are being taken off in life boats. She reported that she struck an iceberg at 10.25 p.m. and required immediate assistance.

From New York it was at first reported that the *Titanic* sank at 2.20 yesterday morning and that no lives were lost, but a later message says that many lives have been lost.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 16.

The Mercantile Marine Company of New York has received a private message from the captain of the White Star liner *Olympic*, stating that the same company's steamship *Titanic*, on her maiden voyage from Southampton, sank at 2.20 on Monday morning off Cape Race in a collision with an iceberg.

Probably only 675 out of 2,358 passengers have been saved and are aboard the *Carpathia*.

MOST APPALLING SHIPWRECK ON RECORD.

UNPRECEDENTED LOSS OF LIFE.

DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS ON BOARD.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 16.

Reuter's exclusive telegram as to the sinking of the White Star liner *Titanic* was

received as the papers were going to press and was printed alongside editorials and special articles, expressing thankfulness that the vessel was safe and dwelling on the fact that the marvels of science had minimised the dangers of modern sea-going.

New York and London and all the European capitals, which were lulled into a feeling of relief, are now confronted by an unprecedented disaster.

The reports show that the loss of the *Titanic* is probably the most appalling shipwrecking disaster on record.

The Cunard liner *Carpathia* reports that when she reached the scene of the disaster she found only the boats and some wreckage.

It is believed that about 675 passengers and crew have been saved out of 2,358.

Those saved are mostly women and children.

There were 320 first-class passengers aboard, including Mr. Hays, the President of the Grand Trunk Railway, Mr. J. B. Ismay, the Chairman of the White Star Line, and Mr. W. T. Stead, the English journalist.

London, April 17.

The White Star liner *Olympic* has sent a wireless message to New York that the Cunard liner *Carpathia* is proceeding to New York with 868 survivors from the *Titanic*, mostly women and children, whereof 675 are passengers. Fifteen hundred are missing, including 780 passengers.

The *Carpathia* is expected at New York on Thursday afternoon. She is hampered by large icebergs and twenty miles of field ice.

A message from St. John's says that all hope that any passengers from the *Titanic* other than those on the *Carpathia* will arrive has been abandoned.

All the steamers that have been searching the vicinity of the disaster have continued their voyages.

A wireless message from Cape Race says that neither of the Allan liners, *Virginian* and *Parisian*, have any of the *Titanic*'s passengers aboard, although the earlier telegrams gave a glimmer of hope.

By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 17.

The Cunard liner *Carpathia* will arrive at New York on Thursday.

She has 868 passengers aboard rescued from the *Titanic*.

The remaining 1,500 passengers and crew are missing.

It is believed that the *Titanic* encountered a great icefield studded with enormous icebergs.

No survivors have been found. A wide area is covered by the wreckage.

Later.

The *Titanic* disaster has cast a gloom over the whole of Europe, which is deeply sympathetic.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Asquith, the Premier, spoke most feelingly of the appalling loss of life, whereat the whole nation mourned.

Paris is struck with consternation because of the numerous American residents who have lost their lives in the disaster.

In the German Reichstag the President expressed his deepest sorrow.

SEARCH FOR THE "CARPATHIA."

London, April 18.

Intense depression and anxiety prevail in New York.

President Taft has ordered two swift

cruisers to leave Hampton Roads and establish communication as quickly as possible with the *Capathia*, which is bringing the survivors of the *Titanic* disaster.

It is now stated that these number 705. The British and American public are both greatly excited at the fact that the *Titanic* only carried twenty boats, holding approximately 1,200 people.

A question is to be raised in the House of Commons.

(REUTER'S SERVICE).

THE COAL STRIKE.

London, April 11.

It is estimated that half-a-million miners were working yesterday.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 11.

A fleet of transports, escorted by Italian battleships, effected a landing of Italian troops near Zuaro in Tripoli, after engaging the enemy, by the feat of landing elsewhere.

ATTACK BY BERBERS.

London, April 11.

Two thousand five hundred Berbers attacked a French reconnaissance party commanded by Colonel Ferraud on the 9th inst. near Zebdu.

Colonel Ferraud vigorously reattacked and routed the Berbers with heavy loss.

The French casualties were 20 killed and 23 wounded.

ERUPTION AT PANAMA.

London, April 12.

A fruit steamer which has arrived at Mobile in Alabama reports that a thousand persons have been killed by an eruption of Chiriquipek at Panama.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, April 12.

Colonel Roosevelt has won a great victory over President Taft in the election of delegates at Illinois for the Presidential Convention, thus stimulating the hopes of the ex-President's supporters.

OUTBREAK AT NANKING.

London, April 12.

The *Daily News* publishes a telegram from Nanking stating that Sampallo Station was robbed yesterday night by the soldiers.

The firing and looting began at midnight and still continues. The city gates were kept closed in the morning.

General Huan is said to have control of the situation.

THE PRICE OF COAL.

London, April 13.

The price of coal has fallen 10s. a ton in London.

OUTRAGE IN PARIS.

London, April 13.

A taxicab has been blown to atoms in Paris by a powerful infernal machine.

The outrage is probably connected with the taxicab strike.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, April 13.

The supporters of Colonel Roosevelt have made a clean sweep of Maine.

AERONAUTICS.

London, April 14.

M. Prevost, the French aviator, ascended with a passenger from Issy-les-Moulineaux at 6.45, landed at Calais, reascended, crossed

the Channel and arrived at Eastchurch at 7.30 (?).

It is understood that the British Admiralty has purchased the aeroplane.

Lieutenant Boncour has been killed by the fall of his aeroplane at Bar-le-duc.

THE CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET.

London, April 14.

The Chicago wheat market has become very excited and prices have jumped up on receipt of reports of the damage done to the crops in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and North East Kansas.

RUSSIA AND THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, April 15.

France and Russia are completely agreed regarding the latter's participation in the Chinese loan.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE.

London, April 15.

The French papers completely approve of M. Poincaré's speeches, justifying in the happiest manner the Anglo-French entente.

UNITED STATES AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

London, April 15.

An authoritative statement has been issued to the effect that prior to Mr. Knox's departure for home on the conclusion of his tour through the Central American States he stated that he was convinced of the necessity of the continuation of the Monroe doctrine, and that it was incumbent on the United States to see that Latin Americans maintain stable governments and observe their international obligations.

DEATH OF M. BRISSON.

London, April 15.

The death is announced of M. Brissson, former President of the Council of the French Ministry.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA.

London, April 15.

The Senate at Washington has resolved to congratulate the Chinese people on the assumption of the powers, duties and responsibilities of self government.

THE MOROCCO QUESTION.

London, April 15.

The Franco-Spanish negotiations are dragging on without any results and pessimism and irritation are growing in Paris and Madrid.

According to the French papers France has decided to proceed with the reorganisation of Morocco and a survey of the railway between Tangier and Fez without awaiting the agreement of Spain.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE FRENCH ESTIMATES.

London, April 12.

The French Budget estimates for 1913 contemplate the unprecedented expenditure of £186,586,621, an increase of over £6,500,000 compared with the last estimates. It is proposed to meet the deficit from the special reserves.

QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

London, April 12.

The unveiling of the Queen Victoria Memorial at Nice to-day was made the occasion for a demonstration of Anglo-French friendship.

A combined review of British sailors and

French troops was the most significant feature.

MORE TROUBLE IN PERSIA.

London, April 15.

Further trouble in Persia is indicated by the fact that the ex-Shah's brother, Salated-Dowleh, refuses to accept the advice offered by Great Britain and Russia to leave the country.

It is reported that he intends to proclaim himself Shah.

JAPAN'S AIRSHIP.

London, April 15.

The Parseval airship for Japan at a trial flight has developed a speed of 41 miles an hour.

THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.

London, April 15.

The success of Colonel Roosevelt's candidature in Pennsylvania shows the influence of his personality and his policy.

The President describes the struggle as between ultra-radicalism and demagoguery on the one hand, and the forces of sane Progressivism on the other.

Colonel Roosevelt says the struggle is destined to decide whether the country is to be ruled by the people or by the bosses' representatives and a selfish minority.

GERMAN AERONAUTICS.

London, April 17.

The leaders of the German Aerial Naval League declare that the attempt to awaken popular enthusiasm in aeronautics has been a comparative failure, and the appeal for subscriptions has not been a great success.

REVOLT AT FEZ.

London, April 18.

News has been received at Tangier that the native troops at Fez have mutinied and part of the population has joined them, causing a general revolt.

The wireless station is unable to obtain any satisfaction, and great anxiety is left.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

HANCELLOR LEAVES FOR HOME.

Berlin, April 11.

The Chancellor has left Corfu on board the cruiser *Kolberg* for Brindisi. On his way back to Berlin, where he will arrive on April 14th, he will visit the Prince Regent at München and the Kaiserin at Naheim.

A RUMOUR.

The *Germania*, the organ of the Centre party, reports that Herr von Kiderlen Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will resign during the month of April and be succeeded by Count Bernstorff, the present Ambassador at Washington. This rumour is, however, without foundation.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN PANAMA.

A terrible eruption of the Volcano Chiriqui, on the Isthmus of Panama, has taken place. Up to the time of the dispatch of the telegram over 1,000 deaths had been reported. The lava and falling rocks have spread devastation over a very wide area.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian battle fleet before Tripoli has landed troops at Zuara, a town west of Tripoli.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to March

28th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on April 14th.

RELIEF TRANSPORT OUTWARD BOUND.

Berlin, April 12.

The relief transport of the German East Asiatic Squadron left Wilhelmshaven on April 11th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

An Italian cruiser has seized a German steamer en route from Malta to Alexandria, which was, however, released immediately after her arrival at the Egyptian port as a result of representations of the German Foreign office. The cargo of the steamer, consisting of ammunition, was destined for a German cruiser.

GREEK BISHOPRIC IN HUNGARY.

The Vatican at Rome has given its agreement to the foundation of a Greek orthodox bishopric in Hungary.

RUSSO-TURKISH RELATIONS.

Rumours are again being spread according to which a new conflict between Russia and Turkey must be feared. These rumours are, however, officially contradicted by both Governments.

SEVERE WEATHER IN GERMANY.

Berlin, April 13.

Severe frosts have been experienced in Germany, accompanied by heavy snowstorms.

ARMAMENT BILLS.

Berlin, April 14.

The new German army and navy bill has been finally decided, the expenditure being met by the introduction of an extensive alcohol tax. The Bill will be presented to the Reichstag on April 15th.

CRUISERS' TRIP TO NEW YORK.

The new German armoured cruiser "Moltke," accompanied by two smaller cruisers, will leave for New York on May 10th as a return of last year's visit of the American Squadron to German ports.

AIRSHIP'S MOTOR DEFECT.

The airship "Schuette-Lanz" was forced to go to earth during a long distance flight, owing to a motor defect. When again rising the other motor gave out and the airship had again to land hurriedly. Several persons were slightly injured on this occasion, but the airship itself was not damaged.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, April 13.

The Russian Government has directed an official interpellation to the German Government, asking if the latter would participate in a common representation at Constantinople. The German Government has agreed to join the other Powers, and has instructed the German Ambassador to this effect.

Berlin, April 14.

Common action of the Powers at Constantinople will probably take place next week.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has agreed to accept the common interpellation of the Powers as to the conclusion of peace on April 16th.

Two Italian airships have carried out successful flights and manoeuvres extending over a period of twelve hours in Tripoli.

ADVANCE ON TEHERAN.

Salar Daieh, the brother of the Ex-Shah,

has directed an appeal to the Kurdes tribes to join his force in an advance to Teheran.

SWEDISH BATTLESHIP.

Twelve million crowns have been collected in Sweden by public subscription for the construction of a new battleship.

"TITANIC" STRIKES ICEBERG.

Berlin, April 15.

The White Star liner *Titanic*, 45,000 tons, on her maiden voyage, collided, while going at full speed, with a submerged iceberg. So terrific was the impact that the huge liner's bows were completely stove in and the vessel speedily commenced to sink. Wireless messages, appealing for immediate aid, were dispatched by the operators and these messages were picked up at various points. All panic was averted and the passengers were accommodated in the boats. Two other liners are proceeding at full speed towards the sinking leviathan. The news was received at Berlin at the wireless station.

COLONIAL CHANGES.

Dr. Schnee, the Director of the Colonial Office, has been nominated Governor of German East Africa as successor to Freiherr von Rechenberg, the present Governor. His successor in the Colonial Office will be Dr. Gleim, the present Governor of the Cameroons.

RUSSIAN MINISTER TO MUENCHEN DEAD.

The new Russian Minister to Muenchen, von Korff-Schmisingk, is dead. The death occurred immediately on his arrival.

GERMAN DETAINED IN MOROCCO.

A German national has been detained by members of the Kismar tribe between Tarodant and Agadir in Morocco. The German authorities have carried out the necessary steps for his release.

THE TEXT OF THE ARMAMENT BILLS.

The new German army and navy bill has been presented to the German Reichstag in to-day's session. It demands:

Seventeen new battalions of infantry, six squadrons of cavalry, 41 batteries of field-artillery, six battalions of engineers, special engineers and train and 106 new machine-gun companies. The expenses of the new bill amount in millions of marks to:

Year.	Army.	Navy.
1912	79	15
1913	101	29
1914	78	39
1915	58	40
1916	62	44
1917	62	18

In the fiscal year 1912, the expenses are covered by the surplus of 80,000,000 marks, the rest being made up by the thorough raising of the alcohol tax.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople have been ordered by their Governments to direct independent interpellations to the Sublime Porte as to the conditions for a conclusion of hostilities against Italy.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to April 1st, arrived at Berlin on April 14th.

THE SINKING OF THE "TITANIC."

Berlin, April 16.

The *Titanic* of the White Star Line, which was reported in our telegrams of yesterday to have struck a submerged iceberg, has

sunk. Only 675 of the 2,200 passengers were saved.

A later official statement announces that only the first-class passengers were taken off.

REICHSTAG AND LANDTAG REOPENED.

The Reichstag and Prussian Landtag have reopened their sessions after the Easter vacation.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Berlin, April 16.

The French Government states that the French market will be closed to all Chinese loans which are being concluded by other than the Six Powers' Syndicate.

Contradictory to certain complaints as to insufficient protection of German interests and lives in China, the *Koelnische Zeitung* states that protective measures, corresponding to the requirements of the situation, have been taken and satisfactory protection granted to Germans everywhere in China, which was fully proved by the course of events up to the present time.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Fifteen hundred Soudanese troops have arrived at the Turkish camp in Tripoli.

RUSSO-AUSTRIA RELATIONS.

The *Lokalansieger* at Berlin reports that the new Austrian Ambassador to Russia will present a personal letter from Emperor Franz Joseph to the Tsar, by which the last cause for dissension between Russia and Austria will be removed.

THE LOSS OF THE "TITANIC."

Berlin, April 17.

The German Press greatly praises the exceptional heroism displayed by the officers and crew of the ill-fated *Titanic*. Perfect discipline was maintained while the whole of the women and children were transferred to the boats, and after these were filled they left the ship, the captain, with the rest of the passengers and crew, awaiting their fate as the vessel slowly sank.

The Kaiser has forwarded a message to King George, expressing his keen sympathy, while the German Ambassador in London, by order of the Government, has expressed condolence with the White Star Line.

The President of the Reichstag, with the full agreement of all parties and members, has expressed to the English nation the deep sympathy and regret of the German nation at the loss of the *Titanic*.

German Insurance Companies share the loss of the *Titanic* to the amount of 1 1/2 million marks.

BUDGET SURPLUS.

The Prussian Minister for the Railways, speaking in the Landtag, stated that the surplus of last year's revenue amounted to 127 million marks.

ECLIPSE OBSERVED FROM AIRSHIP.

German astronomers observed, from a Zeppelin airship, the eclipse of the sun on April 17th.

MINISTRY RESIGNS.

The Hungarian Ministry has resigned owing to the impossibility of over-coming the opposition in the Chamber.

PERSIA.

Turkey has ordered a diminution of her consular guards in Persia.

RUSSIAN MINISTER AT TANGIERS.

Le Temps at Paris reports from St. Petersburg that the post of Russian Minister at

Tangiers will be left open for the present. M. Korostowetz, who had been nominated for this post, will remain at St. Petersburg until the conclusion of the revision of the III treaty of 1881 with China.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Sublime Porte has accepted the Notes of the various Powers delivered by the respective Ambassadors. Assim Bey, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressed his Government's thanks to the Ambassadors, emphasizing the friendly sentiment by which this action was dictated. It was, however, to be expected that negotiations on the conclusion of peace would only be admitted by Turkey on the condition of the withdrawal of the declaration of annexation of Tripoli by Italy.

CAPITALISATION OF NEW COMPANIES.

According to official investigations the gross amount of capital invested in new enterprises during the month of March, totals over 60,000,000 yen. This brings the total for the first three months of the current year up to 146,000,000 yen. The details are shown in the following table:—

Class.	March.	Since January.
Banking.....	3,865,000	29,315,000
Spinning.....	3,200,000	4,200,000
Electric.....	3,450,000	11,885,000
Mining.....	350,000	7,650,000
Marine.....	900,000	1,900,000
Railway.....	6,000,000	10,080,000
Manufacturing.....	28,000,000	42,470,000
Shipping.....	150,000	1,250,000
Insurance.....	1,000,000	1,000,000
Commercial and others.....	13,570,000	26,290,000
Total.....	60,585,000	146,040,500

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE annual regatta of the First High School took place on Thursday morning last on the Sumida river.

THE Cavalry Regiment of the Imperial Guards Division will be removed to Toyama on the 15th instant.

THE graduation ceremony of the Women's University was held on Saturday afternoon last at one o'clock.

IN the Rugby football international match in Paris on the 8th inst. England beat France by 16 points to 8.

A GENERAL conference of the Central Hygienic Association was held on Monday afternoon at the Department of Home Affairs.

THE West Indian representatives and the Canadian Government have signed a trade agreement conferring reciprocal advantages.

THE annual regatta of the Tokyo Imperial University took place on Saturday morning last at nine o'clock on the Sumida river.

MR. UCHIDA, Minister to Sweden, who is to shortly leave for his post, was received in audience by His Majesty on Friday morning last.

ON Tuesday night last a landslide occurred at Temiya-cho, Oiaru, which buried quite a number of houses. Some casualties are reported.

IN the final round of the competition for the Scottish Cup, played at Ibrox Park on the 6th inst., Celtic beat Clyde by two goals to nil.

ACCORDING to investigations made by the Bank of Japan, the prices of commodities showed an increase of seven per cent. for the month of March as compared with the preceding month, rice,

sugar, wood, copper, petroleum, etc. generally going up, and barley, wheat, bonito (boiled and dried), eggs and tea going down.

WE learn that on the 15th inst., the office of the Italian Consulate here, will be transferred from its present quarters to No. 26, Yamashita-cho.

THE annual general meeting of the Japan Pelagic Fishery Company was held on Tuesday afternoon, when a dividend of eight per cent. was declared.

A CONFERENCE of the Principals of the Higher Normal Schools will be held for three days from the 18th instant in the Department of Education.

THE Municipal Electric Bureau will be removed on the 28th instant to the newly constructed iron-frame building at Mitsubishi-ga-hara, Marunouchi.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Factory Girls School belonging to the Nishin Spinning Company at Kameido, was held on Thursday morning last.

MRS. PANKHURST and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who have been committed for trial on a charge of conspiracy, have now been admitted to bail.

THE annual general meeting of the Bankers of North-Eastern Japan will take place on the 21st instant at Sendai. Baron Shibasawa will be among the guests.

TWO hundred constables escaped in their night clothes from the mounted police barracks at Regina, Western Canada, which were destroyed by fire last month.

A GENERAL meeting of the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, which has been organised with a capital of two million yen, took place on Monday afternoon at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce.

THE Kotohira Gas Company has been established at Marugama, with a capital of 400,000 yen. The Shikoku Gas Company already established there will be incorporated with the new Company.

BARON KATO, Ambassador to England, Mr. Ijuin, Minister to China, and Mr. Uchida, Minister to Sweden, who are now home on furlough, will leave Shimbashi for their respective posts on the 20th instant.

THE Chiefs of Staffs of the different Divisions and of the Chosen and Formosan garrisons met in conference on Thursday, at the Office of the General Staff. The conference will be continued for a week.

VISCOUNT UCHIDA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will give a farewell banquet on the 19th instant at the Tokiwaya, Nihonbashi, to Mr. Ijuin, Minister to China, who will leave here for his post on the 20th.

THE anti-Home Rule compilation of the Unionist organisation contains, among the other articles already noted, papers dealing with the recent Papal legislation, including the *Ne temere* decree and the last *Motu Proprio*.

PRINCE and Princess Kanin will leave Shimbashi on Saturday morning for Otsu, Shiga prefecture, to attend the general meetings of the local Red Cross Society as well as the local Women's Patriotic Association to be held there on the 20th inst.

ON Tuesday morning a train from Higashi Kanagawa, bound for Hachioji, came into collision with a freight train at Hashimoto station. Both trains sustained more or less damage, but there were no casualties. The mishap was due to the mistake of a pointsman.

THE rumour as to the death of the Pope which was circulated last week, owed its origin, it appears, to an employee at the Nunciature at Madrid receiving a telegram announcing the death of his father. The telegraph authorities misread the word "papa" as meaning "Pope"

and informed Senor Canalejas, the Premier, who told the journalists. King Alfonso and his Ministers sent their condolences to the Nuncio, who thus discovered the mistake.

DURING the progress of a religious procession at Lisbon on the 9th inst. a bomb exploded, and it is reported that five persons were killed and thirty injured. Owing to the press censorship the details were withheld.

A SPECIALIST has assured Mr. P. F. Warner, Captain of the M. C. C. cricket team which visited Australia, and who only played in one match in that country, that he can safely play cricket in the forthcoming season.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Hypothec Bank took place on Wednesday at the Municipal Hall, when the proposal for an increase of capital by 1,000,000 yen was unanimously passed.

THE annual conference of the Chiefs of the Railway Superintending Bureau will be held on the 20th instant. Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, will deliver a speech as President of the Imperial Railway Board.

THE anniversary of the Battle of Kawanakajima, one of the biggest battles in Japanese history, which was fought some 350 years ago, is now being celebrated at the Tenkyuji Temple, Kawanakajima, Shinano province.

MARQUIS SAIONJI will give a banquet on the 18th instant at his official residence to the Chiefs of the Court of Cassation, Chief Procurators, Chiefs of different Courts of Appeal, and many other jurists, about 150 in number.

ALL the students of the Ota Middle School in Ibaragi prefecture, except those belonging to the first-year class, went on strike on Wednesday morning last. The ringleaders are supposed to be some of the fifth-year students.

THE delegates from the West Indies, who are now in Canada with the object of negotiating closer trade relations, have met with a most cordial reception, and good hopes are entertained of a satisfactory outcome of the visit.

SIR E. RAY LANKESTER, in a letter to *The Times*, asks whether a competitor in the "Marathon Race" at the Olympia Games to be held at Stockholm will be allowed to breathe (as he runs) oxygen gas from a bag carried by him.

IN a twenty-round boxing contest at Sydney on the 9th inst. Langford beat McVea on points. The betting was 10 to 9 against McVea at the start and it veered round to 5 to 4 against Langford after the third round. The fighting throughout was fast and fair.

THE Japan Hypothec Bank gave a dinner party on Thursday evening last at the Imperial Hotel in celebration of its tenth anniversary. Among the prominent guests present were the Elder Statesmen, Ministers of State, the French Ambassador, leading bankers and other businessmen, numbering over a hundred.

THE first meeting of the Saghalien Association took place on Sunday afternoon last at the Sankai-do at Tameike, Akasaka. Besides a series of interesting addresses given by specialists on the conditions and development of Saghalien, there were exhibited quite a number of old documents and other things connected with the history of the Island.

ON Saturday afternoon last, the many friends of the late Mr. A. G. Price attended the initial funeral service at Christ Church at 2.30. The Rev. Walter Weston officiated and a large number of the deceased gentleman's friends were present to pay their last tribute of affection to one they had known so well. The pall-bearers were Messrs. W. R. Devin, George Hodges, A. L. J.

Dewette, W. H. Evans, J. Summers and J. Thom. Mr. Price was a Past Master of the Order of Masonry, and many of his brother Masons followed in the procession and saw him laid to rest in the Cemetery.

Sir J. D. REES has been selected as the Unionist candidate at the bye-election in East Nottingham caused by the resignation of Major J. A. Morrison, Conservative; and Mr. T. W. Dobson, formerly member of Parliament for Plymouth, has been selected as the Liberal candidate.

THE Marylebone cricketers on returning from their Australian tour, received a fervent welcome from a crowd of enthusiasts at Charing Cross station. Mr. P. F. Warner declared that he had quite recovered from his recent illness and that he was ready to play cricket immediately.

ON Thursday morning last about eleven o'clock a fisherman named Kubo, while fishing off Negishi, was wounded by a fragment of a bullet, apparently fired from a destroyer at some distance. The destroyer being unidentified the matter has been placed in the hands of the Yokosuka Admiralty.

THE King and Queen have consented to attend a gala performance at the "Palace" music-hall in London on June 10th, in fulfillment of the promise made at the time of the coronation, which the fire at the music-hall in Edinburgh, in which "the great Lafayette" lost his life, prevented them from carrying out.

THE annual general meeting of the Japan Automobile Club was held on Wednesday evening last at the Imperial Hotel. Among those present were Count Okuma, President of the organization, Baron Goto, Mr. Anraku, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, and Mr. Oshima, Governor of Yokohama prefecture.

THE first stage of the Turkish elections is proceeding under conditions that are exciting the gravest dissatisfaction on the part of the opposition parties, particularly the Christian party, who accuse the Committee of Union and Progress of employing the most arbitrary methods of excluding or terrorizing opposition voters.

WE understand that the Committee of the St. George's Society are somewhat embarrassed owing to the fact that replies to the invitations issued for the Ball on the 23rd inst. are not forthcoming from invited guests quite as quickly as is necessary to enable the Committee to make their arrangements. We have no doubt that any of our readers who see this notice and have not yet replied, will hasten to inform the Secretary of their intentions.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Dinsdale took place from his residence, 157, Bluff, on Saturday morning last. The Rev. Walter Weston, Chaplain of Christ Church, conducted the funeral ceremonies. The service was only attended by the late gentleman's most intimate friends; among those present, being Messrs. G. K. Dinsdale, Junr., and F. A. Dinsdale; J. Herbert Dinsdale, J. E. B. de Courcy, G. Syme Thomson, F. O. Stuart and Dr. Wheeler.

THE Tokyo Hypothec Bank has decided to issue debentures for 500,000 yen, the project being sanctioned by the Government on the 10th instant. The debentures will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent., payable half yearly, and the issue value will be 98 yen per 100 yen face value. The subscription list will be open from the 22nd to the 25th inst. The debentures will remain unredeemed till December 1915, when the redemption will be effected by lottery every January and July.

AT the Republican State Convention at Bay City, Michigan, the followers of Mr. Taft gained early possession of the hall and excluded Col. Roosevelt's supporters, who rushed the doors and climbed in through the windows. When the chairman, who is a supporter of Mr. Taft, rose, a leader of the supporters of Col. Roosevelt leaped

on the platform and began to speak, but he was thrown off the platform by Mr. Taft's chairman. A free fight ensued and the police and militia had to restore order. The supporters of Col. Roosevelt withdrew after choosing delegates. The supporters of Mr. Taft selected a rival delegation.

THE use of automobiles in Japan is steadily increasing, the number in use being now double of the figures recorded last year. The prefectural taxes on automobiles now amount to about six thousand yen, as shown in the following table:

Prefectures.	Tax Collected. Yen.	Prefecture.	Tax Collected. Yen.
Tokyo-fu	5,760	Tochigi	15
Mie	60	Shimane	12
Kanagawa	50	Gifu	12
Osaka-fu	40	Ibaragi	10
Niigata	20	Ishikawa	10
Yamagata	20		

ACCORDING to the *Nippon*, the Tokyo Municipal Authorities are said to have in contemplation the establishment in the suburbs of another public cemetery. In this context it may be observed that the Aoyama Cemetery covers well nigh eighty thousand *tsubo*, but is fast becoming occupied, those buried there since its establishment in the seventh year of Meiji, numbering over fifty thousand. Up to last year about two hundred funerals took place on an average every three months, but of late the number has increased to 120-130 per month. At the time of the demise of the ex Foreign Minister, Marquis Komura, vacant ground belonging to the Metropolitan Police Office had to be obtained at a cost of some 1,600 yen. It has been several times proposed to move the cemetery, but in view of the difficulties attendant on the operation the authorities will probably prefer to construct another cemetery elsewhere in the suburbs.

GENERAL BADEN-POWELL AT SHANGHAI.

BOY SCOUTS' REVIEW.

Lieut. General Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell arrived in Shanghai on the 12th inst. and spent two days there. Lieut.-Colonel A. A. S. Barnes, Dr. Patrick, and Scoutmaster Hertslet went down on a tender to meet the Chief Scout, reports the *N. C. Daily News*; and when on the return the party neared the jetty on the French Bund, flag signalers, paraded with the Scouts there, signalled a message of greeting which was answered from the tender. On landing, the General inspected the Guard of Honour and complimented them on the smart way in which they had turned out. General Baden-Powell spent the day in visiting the native city and other places of interest and in the afternoon reviewed the Scouts on parade in the British Consulate grounds.

The interesting event attracted much attention, there being quite a large crowd present to witness the ceremonial. Drawn up in review order on the lawn, the Scouts, numbering about 120, presented a very smart appearance. The Baden-Powell Boy Scouts in command of Scoutmaster Hertslet were thirty-five strong, and the Shanghai Boy Scouts, under Chief Scoutmaster Welch, had seventy boys on parade. The Baden-Powell Girl Scouts also paraded. With the picturesque uniforms effectively set off by the colours of the various Patrols, a highly creditable display was made. A general salute was given when the Chief Scout arrived and the parade stood smartly at attention as he passed down the line. After the inspection, the Scouts marched past, saluting the flag, and afterwards advanced in review order. A brief address from the Leader brought the review to a close.

THE CHIEF SCOUT'S ADDRESS.

"Scouts," he said, "I just want to tell you how glad I am to see you here this afternoon. I little thought a week ago that I should have the chance, but I got it and I am glad to be here. I am very

pleased to see that so many of you have turned out to meet me. I hope the next time I may come to see a great many more. I am pleased to see you smartly equipped, and especially to find so many of you wearing badges of efficiency. That shows you are not merely playing the game of Scouts but are doing the work, making yourselves efficient for examination and doing the whole thing in the right way. I have recently been seeing a great many of your brothers in Europe and the United States where there are now between 300,000 and 400,000 Scouts; and also in Russia, Germany, and Norway. They are all doing the same work and consider themselves your brothers. I hope some of you will get into communication with them by letter. The Americans have sent a troop of Scouts this year to Great Britain, and others will be sent from Canada, Germany and Holland. You may some day be able to send a Shanghai troop to England. Your brother Scouts have told me to give you greetings, which I heartily do. Besides winning badges, I hope you do not forget your 'good turns.' That is the most important part of a Scout's duty. Your brother Scouts in all parts of the world have that duty of trying to do a good turn to someone everyday. Don't forget your promise to do that, and try also to make yourselves good men and citizens."

The Chief Scout then called for the King's Scouts and shook hands with them when they came forward and saluted. The three King's Scouts were Patrol-Leader Woodbridge, Second Bugler Day and Patrol-Leader Macdonald.

The Scouts then gave two volleys of cheering, effectively finished off with a Scout "tiger."

In the evening Lieut.-General Baden-Powell was the guest of the Shanghai Council of the Baden-Powell Boy Scouts Association at a dinner held in his honour at the Shanghai Club. On the 13th he was to be present at a Scout camp display, to be given in the Consulate grounds.

ECZEMA PAINED SO HE COULD NOT SLEEP

Leg Red and Inflamed. Itched Awfully. First Application of Cuticura Ointment Stopped the Itching. One Box of Cuticura Ointment and One Cake of Cuticura Soap Cured Him.

"The appearance of my son's complaint was as though a piece of skin had been torn from the leg. It was so red and inflamed and used to itch something awful. He used to scratch it in his sleep and the pain he used to suffer was awful. It started as a scar about three inches square just below the knee and I think had been there about eighteen months."

"I tried several ointments, etc., but none seemed to do any good for him, then I took him to the doctor and he was under him for about two months. The doctor told me it was eczema and the ointment he gave me gave him no ease at all. My son's leg gave him the most trouble at nights as some nights he could not get to sleep for the pain."

"Then I read about the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment and decided to give them a trial. The first time I applied the Cuticura Ointment it stopped the itching and one box of Cuticura Ointment and one cake of Cuticura Soap were sufficient to effect a complete cure in three weeks. I shall be only too pleased to recommend Cuticura Soap and Ointment to those who suffer from any kind of skin disease."

(Signed) Mrs. Chaytor, 22, Walworth Street, Sunderland, England, July 12, 1911.
For more than a generation warm baths with Cuticura Soap and gentle applications of Cuticura Ointment have afforded the speediest and most economical treatment for torturing, disfiguring affections of the skin and scalp of infants, children and adults. A liberal sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Chancery House Sq., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. S. W.; Leamon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter D. & C. Corp., sole props, Boston, U. S. A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, April 20.

Values of local stocks have been enhanced to some extent by the firmer markets in America and other raw cotton producing countries. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains unchanged though a somewhat healthier tone is expected to pervade the future market. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, conditions are generally unchanged.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	33.50 to 34.00
Indian Broach	31.00 to 33.00
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	32.50 to 33.00

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	520.00 to 550.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings:—	
A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.2
Pure Grey Shirtings:—	
A. 44" x 46 yards	6.20 to 6.60
H. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics:—	
44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70
Turkey Reds—2 1/2 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches	1.90 to 2.20
Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches	2.50 to 3.65
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine, 120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The market is weak, there being not much business offering.

	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.35 to 4.60
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.20 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	5.88 to 5.95
Sheet Mild Steel	6.86 to 6.90
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.50 to 10.60
" " Flat	11.20 to 11.30
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	7.00 to 8.30
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.60 to 8.10
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.20 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market remains quiet.

Chester	Y. 4.22
Victory	3.96
Nonpareil	4.90
Somatra	3.12 to 3.20
Burneo	—
Hokuyetsu	3.02 to 3.40
Nippon	3.00 to 3.55
Ogura	2.78 to 3.35
Todai	3.77

SUGAR.

Little business doing all round.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.90 to 10.50
White Java	9.20 Duty unpaid
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00

Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is more or less improved.

	Yen.
Gold Drop	4 sacks 11.40
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	11.48
Red Seal	10.95 to 11.00
Lion	11.72
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.30

Japanese:—	
Rising Sun	6 <i>kwamme</i> 2.70
Takasago	6 " 2.75
Fuji	6 " 2.85
Pine	6 " 2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	5.25 to 5.30
Red	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On March 28th stocks were: Filatures 5,000 piculs, Re-reels, 30 piculs; Kakeda, 200 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	895
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	905
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	870
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	930
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den	845
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	90
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeishu	835
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	855
Re-reels—No. 2	840
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	857 1/2
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	840
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

	April	April	May	June
	del.	del.	del.	del.
12th	yen.	yen.	yen.	yen.
14th	85.90	86.50	87.20	87.00
15th	85.80	86.40	86.90	86.90
16th	85.70	86.30	86.90	86.90
17th	85.20	85.80	86.30	86.30
18th	85.40	86.10	86.60	86.60

WASTE SILK.

Small business doing.
On March 28th stocks were:—Noshi, 900 piculs; Kibiso, 3,600 piculs; Sundries, 1000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—The market is quiet.
Kanazawa:—Influenced by the dull tone of raw silk, the market is somewhat weak.

Kawamata:—The market remains quiet.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 me.	6 1/2 me.	7 me.	7 1/2 me.	8 me.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	8.00	7.65	7.60	7.74	7.60
27"	7.80	7.65	7.55	7.55	7.55
36"	7.60	7.55	7.55	7.50	7.50

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4 1/2 me.	4 3/4 me.	4 1/2 me.	5 me.	5 1/2 me.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.60	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.35
27"	7.55	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.30
36"	7.55	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.30

KAWAMATA.

	3 me.	3 1/2 me.	4 me.	4 1/2 me.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of April 8th the quotation was £70.3

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00—50.00
Oré	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market improving.

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	614.101
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	70.701
Delivery.	Closing Price.
April	19.77
May	19.64
June	19.42

(Osaka.) (Kobe.)

April	19.45	April	19.48
May	19.42	May	19.34
June	19.25	June	19.39

RICE AT WHOLESALE STANDARD PRICE. (Tokyo.) per *shoku*.

Superior	Yen 21.30
Medium	20.80
Common	18.80
Average	20.10

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 30th March amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	—
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.

	Yen.
Delivery.	—
April	144.46
May	140.45
June	139.50

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, April 19

London silver $\frac{1}{16}$ higher, China sterling quotations not yet received but local rates on China rule lower and all other unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/4
— 60 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	40 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 96 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 94 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	75 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	77 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/4 @ 1/4

* Nominally.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America.....	P. M.	Nile 1	Sa. Apr. 21
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	M. Apr. 22
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.	anuki Maru 2	M. Apr. 22
Hongkong.....	P. M.	Siberia	F. Apr. 26
Seattle.....	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru 3	F. Apr. 26
Europe.....	N. D. L.	Prinz Ludwig	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong.....	B. L.	Rygya	Su. Apr. 28
Vancouver.....	B. L.	Luceric 4	M. Apr. 29
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	M. Apr. 29
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30
America.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. May 4
Hongkong.....	G. N.	Minnesota	W. May 15
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Th. May 16
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. May 17

- 1 Left Honolulu on the 10th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 9th inst.
3 Left Seattle on the 9th inst.
4 Left Seattle on the 13th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe.....	N. D. L.	Kleist	Sa. Apr. 20
America.....	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Sa. Apr. 20
Shanghai.....	N. Y. K.	Chikuzen Maru	Su. Apr. 21
Hongkong.....	P. M.	Nile	M. Apr. 22
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.	Seattle Maru	Tu. Apr. 23
Europe.....	N. Y. K.	Hitachi Maru	W. Apr. 24
Seattle.....	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	W. Apr. 24
America.....	P. M.	Siberia	Sa. Apr. 27
Europe.....	M. M.	Ville de la Ciotat	Sa. Apr. 27
Tacoma.....	B. & S.	Bellophone	Sa. Apr. 27
Australia.....	N. Y. K.	Yawata Maru	Sa. Apr. 27
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	M. Apr. 29
Seattle.....	B. L.	Rygya	M. Apr. 29
Hongkong.....	B. L.	Luceric	Tu. Apr. 30
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	W. May 1
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. May 6
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. May 17
Seattle.....	G. N.	Minnesota	Sa. May 18

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Shimmei Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,749. K. Nagata, 12th April.—Takao, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Taito Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246. Y. Kawai-zumi, 12th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Nanyetsu Maru No. 2, Japanese steamer, 1,528. O. Hayakawa, 12th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265. W. W. Greene, 12th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Sachsen, German steamer, 5,088. A. Wagner, 12th April.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458. K. Kuruzumi, 12th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542. A. Kobayashi, 12th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731. Y. Minamikawa, 13th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benavos, British steamer, 2,549. R. W. Thomson, 13th April.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Carnes & Co.

Ningchow, British steamer, 5,725. J. Milhench, 14th April.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610. K. Kuruzumi, 14th April.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976. A. Mocker, 13th April.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Deike Rickmers, German steamer, 2,656. Geo. Steineke, 14th April.—Antwerp and Hamburg, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Himalaya, French steamer, 3,364. Sanguy, 15th April.—Antwerp and Marseilles via ports, General.—M.M. Co.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860. K. Asakawa, 15th April.—Seattle via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moeyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736. S. Kushibiki, 15th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423. S. Nishio, 15th April.—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759. K. Hori, 16th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Kleist, German steamer, 5,123. L. Maass, 16th April.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Schuykill, British steamer, 3,344. L. Smith, 16th April.—New York via ports, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980. Y. Yamaguchi, 17th April.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223. H. S. Smith, 17th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,366. J. Sekine, 18th April.—Sydney and Melbourne and Manila via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ville de la Ciotat, French steamer, 2,821. Charbonnel, 18th April.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Matoppo, British steamer, 3,420. W. H. Dormand, 18th April.—New York via ports, General.—Sale and Frazier Ltd.

Shibetoro Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,478. T. Take-mura, 18th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Yeforofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067. R. J. McClelland, 18th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

China, Austrian steamer, 3,855. R. Pavissick, 12th April.—Trieste and Fiume via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Prinz Waldermar, German steamer, 1,737. F. Iseke, 12th April.—Sydney and Melbourne, Manila and Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Ltd.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369. I. Noma, 12th April.—Newchwang via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shimmei Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,749. K. Nagata, 12th April.—Otaru, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Nanyetsu Maru No. 2, Japanese steamer, 1,528. O. Hayakawa, 13th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262. Y. Fujita, 13th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,152. G. Kanoo, 13th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651. W. Fisher, 13th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M.S.S. Co.

Muttra, British steamer, 2,985. Harry Carey, 13th April.—Rangoon via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co.

Polynesien, French steamer, 2,916. Dorise, 13th April.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458. K. Kuruzumi, 14th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542. A. Kobayashi, 14th April.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997. K. Goko, 14th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Taito Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,246. Y. Kawai-zumi, 14th April.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265. W. W. Greene, 15th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Choshu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,203. T. Watanabe, 15th April.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,976. A. Mocker, 15th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Sado Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,860. K. Asakawa, 16th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731. Y. Minamikawa, 16th April.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benavos, British steamer, 2,549. R. W. Thomson, 15th April.—Manila, General.—Carnes & Co.

Namur, British steamer, 4,179. F. E. Andrews, 16th April.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Machaon, British steamer, 4,277. G. W. Long, 16th April.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Ningchow, British steamer, 5,725. J. Milhench, 16th April.—Marseilles, Havre and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Sachsen, German steamer, 5,088. A. Wagner, 16th April.—Marseilles, Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759. K. Hori, 17th April.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423. S. Nishio, 18th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Moeyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736. S. Kushibiki, 18th April.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980. Y. Yamaguchi, 18th April.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Norman Smith, Mr. F. J. Kitson, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gooch and a child, Mr. and Mrs. Hayashi and 2 sons and 3 Chinese in cabin; 11 Japanese and 15 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. U. Takahashi, Mr. Y. Takahashi, Mr. Carl Ebeling, Mrs. Carl Ebeling and 3 children, Mr. K. Kawai and 2 Chinese in second class; 17 Japanese and 32 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sado Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. T. Iyemaga in cabin; Mr. H. Kuwahara, Mr. S. Kobayashi, Mrs. H. Kakinoki and Mr. H. Kakinoki in second class; 8 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mrs. N. Kenneith, Mrs. J. A. Fitchett, Miss Crane and Mrs. N. Crane in cabin. For Kobe:—14 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong:—1 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Polynesien* for Marseilles via ports:—Madame S. Léon, Madame A. Haim, Baron R. Eranchetti, Mr. A. Haim, Mr. Gallois, Mr. Said Hashim, Mr. Josi Fernandez and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Morris in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. R. d'Anjou, Mr. F. C. Atwater, Mr. J. M. Baker, Mr. B. D. Branson, Judge R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, Mr. W. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Ewing, Rev. H. Farmer and servant, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. W. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Grafton, Mr. Tom Grafton, Mr. Arthur Grafton, Mr. Mr. Cornelius Grafton, Miss F. J. Gaskins, Mr. F. C. Greater, Mr. Geo. C. Hanford, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Hathaway and daughter, Miss Amy Hiscock, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hick, Mr. A. E. Irving, Capt. C. M. Knepper, U.S.N., Miss Lattimore, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Leslie, Mrs. C. S. F. Lincoln, Master M. Lincoln, Master J. Lincoln, Miss E. Lincoln, Mr. C. E. McAdam, Mr. S. Moreland, Mr. L. C. Moore, Mr. F. S. Morse, Mrs. S. V. Parks, Mr. A. Pichon, Dr. J. R. Pinion, Mr. R. H. Poole, Miss E. B. Randall, Mrs. H. Redmond and 3 children, Mr. Robt. H. Rudolph, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rotherman, Miss J. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Seaman, Mrs. L. A. Seaton, Capt. H. G. Upham, Col. G. Westropp, Mr. Paul C. Whitney, Mrs. H. C. Balch, Miss Marjory Balch, Mr. J. Edward Bird, Dr. C. Bischoff, Mrs. A. S. Brooks, Miss Martha Burton, Mrs. D. M. Carman, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Deshler, Mr. Geo. F. Dobson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Garrett, Miss Anne Henry, Mr. F. A. Hollabaugh, Mr. Richard Holtheuer, Mr. Jos. Huber, Mrs. A. S. Hurd, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Kelly, Miss L. Lindley, Mr. C. Laughnan, Mr. Joh. Lohmann, Miss E. L. MacLean and maid, Mr. J. S. Markle, Miss Olive Morris, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Morrison, Miss Edna Myer, Rev. and Mrs. E. I. Obee and infant, Master C. E. Obee, Miss Olive Obee, Mrs. E. C. Palmer, Mrs. L. M. Righter, Mr. J. T. Rielle, Lady Clifton Robinson, Mr. Edgar Salinger, Col. and Mrs. O. Shore and maid, Mr. F. E. Solomon, Mr. A. H. Stuart, Mr. J. Tschernin, Mrs. J. H. Warner, Mr. M. Wilkinson, Mr. Wilkinson, Jr., Mrs. E. B. Young and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wells in cabin.

Per British steamer *Namur* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mrs. Turner, Miss Journey, Mr. A. Holden Jones, Miss Hoge, Mr. W. D. Whittemore and Mr. H. Garrow in cabin.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Kitano Maru* from Europe:—Miss J. Barlow, Miss S. Edge, Miss A. Oakes, Mr. and Mrs. K. Tatsumi, Master T. Tatsumi, Miss M. Tatsumi, Master J. Tatsumi, Master Y. Tatsumi, Master K. Tatsumi, Miss A. Ward, Miss E. Aues,

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Longmire, Miss E. Longmire,
Miss C. Grieves, Mr. and Mrs. O. Soroko and Dr.
M. Miyajima.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer
Polynesia:—

	RAW.				WASTE.			
	Marseilles	Lyons.	Moscow.	Prague.	Paris.	Trieste.	Vienna.	Prague.
Hera Yushitsuten...	225	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co. 103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha 82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co. 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ... 47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Mottet and Barmont 41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. Eymard & Co. 20	—	—	—	—	167	—	—	—
W. Pestalossi 30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co. 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samuel Samuel & Co. 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vivanti Brothers ... 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	17*	—	—	—
Total	608	40	—	—	20	195	—	—

* Peignes.

Per British steamer *Namur* for London and Antwerp via ports:—

	RAW SILK.				WASTE SILK.			
	Marseilles.	Lyons.	Man'ter.	Antwerp.	Marseilles.	Lyons.	Man'ter.	Antwerp.
Siber Hegner & Co. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samuel Samuel Co. ... 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent ... 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kai. 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornes & Co.	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	—
Fila & Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Jardine Matheson & Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
Bavie & Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	71
Total	75	5	50	—	—	—	—	216

Per Japanese steamer *Canada Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 3rd inst.

China and Japan Trading Co.	62
Jewett and Bent	34
Comptoir Soies	25
Japan Villa Stearns Co.	25
L. Mottet and Barmont	20
Vivanti Bros.	10

Kiito Gomei Kaisha..... 267
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha..... 235
Cornes & Co. 68*

Total 746

* Waste Silk.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Korea*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 13th inst.:—

	U.S.E.	N.Y.	Chicago.	Onaha.	Baltimore.	Honolulu.	O. City.	Total.
Shanghai ...	—	1,014	820	—	—	—	—	1,834
Y'hama ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
H'kong ...	1,184	—	11	—	—	81	45	1,321
Total	1,184	1,014	831	—	—	81	45	3,155

Silk. Mexico

	From S. M'ter.	N.Y.	Holyoke.	City.	Total.
Shanghai ...	—	294	—	15	309
Hongkong ...	—	353	—	—	353
Yokohama ...	10	1,131	58	—	1,199
Total	10	1,778	58	15	1,861

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明治廿五年三月廿日
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1912.

DEATH.

FOX.—April 16, 1912, at Toronto, Canada, CHARLES BERESFORD FOX, M.A., F.R.G.S., M.I.C.E., eldest son of Francis Fox, Esq., C.E., J.P., of Wimbledon, Surrey.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

COUNT WATANABE, Minister for the Household, is reported to be ill.

THE death is announced of Miss Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross Society.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Sagami Hydro-Electric Company will be held early in May.

H.H. PRINCE KAMIN, who has been stopping at Chiba, returned to Tokyo on Wednesday morning.

THE death is announced of Mr. Beresford Fox partner with Sir Douglas Fox in the well-known engineering firm.

H.M. THE EMPEROR is expected to pay a visit on May 1st to the Field Gunnery School at Voisngaido, Chiba prefecture.

THE Japanese Government has despatched to the British Authorities a telegram of condolence over the disaster to the *Titanic*.

MR. THOMAS SAMMONS, American Consul-General at Yokohama, will leave for home on furlough early next month.

THE general meeting of the Izumi Spinning Company, which was recently newly established at Osaka, will take place on May 18th.

COUNT TERAUCHI, Governor-General of Chosen, leaves Seoul for home early in June. The General is expected to stop in Tokyo for a month.

H.M. THE EMPRESS, who is stopping at the Imperial Villa in Numazu, has announced her intention to return to Tokyo on the 24th instant.

BARON KATO, Ambassador to London, and Mr. Uchida, Minister to Sweden, arrived at Mukden on the 24th instant en route in their respective posts.

As previously reported, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress will attend the Imperial Cherry Blossom Party to be held on Friday at the Hama Palace.

MR. SOYEDA, President of the Japan Industrial Bank, left for Paris on Sunday in connexion with the proposed establishment of the new Franco-Japanese Bank.

THE Hon. W. Rees Davies K.C., Attorney-General, has been appointed Chief Justice of Hongkong in succession to Sir Francis Piggott, K.T., who retires at the end of this month.

DEGREES will shortly be conferred on Prof. Toshiro Usaburo, of the Medical College in the Tokyo Imperial University, and Prof. Namura and Fukushima, of the Kyoto Imperial University.

THE deposits in the postal savings banks during the past three months were 4,273,000 yen, an increase of 37 per cent. over the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

THE First Charity Hospital of the Salvation Army, which has been under construction since last year at Okachimachi, Shitaya, is now all but completed. The inauguration ceremony will be held on May 1st.

THE meeting of the Oriental Peace Association took place on Monday afternoon at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall in Kyoto. Baron Sakatani, Vice President of the Japan Peace Forum, delivered a lecture on the Inter-

national Economics Conference at Berlin. About five hundred persons were present, including Mayor Kawakami, and Mr. Harada, President of the Doshisha College.

LATE on Tuesday night there was an explosion in a powder shed belonging to the Sansei coal mining office at Uchigo-mura, Tokushima prefecture. One worker was killed instantly, and a few others severely injured.

M. GERARD, French Ambassador, Count von Rex, German Ambassador, and M. Mallevich, Russian Ambassador and his daughters, were received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor on Thursday morning.

H.M. THE EMPEROR was pleased to grant under date of the 23rd instant a sum of ten thousand yen to the Toyo Kyokai School at Koishikawa, in recognition of the meritorious services the institute has rendered in developing the new colonies.

A DESPATCH from Gifu reports that on Saturday last a violent storm raged throughout the city, killing five men and injuring some others. About 37 houses were blown down, 44 struck by lightning and 9 partly damaged. The crops have suffered severely.

THE Japanese Delegate to the International Conference of the Red Cross Society—Baron Ozawa, Madame Nagasaki, and Count and Countess Ogasawara—are expected to arrive at New York on Friday. They will leave for Washington on May 3rd.

VISCOUNT UCHIDA, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was received in audience by H. M. the Emperor on Wednesday morning, when he reported to the Throne the conclusion of the Japan-Denmark Treaty of Commerce and Navigation and applied for its ratification.

ON Monday evening at seven o'clock, Count de Leverghem, Belgian Minister Plenipotentiary, gave a dinner at the Legation. Among the guests were Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Watanabe, Minister for the Household, and other foreign Ambassadors and Ministers.

WE regret to announce the death of Rear-Admiral Oda Kiyozo, Chief of the Torpedo Section in the Kure Naval Arsenal. The Rear-Admiral has been suffering for some time from pneumonia, to which he succumbed on Thursday afternoon. The deceased was in his forty-ninth year.

THE death is announced of Mrs. David, wife of Mr. A. J. David, senior partner of the well-known firm of Messrs. A. J. David & Co., of Hongkong, Shanghai, etc., who died at Bombay from injuries received in a carriage accident in January last. Mrs. David was well-known in Hongkong, where she resided for some years with her husband and family.

MR. FUJITA, Acting Minister to Brazil, reports that in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the Spanish immigrants settled in that country, the Spanish Government two years ago forbade contract immigration. This, however, seems to have made no difference, Spanish immigrants crossing to Brazil via Gibraltar, as freely as ever. Such a state of things was hardly calculated to add to the prestige of Spain, and as with the recent appreciation in the price of coffee, things seemed to be improving in the Spanish settlements, the Spanish Government has cancelled the prohibition.

THE CHINESE LOANS.

Friday, April 19.

The *Asahi* has a telegram from Peking which represents the United States Government as having taken a step which may have very far-reaching consequences. It relates to the foreign Loan for China. Great Britain and France have tacitly consented to recognize Russia's conditions with reference to Mongolia and Manchuria where the great northern Power claims to have exceptional rights. If this claim be recognized, Russia will join hands with the Loan Syndicate. But it is now said that the Washington Government has definitely refused to recognize any such claim. Of course if this be true, it greatly complicates the situation. Without the co-operation of American capitalists and without the approval of the American Government, it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to carry out the Loan transaction. On the other hand, unless the Loan can be negotiated successfully, China's Republican career will be brought to a speedy close. And yet, again, that Russia does possess special rights in Manchuria, no one can deny. It might be difficult to define those rights exactly, and when we come to Mongolia we fail to perceive at once that Russia can establish any such claim. Here, however, it is impossible to form an intelligent judgment in the absence of much more definite information than the world yet possesses. What may be taken for certain is that if Washington persists in the attitude now attributed to it, there will be a complete deadlock in the settlement of the loan question. The United States Government has no means of asserting its will practically in Central Asia, but a mere enunciation of its views would be almost as powerful as the despatch of an army and a fleet. It will be observed, however, from the telegrams published elsewhere, that Reuter does not confirm this news as to Washington. On the contrary, he tells us that no objections are likely to be raised to Russia's claim. This does not include Japan, however, and it may be that Washington's objection applies to Mongolia only.

As to the Belgian Loan, it seems to have been found impossible to obtain in Europe any funds for the second accommodation which the Belgian Syndicate is willing to give to China. Ten million sterling have already been paid, but there is an apparently invincible difficulty in finding any more funds for payment by this avenue. The difficulty seems to have been caused by the refusal of Paris to allow the bonds to be quoted on the Bourse. It is now regarded as certain that Belgium will seek to enter the Syndicate of Six Powers.

Saturday, April 20.

The situation at present with regard to the Loan question is that the Representatives of the four Powers have repudiated Yuan Shih kai's suggestion that they are under misapprehension, as is also Tang Shao-i who negotiated the Belgian Loan. It will be remembered that Yuan promised the removal of all misapprehensions on the arrival of Tang Shao-i in Peking, but the Representatives of the four Powers decline to wait any longer. They deny emphatically that there is any error on their side, and from the tone they are said to have adopted, their evident intention is to make the

abandonment of the Belgian Loan a *sine qua non* of the completion of the 60 millions transaction. Meanwhile it is alleged that Belgium, Italy and Austria-Hungary are all anxious to join the group of creditor Powers, so that, according to present appearances, China will have no less than nine States for *vis à vis*, namely, America, England, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, Belgium, Italy and Austria-Hungary. That such a combination of Powers should agree to become China's creditor for an amount of 60 million sterling without organizing a duly competent and responsible foreign superintendence of finance is quite inconceivable. The *Pall Mall Gazette* expresses the opinion that this policy of inter-State combination for financing China is only another way of under-mining her independence. Of course it is. Everybody's eyes must be fully opened to that fact. But what is to be done? China stands too deeply in foreign debt already to allow her to become bankrupt. She must be kept on her feet, and the only method of effecting that is to lend her money sufficient to pay for the re-establishment of law and order within her territories. The most perplexing feature of the situation is that if the foreign Powers lend a large sum to China, they will inevitably exact ample sufficient security and supervision. This however, will bring the Young China Party again into the field, and thus foreign armed intervention is not unlikely to be the final outcome.

It appears to be altogether doubted in well-informed circles that the United States Government has protested against Russia's special claims in Mongolia and Manchuria. This protest was said to have been elicited in Washington on the occasion of Russia's proposal to join the Four-Powers Syndicate provided that her already acquired rights in Asia were not impugned. We ventured, at the time of the receipt of this telegram, to utter very strong doubts as to its veracity, and those doubts are now confirmed. The rights already acquired by Russia and Japan in Manchuria and by Russia in Mongolia, cannot be violated by any third parties.

Sunday, April 21.

It is stated that the representatives of the Belgian Syndicate in China have been telegraphically instructed from Brussels not to lend any more money to China for the present at all events. Thus the Belgian Loan has ceased to be a source of immediate aid. With regard to this Loan, occasion may be taken to notice a point which does not seem to have attracted sufficient attention, namely, the short period fixed for the outstanding of the obligation. It is quite evident that the Chinese Government's plan is to discharge this debt with a part of the proceeds of the Four-Powers Loan.

The telegrams are somewhat confusing about the inclusion of Italy and Austria-Hungary in the syndicate of China's creditor-Powers. One account says that Rome and Vienna are endeavouring to obtain a proportionate amount of the contemplated loan but that there is considerable opposition in the capitals of the other great States. Another message alleges that no difficulties will be experienced about the admission of these two Powers; but still another telegram represents France and England as distinctly opposed to such an extension of the transaction. This last version adds that Paris and London will not

formulate any definite objection, lest the two Powers concerned should take offence, but that the method pursued will be to defer any definite answer long enough to suggest unwillingness. If this be really the state of affairs in Europe, it is plain that no settlement of the loan question can be hoped for in the immediate future.

Monday, April 22.

Belgium having refrained from supplementing her first loan to China, and the foreign Representatives having declared that Yuan Shih-kai's reply to their protest is inconsequential, matters with regard to loans have come to a deadlock. The latest news is that President Yuan summoned a grand meeting of the new and old Ministers of State to discuss the situation and to devise some means of overcoming the obduracy of foreign capitalists. This meeting took place on the 21st instant but its results are not yet published. We adhere, however, to our original forecast, namely, that plenty of foreign money will be presently placed at China's disposal, but that its payment will be conditional on arrangements which will have the effect of depriving China of financial independence. Meanwhile, the attempts to obtain financial aid from abroad are not confined to the Central Government. We hear of negotiations being opened between foreign banks and Chinese local officials, acting independently of Peking. This is notably the case with regard to the Metropolitan Province of Pehchili, where two loans, one of 500,000 francs and another of 60 million taels, are said to be under negotiation with the approval of the Governor General.

From Mongolia also comes news of accommodation obtained from a foreign bank—evidently a Russian institution is indicated—and it is added that Governor-General Chao, appreciating the political importance of this event, has despatched Mr. Wu, Chief of the Foreign Affairs Bureau in Mukden, to Mongolia for the purpose of conducting secret inquiries.

Tuesday, April 23.

The committee of Ministers and ex-Ministers, who commenced their sittings on the 21st instant, continued in session on the 22nd instant, and finally arrived at a decision which was from the first practically inevitable. They resolved that the need of money is so urgent as to take precedence of all other problems, and they placed on record their opinion that the only way to save the situation is to proffer sincere apologies to foreign nations for the course hitherto pursued by Chinese financiers, and to solicit substantial aid in view of a promise that the utmost sincerity shall hereafter be observed by the borrower, and that China shall agree to all reasonable measures of supervision as formulated by her foreign creditors. Mr. Tang Shao-i, whose independent approaches to Belgium were the prime cause of the deadlock, was referred to by the Council in terms of disapproval, and it is thought not improbable that he will have to resign his post as Premier.

It is stated that by some means or other, China must of absolute necessity obtain the use of 6 million taels at the end of this month. That amount will barely suffice to meet obligations which cannot be deferred an hour. Evidently, the idea of Chinese statesman was to obtain funds from Belgium for immediately pressing purposes. They did not believe

that in so doing they would show any want of faith *vis-à-vis* the Four-Powers Syndicate. The fact was that they calculated on the lapse of considerable time before the Four-Powers Loan could be arranged, and the minor transaction with Belgium was contemplated solely as a stop-gap. The outcome of it all appears to be that Belgium will have to stand aside altogether. The talk of her joining hands with Russia for the purposes of lending money to China is no longer heard, and the visit of the new Chinese Minister of Finance to Brussels *en route* from St. Petersburg for Peking, seems to have been abortive. There is also a rumour that Sir John Jordan, in his individual capacity has advised President Yuan to abandon the idea of bringing Belgium into the Syndicate, as such a step would merely increase the number of creditors without corresponding advantages. It is not likely that Sir John Jordan took any such course, but we give the news for what it may be worth. The sum of the matter appears to be that China will accede to all the terms of the Syndicate, and that Belgium will have to stand aside altogether so far as representation of the Syndicate's Board is concerned.

Meanwhile there is a rumour circulating from two sources, Peking and Shanghai, to the effect that already on the 21st instant the Four-Powers Syndicate placed at China's disposal the first instalment of a large loan. To this course the Syndicate is said to be impelled by the urgency of the borrower's needs. Peking puts the amount of the advance at 45 million *taels*, and Shanghai represents it to be 4 millions *taels*, a large discrepancy which tends to discredit the whole story.

It may now be confidently asserted that Japan and Russia are admitted to the Syndicate of Powers by which the Chinese loans will be taken up. Japan appears to be maintaining a perfectly quiet attitude. We do not hear of her protesting or complaining in any way. But we can be quite sure that her interests are duly safeguarded, and in these circumstances all the more credit attaches to the tranquil methods of her diplomacy. It may also be confidently asserted that Japanese public opinion condemns China in the matter of the Belgian loan. The *Fiji Shimpō* appears to be quite representative when it affirms that the Peking statesman have been guilty of a breach of good faith with regard to the Belgian loan, and that the only practical course now open to China is to frankly acknowledge her error; pledge herself to abstain from any similar acts in future, and approach the Powers with a sufficiently apologetic demeanour.

Thursday, April 25.

The interval that separated Chinese officialdom and foreign financiers seems to have been successfully bridged over. Premier Tang himself is reported to have waited on the Ministers of the Powers forming the Loan Syndicate, and to have expressed sincere regret that a misunderstanding should have arisen. It is not clear what was the nature of the alleged misunderstanding, but we may take it for granted that it was acknowledged to have been a misunderstanding on the Chinese side. Tang's explanation and apology are said to have been well received by those to whom he addressed himself, and he then asked that the transactions connected with the Four-Power Loan should be resumed with a view to their speediest possible

settlement, inasmuch as the restoration of public peace and good order depended upon China obtaining access to a substantial sum of money at this juncture. He asked that 36 million *taels* should be provided by the Syndicate forthwith, and it is believed that this was agreed to on condition that the Chinese Government should endorse the appointment of competent foreign supervision in the matter of finance. The telegrams are not quite clear as to whether this condition was actually accepted by China, but evidently if she has not already acquiesced, she will do so without much further hesitation. It will then remain to be seen whether Young China will bow its head to this irksome necessity. We believe that it will and that the arrangements for financing the impecunious Empire will very soon be carried to a satisfactory termination.

TREATMENT OF SOCIALISTS IN JAPAN.

It is said that among the instructions given by the Minister of State for Home Affairs to the provincial governors at their recent conclave in Tokyo, the treatment of socialists occupied a place. While not actually disapproving of the attitude of the Katsura Cabinet in this matter, the present Ministry seems disposed to show greater leniency. Thus, the governors are said to have been instructed that in case any socialists are observed to be without means of sustenance, all reasonable methods of supplying them with employment should be adopted. Further, the governors are warned against subjecting socialists to irksome and injurious surveillance. It appears that in the days of Kotoku, more than one moderate socialist, who would not have thought of resorting to violence in ordinary circumstances, was driven to become a law-breaker in consequence of being perpetually shadowed by the police, and thus ostracized from the ranks of respectable citizens. Socialism is not necessarily an evil philosophy. It has its abuses like everything else, but it also has its uses, and the latter fact must be borne in mind by the guardians of public peace and good order. All this is comprehensive enough, but some further explanation is much to be desired in connexion with the statement that the Minister of State for Home Affairs instructed the local governors to assist socialists to find employment. That would be to encourage socialism unduly, and we strongly suspect that Mr. Hara's words had been imperfectly transmitted in the columns of the Press.

THIBET.

The news received on the 19th instant in Tokyo through Reuter as to the state of affairs in Thibet is supplemented by intelligence coming from Peking, which says that massacres of Chinese citizens at the hands of Thibetans are still taking place, and that Yuan Shih-kai has ordered the officer commanding in Szchuan to take immediate steps to put an end to this state of affairs. He has also conveyed a message to the Dalai Lama, informing him that unless he exerts his influence to restore public peace and good order, he will not be allowed to return to Lassa. It will be remembered that the Dalai Lama is now a refugee in India.

THE FISHERIES IN THE NORTH.

We explained in a recent issue that the Russian Government some time ago had changed the three-mile limit of territorial waters into twelve miles. This meant that Japanese fishermen plying their trade in the northern seas would never be permitted to approach within less than twelve miles of the coast. Evidently this would very seriously interfere with fishing facilities in the waters to which such a rule applied. Japanese fishermen therefore brought the matter at once to the attention of the authorities in Tokyo and negotiations were opened with St. Petersburg. Russia, however, shows no disposition to alter the new regulation, and it appears probable that the matter will ultimately be submitted to the Hague Tribunal or some other third party. In the meanwhile, the Japanese Government is said to have asked that the operation of the new law should be suspended pending the result of arbitration, and it appears to be expected that Russia will fall in with this suggestion. The exact reasons which induced the great northern Power to take this step have not been explained publicly.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

On the 19th instant the United States Senate passed the Bill providing against the admission of any foreigners belonging to a nationality which does not enjoy the right of obtaining American citizenship. This measure, had it passed without amendment, would have had the effect of closing the doors of the United States against Japanese subjects, inasmuch as the latter cannot lawfully become naturalized in the United States. But fortunately the Bill was amended in the sense that its provisions were declared to be inapplicable to any foreigners who enjoyed the right of entry into the States under treaty or agreement. Another change made by the Senate was to raise the admission fee from 4 dollars to 5—that is to say, from 8 *yen* to 10—, and further, it is not yet known whether the educational test has been made more severe or not. At any rate, the restriction as it now stands, applies to Chinese citizens mainly, and will not affect the facilities hitherto enjoyed by Japanese subjects. Tokyo journals publish the above facts on the alleged authority of an official of the Foreign Office in Tokyo.

RECEPTION IN TOKYO.

A brilliant reception was given at the Nobles' Club on the afternoon of the 20th instant by Baron and Baroness Kondo to celebrate the nuptials of Mr. Kondo Shigeya, son of Baron Kondo, and Miss Nobuko, daughter of Viscount Matsudaira. Nearly a thousand guests were present, and the number would doubtless have been much larger had not many been obliged to attend the races or to assemble at Shimbashi for the purpose of saying farewell to Baron and Baroness Kato, who started for London on that day. The decorations in the supper marquee at the Nobles' Club were very attractive, and the amusement of the guests was well provided for in the shape of *No*, *Nagauta* and *Ekaki*. Speeches of congratulation were made by Marquis Matsukata and Count Kabayama, and suitable replies were delivered by Viscount Matsudaira and Baron Kondo.

THE JAPANESE MERCANTILE MARINE.

For some time past expressions of discontent have been heard among the able-bodied seamen of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. They claim that in consideration of the greatly increased cost of living, their salaries should be raised. When the first signs of this commotion became visible, the Directors of the Yusen Kaisha at once took steps to ascertain how the rates of pay adopted by that Company compared with the ratio adopted elsewhere. The result of the inquiry was to show that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha treated its employees more generously as to pay and allowances than any other shipping company did. In these circumstances, strenuous efforts were made to convey the truth to the complaining seamen and thus to placate them. But such efforts seem to have proved unavailing. The sailors on board the *Miyasaki Maru* threaten to abandon their work unless their claims receive generous consideration, and the same course has been adopted by some two thousand men serving on board tramp steamers. As for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and other Japanese shipping companies, their employees being in a position pecuniarily inferior to that occupied by the men of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the strike is pretty sure to extend to them also. According to Tokyo journals the situation is very disquieting. It would seem that the example of the Occident is finding followers in Japan.

Menaces of a strike on the part of the seamen and the firemen of Japanese merchant steamers are said to be more and more positive. On the 22nd instant, a party of fifteen men left the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamship *Hitachi Maru* which is now lying in Yokohama and scheduled to start for Europe on the 24th instant. Subsequently these fifteen men were induced to return to the ship, but it would seem that they came back solely for the purpose of organizing a strike on a larger scale, for on the afternoon of the same day they again left the ship at the head of a party of some sixty recalcitrants. These men assert that they have funds sufficient for a month's idleness, and that they are determined to have a signal struggle with their employers. It is feared that the trouble will extend to the N. Y. K. steamer *Miyasaki Maru*, which was scheduled to arrive in Yokohama on the 23rd, and also that it will ultimately affect the whole of the mercantile marine of Japan. In fact, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's steamship *Shunyo Maru* was in difficulties on the very eve of her departure owing to the strike of her fire-men. She was enabled to leave the harbour at the appointed hour by the directors promising to pay the firemen an increase of three yen per month, subject to the approval of the shareholders, which approval should be conveyed to the vessel by wireless telegraphy. In the event of the shareholders refusing, the directors themselves promised to put up three hundred yen for the satisfaction of the fire-men.

The strike of sailors and firemen in Japanese shipping circles is said to be spreading. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamship, the *Hitachi Maru*, which was to have left Yokohama on the 24th, has been obliged to deter her departure and it is feared that other vessels of the Company will be similarly

affected, while it is only a question of time in the case of other ship owners, as the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Tramp Steamer Company. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is particularly unfortunate, for the impression conveyed to the public by the sequence of events is that the strike is chiefly directed against this Company. But as a matter of fact, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha pays higher salaries to its employees than any other Japanese company does, and it ought therefore to be secure against anything in the way of strikes. Moreover, if the Nippon Yusen Kaisha raises its rates, the embarrassment caused to other companies will be very serious.

There are in Japan two Societies for the protection of seamen. One is called the *Sen-in Yekisei-kai*, the other the *Sen-in Doshukai*. The former is under the presidency of Admiral Shibayama; the latter under that of Rear-Admiral Inouye. It is thought that if these associations had discharged their functions with greater zeal and ability, the present trouble would not have arisen. It is further believed that the discontented seamen are receiving encouragement from parties on shore. The *Niroku* attacks Rear-Admiral Inouye and alleges that the whole difficulty is due to his mismanagement. Figures published by Tokyo journals show that in the case of able-bodied seamen and firemen on the N.Y.K. steamers, a sum of from 10 to 20 yen accrues to each employee monthly after all expenses have been defrayed. This is on average 3 yen more than the sum earned by the employees of any other steam ship company in Japan.

The strike of seamen and firemen is evidently on the increase. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers *Sauki* and *Hitachi* have been unable to sail at their scheduled times, and it is feared that the *Yawata Maru*, which is billed to leave for Australia on the 27th instant, will be obstructed owing to the same cause. Meanwhile, the steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, have been able to sail owing to the action taken by the directors in granting to the men an increase of 3 yen per month on the average, and promising to consider further claims when the ships return from Seattle and San Francisco. This increase places the seamen and firemen of the Osaka Shosen and the Toyo Kisen Companies on the same footing as that already occupied by Yusen Kaisha hands, and the hardship for the last-named Company is thus accentuated. The Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha are understood to explain that, while they are perfectly willing to take into consideration any just demands, they are obliged to be doubly circumspect on this occasion, inasmuch as to yield weakly might, and probably would, encourage similar action on the part of all factory hands and other persons engaged in manual labour in Japan. They further point out that seamen and firemen, being, for the most part, confined to their ships, take refuge in gambling as the easiest available form of recreation, and thus, if they receive more pay, it would only mean greater indulgence in this vice. Already many of the seamen and firemen are in debt to their superior officers for moneys advanced to be spent at cards, and it is not at all improbable that the persons who thus batten on the earn-

ings of the men are at the bottom of the strike. At all events, the duty of investigating this subject was entrusted last year to the *Kai-in Eikisei-kai*, and pending the result of the investigation, the Directors of the Steam Ship Company are unwilling to take any decided step. Meanwhile, all possible means are being employed to induce the men to approach the subject in an orderly and friendly manner, without recourse to extreme measures. The immediate question is whether the Communications Department will not step in and arraign the leaders of the movement under the law which makes it criminal for a seaman to leave his ship without permission, thus impairing her power of navigation.

SHIMONOSEKI AND MOJI.

It appears that two eminent civil engineers are busily engaged at present in comparing the relative merits of a bridge and a tunnel for connecting Shimonoseki with Moji, and thus establishing railway communication between the two places. Professor Hiroi, who advocates a suspension bridge, calculates that it will be 1,800 feet long and that it could be built in such a manner as to allow ships to pass under it easily. Professor Jimbo, who supports the idea of a tunnel, says that two sites offer themselves for choice. Both would be treated similarly; that is to say, iron tubes would be laid from shore to shore at a maximum depth of 90 feet below the bottom of the sea. Both sites are equally eligible, for, although one has shallow water compared with the other, the length in the former case would be a mile and a half and in the latter only a mile. Thus the advantage of shallow water would be counterbalanced by increased length. There will be only a single line of railway, and the width of the tube through which it will run would be 17 feet for narrow gauge and 33 feet for the broad gauge. Whether the bridge will be built or the iron tube be laid, the work will be the greatest of its kind in the world. Nothing has yet been published as to the cost.

THE "TITANIC."

The *Yiji Shimpō* has sent to *The Times* in London, in the name of the Japanese people a message of profound condolence for the loss of the *Titanic*, and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has conveyed a similar message to the directors of the White Star Line. One feature of the catastrophe which seems to have specially evoked Japanese appreciation is that women and children were saved, and that men sacrificed their lives for this purpose.

The losses sustained by the insurance offices of the world in connexion with this catastrophe are immense. It is true that they are very widely distributed. Even a Japanese company, the Tokyo Marine Insurance company suffers a loss of 100,000 yen. In addition to the large sum for which the vessel was insured, the baggage of its first-class passengers must also have been insured for a heavy amount, and the same is true with regard to the life risks which many companies must have undertaken for the passengers. In fact, from every point of view the insurance companies of the whole world have almost all suffered a stunning blow.

LAND.

The price of land in the suburbs of Tokyo has of late showed a marked tendency to move upwards. An appreciation of 20 to 30 per cent. is quoted in several cases. This is largely due to the building of tram lines which bring the suburban districts into close touch with the business sections of the city, but of course something is also due to speculation. Tokyo newspapers, writing on the subject, speak of the influence of Osaka making itself felt in Tokyo. There have sprung up in the former city within the last one or two years, companies which deal chiefly in houses and land; purchasing likely sites at cheap rates, and holding them for a rise, at the same time letting them out to tenants in the interval. These operations have had the effect of driving up prices in Osaka, and Tokyo is thought to have felt the influence. Some Japanese journals condemn such enterprise as speculative, but it is difficult to agree with that criticism. A large part of the wealth of great capitalists has undoubtedly been derived from transactions in land. No investments can be safer than the purchase of land at moderate rates in the preface of material development.

The example set by Osaka and Kobe seems likely to be followed by Tokyo. In the former two cities, several companies have been organized for the purpose of purchasing suburban or mortgaged lands, and holding them for a rise, building on them in the meanwhile or letting them out in small lots for building purposes. This kind of enterprise is condemned in some quarters as seriously speculative. It would be safe enough investment to follow the precedent set in former years by the Mitsubishi and the Mitsui families, who acquired great tracts of land at low rates, and quietly allowed them to lie unproductive for from fifteen to twenty years. There are still opportunities for that sort of enterprise in Tokyo and Osaka where land has not reached anything like its full value. But as a Director of the Commercial and Industrial Bank points out, the case of a company which has to render accounts to its shareholders and pay its dividends every half year is very different. Such an association cannot afford to be out of its money for a term of years, and therefore speculation in land is a bad business for a joint-stock company. But as a matter of fact, many individual capitalists have long been doing for their own account exactly what the new companies propose to do on account of their shareholders, and if the latter undertake the transaction with eyes open to all contingencies, we cannot see why a good business should not be found in land and house property.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

It has been explained in these columns that the Popular Party is in considerable difficulties owing to internal dissensions, which threaten to destroy its cohesion in the general elections now approaching. But the case seems to be even worse so far as the Central Party is concerned. No less than seven members have withdrawn from its ranks, and the reason commonly assigned is difficulty in finding funds to meet the expenses of the general elections. It appears to be thought now that the Central Party will be practically dissolved before it reaches the polls.

THE LIMITS OF A PATENT.

Quite an excitement has been caused in America by a decision of the Supreme Court with reference to the rights carried by a patent. The case was this:—The Illinois Corporation sold a mimeograph to a New York lady and "upon the machine was inscribed what purported to be a license under which the purchaser was entitled to use the machine. The condition of this license were that the purchaser should use only such utensils, paper, ink and other supplies in the operation of the machine as were manufactured by the patentee corporation. Seven justices formed the Court and by a majority of one thus decided in favour of the patentee company for reasons which are summed up as follows:—

"If a patentee says, 'I may suppress my patent if I will, I may make or have made devices under the patent, but I will neither sell nor permit any one to use the patented things,' he is within his right and none can complain.

"But if he says, 'I will sell with the right to use only with other things proper for using with the machine, and I will sell at the actual cost of machines to me, providing you will agree to use only such articles as are made by me in connection therewith,' if he chooses to take his profit in this way, instead of taking it by the higher price for the machines, has he exceeded his exclusive right to make, sell, and use his patented machines?

"The market for the sale of such articles to his machines, which by such a condition he takes to himself, was a market which he alone created by the making and the selling of the new invention. Had he kept his invention to himself no ink could have been sold by others for use upon machines embodying that invention. By selling it subject to the restriction he took nothing from others and in no wise restricted their legitimate market."

To unsophisticated minds the above seems a sufficiently fair decision, but the spokesman of the three justices who disagreed from the verdict declared that:—

"The ruling now made in effect is that the patentee has the power by contract to extend his patent rights so as to bring within the claims of his patent, things which are not embraced therein, thus virtually legislating by causing the patent laws to cover subjects to which, without the exercise of the right of contracts, they could not reach, the result being not only to multiply monopolies at the will of the interested party, but also to destroy the jurisdiction of the State courts over subjects which from the beginning have been within their authority.

It is a very curious point and a New York journal emphasizes the protest above with an illustration of a detective policeman entering a saloon and informing a man who is playing a piano that "this instrument has a patented device, and if you play any music on it not furnished by the manufacturer, your piano will be taken away from you." Obviously this illustration is a distorted application of the principle in question but it depicts what some folks are saying in America.

YUAN SHIH-KAI AND JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION.

An American journal declares that Japanese newspapers "without a single exception are antipathetic and even hostile toward Yuan Shih-kai." This is a somewhat exaggerated summary, but, in the main, it must be admitted that Yuan has not received benevolent treatment at the hands of Japanese publicists. The American journal from which we quote the above translates extracts from the *Fiji Shimpō* and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the gist of which is that Yuan was at once disloyal to the Manchu Court and insincere in dealing with the Republicans. There is, however, another

reason which, though left unnoticed, by the general body of observers, is nevertheless an important factor in the situation. It is that Yuan Shih-kai served for several years in the capital of Korea as Chinese Resident during the days immediately preceding the war of 1894. Throughout that time he acted as Li Hung-chang's faithful agent, which means that he thwarted Japan at every possible point, and thus contributed materially to creating a situation which ended in bloodshed. It is true that Yuan, during those years, merely followed faithfully the policy laid down by his great master, Li Hung-chang. But this did not at all mitigate the resentment which the Japanese harboured against the visible instrument of Li's policy. There can be little doubt that this page of history had much to do with the antipathetic demeanour evinced by the Japanese Press towards Yuan throughout the recent crisis.

FRENCH MONEY.

The imminent establishment of a Franco-Japanese Bank is naturally attracting considerable attention in Japan. The *Asahi Shimbun* has a characteristic article on the subject. It points out that the Minister of Finance, in his recent utterance, hinted very plainly that Japan had already obtained a large quantity of foreign money as was expedient or convenient, and that she ought to work with her own capital as far as possible hereafter. Hence, if the object of the Franco-Japanese Bank is to bring French capital into Japan, the views of the Minister of Finance will be contradicted by the functions of the institution. The Minister spoke of its being advisable for Japan to build her railways with her own money, rather than to go abroad for funds just now, and that pronouncement is obviously inconsistent with any plan for drawing French money into this country at present. From that point of view the *Asahi Shimbun* finds itself unable to applaud the creation of a Franco-Japanese Bank. But it approves the project if the idea of the projectors is merely to remove Japan financial isolation and to place her on the same footing as Occidental nations. If that be accomplished, Japan will have all that she wants, namely, access to the money-markets of the world at any moment.

STATISTICS IN TOKYO.

A private society has been formed in Tokyo calling itself the *Shiku Chosakai*. It has for its object the investigation of all questions relating to land and house property within the metropolis and its suburban districts. At present, if any one in Tokyo desires to obtain information about the ownership of land, the nature of the title under which it is held, the value it bears as assessed by most recent transactions, and in fact, anything in the shape of minute information, there is no source which he can consult apart from private inquiry. But if the new company carries out its purpose, any one will be able to provide himself with a volume conveying all necessary knowledge about lands and houses in Tokyo, and presumably such knowledge will be obtainable by applying at the company's office even without purchasing a register. We do not doubt that some interesting facts will be brought to light in the sequel of this association's inquiries.

THE CONSPIRACY IN KOREA.

Although the case against the Korean conspirators has not yet come up for public trial in the Law Courts of Seoul the *Seoul Press* publishes the following interesting information which, presumably, was obtained from the police:—

As already reported the Prosecuting Department of the Seoul Local Court recently brought a suit against numerous Koreans, partly to the grave conspiracy case, which has so far drawn considerable attention of the public. People so prosecuted exceed eighty, of whom over sixty, in so far as we learn, are Christian converts belonging to the Presbyterian Church. Major (retired) Lyu Tongsol and Yang Keun-taik, formerly Editor of the *Tai Han Mai Il Shinpo*, are among the prosecuted, and it is with very great regret that we note the name of the esteemed mission school at Syonchon inseparably associated with so infamous a conspiracy. Being at length in a position to report on the case, we shall give below an outline of its history.

It may be still fresh in the memory of most of our readers that in December last a brilliant ceremony was held at New Wiju in order to celebrate the opening of the Yalu Bridge. Count Terauchi honoured it with his presence. Prior to it, his Excellency journeyed north on an inspection of the route along the Seoul-New Wiju Railway, that taking place towards the end of December, 1910. Both journeys were accomplished by the Count without a hitch, and few of the general public—possibly none—then suspected that the Governor-General had been in any danger of death or injury at the hands of an assassin on each occasion. As a matter of fact, he was constantly shadowed by a host of assassins on both journeys. A plot had been formed for his assassination, and conspirators armed with revolvers were stationed each time at various points. On his second journey Count Terauchi saw at Syonchon station a number of Korean students led by the Rev. Mr. McCune, Director of the Mission School there. His Excellency especially received Mr. McCune, and expressed his desire that the latter would continue to put forth his earnest endeavours for the education and right guidance of young Koreans. His Excellency also delivered a few words of advice to his students. But alas, these pupils were not present to welcome the Governor-General. They secretly carried revolvers about their persons, and were waiting there for an opportunity to fire a volley at the Count. Some of the prosecuted, we are told, recently confessed that their dastardly scheme resulted in failure, partly owing to the strict vigilance maintained by the police, and partly to the difficulty of clearly distinguishing the Governor-General who was dressed in khaki as were his attendant officers.

When the Count paid a visit to Chemulpo and received leading businessmen there some months ago, many conspirators were on the alert for an opportunity to execute their wicked design, but to no purpose. So too at the inauguration ceremony at Euichongpu of the first completed section of the Seoul-Wonsan Railway, which took place in the presence of the Count. It is calculated that about five hundred people must be connected with the conspiracy, but the Police, evidently being anxious to restrict the list of criminals as far as possible, have so far arrested some 150 only. These conspirators carried on communication with others by means of a cipher or messenger, and took great care not to leave any traces which might serve as evidence against themselves. They also frequently held secret meetings in the mission school at Syonchon. The assassination of the late Mr. Stevens at San Francisco, the assassination of Prince Ito at Harbin, and the attack on Count Yi Wanyong are all deemed related, either practically or morally, to the latest conspiracy. Under the pretext of recovery of sovereignty, these conspirators were raising money through brigandage. Major Lyu Tongsol, one of the prosecuted, is a graduate from our Military College, and held an important post while General Hasegawa was in this peninsula as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Occupation. About the time of annexation he crossed over to Shanghai, but returning later on the Governor-General granted him a sum of money for the purpose of persuading Koreans to follow the right course of conduct. Another of the prosecuted, the Rev. Yang Chonpaik was a most conspicuous member of the Korean Christian tourist party which was organised under the auspices of the Japanese Y.M.C.A. here, and visited principal Japanese cities during last year. Some of the arrested, we further learn, profess that Koreans privy to the

conspiracy number considerably over one hundred thousand including those abroad.

As for Baron Yun Chihō, Vice-President of the Korean Y. M. C. A., the evidence against him ranks him as one of the foremost ringleaders of the conspiracy. It is understood that the Authorities are now going through the necessary formalities to secure the Imperial sanction required in order to proceed against a man of his rank.

It will be seen from the above that some doubt exists as to the number of the conspirators. Our Seoul contemporary alleges that it has been calculated that about five hundred persons are implicated, and that some of those under arrest put the total at considerably over a hundred thousand, including those living abroad. Whatever the truth may be as to this point, only some eighty have actually been held for trial, and of these, over sixty are reported to be converts of the Presbyterian Mission. These plotters had been shadowing Count Terauchi for some months prior to the discovery of their scheme, and it is evident that his life was in the gravest peril during quite a long interval. No foreign missionary has been arrested. By some inexplicable error the name of the Director of a Mission school at Syonchon was reported to have been apprehended, but from the account published by the *Seoul Press* we learn that this missionary, so far from being engaged in any blood-thirsty plot against the Governor-General's life, was actually received by the latter with much cordiality, and thanked for the efforts made by his mission to educate and guide young Koreans. Of course the inference drawn in some quarters will be that this conspiracy indicates the existence among the Koreans of grave aversion to Japanese rule, and that the tranquillity which apparently prevailed throughout the Peninsula in the days immediately subsequent to annexation really concealed a state of acute dissatisfaction. But to take that view would be to overestimate the truth. Nothing in the modern history of Korea justifies us in believing that such a great political change as the substitution of the Korean flag for the Japanese would be quietly endured by all sections of the Korean nation. Moreover, the same history shows that assassination commends itself to the Korean mind as the most natural kind of protest in any political crisis. It was not to have been supposed therefore that such a radical event as the annexation of the Peninsula to the neighbouring Empire of Japan would not be followed by any show whatever of desperate resistance, and history will certainly say that the public peace and good order which, on the whole, have characterized the interval thus far elapsed since the overthrow of Korean independence, must be regarded as a high tribute to Japanese administrative ability and political foresight. What has actually happened in the matter of this conspiracy is a mere ripple on the surface of a comparatively calm sea.

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL MORALITY.

Mr. Shido, Chief of the Commercial Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, made an interesting and important communication at a recent *conversazione* held by the members of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. He is reported to have said that a great deal is heard about Japanese commercial immorality but that doubtless much of this talk is exaggeration.

Dishonest tradesmen are to be found in all countries and Japan has not a monopoly of that commodity. Nevertheless, there come to the ears of the Japanese Authorities from time to time cases which reflect very badly upon Japanese practice. Mr. Shido mentioned two or three of these evil incidents. One referred to a department store in Chicago which had long been in the habit of including large quantities of Japanese manufactures in its catalogue. Suddenly the directors of this store discovered that a rival institution was under selling it, and on inquiry it was discovered that the same Japanese firm was selling at reduced prices to the rival store precisely the same goods that had been furnished for several years back to the original store. Another instance was that of figured straw matting. A Japanese firm contracted with an American to supply a large quantity of this article to the latter, but neither went on with the contract nor offered any explanation for failing to do so. It subsequently transpired that the Japanese manufacturers were sending their matting to a different firm which had agreed to pay 5 *rin* per piece more than the original contract. Yet another case was that of cray-fish and sardines. A Japanese firm offered to give a monopoly of selling these goods, and an enterprising American firm, accepting the proposal, spent large sums advertising the goods and had just succeeded in building up a mutually profitable business, when the Japanese firm went back on it, and gave the right of sale to another firm. The sufferers by this want of probity carried a very bitter complaint to the Japanese Consulate in New York. Finally, Mr. Shido spoke of a Japanese student who, having graduated at a high school, went to America and devoted six months of constant effort to introducing Japanese-made fishing nets to American customers. After much toil and no little expense, a satisfactory arrangement was at last made, but no sooner did the Japanese net-sellers find themselves secure, than they turned their backs upon the man who had brought this business within their reach, and he found himself with nothing but his trouble for his pains.

THE DRAINAGE OF TOKYO.

For many years past it has been recognized that Tokyo is one of the worst drained cities in the world, and there has been constant clamour for improvement in this respect. But the great obstacle has been want of funds. It was calculated that 38 million *yen* would be required altogether, and after long deliberation the Municipality decided to undertake the work, on condition that the State should contribute one-half of that aggregate. It is claimed indeed that the Treasury actually promised to furnish that much aid, and relying upon the promise, it was decided to commence work this year, devoting a sum of 6,130,000 *yen* to the enterprise. But it now appears that the Treasury is not prepared to furnish more than one-third, and the result is that the Municipal estimates are invalidated. By whom that promise was given and to whom, there is as yet no definite information, nor has the Municipality yet decided on the course it will pursue in the circumstances.

AN APPRECIATION.

Mr. Ito Yoneji, who is to proceed to London next month to take charge of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's agency in that city, has been speaking in a frank and interesting manner to a representative of the *Jiji Shimpō*. He says that the riverine carrying trade in China was never so active as it is at present. This is due partly to the restoration of peace, and partly to the fact that the Chinese railways not having yet been restored to commercial working order, the bulk of the transport has to be done by steamers. This state of affairs will become still more marked when the Yangtze receives a fuller volume of water. Turning to the question of trade, Mr. Ito notes that Great Britain heads the list; that Japan comes next, and that Germany stands far down. Yet, although the Customs returns put British goods at the head of the catalogue, it is indisputable that the persons who handle these goods are, for the most part, Germans. A German lives more frugally and works much more diligently than his English competitor. The former comes to his office at 8 a.m. and remains there until 7 p.m. He takes only a short interval for luncheon, and he studies the Chinese language strenuously so as to get into close touch with the people of the country. An Englishman, on the contrary, goes to his office at 10 in the morning, leaves it punctually at 5 in the evening, and takes an hour and a half for mid-day recess. It is inevitable that the German should forge ahead in these circumstances. The German himself explains that he labours under a sort of necessity to find employment outside his own country. The burden of taxation in the fatherland and the spread of education render it at once difficult to live and equally difficult to find employment. Finally, Mr. Ito quotes the Germans as alleging that they have no fear of British or American competition in the interior of China, and that the only thing they do dread is Japanese competition. This is not the first time criticisms of a similar nature have been published in the Far East. We do not think that they are altogether trustworthy so far as English merchants are concerned.

THE THUNDERSTORM OF THE 19TH INSTANT.

The Yellow Sea seems to have been the centre of the extraordinary thunderstorm which swept across Japan on the 19th inst. The point of greatest disturbance, so far as Japan is concerned, was Gifu prefecture, where, by 10 o'clock in the forenoon, hail-stones of exceptional magnitude preceded a hurricane which moved with such a rapidity that it reached Utsunomiya at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. A goods train which left Nagoya for Kyoto at 10.40 a.m., encountered the fury of the storm as it was crossing the bridge over the Sakai-gawa about a mile from Gifu. Twelve of the fourteen carriages composing the train were swept into the river; but, fortunately, there were no casualties to life or limb. At the village of Tsukuba in the Ashikaga district a thunder-bolt struck a house, killing three women and wounding seven other persons. The phenomenon was of very short duration, but it interrupted many lines of telegraph and wrought heavy damage.

A GOLD MINE.

The *Jiji Shimpō* publishes a long account of a gold mine said to have been discovered along a river some seven or eight miles from Hanuzuka station on the Fukuoka Railway. That gold existed in this neighbourhood appears to have been known for some time, but nobody seems to have believed that the mineral was present in sufficient quantities to repay exploitation. Recent investigations are said to have showed, however, that one-tenth thousandth part of the ore in the vein is pure gold, and it has been estimated by authorities said to be trustworthy that two thousand million yen worth of gold are within easy reach at this place. Applications for mining privileges are pouring in to the authorities, and steps have been taken to obtain an official expert opinion. The vein is said to be five miles in width and fifty miles in length, and the gold is believed to lie at a distance of from six feet to thirty from the surface.

The talk about the newly-discovered gold mine in the province of Chikugo, is growing louder daily. At Horikiri in the Kita-Kawachi district and at Shigeo in the Yokoyama district the precious metals are said to exist in the ratio of 9 parts of gold and 1.85 parts of silver to every 100,000 parts of ore. This is an extraordinary ratio, and if the estimate be correct the newly-discovered mines are from five to ten times as rich as those of Sado. There is, however, one suspicious feature, namely, that the Shigeo mine was worked unsuccessfully on two previous occasions, namely, once 140 years ago and once in 1877. These facts nevertheless are not producing any deterrent effect. Applications are pouring in for concessions, and the total area affected now amounts to 10 million *tsubo*. One account says that the precious metals are found among the clay on the mountain side, and that the ease with which they can be taken out is unprecedented.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

In our last issue we spoke of trouble that had arisen in Peking official circles owing to Premier Tang taking the exceptional step of despatching commissioners to scrutinize the archives of the Home Department. Regarding this as an indignity, the officials of the Department tendered their resignations *en bloc*, and to the surprise of everybody, the resignations were accepted. That version of the affair went to suggest that the relations between Premier Tang and Mr. Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs, were somewhat strained. But later accounts point to a different cause. They describe this disturbance as a dispute between Nanking and Peking, the Peking officials being unwilling to serve with their new Nanking colleagues. This attitude of discontent is said to have extended to the Finance Department and the War Department. Even the metropolitan police showed at one time a disposition to join the protesters, but they were persuaded to abandon the intention. On the evening of the 23rd instant, a Cabinet meeting was held to consider the situation, but the decision arrived at is not yet clearly known. It would be a great calamity for China if the smooth working of the administrative machine were interrupted by such jealousies at the very outset.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE INCIDENT.

A telegram received in Peking from northern Manchuria describes a sanguinary collision which is said to have recently taken place at the Russian gold mine on the Yenesei River. An unexplained dispute having arisen between the Chinese employees at the mine and their Russian employers, the latter used their rights with deadly effect. The casualties on the Chinese side are said to have totalled three hundred, among whom two hundred were shot by the Russian local troops. This somewhat bald telegram is published by the *Chūa Shimbun*. Later information may materially change the aspect of the incident.

In our last issue we published news of a sanguinary collision at the Russian gold mines on the Yenisei River. Owing to a printer's error the paragraph containing this news was headed a "Russo-Japanese Incident" instead of "Russo-Chinese." Latest intelligence goes to show that the affair arose out of a demand for higher pay on the part of the Chinese employees at the mine. It is alleged that when the men, of whom some five thousand are employed, showed signs of going on strike, they were induced to refrain from recourse to that drastic step, and they agreed to send a delegation for the purpose of discussing matters amicably with their Russian employers. These delegates, however, instead of receiving conciliatory treatment, were apprehended and thrown into prison. On the receipt of this intelligence, a number of Chinese subjects set out from Irkutsk, carrying a petition for the release of their comrades, and for favourable consideration in respect of their claims. On the way they encountered a detachment of Russian troops, who are said to have opened fire upon them without attempting to ascertain their purpose. The result was that a large number—stated by the first account to have been three hundred—were killed or wounded. This is obviously the Chinese version of the incident, for we read that the Russian troops continued to fire upon the Chinese after the latter had prostrated themselves in token of submission. It will be well to await fuller details before attaching credit to this story. If the Chinese who set out from Irkutsk could be counted by hundreds, it is evident that the party far exceeded the limits of an ordinary deputation.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

The Yokohama Economic Association, which has been investigating the effect which the Panama Canal will have on shipping traffic, has come to the conclusion that whereas the distance between Yokohama and New York *via* the Suez Canal is 13,043 miles, the route *via* the Panama Canal is 9,721 miles, the difference between the two routes being thus 3,322 miles. Taking the average speed of mail steamers at 12 knots an hour, the Panama route will save eleven days. As compared with the route around Cape Horn, the new route is shorter by 8,154 miles and saves 25 days. On the other hand the distance between Yokohama and London *via* the Panama Canal is 12,491 miles as compared with 11,150 miles *via* the Suez Canal, the difference being 1,341 miles, so that traffic between Yokohama and London will continue to take place *via* Suez, even after the opening of the Panama Canal.

RUSSIA'S CHINA POLICY.

SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The Russian Government has published a semi-official answer to the attack on Russia's diplomacy published recently by the *Novoe Vremya*. It is semi-officially stated that Secretary Knox's Manchuria railway neutralization proposal was defeated by the unequivocal protests raised by Russia and Japan. The Russian Government learned through official Notes dated December 16th and 29th, 1909, sent by the British Ambassador to Russia, the contents of the proposed neutralization scheme and submitted the proposal to a Cabinet Council on January 12th, 1910, when it was decided to reject it. A reply was given to the United States on January 21st, 1910, in that sense. Simultaneously the Japanese Government also notified the United States of its rejection of the proposal of the purchase of the South Manchuria Railway by an international syndicate. On April 15th, 1911, both the Russian and Japanese Governments received a notice that a 10 million sterling loan contract has been signed in Peking between the Chinese Government and the Four Powers Syndicate, Article 15 whereof stipulated the reservation by the Four Powers Syndicate of a right of priority regarding Chinese loans. The Russian and Japanese Governments pointed out that the said article was equivalent to a monopoly by the Four Powers Syndicate and lodged a protest against the loan. The Four Powers Syndicate insisted on the retention of the Article, but the loan has not yet come to a successful conclusion. Neither Russia nor Japan had ever demanded participation in the Four Powers loan. The Russo-Asiatic Bank had never joined either the Four Powers Syndicate or the other syndicate composed of Russian, Belgian, French and British capitalists, with a view to accepting a Chinese loan. In February last the Government received an invitation from the Four Powers Syndicate for participation in the advances made to China. On or about March 13th the Government sent a reply agreeing to participate, subject to the following conditions:—That the advances shall be treated as a separate loan, independent of the coming political loans; that negotiations shall forthwith be entered into concerning the conditions of the political loans; and also that no other Chinese loans shall be accepted without the consent of the Powers concerned, prior to the conclusion of these negotiations.

On March 16th, the Government again received an invitation to participate in the loan, the contract for which the Four Powers Syndicate was about to conclude, the amount being 60 millions sterling. The Government still reserves its reply to this last invitation, and it now has under consideration participation in the loan on the condition that the special rights and interests Russia possesses in China shall not be thereby prejudiced.

SEAL FISHING ORDINANCE.

Yesterday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes Laws Nos. 21 and 22 relating to the veto of the sealing business and the compensation payable to the sealers. Law No. 21 prohibits the catching of seals in the Northern Pacific to the north of 30° north latitude, comprising the Behring Sea, the Sea of Kamchatka, the Sea of Okhotsk

and the Sea of Japan. Sealing is prohibited in these waters beyond three nautical miles from the coast of the dominions of the Empire. The importation into the dominions of the Empire of sea-otters and seals, or their furs, is prohibited excepting in cases prescribed in a separate Ordinance. Contravention of the law subjects offenders to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to a penalty not exceeding 5,000 yen.

Law No. 22 provides that licensed sealers registered on December 15th, 1911, and the owners and crews of sealing vessels on the register on the same date, are entitled to compensation ranging from 50 per cent. of the prospective proceeds realizable from the annual catch and 70 per cent. of the estimated value of the sealing vessels and apparatus. The commanders of the sealing vessels are entitled to compensation of 100 per cent. of their annual income and gunners of 200 per cent. and all others of 70 per cent. The provisions do not, however, apply to Ainu sealers. The total amount payable in compensation must in no case exceed 1,120,000 yen, claims in excess of the limit being decreased in proportion to the amount claimed. Compensation is payable in national loan bonds, excepting fractions of 50 yen, which are payable in cash. The claims shall be sent in not later than May 31st, 1912. The two laws go into operation from the date of promulgation.

The same issue of the *Official Gazette* also publishes an Order of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce respecting the exceptions prescribed by Law No. 21 and provides that the law does not prejudice the importation to the dominions of the Empire of sea-otters and seals and their furs coming under any one of the following clauses:—(1) Those caught before December 14th, 1911. (2) Those bearing the official marks of the Governments signatory to the Sealing Convention. (3) Other than those belonging to the species known as *Callorhinus alaskanus*, *Callorhinus ursinus* and *Callorhinus kurilensis*. (4) Those caught by Ainu sealers in accordance with the provisions of the law. The Ainu in the Kurile islands may engage in sealing within three nautical miles of the coast in a boat manned by less than five men, which is propelled by means of sail or oars, in the customary manner, but not using firearms and not in the employ of or under contract with other sealers.

THE REBUILDING OF HANKOW.

Industrial businessmen in Hankow are in negotiation with the capitalists of various Powers to raise a 15 million taels loan for rebuilding the city and constructing an embankment. The contract for the embankment will probably be given to the Okura Gumi. According to the specifications, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, the embankment is to extend 30,000 feet, starting from the fore-shore of the English settlement on the Yangtze and running up along the Han river. The scheme is rather extravagant. It is stated that when the Chinese merchants in Hankow last approached the Okura firm with a proposal for a loan, the firm suggested the construction of piers and warehouses on the bund and railway lines so as to connect the traffic between the Peking Hankow and the Yu Han railways and the steamers plying between

the ports of the Yangtze river. The suggestion was accepted and the present scheme is evidently based on the suggestion. The Okura Gumi estimates the cost of construction at 100 yen per foot, that is three million yen for the whole work. The promoters desired to raise a loan to rebuild the city. Inasmuch, however, as it was found difficult to raise a loan, the Hankow merchants made an attempt to obtain accommodation out of the proceeds of the Four Powers loan. When the city was burnt down by the Imperialists, the Hankow merchants obtained a promise that the damage would be made good by the Government. They now demand of Yuan Shih-kai's Government the fulfilment of the promise, but this is persistently refused. In the circumstances it is possible that the Okura Gumi will ultimately have to find the capital on the acceptance of the contract for the work. The Okura Gumi some years ago established a building company jointly with Mr. Yasuda, and built the settlement at Tientsin, and also completed the embankment in front of the Japanese settlement at Hankow. Thus it has some experience in such works in China. It also has a branch office in Hankow and is in close touch with Hankow people. The firm is desirous of accepting the contract jointly with Mr. Yasuda, but is determined to accept it independently if Mr. Yasuda be indisposed to undertake the work. Mr. Tachibana, President of the Hankow branch of the firm, who has been staying in Tokyo for some days past to consult with the head office, is returning to Hankow shortly, taking with him the plans and estimates, to enter into negotiations with the Hankow promoters of the scheme.

THE GT. NORTHERN CABLE LINES.

With reference to the submarine cable problem, the *Tokyo Asahi* writes that the Department of Communications has decided to enter into informal negotiations with the Great Northern Telegraph Company in June next regarding the contract, which expires towards the end of this year. The Shanghai line is a source of profit or the company and therefore it will be no easy matter to induce it to part with the line and renew the contract on more favourable terms. The Company now possesses three cable lines connecting Denmark with England, France and Russia, but it derives small profit from these lines owing to the existence of competitive cables. The Company, however, holds a monopoly over the Shanghai Nagasaki, and Vladivostok-Nagasaki lines. Not only do these cable lines control the telegraphic communication between Japan and China but also they practically control cable messages between Japan and all other countries abroad. Japan pays annually about 1,500,000 yen for her telegraph service, of which 1,000,000 yen goes to enrich the Great Northern Telegraph Company and enables the Company to declare a dividend of about 28 per cent., which is phenomenally high for a European company. Moreover the Company has investments in national securities, etc. which are said now to amount to 53 million francs. The Company has derived this enormous profit from the monopoly of its cables in the Far East, especially from its Shanghai lines. In the circumstances it is thought necessary to induce the Company to concede the cable lines to Japan.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENTERPRISES.

VIEWS OF BARON SHIBUSAWA.

The Nippon Ginko's investigations show the capital involved in economic enterprises newly mooted, or for the extension of established businesses, effected during March, to amount to 60,585,000 yen, bringing up the total capitalization to 146,040,000 yen since January last. Commenting on this, Baron Shibusawa is quoted as saying that the marked increase in the capital invested in manufacturing industries, aquatic products and mining business is in keeping with the general trend of economic development. The growth of the electric business is also a natural sequence. Railway, tramway and shipping enterprises are also welcome, as they tend to accelerate the general economic development. The enormous increase in capital by spinning mills is no doubt due to a radical increase in the demand in the home market and also the prospective brisk demand for cotton yarns and cloth in China. The development of these enterprises naturally called forth an increase of the capital of the banks and an extension of the insurance business. The increase of capital in commercial and other undertakings amounts to 36 million yen, a large portion of which forms the capital of the landed property companies now in fashion in the Kwausai district. This is more or less speculative in nature, and the enhancement in land values is not conducive to economic development. A radical increase in the promotion of cinematograph and like enterprises may also be regarded as an evil attendant on the industrial development. The future of the growth of these enterprises does not admit of optimistic views. The currency in circulation has of late considerably increased owing to the inflow of foreign capital, which tends to force up prices of commodities. It appears that the promotion of new enterprises has been accentuated by this unnatural circumstance, rather than by the natural process of economic activity. The Government must effect a readjustment of administration and finance and postpone as far as practicable military and naval increment in order to lighten the burden of taxation. It must also avoid the introduction of foreign capital to give a check to the increase of currency in circulation. Capitalists and promoters should also exercise great care against the promotion of unstable enterprises, to accelerate the healthy development of general economics.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

The abnormal increase in the price of rice is still furnishing a theme for discussion. Mr. Hayakawa Senkichiro is credited with having stated that the prices of commodities have of late shown an abnormal increase, but the great increase in the price of rice in the Spring Season demands profound consideration on the part of statesmen. The increase is no doubt partly connected with cornering operations of speculators, but the prime cause lies in a deficient supply of rice. The rise in the population and the growth of luxurious habits have brought about an increase in the demand for rice, which the production has

failed to keep up with, and a deficient supply has resulted. The best method of regulating the price is in increasing the production, to keep an equilibrium between the demand and supply. The readjustment of cultivated land and the granting of cheap capital to small farmers to encourage farming were ways of attaining this end. It was also important to improve the method of preservation of rice. The import duty on foreign rice, which has merely the protection of landowners in view, should be speedily abolished by the issue of an urgent Imperial Ordinance. The increased prices of commodities, especially of food-stuffs, is a heavy burden not only to traders and manufacturers, but to the farmers as well, and if the high price of rice is allowed to continue for any length of time, it must bring about serious consequences in political and economic circles. It is rather strange to note that the momentous question should be left so long unsolved by Japan's statesmen.

Mr. Ikeda Kenzo is also of opinion that it is necessary to regulate the exorbitant price of rice, although no practical suggestion has so far been advanced for the solution of the problem. Some publicists attribute the phenomenon to the increase of the currency in circulation. This is undoubtedly a cause, but there must also exist many other causes, and it must not be allowed to remain unsolved, as artificial causes are also at work. The price of rice is determined not by the farmers and the rice market, but by the Rice Exchanges, where monetary and other influences are apt to govern the fluctuations. The effect of these influences has been marked of late. The restriction placed on the kind of rice in transactions is at the root of the evil. He would therefore suggest the introduction of a system whereby foreign rice can be used as a substitute for home rice, since this would at once put a stop to operations by speculators. The import duty on foreign rice should also be unhesitatingly abolished or materially reduced. It is necessary for the protection of agriculture that a high price should obtain in the rice market, but any abnormal increase in the price will seriously affect the interests of commerce and industry and increase the cost of production, culminating in a decrease of the export trade. Drastic measures are indispensable at the present juncture to eradicate the evils arising from the manipulations of unscrupulous speculators.

CHANGCHUN.

The town of Changchun seems to be in a somewhat disturbed condition. There is said to be considerable friction between the Chinese troops stationed there and the Chinese police. A party of the former were carrying on a lawless debauch a few nights ago when they received a visit from a detachment of police. The soldiers resisted violently and one of their number was wounded. But they were dispersed by the police. Subsequently they organized a force of 300 men to take vengeance on the police, and this strong party set out from the Chinese camp for the city on the morning of the 19th instant. They were, however, persuaded to abandon their violent purpose for the moment, but it is apprehended that they will renew the attempt, for their commanding officer, Mr. Tsing, is said to be implacably opposed to the Republican Government.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHT SCHEME.

The special committee of the Tokyo Municipal Aldermen's Council appointed to investigate the new Municipal electric light programme, is to submit its report to the Council on the 19th instant. The new programme comprises an outlay of 8,239,000 yen, which is defrayable in three consecutive fiscal years, commencing from the present fiscal year, and is to be allotted as under:—4,259,000 yen for the 45th fiscal year for the installation of 120,000 electric lamps; 2,138,000 yen for the 46th fiscal year for the installation of 120,000 lamps and 1,800,000 yen for the 47th fiscal year for the installation of 100,000 lamps, totalling 34 electric lamps, to bring up the total number to 460,000 lamps. The fund is to be raised by a domestic loan which is redeemable in 17 years, commencing from the 45th fiscal year, the account redeemable annually averaging six or seven hundred thousand yen. The cost of installation is estimated at 45 yen per lamp.

The Electric Business Committee of the Tokyo Aldermen's Council sat on the 23rd instant, when it was decided to defer the discussion of the 460,000 electric light scheme to a future occasion and the following extraordinary budget for the municipal electric business was adopted:—

Construction of electric tramway lines:—	
	Yen.
Land	1,823,320
Rails	675,000
Rolling stock	800,000
Buildings	126,180
Installation of hydro-electric plant.....	2,300,000
Execution of plan and supervision of work	37,500
Total	5,762,300
Supply of electric current:—	
Land	7,200
Buildings	87,200
Construction of distributing station	271,880
Construction of electric circuit	1,550,600
Fixing expense.....	120,200
Execution of plan and supervision of work	50,000
Total	2,087,070

THE U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW.

In reference to an official dispatch received at the Foreign Office reporting the passing of the Immigrants Law Amendment Bill by the U.S. Senate, a responsible Foreign Office authority is quoted as saying that no details of the amendment are yet obtainable, but it seems that no alteration whatever has been made in the provisions concerning the entrance of Japan into the dominions of the United States. The attitude of the Lower House towards the Bill must be watched. There has always existed in the Lower House much comment on the construction to be placed on the word "fraud," used in Mr. Dillingham's Bill, as its use in a broad sense might lead to unfair and partial discrimination. Moreover, Democratic members predominate in the Lower House, and they are naturally averse to pass a Bill introduced by the present Republican Ministry. Since the Senate passed the Bill from the consideration of party politics, party feeling naturally exists in the Lower House to postpone passing it until it has been re-introduced by the Democratic party. It is therefore not easy to predict the final fate of the Bill.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

(The Japan Daily Mail, April 22.)

AS further details of the disaster to the White Star liner *Titanic* come to hand, the more apparent it becomes that there was negligence on the part of the Company in failing to provide efficiently for the safety of the passengers, in the event of any accident to the vessel. As far as can be seen, the valuable lives on board the *Titanic* were simply thrown away, and although they met their fate like heroes, this does not lessen the degree of blame which must be attached to the Company. When the *Titanic* was building, the objection was raised that the number of boats was insufficient to accommodate all the passengers that the vessel could carry, and this drew from the Company the acknowledgment that to provide for the greater comfort of those on board, some of the life-saving apparatus had been abolished, but the vessel being practically unsinkable, no alarm need be felt on that point in these days of wireless telegraphy. Events have proved that even the wonders of modern science cannot provide against all the dangers of the deep or even avert their consequences. Had the *Titanic* been provided with an adequate supply of boats not a life need have been lost. The *Titanic* lasted for four hours after the collision,—ample time for all the passengers to be transhipped on a smooth sea and a starlit night. As it was, an hour elapsed between the time the few that the boats could accommodate had drawn away and the sinking of the vessel. It is impossible to say on which side was the most suffering,—whether among those on the ship awaiting the end, or with those in the boats watching their nearest and dearest going to destruction. It is arduous surprising that some of those in the boats died under such a terrible experience. The fact seems to be that those concerned in the Atlantic passenger traffic have been living in a fool's paradise. Instead of taking advantage of the safeguards provided by wireless telegraphy and watertight compartments, they have actually been nullifying them. They have treated them as substitutes for the ordinary precautions, not as auxiliaries. Watertight compartments may prevent a vessel from sinking in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, but the hundredth case is sufficient to nullify the other ninety-nine. They can only be considered as necessary to keep the vessel afloat for a sufficient time to allow the passengers to be placed in the boats. The efficacy of wireless telegraphy also is limited to the proximity of help. In many cases help may be close at hand, but it is necessary to provide against the occasions when help is too distant to render immediate service. It may also be asked what blame attaches to the Board of Trade in the matter. There used to be a regulation that sufficient

boats should be carried on all vessels to accommodate the passengers in case of an accident. Whether this regulation has been abolished or revised in the case of certain vessels does not appear. If it has, the sooner it is reinstated the better. The dangers of ocean travel demand not the substitution of one precaution for another, but rather an accumulation of safeguards.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Asada Masabumi which took place on the afternoon of the 18th inst. The deceased was only fifty-nine years of age, and his malady was cancer of the stomach. He served throughout his career in the Mitsu Bishi and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and he was among the Directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha who recently retired in a body to make room for younger men. Mr. Asada was commonly spoken of as the Finance Minister of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

It is stated that the Buddhist priests of the Nishi Hongwan Temple purchased last year in Vladivostok a plot of land that measured 2,000 *tsubo* with the intention of building a Buddhist place of worship there. This excited the opposition of the priests of the Greek Church, and they are said to have brought pressure to bear upon the Local Authorities, so that the latter were persuaded to veto the work. The Buddhists have appealed to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Tokyo, and negotiations have been opened by the latter with the Vladivostok Authorities.

His Excellency Baron Kato and Baroness Kato left Shimabashi for London by the 3.30 train on the 20th instant. Mr. Ijuin, Japanese Representative in Peking, and Mr. Uchida, Japanese Plenipotentiary, left Tokyo by the same train for their respective posts. An immense crowd of notables assembled at the station to say farewell to this illustrious party.

Our readers are aware that Mr. Asano has promised to move the Fukagawa Cement Factory to some other site. But we read in Tokyo journals that all attempts to find a suitable place have hitherto proved unavailing. Oji or Haneda were originally spoken of, but insuperable obstacles exist in each case, and it is now becoming a puzzle to discover any unobjectionable site. All things considered, Mr. Asano has been very hardly treated in this matter, but we must confess that Tokyo city is not famous for the canons of fairness that it follows.

The name of Commander Hirose, who perished in the second attempt made by the Japanese to blockade Port Arthur, is fresh in the world's recollection. His remains were not transported to Tokyo. Only a fragment of his body was carried thither for burial, but what had become of the body itself remained unknown. The mystery, if mystery it can be called, has now been cleared up. It has been found that the body was taken from the sea by the Russians, and duly buried at Peiyushan fort. Whether any step will be taken to transport the bones to Tokyo has not yet been decided.

On the 19th instant the case instituted by the ex-Emperor of Korea against Messrs.

Collbran, Bostwick and Company for the recovery of a sum of half a million *yen*, said to be due in connexion with the sale of the electric tramway and other electric works in Seoul, came up for hearing. Some interesting revelations were expected and the Court was crowded with inquisitive visitors. But it transpired that through the efforts of Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Takenouchi, a compromise was effected, and the case was withdrawn by mutual consent.

The 26th instant has been chosen for the Imperial Garden Party given every spring in Tokyo at the Hama Detached Palace. The date seems somewhat late so far as the cherry blossoms are concerned, but the park will doubtless be beautiful even though the blossoms have passed their prime.

The Tokyo Press predicts some changes in naval appointments. According to the report, Rear-Admiral Kato, Commander of the Training Fleet, will be transferred to the directorship of the Sasebo Naval Arsenal, being succeeded by Rear-Admiral Yamaya. Rear-Admiral Nawa, Chief Staff Officer of the Kure Naval Station, will take the command of the Third Standing Squadron, replacing Rear-Admiral Kawashima, who is to be transferred to the directorship of the Hydraulic Bureau. Rear-Admiral Noma, President of the Naval Artillery Academy, will succeed Rear-Admiral Nawa, as the Chief Staff Officer of the Kure Naval Station, being succeeded by Rear-Admiral Iguchi, the Chief Staff Officer of the Sasebo Naval Station. Some other changes are also published.

A Finance Department authority announces that the Government purchased in London on the 15th instant £250,000 worth of 4½ per cent. bonds of the first and the second issue, for redemption, the purchase price being £97 per £100 face value. The Government proposes to purchase £500,000 worth more of these bonds next autumn, for the purpose of redemption.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from the Japanese Embassy in London reports that the Chinese cruiser *Haichin*, which has been there since the time of the Coronation celebration, left Barrow on the 19th instant. The cruiser will be docked at Cardiff before departure for home.

The Chinese Government, according to a semi-official telegram received on Monday in Tokyo, has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Sir Francis Piggott in the capacity of legal adviser to the new Republican Administration.

We learn from Japanese journals that in token of the Russian Throne's recognition of the eminent services rendered to his country by Mr. M. Malevitch, his daughter, Miss Eugenie, has been appointed Honorary Lady in waiting at the Courts of the Empress Dowager and of the Empress of Russia.

The atmosphere of Tokyo is pervaded with vague rumours of some act or word of contumely towards the Sovereign of the country. The Ministers of Home Affairs and Education are alleged to be concerned in the trouble, but what its exact nature may be we have not been able to find out. As to that vital point, mysterious silence is observed, and it is impossible to discern whether some official *faux-pas* or some

private indiscretion is in question. A few few days ago the matter was brought upon the tapis by one or two minor journals, but yesterday it found its way into the columns of a majority of the newspapers of the capital.

The Tokyo Railway Company having had its application refused with regard to increasing its electric-lighting power to a million lights, is working hard to reduce its scheme to the ten thousand kilowatts sanctioned by the Authorities. Keen competition is expected between the Railway Company, the Tokyo Electric-Light Company and the third company now about to come into existence, namely, the Japan Electric Light Company. Consumers have already begun to profit by the struggle. A few years ago not only was the price of electric-light some 30 per cent. higher than it is at present, but also a consumer had to pay for his own installation, whereas now no charge is made on the latter account.

Some public attention has been excited by the resignation of Messrs. Okawa and Shiraiishi from the high positions hitherto occupied by them in the Toyo Kisen Kaisha. Mr. Okawa was Vice-President of the Company, and his appointment to that post was supposed to be designed with the object of imposing some restraint upon the dictatorship of Mr. Asano. Hence his retirement is interpreted as strengthening the latter's hands. Mr. Shiraiishi, however, is Mr. Asano's son-in-law, so that his retirement must be interpreted differently from that of Mr. Okawa. The explanation given by the Company is simple enough; namely, that the retiring officials are so much occupied with out-side matters as to render them incapable of attending with sufficient care to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's business.

The first consignment of cherry trees presented to Washington city by the Tokyo Municipality were all attacked by worms and had to be destroyed. These unlucky trees totalled two thousand. Tokyo, however, was not discouraged. It forwarded a second consignment of three thousand trees, and sent with them five dendrological experts to minister to their health. The planting out of the trees took place on the 27th of March, and it was found that out of the whole three thousand, seven only had been attacked by worms, so that there are reasonable hopes for the great bulk of the flower-bearers, and Washington citizens are looking forward to next spring to a beautiful display of blossoms. Warm letters of thanks have been received in connexion with the incident. One is from Mrs. Y. Taft to Mrs. Ozaki; the other from the Washington Government to Mr. Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo.

The Tokyo papers publish a forecast of some changes in military appointments. According to the *Tokyo Asahi*, General Count Oshima, Governor-General of Kwantung, will be transferred to the War Council, being succeeded by Lieut.-General Baron Fukushima, Vice-Chief of the General Staff. Major-General Oka, Vice-Minister of War, will succeed Lieut.-General Fukushima at the General Staff Office, and Major-General Tanaka, Director of the War Affairs Bureau, will be promoted to be Vice-Minister of War. The changes were to take place at the time when General Hasegawa was appointed Chief of the General Staff, but the matter

was deferred, as it was felt rather inconvenient to effect the transfer of Major-General Oka when the Diet was sitting.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that the leading tea-merchants in Shanghai and Hankow met in Shanghai to discuss the question of obtaining a decrease of the freight rates on tea between Shanghai and the United States. Delegates were appointed to approach the Shipping Conference with the proposal. The P. & O. Steamship Company announces that the Conference will ultimately have to accede to the demand, subject to certain conditions.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Patriotic Association was held at Hibiya Park on the 24th instant. Despite rather gloomy weather the meeting was a brilliant success, being attended by about ten thousand members. Towards 10.30 in the morning, H.H. Prince Kanin, Honorary Director of the Association, arrived at the place of ceremony, accompanied by T.H. Princesses Higashi Fushimi and Nashimoto, Countess Abe, Baroness Hamano and many other ladies of distinction. Countess Abe made an opening address and the report was submitted. H.H. Prince Kanin then delivered an address. The ceremony was very brief.

The British steamer *Calthas* (5,097 tons) which arrived at Moji from Nagasaki at 8.40 on Wednesday evening last, got adrift and ran into the Yamashita Steamship Company's liner *Hawata Maru* (4,360 tons), cutting the two anchor chains of the latter steamer. The *Hawata Maru* thereupon began to drift and was about to run ashore on the beach when she was rescued by several steam launches. A disastrous accident was thus averted.

An official dispatch reaching Tokyo from Bangkok reports that the exportation of Siamese rice has been temporarily prohibited on account of the bad harvest. Subsequent investigations, however, showed the conditions to be more favourable than was at first supposed. The Government is cautioning the farmers to reserve a sufficient quantity of rice for seed.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KWANTUNG.

In the *Chuwu Shinbun*, Mr. Shirani, Chief of the Civil Administration Department in the Kwantung Government-General, deals with the industrial development in Kwantung Province. He writes:—

The number of Japanese crossing over to Kwantung of late is fast on the increase, those settled in Dalny and Port Arthur amounting already to over 25,000 and 9,000 respectively. Judging from the present state of things, another ten years will show a surprising development in the Province. Even at present the total number of Japanese settlers reaches almost 100,000, if those residing in other parts of Manchuria are included. At the same time, however, it should be remembered that the land is not their own, and that they have to compete with the Chinese, who are in an overwhelming majority, and therefore that any impatient endeavour for the attainment, at one step so to speak, of the pinnacle of success, will certainly prove a failure. Then again they should be convinced that the entire region of South Manchuria is not suitable for agricultural undertakings, but only for industrial enterprises. In fact there is not one Japanese there who is successfully undertaking agriculture, while those engaged in industrial

undertakings, such as flour milling or match making, are all doing well. In these circumstances no small share of attention is being paid by the Government-General to the investigation of such industries as may prove worthy of encouragement in this part of the colony.

Judging from the results of investigations thus far obtained, the salt-making industry seems to bid fair. As the public must be well aware, salt is one of the chief products of Kwantung Province, the only regrettable point being that it suffers from over production due to the high tariff wall set up by China and also to the limit placed on the annual amount of the purchase to be made by the Japanese Salt Monopoly Bureau, the maximum being 30,000 *kin*. In this connexion it is satisfactory to learn that the Dutch Government recently proposed to make a purchase of Kwantung salt to an annual amount of 700,000,000 *kin* for a period of ten years to come. Upon the conclusion of the contract, the greater part of the salt produced in Kwantung will find its way into Holland, the productive capacity of the Province being about 120,000,000 *kin* per annum. As for the remaining portion, it will easily find a market among the residents, inasmuch as the consumption of salt is gradually increasing as a result of the development of industries. For instance, the residents now produce soy and bean curds and do not now depend, as they did formerly, upon the imports from Japan. Also, the authorities of the Government-General have arranged to produce caustic soda from salt, and are now experimenting whether the product will stand competition with the caustic soda produced by ordinary methods. The authorities are quite confident that it will not be long before the caustic soda produced from salt will become an important Kwantung product, in view of the reassuring results thus far obtained in the experiments conducted at paper mills in Dalny. It may also be added that in Dalny an enterprise has recently been launched of soap production out of mixture of bean oil and caustic soda produced from the salt at Kwantung.

Among other branches of industry now under investigation at the hands of the authorities, are glass making, sericulture and fruit cultivation.

As regards glass making, once a proper method of production is discovered, it will certainly prove one of the most profitable industries in the Province, since there is plenty of silica available. For the present the results of the undertaking are not very reassuring, as it calls for a heavy expense to grind the silica into powder. The difficulty, however, will by and by be removed as the industry gradually grows. Besides glass making factories under the control of private persons, a Government laboratory as already been established for the manufacture of lamps, lamp chimneys and other simple daily necessities.

The practical absence of rain during the season for wild silkworm breeding, renders the Province peculiarly well fitted for sericultural undertakings. Accordingly the authorities are making every possible effort for their encouragement among the Japanese settlers. Owing to some disadvantageous circumstances under which they have to compete with Chinese, however, they always find themselves forestalled by their rivals in purchasing cocoons, etc. A great deal thus still depends upon the strenuous endeavours of both the settlers and authorities concerned for the development of this enterprise.

As compared with sericultural industry, the result of the cultivation of fruit inspires a decided confidence on account of the dry atmosphere. Among others, grapes seem to possess a most brilliant future. Last year some four *koku* of grape wine was produced for experimental purposes. Besides those enumerated above, the Government-General is affording every encouragement to the production of wine from maize and of paper from its stalks, but these enterprises are not yet successfully developed. There is every reason to believe, however, that they will in future all become regular and important industries in the Province of Kwantung.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

TROUBLE AT CHANGCHUN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Changchun, April 18.

At 10 p.m. on the 17th instant, a number of soldiers of the local garrison started a row in a Chinese restaurant outside the North Gate, and came into collision with the police. The soldiers fled in the direction of the theatre, being closely pursued by the police. By that time both soldiers and policemen had been joined by twenty or thirty of their comrades, when both sides commenced to open fire on each other. The commander of the garrison, the chief of police, etc. appeared on the scene and succeeded in separating and dispersing the combatants at midnight. A soldier was mortally wounded, while one policeman and a citizen sustained slight injuries. At 8 o'clock this morning, over 100 soldiers marched on the Chinese restaurant, but Tsing Ming, the commander of the garrison, prevailed upon them to disperse about one hour later. All the shops were closed and the situation appeared rather grave at one time. All the Japanese residents are safe.

THE TROOPS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, April 18.

At about 8.30 p.m. last evening the Magistracy and Police Office received a telephone report that a private bank in the town had been robbed of some two thousand dollars in cash by about ten robbers who looked like soldiers. The robbers are being searched for. A few days ago a grain dealer was robbed of about 50 dollars and an opium house of about 150 dollars in cash by soldiers. A feeling of insecurity has begun to creep into the minds of the general public.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Shanghai, April 18.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen left here for Canton early this morning by the China Merchants liner *Taishun*. Dr. Sun is reported to have confidentially told a friend that after a few days' sojourn in Canton, he will proceed to Peking and then start on a tour throughout China.

ARRESTS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, April 18.

The soldiers under Magistrate Hu Ying paid a round of visits to all the hotels in the town on the night of the 17th instant and arrested ten men who are suspected to be loyalists. The men arrested will be executed in the course of a day or two.

THE MANCHURIAN MAGISTRATE.

April 18.

Tsi Yao-lui, formerly Deputy-Viceroy of Honan and one of Yuan Shih-kai's protégés, has commenced an active movement to secure nomination as the Magistrate of the Three Eastern Provinces at the expense of the present Magistrate, Chao Erh-sun. Tsi is a Kilin man and was elected President of the Republican Association in the provinces. The Republicans are planning to elect Tsi as the Magistrate in order to have all officials in the three provinces selected from amongst the natives. They wish to expel Chang Tsao-tui from office to pave the way for the expulsion of Magistrate Chao. Chang Tsao-tui has commenced a movement to counteract the scheme planned by the Republicans.

DISTURBANCES IN HAIFONG.

Peking, April 18.

According to a Honan dispatch the

soldiers have started disturbances in Haifong. The leader has fled but the situation is rather disquieting.

A SINO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the leaders of the Unionists advocate a Sino-American alliance, and declare that this desire is shared by American statesmen. On the conclusion of the alliance all pending questions in Manchuria and Mongolia can be easily solved. The proposal has aroused feverish enthusiasm.

TANG SHAO-I.

Tang Shao-i and party arrived at Tientsin on the 13th instant and will proceed to Peking shortly. Excitement prevails in Peking politics. Tang Shao-i will put up at the Grand Hotel in Legation street, where he will be strongly guarded.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 18.

After various investigations concerning the period of the convocation of the first session of the National Assembly, it has been decided to hold the General Election in January next and to convocate the Assembly in March, the length of the session being fixed at four months.

THE TROOPS IN MANCHURIA.

Peking, April 18.

Magistrate Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai asking for a speedy remittance of 300,000 *taels*, stating that otherwise an insurrection is to be feared. Yuan Shih-kai has issued to the Finance authorities an order for an immediate remittance.

ESCAPED PRISONERS.

Peking, April 18.

Three hundred prisoners in Changteifu in Honan have broken jail and, acting in collusion with bandits, are plundering the villages with impunity.

CONFLICT IN ANHUI.

Nanking, April 18.

The city notables in Anhui province have appointed a deputation to mediate in any conflict arising amongst the troops.

THE MUKDEN ASSEMBLY.

Mukden, April 19.

The Provisional Assembly of Mukden was renamed the Provisional Board of Conference on the 16th instant, but the members remain unchanged.

LI YUAN-HUNG.

Hankow, April 20.

The projected departure of Li Yuan-hung for Peking has been abandoned in consonance with the petition filed by the people of Wuchang, as his absence it is feared would give an opportunity for the resuscitation of disturbances.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Harbin, April 19.

According to a Kulün despatch the delegates of Balkut (?) and Eastern Mongolia are sitting in conference on the amalgamation of Inner and Outer Mongolia with a view to Mongolian independence.

THE CHINESE MINISTERS.

Tanku, April 19.

The China Merchants liner *Hsinchang*, carrying Tang Shao-i and other Minister of State, safely arrived at Taiku at the mouth of the Peiho at 5 a.m. on the 19th instant.

Several members of the party proceeded to Tientsin by land, while Tang Shao-i went up the river by the same steamer. Tang Chia-jin and Tsai Yuan-pei accompanied the Minister-President on the steamer.

TANG SHAO-I.

Tientsin, April 19.

Tang Shao-i arrived at Tientsin at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of the 19th instant by water from Taiku, accompanied by a small party, and was received by Magistrate Chang and other officials. Tang took up his quarters at the Astor House. The date of his entrance to Peking remains still unknown. A section of Tang's party proceeded direct to Peking from Taiku this morning by special train.

THE ACCIDENT TO A JAPANESE WARSHIP.

Shanghai, April 20.

The destroyer *Shikinami*, which recently stranded on a shoal near Taya, was taken to the mouth of the Yangtze on the 20th instant where the bottom was thoroughly examined by divers, and it was ascertained to be undamaged.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

Peking, April 20.

Lu Chen hsiang has at last agreed to accept conditionally the portfolio of Foreign Affairs through the earnest advice of Li Yuan-hung, and left St. Petersburg for Brussels on the 20th instant in connexion with the loan business.

THE JAPANESE SQUADRON.

Port Arthur, April 20.

Vice-Admiral Yoshimatsu, leaving Port Arthur on the 6th instant in command of the *Tokawa* and *Toba*, reached the mouth of the Yingkau on the 19th. The commander sent the *Toba* to steam up to Yinkau, and then started on a return voyage to Port Arthur on the 20th.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Fuchow, April 20.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Fuchow on the 20th instant where he received an enthusiastic reception. He is expected to leave there to-morrow afternoon as pre-arranged.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that Tang Shao-i has arrived at Peking, but finds himself very unpopular. If he fails to solve the Four Powers' loan question in a satisfactory manner he will have no alternative but to resign. He will introduce the loan question to the State Council, which is to meet on and after the 24th instant.

THE FOUR POWERS' LOAN.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the Four Powers' Syndicate forwarded Yuan Shih-kai's Government a note containing six items which demand explanation. The note also states that the Syndicate will not accept the loan until the sincerity of Yuan's Government is proved.

THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Tientsin, April 20.

Tang Shao-i is to leave here for Peking by the 12 a.m. train to-day, accompanied by Tsai Yuan-pei and Sung Chia-jen.

THE FUKIEN ARMY.

Chefoo, April 21.

The remaining portion of the Fukien army all left for Fuchow by the *Aijin* at 7 p.m. yesterday evening. Commander Hsu is

expected to proceed to Shanghai by steamer this evening.

Chefoo, April 20.

The artillery, pioneers, cavalry and Machine-gun troops of the Fukien army left for Fuchow to-day by the transport Kuangping. There remain the infantry regiment and an ambulance corps. These will also leave for Fuchow to-morrow by the transport *Aijin*.

THE SUNGARI OPEN.

Kilin, April 20.

A Chinese steamer on the Sungari service left here for Talaichao to-day on her first voyage this year. The Eastern Chinese Railway Company's liner is to leave Talaichao for Kilin in a few days.

RIOT ON THE AMUR.

Tsitsihar, April 20.

The Chinese troops stationed at Kumaerh on the banks of the Amur started a riot on the 16th instant, and a telegraph dispatch received here states that about seventy Japanese residents there are in immediate peril. The Japanese Consul made a demand for the protection of the residents. According to the Chinese diplomatic commissioner, a number of troops have already been dispatched from Peiho. It appears that the rioters have the plunder of gold mines in view.

THE MINISTER OF THE NAVY.

Shanghai, April 21.

The Minister of the Navy, Liu, left for Tientsin by the steamer *Hsinssz* yesterday morning.

THE FOUR POWERS' LOAN.

Peking, April 21.

Replying to the protest presented by the Four Powers concerning the Belgian loan, Yuan Shih-kai has stated that the affair arose from mutual misunderstanding and expressed a desire that the Syndicate should be prevailed upon to continue the loan negotiation. The representatives of the Four Powers notified Yuan Shih-kai on the 19th instant that inasmuch as there is no misunderstanding on the part of the Four Powers, they are unable to give any advice to the syndicate. The loan question has thus become more complicated than ever.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Chefoo, April 21.

Hu Ying, Magistrate of Shantung province, is to proceed to Peking on the 22nd instant. He is expected to stay in Peking about ten days. The Shantung question will, it is anticipated, receive solution shortly.

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE TROOPS.

Peking, April 21.

Yuan Shih-kai instructed the financial and military commission to investigate and report on the cost of disbandment of all the troops in China. The commission estimated the cost at 300,000,000 *taels*. Yuan Shih-kai is taken aback at the enormous sum involved.

Peking, April 21.

Yuan Shih-kai's Government has decided to disband the soldiers over thirty years of age, by granting them six months' wages, one half of which is to be paid in national loan bonds.

A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

Hankow, April 21.

The Hankow Chamber of Commerce has decided to send a deputation to Peking to enter into direct negotiations with Yuan Shih-kai regarding the claim for compensa-

tion for the destruction by fire of the city by the Imperialists during the recent civil war.

MONGOLIA.

Peking, April 21.

In consonance with the advice of the commander of the 23rd Division, the people of Kallasgi (?) in Eastern Mongolia have accepted the Republican polity.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

Tientsin, April 22.

The election of the members of the State Council, representing the province of Chihli, has resulted in the return to Council of Li Chu, Chieh Chung yin, Kuchigui, Wang Chungsin, and Wang Chen-kuei.

THE SOOCHOW MAGISTRACY.

Soochow, April 22.

Chen Tei-chuan, the new Magistrate of Soochow, arrived there to-day, when an enthusiastic reception was accorded him.

Acting-Magistrate Chuang left for Shanghai to-day.

DR. SUN AT FOOCHOW.

Foochow, April 22.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Foochow on the 20th instant. He was received with the ceremony that is accorded to a President. The reception was enthusiastic and the streets were strongly guarded by troops. Dr. Sun delivered an address relating to the revolution, before a meeting of representative officials and citizens. In the course of his address, Dr. Sun stated that the political and racial revolution had already been completed, and China was about to plunge into her social and economic revolution. He afterwards paid a round of visits to various local bodies and Government offices. Early yesterday morning he received an unofficial visit from the members of the Consular Body, and afterward attended the services in the American Christian Church. In the same afternoon he inspected the Dockyard at Mamei. He left for Canton direct this morning.

MONGOLIA.

Mukden, April 22.

A Mongolian Prince, who has long been staying in Mukden, has hastily left for home. It is rumoured that the hasty return of the Mongolian Prince is connected with a scheme for throwing off the Chinese yoke.

LOYALISTS AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, April 22.

A rumour is current that a number of loyalists have effected their entrance to the town. A strict search is instituted, but none of them have yet been arrested. The outbreak of a revolt is anticipated.

HU YING.

Chefoo, April 23.

Magistrate Hu Ying, having made up his mind to respond to Yuan Shih-kai's call, left for the north at 4.30 p.m. on the 23rd instant by the steamer *Tsian*, accompanied by his adjutant and several staff officers, as well as 25 guards. The Magistrate announces that he will return in about ten days, but the majority of the officials of the Magistracy think that he will probably not return to resume his duties.

A LOAN.

Chefoo, April 23.

A Tsinan man named Yu Chit-a, paid a visit to the Russo-Asiatic Bank on the 20th instant and applied for a loan of one million *taels*, offering the Government monopoly salt factories in the Settlement and in Tientsin-

hsian which lies in the lower course of the Hwang river.

AN APPOINTMENT.

Chefoo, April 23.

Wang Fuh-cheng, confidential Secretary of the Magistrate of Shantung, was appointed chief of Civil Administration on the 22nd instant.

THE KIANGSU MAGISTRATE.

Shanghai, April 23.

Chuang Wen-kuan, Magistrate of Kiangsu, has resigned and Cheng Tei chuan has been appointed his successor.

BANDITS AT FOOCHOW.

Nanking, April 25.

Several hundred mounted bandits have made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Foochow, and threaten to invade the town.

THE PRESIDENT'S DIFFICULTIES.

A Peking telegram to the *Chungwa* reports that an association calling itself the Republican Promotion Association is vehemently attacking Tang Shao-i, but it is certain that Yuan Shih-kai is unable to dismiss him. The loan problem is complicated and Yuan Shih-kai's Government is confronted with difficulties. The State Council which was to have been convoked on the 24th instant has been indefinitely postponed. The Government is unable to pay the military and civil officials their salaries, and the loyalists are brooding over a plan to take advantage of the situation.

GERMAN ARMS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Tientsin, April 23.

A German merchant has again succeeded in selling to the war office 10,000 rifles and 900,000 rounds of cartridges.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Peking, April 23.

The Mongolian Princes in Peking have received a telegraphic summons from Outer Mongolia urging them to return home with all possible haste to declare Mongolian independence.

THE HANKOW SETTLEMENTS.

Hankow, April 23.

The consular Body in Hankow has decided to demand of China the extension of the area of the foreign settlement as compensation for the moral damage sustained by foreigners during the recent disturbances.

OLD OFFICIALS DISCHARGED.

Peking, April 23.

A majority of the old officials of various governmental departments have been discharged on the payment of one month's salary.

THE MONGOLIAN PRINCES.

Peking, April 23.

Yuan Shih-kai invited the Mongolian Princes to a dinner, when he advised them to accept the Republican polity.

THE CHINESE MINISTERS.

Tientsin, April 24.

Liu Kuan-hsiung, the Minister of the Navy, Tang Hsiang-ming, the Vice-Minister, and over twenty high officials arrived here on the 24th instant by the China Merchants liner *Hsinming*, and the party proceeded to Peking after having paid a visit to Magistrate

Chang. Hsiung Chi-lin is also expected to arrive there shortly.

DISTURBANCES SUPPRESSED.

Tsitsihar, April 24.

It is telegraphed from Kumaerh that the disturbances there have been effectively suppressed.

DR. SUN AT HONGKONG.

Hongkong, April 24.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived here at 1 o'clock this afternoon from Fuchow by the China Merchants liner *Taishun*, and was received by over 100 delegates. Dr. Sun did not land, but transhipped on board the gunboat *Paopi* sent out to receive him and left for Canton at 3 o'clock.

KILIN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Kilin, April 24.

Over 43 members of the Provincial Assembly have already arrived here and the Assembly is to meet in a few days. These members are those elected by various public bodies in the provinces and therefore do not represent the people of the province. The dissolution of the Assembly is being advocated on this ground, but an effort is being made to pacify the malcontents prior to its convocation.

TANG SHAO I AND THE MINISTRY.

Peking, April 24.

Tang Shao-i made an attempt at a radical reorganization of the Ministry immediately after his arrival in Peking. This provoked great dissatisfaction amongst the members of the Ministry, and the Home, War and Financial Departments held conferences on the 23rd instant, the majority of the officials of these three Departments tendering their resignation on the 24th. The situation is thus disquieting.

Peking, April 24.

Chao Ping-chuan and Tsun Chi-fui, who greatly resent the action of Tang Shao-i, have impeached him to Yuan Shih-kai.

THE MONGOLIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT.

Mukden, April 24.

The Mongolian Prince, Tolbat, arrived at Mukden on the 24th instant and he is to leave for Outer Mongolia on the 25th by the Siberian railway. The Prince was recently appointed Minister-Resident in Kobdo.

POLITICAL PARTIES.

Nanking, April 24.

The conflict between the Sun Yat-sen-Hwang Hsing party and the Unionists, under the leadership of Chang Pei-lin, threatens to lead to serious consequences.

ANOTHER LOAN RUMOUR.

Mukden, April 24.

The rumour that Magistrate Chao has approached the South Manchuria Railway Company with a proposal for a loan of half a million yen to relieve the financial distress is baseless. As a matter of fact the finances of the Three Eastern Provinces are not so destitute as to need any immediate loan.

THE CHIHLI MAGISTRACY.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that Wang Chi-chang, Deputy Magistrate of Kwantung province, arrived at Peking on the 25th instant, under an informal order to assume the Magistracy of Chihli province. Wang is the leader of Kuolin bandits, and has 30,000 men who would readily respond to his call. He

threatens to assemble the Kwantung and Kwansi armies in Peking to intimidate the Northerners who oppose Tang Shao-i. It is feared that this might lead to a conflict between Kwantung men and Chihli men.

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

DR. KATŌ HIROYUKI'S NEW BOOK.

At the age of 76 Dr. Katō has just published a good-sized volume entitled *Shizen to Rinri, Nature and Ethics*, in which he restates his position as a philosopher and answers the arguments of adverse critics. Dr. Katō tells us in the Preface to his work that up to the age of forty he was a Dualist and a believer in supernaturalism. The study of Buckle, Montesquieu, Darwin, Spencer and Haeckel convinced him that the theory that the universe was created by a personal God and that such a Being has an existence separate from the world he created is erroneous. From that time onward he became a Monist and maintained that there is only one inseparable substance in the universe, which is at once body and spirit or matter and energy. In ethics he takes the position that what he calls natural ethics are in every respect superior to what are called supernatural ethics and are also superior to all systems of ethics that owe their origin to artificial selection. With systems of morality that are based on a supposed Divine revelation there can be no progress and civilisation practically counts for nothing. But where the development of ethical thought is allowed to proceed in a natural manner, with the progress of mankind, it continues to reach loftier heights, contends Dr. Katō.

In this work Dr. Katō applies the doctrine of evolution to ethics. In the moral world keen competition has been going on all the time, resulting in the survival of the fittest in all highly civilised countries.

Dr. Katō points out that there are three distinct moral standards in existence to-day. (1) There is the standard which each country observes towards its own people; (2) there is an international standard which holds good among civilised countries, and (3) there is a standard which civilised countries observe when dealing with barbarians. A comparison of these shows wide discrepancies between them.

Dr. Katō's earlier works were all so fully reviewed in these columns at the time of their appearance that it is unnecessary to say more concerning this book than to observe that it is a very lucid statement of the views which Japan's oldest and in some respects greatest philosopher has been expounding and defending for some three decades.

Though Dr. Katō, like all strong-minded and outspoken men, has many enemies, he has a large coterie of admirers. Those who differ from him most acknowledge his sincerity. His objections to Christianity are partly founded on the teaching of our great Western philosophers and scientists and partly on his acceptance of the orthodox Japanese view concerning the honour and respect due to the Emperor. Nothing is more certain than the impossibility of reconciling that view with Christian doctrines. Among the 10 volumes which Dr. Katō has published is a book entitled *Kirinutokyo no Gaidoku* (The Evils of Christianity) which sells at 1 yen 50 sen a copy.

At the close of his Preface to *Nature and Ethics* Dr. Katō says:—A number of scholars persist in trying to show that the world of mind and the world of matter ought to be kept separate from each other, that the laws which govern the one do not control the other. The science which deals with the material universe is founded on mathematics and experience combined, but in the study of mind mathematics are inapplicable, say these scholars. But this theory is quite unworthy of acceptance.

As regards the teaching of Nietzsche, in antipathy to religion and in the desire to see the

supernatural banished from the world of thought, he and I agree, says Dr. Katō, but many of the things he says when writing on the morality of slaves and the morality of the superman appear to me to be extravagant. On these subjects readers of this volume will perceive how wide apart our views are.

THE PROGRESSIVENESS OF UNIVERSITY CHRISTIANS.

Writing in the March *Kaitakusha* (Y.M.C.A. organ) Mr. T. Okada tells us that a new Christian Society has just been formed in the Tōkyō Imperial University called the Kirinutokyo Dōshikai. The young men who have joined this body are quite dissatisfied with the traditional theology taught in the churches and consider it to be responsible for the great religious stagnancy now prevailing. Many of the ideas dwelt on by Christian preachers are quite out of date. These young men are bent on striking out in a new line, Mr. Okada informs us. Of course they have been denounced by the orthodox, who refer to them as a set of rōnin. Nevertheless they have a Christian pastor among them. While paying due respect to senior Christians, they refuse to follow them blindly. They are in favour of free inquiry and free thinking. That such a body should have come into existence Mr. Okada regards as a hopeful sign, and he is confident that the new Society will be supported by all except those narrow-minded bigots who are unable to free themselves from the trammels of tradition.

THE CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE MEETING OF FEB. 10TH.

According to a critical notice of the speeches delivered at the opening Meeting of the Christian Alliance lately formed, published in the March *Kaitakusha*, addresses were given by Dr. Takagi, Mr. Hattori, Mr. Ibuka and Mr. Miyagawa. The meeting was attended by about 400 persons. The subject treated was "The position held by Christianity in the world." The following opinion we find expressed in the *Kaitakusha* respecting the speeches delivered. Dr. Takagi's speech appeared to have been very carefully prepared. But when Dr. Takagi quoted from the writings of such men as James, Eucken and Bergson with the object of showing that modern thought is turning towards religion, his remarks were calculated to produce the impression on the hearers that the ideas of these thinkers and the religious notions of the leading members of the Alliance were akin to each other, which of course is not so. Even in the case of Eucken, who perhaps is the nearest to Christianity of those quoted by Dr. Takagi, he demands changes and reforms in current religious thought of which the members of the Alliance would hardly approve. When Dr. Takagi informed the audience that liberal politicians in America have only lately discovered that religion is necessary, instead of supporting the cause he was advocating, it was against it, as it tends to show that hitherto the religion taught in America has failed to influence these politicians.

Mr. Hattori's speech was full of contradictions, inconsistencies and needless repetition. The only thing in which the speaker excelled was in the loudness of his voice (*Sono chōsho wa tada onaei no ōinaru nomi*).

In discoursing on education Mr. Ibuka said much that was to the point, but when he affirmed that Christians now have schools that are idealistic as religious institutions where general instruction is given, one could not but have doubts as to the correctness of the assertion.

Mr. Miyagawa's address was full of charm and extremely eloquent. His whole manner and delivery were most impressive. Nothing could have exceeded the earnestness and boldness with which he denounced the evils of the time. But nevertheless some of his most serious

* *Mata Beikoku no jiyū seiji ga ima ya keppaku uwo bakurō shi hitatte, shūkyō no hitsuyō wo mimuru ni itatte to iwarataru ga, kore wa hantei ichimen kara mireba, Beikoku no jiyū no shūkyō no kōkwa no ankanatarishi shōmei ni naru.*

observations repeatedly provoked laughter among the audience, though they were intended to arouse nothing but indignation. Was this owing to flippancy on the part of the audience or to some oratorical defect even in the address of so polished a speaker, we wonder?*

A CONTROVERSY OVER THE NATURE OF SHINTO.

In the January number of the *Kaitakusha*, Dr. Motoda stated his views on Shinto, maintaining that it is peculiar to Japan, that it is not a religion, that the worship carried on at shrines is not of the nature of religious worship as Christians understand that term, and so on. In the March number of the Magazine, the Rev. S. Oshima traverses Dr. Motoda's arguments, contending that most certainly Shinto is a religion and is regarded as such by the Japanese Government. Dr. Motoda says that worship at public shrines and at the hou ehold *Kamidana* is not only not sinful but a very beautiful custom, since these shrines are erected in honour of dead persons. (*Jinja no sairei wa hito ni tai suru keirei de aru. Kamidana ni tai shite keirei wo shite mo, teuni ni naranai bakari de naku, shigoku utukushi koto de aru.*) To this Mr. Oshima replies that for a member of a Protestant sect that is very near Catholicism to speak thus may be right and proper, but the majority of Protestants would certainly be opposed to this return to Judaism. Seeing that many Episcopalians pray for the dead, that they should approve of ancestor-worship is not surprising, says Mr. Oshima, but the Protestant faith as it is taught by other sects, certainly condemns this practice. Dr. Motoda's reply to Mr. Oshima's criticism was to appear in the April number of the Magazine, which has not yet come to hand.

A NEW UNITARIAN ORGAN.

The first number of a small monthly paper called *The Unitarian* has reached us. This paper is edited by Mr. Hiroi Shintaro, whose views have frequently been stated by us in previous Summaries. Mr. Hiroi, it will be remembered, is one of the Unitarians who strongly disapproves of certain changes in the method of conducting services at the Unitarian Hall and some other things connected with the organization of the Sect which have been effected since the arrival of Dr. Clay MacCauley in 1909. Mr. Hiroi and his fellow-thinkers have separated themselves from the main body of Unitarians in this country, and aim at founding a thoroughly independent and self-supporting Society—to the word Church we believe they object. As yet they lack funds and their supporters seem to be few. There are already so many small sects in this country, that it is questionable whether any substantial benefits are to be obtained by adding to their number. But Mr. Hiroi is full of energy and a well known writer on religion and philosophy, and if he is backed by a number of like-minded young men, the new publication may be made a success.

UNSCRUPULOUS EDITORS OF RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

In the April number of the *Rikugō Zasshi* Mr. B. Suzuki calls attention to the way in which sermons and speeches are published in religious periodicals without the consent of the preachers or speakers or of the conveners of the meetings at which addresses are given. In certain cases speakers do not wish to have their speeches given to the outside world. In other cases the persons or Societies under whose auspices the meetings have been convened themselves purpose publishing the speeches delivered, they being their property. No outsider has any right to take down and publish a speech without consulting the persons concerned, says Mr. Suzuki.† There are Christians, however, who continually do this. They

* *Ikabubeki chōsha no shibashiba wawa eru wa, ikan? Somosomo chōsha no keihaku ka? mata shi no seiren seru yuben* (polished oratory) *wo motte shite nao shinkyō* (道徳) *no yochi wo nokosu mono ka, ikan?* — (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† No such rule is observed among foreigners. Public speeches are regarded as public property and newspaper reports of them are habitually published without reference to the speakers or the conveners of meetings. — (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

seem to think that they can avoid censure by simply stating that the editor of a paper is alone responsible for the wording of the report of a speech published (*Hissaki kiha ni aru*). The stolen reports of speeches are often very inaccurate and the wrong notions they convey cause a good deal of annoyance to the speakers. Etiquette demands that a copy of the published report of a speech should be forwarded to the people concerned, but in many instances not even this is done. The morality of some religious editors in this particular is very low down.

DR. CHARLES WILLIAM ELIOT.

The Unitarians are eagerly looking forward to the visit of the well known President Emeritus of Harvard University, who in a sense is one of the founders of the Japanese Unitarian Mission; since it has been largely through his influence that the Boston Unitarians have contributed so liberally to the support of the Mission for over 20 years. The April number of the *Rikugō Zasshi* contains a short biographical sketch of the famous scholar, philosopher and theologian contributed by Dr. Clay MacCauley, from which we extract the following:—Dr. Eliot was born in Boston in 1834. His parents were highly educated and his father was well known as a politician, a writer and a religionist. The boy received a first-class education at the Boston Latin School and at Harvard University, where he graduated the very year that Commodore Perry first arrived in Japan. From 1854 to 1858 he taught Mathematics at Harvard. He was after this promoted to an Assistant Professorship in the University. In 1863 he resigned his professorship and studied in Europe for two years. After this he taught chemistry in the Massachusetts Industrial School for four years. Then he spent a year in special investigations carried on in France. On his return to America, at the age of 35, he was made President of the Harvard University. I attended the inauguration ceremony, and well do I remember how surprised people were that so young a man should have been selected for such an important post. But his subsequent career more than justified the appointment. As time went on people perceived that he was the right man in the right place. Under his guidance the University rose to occupy an unrivalled position in the States. It was greatly enlarged, a big endowment fund was created and many of the men who graduated there made names for themselves in one or other of the many branches of learning taught in Harvard Colleges. Among these graduates were many Japanese who are occupying prominent positions in this country to-day. President Eliot has had honours showered on him by numerous learned Societies, and three years ago the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun was conferred on him. President Eliot is expected to arrive in Japan some time next month.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO DIFFERENT CIVILISATIONS.

In an article on the above subject which appears in the April *Michi*, contributed by Mr. Shimada Saburō, the writer compares American and Japanese civilisations. America, says Mr. Shimada, stands for all that is best and most progressive in Western civilisation. There is nothing in Europe worth having that America does not procure by hook or by crook. Not only has she succeeded in accumulating enormous wealth, but she has gone a good way towards solving the race problem as far as the white race is concerned. Poles and Slavs that quarrel in Russia become friendly in America. In almost every European country there is much friction between people belonging to different races, but no sooner do these people reach the States than mutual animosity ceases to exist. But the majority of Americans object to the yellow races. It is true that the Christianity which many Americans profess and preach condemns the setting up of race distinctions, but this does not alter their opinion. They welcome the white races, but strongly object to the yellow ones. If Japan and America aim at drawing closer to each other, this anti-Japanese sentiment must change. If Ame-

rica represents Occidental civilisation, Japan to day the leading representative of Oriental civilisation. Now, in order to be welcomed in America, we Japanese have to get rid of our intense nationalism. We are crazy about our own country and display our narrow-mindedness wherever we go. This accounts for much of the antipathy felt to us. The Americans then must abandon their unchristian race antipathy and we must get rid of our parochialism, in order to bring about lasting friendship between the two countries.

DR. TANIMOTO ON RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

Dr. Tanimoto Tomeri, Professor of Pedagogy at the Kyōto Imperial University, contributed an article to the April *Taiyō* entitled *Religion and Education hand in hand*, in which he strongly condemns the Buddhists for the indifferent attitude they displayed towards the efforts of the Home Office authorities to enlist the services of religionists in the work of education. As regards the practical results of these endeavours, Dr. Tanimoto agrees with the majority of Japanese publicists in thinking that they are nil. The mountains were in labour, but nothing but a ridiculous mouse was brought forth, says Dr. Tanimoto. But he thinks that Mr. Tokonami's notion that education needs backing by religion a right one. This view was adopted by Dr. Tanimoto when residing abroad, he tells us, and he has seen no reasons for changing his opinion since he returned to this country some years ago. But the Religious Conference that was summoned to meet by the Authorities did absolutely nothing towards bringing education and religion into closer relationship. The religionists conferred together and drew up two very illogical and vague propositions. The first of these makes the assertions (1) that religionists aim at the promotion of the Imperial destiny (*Kōun wo fuyoku shi*) and at giving new life to morality (2) that the doctrines they teach are conducive to these ends. Now it seems to me, says Dr. Tanimoto, that this allusion to the promotion of the Imperial destiny was uncalled for, because it is inconceivable that any religious body in this country should be indifferent to the promotion of the Imperial destiny (*Waga kuni no shūkyō ni shite Kōun wo fuyoku seru to iu mono manichi kore aran ka?*). Some 30 years ago political parties used to state in their manifestoes that they had high respect for the Imperial House. Such utterances created a bad impression, because with loyal subjects constant protestations of this kind are out of place. It is only those whose loyalty is doubted that need to pointedly draw attention to its existence. To come to the other assertion made in the first Resolution, to the effect that the doctrines taught by the various creeds are conducive to the promotion of the Imperial destiny in this enlightened age, who is there that knows anything about these doctrines who can believe that such will be the case? Are not many of these doctrines altogether behind and out of sympathy with the spirit of the age? And, moreover, the doctrines taught contradict each other and therefore they can't all alike be conducive to the realization of one object.

In the second Resolution the religionists seemed to be asking for Government support. "We hope that the Government will respect religion" were the words they used. Now to me it seems that true religion needs no patronage from "the Powers that be" in order to make headway among the people. The Buddhists in this country in times past have always been hankering after more State patronage than they have received. Hence this Resolution would express their views as well as those of the representatives of the two other sects.

Dr. Tanimoto is careful to point out that in advocating the friendly co-operation of religion and education he does not wish to see religious ceremonies performed in schools, nor religious dogmas taught there—this appearing to him to be most undesirable, but he thinks that religious

* This opinion is widely held by Japanese we observe. — (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

teachers can help on the cause of general education by instructing the ignorant in various ways and by developing character.

FACTS AND INFERENCES THEREFROM.

I.—Last month one of the German Law students of the Second High School committed suicide by throwing himself under a passing train. The young fellow was well supplied with money, clever and popular among his classmates, but, as in so many other cases, his studies tended to intensify his naturally pessimistic state of mind, and so, seeing nothing in life worth having, he destroyed himself. Commenting on this incident, the *Kirisutokyo Sekai* says that if among the teachers of the Second High School there had been men who were ready to sympathize with a student of this kind and to dissipate his doubts, his life might have been saved. The *Kirisutokyo Sekai* then goes on to observe that Japanese students are sincerely to be pitied because they are saddled with teachers who are indifferent to the mental distress from which so many thoughtful young men are now suffering.

Now these remarks ignore two plain facts: one is that such students as the one who committed suicide have no inclination to consult teachers in reference to their doubts and questionings and views on human life; the other is that teachers all have special subjects on which to lecture and only the Director of the School, who lectures on Ethics, ever touches on religious or moral problems. Moreover, another important fact to note, which the paper we are quoting from passes over in silence, is the fact that in Sendai there are numerous missionaries, Japanese pastors and Christian school teachers to whom this young man might have gone had he been so inclined. He was living in the town and not at the school, and hence was free to consult the Christians at any time about his doubts. In fact, he may have done so and have been driven to commit suicide by the unsatisfying nature of the solutions proposed by Christian teachers, for all we know to the contrary.

II. The next fact to which the *Kirisutokyo Sekai* very aptly draws attention is one of no little importance. A controversy has been going on in some Christian periodicals as to whether the shrines that are scattered all over the country are to be regarded as places of religious worship, whether the rites that are performed there are religious rites, and whether the priests known as *Guji* (宮司) and *Shashi* (社司) are ministers of religion. The *Kirisutokyo Sekai* contends that these questions were all decided in the negative by the action of the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs last month. Though representatives of the 13 Shintō religious sects were summoned to the Conference convened, no orders to attend it were given to these shrine officers, notwithstanding the fact that they are attached to the Home Department. This was because they are regarded as nothing more than the observers of certain national customs connected with the respect shown for the dead and not as the performers of religious rites. But what has no doubt misled a great many people is the fact that many of the rites performed by the *Guji* and *Shashi* are religious in character. Now, since the gravest superstition is mixed with the religious services held by these shrine priests, the Home Office would do well to insist on the eradication of all religious elements and characteristics from the services held at shrines. Such a measure would go far towards raising the status of religion in Japan to a higher level in the eyes of foreign countries.

III. Regarded in an enlightened and broad-minded manner, national morality is much the same in all civilized countries. Such differences as exist are accidental rather than essential. The writers who hold that Japan's polity is superior to all other existing polities also hold that the loyalty and filial piety witnessed here is not to be matched anywhere in the world. It is true that this ultra national system of morals encourages hostility to all that is in any way

opposed to its principles and maxims. If our national morality is this kind of thing, then it is bound to come into conflict with the teaching of all the world's greatest moralists. It will be opposed to universal love and brotherhood, to peace on earth and good will among men, to the gospel of humanity now so much preached and practised, in fact, to everything that has no connection with this country and the Japanese people. Mr. Tokonami's definition of "national morality" is "such morality as the whole nation ought to respect and practise," and not morality that is exclusively Japanese in character and hence incapable of being applied in other countries. National morality that is worth anything is identical with the morality that all human beings are under an obligation to honour and practise. We are men first and Japanese afterwards (*Gojin wa Nihon kokumin to shite no dōtoku wo yashinazu moze ni, mazu hito to shite no dōtoku wo yashinawazaru bekarazu*). Those who think that the moral salvation of this country is to come from preaching a system of morality that is narrow in scope and ineffective in character are suffering from self delusion. The broader the moral basis on which a State rests, the stronger will that State be.

THE RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE AND PROVINCIAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

A Mr. K. Sakurada, writing in the April 15th number of the *Seikyō Shimpō*, says that the action of the Home Office in urging the three great religious sects to co-operate with the Government in promoting moral progress has been quite misunderstood by a large number of provincial school teachers. Outwardly they have adopted a more friendly attitude to religionists, thinking that this is required of them by the upper officials. They have gone as far as to ask Christians to speak at the meetings of Young Men's Societies. They have also begun to call on Christian pastors to ask questions about religion. But while acting thus they are careful to make it known that in addresses delivered to students they consider it undesirable that any direct reference to religion should be made or that the speakers should give out that they are Christians. They wish Christians to treat non-religious subjects, in order to awaken an interest in the students' minds, which they think may ultimately lead to their wishing to hear something about Christianity. The reasons they adduce for the adoption of this policy is the fact that Christianity is so much disliked by the general public at the present time that any direct reference to it would do much harm. (*Genji Kirisutokyo wa oi ni shakwai yori keno [疑忌] seraru. Kaku keno aeraruru bai ni oite, shūkyōka taru wo seimeishi [announce yourselves to be religionists] oyobi shūkyō jō no koto wo kōmei suru wa, dō mo yeki naku. hyaku no gai aru nomi to.*) Although at first sight this may appear to be a very enlightened and clever policy to pursue, it cannot escape the charge of being irresolute and insincere. In religious propagandism the bold course is the only one that succeeds. Temporary measures usually fail to bring about the desired result.

Provincial schoolmasters have no notion of bowing to the authority of religion. They regard themselves as superior to religious teachers. If Mr. Tokonami meant anything serious by his recent action, he certainly intended to lay emphasis on the fact that morality in order to become effective needs to be based on religion. "There must be a God, a Divinity or Heaven as an object of worship, or morality becomes ineffective" was what he said. Now, how can people get to know what can be known concerning the God whom we worship without the religious instruction given by Christian pastors? To object to discourses on religion in the face of the declaration of the authorities that the vivification of the dry bones of Japanese morality can only be effected by religion, is surely founded on a gross misunderstanding of the significance of the change of attitude to religion recently displayed by the Home Office authorities, says Mr. Sakurada.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their Daily Report for April 19th, state:—

The morning market was dull and irregular in tone, shares fluctuating either way. The only notable rises were Fuji Paper Old 70 *sen* and New 45 *sen*, Toyo Muslins 70 *sen*, Fertilisers 70/80 *sen*. Spinnings and Sugars were firm and rose 20/60 *sen*. Oils were quiet. Exchange Shares remained sluggish, Old lost 10 *sen* and New gained 20 *sen*. Owing to scarcity of transactions, the afternoon Session ruled somewhat weak throughout, the sole exceptions being Fuji Gass Spinnings New with a rise of 25 *sen*, Tokyo Spinnings Old and New 30 *sen* and 10 *sen* respectively, and Nippon Oils 20 *sen*. Exchange shares Old dropped 55 *sen*, and New 15 *sen*. Yesterday 25,270 shares changed hands.

April 20.

The morning market opened steady all round; Yokohama Trams New regained 45 *sen*, Fuji Paper 45 *sen*, Spinnings went strong, Fuji Gass rose 75 *sen* for Old and 70 *sen* for New, Tokyo Spinnings Old 55 *sen*, Kanegafuchi 15 *sen* each Old and New, Sugars fluctuated fractionally. Exchange shares Old and New gained 75 *sen*, and 25 *sen* respectively.

As there are some 160,000 shares for April delivery on the books of the Exchange, the bulk of them for investors from the interior seemingly, who will probably take them up, prices are likely to remain firm in spite of the strong Bear opposition. The afternoon session was a repetition of that of the morning. Spinnings were again in demand, especially "Fuji Gassed" shares. Exchange shares Old advanced 95 *sen*, but New declined 45 *sen*.

Yesterday 29,790 shares changed hands.

April 22.

Owing to operators' anxiety as to the outcome of the large number of shares to be settled for this month, the morning market opened somewhat inactive and irregular. Spinnings were weak all round; in spite of the advance in price of yarns. Exchange shares fell 2.05 *yen* and 2.10 *yen* respectively, although it is rumoured that a 15 per cent. dividend will be declared for the past half year.

In consequence of the excess of imports by some 9,600,000 *yen* for the second 10 days of this month, combined with the rumour disseminated that the Exchange share dividend will in future be regulated on a certain basis, the afternoon's session was affected, and the "Bears" took instant advantage and commenced their assault on Spinning shares, which fell over one point. Other shares followed with 10/50 *sen* falls all round. Exchange shares dropped 2.35 for Old and 90 *sen* for New.

Yesterday 35,430 shares changed hands.

April 23.

The morning market was still under the influence of the "Bears," although signs of reaction are not wanting, as it is generally considered that "bottom prices" are in sight. Yusen rose 45 *sen*, but others fell 10/40 *sen*. Spinnings were weak with exception of Kanegafuchi which regained 40 and 15 *sen* for old and new. Sugars were in fair demand; Yensuiko advanced 25 *sen*, "Toyo" 70 *sen*, Nitaka 25 *sen*; others fell fractionally. Oils were weak, "Hoden" 65 *sen* down, Exchange Shares gained 40 *sen* for Old, and 35 *sen* for New. In the afternoon the market was somewhat firmer in tone, owing to a renewed "Bullish" tendency; shares in general advanced, particularly Spinning Fuji Gassed rose 70 and 50 *sen* for Old and New, Tokyo Spinnings 30 and 20 *sen*, Kanegafuchi 90 and 15 *sen*, Nissins 20 *sen*, and Toyo Muslins 45 *sen*. Exchange shares fluctuated fractionally; 4,180 shares changed hands yesterday.

April 24.

The shares waiting for settlement being greatly beyond the power of the market to readily absorb, together with the rumour of the imped-

ing Seamen's strike in the N.Y.K. and T.K.K. Shipping Companies, caused a "slump" this morning. Shares collapsed 10/70 *sen* all down the list, Yusen leading with a fall of 75 *sen*, Toyo Kisen 45 *sen*, Kanagafuchi Spinning Old 1.80 *yen*. Exchange shares Old and New weakened 2.00 *yen* and 1.60 *yen* respectively.

In the afternoon the "slump" continued, and prices were forced down all round 5/60 *sen*. Exchange Shares were hard-fought between "Bulls" and "Bears" and ended in the discomfiture of the former. Old shares lost 1.05 *yen*, but New recovered 15 *sen* owing to profit taking.

Yesterday 41,460 shares changed hands.

April 25.

The morning market opened somewhat weak, but owing to lack of "Bearish" opposition, the tone gradually improved, and became more settled. Spinnings recovered 10/70 *sen* all round, Sugars were steady and gained 10/50 *sen*, Fertilisers 40/80 *sen*, but Exchange shares were still dominated by the "Bears" and lost 45 and 55 *sen* for Old and New respectively. On account of the large number of shares thrown on the Market to close transactions for this month's delivery, and in sympathy with the depression on the Osaka Exchange, all shares collapsed this afternoon, with the exception of Yokohama Specie Bank, which gained 80 *sen*. Spinnings lost what they had gained in the morning. Exchange shares were badly hammered and fell 20 *sen* for Old and 1 *yen* 80 *sen* for New. 65,820 shares changed hands yesterday.

FIRES.

On Thursday afternoon last about half past three, a fire broke out at Sugacho, Yotsuya, in the house of Baron Yamane, Military Attaché to the Imperial Court, resulting in the total destruction in the short space of half an hour, of houses besides the Baron's. The residence had been in course of reconstruction for the past three months at an estimated cost of 15,000 *yen*, and was all but completed. On Thursday, carpenters and plasterers, about fifty in number, were at work within the house, and on the alarm being raised, rushed to the scene, when, however, the building was already well ablaze. The flames were brought under control about four o'clock the same afternoon by the desperate efforts of a large force of firemen, assisted by some 500 troops despatched from the Cavalry and Infantry Regiment of the Imperial Guards. The cause of the outbreak is under investigation, but it is suspected to have been due to carelessness on the part of one of the workmen.

A despatch from Toyama reports that on Tuesday evening last at half past five a fire started at a house occupied by an oil merchant named Nishinaga, at Hakodan machi, and was not subdued until 86 houses had been completely demolished, and 31 partly gutted. The fire is said to be the largest that has occurred in the town during the past forty years. The cause of the fire was the explosion of an oil tank. The loss is put at 35,000 *yen*.

A despatch from Tottori, Shimane prefecture, reports that a disastrous fire broke out about half past four on Thursday afternoon last at Minato-machi, resulting in the demolition of over 700 houses. Some casualties are reported. The cause of the outbreak is uncertain.

About two o'clock on Monday morning fire broke out in a vacant house in Uramachi, Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture. Unfortunately a strong south wind happened to be blowing and the flames quickly spread in all directions. It was not before 8.30 the fire was subdued, after about 1,500 houses had been reduced to ashes. Among the public buildings burnt are the Hakuai Hospital, post office, and the Seigyōji Temple. A number of telegraph poles and telephone wires were destroyed, but the mails are said to be safe. The cause of the outbreak is suspected to be incendiary. The homeless victims are now sheltered in the Higher Girls school and other public buildings.

Some casualties are reported, but the loss in expected to be comparatively small.

A despatch from Oita reports that about eight o'clock on Saturday evening last, a fire occurred at Yunohira-mura, Oita district, a place noted for its hot-springs, resulting in the destruction of over a hundred houses. There were some casualties.

On Monday evening, about half past seven o'clock, a fire broke out in the house occupied by Mr. Kubota Bunzō, Secretary to the Dutch Legation, at Moto-machi, Yotsuya. Owing to the promptness with which the fire brigades and some troops from the Imperial Guards responded to the call, the flames were quickly brought under control, but not before the house of Mr. Kubota had been completely destroyed and two other houses partly damaged; those of Mr. Nakagawa, Chief of the Internal Affairs Bureau in the Formosan Government-General, and of Mr. Tauchi, Chamberlain to H.H. the Crown Prince.

On Saturday last a forest fire occurred at Sakamura, Hiroshima prefecture, destroying over 90 *chobu* of forest land. The cause is unknown.

On Wednesday morning a fire broke out at the house of a fireworks maker, at Kushimoto-machi, Nishimuro district, resulting in the destruction of 43 houses.

THE STRIKE OF FIREMEN.

The firemen in the service of the European and American liners of some of the Japanese Steam-Ship Companies went on strike on the night of the 23rd instant.

Some 20 of the firemen on the Osaka Shosen Kaisha's liner *Seattle Maru* of 6,500 tons, suddenly landed in Yokohama that night and as they had often threatened to strike, the captain at once informed the water police authorities. About eleven o'clock the same night, twelve of the men were found at a seamen's boarding house in Hirakawa-ya, Okinaka, and at once taken to the Kotobuki-cho police station, where they were warned and advised to return to the ship. At first they turned a deaf ear to the authorities, and it was not before three o'clock on the following morning that they were at length persuaded to return. The remaining eight firemen, however, are still missing and the ship which was to weigh anchor at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, is still in port.

The firemen of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers *Hilachi Maru* and *Sanuki Maru*, both of 6,500 tons, also landed and disappeared on Tuesday night. The Yusen Kaisha are doing all that they can to persuade them to return, but apparently in vain. Judging from the present conditions, there seems to be little hope of these vessels setting sail before Thursday. In consequence, some mails destined for America and Europe will inevitably be delayed. In view of the exigencies of the situation, Mr. Kawai, Chief of the Communications Superintending Bureau, proceeded to the Yokohama Water Police Station yesterday afternoon to confer about measures to be taken for the settlement of the difficulty.

The strike of firemen on Japanese steamers terminated on Thursday evening by a temporary arrangement under which the men are to receive an extra 3 *yen* a head for this voyage. The *Sanuki Maru* was to leave yesterday evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have read with great interest, I regret that I must say also with little satisfaction, your leading editorial on "The Korean Canard." It is already some months ago that friends coming from Korea related to me what seemed to me incredible tales of the arrest of people without the prisoners or their friends being informed of the charge against them, of their detention for long periods without trial or opportunity of defence, of their examination through interpreters without any means of knowing whether their testimony was correctly rendered, of their being

tortured in various ways in order to extract evidence, etc. These reports did not emanate from sensational newspaper reporters, or scandalmongers, nor were they from any organized Korean revolutionary agency. They were told and repeated by educated, intelligent, sober-minded American ladies and gentlemen, who in any affair would be considered worthy of the greatest confidence.

As I said, they seemed to me quite incredible, and I waited with confidence for the proof that they were false. I am sorry to say that much has appeared to increase my anxiety lest they be substantially true, and that little or nothing has met my eye to show them false. To be sure, I have seen the reply of General Terauchi to the memorial of the American Missionaries, but to their assertion that released prisoners bear upon their bodies marks of torture he opposes the mere affirmation that such an accusation is not worthy of reply. This is hardly satisfactory. No one accuses General Terauchi of being a partner in the practices complained of, but substantial evidence like that of scars on the body is not to be so lightly disposed of by an official denial. Neither do vehement denials like those of your editorial carry much weight. You say "It is unnecessary to enter into details by refusing the charges brought against the Japanese Authorities in Korea. Every one taking the trouble to inquire, or thinking it worth while to do so, has obtained ample evidence of the truth already." I have been for fifteen years accustomed to look to the *Japan Mail* for my information on such subjects, but in this case I have found only general denials. If I have overlooked the "ample evidence" presented in your columns, will you kindly direct my attention to the number and page of the Weekly Mail where it may be found?

Sincerely yours, ALBERTUS PIETERS.
Oita, April 23rd, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER. ORIGIN OF THE FALSE REPORTS. AWAITING THE "CARPATHIA" AT NEW YORK.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 18.

In the absence of authentic news, the Herald and other New York papers published sensational descriptions of the wreck of the White Star liner *Titanic*.

These descriptions have been proved to be pure invention.

The White Star line is fitting out a steamer to search the zone in which the *Titanic* went down.

As a result of the disaster an agitation is growing on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject of the inadequacy of the boats and life-saving apparatus on modern liners, and the misuse of wireless telegraphy.

The *Times'* correspondent at New York says that Monday's widespread misinformation has created a most unpleasant impression.

The cause of the false reports will possibly never be known, but the theory is gaining credence that they may have been originated by people who had ulterior financial motives.

London, April 19.

The Cunard liner *Carpathia* is expected at New York at 4 o'clock on Friday morning.

The London *Times* says that no details will be available earlier, as beyond sending the names of the survivors, the *Carpathia* refuses to reply to wireless enquiries. The reason of the silence is not explained.

It is certain that neither Mr. Hays nor Colonel Astor were saved.

The newspapers devote columns to the career of Mr. W. T. Stead, eulogising his

brilliant writing, which created a new era in journalism.

A fund for the relief of the survivors has been started at the Mansion House and is mounting rapidly, now reaching over £25,000.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 19.

One Japanese passenger is reported to have been on the *Titanic*—Mr. Hosono of the Railway Administration.

A London special to the *Nichi Nichi* says that the London press is generally indignant at the hasty and erroneous reports received concerning the disaster to the *Titanic*. One of these exasperatingly misleading reports said that all the passengers had been saved and the ship was being taken to Halifax. A member of the House of Commons is expected to ask the Postmaster General if it is not necessary to ascertain the origin of such a false report.

Instances of false and almost self-contradictory reports might be multiplied. Among others the Central News Agency published on Tuesday particulars about the disaster as a wireless message from the *Carpathia*, when in reality the *Carpathia*, that was the first to go to the rescue, reached the scene of the wreck just eight hours after the collision. The same charge may be made against the *New York Herald*.

Then again, according to the reports from the *Carpathia*, as many as 25 icebergs were afloat near the scene of the disaster, whereas the last wireless from the *Titanic* gave the number as only two. What is further, at first it was reported that a certain French steamer had warned the *Titanic* by wireless against the drifting icebergs in her course, and that the *Titanic* had thanked the steamer for her kind warning.

A memorial service will be held at St Paul's on April 19th for the drowned. All the British press are now publishing obituaries of Mr. William Sead, Editor of the *Review of Reviews*, and at the same time carefully criticizing the causes of the shipwreck. They are at one in concluding that the Atlantic liners should take a more scutcher course and that the number of lifeboats, as well as searchlights, should be increased.

ARRIVAL OF THE SURVIVORS AT NEW YORK.

STATEMENT OF PASSENGERS' COMMITTEE.

GRAVE CHARGES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 19.

A committee formed by the survivors from the wreck of the White Star liner *Titanic* has issued a statement, which says that the ship struck an iceberg about 11.40 p.m. on the 14th inst., on a cold, still night.

The statement proceeds to point out that the Board of Trade certificate allowed for 3,500 passengers, but the lifeboat accommodation was only for 950, the total number of passengers aboard the vessel being 2,330.

Those rescued by the Cunard liner *Carpathia* number 210 first-class, 125 second, 200 third, four officers, 39 seamen, 96 stewards and 71 firemen.

The Committee feels it its duty to call the attention of the public to the inadequate supply of life-saving appliances on modern passenger steamships.

When the *Carpathia* arrived at New York there were thousands of relatives and friends

of those on the *Titanic* assembled at the pier-sheds.

The Committee of the New York Stock Exchange brought to the pier twenty thousand dollars for distribution among the needy survivors.

The *Baltic* has sent a wireless message to Liverpool stating that she has no survivors from the *Titanic* disaster on board.

VESSEL BROKEN UP.

London, April 19.

The story of a passenger on the *Carpathia* is that the *Titanic* crashed into the iceberg almost immediately after sighting it a quarter of a mile away.

Simultaneously the clock levers, operated on the bridge, stopped the engines and closed the bulkheads.

The Captain, who was on the bridge, summoned all to don life-preservers, and ordered the boats to be lowered, and the women to be put in the boats first.

This rule was strictly observed.

The officers drew their revolvers, but in most cases they were not used.

At last the boats drew away.

The ship's band gathered in the saloon near the end and played "Nearer, my God, to Thee."

An explosion of the boilers, believed to be due to the admission of icewater, broke the ship up.

SCENE AT THE RESCUE.

London, April 19.

A passenger on the *Carpathia* says that sixteen lifeboats were sighted.

The transfer of the passengers to the *Carpathia* was a pitiable sight.

Some of the boats were not half full; others were crowded.

Some of the passengers were in evening dress; others in their nightclothes and blankets.

They had been in the boats for from four to five hours in a very biting wind.

There was no demonstration; no sob was heard. They all seemed stunned by the shock.

Four died soon after reaching the deck of the *Carpathia*.

Later.

It is stated that one of the *Titanic's* passengers died in the boats and five on board the *Carpathia*, as the result of the hardships suffered through exposure.

The accounts of the scene when the liner struck the iceberg disagree.

Some of the passengers maintain that calm prevailed; others that wild disorder broke out and a mad struggle for the boats.

Mr. Beesley, a Londoner, and Colonel Gracie deny that the officers used their revolvers.

GALLANT BEHAVIOUR OF CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS.

London, April 20.

The total loss of life in the wreck of the White Star liner *Titanic* is 1,595.

Innumerable narratives by the passengers have been published, varying in details but all confirming that the shock of the collision was scarcely noticeable, and it was thought that the vessel had merely struck the ice glancingly.

The calmness of the starlit sea reassured the passengers and explains the absence of panic throughout.

The scenes at the partings from their husbands of the women, who were forced to enter the boats, were terribly painful. Some

refused to quit their husbands and perished with them.

All the passengers agree that the conduct of Captain Smith and the officers and crew was admirable.

One passenger says he saw Captain Smith as the *Titanic* sank, standing alone. A wave came and knocked him down, but he regained his feet. Then another wave came, and he disappeared.

THRILLING NARRATIVE OF A PASSENGER.

London, April 20.

Mr. Beesley, a Londoner who was a passenger on the *Titanic*, states that the voyage from Queenstown was quiet and uneventful. They experienced very fine weather, and the sea was calm. It was very cold, however, particularly on the last day.

"I had been in my berth about ten minutes," states Mr. Beesley, "when, about 10.15 p.m., I felt a slight jar and soon after a second one. They were insufficient to cause the slightest anxiety. However, the engines were stopped immediately.

"I at first thought we had lost a propeller. I went on deck in my dressing-gown and found only a few people had come up, similar to myself, to enquire. Nobody was in any way anxious. I saw that a game of cards was going on in the smoking-room and went in to inquire if they knew anything. It seems they felt more of a jar than I did, and looking out of the window they saw a huge iceberg pass close by. They thought we had grazed it, giving it a glancing blow. No one had any conception that the *Titanic* was pierced below the sea level by the submerged part of the iceberg.

"The game of cards went on, without any thought of a disaster, and I retired to my cabin to read till the ship went on again.

"A little later, hearing people going upstairs, I went out again and found everyone wanting to know why the engines had stopped. Without doubt many had been awakened from their sleep by the sudden stopping of the vibration. I noticed a list from the stern to the bows and imagined that some of the front water-tight compartments had filled and weighed her down.

"I went down again for warmer clothing, and as I was dressing I heard the order, 'All passengers on deck with lifebelts.' All walked up slowly with their lifebelts over their clothing. Even then it was presumed that this was only a wise precaution the Captain was taking and we should return below shortly and retire to bed.

TOTAL ABSENCE OF PANIC.

"There was a total absence of panic, possibly owing to the exceedingly calm night and the absence of any signs of an accident. The ship was absolutely still, and except for a gentle tilt downwards, which I don't think one person in ten would have noticed, there were no signs of an approaching disaster. But in a few moments we saw the covers being lifted from the boats and the crews standing by ready to lower them and realised that something serious had taken place.

"The people were now pouring up from below, and presently the order was given, 'All men stand back from the boats. All ladies retire to the next deck below.' The men stood back in absolute silence, leaning against the railings or pacing the deck. The boats were then swung out and lowered to the deck below, where the ladies got in

quietly, except some who refused to leave their husbands. Some of the ladies were torn from their husbands and pushed into the boats.

"All this time there was no trace of disorder nor any rush for the boats, nor any hysterical sobbing by the women. It was extraordinary how self controlled everyone was, even when it was realised that we might presently be in the sea with our life belts as our only support.

"When the boats with the women and children had disappeared in the darkness, word was given for the men to enter the boats. This was effected quietly. I got away at one o'clock in the morning. It was a beautiful, starlit night, with no moon. The sea was as calm as a pond, with just a gentle heave, but it was bitterly cold. At a distance the *Titanic* looked enormous, with its black outline against the starry sky, every porthole blazing with light. It would have been impossible to think that anything was wrong with her, but for the ominous tilt of the bows, where the water now reached the lowest row of portholes.

THE LAST SCENE.

"About two o'clock we observed she was settling very rapidly, the bows and the bridge being completely submerged. Then she slowly tilted straight on end, with the stern pointing vertically upwards, the lights flashed and went out altogether, and we heard the machinery roaring down through the vessel with a rattle and a groaning, audible for miles. It was the weirdest sound imaginable in mid-ocean. She remained upright for a time which I estimate as five minutes, at least 150 feet of the hull towering up black against the sky. Then with a quiet, slanting dive she disappeared.

"Then there fell upon our ears the most appalling noise a human being has ever listened to,—the cries of hundreds of his fellow beings struggling in the icy water and crying for help, a cry which we knew we could not answer."

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 20.

In a calm sea, on a starlit night, the *Titanic* struck a huge iceberg, which was nearly submerged.

The passengers were not alarmed, as the shock was slight, but apparently a large section of the bottom of the vessel was ripped up.

Soon the engines stopped and the *Titanic* began slowly to sink by the bows.

The passengers were ordered on deck with life belts on and all the men stood back while the women and children entered the boats.

The passengers totalled 1,400 and the crew 940. The *Carpathia* rescued about 705.

All the survivors praise the splendid discipline of the officers and crew.

The electric lights continued to burn while the *Titanic* slowly sank to an almost vertical position and then disappeared in nearly 2,000 fathoms of water.

London, April 21.

One of the English survivors telegraphs to *The Times* that the *Titanic* was running at high speed, despite the ice.

The accommodation for saving life was totally inadequate, and was only sufficient for about 950.

Many passengers refused to leave, being convinced that the ship was unsinkable and

that help would soon arrive, in response to the continued signals.

Whilst the boats were loading the band continued to play.

When the vessel sank the most awful scene occurred, hundreds struggling in the icy cold water, their appealing cries for help being mingled with the roaring of the machinery.

The survivors suffered terribly from the cold.

After the boats left the *Titanic* some of passengers launched a raft, whereto fifty people clung. The majority were cast off or died from the cold.

The sea was covered with wreckage, and everywhere swimmers were imploring to be taken into the boats, which were already overloaded.

Many in the boats died.

The millionaires who are dead include Colonel Astor, Mr. George Widener, Mr. Isidore Straus, and Mr. Benjamin Guggenheim.

Captain Smith was last seen standing on the bridge.

A despatch from New York to the *Asahi* says a resolution has been introduced in the US Senate in connexion with the disaster, which was at once unanimously passed. The resolution refers to the crying necessity of immediately starting an investigation into the causes of the wreck in order to place the responsibility on the right persons, and also demands an inquiry into the condition and equipment of the lifeboats, the liner's course, etc., so as to provide for future calamities of a similar nature. In the House of Commons, Mr. Alexander proposed to provide cruisers to warn liners against drifting icebergs. The proposal is expected to pass the House. Several other similar means of precaution were suggested.

A London dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* says that Sir Thomas Crosby, the Lord Mayor of London, has invited the public to contribute to a relief fund for those who fell victim to the *Titanic* disaster, and at the same time has asked different papers to assist. The invitation has met with prompt response, above £8,000 having been already collected from only a dozen contributors. The contribution made through the *Daily Telegraph* is said to have amounted in one day to some £1,100. Various theatres propose to give special performances to contribute the proceeds to the relief fund.

The false reports about the disaster continue to elicit severe public criticism. The *London Times* correspondent at New York observes that the false news was created with a view to defrauding the insurance companies. It is proposed in America that a strict law for wireless telegraphy should be enforced to prevent the repetition of such harmful fabrications.

Mr. Asquith will answer questions on the subject on the 22nd instant.

The House of Commons has appointed a committee to investigate into the condition of the lifeboats on board liners, the present law relating to the subject having been passed in early times when no such mammoth steamship as the *Titanic* was afloat. The *Titanic* is said to have carried lifeboats only enough to accommodate 1,000 persons, when there were over 2,000 passengers on board.

The U.S. Senate proposes the conclusion of an international treaty providing for the sufficient equipment of lifeboats on board ocean liners, with a view to guaranteeing the safety of passengers in case of disasters. As a first step in the attainment of the end in view, a committee appointed by the Senate has been dispatched to New York to make the necessary investigations among the survivors from the *Titanic*, as well as the officers of the White Star Steamship Company.

The American Senate is expected to propose

also an efficient equipment of lifeboats on every liner entering American ports, irrespective of her nationality, and the selection of steamship routes by international convention.

A rumour has it that Mr. Ismay, President of the White Star Steamship Company, who happened to be among the passengers on board the *Titanic* at the time of the collision, and who barely escaped sharing their fate, tried to start for England upon his arrival at New York so as to avoid questions from Americans concerning the disaster. The American Senate has forced him to stay, however. The general public are indignant at the negligence shown by the authorities in the inadequacy of lifeboats, and also that with a full knowledge as to the drifting of icebergs at this time of the year in the vicinity of the course, precautions were not taken to reduce the vessel's speed.

MR. ISMAY AMONG THE SAVED.

STORY OF THE JAPANESE PASSENGER.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, April 21.

Mr. J. B. Ismay, the Chairman and Managing Director of the White Star Line, who is among the survivors from the *Titanic*, cables that the vessel collided with a low-lying iceberg.

The weather was clear, the stars were shining, and the sea was calm.

The *Titanic* struck the iceberg a glancing blow, apparently tearing the starboard side open about the bilge for a considerable length.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 22.

Further details about the disaster to the *Titanic* enlarge on but do not affect the earlier accounts.

The survivors confirm the testimony as to the women's heroism, and describe fully the scenes that occurred and the pitiable suffering.

There is no doubt that many women and children perished, although the passengers and the crew did not spare every endeavour to rescue them.

The band continued playing until ten minutes before the vessel took the final plunge, the bandmen trying in the meanwhile to fix their life-belts.

Memorial services are being held in every capital.

The relief fund has reached £10,000.

The public mind, however, is now turning on the apportionment of the blame and the provision of safeguards against a recurrence of such a disaster.

A New York special to the *Tokyo Asahi*, under date of the 19th instant, gives a full account of the terrible experience of Mr. Hosono, of the Imperial Railway Board, who happened to be aboard the *Titanic* at the time of the collision, but who fortunately escaped the fate of the majority of the passengers.

The *Carpathia* arrived late on the night of the 18th. Mr. Hosono is safe. According to him, on the day of the disaster the weather was mild and the sky clear, but it was exceptionally cold. "It was about ten at night," says Mr. Hosono, "when I was awakened by a sudden shock. Everything, however, seemed to be all right, and I again laid down to sleep, when an officer came up and threw in a life-belt, telling me to get on the upper deck. The ship still remained quiet, and apparently nothing serious seemed to have happened. I went up on deck and found there a crowd of passengers awaiting further orders from the Captain, each naturally expressing anxiety. I was deeply im-

pressed with the presence of mind with which most of them behaved at that critical moment of life and death. The rockets sent up into the silent starlit sky presented a most dismal, impressive sight. By-and-by boats began to be lowered for the women and children, under the superintendence of two officers, each armed with a revolver. Boat after boat was filled and in about an hour the last boat began to be lowered. I happened then to be standing at a spot that gave me easy access to the boat, and I was about to get into it, but resolved that it would not be to the honour of my country if it were later known that the only Japanese among the passengers aboard the *Titanic* should have acted in any cowardly manner on such an occasion. The last boat was lowered a little, when a voice cried: 'Room for a few more persons.' Quick as a flash of lightning somebody standing by my side jumped into the boat. The violent thrust he gave me as he left, caused me to fall downwards, and in another moment I found myself safe in the lifeboat. Scarcely had I got into the boat when the *Titanic* began to sink at the bows. When the lifeboat was about five feet away a tremendous sound, caused by the explosion of the boilers was heard, amidst the roar of machinery and the shrieks of the ill-fated passengers. The ship went down completely about two the following morning. After drifting in the boat about seven hours, we were rescued by the *Carpathia*. It was not until I saw at daybreak three icebergs drifting along, that I knew the cause of the disaster. Until we reached New York, the *Carpathia* was so crowded with the survivors that we had practically no room to sleep, but had to keep standing all the time with our boots on. The boats aboard the *Titanic* were sixteen in all, of which two shared the fate of the ship and one was overturned when being lowered."

HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVERTED.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 22.
It appears that the Leyland line steamship *Californian* was only seventeen miles from the *Titanic* at the time of the disaster, but failed to pick up the wireless message.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 23.
The Government is constituting a special Court of Inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic*, with Lord Mersey as Chairman.

Mr. Ismay telegraphs that he embarked on the *Titanic* as a private passenger and was never on the bridge until after the accident.

He denies that he wished to attain a record speed and that he interfered with the ship's course, and adds that they had learned the lesson that too much reliance is placed in water-tight compartments and wireless telegraphy. Further life-saving apparatus is necessary.

INQUIRY BY THE U.S. SENATE. SENSATIONAL STATEMENT.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 23.
The U.S. Senate's inquiry into the loss of the White Star liner *Titanic* has been resumed and has excited the most intense interest.

The hall was packed when Mr. Franklin, the agent for the White Star line at New York, was submitted to a severe cross-examination.

His answers made an excellent impression on the Committee, the hostile committeemen

obviously changing their attitude as the inquiry progressed.

Mr. Boxhall, the Fourth Officer, made the sensational statement that after the collision, they concentrated their efforts to attract the attention of a ship directly ahead, some five miles distant.

The vessel was close enough to see the signals of distress.

Mr. Boxhall stated that he saw no reply from the vessel, but Captain Smith and some of the stewards apparently did.

This is the first mention of any vessel within sight of the *Titanic* at the time of the disaster.

A London despatch to the *Nichi Nichi* dated the 23rd inst. says that Mr. Ismay, President of the White Star Line, who escaped the fate of the majority of the passengers aboard the *Titanic* at the time of the disaster, is prevented from leaving for home, and remains now practically a prisoner in America. The fact that Mr. Ismay sought to save himself only, at the time of the disaster, has made a bad impression upon the American public, and he is now made the target of attacks by the American press, as well as by the Senate. The British papers, on the other hand, are generally indignant at the somewhat overbearing attitude with which America is making inquiries about a disaster to a British steamer.

Responding to an inquiry propounded by the American Senate, a wireless operator of the *Titanic*, who was among the survivors rescued by the *Carpathia*, says that at the time of the collision the German liner *Frankfurt* wired her intention to respond to the call for the rescue signalled by the *Titanic*, but that his fellow engineers being indisposed to obtain aid from the German liner, he wired to the *Frankfurt* that the rescue signal had been made by mistake. At that time the German steamer in question was some 20 miles nearer to the *Titanic* than the *Carpathia*. He also added that some thirty victims on the verge of drowning attempted to get into one of the lifeboats which was already full of other survivors. Captain Smith remained on the bridge till the last moment, when he threw himself down into the water without a life belt.

The contribution to the *Titanic* Relief Fund has thus far reached over £140,000.

INQUIRY AT WASHINGTON. WATER-TIGHT DOORS USELESS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 24.
In the course of the enquiry at Washington into the loss of the *Titanic*, Mr. Pittman, the third officer, said that immediately after the *Titanic* sank he heard four explosions like distant big guns. He believed it was the bulkheads, not the boilers, which burst.

He did not hear any cries of distress before the vessel dived, but after that there was one long continuous moan, lasting for an hour.

He was not aware whether the water-tight doors were closed, but they would have been useless in any case, as the iceberg ripped up the side of the ship.

If the vessel had struck the iceberg head on she would have been afloat to day.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 24.
In the inquiry by the U. S. Senate into the sinking of the White Star liner *Titanic*, the Third Officer stated that there had been no boat drill since the ship left Southampton. He took charge of a boat containing about forty passengers.

After the vessel sank he heard continuous

moans and cries and ordered the men to pull for the wreck to rescue more.

The passengers in the boat objected, however, and he allowed the boat to drift aimlessly, though he was able to carry twenty more persons.

The look-out seaman on the *Titanic*, it is declared, was not supplied with glasses or able to see an iceberg at a safe distance.

The large steamship lines have decided to provide boats and rafts sufficient to accommodate all on board.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR. ITALIAN WARSHIPS BOMBARD THE DARDANELLES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 19.
It is officially reported from Constantinople that the Italian warships fired projectiles at the forts on the Dardanelles and at the barracks at Sedilbahr, Orhames and Kumkaleh.

The forts replied, damaging one Italian vessel, which was set on fire and drew off.

The Italian squadron subsequently put to sea.

Prior to their arrival at the Dardanelles, the Italian Squadron bombarded Samos, Mitylene and Rhodes.

The squadron consisted altogether of 39 ships.

The bombardment of the forts was simultaneous with the opening of Parliament, whereat the Sultan, in his speech from the Throne, said, "We desire peace, but only on the condition of the maintenance of Turkey's sovereign rights."

London, April 20.
It is announced at Rome that the Italian Fleet did not intend in attacking the forts on the Dardanelles to force a passage nor to land troops.

It was merely hoped to induce the Turkish Fleet to come out and fight.

Eventually after two hours' cannonade with the forts they sheered off, having meanwhile cut several submarine cables.

Turkey notifies the release of a chain of floating mines. Consequently the navigation of the Dardanelles is closed.

A Vienna despatch to the *Nicht Nicht* says that, criticizing the bombardment by the Italian Squadron of the Kumkaleh fort and Samos island, the Turkish papers declare that the country will not thereby be intimidated an iota.

The Vienna press severely reproaches the Italian fleet for bombarding neutral quarters.

During the engagement in the Dardanelles on the 18th the shells fired from the Turkish forts numbered 27 as against 342 from the Italian squadron.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE RISING AT FEZ.

London, April 18.
A wireless message from Fez received at Tangiers, states that a portion of the Sherrefian Army and population has risen in revolt.

There are no details.
The French garrison consists of about 1,500 men.

CHINESE LOANS.

London, April 18.
Reuter's agency learns that it is not likely there will be any opposition to the Russo-Japanese conditions for participation in the Four Nations' loan.

The negotiations with various interests are

now proceeding, but till the Anglo Belgian loan question is settled no further advances on account of the projected big loan can be made.

Though sixty millions sterling is mentioned as the eventual amount of the loan, the figure is not yet fixed, but depends upon China's requirements and her financial position.

The question of the official control of the application of the proceeds is also unsettled.

THE FIGHTING AT LHASSA.

London, April 18.

It is reliably reported at Simla that in the fighting at Lhasa the Chinese were worsted and had to take refuge in a monastery in the vicinity.

Unconfirmed Tibetan reports received through the Dalai Lama's camp at Kalimpong, state the trouble began at a conference called by the new Chinese Council, at which the Tibetan State Oracle was so outspoken that the Chinese ordered his execution.

The Oracle fled to Sera, a monastery three miles from Lhasa.

The Chinese pursued and bombarded the monastery.

A general Tibetan rising followed.

In the street fighting many Chinese were killed or burned alive.

JAPAN AND CHINESE LOANS.

London, April 19.

Japan has designated the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Russo-Asiatic Bank to represent her in connection with the Chinese loan.

Every effort will be made to hold a conference at the earliest possible moment, either in London or on the continent, to discuss the arrangements.

TROUBLE AT LENA GOLD FIELDS.

London, April 19.

A telegram from Irkutsk says that trouble proceeding at Lena on the gold fields culminated in rioting.

Soldiers were summoned and fired on the workmen, resulting in 107 being killed and 70 wounded.

THE TRANSFER OF THE ROYAL MAIL LINE.

London, April 19.

The transfer of the Union Castle Mail Steamship Co. to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was performed yesterday at noon, when Sir Owen Phillips handed a cheque for £5,173,572 10s. sterling to Sir F. J. Mirrielees, the Manager of the former line.

THE REBELS AT FEZ.

London, April 21.

It is officially announced that the French have recaptured the rebel position at Fez after heavy fighting.

London, April 22.

It is officially stated that altogether eight French civilians and fifteen military instructors were murdered in the mutiny at Fez.

General Moinier sustained a loss of 8 dead and 17 wounded in the fight to enter the city.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, April 21.

Reuter is informed that the Italian Squadron is returning to Italy, having accomplished its object.

From Constantinople it is reported that in view of the prejudice to shipping the Government has decided to re-open the Dardanelles.

London, April 22.

The Russian Government will enter a

protest with the Porte against the closing of the Dardanelles contrary to international agreement.

THE SHOOTING AT LENA.

London, April 21.

The volleys fired by the soldiers at the Lena Goldfields near Irkutsk on the 19th inst. decimated the workmen, the casualties being 150 killed and 250 wounded.

It is alleged some of the wounded were shot down while crawling away for shelter.

The matter is to be brought up in the Duma, and is arousing universal indignation.

London, April 22.

It is officially announced that 107 men were shot dead at the trouble at the gold fields, and 194 were wounded, of whom 84 died afterwards.

The affair has caused intense indignation.

The strikers, whose leaders have been arrested against the advice of the Company, were advancing towards one of the mines when the troops barred the way.

There was some stone throwing, and the troops fired volley after volley.

"SAIKIO MARU" ASHORE.

London, April 22.

A wireless message has been received at Cheloo from the N.Y.K. steamship *Saikio Maru*, which went ashore yesterday night on the promontory in a dense fog.

The Hamburg-America liner *Sikiang* has gone to take off the passengers and mails.

THE "SAIKIO MARU."

London, April 22.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Saikio Maru*, which went ashore on the Shantung promontory, has been towed off and proceeded to Tairen for repairs, under own steam.

The damage is slight.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, April 22.

The *Daily News* understands that Germany has offered to withdraw the Supplementary Navy Bill and abide by the old law under certain conditions,—not specified by the *Daily News*; but that Great Britain declined to accept.

On the other hand the colonial negotiations are progressing satisfactorily.

THE TROUBLE AT FEZ.

London, April 23.

General Moinier now telegraphs that order has been restored at Fez, but the French losses are fifteen officers killed and four wounded and 40 men killed and 70 wounded.

Thirteen civilians were also killed.

STRIKES IN RUSSIA.

London, April 24.

The Lena affair is finding an echo in various parts of Russia.

Telegrams from Kieff report that all hands at the South Russian Machinery Works have struck in sympathy.

At the Nicolaieff Shipbuilding Works the men have also knocked off as a sign of mourning.

Nobel's workmen at St. Petersburg are also on strike.

DEATH OF ENVER BEY.

London, April 24.

A telegram from Cairo received at Rome states that Enver Bey died on Monday morning at Marint from a wound received in the recent fighting.

It appears the Turks are seeking to conceal his death until the end of the war.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

AN INDIAN LOAN.

London, April 19.

The early issue is announced by the Indian Government of a loan of three million at 3½ per cent. interest, at £93.

COPPER.

London, April 21.

Copper is quoted at 70½—71½. The tone is firm.

THE TROUBLE AT FEZ.

London, April 21.

A combined French force of infantry, cavalry and artillery from Mekinez has entered Fez after a sharp fight and the situation has improved.

It is feared there has been considerable loss of life among the French instructors of the mutinous troops.

The French are now bombarding the Moorish Army barracks at Fez from the southern heights.

General Moinier is moving rapidly from Casablanca with 4,000 troops.

GERMAN AERONAUTICS.

London, April 22.

The Committee formed at Berlin to organise a national aviation fund has issued a stirring appeal to the patriotism of the people, irrespective of party, creed and class.

THE FRENCH NAVY.

London, April 23.

The first of the two French fleets to be organised under the law passed on the 20th March, will be put into commission on the 1st May, and will consist of twelve battle-ships, six armoured cruisers, 30 destroyers, five submersibles and an aeroplane convoy ship.

COPPER.

London, April 23.

Copper is weaker.

THE GERMAN NAVY BILL.

London, April 23.

Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, in introducing the Navy Bill in the Reichstag, justified the formidable increase of expenditure by saying that while the expansion of international relations had increased the points of peaceful contact, it had also increased the possibilities of conflict.

They must maintain armaments proportional to Germany's resources.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 24.

The Italians occupied an island opposite Bukennesh and landed five thousand men in an effort to reconnoitre.

The advance was repulsed by the Arabs. The Turkish force is rapidly increasing, and religious fanaticism is spreading throughout Northern Africa.

THIBET AND CHINA.

London, April 24.

A determined struggle between the Thibetans and the Chinese is regarded as impending.

A correspondent states that Lhasa is defended by 2,000 Chinese, who are surrounded by Thibetans.

Three hundred Chinese have already been killed.

Five thousand Chinese from Szchuan are marching to relieve Lhasa.

THE TROUBLE AT FEZ.

London, April 24.

Ten thousand homeless Jews, whose

houses were wrecked in the mutiny at Fez, are encamped in the Courts of the Sultan's Palace.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

OBSERVATIONS OF ECLIPSE.

Berlin, April 18.

The eclipse of the sun of April 17th took place under ideal conditions. Valuable scientific investigations were carried out.

THE KISMAR ARREST.

Negotiations on the release of the German Steinwachs, who was captured by the Kismar tribe in Morocco, have been opened. The indemnity will be paid by the Governor of Agadir.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish speech from the Throne states that Turkey's relations with the Powers are friendly. It further emphasises that negotiations on the conclusion of peace can only be opened after the recognition of Turkey's sovereignty in Tripoli.

SOUTHERN COURSE ONLY TO BE USED.

In conformance with the proposal of the Nordd.-Lloyd at Bremen, the continental steamship companies have decided that all steamers must take the southern course on the New York line, owing to the danger from floating icebergs.

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE AT BANGKOK.

The Austrian Government has raised the honorary Consulate at Bangkok to a Consulate-General.

JAPAN'S NEW AIRSHIP.

The trial flights of the *Parseval* dirigible, ordered by the Japanese Ministry of War, have commenced before a Japanese Commission. The volume of the airship is 800 cubic meters, its average speed 18.9 metres per second. The height record was 1,200 metres. The trial for long distance flight is still pending, but all other conditions have been carried out to the full satisfaction of the Commission.

DARDANELLES FORTS BOMBARDED.

Berlin, April 18.

It is reported from Constantinople that 27 Italian warships lined up in battle-order before the Dardanelles forts, which were afterwards bombarded by them. The Turkish forts replied, with the result that one of the Italian ships was sunk.

Later.

The bombardment of the two forts Komkaleshi and Sedibahr at the entrance of the Dardanelles, by an Italian Squadron, is reported to have done but little damage. The Italian Squadron withdrew after the bombardment. The passage of the isthmus still remains closed for the present.

Later.

The Italian Squadron, after its withdrawal from the Dardanelles, bombarded the islands of Lemnos, Samos and others in the Aegean Sea.

Later.

In political circles in Europe it is thought that the Italian attack on the Dardanelles was only intended to exercise pressure on Turkey and to cover the occupation of a number of islands in the Aegean Sea by an Italian squadron.

The Italian residents at Constantinople have been ordered to immediately leave Turkish territory.

The Turkish Government is very much

embarrassed concerning the Greek Spring manoeuvres, fearing an outbreak of hostilities, against which, however, she has made all preparations at the frontiers.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

Berlin, April 19.

Many sick and injured persons are reported to be amongst the survivors of the *Titanic*. Besides those on board the *Carpathia* no other passengers have been saved.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

The Governments of Russia and Japan have practically decided to join the international loan syndicate in China. The final conference of all the Powers belonging to the Syndicate will be held in the middle of May. Advance loans will, however, be continued in the meantime as before the interruption of the negotiations.

LAUNCH OF "IMPERATOR."

The launch of the gigantic liner *Imperator* of the Hamburg-America Line, now in course of construction, will take place on May 24th in the presence of the Kaiser.

TAXI STRIKE IN PARIS.

A strike of auto-drivers broke out at Paris. The strike, however, was settled very quickly.

THE RISING AT FEZ.

A revolt has broken out at Fez in Morocco. German nationals or their property are not endangered up to the present. The German and English residents living in the city have been ordered to remove to their Consulates. The state bank has been plundered by the rioters. It is, however, expected that order will soon be restored by the strong force of French troops.

TROUBLE AT LENA GOLD FIELDS.

The "St. Petersburg Telegraphic Agency" reports that unrest has broken out amongst the labourers in the gold mines at Irkutsk.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to April 4th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on April 19th.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

Berlin, April 20.

The *Titanic* is now reported to have struck the iceberg when travelling at the high speed of 21 miles an hour. The total number of survivors is ascertained to be 705, of whom 75 had to be transferred to hospitals. 1,635 persons have perished.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The *Temps* reports from St. Petersburg that a rumoured naval demonstration of Russia on the Turkish coast is not very probable, owing to Russia having not yet sent any Note to Turkey demanding the reopening of the Dardanelles.

The Sublime Porte has replied to the peace proposals of the Powers by curtly refusing to recognise the Italian demand for the acceptance of the annexation of Tripoli as a first condition after the opening of peace negotiations.

Berlin, April 21.

Italy now states that the bombardment of the Dardanelles is only to be regarded as a naval demonstration against Turkey, by which it should be proved that the Italian navy reserved to itself the right to take action at any time and in any area according to its own discretion. A further hostile action in the Aegean Sea is, however, not intended. The closing of the Dardanelles is a great impediment to world's commerce,

for which reason the Italian squadron was withdrawn after the demonstration had been carried out.

M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, declares that Russia will preserve the strictest neutrality in the Turko-Italian conflict.

The Italian attack on the Dardanelles, he further states, is not the result of a Russo-Italian understanding.

The closing of the Dardanelles will be suspended shortly, the Italian naval demonstration being regarded as concluded. All rumours of an intended protest from Austria or of an agreement between Russia and Italy are refuted as not based on facts.

REVISION OF NAVAL LAWS.

Berlin, April 20.

The German Reichstag is preparing a Bill providing for the revision of the laws concerning life-saving apparatus and life-boats on board sea-going vessels.

NATIONAL AERONAUTIC FUND.

A subscription list has been opened, under the aegis of Prince Heinrich of Prussia, for the foundation of a national aeronautic fund.

NEW HUNGARIAN PREMIER.

Privy Councillor L. Lucaks, the present Minister for Finance, has been nominated Prime Minister of the new Hungarian Cabinet.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank has been ordered to represent Russian interests in the Six Powers' Loan.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to April 7th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on April 21st.

NATIVE TROUBLES IN TIMOR.

Berlin, April 21.

New combats between troops and natives are reported from Portuguese Timor, and reinforcements of 3,000 men have been sent to the Colony by Portugal.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR FEZ.

French reinforcements have arrived at Fez in Morocco, as a result of which all fortifications have been occupied.

Berlin, April 20.

The revolt at Fez is reported to be fast spreading, in spite of the French bank officials have fallen into the hands of the rioters. General Moinier is expected at Fez with new reinforcements. A state of siege has been declared in the city.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, April 22.

The corn markets in Europe are much hampered by the closing of the Dardanelles. German corn dealers have presented representations to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with regard to the closing of the Dardanelles.

The Secretary, in reply, stated that Germany could take no action in the matter owing to the agreement of neutrality entered into by the Powers.

THE REBELS AT FEZ.

Order has been restored at Fez. No German has suffered injury during the troubles.

LABOUR TROUBLES ARRESTED.

All possibility of a strike in Hamburg-harbour has been averted.

INTERNATIONAL "WIRELESS" CONGRESS.

An international congress on wireless

telegraphy will be held at London on June 6th.

NATIVE TROUBLES IN TIMOR.

The troubles at Timor are spreading to Dutch territory.

WITTE REFUSES OFFICE.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that Count Witte will not again enter the political arena.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Berlin, April 23.

The Co-operative Association for sea trade and shipping at Hamburg proposes the summoning of an international conference for deliberation on the universal introduction of life-saving appliances on steamers, and especially the issue of international orders as to the number of life-boats on board sea-going passenger boats.

THE NAVY BILL.

The Chancellor, speaking in the Reichstag on the new armament bills, stated that they had not been presented owing to an impending danger of a hostile attack. The present situation in Europe was not disquieting to Germany in any way. Germany is, however, obliged to maintain her armament on a basis corresponding to her means and power. The German Empire was strictly adhering to a policy of peace, but Germany needs a strong armament as a guarantee of peace, owing to her situation in the midst of other strongly-armed States on the continent.

Many of the possibilities of war which existed in former times, had been removed by special conventions with various Powers. The relations of Germany with foreign powers, and her steadily growing interests in all parts of the world were, however, not only new bonds of peace, but also offered new possibilities for conflicts.

The Chancellor further refuted the alarming tone of some of the articles published in certain journals, by which trade and commerce were only disturbed, and which were of no advantage to anybody. It was certain that no power was seeking a conflict with Germany; on the other hand there was still the danger that a fanatical bellicose minority could draw any government into a war. A State which was not armed against any such danger, would be the sufferer.

The German Empire was not only bound to maintain its military strength and power with regard to the possibility of war, but also for the maintenance of its authority and well-being in time of peace. Germany's value as an ally and friend would always be measured by the strength of her armament and the other Powers would only respect her interests as far as they are protected by her military strength.

The Chancellor concluded his speech by appealing to the Reichstag to examine and pass the bill with unbiassed determination, and defended the Government against the reproach that it had not introduced anew the inheritance tax bill for covering the expenses of the new bill. He said that the decision on the armament question should not be poisoned by a new party conflict on the inheritance tax, which would have been unavoidable.

The Minister for War and the Secretary of State for the Navy, speaking after the Chancellor, commented further on the new army and navy programmes, and Councillor Kuehn, the new Secretary of State for the

Treasury, explained the proposals of the Government for meeting the expenditure.

The speeches of the leaders of the various parties, which followed the speeches of the representatives of the Government, proved that the bills will be passed by the majority of civil parties in the Reichstag.

THE KISMAR ARREST.

The German national, Steinwachs, who had been taken prisoner by the Kismar tribe in Morocco, has been released against payment of a ransom.

THE REBELS AT FEZ.

According to latest reports order has been restored at Fez.

ITALIAN AIRSHIP FLEET.

The King of Italy has granted a sum of 100,000 lire for the Italian airship fleet.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian battle squadron has bombarded the island of Samos, which was afterwards occupied.

Hope is, however, maintained that the passage through the Dardanelles will be reopened within three days.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, April 24.

The Turkish reply to the representations of the Powers states that peace would be acceptable to Turkey only on the condition that the Italian troops are withdrawn from Tripoli and the declaration of annexation revoked by Italy.

The occupation of the island of Astropalia by Italy is declared by the latter to be of great strategic importance, the passage through the Aegean and the Mediterranean seas being covered by it.

THE REBELS AT FEZ.

The Senegal riflemen of the Foreign Legion will be sent as reinforcements to Morocco by France.

NAVAL TRIP TO NEW YORK.

The German Squadron will start on its visit to New York on May 9th.

FRENCH BONDS EXEMPT FROM INCOME TAX.

Owing to the heavy fall in French national rent bonds the Financial Committee of the Senate proposes to exempt all State rents, which have been issued up to the present, from income tax.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The first lady to fly the Channel, Miss Craig, an American, has crossed from Dover to Hardelet.

A solar eclipse has been witnessed under superb conditions both in Great Britain and on the Continent.

Two thousand shop-assistants and waitresses held a demonstration in Trafalgar Square on the 14th inst. to demand a minimum wage.

JUDGE KASAI KENTARO, Judge of the Tokyo District Court, was appointed Judge of the Yokohama Local Court under date of the 22nd instant.

On Friday last, seven fishing boats were capsized off Benkei Cape in Oshima province, and all the fishermen, about 24 in number, were drowned.

MR. HANDA, who was appointed Japanese Consul-General in Harbin, is expected to leave Tokyo on Thursday morning to enter on his new duties.

The silk-weaving factory at Okayama, belonging to the Kanegafuchi Spinning Company, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. The loss is estimated at 100,000 yen, most of which, how-

ever, is covered by insurance with the Meiji, Tokyo, and Yokohama Fire Insurance Companies.

THE Admiralty has taken over the aeroplane with which the French aviator Prevost, with a passenger, crossed the Channel on the 13th instant.

TOKUSHIMA reports very sultry weather, the thermometer standing on the 22nd instant at 85°, the highest recorded for the past thirty years at this time of the year.

FREDERICK HENRY SEDDON, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Miss Mary Barrow in September by administering arsenic from fly-l papers, has been executed.

AN aviator named Verrett on the 18th inst. fell from a height of 1,800 ft. and was killed. The newspapers allege that he committed suicide as he had quarrelled with his fiancée before he ascended.

MR. H. WEBB, Liberal Member for the Forest of Dean, has been appointed a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in the place of Sir A. A. Haworth, Bt. This necessitates a bye-election in the Forest of Dean Division.

LIEUTENANTS von Puttkamer and von Herringen have fought a duel. The latter, who is a nephew of the German Minister of War, General von Herringen, was fatally wounded. It is believed that the men fought over a love affair.

FIVE militant suffragettes, including one doctor of medicine, were released on the 14th inst. from Aylesbury prison owing to their health being impaired through their having indulged in a "hunger strike."

THE district committee of the transport workers and the executive of the dockers' union have passed resolutions strongly condemning irresponsible statements as to the possibility of a general strike of transport workers in the early part of the summer.

MR. CHARLES H. DAWSON, Judge of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, who represented the West India Committee in the negotiations with the Canadian Government which resulted in the signing of a trade agreement conferring reciprocal advantages, in an interview given to a representative of Reuter's Agency, expressed the greatest satisfaction at the agreement. He said that it might be expected that Canada would now turn her attention to Australia and South Africa with a view to arranging similar agreements.

THE *Ozaka Mainichi* states that on Thursday afternoon last, when the P. & O. liner *Namur* was about to weigh anchor from Kobe, a steam launch full of European passengers went alongside, but the sea was so rough that they had much difficulty in getting on board. One English lady in trying to step on the ship's ladder fell into the sea, and, for a time, was in grave danger, until a stout gentleman plunged in, without stopping to take off his coat, and rescued her. The gallant man, says our contemporary, proved to be Mr. W. B. Steel, an engineer representing Messrs. Alfred Herbert & Co. of London, who is staying at the Oriental Hotel.

ACCORDING to the results of investigations conducted by the Department of Home Affairs, the local budgets for the 45th fiscal year aggregate 82,814,739 yen, of which 53,263,451 yen is ordinary, and 29,551,283 yen extraordinary expenditure. This shows an increase by 6,978,968 yen over the figures recorded for the preceding fiscal year. The total local revenue amounts to 82,854,156 yen, of which 64,190,931 yen is from taxes, 11,32,765 yen from property, payments from the State Treasury, and sundry other sources, while 7,530,260 yen is from the sale of property and loan bonds. The items of local miscellaneous taxes number as many as eighty-six, and the tax burdens amount to 1.22% yen per capita, an increase of 6% yen as compared with the preceding fiscal year.

FRENCH GUNS FOR ROUMANIA.

The correspondent of *Le Temps* at Bucharest reports that the Roumanian Government has placed an order for howitzers and mountain guns with the Creusot works. This order, which is the first one for several years, is the more interesting in that it was preceded by extremely severe comparative tests by a Roumanian Commission of the howitzers and mountain guns from the Works of Krupp, Erhard and Schneider. As a result of these experiments, Roumania decided to order from the Creusot Works, batteries of field howitzers of 150 m.m. (about 6 inches) and mountain guns of 75 m.m. This result is so much the more complimentary to French industry, as the officers composing the Commission were experts of remarkable and acknowledged competency. This is another success to be added to the already long list of those obtained by Creusot guns wherever they have undergone comparative tests.

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YOUR HAIRCUTICURA
SOAP SHAMPOOS

And occasional light dressings of Cuticura Ointment will prevent it when all else fails. Let us send you a liberal sample of Cuticura Soap and Ointment, free, if you have doubts about it.

Samples with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: Newbery, Dept. 6X, 21 Charterhouse Sq., London; E. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. & W. Lennon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Foster D. & C. Corp., sole props., Boston, U.S.A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Quotations for stocks are again higher; more particularly for Indian and Chinese grades, of which only small quantities are available locally. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market continues quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, owing to the cold snap experienced during the interval, business among retailers has been almost stopped.

RAW COTTON.

American Middling ... 34.50 to 35.00
Indian Broach ... 33.50 to 34.50
Chinese (Old crop) ...
Chinese (New crop) ... 34.00 to 34.50

COTTON YARN.

Nos. 2/60, Gassed ... 260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ... 345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed ... 500.00 to 537.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in. ... 5.75 to 11.00

Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards ... 5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards ... 5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards ... 5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 46 yards ... 6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards ... 6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards ... 7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 46 yards ... 7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards ... 8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards ... 9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards ... 11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches ... 3.80 to 4.70

Cotton Italians ... 0.25 to 0.38

Cotton Venetians ... 0.35 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, P&R PIECE.

30 inches ... 1.90 to 2.20

Turkey Red—3.8 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards,

33 inches ... 2.50 to 3.65

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches ... 14.50 to 17.50

Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches ... 1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels ... 0.44 to 0.70

Union Italians ... 0.27 to 0.39

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,

30-32 inches Common to Medium ... 0.31 to 0.33

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,

30-32 inches Good to Best ...

Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union,

54 to 56 inches ...

METALS.

There has been practically no business offering.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and PER PICUL.

square ... Y. 4.50 to 4.70

Iron or Mild Steel, Plate ... 5.28 to 5.40

Sheet Iron ... 5.90 to 6.10

Sheet Mild Steel ... 6.80 to 6.85

Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated ... 10.70 to 10.90

Flat ... 11.30 to 11.50

Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments ... 7.00 to 8.50

Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W. ... 7.40 to 7.60

Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar" ... 2.30 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is firm.

Chester ... Y. 4.26

Victory ... 3.94

Nompareil ... 4.90

Somatra ... 2.98 to 3.15

Borneo ... 3.02 to 3.40

Hokuyetsu ... 3.00 to 3.55

Nippon ... 2.78 to 3.55

Osaka ... 3.77

SUGAR.

Little business doing all round.

Brown Manila ... Y. 10.90 to 12.40

Brown China ...

Brown Java ... 9.30 Duty unpaid.

White Java ... 14.40 to 22.50

White Refined (German) ... 15.50 to 18.30

" (Hongkong) ... 14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first ... Y. 240.00

" second ... 200.00

Java, first ... 320.00

" second ... 280.00

Madras, first ...

" second ...

Artificial "horse and lion" brand ... 2.00

Artificial "Kenshin" ... 2.00

FLOUR.

The market is more or less improved.

Gold Drop ... 4 sacks ... 11.40

Flag ... 10.95 to 11.00

Royal ... 10.95 to 11.00

Trophy ... 11.52

Red Seal ... 10.95 to 11.00

Lion ... 11.75

Portland ... 11.15 to 11.20

Premier ... 12.05

Japanese:—

Rising Sun ... 6 kwanme ... 2.70

Takasago ... 6 " ... 2.75

Fuji ... 6 " ... 2.85

Pine ... 6 " ... 2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

White Walla Walla, 100 kin ... 5.25 to 5.30

Red " " " ... 5.25

Blue Stem ... 5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On April 14th stocks were: Filatures 6,700 piculs, Re-reels, 150 piculs; Kakedas, 70 piculs.

Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ... 920
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ... 885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ... 895
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ... 875
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den ... 925
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den ... 910
Filature—No. 1-1 1/2, 13-15den ... 855
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den ... 905
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha ... 845
Re-reels—Extra ...
Re-reels—No. 1 ...
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2 ... 855
Re-reels—No. 2 ... 865
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ... 865
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ... 855
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ... 845

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

April. April delivery. May delivery. June delivery.
yen. yen. yen.
19th ... 85.80 86.50 87.00
21st ... 85.80 86.40 87.10
22nd ... 85.80 86.30 86.90
23rd ... 85.50 86.20 86.80
24th ... 85.30 86.10 86.60
25th ... 85.20 86.10 86.60
26th ... 85.30 85.90 86.70

WASTE SILK.

Owing to the poor quality of stocks, business is restricted.

On March 28th stocks were:—Noshi, 800 piculs; Kibiso, 3,500 piculs; Sundries, 1000 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best ...
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good ...
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium ... 80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior ... 60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ... 150 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—Values have remained steady, with a slight upward tendency in some qualities.

Kanazawa:—There was a slight recovery in prices at the beginning of the month, but in some qualities values have again receded to the former level.

Kawamata:—There has been a general advance in prices.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

6 ms. 6 1/2 ms. 7 ms. 7 1/2 ms. 8 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
2 1/2" ... 8.00 7.75 8.55 7.45 7.65
2 3/4" ... 7.75 7.55 7.45 7.45 7.55
3" ... 7.60 7.60 7.55 7.45 7.50

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

4 1/2 ms. 4 3/4 ms. 4 1/2 ms. 5 ms. 5 1/2 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
2 1/2" ... 7.60 7.45 7.80 7.40 7.55
2 3/4" ... 7.55 7.50 7.45 7.45 7.30
3" ... 7.50 7.45 7.45 7.45 7.30

KAWAMATA.

3 ms. 3 1/2 ms. 4 ms. 4 1/2 ms.
Inches. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
20" ... 7.00 7.80 8.50 9.30
23" ... 7.70 8.40 9.40 10.40
27" ... 8.80 10.10 11.00
36" ... 11.90 12.90 14.60

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of April 24th the quotation was £69.15

Refined per 100 kin ... Yen 43.50-45.00
Bessener per 100 kin ... " 38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin ... " 47.00-50.00
Ore ... " 29.50-33.00

RICE.

The market improving.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa ... bags.
Foreign rice in Fukagawa ... 574.460
58.220

Delivery.	Closing Price.
April	19.78
May	19.72
June	19.43
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
April	19.92
May	19.55
June	19.39

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.
(Tokyo.) per koku.

Superior	Yen 21.50
Medium	20.40
Ordinary	19.00
Average	20.30

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 15th April amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.	nominal.
Choicest	—
Choice	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm.

Delivery.	Yen.
April	148.80
May	143.05
June	141.35

EXCHANGE.

London silver $\frac{1}{2}$ lower for spot and $\frac{1}{4}$ lower forward, China sterling quotations not yet received and local rates are unchanged.	
London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 98 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 96 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	74 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	75 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/2 @ 1/2

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Schunhorst, German cruiser, 11,600, Capt. Z. S. Rosing, 19th April, Nagasaki.

Inako Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, K. Kaneda, 19th April, Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, R. Robinson, 19th April, Vancouver, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Chikuzen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 19th April, Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Buyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,044, K. Hashimoto, 20th April, Hongkong via ports, General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,050, S. Shimizu, 20th April, Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 20th April, Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Takatsuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, S. Kawashima, 20th April, Newchwang, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997, T. Nakamura, 21st April, Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Nile, British steamer, 3,120, Eggleston, 21st April, San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, J. Teraraka, 22nd April, Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,968, K. Suzuki, 22nd April, Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cheefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 22nd April, Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Benten Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, A. Le Francis, 22nd April, Dairen, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamoh Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, Y. Fujita, 22nd April, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinko Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,872, S. Nishiyama, 22nd April, Milke, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

Yeboshi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clark, 22nd April, Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Santo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,259, S. Shinobara, 22nd April, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, N. Noguchi, 23rd April, Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Miyazaki Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,270, T. Murai, 23rd April, Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 23rd April, Seattle Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha).

Palawan, British steamer, 2,995, C. R. Longden, 23rd April, Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Fultala, British steamer, 2,698, H. Chidley, 23rd April, Rangoon via Hongkong, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Flintshire, British steamer, 2,404, G. C. Cundy, 24th April, Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 24th April, Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 25th April, Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Schuyllkill, British steamer, 3,344, L. Smith, 19th April, Boston and New York via ports, General.—Standard Oil Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, S. Robinson, 19th April, Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Kleist, German steamer, 5,123, L. Maass, 20th April, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 20th April, San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Chikuzen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 21st April, Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Deike Rickmers, German steamer, 2,656, Geo. Steineke, 21st April, Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Kokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Kurozumi, 21st April, Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yotorofu Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 21st April, Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Inako Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, K. Kaneda, 21st April, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nile, British steamer, 3,120, Eggleston, 22nd April, Hongkong via ports, General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Shibetaro Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,478, T. Take-mura, 22nd April, Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 23rd April, Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Himalaya, French steamer, 3,364, Sanguy, 23rd April, Antwerp, Havre and Marseilles via ports, General.—M. M. Co.

Kotik, Russian steamer 684, M. Blite, 24th April, Karatsu, Ballast.—Smi h Baker & Co.

Fukuoka Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,997, T. Nakamura, 24th April, Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 24th April, Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American line O.S.K.)

Buyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,044, T. Sagara, 25th April, Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Yawata Maru*, from Sydney and Melbourne via ports:—Mr. James E. Liddiard, F.R.G.S., Mrs. Liddiard, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. Forge, Mr. R. Fongue, Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Cohen, Mr. E. W. Faxall, Mrs. A. K. Brissenden, Miss B. Gribbin, Mr. Feistead, Mr. P. T. Susman, Mr. L. Henry, Mr. A. E. Delany, Miss D. Delany, Capt. J. C. Richards, Mr. F. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. D. Meares, Mr. and Mrs. J. Vicens, Mr. F. Kitamura, Mr. T. Komura, Mr. S. Takagi, Mr. C. K. Chisholm, Miss E. Jameson, Miss T. Jameson, Miss L. C. Barclay and Miss E. Matthews, in cabin; Mr. T. Namba, Mrs. K. Namba, Mr. J. W. Salmon, Mr. F. Mizuno, Mrs. H. Mizuno, Mrs. R. Tezuka, Mr. Tezuka, Mrs. Y. Ooka, Miss E. A. Rope, Miss M. L. Rope, Rev. J. H. Cain, Mr. E. Gick, Mr. C. Millier, Mr. E. E. Severy and Mr. Bowor King in second class; 3 Japanese in intermediate; 35 Japanese and 12 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikuzen Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Cole and child and Mr. K. Tozaki in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. S. Matsuyama, Mr. T. Nakagawa and Mr. Y. Yajima in cabin; 21 Japanese and 14 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Nile* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss G. Baldwin, Mr. L. N. David, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. George, Mr. Moto Hasegawa, Mr. J. F. Helm, Dr. Antonio Ingegnoli, Mr. Nino Igeonori, Dr. E. H. Hipp, Mrs. Emilie H. Thompson, Miss F. Helen Thompson, Mr. E. Townsend and Mr. W. M. Rondaldson. For Kobe:—Mr. John N. Gundy, Miss Annie von der Dellen and Mr. H. D. McCallie. For Shanghai:—Miss E. L. Brown, Dr. Fred. Kostmeier, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schlee, Master Ronald Schlee, Miss Lillian Schlee, Miss M. E. Whitney and Mr. and Mrs. Monte. For Hongkong:—Mr. O. L. Asbaugh, Mr. J. G. Bishop, Mrs. Annie Bruce, Master James Bruce, Miss Hazel Bruce, Miss Gannie Bruce, Mr. T. E. Crombie, Miss May Faurete, Mr. R. L. Frowenfeld, Mr. J. F. McQuaid, Mr. R. H. Noss, Mr. Victor Moroni, Mrs. Clara Munger, Mr. and Mrs. B. Swinstead, Mrs. Alice Willis, Mr. Rionel Walden and Mr. Alexander Willemson in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Sanuki Maru* from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. L. L. Dorland, Miss A. M. Potter, Mr. J. B. Potter, Mr. Peter Mahar, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Ito, son and daughter in cabin; Mrs. N. Fukunaga in second class. For Seattle:—Mr. and Mrs. Ginn, Mrs. E. G. Asay and child in cabin; Mr. Wong Ho in second class; Mr. John Hreszuch in intermediate; 19 Japanese, 2 Indian, 6 Chinese and 1 Russian in steerage. For San Francisco:—Miss Alga Kronz in cabin. For Victoria:—Mr. and Mrs. Ma Boo Low and child and Mr. Lu Shing Bing and child in second class; 16 Japanese and 100 Chinese in steerage. For Portland:—Mr. Long Look in second class. For Norfolk:—Mr. Quong Ying in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—M. S. Hara, Mrs. T. Akita, Mr. M. Fukuda, Mr. Yamazaki, Mr. R. Porak, Mr. K. Homma, Mrs. S. Homma, Miss H. Homma, Mr. and Mrs. Bisset and Mrs. E. J. Wood in cabin; Mrs. Y. Shimizu, Mrs. F. Fujiwara, Mr. S. Sugawara, Mr. K. S. Yang, Mr. S. Jimbo, Mrs. U. Jimbo, Miss T. Jimbo, Mr. S. Jimbo and 1 Chinese in second class; 15 Japanese and 12 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Miyazaki Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Haya-shi and 3 children, Mrs. U. Akinawa, Mr. and Mrs. S. Howard, Mr. F. Beavon and Mr. A. Sudcliffe in cabin; 4 Japanese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Siberia* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. H. Ashland, Mrs. C. A. Ashmore, Mr. John Austin, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Gould, Capt. F. W. Highton, R.N., Miss A. Jackson, Mr. H. U. Jeffries, Mr. A. C. Shorey, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Sorenson, Mr. C. C. Teall, Major and Mrs. H. D. Todd, Master Harrison Todd, Miss Harriet Todd, Miss L. Wyman, Miss A. Wyman, Mr. W. B. Turner, Miss S. Whelpton, Dr. R. A. Wischin and Mrs. R. A. Wischin. For Honolulu:—Mr. A. A. Hirschler. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Arrance, Mr. H. B. Atkins, Miss P. W. Alias, Mrs. J. J. Buck, Master Ross W. Buck, Mr. A. C. Churchill, Mr. D. J. Donne, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Foster, Miss Florence M. Foster, Master Paul L. Foster, Mr. A. S. Goldsmith, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. H. Haden, Rev. J. F. and Mrs. Holcombe, Miss M. Jones, Miss H. Jones, Master J. Kottinger, Mr. C. E. Rowe, Mr. H. A. Spelman, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Swann, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Schroeder, Miss M. Tolmie, Mr. V. A. Taylor, Mr. F. Uhler and Mr. H. A. Wilbur in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Riasan* for Vladivostok:—Mr. and Mrs. J. Barriere and child and Mrs. Zvereff

in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Sonnbottin and Mr. N. Gersheff in second class.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Orel* for Vladivostok:—Mr. D. P. Pantaleoff, Rev. A. B. Nielson, Mr. S. Oba, Mr. Y. Fukunaga, Mr. S. M. Navakovsky, Mr. O. L. Tatinseff, H.E. Prince Henry XXXIII. Reuss, Miss E. C. Schutte, Mons. Le Col. Rondony, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gleimgolz, Mr. T. Sudzuki, Mr. K. Jungius, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hinde, Miss A. Parker, Miss V. Collard, and Mrs. S. Clay in cabin; Mr. K. Schmidt and Mr. Y. Aleinikoff in second class.

Per British steamer *Aile* for Hongkong via ports:—Miss G. Baldwin, Mr. L. N. David, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. George, Mr. Moto Hasegawa, Mr. J. L. Helm, Mr. Antonio Ingegnoli, Mr. Nino Ingegnoli, Dr. E. M. Shipp, Mrs. Emilie Thompson, Miss K. Helen Thompson, Mr. E. Townsend, Mr. W. M. Hondaldson, Mr. John N. Gundy, Miss Annie von der Dellen, Mr. H. D. McCallie, Miss E. E. Brown, Mr. Fred. Kostmeier, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schlee, Master Ronald Schlee, Miss Allan Schlee, Miss M. E. Whitney, Mr. Monte Filks, Mrs. Wace Filks, Mr. C. L. Asbaugh, Mr. J. G. Bishof, Mrs. Annie Bruce, Master James Bruce, Miss Hazel Bruce, Miss Annie Bruce, Mr. T. E. Crombie, Miss May Fau-rore, Mr. R. L. Frowenfeld, Mr. J. F. McQuaid, Mr. E. S. Moss, Mr. V. Moroni, Mrs. Clara Hunger, Mr. and Mrs. B. Swinstead, Mrs. Alice Willis, Mr. Lionel Walden, Mr. Alexander Willemson and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pettican in cabin.

MAIL STEAMERS.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America.....	P. M.....	Mongolia	Sa. Apr. 27
Europe.....	N.D.L.....	Prinz Ludwig	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong.....	B. L.....	Rygya	Su. Apr. 28
Vancouver.....	B. L.....	Luceric	M. Apr. 29
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of India 2	Tu. Apr. 30
Europe.....	M. M.....	Yarra	Tu. Apr. 30
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	China	F. May 3
America.....	T. K. K.....	Nippon Maru	Sa. May 4
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Mexico Maru	Su. May 5
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.....	Awa Maru	Tu. May 7
Seattle.....	N. Y. K.....	Kamakura Maru	F. May 10
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Tacoma Maru	M. May 13
Hongkong.....	G. N.....	Minnesota	W. May 15
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	Th. May 16
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Monteagle	F. May 17

1 Left Seattle on the 13th inst.
2 Left Hongkong on the 20th inst.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
America.....	P. M.....	Siberia	Sa. Apr. 27
Europe.....	M. M.....	Ville de la Ciotat	Sa. Apr. 27
Tacoma.....	B. & S.....	Bellophone	Sa. Apr. 27
Australia.....	N. Y. K.....	Yawata Maru	Sa. Apr. 27
Shanghai.....	N. Y. K.....	Hakui Maru	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong.....	P. M.....	Mongolia	Su. Apr. 28
Hongkong.....	N. Y. K.....	Inaba Maru	M. Apr. 29
Seattle.....	B. L.....	Rygya	M. Apr. 29
Hongkong.....	B. L.....	Luceric	Tu. Apr. 30
Vancouver.....	C. P. R.....	Em. of India	Tu. Apr. 30
Europe.....	N.D.L.....	Prinz Ludwig	Sa. May 4
Hongkong.....	T. K. K.....	Nippon Maru	M. May 6
Hongkong.....	O. S. S.....	Mexico Maru	Tu. May 7
Europe.....	N.Y.K.....	Miyazaki Maru	W. May 8
Seattle.....	N.Y.K.....	Awa Maru	W. May 8
Tacoma.....	O. S. S.....	Tacoma Maru	Tu. May 14
Hongkong.....	C. P. R.....	Monteagle	F. May 17
America.....	T. K. K.....	Chiyo Maru	Sa. May 18
Seattle.....	G. N.....	Minnesota	Sa. May 18

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Correspondence enclosing full details at first writing invited.

THE INTERNATIONAL BANKERS ALLIANCE.

14-16-18 Bloomsbury Street, London, England
Sept. 9th, 1911. S. 17

Messrs. The

IMPORTANT!

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 1912.

DEATH.

CURTIS.—At Tokyo, April 26th, 1912, GERTRUDE BENEDICT, wife of Rev. W. L. Curtis, of Niigata.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

H.M. THE EMPRESS has been pleased to donate 100,000 yen to the international Red Cross Societies Conference to be held at Washington on and

after May 7th next, for the encouragement of philanthropic work.

THE death is announced of Mr. Justin MacCarthy.

BARON OZAWA and his party arrived at New York on the 16th ultimo.

A CHOSEN Sugar Company will shortly be established with a capital of 5,000,000 yen.

THE Russian Minister of the Navy is expected to pay a visit to Vladivostok this summer.

THE death is announced of Mrs. Livingstone Bruce, a daughter of David Livingstone.

THE death is announced of Mr. Abraham (Bram) Stoker, the literary, art and dramatic critic.

DR. Eliot will arrive in this country on June 1st instead of May 6th as previously announced.

ADMIRAL TOGO and General Nogi have been decorated with the Order of the Bath by H.M. King George.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL Sir B. L. Gordon has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Australian Commonwealth forces.

ABOUT four o'clock on Tuesday morning a slight earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, lasting some forty seconds.

H.M. THE EMPEROR has been pleased to grant the sum of 2,200 yen to the sufferers by the recent fire at Matsumoto.

A GENERAL meeting of the Oriental Development Company will take place on May 20th at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce.

MR. LYNE, director of Agriculture in Portuguese East Africa, has been appointed director of the new Agricultural Department in Ceylon.

PROF. NARUSE, President of the Women's University, will start on a tour of inspection throughout Europe and America early in July.

MR. YAMAZA, Councillor of the Japanese Embassy in London, who has been staying in New York en route for home, left that city on Sunday last.

PRINCE KANIN, who has been in Chiba prefecture on an official mission, returned to Tokyo on Monday evening, arriving at Shimbashi by the 6.04 train.

WE are informed that the Misses Dixon and Miss Kent have removed from their late residence 29, Shimbashi-cho, Shiba, and are now residing at 37, Mita Ichome.

MR. MOTODA, Chief of the Exportation Bureau, will entertain the Formosan aborigines now sojourning in the capital on the 7th instant at the office of the Bureau.

THE death is announced of Mr. Tsukada Tatsujiro, councillor of the Finance Department, the sad event taking place on the 25th ultimo. He was in his forty-fifth year.

ACCORDING to official investigations, the amount sent to this country in the 44th year from the Japanese immigrants abroad amounted to something like 16,394,602 yen.

THE journal *Vaderland* says that by the death of Mr. W. T. Stead the world has lost a worker, fighter and hero without equal. It suggests that if grateful humanity desires to erect a monument

to his memory. The Hague would honour itself by offering a site in the shadow of the Palace of Peace.

SUPERINTENDENT ARAKAWA, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, has been appointed Councillor of the Saiseikai by H.H. Prince Fushimi, President of the organization.

MR. HERT, Minister to Chili, who is home on furlough, will give a lecture on South America at the Lecture Hall of the Tokyo Imperial University at half past two on Monday afternoon.

THE Kure Port Admiralty will hold its Spring manoeuvres for four days from the 26th ultimo. Some 20 warships, consisting of destroyers, torpedo-boats and submarines, will participate.

A JAPANESE concert will be given on May 5th at three o'clock in the afternoon at the residence of Baron Iwasaki, at Takanawa. Prince and Princess Kanin will honour the occasion with their presence.

ON Saturday night last, a down freight train came into collision with an up goods train at Ebetsu station, Sapporo. Some seven carriages were smashed and six railway men, including two locomotive drivers, were seriously injured.

THE O.S.K. steamer *America Maru* arrived in Kobe on Saturday morning last, with a tourist party consisting of 52 Formosan aborigines. After doing the sights in Kobe and Kyoto, they arrived at Shimbashi on Monday morning.

IN memory of the late Dr. Edward Divers, F.R.S., a meeting of his old friends, colleagues and students, will be held at the "Goten" in the University grounds, Hongo, on the 10th inst., at 4.30 p.m., when Professor Haga will deliver a memorial lecture.

ON Sunday night last a suspension bridge over the Tone river connecting Ogawa-mura and Kami Maki-mura in Gumbia prefecture, suddenly broke down. Twelve persons were on the bridge when it fell. Six of these were rescued, but two were drowned and four are still missing.

A MEETING was held on the 27th ultimo at two at the Peers' Club under the auspices of Baron Goto, Vice-President of the Russo Japanese Association. Among others, Mr. Natsuki who has been at Harbin, and Prof. Shiratori, of the Tokyo Imperial University, will deliver lectures.

VICE-ADMIRAL WINSLOW, Commander-in-Chief of the British China Squadron, is expected to arrive at Yokohama on or about May 12th next on board his flag-ship. The Commander-in-Chief of the French Squadron is also expected to arrive in Yokohama early next month on his flag-ship *Duplex*.

THE competition between the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and the British India S.S. Company on the Calcutta route seems to be growing in intensity. The latter company which has bought up all the vessels belonging to the Apar Company, is now said to be about to purchase the Indo-China Company. To counteract this, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has replaced the liners of 5,000 tons hitherto run on the route, by those of 6,000 tons. They are also said to be contemplating placing the Bombay liner *Ceylon* on the above course, while the freight rates have been decreased from 9 yen to 4½ yen. In these circumstances the losses of the two companies must be considerable. The authorities of the Nippon Yusen, are said to be determined to fight to the end, for the sake of the Indo-Japanese trade.

CHINA.

Friday, April 26.

The latest information from Peking confirms the previously received report that the commotion in the Chinese Cabinet has its origin in the relations of Premier Tang with the Minister of Home Affairs, Chao Ping-chun, and the Minister of War, General Tuan Chih-jui. The correspondents of Tokyo journals send long telegrams with reference to this trouble, which they evidently view with much misgiving. But it is unnecessary to enter into all the details described by these correspondents. The broad facts are sufficient for foreign readers. Those facts are that Tang Shao-i, relying on the services rendered by him in Nanking, is inspired by a desire to oust his colleagues Chao and Tuan, whose services to the cause of republicanism have been chiefly confined to Peking. Mr. Tang on his recent journey from Nanking, was accompanied by some two hundred of his Southern partisans and it was not unnaturally inferred in Peking that he intended to supplant with these men the officials already administering affairs in the metropolis. Tang's demeanour when visiting the Home Department after his arrival in Peking confirmed this forecast, for he is said to have used almost insulting language to the officials of that Department, ridiculing their old-fashioned ways and informing them that drastic changes would be necessary. Premier Tang, a native of Canton, is said to have all the qualities peculiar to the Cantonese, but modesty and tact are not among those qualities. It is hinted by some publicists that he has in view his own ultimate appointment to the Presidency in lieu of Yuan Shih kai, and that that ambition inspires his present somewhat unquiet conduct. Such a suspicion might have been expected, and we have no means at present of ascertaining its justice. But there is no concealing the fact that dissensions of a more or less acute nature have occurred in administrative circles in Peking, and that President Yuan has the misfortune of seeing his new Cabinet threatened with disruption. Nothing would be more regrettable, for it is essential to the success of Republican institutions in China that the hands holding the helm of State at the outset should be firmly knitted.

An interesting telegram received from Peking by the *Asahi Shimbun* quotes the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, as saying that the programme of President Yuan is, first, to form an administration including men of experience and ability, and then to submit the administrative scheme for the approval of the Council of State. He says that Japanese institutions will be largely copied, and that all the officials now in office will be removed and, for the most part, reappointed. Unfortunately this programme appears to have been misconstrued by those directly affected, namely, the officials already in office. They imagined that their removal would be permanent, and they consequently adopted an attitude partaking of the nature of a strike. The total amount of expenditure incurred in reference to this work of large reconstruction is estimated at 36 million *taels*, and consequently that sum has been proposed to the Loan Syndicate as the first instalment of China's indebtedness to the financiers represented by the Syndicate. So soon as

this part of the programme is completed, envoys will be sent to all the capital cities of the world to solicit international recognition of the Chinese Republic.

Saturday, April 27.

Accounts from various sources agree in interpreting the present Cabinet crises in Peking as a struggle between centralization and local autonomy. The President is in favour of the former and has enrolled his name as a member of a party having centralization for object. Tang Shao-i, on the contrary, is all for local autonomy, and has declared his allegiance to a different party whose platform is based on that system. The chief practical issue which depends upon this divergence of views is the nomination of provincial governors-general. President Yuan advocates the appointment of these important officials by the Central Government, whereas Premier Tang favours their election by the people or by the province directly concerned. It is evident that great importance attaches to this question, and that if Premier Tang's policy were adopted, a very dangerous measure of divided authority would be called into existence. Evidently Premier Tang is a most pronounced radical, and is prepared to take perilous risks rather than defer for any length of time the execution of his democratic views. If this be the true analysis of the Home Minister, Mr. Chao Ping-chun's resignation, it is evident that a very perplexing situation has arisen for President Yuan. Mr. Chao Ping-chun has always been regarded as enjoying a large measure of President Yuan's confidence, and the same may be said, with some reservation, of General Tuan Chih-jui, Minister of War, whose resignation has also been tendered. Unless some means of reconciling these divergent opinions can be discovered, the Tang Cabinet will be badly shaken, if not overthrown. Meanwhile President Yuan is said to be strenuously exerting himself to effect a compromise, and in some quarters it is thought that a settlement will be found by accepting the resignation of the minister of Home Affairs and appointing him to be Governor-General in one of the more important provinces.

A telegram to the *Kokumin Shimbun* from Peking gives figures which are said to represent the salaries proposed for Ministers of State in China under the new regime. These figures are 5,000 *yen* per month for the Prime Minister, and 2,000 per month for the other Ministers of State. Such salaries are on a scale much higher than that adopted in Japan. Nothing is said as to the emoluments of the President, nor do we learn whether or not the above salaries include entertaining allowances. Hitherto the rule in China has been to pay Chinese officials according to a very economical schedule, leaving them to compensate themselves by means of the unwritten perquisites of their offices. But under the new regime, a different method seems likely to be adopted. There can be no question as to the academical superiority of the latter system, but it must be confessed that the Chinese Empire presented in former days special characteristics which have to be taken into consideration before wholly condemning the old method.

Sunday, April 28.

The message addressed by the new Chinese Minister of Finance, Hsiung Shuling, to the various Governors of provinces

throughout the Chinese realm and reproduced elsewhere in these columns, discloses a decidedly alarming financial condition. What is difficult to explain is that, according to this document, China must have been faced for several years back by a heavy deficit, and how she dealt with this difficulty no satisfactory explanation is offered. If the new Finance Minister be really determined to obtain from all the provinces a trustworthy and exact statement of figures, the mere fact will do much to restore China's credit. It is obvious that unless the revenues and expenditures of the nation can be brought to something like equilibrium, the floating of foreign loans, even were it possible, will serve only as a temporary palliative. The subject is of paramount importance and the world awaits with keen interest the reply made by the local officials to the Minister's inquiry.

The latest news from Peking is to the effect that fifty Councillors of State have arrived in that city, and that the session of the Council will commence on the 29th instant. It is said to be probable that President Yuan will not attend the first meeting but will be represented by Premier Tang.

Great efforts have been made by President Yuan to retain the services of Mr. Wu Tingfang. The latter having declined to accept the post of Chief Adviser in Foreign Affairs, Yuan addressed to him a warm letter, eulogizing his work and saying that if the conditions and climate of the South do not suit Mr. Wu, he is invited to say so frankly, when another post will be found for him.

A few days ago, news was received in Tokyo that a project was on foot to bridge the river between Wuchang and Hankow. It is now stated, however, that instead of a bridge a tunnel is contemplated, the cost of which will be about 6 million *taels*.

Monday, April 29.

It is evident that President Yuan is employing all possible means of reconciling the disputes that have arisen between Premier Tang, on the one hand, and the Ministers of Home Affairs and of War, on the other. Some rumours allege that the President will succeed in reestablishing concord, but other authorities affirm that a conflict between the North and the South is inevitable. The latest canon, for such it certainly deserves to be called, is that Premier Tang made his escape to Wuchang on the 26th instant, fearing that the radical reforms would endanger his life. Other newsmongers represent him as lying concealed in the Grand Hotel in Peking. We need hardly say that these stories come from wholly irresponsible sources. What seems to be certain, however, is that Premier Tang was accompanied on his journey from Nanking by some two hundred expectant officials, and the arrival of these persons in the capital suggested wholesale changes in the personnel of the administrative body, thus creating a feeling of much uneasiness. It also seems true that Tang wore his radicalism too patently on his sleeve, thus provoking needless opposition from the outset. Another rumour, which probably deserves to be classed with the above, has it that President Yuan himself is anxious to step down from the places of power, and that he has written to Vice-President Li signifying his own intention of retiring and asking Li to come to the capital.

Tuesday, April 30.

In spite of predictions to the contrary,

President Yuan himself attended the Council of State which held its first meeting in the hall of the Peking Law College on the 29th instant. Great precautions were taken to guard against any violence. The whole of the streets leading from the President's residence to the place of meeting were lined with soldiers and police, and Yuan himself was accompanied by a guard of three hundred men. In the chamber of the College seventy-five members of the Council of State were assembled, and this may be said to have been the first National Assembly in China. Among the seventy-five were included all those who formed the Council of State at Nanking. It will be seen from the detailed account published elsewhere in our columns that President Yuan defined his policy very clearly, the three principal points being the raising of a foreign loan, the amendment of the system of taxation, the improvement of the currency, and the appointment of a foreign adviser on financial matters. His Excellency spoke also of the revenue from salt, which is evidently regarded as the most promising source of State income in China. It is telegraphed that the galleries of the chamber were crowded, a number of foreign journalistic correspondents being present, as well as several ladies representing the women's franchise agitation. Everything seems to have passed off quietly, and the whole affair occupied only 40 minutes, namely, from 10 to 10.40 a.m.

The *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram to the effect that the financial adviser alluded to by the President has already been decided upon and that he will be the Dutch expert who directs the affairs of the Bank of Java.

Wednesday, May 1.

The speech delivered by President Yuan in the Council of State on the 29th ultimo is to be regarded as his Presidential message, and as such is circulated verbatim. It was evidently correct to say, as was recently said, that *Likin* is to be abolished. The message is explicit on this point. On the other hand, export duties are to be diminished and import duties increased. We cannot be surprised that China in this matter is following the example of all Western Powers, Great Britain excepted. Another interesting feature of the message is that the salt-tax is to constitute the principal security for the big foreign loan now contemplated. Moreover, foreigners are to be employed for the purpose of adjusting the tax, and all troops now under arms are to be disbanded with the exception of the standing army. Finally, all the obligations hitherto connected with the country's foreign relations are to be recognized and discharged by the Republican Government.

The Council of State had its first dispute on the 30th ultimo, when the members that had been duly elected by popular vote objected to the Nanking delegates as lacking the essential qualification of the people's choice. To this the Nanking delegates replied that the objection should have been made immediately on the assembling of the Council of State on the previous day. A similar protest was lodged with regard to the President of the Council, Mr. Lin. It was objected that whereas he should have been elected by the Council itself, he took the chair on the strength of his Nanking connexion. Mr. Lin ultimately resigned, but the

question of the Nanking members' qualification had not been settled at the date of the latest telegram, and the business of the Council was suspended.

In spite of the above disputes, the Peking correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs to his journal in a strain of unqualified applause, and we may therefore assume that these difficulties as to the qualifications of the members of the Council are not cardinal.

As for the Cabinet itself, there still appears to be a deficiency of four Ministers. Three are already in Peking, two are *en route* for the capital, and one will soon set out from Europe to receive his portfolio. But the other four Departments are still without heads, and nothing has been settled with regard to them as yet.

It is evident that the two political parties in Peking are becoming more and more hostile. These parties are the *Tungmin-hui* (called by the Japanese *Domei kai*) and the *Tungji-hui* (called by the Japanese *Toitau-kai*). President Yuan has joined the latter and is said to be assisting it with funds; and Premier Tang is alleged to be supporting the former. At present, the great question between the two relates to the nomination of Governors-General. President Yuan's party, the *Tungji-hui*, advocates nomination by the Cabinet in Peking and considerable curtailment of independent authority; whereas Premier Tang and his followers advocate nomination by the people of the locality concerned. It is curious that this radical difference of opinion should exist from the very outset of the new Cabinet's career, but all accounts agree that it does exist.

Thursday, May 2.

The dispute which threatened at one moment to become acute in the Council of State in Peking has been amicably adjusted. The terms of settlement are that representatives nominated at Nanking shall sit in the Council pending the advent of representatives duly chosen by the people in various localities. This arrangement seems to have been evolved on the evening of the 3rd ultimo, and it was further decided that Mr. Tang Hwa-lung, the representative of Hupeh province, should be appointed President of the Council. The 1st and the 2nd instant were to be devoted to organizing the Council, and the legislative opening is to take place on the 3rd instant.

Another attempt have been made upon the life of General Hwang who now commands in the Yangtze Valley. This is the third time that the hand of the assassin has been raised against Hwang. On the first occasion it was thought that the bomb thrown in his vicinity was accidental and that the thrower did not aim at Hwang's life. But when a second bomb followed a few days later, this comfortable theory had to be abandoned, and now the third missile shows clearly that Hwang's life is seriously threatened by some band of miscreants. Doubtless the throwers of these bombs belong to the Imperialist party, and it is to be feared that unless their plot can be laid bare, Hwang's safety can hardly be preserved. In view of these occurrences the public will cease to be surprised at the extraordinary precautions adopted by President Yuan when he proceeded to the first meeting of the Council of State in Peking on the 29th ultimo. Not only did every street through which he passed have a line of soldiers and police on either side, but also the carriage in which

the President rode was surrounded by a powerful cavalry guard and was driven at high speed to his destination. The only consolation is that Chinese bomb-throwers seem to be more than ordinarily unsuccessful. Apparently they think as much of saving their own lives as of taking the lives of their victims, and that divided mood is fatal to efficiency.

Another political party seems to have been formed in Peking. It consists of all the coteries outside the *Tungmin-hui* and the *Tungji-hui*. Whether these outside coteries number six or three, the telegraph leaves us in doubt, but a much more important point is that Vice-President Li is reported to have accepted the leadership of this newly formed association. If that be the case, Peking has come into possession of three independent political parties headed by men who belong to the same group of officials, namely, President Yuan, Vice-President Li and Premier Tang. An explanation of this curious state of affairs is much to be desired. The most credible solution of the problem is that the small coteries mentioned above have not formed a separate association but have enrolled themselves in the ranks of the *Tungji-hui*, so that there are now really only two parties in existence; one under the leadership of Premier Tang, and the other under that of General Hwang and ex-President Sun Yat-sen.

THE EDUCATIONAL TEST IN AMERICA.

We learn from information obtained by the *Hochi Shimbun* at the Foreign Office in Tokyo that the Educational test which is to be hereafter applied, if the Bill now awaiting endorsement by the Lower House becomes law, will have very little effect in restricting Japanese immigration. In the first place, it appears that each candidate will be examined in the language of his home country; and in the second, statistics show that the percentage of illiterate Japanese who proceed to America every year is conspicuously small. The following returns demonstrate this:—

Italy	20,500	Number of illiterate	8,500
Poland	4,600	"	1,400
Balkan Peninsula...	1,200	"	438
China.....	4,600	"	500
Japan.....	1,100	"	23

It is evident from the above that the Japanese are the best educated of all the foreign immigrants reaching America every year.

LOCAL AUTONOMY IN CHINA.

All appearances go to indicate that parliamentary institutions in China will be occupied from the outset with the question of local autonomy. President Yuan is strongly in favour of centralization of the administrative power. He has placed himself at the head of the centralization Party, and is supported vigorously by Mr. Chang Ping-ling, Principal Adviser to the Cabinet. The latter is said to be in favour of imposing many restrictions upon the powers of the local Governors-General so as to strengthen the hands of the central administration. Mr. Wu Ting-fang, on the contrary, who is said to have just resigned his position as Principal Adviser in Foreign Affairs, is said to have joined the Unionist Party and to be preaching the doctrine of local autonomy. Along these lines, therefore, conservatism and liberalism are evidently destined to march in the new Republic.

CHINA'S LOANS.

Friday, April 26.

An anonymous official of the Foreign Office in Tokyo is quoted by a journal of that city as saying that the course adopted by the Chinese statesmen with regard to the Belgian Loan was practically dictated by the circumstances. China's only wise plan was to tender frank apology for what had occurred. Doubtless the Peking statesmen acted with all good faith in this matter, but certainly the route they adopted was not wise. As to the representatives of the foreign capitalists, it is unlikely that they will raise any more difficulties. Expediency and inclination dictate that they should not insist upon refusing to accept China's apology. It is in their best interests to lend the necessary funds, and doubtless they will undertake to satisfy any legitimate claims that Belgium may have to prefer.

It is reported that independently of the large loan about to be made by the Syndicate, two small loans are in process of negotiation in Shanghai. One of these minor loans is for a sum of two million *taels* to be employed in paying off the troops stationed in and about that place. This loan will be secured by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and repaid out of the proceeds of the Syndicate's Loan. Apparently the transaction is likely to be successful. The second of the independent loans is for 10 million *taels*, and the proceeds will be applied to replenishing the coffers of Shanghai commerce, so as to restore to the city some measure of prosperity. But this transaction is not likely to be put through.

Tokyo journals publish a telegram from Shanghai to the effect that on the 23rd instant Russia and Japan formally announced their adhesion to the Four-Powers Loan project. The telegram adds that, according to present forecasts, all the preliminaries of the Loan will shortly be concluded and the transaction will be duly signed and sealed on about the 15th of May.

Saturday, April 27.

The news is confirmed that on the day after his arrival in Peking, Premier Tang waited upon the Representatives of the Four Powers, and agreed with their suggestion to express regret for the contracting of a loan from Belgium, which transaction was dictated solely by China's immediate need of a comparatively small sum. The Chinese Premier further agreed to undertake that there should hereafter be no financial excursions outside the ranks of the Four-Powers Syndicate. The United States Representative appears to have shown great sympathy with the Chinese in this matter, and to have given them powerful assistance.

It is said, on apparently good authority, that the Chinese Government is asking for a sum of 35 million *taels* before the end of this month, but that 6¼ millions paid monthly will suffice for future administrative needs. The presumption is that 35 millions are required for paying off the troops; but if that amount suffices for such a purpose, all previous statements must have been gross exaggerations.

It will be observed that nothing is said at this time about compensation for the enormous losses incurred by the citizens of Peking, Tientsin and Paoting in connexion with the military riots. One can scarcely imagine that these unfortunate people will

receive no solatium whatever. They are clamouring for assistance, but the Central Government is evidently indisposed to help them.

As to the prospects of the Four-Power Loan, the present outlook is that the money will be furnished so soon as China agrees to foreign supervision of her finance, and that a sufficient atonement will be made to Belgium in the form of monetary compensation.

Sunday, April 28.

Premier Tang Shao-i paid a second visit on the 26th instant to the Representatives of the Four Powers, and succeeded, according to the telegraph, in arriving at a satisfactory understanding. The Syndicate is said to have virtually pledged itself to find the necessary funds, and to hand them over at the dates desired by the Chinese Government. According to another account, however, the Syndicate has refused to make an immediate advance of 35 million *taels* and will confine itself to the original arrangement, namely, the payment of 6,400,000 *taels* monthly. The rate of interest works out at 6.28 per cent., and therefore it is expected that Japanese bankers will be only too pleased to put up their portion of the loan. The present expectation is that Japan and Russia will formally announce their coöperation with the Syndicate now that the latter has reached a clear understanding with the Chinese Government, and now that the Belgian transaction has been abandoned.

Monday, April 29.

The Chinese local authorities seem to be conducting their financial operations independently of the Four-Powers Syndicate. Thus at Shanghai a loan of 5 million *marks* is said to have been concluded with a German firm, the proceeds to be applied to discharging the troops and to other purposes. The loan is said to be for a period of six months, and the agreement is that it will be repaid out of the proceeds of the Four-Powers Loan.

From Wuchang also comes news that something very like local autonomy is being practised by the Authorities there. Vice-President Li is said to be negotiating a loan of 20 to 30 million *taels* without holding any previous consultation with the Peking Government. A large part of this loan is to go to the Hupeh army.

The prospects of the conclusion of the Four-Powers Loan on the lines reported yesterday are no longer so assured as was supposed. It is now said that the syndicate will not grant more than 20 million *taels*, instead of 35 millions, as a provisional accommodation.

There is also a rumour that the main loan has not yet been agreed upon in principle. Difficulty has presented itself with regard to the foreign supervision. The foreign Powers insist on demanding that their conditions shall be strictly complied with, and although President Yuan himself is willing to comply, it is feared that such an arrangement will be strongly resented by the Young China Party. There is not the smallest prospect of China getting a really substantial loan unless she agrees to foreign supervision, and it seems to us highly improbable that any considerable section of her population will seriously object to such an arrangement.

It is semi-officially stated that Japan has not yet actually entered the Four-Powers

Syndicate. What is happening is that the Tokyo Government is consulting the bankers of the country with regard to their readiness to put up funds for the purpose of the loan.

Tuesday, April 30.

With regard to the loan said to have been made with an Austrian firm which has engaged to supply arms to China, it is stated that this transaction was arranged many months ago, and that the sum now outstanding is the last instalment of the loan. Probably, therefore, no objection will be raised by the Four-Powers Syndicate. As to the loan from a German bank, rumour alleges that the transaction was undertaken by the Shanghai branch of the bank in question, but that it has not been endorsed by the head office. Another account says, however, that this loan has actually been endorsed by Yuan Shih-kai.

Wednesday, May 1.

There is a slight discrepancy in the accounts received this morning as to the progress of China's principal loan. One version of the situation is that the Council of State is prepared to endorse the appointment of a foreign financial adviser and that consequently the transaction may be considered as concluded. But another telegram affirms that the Syndicate is carrying on a written correspondence with Premier Tang and that direct negotiations will not be commenced until the questions of the Belgian loan and the foreign adviser are settled. Finally, the *Chuo* publishes a message to the effect that Premier Tang repaired to the British Legation on the forenoon of the 29th ultimo, and settled the whole question then and there, so that henceforth the foreign syndicate of four Powers will become a syndicate of six Powers.

Thursday, May 2.

There is absolutely no substantial intelligence this morning as to the progress of China's loans. On the other hand, it would seem that no hitch has arisen. The Council of State has reconciled itself to the idea of a foreign adviser or supervisor of finance. There seems to be no difficulty about the title, although that point evidently has considerable importance. The Chinese are pressing for a substantial payment in advance of the main portion of the loan, and no doubt their wish will be complied with. The possibility that the sudden introduction of so much foreign capital may disturb the Chinese market and excite a speculative mood is naturally causing some anxiety, and the manner of using the money will be carefully controlled by the Chinese financiers in coöperation with the foreign adviser.

There are various rumours about practical steps to be taken with regard to the Belgian loan, but we may safely assume that some more or less satisfactory exit from the dilemma will be found.

The *Chiuwō Shimbun* has a telegram from Peking to the effect that the six Powers are showing a very obdurate front and have formulated three inevitable stipulations. The first is that China shall agree to placing her entire finance under foreign supervision; the second, that a council shall be formed out of the staff of the foreign garrison troops now in China together with the staff of the Chinese army, and that by this council shall be discussed and decided all measures connected with the disbanding of the Chinese army; and the third, that the money bor-

rowed from Belgium shall not be repaid out of the proceeds of the Six-Powers Loan.

On the other hand, the *Hochi Shimbun* publishes a cablegram from Nanking to the effect that General Hwang, Commander-in-Chief in the Yangtze Valley, has formulated an objection to floating a foreign loan in any circumstances. He advocates the raising of funds by floating domestic bonds.

IMPERIAL PROGRESSES.

From time to time severe journalistic criticisms are published as to the conduct of officials charged with the duty of preserving order along routes traversed by his Majesty the Emperor or some other member of the Imperial Family. Great indignation was caused in connexion with the Tochigi manoeuvres of 1910 when the country folks who had assembled in great numbers to watch the Emperor's progress, were obliged by the police to lower their umbrellas and take off their hats, with the result that they had to stand for a long time in a downpour of rain so that their holiday costumes were destroyed. A pending visit of the Prince Imperial to Shiga prefecture appears to have been made the occasion of a proclamation by the Governor, ordering the police to stop all traffic on roads traversed not merely by the Prince but even by officials of the Household Department. This instruction is provoking much comment, and the critics take advantage of the occasion to recall the fact that traffic is sometimes held up in Tokyo for one or two hours in connexion with the passage of some Imperial personage. It is well understood that much of the superfluous caution is due to a selfish desire on the part of the officials concerned to insure themselves against blame by adopting almost extravagant precautions. That, however, only accentuates the grievance. It is well understood that the Emperor himself would never sanction procedure causing so much inconvenience to the citizens. But of course his Majesty has no knowledge about the immediate preface or sequel of his journeys within the capital or the provinces. The officials concerned are acting without his Majesty's cognizance or consent.

PRESIDENT ELIOT.

The President of Harvard University has reached Peking in the course of his travels and was there entertained at dinner by Mr. Mizuno, the Japanese *Chargé d'Affaires*. Of course speeches were delivered, but the telegraph abbreviates them greatly. Mr. Mizuno, we are told, referred to the yellow journals and the jingo journals as contriving that the political firmaments of Manchuria and Korea should be perpetually overcast with clouds, but he trusted that Mr. Eliot, after his travels in those regions, would be able to restore clear sunshine to the scene. President Eliot, after dwelling upon the thoroughly friendly relations existing between Japan and the United States, went on to declare that he regarded it as his mission to leave nothing undone which could help to clear away the clouds of war from Eastern skies and thus contribute to the cause of peace throughout the world. These speeches are said to have produced a marked effect upon public opinion in China.

THE JAPANESE ARMY.

A number of changes have occurred in the upper ranks of the Japanese Army but only four of them have special interest for foreigners. These four are the nomination of Lieutenant-General Baron Fukushima, now Vice-Chief of the Headquarter Staff, to be Governor-General of the Kwantung Leased Territory; the removal of the present Governor-General, namely, General Viscount Oshima, to the ranks of the Army Council; the appointment of Major-General Oshima Takekazu to be the Vice-President of the Headquarter Staff, and the appointment of Major-General Yamanashi, who now commands the First Brigade, to be Chief of the Headquarter-Staff Department in lieu of Major-General Oshima. The press of Tokyo regards with much favour Lieutenant-General Baron Fukushima's nomination to the Governor-Generalship of Kwantung. General Viscount Oshima held that post for seven years and discharged its duties with great ability. But on more than one occasion friction arose owing to the fact that there are virtually three heads in Kwantung, namely, the Governor-General, the President of the Railway Company and the Consul-General. Viscount Oshima found this so inconsistent with efficiency that he protested strongly and finally sent in his resignation. But on that occasion a compromise was effected by arranging that in the discharge of certain functions the Consuls should be under the control of the Governor-General. This question, however, demands more radical settlement, and there appears to be a strong hope that Baron Fukushima will find some suitable exit from the arena of clashing views.

MONGOLIA.

With regard to Mongolia, the latest news is that the *Gegen* has informed the various Kahns that Mongolia is now determined to adopt republican institutions, and that the first President will very shortly be elected by popular vote. Whether the Kahns have publicly endorsed this change, there has not been any information, but it may be inferred that they have done so, for in answer to the above declaration they are said to have advised that all Chinese citizens residing in Mongolia shall be required to pay taxes. Meanwhile, the Mongolians in the neighbourhood of Uriastai appear to be following the example of the Tibetans in Lassa. A hundred of them have organized themselves into a band for raiding Chinese stores and residences. As for the Peking Government, it is endeavouring to solve the situation, and for that purpose commissioners have been despatched to discuss matters amicably with the *Gegen* and the Kahns. It is now perfectly clear that Russia intends Northern Mongolia to serve as a buffer State, and that she will support the Mongolians against any attempt on the part of the Chinese to impose their yoke upon north Mongolia. Certainly the last few months have been productive of most unanticipated events. Who could have imagined a year ago that China and her Border States would be engaged to-day in substituting a Republican polity for an unlimited monarchy by which they had been governed for many centuries?

PROFESSOR SHIRATORI.

Professor Shiratori of the Imperial Japanese University enjoys the reputation of being one of the best informed men in the country about everything connected with Mongolia and Manchuria. At a meeting of the Russo-Japanese Society held in Tokyo on the 27th ultimo, the Professor closed a learned speech by declaring that from time immemorial Central Manchuria had drifted from the aegis of one Power to that of another, and had never enjoyed any permanent status. At one time it was a dependency of China, at another time it belonged to Korea, and in modern days it fell into the sphere of Russian influence. At present Manchuria may be said to be drifting on the sea of three Powers, Russia, China and Japan. So long as these exercise absolutely equal influence over the region, peace will be preserved, but the marked preponderance of any one of the three Powers would quickly result in a rupture of tranquillity. This means that China must be sufficiently organized to act a resolute and effectual part, which is precisely what she did not seem prepared to do. Her people's political ideas are very crude, and they are, above all, unwilling to make any sacrifice in the cause of the nation as a whole. This is specially noticeable in the matter of taxes. The average Chinaman has been taught by his sages that a really competent sovereign does not require his subjects to pay taxes, but rather guarantees them against anything so inconvenient. So long as this belief prevails, China will not be able to exercise any real international influence.

FORMOSA.

On the 25th ultimo operations of an extensive character were commenced by the Japanese in Formosa. Three thousand men were employed, but the exact composition of the force is not published, and we can only presume that it consisted mostly of *aiyu*. A very extended front is said to be involved, and the scene of the campaign is laid in the most remote regions of the island. It is expected, therefore, that if the operations be successful, a lasting effect will be produced upon the aborigines.

Simultaneously with military operations arrangements have been made for another visit to Japan by a number of the aborigines. The party will consist of fifty-three men, and they will be carried to all the important centres of military, naval and industrial Japan, in order that they may form a clear idea of the hopelessness of continued resistance in Formosa. There have been frequent visits by similar parties in the past and the results have been markedly successful.

The Japanese force operating in the interior of Formosa is experiencing desperate resistance. On the 26th ultimo, it was attacked by a large body of the aborigines, and four Japanese with four *aiyu* were severely wounded and two *aiyu* were killed. The assailants were, however, driven back, leaving two of their number dead on the ground.

On the morning of the 29th ultimo a party of Formosan aborigines numbering fifty-two, arrived at Shimbashi station, and are now busily engaged in seeing the sights of the Japanese capital.

THE STRIKE.

The strike of seamen and firemen has been settled by a kind of compromise. Speaking briefly, the shipping companies have agreed to increase the pay of seamen and firemen by 3 *yen* per month pending the decision of the *Kai-in Eisei-kai*, to which Association the duty of investigating the matter was entrusted some time ago. The behaviour of the strikers has been absolutely free from any semblance of violence. At first it was rumoured, as reported in these columns, that the Government intended to adopt drastic measures, namely, to punish the men under the law which declares it a criminal act for any seaman to leave his ship without permission, thereby impeding her navigable capacity. In point of fact, four of the men who preached the strike have actually been apprehended and are held for trial. But the others have been treated with all leniency. And indeed it must be confessed that the men had a just grievance. Their application for additional pay was made last year in the quietest and most respectful manner, and it was then promised that the question would be submitted for investigation by the *Kai-in Eisei-kai*, which association possesses universal confidence. But after waiting several months, the seamen and firemen found that there was no apparent prospect of the investigation being completed, and they then resorted to more emphatic measures. Hence some sympathy is felt with them. An understanding has now been arrived at in the sense that the Association's investigation shall be concluded within three months at latest, and until a decision is announced the above mentioned addition will be provisionally made to the seamen and the firemen. This agreement has released all the ships that were held up by the strike, and both sides are to be congratulated, the employees on their moderate and peaceful demeanour, and the employers on their just and sympathetic attitude.

The strike of Japanese seamen has been temporarily dealt with, the various companies promising to raise, or actually raising, the wages of the men, by from 10 per cent. to 3 *yen* per month. This measure, however, is only temporary. Nothing final will be done until the whole question has been sifted by investigations conducted under the auspices of the various companies concerned. The first meeting for the purpose was held on the 29th ultimo.

The general strike of seamen seems to outward appearances to have been settled, but a final solution is evidently not yet reached. The Mercantile Marine Bureau of the Department of Communications has decided to convene on the 29th ultimo representatives of the shipping companies and other parties concerned, to exchange views for a final solution of the trouble. The Government is anxious to reach an amicable settlement without having recourse to the drastic measure of setting the Mariners Law in motion.

THE TOKYO RAILWAY STRIKE.

On the 27th ultimo the public trial was commenced of sixty-three employees of the Tokyo Railway Company who are charged with inciting their comrades to strike, thus inflicting serious inconvenience on all the

residents of the city of Tokyo. The public procurator made a strong speech, declaring that an unpardonable crime has been committed by the prisoners, since they incited their fellow-employees to take a course which caused uncalculable inconvenience and loss to hundreds and thousands of citizens. Speaking generally, the present may be called the age of strikes. Almost every Occidental country has suffered from this cause, and nothing is more to be desired than that Japan should not be drawn into the vortex, but that her capital and her labour should unite cordially and peacefully for the development of her resources. Speaking specially, these fomentors of disturbance did not pause to consider that whatever complaint they might have had to make against the Company which formerly owned the Railway, they had no legitimate grievance of any kind against the Tokyo Municipality which had purchased the property. It thus appears that no justification whatever existed for their violent conduct, and the procurator called upon the court to impose the maximum penalty provided by the law, namely, six months' imprisonment. He further insisted that sentence should not be deferred in the case of more than one person out of the whole sixty-three.

Council for the defence was unable to make anything like a strong case. His chief argument was that had the accused persons been treated with more consideration by the Directors of the Company to which the line originally belonged, this trouble would never have arisen.

One of the prisoners was struck by apoplexy during the trial. The next hearing is fixed for the 7th of May, but as yet there is no indication of the date of delivering judgment.

On Tuesday last, in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo District Court, judgment was pronounced in the criminal case in which Katayama Sen, a well-known Socialist, and two others, are indicted for instigating the tramway-men's strike which took place early in January last. Katayama was found guilty and was sentenced to five months' imprisonment, while the two other accused got four months each.

YELLOW JOURNALS AGAIN.

The Hearst journals of the United States have again taken the field against Japan. The telegraph says that they have come out simultaneously with a whole page of indictment. They declare that Japanese exploiters supported by the Tokyo Government, have purchased large tracts of land in Magdalena Bay, and they invite their readers to draw the obvious inferences. Recently in connexion with these ugly rumours the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Tokyo despatched an official, to investigate the actual State of Affairs in Mexico and to report to his Government after making full inquiry. This very natural, in fact necessary, step furnishes material for the Hearst journals. They have seized upon it with avidity and are doing everything in their power to educate suspicion in the American mind about Japan's doings in Central America. Doubtless the world will know by and bye what the object of this crusade is. In the meanwhile we can only regret that a section of the Press of the great Republic should lend itself to such mischief-making.

THE DRAINAGE OF TOKYO.

Considerable commotion has been caused in Municipal quarters in Tokyo by the announcement that the Treasury is not prepared to put up more than one-third of the cost of supplying the city with good drains, instead of one-half as is said to have been originally promised. The Mayor of Tokyo is endeavouring to induce the council entrusted with the work to agree to the reduction during the present fiscal year on condition that the originally arranged amount shall be furnished by officialdom next year. But there is much difficulty in obtaining the endorsement of this arrangement. The Aldermen fear that the Government may draw back altogether next year, thus imposing the whole burden on the citizens. Moreover it is pointed out that the City Assembly passed the drainage bill on an explicit understanding that a moiety of the cost would be contributed by the Treasury, and it is therefore impossible to make the proposed change now without special permission from the citizens.

A Home Office authority is quoted as saying that, in regard to the contemplated drainage improvement in Asakusa and Shitaya wards, at a cost of about 6,300,000 *yen*, the Government has decided to grant a subsidy for one-third of the estimated cost, but the Municipality is making efforts to obtain an increase in the subsidy. The Government has a fixed policy as to subsidies for work of this nature and in no case can the subsidy exceed one-third of the cost. The Government can not, therefore, make an exception in the case of the Tokyo Municipality alone. The present plans were drawn up in 1906 when the minimum rainfall was put at 50 millimetres an hour. As the rainfall in 1907 registered 67 millimetres an hour, the Municipality has now under consideration a revision of the plan and estimates, and therefore the subsidy promised by the Government may also be subject to some modification.

BASEBALL IN TOKYO.

On the 27th ultimo the first of the series of games which are to be played by the Manila Military Baseball Team, came off on the grounds of the Keio Gijuku. The Japanese team was outclassed, victory being with the Americans by six games to three. It is thought by experts, however, that the Keio lads will give a better account of themselves hereafter.

The second of the series of games between the Manila military baseball team and the Keio Gijuku students took place at the Keio grounds on the 28th instant in the presence of an immense crowd of spectators. It will be remembered that in the game on the 27th ultimo, victory lay with the visitors, who scored six to the Keio lads' three. It may also be remembered that, as was stated in these columns, expert opinion predicted a better showing by the Keio Club on the next occasion. This prediction was fulfilled in the game on the 28th ultimo. The Keio scored eight against the visitors' two, a very signal victory. The total of runs now stands at eight for the Manila team against eleven for the Keio. The third match will be played on the Keio ground on the 4th instant.

RICE.

The question of the appreciation of rice continues to occupy a large place in the public's vista. Statistics are published showing the average quotations for the cereal during the past twenty years. They are as follow:—

Year.	Rice per <i>koku</i> in <i>yen</i> .
1892	7.184
1893	7.198
1894	8.776
1895	8.802
1896	9.245
1897	11.340
1898	14.129
1899	9.800
1900	11.538
1901	11.720
1902	12.275
1903	13.962
1904	13.353
1905	12.531
1906	14.038
1907	15.425
1908	15.256
1909	12.497
1910	12.685
1911	21.130

It will be seen from the above that the average yearly price up to 1907 and 1908 was 15 *yen* approximately and that the appreciation between 1902 and 1908 was 120 per cent. In 1909 and 1910 there was a marked depreciation, but in 1911 the price suddenly sprang up to over 21 *yen*. There has been of late a slight fall but the price is still abnormally high. In these circumstances the Authorities have thought it necessary to interfere. They have directed that from August next, Korean rice and Formosan rice shall be quoted on the Tokyo market side by side with Japanese rice, and they have further imposed restrictions upon time bargains in the market at Fukagawa.

In the Fukagawa suburb of Tokyo, there is a rice market known as the *Shomai Shijo*; in other words, a market for the sale of the actual cereal and not for time bargains after the manner of an ordinary exchange. It appears, however, that this institution has suffered from many abuses, and has become in part a speculative enterprise. Believing that such a method is more or less responsible for the marked appreciation of the cereal which has taken place within the past few months, the Government ordered an investigation to be made, and in the sequel of inquiry the managing director of the *Shomai Shijo* found that abuses did actually exist and made a frank admission to the Government. The latter accordingly decided not to proceed against the violators of the rules, but merely to enforce precautionary measures hereafter. It is believed that this will have a wholesome effect on the rice market.

The addition of Formosan and Korean rice to the varieties dealt with on 'Change has had the effect of lowering the price of the cereal by some 39 *sen* per *koku*. The reason of this is obvious, namely, that the quantity of rice coming into the market has been so increased as to render difficult anything like cornering.

Speaking practically, the quotation of Formosan and Korean rice on 'Change will have the effect of extending the limit of cheapness. Hitherto the custom was not to quote any rice that differed by more than two *yen* from the price of the best cereal. This difference of two *yen* was subsequently

reduced to 1½ *yen* to suit the convenience of speculators, and now that Formosan and Korean rice is admitted, the limit becomes 2½ *yen*. That figure will admit almost every class of the cereal produced in Japan, and will thus very greatly interfere with Bull operations on Exchange. It is accordingly expected that the price of the cereal will undergo considerable reduction.

FREIGHT RATES.

It is stated that the Japanese Department of Communications will, in a few days, grant the application made by Japanese ship-owners for an increase of rates by 10 per cent. on the European and Pacific lines. The Japan Mail Steamship Company, which represents Japanese maritime carriers, in this instance has been accused, especially by the *Asahi Shimbun*, of taking the lead in advocating the above change. But that is explicitly denied by the Company. The truth is that in this matter the Japanese companies concerned are constrained by their relations with foreign shipping firms. In other words, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamers on the European route and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's vessels on the American route, are units of a combination, each member of which is pledged to charge the same rate as the rest. The Directors of the Japan Mail Steamship Company declare that they would be quite content to continue the present schedule of charges, but it is out of the question for one company to separate itself from the rest and work independently of the latter. The Japanese Department of Communications recognizes this fact, and is therefore willing to endorse the proposed change, provided that the Japan Mail Steamship Company's Directors endeavour to induce their foreign colleagues to make a few alterations in the new schedule.

JAPAN AND THE PANAMA EXHIBITION.

It is beginning to be discussed in Tokyo whether Japan may not be too late to join the Panama Exhibition. The Press of the Japanese capital explains that the Cabinet has always been in favour of the country's due representation at the Exhibition, but it was feared that a powerful weapon of attack would be furnished to the Opposition if the Government with one hand abandoned the Meiji Cycle Exhibition, and with the other wrote into the estimates a large appropriation for the Panama Exhibition of 1915. No step in the nature of a grant of funds was made, therefore, in the current budget, the idea being that this step could be taken more conveniently in the Budget for next year. But it is now beginning to be asked whether next year's Budget will not be too late. Already the States that intend to be represented at Panama have sent commissioners and applied for sites. Japan will therefore find herself much belated if her application does not arrive until 1913. The Government in Tokyo is said to be about to despatch Mr. Yamawaki to Panama for the purpose of acquiring the necessary information preparatory to applying for admission. Mr. Yamawaki held an important post in connexion with the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition.

MANCHURIA.

There has been an interchange of civilities between Governor-General Chao in Mukden and General Viscount Oshima, the Japanese Governor-General of the Leased Territory. On the 24th ultimo the Chinese-Governor-General entertained his Japanese colleague at a brilliant banquet, and on the following day the compliment was returned by General Oshima. Speeches were of course delivered, but both sides carefully avoided any reference to current events in China. Governor-General Chao, after expressing his regrets that pressure of official duties had hitherto prevented him from paying a leisurely visit to the Leased Territory, went on to express satisfaction at the friendly relations between China and Manchuria and their neighbour Japan, and declared that it would be his aim to preserve and strengthen those relations.

We all remember very vividly that time and again during the recent revolutionary movement in China rumours were circulated tending to show that a strong anti-Republican feeling existed throughout Manchuria, and even that the Imperialist banner might be at any time shaken out there to the wind with the support of a formidable body of monarchists. But none of these sinister rumours found confirmation in fact. On the contrary, the spies sent out from Nanking and from Peking to obtain particulars of the real state of affairs in the Three Eastern Provinces, are said to have all reported that things were in a satisfactory condition, and that nothing need be apprehended from an Imperialist movement in Manchuria. To what extent the presence of Japanese troops along the lines of Railway from Port Arthur and Newchwang to Changchun tended to maintain public peace and good order, it is difficult to discern, but that this factor had large influence on the situation cannot be doubted. At all events, it appears that the doubts entertained at one time in Peking and Nanking have been completely dissipated. Vice-President Li has accordingly addressed to Governor-General Chao in Mukden a warmly worded acknowledgment of the energy and ability shown by the Governor-General in preventing anything like a practical demonstration of disloyalty to the Republican cause. The document is couched in such terms as to suggest that Governor-General Chao will become an even more prominent figure than he is at present on the stage of Chinese politics.

LAWN TENNIS IN TOKYO.

On the afternoon of the 27th ultimo, the six Yokohama lawn tennis champions repaired to Tokyo to play against an equal number of the members of the Tokyo Lawn Tennis Club. Five sets had to be played by each couple and the result was that Tokyo won by one set. We append the score.

Yokohama.	Tokyo.
I. J. Chapman	beat P. K. Condict.
6-3 6-2 8-6 6-2 6-3.	
C. A. Carr	beat K. Yamazaki.
6-1 6-3 6-3 6-3 6-1.	
K. van R. Smith	lost to J. R. Brinkley.
8-6 8-10 6-2 6-2 6-1.	
S. Stephens	lost to H. Kawasaki.
6-3 6-2 6-4 6-4 6-1.	
J. C. Gould	lost to Asabuki.
5-7 6-1 6-4 6-3 7-5.	
J. Dinsdale	lost to Baron N. Kuroda.
6-2 7-5 6-4 6-3 6-2.	

A FAITH CURE.

We take the following from the *Seoul Press*:-

A young Japanese living in Seoul is credited with possessing an extraordinary power in healing diseases by a very simple process. According to the accounts given by some of his clients, who have been cured by him of their ailments, he seems to be able to perform miracles such as are believed to have been wrought by Christ himself. At least it is certain that he is no humbug, for he is of a very respectable family and his miraculous power is attested by many reliable men. Mr. Sen-ichi Umayahara is his name. He is at present an official in the service of the Oriental Development Company. A young man of thirty, a retired officer of the Imperial Army, he is the son and heir of Mr. J. Umayahara, member of the House of Peers. He has a happy home in Seoul, living with his charming wife, daughter of Viscount Kurushima, and their little boy. We learn that about eight years ago, soon after graduating from Waseda University, Mr. Umayahara studied hypnotism and learned the art of curing certain diseases through that medium. He practised it on some patients with success and was inspired with an idea that he would be able to develop a power greater than that of hypnotism. He devoted himself for years to the study of psychology and philosophy with such earnestness that he at last broke down and was laid up for many days with serious illness. His efforts, however, were not put forth in vain, for at length he was able to master what he calls "the supreme power of universe" and cure all sorts of diseases by a very simple process. A reporter of ours, who has long been suffering from nervous debility and found all medical treatment ineffective, has recently been cured by Mr. Umayahara. He is a great believer in his miraculous power. He says that in treating a patient Mr. Umayahara does not give him any hint or medicine. Neither does he resort to hypnotism. He sits face to face with his patient and draws in deep breaths for a minute or so, as if he were concentrating his whole energy, and then touches him lightly in the body. That is the whole process.

At least 100 men in Seoul, Japanese and Korean, are said to have been cured by Mr. Umayahara. To cite a few instances, the mother of Mr. S. Shimoda, Manager of the Chosen Live Stock Company, was cured of chronic rheumatism and was enabled to move her right hand freely, which she had not been able to do for thirty years past. Dr. Doi, a well-known physician of Tokyo, who is a relative of the old lady, wrote to Mr. Umayahara a letter expressing his astonishment at the result and saying that with all his scientific knowledge and long experience he was unable to cure the old lady. Mr. Umayahara also cured of lameness a boy of Mr. Ito, of the Marine Products Company in South Gate Street. He is also credited with having given ordinary intelligence to a born idiot and having relieved many from disorders of the eye and ear and of toothache. In short there seems to be no human ailment which he cannot relieve. Sometimes his process results in immediate relief, but more often it requires some time before a patient is completely cured. The reporter of ours, above referred to, says that with each process administered his condition improved, until he recovered his normal health. He has given us further account of the miraculous power, but we refrain from publishing it except that Mr. Umayahara has no objection whatever to his client being treated by a medical practitioner at the same time. We may add that a client need not state his case to Mr. Umayahara. We are even told that a photograph will do.

We publish the above account at the risk of being jeered at by people calling or thinking themselves rationalists. Who can say, however, that modern science explains all? It any of our readers are interested in Mr. Umayahara's remarkable power, we shall have much pleasure in introducing them to this miracle-worker living among us in Seoul.

It must be confessed that the above reads very like a *bona fide* statement and not at all like a mere advertisement. Less than two years ago quite an excitement was caused in Tokyo by clairvoyant performances by young women who claimed the possession of special mesmeric power. Unfortunately the two principal figures in this episode died before the public had been able to make up its mind clearly as to the validity or invalidity of their claims. There can be no question that diseases have

been cured in all the eras of the world's history by faith, and it is very conceivable that Mr. Mr. Umayahara's experience belongs to this category.

RUSSIA.

Only two Japanese important journals have thus far commented at any length upon the speech just delivered in the Duma by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs. These journals are the *Asahi* and the *Chuo*. Both express unqualified satisfaction at the Russian statesman's declaration. They consider that St. Petersburg's policy frees Russia's hands for operations in the Near East and in the Far East alike. The former result has been obtained by Russia's alliance with England and France; and the latter by her policy with regard to Mongolia. She has declared in effect that Outer Mongolia must be regarded as included in her sphere of influence, but that Inner Mongolia is left to Japan's attention. We need hardly say that these journalistic utterances are not supposed to be prompted by any aggressive designs on Japan's part in Inner Mongolia. The only idea is that as this region lies on the flank of Japan's railway zone, her voice should be paramount in all questions where Inner Mongolia is concerned. Russia's open declaration of such a policy is regarded as proving clearly that she has laid aside all resentment against Japan in connexion with the War of 1904-5, and that she is prepared to move hand in hand with this country in Asia.

THE LENA GOLD-MINE.

The facts with reference to the shooting of a number of Chinese at the Lena gold-mine are assuming a different complexion now that the Russian version comes to be published. It appears that the Chinese working in the mine demanded an increase of salary and some shortening of the hours of labour. This demand was preferred last year, and the proprietors of the mine sent commissioners from St. Petersburg to examine into and report upon the facts. The commission advised an increase of pay but not any shortening of working hours. On learning of this decision the Chinese working at the mine struck *en masse* and proceeded in a tumultuous body, said to have numbered five thousand, to the offices of the administration. Their demeanour was so threatening that fire was opened on them, with the result that about a hundred and fifty were shot down. The event appears to have caused much indignation in Russia until the official version of the facts was published.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN DEBT.

Tokyo newspapers publish a statement of the amount of Japan's foreign debt and of the interest yearly accruing on the total. The figures are as follow:-

Nature of Debt	Amount of Principal in yen.	Yearly Interest in yen.
State Debt.....	1,437,449,203	62,711,242
Local Debts	176,313,875	8,859,617
Companies' Debts	151,250,000	7,266,250
Totals.....	1,765,013,078	78,837,109

The above does not include Japanese bonds held by foreigners. If the interest of these were included, the amount of specie payable annually by Japan into foreign hands would be fully 80 millions.

ELECTRIC LIGHT QUESTION IN TOKYO.

At a General meeting of the Tokyo City Assembly on the 30th ultimo, an attempt was made to embarrass the Mayor of the city with reference to the questions of electric lighting and drainage. The Mayor, Mr. Ozaki, treated the matter very calmly. He said that so far as the contract with the Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company is concerned, the city could sell all the power for which it had no immediate need itself, and consequently no inconvenience would be felt. As to the problem of drainage, the officials of the Home Department declared that they had never suggested the possibility of a subsidy amounting to one half of the cost. No such liberality had ever been shown by the Department, one-third being the maximum granted hitherto. Nevertheless, the programme submitted by the City Councillors showed a grant of 50 per cent. by the Government; and the Mayor's enemies in the Assembly introduced a bill arraigning him on account of this discrepancy. The bill was, however, laid aside for future consideration.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Although the bill virtually prohibiting immigration into United States territory by either Japanese or Chinese has been modified so as to admit Japanese, the anti-Japanese agitation has not by any means subsided. The Californian representatives in Congress are said to be publicly advocating the introduction of an educational test such as would exclude fully 50 per cent. of the Japanese subjects now immigrating into the States. It is interesting to recall in the context of such legislation the gospel of universal intercourse so diligently preached by Mr. Townsend Harris and his successors as well as by all his colleagues of the foreign *Corps Diplomatique* in Tokyo and by lovers of liberty and progress the world over. Little more than one generation ago it was dimmed into Japanese ears that no self-respecting and genuinely patriotic people could close their doors in the face of strangers. But now the Japanese find American publicists preaching and practising the exact opposite of this civilized doctrine.

CHOSEN.

News from Antung says that the number of Koreans crossing the Yalu daily and travelling northward averages something like twenty or thirty persons. This exodus is regarded as an outcome of the difficulty of earning a livelihood in Korea, and the immigrants are generally accompanied by their parents and children.

It is said that Mr. Nakano Buyei, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, acting in association with several other Japanese capitalists, has decided to establish a sugar factory in Hwanghai-do. The capital sunk in the enterprise is to be five million yen, and it is expected that several Koreans will purchase shares.

The work of harbour construction is progressing rapidly at Chemulpo. It is expected that the breakwater will be finished by next November. Dredging work will be commenced as soon as the repair of the dredger has been effected.

MAGDALENA BAY.

Mr. Yokoyama Ippai, managing director of the *Tōyō Hogei Kaisha* (Oriental Whaling Company), has just returned from a visit to Mexico. Speaking of the events responsible for the excitement in America about Japan's alleged aggressive purposes in Mexico, Mr. Yokoyama considers that the main cause is to be sought in a permit given by the Mexican Government to the Oriental Whaling Company to carry on fishing operations in the waters on the west of Mexico. This permit was one of many granted to various nationalities, and as the section of the Mexican coast referred to in the permit is far removed from Magdalena Bay, it must be assumed that the suspicions excited in America were the outcome of an unreasoning apprehension as to Japan's doings. The agent employed to obtain the permit from the Mexican Government was a Mr. Kobayashi, and no difficulty was experienced as several other foreign companies had received a similar concession. The *Tōyō Kisen Kaisha* also has a small coaling station on the Mexican coast, and this fact doubtless tended to inspire American apprehensions. Something is to be attributed also to the exceptionally friendly attitude of the Mexican Government towards Japanese subjects. Owing to some cause not superficially apparent, the Mexicans are disposed to treat the Japanese with the greatest courtesy and consideration. Many of the former believe that Japan will come to their assistance in the event of a war between Mexico and the United States. The Japanese would gladly repudiate such intentions, but the idea has gained considerable vogue in Mexico.

As to the fishing operations themselves, Mr. Yokoyama describes an ideal state of affairs. For hundreds of years no fishing enterprise had been prosecuted on the west coasts of Mexico, and although several nations have obtained concessions, they have been tardy about practically profiting by them. Thus the Japanese were virtually the first in the field, and their takes of fish were something almost incredible. Prices were immediately lowered, and fish which had hitherto cost 90 *sen* per kilogram became procurable for 50 *sen*. The people of Mexico had always disliked red-fleshed fish, but when they came to appreciate the palatableness of *sashimi*, their taste changed so completely that a man has been known to pay a small pearl for a plate of *sashimi*. The Mexican Government has now appreciated the expediency of preserving these fisheries for Mexican citizens, and it has been resolved not to grant any further concessions to foreigners. Of course that makes the Japanese permit all the more valuable. The coast line included in it is 860 miles in length, and the permit provides for renewal on the expiration of the originally fixed terms.

CHINESE FINANCE.

Chinese finance has absorbing interest just at present for all persons connected in any way with Orient. A speech recently delivered by His Excellency Mr. Hsung, Minister of Finance, will therefore be read closely and widely. The Minister announced that the policy to be pursued hereafter is, first, to encourage the establishment of national banks and private banks such as will serve to facilitate the development of China's

resources; secondly, all the notes hitherto issued by the Local Authorities shall be exchangeable against notes issued by national banks; thirdly, to increase the taxes on salt, tobacco and spirituous liquors as well as the customs' dues, but to abolish the transit tax, substituting for it a stamp tax; fourthly, to reform the currency system, commencing this operation from the southern regions; and fifthly, to determine the value of the Government property throughout the country, to fix the amount of subsidies granted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and to exercise the strictest economy in administrative outlays. The Minister concluded by saying that the State had no better security to offer for foreign loans than the salt tax, and that in order to obtain foreign credit it would be absolutely necessary to appoint a competent foreign expert as financial adviser.

It will be perceived from the above that, in the matter of banks, China is following the example set by Japan at the beginning of the *Meiji* era, Japan in turn having borrowed her system from America.

FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS.

The Department of Finance has published elaborate statistics showing the results of Japan's foreign trade during the past thirty years. In the statistics, articles of export and import are classified under five groups, that is, foodstuffs, raw material, half-manufactured goods, manufactured goods, and miscellaneous. The value of the import trade in thousands of *yen* is shown as under:—

	1872.	1881.	1901.	1911.
Food stuffs.....	5,493	15,506	59,892	51,625
Raw Material.....	1,115	9,978	83,236	231,714
Half-Manufactured goods.....	9,022	13,070	39,392	100,409
Manufactured goods.....	12,052	22,742	69,716	126,359
Miscellaneous.....	1,036	1,630	3,601	3,701
Total.....	29,447	62,929	205,817	513,806

It will be seen from the above table that in the import trade in 1872, manufactured goods headed the list, occupying about 42 per cent. of the total trade, while raw material stood so low in the list that it only bore a ratio of 3 per cent. to the total volume of trade. In 1881 the trade showed better results, but the import of manufactured goods still continued to predominate. In 1901 the import of manufactured goods showed a gradual decrease, while raw material rapidly increased until it occupied 32 per cent. of the trade. In 1911 it further increased to over 45 per cent., while the import of manufactured goods dwindled to 24 per cent. of the total trade.

The result of the export trade in thousands of *yen* for the same period was as under:—

	1872.	1881.	1910	1911.
Food stuffs.....	11,410	17,893	29,874	52,688
Raw Material.....	4,543	8,490	25,045	40,045
Half-manufactured goods.....	18,628	57,836	13,549	212,988
Manufactured goods.....	2,485	12,436	68,880	139,290
Miscellaneous.....	656	2,892	6,602	5,014
Total.....	37,722	79,527	252,350	447,434

The above table shows that in the export trade for 1872 half-manufactured goods occupied only 6 per cent. In 1881 the total volume of the export trade nearly doubled, but the ratio remained unaltered. In 1901 the export of manufactured goods showed a gradual increase to 27 per cent. of the total exports, and the ratio further increased to 30 per cent. of the total trade, while half-manufactured goods remained at 47 per cent., in the trade for 1911.

SIAM.

Mr. Yoshida, the Japanese Representative at the Court of Bangkok, has just returned to Japan. He describes the recent conspiracy in Siam as a comparatively unimportant affair. It was prompted mainly by observing the rejoicings of the Chinese residents when news reached them of the dethronement of the Manchu Dynasty and the establishment of a Republic in China. Fired by this example, a number of hot-headed Siamese conceived the project of a similar *coup* in their own country, but were quite unable to accomplish anything substantial. Mr. Yoshida went on to say that direct trade relations between Siam and Japan are insignificant. Considerable quantities of Japanese umbrellas, matches and silks find their way into the peninsula, but the handling of the first two staples is monopolized by the Chinese, and of the third by Indians. The Minister does not appear to have any plan for correcting this state of affairs.

REAR-ADMIRAL ODA.

The late Rear-Admiral Oda Kiyozo, whose death was announced in last Friday's issue, enjoyed a very high reputation in the Japanese navy for his skill in using torpedoes and for his inventions in connexion with that instrument of war. When the combat broke out between Japan and Russia he had attained the rank of Lieutenant only, but his assiduity and marked talent secured for him rapid promotion, and he had the honour of being decorated with the Second Class Order of the Rising Sun before his death. It was by this officer that the mine-field was laid which resulted in the destruction of the Russian battleship *Petropavlovsk*, and the death of Admiral Makaroff; events which contributed materially to the fall of Port Arthur. The deceased officer was in his forty-ninth year and the disease which carried him off took only three days to develop fatally.

THE CHINESE LOAN QUESTION.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that the Government reported to the State Council that the loan question had already been settled, but the terms of the loan kept secret. On the return from Shanghai of Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, Tang Shao-i is to meet the representatives of the Syndicate at the British Legation to settle all important questions on that occasion. Mr. Odagiri, representative of the Specie Bank, will also attend that meeting. Both the Government and the State Council show a resolute front regarding the rights of supervision over China's finances demanded by the Syndicate, but are anxious to receive the advances as speedily as possible. Russia has already joined the syndicate, but her representative has so far absented himself from the conference, and it is also believed that he will not attend the coming meeting. Although the reason of the absence of the Russian representative is unascertainable, the fact is sufficient to indicate the lack of harmony in the internal affairs of the Syndicate.

Mr. HONDA, the new Consul-General in Harbin, arrived there on the 30th ult. to enter on his new duties.

THE JAPANESE MINISTRY.

The present Ministry, the *Nishi Nishi* thinks, is evidently determined to prolong its life as long as possible, and Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, is playing a prominent role in its conservation. He is ready to tide over all difficulties and is resolved to achieve some success in the readjustment of the administration and finances, which the Ministry has now in hand, in order to show a strong front in the coming session of the Diet, when it is expected the *Seiyukai* will command a clear majority of the House.

The more immediate question which now engages the attention of the present Ministry is the maintenance and extension of the *Seiyukai's* influence in the coming General Election, in order that it may consolidate its footing in the House. The impression obtains that the House of Peers, which did not raise any strong opposition to the Ministry in the last session of the Diet, with the single exception of the proposal for revision of the Election Law, will assume a strong attitude towards the Ministry in the coming session, but an influential official is of opinion that the House of Peers is not likely to oppose the Government on the Budget and other political questions touching ordinary administrative business. If the House shows any hostility to the Government at all, it will be on some unimportant and ephemeral questions. It is true that the present Ministry is always under the constraint of the Upper House, and that Mr. Hara is at some pains to make matters run smoothly; but there is nothing in the political atmosphere to give a suspicion of the Upper House assuming a hostile attitude towards the Government, though some attempt might be made by a section of the members to give the Government cause for trouble. According to one statement the Ministry is making efforts to induce Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers, to join hands with the *Seiyukai*, or otherwise bring him into close touch with the present Ministry. Some time ago it was rumoured that Mr. Hara advocated that the portfolio of Home Affairs should be assigned to Prince Tokugawa, he himself assuming the portfolio of Finance, as it is calculated that Prince Tokugawa would be able to bring some seventy members to the Government side. It is nevertheless clear that Prince Tokugawa would not readily join the Ministry. Another rumour has it that there is a scheme for recommending Prince Tokugawa to the leadership of the *Seiyukai*. While Marquis Saionji enjoys high credit as the leader, his delicate health is thought to disqualify him for the leadership of the great political party. Although it is unascertainable how far the report is correct, it is quite clear that the present Ministry is striving hard to gain influential supporters in the Upper House for the conservation of its life. Rumour goes so far as to affirm that in the event of Prince Tokugawa refusing to accept the leadership, the party has in mind choosing a suitable leader from amongst the influential members, and Viscounts Okabe and Mishima are named as probable candidates. This scheme can have no other object than bringing the *Kenkyukai* party on the Government side. The Ministry is thus

resolved to cling to power to the last, even at the sacrifice of a partial reconstruction. The readjustment of administration and finance is a vital question, and its sole responsibility rests on the shoulders of Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance. The readjustment of the tax system and the framing of the Budget for the coming fiscal year will prove difficult tasks, and it is rumoured that should these matters endanger the safety of the Ministry, Mr. Yamamoto will take the whole responsibility and relinquish his portfolio to Mr. Hara, who will be succeeded by a member of the Upper House. The so called negative fiscal policy pursued by Mr. Yamamoto has had a good effect on economics, and the increase in the price of rice has stimulated activity, so that tranquillity now prevails in economic circles. The Government has under contemplation an increase in postages and in the saké tax, and the inauguration of a conscript tax, to made good any deficit that may arise from the adjustment of taxes, and thus to maintain as far as practicable an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. There are two different forecasts as to the fate of the present Ministry, and they are both pessimistic. One is that the Ministry will fall at the time of the framing of the Budget, subsequent to the General Election; while the other predicts its downfall during the next session of the Diet. These forecasts are, nevertheless, too pessimistic. The consensus of opinion is that if the Ministry can show even a pretence to keep its pledge as to readjustment and frame a Budget somehow or other, there is a prospect of all the difficulties in the coming session being tided over by the help of the *Seiyukai* and the support of the Upper House. There is thus every probability of the life of the Ministry being preserved longer than is anticipated by pessimistic observers.

CHINHAI BAY.

A FUTURE ECONOMIC CENTRE.

Speaking on the present and future of Chinhai Bay, Rear-Admiral Kamiizumi states that the work of construction of the naval port is making steady progress, and it is expected that it will be completed in 1914. In ten years' time it is destined to become the foremost naval port in the Far East. Located as it is on the southern extremity of Chosen peninsula, it commands the trade routes of the world. The building of a new city will follow on that of the naval port, and the naval authorities are bent on making it a model, with a view to opening a new epoch in colonial history. The residential land around the port was surveyed and the first allotments made on April 1st, 1911, the land leased covering 36,000 *tsubo*, whereon 2,000 houses have already been built at a cost of 3,000,000 *yen*. The inhabitants now number about 20,000. The second allotment took place on November 29th of the same year, when 35,000 *tsubo* of land was leased. Over 100 houses have been already built on it, the capital invested amounting to about 2,000,000 *yen*. The third allotment took place in March and April last, when about 200,000 *tsubo* of residential land was leased, in addition to 1,338,000 *tsubo* of forest land. The total population is expected to reach about 50,000 by the end of this year. The city is

now crowded by prospective lease holders and workmen employed in house-building, while all sorts of building materials are piled up at the piers. Saito Bay forms an entrance to Chinhai naval port, and a scheme for the reclamation of about 40,000 *tsubo* of the foreshore is now afoot, to make a waterfront such as exist in Yokohama and Kobe. There is also a scheme for making the bay a centre of the fishing enterprises in South Chosen.

Two years have hardly elapsed since the opening of the city, but already there is a population of nearly 50,000, and in a decade there will come into existence the largest city and trade centre in South Chosen. A recent discovery of radium springs in the picturesque country town of Takchyon and in the vicinity of Chinhai, will make them favourite resorts, and has led to the promotion of a Company, which has obtained a lease of 250,000 *tsubo*. The climate is very mild, the temperature rarely rising over 90° in summer or falling below 15° (Centigrade) in winter, which, combined with the picturesque scenery all round, will make them popular summer and winter resorts. The work of construction of the railway line from Chinhai to Chyang-uon is to be commenced from next year. On its completion the agricultural products of South Chosen between Mokpo and Fusan will be concentrated at Chinhai, and as the bay affords safe anchorage for several hundred large steamers, the trade of South Chosen will come to the port. The rice produced in Kyongsyong and Cholla provinces heads the list of agricultural products in the whole of Chosen. The export of rice in 1910 reached a total of 776,000 *koku*, named at 6,290,000 *yen*, while the export of beans in the same year amounted to 5,200,000 *yen* in value. The districts around the Bay are also destined to become industrial centres, as they abound in mineral and marine products, the annual revenue from the latter now reaching over 1,000,000 *yen*. There are also good prospects for the match-making industry in the district.

In inaugurating the naval port and city, the authorities started a plan of planting a million poplar trees in April every year, and the plan was carried into practice from this year, when the trees were planted on both sides of the roads. In ten years time the city will thus present a beautiful appearance. Poplar trees furnish excellent material for match-sticks, and therefore match factories are bound to spring up in course of time. Afforestation receives the best attention of the Chosen Government and 7.5 per cent. of the forest land in Chosen is owned by the State and covers 14 million *chobu*. Afforestation will form the most important source of wealth in Chosen. Not only is Chinhai destined to become the largest commercial and industrial city in South China, but it will also become the centre of education. The Navy Department has allotted 1,338,000 *tsubo* of residential land to form an educational fund, which is valued at 30 million *yen*, the rents arising therefrom amounting to 1,500,000 *yen* a year. It is thus possible to provide all sorts of educational institutions from a university down to elementary schools. In short, Chinhai will become not only the largest naval port, but also one of the most important commercial, industrial and educational cities in the Far East, and will thus be a credit to Japan's colonisation policy.

THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL.

OPENING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

The *Nichi Nichi's* Peking correspondent wires that the State Council was opened at 10 a.m. on the 29th ult., and was attended by 78 members. President Yuan Shih-kai outlined the administrative and financial policy of the new Republic, and stated that the success of the administration centered on its finance. The Budget planned by the Department of Finance last year showed an expenditure far exceeding the revenue, the total revenue being estimated at 60 million *taels*. During the past six months the civil commotion had completely paralyzed commerce and industry, and foreign loans had to be raised to relieve the financial distress. These foreign loans involved an outlay of over 50 million *taels* for annual redemption and payment of interest. The Customs revenue, *likin*, salt taxes, etc. were hypothecated for the loans. The Government proposed to effect an increase by 12.5 per cent. in the import duty, and also to abolish the *likin* tax, subject to the consent of the Treaty Powers. The annual Customs revenue now amounted to 44 million *taels*. By an increase of the tariff rate it was possible to raise 60 million *taels* from this source, which was more than enough to meet the payment of interest due on foreign loans. The railway and other loans could be redeemed and the interest paid with railway and other miscellaneous revenue, and any deficit could be made good with the revenue from the salt tax. Provincial loans totalled some 10 million *taels*, and the Boxer Indemnity amounted to 12 million *taels*. These loans were redeemable with the proceeds of the large loan now under negotiation. Treasury bills would be issued in order to meet present needs, the bills being redeemable with the proceeds from the large loan. The issue of these bills was of prime importance, as there was no other means of restoring the credit of China's finances, and he desired the Council to approve the procedure. It was also possible to obtain 50 million *taels* from the salt tax, if the salt administration were readjusted with the aid of a foreign adviser. The Government proposed to readjust the land tax, in order to lighten the burden of taxation. Foreign advisers would be engaged to conduct the railway business. The currency loan negotiated last year was not yet concluded, and a foreign adviser was engaged to give advice on the work of currency reform. The Government proposed to retain the services of foreign financial advisers for the revision of the Account Law, and to effect a readjustment of the revenue and expenditure. Commerce and industry are essential to the existence of the Republic; and Departments of Commerce and Industry, as well as Agriculture and Forestry, had therefore been created in the new Government. Stress should be laid on the development of commerce and industry in order to foster the resources of the national wealth. The President also referred to military and naval education.

The address lasted about ten minutes, and was received with applause. The opening ceremony came to a close at 10.40. The Secretaries and interpreters of all the foreign Legations, and over twenty newspaper correspondents, were present.

RUSSIA AND THE MONGOLIAN QUESTION.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from St. Petersburg, gives further details of the speech delivered in the Duma by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 26th ultimo, touching Chinese affairs. Since the outbreak of the commotion in China, said Mr. Sazanoff, Russia had laid stress on the protection of her special interests in China and had decided to maintain neutrality so long as her special interests were not endangered. In regard to the Chinese loan question, Russia had always advocated the principle of concerted action with the other Powers interested, and had joined the Four Powers syndicate conditional to the preservation of her special interests in China, which are concentrated in the ultra-mural provinces, Mongolia and North Manchuria. The special interests which Russia possesses in the ultra-mural provinces and Mongolia are based on the St. Petersburg treaty of 1881, apart from their geographical relations, while Russia's special interests in North Manchuria are correlative with the construction of the Chinese Eastern railways, her rights in that region being secured by the Russo-Chinese Special Treaty. All these rights and interests have been acquired by Russia by her own exertions. Her position in North Manchuria must therefore be protected single-handed and not in co-operation with the foreign Powers, who do not possess interests in common. Mongolia is divided into two parts, Inner and Outer Mongolia. A section of Inner Mongolia is contiguous to South Manchuria, where Japan possesses special interests. Russia's Mongolian policy must therefore be differentiated in Inner and Outer Mongolia. In some quarters the annexation of Mongolia is advocated, but that policy is not conducive to Russia's interests, which lie in the prevention of any strong military Power rising in North Mongolia contiguous to Russian territory. So long as Russia has Kalgar, which is trying to throw off the Chinese yoke, for her neighbour in that region, so long will the frontier defence of Siberia remain quite safe. The Russian Government will therefore not hesitate to participate in the conference between China and Kalgar, with a view to giving support to the latter.

MINING IN KARAFUTO.

Reviewing the progress of the mining business in Karafuto, the *Yiji Shimpō* writes that the two years' experiment in coal mining of the Karafuto Government has proved a success, but the output does not come up to expectations. Twelve pound rails are laid between the collieries and the coal depots for the transportation of the coal, which is being carried to the sea shore by light railways. A few coal mines on the west coast of the island are also worked as private enterprises, which promise success in time to come.

The discovery of gold dust on the eastern coast of the island in 1911 accentuated the promotion fever, but owing to the lack of means of communication, the enterprise has so far failed to score a success, although it seem to give a promise of success if undertaken on a sounder basis.

THE FUKUOKA GOLD MINE.

In connexion with the discovery in Fukuoka prefecture of a rich gold mine, as reported in a previous issue, a certain responsible authority of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is quoted as saying that he learned through the newspapers of the discovery of the gold mine, but he could not vouch for the truth of the report, as the Government has not yet conducted any survey. Mining enterprises by private individuals are often mooted and mining rights change hands before publicity is given to the discovery. Various rumours thus always find their way into circulation.

Another authority of the Geological Bureau Department of the same states that in the district where the gold mine is alleged to have been discovered, gold had been worked from time immemorial, so that there can be no doubt as to the existence of gold in the district. It is rather doubtful, however, whether the gold mine was really so rich as the newspapers would have the people believe. The discovery of a gold nugget containing 10 high a percentage of gold gave no idea as to the richness or otherwise of the strata; this point needs further study before passing a final verdict.

As might have been expected, the reports as to the discovery of a new gold-mine in Fukuoka prefecture prove to have been decidedly premature. Mr. Noda, Chief of the Fukuoka Mine-Inspecting Bureau, is quoted as saying that gold certainly exists in considerable quantities within the region indicated, but that as to the exact extent of the auriferous area, and as to the percentage of pure gold, no accurate investigations have yet been made, so that it is impossible to speak with any assurance. Already, however, one hundred applications have been put in and they affect a very wide region. It is sincerely to be hoped, Mr. Noda adds, that the mine will prove as good as even the most moderate estimates imply, but much that has already been written about it is premature.

NANAO HARBOUR.

Nanao harbour in the province of Noto has from ancient time been counted amongst the best harbours, not only in the northern provinces but in the whole of Japan. Its value has of late been materially curtailed, however, by the existence of sunken rocks studing the bay. The harbour covers an area of 11,192,500 *tsubo*, and is sufficiently deep to make it the best in northern Japan. It lies within easy reach of Vladivostok, the distance being only 453 miles, 27 miles shorter than the distance between Vladivostok and Tsuruga. Moreover, the Nanao railway connects with the trunk line in the Northern provinces and also with the Kyoto-Osaka lines, and the Toyama-Naoetsu line, which is now under construction. The sunken rocks existing inside the harbour serving to destroy the development of local trade, the authorities, according to the *Chugai Shogyo*, decided to remove them at an annual cost of 11,000 *yen*, and the work was certainly commenced from last year. It will take some years to complete the work, but the improvement, coupled with the opening of the Toyama-Naoetsu railway, is calculated to form a new epoch in the development of trade and industry in Northern Japan.

CHINESE LOCAL FINANCES.

INSTRUCTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

A Shanghai telegram reports that Hsuing Chi-lin, Minister of Finance, has issued to the authorities of all the provinces a lengthy telegram, instructing them to report on the condition of the local finances. The telegram is to the effect that under the Manchu regime the revenue totalled 297 million *taels*, and the expenditure 350 million *taels*, the deficit thus aggregating 53 million *taels*, besides a supplementary expenditure of 24 million *taels* for administrative reforms. The Four Powers currency loan was followed by the Yu-Han, Chu-Han and Tsin-Pu railways loans, the Communication Department loan from the Yokohama Specie Bank, and various other provincial loans, altogether reaching a total of about 200 million *taels*. Taking the interest thereon at 5 per cent. on an average, China has to pay about 10 million *taels* a year in the form of interest. When this is added, the annual deficit now amounts to about 87 million *taels*. Since the outbreak of the revolution taxes have been either repealed or their collection rendered impracticable. Commerce and industry have also been paralyzed, and the revenue has decreased by at least 50 million *taels*, while the war expenditure has almost doubled owing to the increase of the army divisions. Thus the total expenditure has increased by at least 30 million *taels*, and the deficit for the twelve months ending July next will reach 167 million *taels*. Moreover, at least 100 million *taels* are needed for the payment of compensation for damages sustained during the recent civil commotion, the disorganization of the troops and the establishment of the new Government. The deficit for the present fiscal year will thus amount to 260 million *taels*. The issue of foreign loan bonds and paper currency has radically increased since the time of the Manchu regime, until the foreign loans now reach a total of 2,000 million *taels* and the paper currency of 330 million *taels*. These statistics at once show the financial distress confronting the Republic, and there is no alternative but to raise a large loan to retrieve the financial situation. If the proceeds of the loan are spent in unproductive enterprises, the Republic will be unable to raise any further loans which it may require, and its very existence will be threatened. The figures above given are only rough estimates, which may somewhat differ from the actual condition of the local finances, and the coalition Government which has now come into existence will be unable to frame a grand national policy on a sound financial basis, unless it obtains an accurate knowledge of the provincial finances. The Minister of Finance therefore calls upon the local authorities to investigate and report on the condition of the provincial finances for the past twelve months ended December last, as well as the estimates for six months ending June this year, together with the prospect of any increase of revenue or decrease of expenditure after June next, and the amounts of provincial loans, paper currency and copper coins issued prior to the revolution, classifying the items under the headings of ordinary and extraordinary accounts. What concerns the

Central Government most in consolidating the basis of State finance are the causes which tend to disturb it. Under the old Manchu regime the Central authorities and Provincial authorities used to deceive each other, the Central authorities showing an indisposition to exercise supervision over the provincial finances, while the Provincial authorities attempted to keep back the true condition of the provincial finances from the Central authorities in order to prevent the provincial revenue from being seized. Such evils should not now be tolerated under the present Republican regime. Both the Central and Provincial revenues form the burden of taxation on the people, and no one shall pass unnoticed any fraud or deception in calculating them. It is therefore hoped that the true condition of the provincial finances will be reported in order that the central authorities may succeed in consolidating the finances of the Republic.

THE CHINESE MINISTRY.

INTERNAL DISCORD.

Peking dispatches reaching Tokyo persistently report internal strife in the new Ministry of China, resulting in a wholesale resignation of officials in the Financial and other Departments. Commenting on the report, the *Tokyo Asahi* writes that the internal strife is deep-rooted. Amongst the prime factors the personality of Tang Shao-i deserves special mention. Tang is a typical Cantonese, and is a man richly endowed with both the abilities and weaknesses inherent in natives of that city. In the first place he is too much of a controversialist to be able to agree with the more modest and less refined Northerners. His arrogance has provoked the ill-feelings of his subordinates and strong opposition from his political enemies, Chao Ping-chun, Tsun Chi-yui, etc. The second, and no less potential factor, is the predominance of the Cantonese faction. The Cantonese are the prime authors of the revolution and they have organized a political party of which Tang is a leader. Wang Chung-hui and Chin Chi-mei are also members—in fact the members of the Party hold all the important posts in the new Government, so much so that the new Ministry seems to be composed of Cantonese. The Cantonese who secured nomination through Tang's influence, moreover, are mostly new to the work and their arrogance has incurred the hostility of their fellow officials. The third cause is a conflict between southern and northern ideas. The Cantonese under Tang are all radicals and are in favour of woman's suffrage and the equalization of property; while the Northerners are mostly Moderates, tinged with conservative elements. A conflict of opinion is thus unavoidable. Instead of attempting to harmonize the two different sides, Tang has taken the lead of the Cantonese to bring pressure to bear upon their opponents, which step has accentuated the internal strife. Tang's latest action has inspired the Northerners with a strong suspicion that he is acting against the interests of Yuan Shih-kai. First of all, Tang, acting in consonance with the desire of Yuan Shih-kai, induced Chang Pei-lin, Chang Chien, Tang Tsing-chen and others to organize the Unionist Party to counteract the influence of Sun Yat-sen.

Hwang Hsing and other pure revolutionist, but he himself joined the other side. While Yuan Shih-kai has laboured hard to centralize the political power by making the Magistrates of the provinces eligible by Government appointment, Tang has advocated the election of the provincial Magistrates by popular vote. Moreover, quite recently he tried to bring about a coalition of the Cantonese Party and the Unionists, which gave rise to a rumour that Tang had in mind the overthrow of the Northerners. Tang's actions are thus sufficient to confirm the suspicion. Yuan Shih-kai's protégés could not pass them unchallenged, and it is natural that they have now combined their forces in opposition.

The causes of internal strife are thus multifarious and Tang cannot evade the responsibility for the discord. Yuan Shih-kai is no doubt ill disposed toward Tang Shao-i, but he cannot find a suitable substitute, and, moreover, the influence of the Cantonese cannot be slighted. Foreigners, especially Americans, place implicit confidence in Tang, and Yuan Shih-kai will have to continue to employ him until he is strong enough to command the situation. It is unthinkable that a man of Tang's calibre will easily be induced to follow another policy, but it will be difficult to keep peace in the Ministry, as long as Tang holds the Premiership.

TOKYO AND THE PACIFIC.

PROPOSAL FOR A CANAL.

Speaking at the fourth annual meeting of the Municipal Administration Association, Viscount Tajiri Inajiro advocated the necessity of cutting the Kashiwa canal to facilitate shipping traffic between the Pacific and Tokyo. In the course of his speech the Viscount stated that the United States produced a large quantity of wheat and cotton, of which the latter occupied 75 per cent. of the total production of the world. England was a large capitalist, whose investments all over the world amounted to 25,000 millions. France was also a creditor country, while Germany excelled in the chemical industry. Japan had nothing to boast of in productive industry. Her dominions now covered 260,000 square miles, in addition to 100,000 square miles of territorial waters. She lay between the greatest productive Powers in the east and the largest consuming country, —China,—in the west, and thus occupied a prominent position to act as a medium between the producers and consumers, but she lacked the accommodation of proper trade ports. The need of the construction of Tokyo harbour could not be gainsaid. It was therefore necessary to cut a canal connecting the Kashiwa Sea with Tokyo Bay across Kita and Kasumi Bays, as well as Inba-numa, to obviate the inconvenience of circumnavigating Tateyama by Cape Inuboe. The Viscount then proceeded to enumerate the advantages of the proposed canal, which were that it would save some eight hours on the voyage; would strengthen the defence of Tokyo Bay and render a blockade impracticable; would perfect the conservation of warships by creating a freshwater dock in Kasumi Bay; would avert the periodical floods; and by the reclamation of Inba-numa, would add a vast area to cultivation. The cost of the canal is estimated at about 20 million *yen*.

BUILDING REGULATIONS FOR TOKYO.

Quite recently the Osaka Municipality issued some building regulations, and the promulgation of similar regulations by the Tokyo Municipality will take place immediately. In 1907 the Tokyo Municipality entrusted the work of drawing up some regulations to the Architectural Association, which elected Dr. Sone as chairman, and Dr. Nakamura as vice chairman of the draft committee, which was composed of thirteen experts. The committee first studied the building regulations in Western countries and then set to work in drafting regulations for Tokyo. After repeated meetings the work has now been brought to a conclusion. The regulations will be promulgated either by the Municipality or the Honie Office, and simultaneously with their promulgation a Building Board will be created in the Municipal Office under direct control of the Mayor, which is to be vested with strong powers for the enforcement of control over buildings in the Municipality. It is stated that the regulations have for their chief object the erection of fire-proof buildings. The most popular quarters, that is Kyobashi, Nihonbashi, Kanda, Asakusa, Hongo, Yotsuya wards, etc. will form a fire-defence area, in which the fire defence line is to be created, and the use of stone, bricks and concrete in the reconstruction of houses rendered compulsory. Outside that area houses are to be built of semi-fire-proof materials, with walls between of non-inflammable substance, two feet thick at the base. Hydrants are to be set up where houses are built of inflammable materials, and besides stand pipes are to be provided with fusible heads, which will easily melt under heat and enable volumes of water to be poured forth. It remains doubtful, however, whether the enforcement of the building regulations will have any immediate effect in the prevention of conflagrations, because the present economic conditions do not permit of the reconstruction of the existing houses, since it costs some two hundred *yen* per *tsubo* to build a fire-proof house, whereas it costs only 40 to 80 *yen* to build a house with wood. In large towns in western countries similar regulations have long been in force with satisfactory results, and the enforcement of the regulations in Tokyo will no doubt prove effective in preventing the destructive conflagrations which are of so frequent occurrence, but some time will have to elapse before full benefit is derived.

THE READJUSTMENT OF TAXATION.

The investigation relating to the readjustment of the tax system is making steady progress at the hands of the authorities of the Department of Finance. The investigation covers a large field, and comprises the procedure in the collection of taxes. Great importance is attached to a fundamental reform in the taxes which were imposed during the late Russo-Japanese war. The reduction of the taxes is not so much aimed at, as a fair and impartial distribution of the burden of taxation, and also a reduction in the cost of collection in order to increase the actual revenue to the national treasury. The readjustment will therefore result in an in-

crease in some taxes and a decrease in others. Among the taxes to be decreased are the income, business and salt monopoly taxes, the reduction of which was officially announced by the Minister of Finance in the last session of the Diet. A revision in the procedure of collection is also contemplated in the kerosene oil consumption, transit and textile consumption taxes, with a view to their decrease. In the case of the income tax it remains uncertain whether the present classification will be retained, but it seems probable the ratio of the tax on first-class incomes will be raised, and that on third class incomes lowered. The business tax also needs revision, especially in regard to retail businesses, from which about ten million *yen* is now derived. The present law imposes a tax on business capital even if the business be carried on at a loss, and thus injures the growth of trade. The textile consumption tax is also receiving attention, although any radical reduction is thought impracticable. The transit tax is thought unfair, as it is imposed regardless of distance. The kerosene consumption tax will also be revised, but it is thought no room exists for reduction in the exchange tax. The salt monopoly tax will no doubt be decreased to a certain extent, which will have some effect in lowering the price of salt. The readjustment will create a deficit of about 20 million *yen*, which is to be made good by an increase of the house tax, and by the inauguration of a conscript tax, vinegar tax, mineral waters tax, etc., and also by an increase in the forestry and postal revenue. It is however evident that it is impossible to raise enough money from these new taxes to cover the deficit, so that the scope of the readjustment will probably be rather limited.

THE COAL MINE DISASTER.

A TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST.

Further details are now wired from Sapporo as to the recent disastrous coal mine explosion. A fearful noise was heard at the mouth of the pit and about 120 feet of truck rails were blown to pieces, which struck and partially destroyed the mining office located near the pit mouth and also caused some damage to the ventilating machinery. The ill-starred miners' families are assembled around the mouth of the pit with heavy hearts, anxiously awaiting news of the fate of their bread-earners. A rescue party was quickly organized and sent down the pit half an hour after the catastrophe, but repeated attempts ended in failure owing to the gas and flames. The mouth of the pit had finally to be closed and the search abandoned. Altogether 278 officials and miners were working in the pit at the time of the explosion, all of whom must have met a terrible death. Thirty-three bodies were subsequently recovered, but they were so badly burnt and charred as to be beyond recognition. Such a terrible disaster is said to be unprecedented in coal mining in Hokkaido.

The *Nichi Nichi* quotes in this context a certain Government authority as saying that although it remains an open question whether it is possible to entirely prevent coal-mine catastrophes, it is certainly possible to minimise the danger. Such accidents are more frequent and disastrous in Japan than in any other civilized country, owing to the imperfect appliances

in the coal mines and the ignorance of the miners. The casualties from coal mine accidents in Great Britain, Germany and Japan during the five years ended 1909 were as under:—

	Death's.	Death rate from explosion.	Percentage.
Japan	2,381	1,269	58.8
Great Britain...	5,789	419	7.3
Germany	5,729	589	10.3

The death rate from coal mine explosions in Japan thus reaches 58.8 per cent. of the total casualties, whereas the deaths from the same cause in Great Britain and Germany do not exceed from 7.3 to 10.3 per cent. Explosions in Japanese coal mines can be traced mostly to carelessness on the part of the miners. Match boxes carried with them into the pits often prove to be the cause of catastrophes. Mining in Japan is a dangerous occupation so long as preventive measures are not enforced and the education of the miners remains unimproved.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT THE YUBARI MINE.

A terrible explosion occurred at the Yubari coal mine in Hokkaido at about 11 o'clock on Monday morning last, when the mining office and other buildings located near the pit were blown to pieces. Six men were killed and five injured in the explosion above ground, while the fate of nine officials and 263 miners working in the pit remains uncertain. As the mouth of the pit is blocked up and the ventilators broken, it is feared that those in the pit have all perished in the catastrophe.

Later despatches from Sapporo report that the bodies of the miners recovered up to the morning of the 30th number about 30. According to the Chief of the General Affairs section, as the ventilators were quickly reinstated it is probable that the death roll will not be large. Mr. Murota, President of the Company, proceeded to the scene of the disaster on Tuesday by the 12.30 p.m. express.

The hopes expressed that the explosion at the Yubari coal-mine in Hokkaido would not prove so disastrous as at first expected, have not been realised, the 276 men in the pit at the time having apparently all perished. The pit is full of gas and a fire has also broken out which renders the recovery of the bodies very difficult. Only twenty-four bodies had been recovered up to Tuesday evening last.

REPARATION WORK.

Some time ago the Government voted 12 million *yen* for the improvement of the course of the Ara river, defrayable in ten consecutive fiscal years to avert the periodical inundation which devastated 30,000 to 50,000 *chobu* of cultivated land in the districts lying along the lower course of the river. The reparation covers an extensive field from Ozabai above the town of Kumagaya down to Tokyo Bay, the distance being nearly 50 miles. As a first portion of the scheme, the work has already been commenced to divert the course of the river between Kagawaguchi and Akabane, and preparations are also being made to purchase land in the upper course of the river to open a new water course, the work on which is to be commenced from about October next.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

A Peking special to the *Chuwo* reports that the Four Powers loan question has been solved in London, but particulars are not yet obtainable.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the Mongolian princes have met in conference to consider the acceptance or otherwise of the Republican polity, Prince Tolbat attending the conference.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo*, reports that Yuan Shih-kai has succeeded in prevailing upon Chao Ping-chun, Tuan Chi-jui and other Ministers of State to remain in office, but a conflict between the southern and northern influences seems unavoidable.

Wuchang has begun to assume independence. Li Yuan-hung has raised a 20 million *taels* loan for military, financial and industrial purposes in Hupeh province, without consulting with Yuan Shih-kai.

The Four Powers Syndicate has agreed to grant an advance of 20 million *taels* prior to the conclusion of the Six Powers loan in compliance with the earnest solicitation of Yuan Shih-kai's Government. This advance is to be refunded out of the proceeds of the large loan. The conditions are now being discussed in the State Council with closed doors.

The Mongolian Government in Kulon expresses surprise at the recent appointment by the Chinese Republican Government of Prince Tolbat as Minister President at Kulon, and has issued a declaration that Kulon is an independent country, and therefore Prince Tolbat will not be recognized as Minister Resident of the Chinese Republic.

A telegram from Peking asserts that it has been decided to send to Tokyo as Chinese Representative at the Court of Japan, Mr. Hu Wei te, who is now holding the portfolio of Foreign Affairs pending the arrival of Mr. Lu Cheng-hsiang, who is on his way from Europe to take up his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Hu was Minister to Russia in 1904 and to Japan in 1908. He served as Senior Vice-President of the Board of Foreign Affairs in 1910.

TOKYO MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The Tokyo Municipal Electric Bureau introduced to the Municipal Aldermen's Council on the 25th ultimo its 460,000 light programme, which provides for an appropriation of 13 million *yen*. The programme was approved and is to be submitted to the Municipal Council on the 29th instant for final confirmation. The programme estimates the installation of 340,000 lamps at 8,239,850 *yen*, payable in three consecutive years, commencing with the present fiscal year. On the completion of the installation the annual revenue is estimated to reach 3,702,100 *yen*, against a working expenditure amounting to 1,181,956 *yen*, leaving a net profit of 2,520,144 *yen*.

The Tokyo Municipal Council sat on the 30th ult. After some business had been transacted, Mr. Kawashima brought forward an urgent motion for a vote of censure on Mayor Ozaki in connection with the drainage question. The motion was lost.

The plan for 460,000 electric lights, necessitating an outlay of 13 million *yen*, was then taken up for discussion, when

Mayor Ozaki stated that although he was conscious of the injustice of the veto by the Government of the one million light programme, he thought it against the interests of the Municipality to enter into a dispute with the Government on the question. The Mayor also stated that he thought it possible under the 460,000 light programme to use the 6,550 kilowatts of current contracted for with the Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company.

A rather animated discussion ensued, in the course of which Mayor Ozaki said that he thought the so-called official explanation published by the newspapers as to the veto of the one-million lights plan was an expression of the view of a few subordinate officials.

The 460,000 light programme was finally referred to a special committee.

THE INCOME-TAX.

Mr. Sugano, Director of the Tokyo Tax Administration Bureau, is quoted as saying that the number of ordinary and joint-stock partnerships have of late radically increased, which is to be welcomed as showing the rapid development of national enterprises. It is rather surprising, however, to note that some businesses are being converted into partnerships with no other object than the evasion of income tax. Under the present income tax law, the tax is imposed on the estimated amount of annual income in the case of private individuals, whilst the tax on juridical persons, that is companies and partnerships, is assessed on their gross revenue minus the gross expenditure, the sum carried over from the previous account and insurance reserve fund, etc. This makes a great difference in the assessment of the tax. Supposing a man were to start a business with 100,000 *yen* for capital, and his turn over was 20,000 *yen*, as a private individual he would be called upon to pay income tax on this 20,000 *yen*, even if his capital had sustained a decrease in the mean time, but in case of a juridical person, any diminution in capital is written off the 20,000 *yen*, and the tax is imposed on the balance. In cases where the loss exceeds the profit, no income tax is imposed at all. The incomes of *Kabushiki Kaisha* or joint stock companies are generally correctly declared to the Tax office, but it is otherwise in the case of ordinary or joint stock partnerships, which are generally formed by near relatives, who can draw up balance sheets as they please. The business-books kept by them are not always regular and therefore great difficulty is experienced by the tax authorities in the assessment of their income tax. It would be possible to derive a greater revenue from this source if more strict supervision were enforced with a view to putting a stop to illegal practices.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Cherry-bloom Imperial Garden Party took place on Friday afternoon last at the Shiba Detached Palace. Threatening weather caused some apprehensions in the forenoon, but the afternoon was fortunately fine though windy. There were no cherry-blossoms. In that respect the Party was a misnomer. But the beauty of the Park needed no adventitious setting off. Their Majesties the

Emperor and Empress were present, and the guests numbered some two thousand.

We regret to announce the death of Professor Knox at the comparatively early age of fifty-nine. He died at the hospital in Seoul where he had arrived a few days previously en route for Tokyo. Professor Knox spent many years as a teacher of moral philosophy in the Imperial University of Tokyo, and he was making a tour of the world in company with his wife when he was struck down by acute inflammation of the lungs. He had promised to deliver some lectures in Japan. His sudden death will be much lamented.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* thinks that the anti-Oriental section of the United States population will never rest until they have contrived to place the Japanese on the same footing as that now occupied by the Chinese. The evil issue may be postponed from time to time through the good offices of American statesmen, but the agitation will not cease. The Tokyo journal recognizes the great diplomatic difficulty of dealing with such a question, but is unable to think that Japanese diplomacy treats the situation with sufficient gravity.

It is expected that Mr. Soyeda will be appointed Vice-President of the Franco-Japanese Bank. The institution cannot, of course, admit the Industrial Bank as a shareholder, and the latter will have to be represented by Mr. Soyeda in his individual capacity. A similar difficulty exists with regard to the Specie Bank, and it will be solved by making Viscount Mishima represent the Yokohama institution.

Japanese newspapers publish most complimentary notices of the late Admiral Enquete whose death has just been reported. He is the last of the Russian Admirals who were engaged in the war with Japan, and he rendered signal services in the final great naval fight, ultimately effecting his escape in the cruiser *Oreg* to Manila. His action on that occasion became the subject of a Naval court of inquiry, but the Admiral emerged with flying colours, all the evidence going to show that he had manoeuvred the ship under his command with great skill and courage.

A telegram to the *Asahi Shimbun* from St. Petersburg dated the 26th ultimo, says that his Excellency M. Sazanoff, speaking in the Duma, repudiated all intentions on Russia's part to engage in any aggressive enterprise in Manchuria. The Minister further declared that it would be Russia's aim in conjunction with Japan to preserve the *status quo* in the Three Eastern Provinces. The occasion which elicited these declarations is not defined, but they were certainly timely and their effect should be wholesome.

The price of rice, which stood at 7.184 *yen* per *koku* in 1892, gradually rose until it reached 12.295 *yen* in 1902 and 21.13 *yen* in 1911, the ratio of increase in the past fifteen years being about 120 per cent., or 55 *sen* per *koku* a year on an average. In 1907, when the crops showed an average yield, it was quoted at 15.245 *yen* and at 15.256 *yen* in 1908. When calculated on the basis of the crop, the price this year ought to stand at about 18.00 *yen*, and should be even lower, as last year's yield

showed an increase by 5.3 per cent. over the average. This fact is thought sufficient to show that the price now obtaining in the market is abnormal.

An official dispatch received at the Foreign Office from Mexico reports that on Thursday night last fighting took place at Jiminez between the Government troops and the revolutionists, when the former were forced to retreat to Taolen under a hot bombardment. The revolutionists captured a gunboat on the west coast of Mexico and bombarded the harbour of Manzatora without success.

A Washington telegram to the *Nichiichi* reports that the Panama Canal Dues Bill, which has passed the Senate, is to be introduced to the Lower House shortly. The Bill is said to provide exemption from dues of vessels belonging to the American and the Panama Governments but imposes reasonable dues on all other vessels without discrimination. The shipping companies engaged in the coasting service are making strenuous efforts to secure exemption from dues, but the movement is most likely to end in failure.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from San Francisco reports that a certain member of the Californian Assembly has openly declared that it is possible to exclude over 50 per cent. of Japanese immigrants through the language test under the amended Immigration Law passed by the Senate. The situation does not inspire confidence.

According to a traveller who returned to Moji from Manila by the *Awa Maru* on the 30th instant, Japanese emigration to the Philippines is not so hopeful as the Japanese Consul at Manila would have the public believe. Some emigration companies are enlisting and sending emigrants under false representations. As a matter of fact, the price of commodities there is three times that at home and farmers are confronted with great difficulty in obtaining a livelihood.

The Merchant Marine Bureau has under contemplation the enforcement of strict control over dishonest transport agents with a view to putting a stop to the evil practices resorted to by them at the expense of consignees. The Bureau is now studying the measures to be adopted for that end, and is in consultation with the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and other shipping companies, as well as the Railway Board, for the purpose of introducing radical reforms in the transportation of goods.

According to the latest official investigation, the interest annually payable on outstanding national and private foreign loans amounts to about 78,830,000 *yen*, that is about 62,710,000 *yen* on national loans, 8,860,000 *yen* on Municipal loans, and about 7,266,000 *yen* on companies debentures, in addition to the interest payable abroad on domestic bonds which have found their way on to the foreign market, making a grand total of some 80,000,000 *yen*. Viewed from the standpoint of the months in which the interest is to be paid, January and July head the list, with about 13,570,000 *yen* each; February, March and September follow in order, with about 8,000,000 *yen* each. June and December come third with about 5,000,000 *yen* each, closely followed by May and

November with about 4,230,000 *yen*. Throughout the year, there are only two months—April and October—in which the payment of interest does not fall due.

Much interest seems to have been excited in connexion with a step taken by the *Dalai Lama* who is now residing at Darjeeling in British India. His Holiness has sent to the Emperor of Japan a Buddhist effigy standing about one foot high and composed apparently of gold. Doubtless there is a history attaching to the relic, but if so, it has not yet been published. The effigy recently reached Kobe by the Japan Mail Steam Ship Company's vessel the *Hiroshima Maru*, and naturally the choice of such a time as the present for conveying this image to the Emperor of Japan suggests various conjectures.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign office from Bangkok, Siam, reports that the Siamese Government has appointed a commission to investigate and report on the advisability or otherwise of the proposed abolition of transit duty for the purpose of developing domestic industries. The commission will probably report in favour of the abolition.

The Japanese Government has decided to participate at the Panama Canal Memorial Exhibition to be held at San Francisco in 1918, and the Washington Government has already been officially notified. The Exhibition Commissioners will be dispatched shortly to make the preliminary arrangements.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, April 26.

The market yesterday was characterized by weakness, the tone remaining unimproved until the close of the session.

Saturday, April 27.

The market on Saturday last witnessed an improvement as a reaction from the previous weakness, shares rallying all round. The afternoon session was closed to prepare for settlement.

Tuesday, April 30.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness, and shares relapsed all round. A slight improvement was, however, observed toward the close of the session.

Wednesday, May 1.

The market yesterday opened dull, and shares continue to move downward throughout the session.

Thursday, May 2.

The market yesterday opened a little firmer, but very few transactions were recorded. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

	May 1st.	May 2nd.
Kel-Hin Railway.....	49.50	—
Yusen Kaisha	114.55	114.90 + .35
Toyo Kisen	46.20	46.45 + .25
Specie Bank.....	—	—
Tanko Kisen	20.55	21.00 + .45
Tokyo Gas	71.65	71.80 + .15
Tokyo Dento	70.50	—
Fuji Gas Spinning	89.30	89.90 + .60
Tokyo Spinning	—	51.40
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	107.90	107.70 — .20
Beer	86.90	85.80 — 1.10
Hoden (Takara Oil).....	64.70	64.85 + .15
Nippon Oil	—	72.00
Rice Exchange.....	—	—
Stock Exchange	54.30	54.00 — .30

THE CHARGE OF FORGING DOCUMENTS.

We understand that Mr. J. E. Hargreaves, who was recently sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the Tokyo Appeal Court on a charge of forgery and utterance of official documents and fraud, has lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court. The date of the hearing of the appeal is not yet fixed.

The public trial which took place on the 30th ult. in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court of the criminal case in which Sato Kenji is indicted jointly with J. E. Hargreaves and Matsumura Takeshige for forging and uttering official documents and fraud, was postponed until June 6th next owing to the illness of the accused Sato. The hearing of the civil suit instituted by Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox against the accused for recovery of money fraudulently obtained by them, will naturally be postponed until after the conclusion of the public trial of the accused Sato.

HONOURS GRADUATES OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

In the general conference of the Principals of the Higher Commercial and Technical Schools, held on the 24th ultimo, it was proposed by the Kyoto Higher Technical School that the regulations providing for the admission into higher schools without examination of those graduating from the Middle Schools with honours should be abolished. The proposal was unanimously passed and the Resolution will be duly submitted to the Minister of Education.

As the chief reasons for the proposal, it is pointed out that judging from the general results of Middle School education since the enforcement of the regulations in question, the authorities in their desire to turn out honours graduates, are apt to attach undue weight to subjects, connected with the graduation examinations only, so that the schools are practically converted into preparatory courses for the higher educational institutes, instead of providing for the common education of the students. Under such circumstances the existence of the said regulations are highly detrimental to the attainment of the objects for which Middle Schools were established. Moreover, as past facts eloquently attest, students graduating with honours from Middle Schools are not necessarily students who will graduate from schools of a higher grade with honours. The best and safest way to select really superior students is therefore to subject them all to strict and equal examination.

CONFUCIAN MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The annual memorial service for Confucius was held on Sunday morning last, under the auspices of the Confucius Festival Association, at the Sacred Hall dedicated to the Chinese Sage within the precincts of the Educational Museum, Yushima, Hongo.

Dr. Mishima conducted the ceremony, assisted by 24 other *Shinto* priests. The members of the Association present numbered about 300. The ceremony, which was prefaced by a brief address from Viscount Kano, Head of the Association Committee, consisted of three parts, that of receiving the Sage's Spirit, of making sanctified offerings, and of sending off the Spirit, each of which was conducted in a most impressive manner. The strains of the *Shinto* band which played during the progress of the ceremony did much to add to the solemnity.

Among those of prominence present were Prince Kitashirakawa, Marquis Tokugawa, Counts Tsuji and Seki, Baron Sakatani, and Drs. Hoshino, Mishima, Hattori and Hosokawa.

THE CONSPIRACY IN KOREA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, April 30)

WE have received more than one communication (not for publication) on the subject of a letter from the Reverend ALBERTUS PIETERS discussing an article which appeared in these columns under the heading of "The Korean Canard." As the matter is of considerable importance, we reproduce the letter of Mr. PIETERS:—

SIR,—I have read with great interest, I regret that I must say also with little satisfaction, your leading editorial on "The Korean Canard." It is already some months ago that friends coming from Korea related to me what seemed to me incredible tales of the arrest of people without the prisoners or their friends being informed of the charge against them, of their detention for long periods without trial or opportunity of defence, of their examination through interpreters without any means of knowing whether their testimony was correctly rendered, of their being tortured in various ways in order to extract evidence, etc. These reports did not emanate from sensational newspaper reporters, or scandalmongers, nor were they from any organized Korean revolutionary agency. They were told and repeated by educated, intelligent, sober-minded American ladies and gentlemen, who in any affair would be considered worthy of the greatest confidence.

As I said, they seemed to me quite incredible, and I waited with confidence for the proof that they were false. I am sorry to say that much has appeared to increase my anxiety lest they be substantially true, and that little or nothing has met my eye to show them false. To be sure, I have seen the reply of General Terauchi to the memorial of the American Missionaries, but to their assertion that released prisoners bear upon their bodies marks of torture, he opposes the mere affirmation that such an accusation is not worthy of reply. This is hardly satisfactory. No one accuses General Terauchi of being a putter in the practices complained of, but substantial evidence like that of scars on the body is not to be so lightly disposed of by an official denial. Neither do vehement denials like those of your editorial carry much weight. You say "It is unnecessary to enter into details by refuting the charges brought against the Japanese Authorities in Korea. Every one taking the trouble to inquire, or thinking it worth while to do so, has obtained ample evidence of the truth already." I have been for fifteen years accustomed to look to the Japan Mail for my information on such subjects, but in this case I have found only general denials. If I have overlooked the "ample evidence" presented in your columns, will you kindly direct my attention to the number and page of the Weekly Mail where it may be found?

Sincerely yours, ALBERTUS PIETERS.

Osaka, April 23rd, 1912.

There were from the outset two phases of this question. One related to the accusation published in American journals to the effect that the Japanese Authorities in Korea had inaugurated a campaign against Christianity under the pretext of a murderous conspiracy, and had caused the arrest and imprisonment of a number of men whose real and only offence was that they harboured patriotic sentiments. It was to that phase of the affair, and to that phase solely, that we referred in our article, and we do not hesitate to repeat the words used in that article, namely, "it is unnecessary to enter into details by refuting the charges brought against the Japanese Authorities in Korea. Every one taking the trouble to inquire, or thinking it worth-while to do so, has obtained ample evidence of the truth already." We do not think that the letter of the Reverend ALBERTUS PIETERS is intended to endorse that story, for he must know well that the declared attitude and the actual practice

of Prince Ito and Count TERAUCHI in Korea has been to encourage rather than to suppress Christianity.

The other phase of the affair—the phase to which we did not intend to allude in our article—is the treatment of the Korean conspirators and suspects by the Japanese judicial authorities. Our correspondent speaks of the apprehension of Koreans without any information as to the charge against them; of their detention for long periods without trial or opportunity of defence; of their examination through interpreters whose accuracy they had no means of testing, and of their having been tortured in various ways to extract evidence. It will be seen that all these accusations rest solely upon the testimony of the incriminated persons, with the one exception of marks of torture. On the other hand, we have the assurance of the Japanese officials concerned that the preliminary trial of these men was conducted in strict accord with the rules of judicial procedure as observed in Japan. The question then rests between, on the one hand, the assertion of certain Koreans who were suspected of murderous conspiracy and against some of whom a *prima facie* case of conspiracy has been established, and on the other, the assertions of the Japanese judicial and administrative officials. We would ask our correspondent and his fellow-thinkers to consider for a moment whether any doubt would be entertained if the declarations of the officials of an Occidental State instead of the declarations of the officials of the Japanese State were in question. It appears to us that the denials of the Japanese officials ought to be treated with the same respect that would be given to the denials of any European or American officials. It is impossible for an outsider to go behind the testimony of the Governor-General and his subordinates, and we cannot but think that if that feature of the case be taken

into full consideration, all doubts must be dispelled. Falshood has never been proved against Japanese high officials, and we have no manner of right to assume that their solemn assertions are unworthy of credence in such a case as that now under consideration.

TRADE AND COMMERCE OF YOKOHAMA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 1.)

THE eighth Annual Report of the Trade and Commerce of Yokohama, issued by the Chamber of Commerce, is now to hand. The Report covers the year 1911, and the Committee responsible for its compilation are to be congratulated, not only on the completeness of their work, but on the promptness of its appearance. Reports of this nature very often lose a great part of their value by delay in publication. The Report, which is for the most part printed in both Japanese and English and thus appeals to

both the Japanese and foreign mercantile community, opens with two coloured diagrams setting forth the chief foreign countries with which Yokohama transacts business, and also the ratio of trade per continent. This draws attention to the fact that to treat the United States as a single country in any statistical observations is obviously illogical. The United States is a number of independent countries brought together under a common central government for purposes of convenience. It is in no sense a country like France, Great Britain or even Germany. That the United States does nearly a half of the foreign trade of Yokohama loses its significance from this point of view, for when we examine the proportion of trade per continent we find the European share exceeds the American share, the proportion being 4.04 to 3.75. America, as is well known, has the greater share of the Japanese export trade, but the balance is more than restored by the predominance of Europe in the import trade.

Another diagram in the report shows the position of Yokohama in comparison with the other ports of Japan. In view of the statements that have appeared as to the decay of Yokohama, this subject is of particular interest. Broadly speaking, Yokohama still holds her own in the export trade, half the exports of the Empire going from this port. In regard to the imports, Kobe takes the lead, but if Kobe has half the import trade of the Empire, Yokohama may claim two-thirds of the remainder. It is quite true that the growth of Yokohama's foreign trade has not been in proportion to that of the other open ports on the side of imports, more especially since the year 1897, and that since 1907 she has been barely holding her own; but on the side of exports the reverse is the case, and with the exception of the year 1908, a gradual progress has been made.

Another interesting diagram in the Report deals with the price of rice and the ratio between prices and wages during the last ten years. The severe fluctuations which the price of rice has undergone during the period seem not to be accounted for by the nature of the harvest. The lowest point was in 1902, when the price of rice was 13.50 yen per *koku*; the highest in 1911, with a little over 18 yen per *koku*. Between these two extremes there have been four years when the average was 14 yen per *koku*, two years when it was 15.50 yen, and two years when it was a little over 17 yen. During the same period the increase of wages has been fairly proportionate. With the exception of 1904, there was a continual rise to 1908, the increase in the prices of commodities having received a check in 1907. From 1908 the fall in the rate of wages continued until 1910, when the increase in the price of commodities which commenced in the previous year, again caused a rise in wages, which is still

progressing. Taking the index number for the year 1902 as 100, the highest point reached by the rate of wages was 135 in 1908. The price of commodities reached its highest point in 1911, when it stood at 133, against 132 in 1907.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TOKYO.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 3.)

UNDER the above title there appears in the "Japan Magazine" for May a very interesting essay in which the author speaks at some length of the several statesmen who have represented Great Britain at the Court of Japan during the Meiji era. He writes under the *nom de plume* "J" and he shows much knowledge of the particular chapter of Japanese history which he undertakes to set forth. Nevertheless, a few errors have crept into his description, and for the sake of the subject we think it advisable to call attention to them. Thus, with reference to the Shimonoseki expedition, he alleges that Japan was condemned to pay an indemnity of 6 million *yen*. If he means this figure to represent the equivalent in *yen* to-day of the three million dollars which actually represented the indemnity in 1863, his figure is insufficient, for the dollar in those days had more than twice the value of the *yen* of our time. But we cannot suppose that the writer intended to speak comparatively, and even if he did so intend, he is at fault. The actual amount of the indemnity was 3 million *yen*, and it looks very much as though rumour had played her usual trick of duplication. Coming to Sir HARRY PARKES, the writer in the "Japan Magazine" says that that remarkable man was once captured by the Chinese and put to the torture; that "his companions perished in the agony while PARKES survived." But Sir HARRY PARKES was never put to torture as the term is understood in the West. It is true that his hair was pulled and his ears twisted. Moreover, he was kept for eleven days in fetters and with an iron collar on his neck. But these things do not represent torture in the ordinary sense of the term. "J" further tells us that "the policy of sending diplomats to Japan who have had training in China, has more than once been observed by the British Government, the present Ambassador to Japan having had an experience similar to that of Sir HARRY PARKES." Criticising this procedure, "J" writes:—"It is doubtless a wise policy; for the man who knows China before coming to Japan, will be best fitted to advise his country in the important relations that continually pend between Japan and China." But in making this appreciation the writer in the "Japan Magazine" apparently forgets that until Japan became an ambassadorial post, the Legation in Peking ranked higher in the British service, so that, failing some special reason, the British Government would not have thought

of sending its Peking Representative to reside at the Legation in Tokyo. We strongly doubt whether such a policy ever presented itself to the minds of the Ministers in Downing Street, and to speak plainly, it has been alleged more than once by publicists whose opinion is valuable that the experience garnered by Sir HARRY PARKES in China tended to handicap him seriously in his subsequent career in Japan. Reading on a little further, we find "J" relating that "when the Japanese Authorities were hesitating as to the concession of some important demand made by England, Sir HARRY dashed the wine glass in his hands to the floor, indicating that that would be the result if Japan pursued the policy they suggested." This is an old canard and it has shown much tenacity of life. But we have it on the authority of those present at the interview in question that Sir HARRY PARKES never dashed the wine glass in his hands to the floor and that no such incident has any basis whatever of truth. Finally, we imagine that nobody will be more surprised than Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD to learn that he "improved the status of the Legation in Tokyo so as to bring about such relations with Great Britain that the establishment of an Embassy in Tokyo was the natural result." Among the many achievements which stand to the credit of Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, we greatly doubt whether this is one, or whether there would ever have been a British Embassy in Tokyo had not the battles of Mukden and Tsushima been fought.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Dictionary of English, German and French Philosophical Terms. With Japanese Equivalents. By TETSUJIRO INOUE, YUJIRO MOTORA and RIKIZO NAKASHIMA, Professors of Philosophy in the Imperial University of Tokyo. Tokyo: Maruzen Kabushiki-Kaisha, 1912. Price 1 *yen* 70 *sen*.

This is the third Philosophical Dictionary which Dr. Inoue, in co operation with other scholars, has published. The first edition of the *Tetsugaku Jii* appeared in 1881, the compilers being Inoue, Wadagaki, Kōdera and Ariga. In 1884 a second and revised edition of this work was brought out by Doctors Inoue and Ariga. The work now given to the public claims to be a new "Dictionary of Philosophical Terms," rather than a third edition of the earlier lexicon. In the former editions English, Latin and Sanscrit terms only were given, but in this one we have Sanscrit, French, Latin, German and English terms. The first part of the Dictionary covers 178 good-sized pages. Then follows a Supplement covering 26 pages. It is certainly a great defect in a work of this kind to have to resort to a supplement at all. Every one of the words found in the Supplement might have been inserted in their proper places in the body of the work, thus saving those who make use of the lexicon an enormous amount of trouble. Occasionally the supplement does no more than give another rendering of a word that has been dealt with in the former part of the book. On p. 2 we find "Acceptance" translated by *junō, shūnō and shōdaku*. Turning to the Supplement, we find the same word given with *shōnin* as a rendering.

It has always seemed to me a mistake for the compilers of technical dictionaries to insert a large number of non-technical terms or to give the general and ordinary meaning attached to terms that are used in two senses, one technical

and the other not. The work before us is full of examples of this sort of thing. What we want to find in a Dictionary of Philosophical terms is not the ordinary meaning of such words as "absurd," "abuse," "active," "adequate," and so on, but the exclusively technical sense in which these words are used by philosophers. I fail to see why the compilers of this dictionary inserted such common words as "adversary," "adversity" and "advice" in a technical dictionary. Their rendering of these words compares unfavourably with that of the compilers of the recently issued *Mohan Ei-Wa Jiten*. Though English philosophers make use of thousand of common words in the sense in which they are used by ordinary writers, that does not necessitate the insertion of these words in a technical dictionary of this kind. If the work gave only the philosophic meaning of the words inserted, there would be no cause for complaint. But this it does not do. When we are told that "advantage" is to be rendered by *riyeki* or *beneki*, "adventure" by *dōken*, advancement by *shimpo* or *zenkō*, we are inclined to ask, what has this to do with philosophy? The ordinary meanings of ordinary words had far better have been omitted, even if the work were reduced to half its present size by the adoption of this plan, for the simple reason that in giving the senses in which such common words as "choice," "attempt," "success" and "rest" are employed, the *Tetsugaku Jii* appears to disadvantage when compared with the bigger dictionaries in daily use.

It is almost superfluous to remark that the rendering of all the purely philosophical terms in use in this country to day is faultless, as we might expect it to be when we consider the high position in the learned world occupied by the compilers of the Dictionary.

On the advisability of mixing Latin, English, German and French terms in the way that has been done in this work there will be much difference of opinion. After 19 German words beginning with the letter "G," the English and French equivalents of which are not given, we have "Guarantee, Guess and Guilt" and then we have *Gültigfeit*. Why the compilers resort to one language in some places and to another tongue in other places it is hard to see. Had they adopted the plan followed in some other dictionaries of giving in each case German, French, English and Japanese corresponding terms side by side, arranging the words in alphabetical order in one of the languages only, be it German, French or English, words could be looked up with greater ease than is possible now.

There are two valuable appendices to the work: one giving the Japanese equivalents of the constellations and the other consisting of a synopsis of Geological Formations.

The Dictionary is printed in large type on thick paper and is strongly and tastefully bound. As books are sold to-day, it is certainly very cheap at 1 *yen* 70 *sen*.

W.D.

FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS.

The foreign trade for the last ten days of the month of April resulted in an excess of imports over exports by 7,242,000 *yen*, the former showing a decrease of 16 per cent., and the latter of 7 per cent., as detailed in the following table:—

	Last Ten days.	Since January.	Compared with the preceding corresponding term.
	(Thou. Yen).	(Thou. Yen).	(Thou. Yen).
Exports	12,779	145,758	+12,681
Imports	20,021	233,077	+43,749
Excess of Imp...	7,242	87,319	

As regards specie, the returns are as follows:—

	Last Ten days.	Since January.	Increase or Decrease.
	(Thou. Yen).	(Thou. Yen).	(Thou. Yen).
Exports	375,000	8,091	— 1,400
Imports	45,332	703	+ 258
Excess of Exp...	329,668	7,388	

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

THE TROUBLE AT PEKING.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 24.

When Tang Shao-i recently returned to Peking, he found amongst the officials who came out to welcome him home many who still wore queues. These he severely reprimanded as traitors to the Republican cause and unfit for public service in the new government. The Minister-President also paid a visit to the Department of Communications on the 22nd instant to make a personal inspection of the business routine and dispatched the subordinate officials whom he brought with him from the south to conduct a similar inspection at the Home Office. He and his subordinates found fault with the business routine followed by the officials of the Departments and severely blamed them for their incompetence. Furthermore, Tang promised to give the southerners the posts in the new government. The officials in Peking who were anxious lest they should be deprived of their posts, so resented the treatment they received at the hands of Tang Shao-i and his southern subordinates, that they tendered their resignation en bloc on the 24th instant. Tang's political enemy, Chao Ping-chun, readily accepted the resignations, he himself having sent in his resignation pretending that he holds himself responsible for the incompetence of his subordinates. The officials of the Finance Department also followed suit, while those in the Department of Communications are also absenting themselves from office. These three Departments are thus completely deserted. About 6,000 policemen under the jurisdiction of the Home Office also show a disquieting attitude. Violent internal strife is anticipated in the new Ministry, which threatens to endanger its very existence.

THE MINISTER OF THE NAVY.

Peking, April 24.

Liu Kuan-haiung, Minister of the Navy, and his party, consisting of about thirty members, arrived at Peking this afternoon.

THE BRITISH TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, April 24.

It is reported that about fifty out of the 150 British soldiers stationed at Hankow will be withdrawn very soon.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRACY.

Chefoo, April 25.

Chou Tsz-tsi, who was appointed Magistrate of Shantung, has not yet entered on his duties, and Yu Chi-ta, acting Magistrate, is also indisposed to attend office. The Provincial Assembly met on the 19th instant, when a resolution was adopted that Chou Tsz-tsi should relinquish his post in favour of Yu Chi-ta to meet the pressing needs of the provincial administration. The resolution was transmitted to Yuan Shih-kai.

QUEUES AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, April 26.

Queue-cutting is now in fashion amongst the civil and military officials in Mukden. Magistrate Chao, General Chang Tso-lin, and Fen Lin-kuo are now the only wearers of queues amongst the officials.

THE KOWLOON TERRITORY.

Peking, April 26.

It would seem that the negotiations for

the extension of the leased territory in Kowloon have now been concluded at Peking. Although the particulars are not yet obtainable, it is presumed the proposals advanced by Great Britain refer to the matter of a loan and the recognition of the Republican Government.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OSHIMA.

Mukden, April 25.

Yesterday Magistrate Chao invited to dinner Governor-General Oshima, who is now in Mukden. The Magistrate also attended the luncheon given in the honour of the Governor-General by the Japanese Consul-General at the Public Hall of the South Manchuria Railway Company on the 24th, although he has been ill for some days past. This act of the Magistrate has had a good effect in promoting cordial relations between the two countries.

MONGOLIA.

Harbin, April 25.

According to a Kulon dispatch a Mongolian emissary is now holding a conference with the Russian authorities in Harbin. It is rumoured that the conference refers to a scheme for the expulsion of the Chinese from Mongolia. Consternation prevails amongst the Chinese residents in Harbin.

PEKING POLITICS.

Peking, April 25.

The Unionists are holding a conference with various political parties with view to a coalition, which promises to succeed.

VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Chefoo, April 25.

Ku Hin-ching has been appointed Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is a graduate of an American university.

KILIN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Kilin, April 27.

The Kilin Provincial Assembly was opened on the 27th instant, when 45 members assembled. Han Kuo-Chun, Director of the Civil Administration, attended, representing the Magistrate.

ANOTHER MUTINY.

Shanghai, April 29.

The troops stationed in Kueih sien in Kwansi province rose in mutiny on the 26th instant, and killed the chief official of that locality. Detachments of troops were sent from Wuchow and Nanking for the suppression of the disturbance.

A SMALL LOAN.

Peking, April 28.

Owing to financial distress the Chinese Government concluded a contract on the 27th instant for a loan of 4,500,000 taels, on the security of the city tolls and also on condition that the Government shall buy from the firm making the loan all the arms which China may need in future.

Peking, April 29.

A telegram from Vienna states that a loan of 45,000,000 dollars is under negotiation. The report is probably an error, for the loan reported in the previous telegram, and otherwise tends to further complicate the loan question.

Shanghai, April 28.

Hsuing Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, who is now in Shanghai, has brought the negotiation for the loan of 2,500,000 taels from a German merchant, to a successful conclusion. The loan is guaranteed by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and is subject to

the condition that China shall buy from the creditor all the arms which China may need in future. The contract was signed on the 27th instant. The Minister was unable to accompany Tang Shao-i to Peking, as he had to deal with the matter of payment of the troops, but since he is now able to meet the urgent disbursements with the proceeds of the loan, he is to leave here to-day for the north by a German steamer *via* Tsingtao.

THE CANTON MAGISTRACY.

Canton, April 29.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen took his confidential secretary, Hu Han-ming with him to Canton. Hu Han-ming is rather unpopular, as a belief obtains that he has in mind replacing Magistrate Chin, who now enjoys the confidence of the people. In the event of Hu Han-ming assuming the Magistracy, further trouble is thought inevitable.

TROUBLE SETTLED.

Nanking, April 28.

Some time ago five blue-jackets of the warship *Mogami* collided with the soldiers of the Canton army at Hsia-kwan, when one of the blue-jackets was injured. The Nanking authorities, who have since been making inquiries concerning the matter, recently expressed to the Japanese authorities their sincere regret over the affair. The matter has thus been peacefully settled.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

A Peking special to the *Chungwa* reports that Yuan Shih-kai attended the opening ceremony of the State Council held on the 29th ult., to read his Message to the Council. The whole city is being strongly guarded. The principal matter to be discussed at the Council refers to the payment of salaries. The Eastern Mongolian Princes have brought forward a Representation concerning the Russo-Mongolian boundaries in Outer Mongolia. The Mongolian question will be raised in the Council.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 29.

The opening ceremony of the State Council was held at 10 o'clock this morning. President Yuan Shih-kai attended. All the troops in Peking were called out and detailed in double or treble lines along the street leading to the Council House, with fixed bayonets. Yuan's carriage was guarded by 300 cavalry soldiers and passed along the streets at a gallop.

ATTACK ON A GOLD MINE.

Peking, April 29.

According to a Tsitsihar despatch, on April 25th about 250 mounted Bandits made an onslaught on a gold mine in the neighbourhood of Kilalin, conducted by the Russians in the interests of the Mongolians, and took possession of the mine, killing over 50 Mongolian guards. Russia presented a strong protest to Sheng Fuli, the Chief Chinese official in Mongolia. Sheng referred the matter to Magistrate Sung, who detached a commissioner without loss of time to investigate and report on the affair.

DR. SUN AT CANTON.

Canton, April 30.

About 50 or 60 French residents in Kwantung province paid a visit to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, together with a large number of Chinese, to offer their hearty congratulations for the success of the revolution.

any movement and the organization of a Republican Government. They also expressed a desire that greater freedom and assistance should be accorded them in future in the propagation of the Gospel. Subsequently, they gave to Dr. Sun a brilliant reception on the 29th instant.

THE KOWLOON TERRITORY.

Hongkong, April 30.

The rumour of the concession of the Kowloon extension lease proves to be premature. As a matter of fact, the negotiations are not yet so advanced, although the official consent of the Chinese Authorities has already been obtained to the extension of the area.

LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Peking, April 29.

The negotiations for a fresh loan of 20 million *taels* from the Belgian syndicate have proved abortive.

FIGHTING IN MONGOLIA.

Harbin, April 29.

The Mongolians have attacked and looted the Chinese town of Hailar. The situation is critical, but the foreign residents are safe.

ARMY REFORM.

Peking, April 30.

Yuan Shih-kai has under contemplation a scheme of organizing six great Army Divisions and the matter is now being discussed with Tsun Chi-jui, Minister of War. According to the scheme, the whole of the existing troops are to be organized into the Eastern Provinces, Northern, Southern, Wuchang, Hankow, Yunnan, Kasu, and Hsin-king Divisions. The consent of Hwang Hsing is to be obtained to this army reform.

THE KIANGSU MAGISTRATE.

Naeking, April 30.

The people of Kiangsu strongly oppose the appointment of Chen Tei-hun as Magistrate, and have sent to Peking a telegraphic impeachment of him.

FINANCIAL FOREIGN ADVISER TO CHINA.

A Peking special to the *Chuvu* reports that it is expected that the State Council will summarily approve the proposal for the engagement of a foreign adviser to the Department of Finance. The proposal has for its object to avoid any opposition to giving foreigners the power of supervision over China's finances.

CHINESE TAXES.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, April 30.

Yuan Shih-kai's Government has decided to increase the saké tax and also inaugurate a stamp tax on and after July next, in order to make good the deficit in the revenue.

PURCHASE OF ARMS.

Peking, April 30.

On receipt of information that the Royalists have purchased from German merchants in Tsingtao a quantity of arms and ammunition, Yuan Shih-kai has dispatched emissaries to conduct inquiries.

ISSUE OF CURRENCY.

Peking, April 30.

The Department of Finance has under contemplation issuing in Tientsin six million dollars' worth of paper money and two million dollars worth of silver coins, which have

already been deposited with the Bank of China and the Communications Bank as a reserve fund.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

Peking, May 1.

The members of the State Council elected by popular vote, met in convention yesterday; Tang Hua-lung, who represents Hupeh province, presiding. The legal status of the councillors was taken up for discussion, when some members argued that the councillors had no legal status, while the members representing Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces advanced a moderate opinion. A rather animated discussion ensued, in the course of which Chang Pei-leh of Hupeh province urged that the old Government nominee members should also be admitted to take part in the convention on condition of their replacement on the arrival in Peking of the members elected by popular vote from the provinces not yet represented on the Council. The motion was adopted and in the same afternoon both old and new members again met, when the resignation tendered by President Lin was taken up for discussion. The members belonging to the Tungming-hui urged that the resignation should not be accepted until after a new Resident of the Council has been elected. The members were equally divided, but it was decided in favour of nullifying the resignation by the casting vote of the chairman. The election of the President and Vice-President were to take place this afternoon, which is to be followed by the election of standing committees to-morrow. Tang Hua-lung is named as probable candidate for the Presidency of the council. The council will meet on the third instant.

Peking, May 1.

As a result of the election conducted by the new State Council to-day, Wu King-lin, Councillor, representing the Three Eastern Provinces, was elected President; and Tang Hua-lung, Councillor, representing Hupeh province, the Vice-President of the Council.

Peking, May 1.

The State councillors receive 200 dollars a month, the President and Vice-President receiving an extra allowance of 100 dollars and 50 dollars respectively, in addition to travelling expense according to the distance as scheduled under:—

Thibet, Hsinking, Tsinghai, Inner and Outer Mongolia, 300 dollars; Amur, Killin, Kasu and Yunnan, 250 dollars; Mukden, Shensi, Szchuen, Kueichow, Kwansi and Shansi, 200 dollars; Kwantung, Chihli, Honan, Shantung-Fukien, Hunan, Hufei and Kiangsi, 250 dollars, Anhui, Chekiang and Kiangsu, 100 dollars.

THE UNIONISTS' HEADQUARTERS.

Chefoo, May 1.

The Tung-i-lang, or Unionists' headquarters, has been moved to Peking, the present headquarters being converted into a Shanghai branch.

Tang Chi-yao has been appointed magistrate of Kueichow to replace Yang Chin-cheng, who is to proceed to Peking via Chang-te. Hu Ying, the Magistrate of Shantung, is expected to return to Chefoo from Peking on the 4th or 5th instant, accompanied by Chang Yen-nan.

THE TSITSIHAR ASSEMBLY.

Tsitsihar, May 1.

Magistrate Sung and a large number of

officials and civilians met at the Provincial Assembly to-day to celebrate the organization of the Republican Government. The town was decorated with five-coloured flags in honour of the occasion.

DEATH OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC COMPANY.

A telegram was received on Tuesday from the New York Offices of the General Electric Company by Mr. Geary, the manager in Yokohama, advising him of the death in an automobile accident of Mr. Parsons, Vice-President of the Company. No further particulars were given in the telegram.

Mr. Hinsdill Parsons came from Little Falls in the State of New York, graduated from Trinity College Law School, Hartford, Conn. in 1884 and subsequently began the practice of law. In 1894 he joined the Legal Staff of the General Electric Company as General Counsel and Head of its Law Department, remaining in this position up to the year 1899 when he was made fourth Vice-president of the Company. Subsequently he was advanced to the Office of Vice-president with Head Quarters in New York City, and for a number of years past in that capacity has been the guiding official and the strongest officer of this big electrical manufacturing corporation. He was greatly interested in the business of the Company in the Orient and particularly Japan: he was most active in the advancement and building up of the Japanese Electrical Manufacturing Companies here, in which the General Electric Company in recent years has become so largely interested. He became thoroughly versed in Japanese business and social affairs generally, and was arranging for an extended trip in Japan this Autumn on business and pleasure. His loss will be felt greatly by the General Electric Company and other business and financial affairs in New York in which he was very prominent. He was 48 years old at his death.

AVIATION IN YOKOHAMA.

A SENSATIONAL FEAT.

Mr. Atwater, one of the passengers on the P.M. liner *Mongolia*, which arrived at Yokohama on Saturday last sent a wireless message asking for permission for himself and his wife to ascend by aeroplane from the deck of the vessel while still at sea and take a flight over Yokohama. Through the kindness of Inspector Okada of the Water Police, permission was granted.

Unfortunately, the elements were unkind, the water was rough, and the wind was rushing in gusts. In spite of this, Mr. Atwater made the attempt, but the backwash of a passing vessel threw the machine out of gear, thus preventing him from rising. Several wires attached to the planes were broken, whilst the motor was partially submerged owing to an unexpected dip below. Although the hydroplane looked badly damaged, Mr. Atwater says that it will not take long before it is repaired and he is enabled to show the wonders of the air-vessel in his possession. In the meantime, both Mr. Atwater and his assistants are hard at work in getting the hydroplane into its original condition, and maybe within a day or so, this strange bird built by men, may be seen hovering over the premier port of Japan.

A MAN named Kagi, formerly employed by the Yokohama Specie Bank, who disappeared after defrauding the Bank has given himself up to the police. He is alleged to have embezzled 20,000 yen.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of April 26th, state:—

The morning market opened generally weak, owing to operators' anxiety as to the "upshot" of the balance of shares waiting for settlement this month. Shares fluctuated between 10/30 sen limits, with the exception of Kyushu Collieries which jumped up 1 yen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old 60 sen rise and Taiwan Sugars Old 50 sen. Exchange shares were again the pivot of convention, the Old gained 70 sen, and New dropped 80 sen.

With a few exceptions, prices again weakened in the afternoon, Specie Bank Old and New fell 55 sen and 1 05; Yokohama Godowns 60 sen, Fuji Gassed Spinnings Old 55 sen, Tokyo Spinnings Old 60 sen, Kanegafuchi Old 1.10 yen, and the rest of the shares 10/50 sen. Exchange shares Old were again beaten down 1.70 yen but New remained unchanged.

Yesterday, 71,570 shares changed hands.

April 27.

As the anxiety of operators with regard to this month's Settlement have been allayed, the tone of the market this morning brightened perceptibly. All shares took an upward turn with the exception of Yokohama Specie Bank, which fell 90 sen, and Fuji Paper 30 sen. The most notable rises were Nippon Yusen 1.20 yen and Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old 1.75 yen. All the others showed 10/50 sen rises. Exchange shares were again keenly contested by "Bulls" and "Bear" and resulted in the victory of the former. Old regained 1.85 yen and New 1.75 yen. The market will be closed this afternoon in preparation for this month's Settlement. Yesterday 93,560 shares changed hands.

April 29.

As this is Settling day for April transactions there is no market.

No. of shares changed hands.....	145,040
Value of above	7,639,410
Average per share	52.653
Compared with last month's transactions:—	
Increase in number of shares.....	46,830
Increase in value	2,766,040
Average per shares (increase)	3.06

April 30.

Owing to a strong "Bearish" movement, combined with the depressing influence of the weather, the morning market opened very weak. Yusen declined 1.35, followed by Hokkaido Tanko Old and New with falls of 1.70 yen and 1.05, on account of the explosion of fire-damp in the Yubari Mine. All other shares in sympathy fell 30/70 sen down the list. Exchange Old and New slumped 1.75 yen and 2.05 yen respectively.

In the afternoon the tone became worse, and the tendency was all in favour of the "Bears." Hokkaido Tanko New again fell 80 sen and the rest of the shares declined 10/60 sen all round. Exchanges Old again lost 1.70 yen, but New recovered 30 sen only.

The "July" market is likely to open somewhat weak.

May 1.

The first market of the new month opened weak and inactive, being still under "Bear" influence. Tankos again collapsed 1 yen 30 sen and 2 yen 5 sen for Old and New. Gas and Electric Lights were steady, but Spinnings and Sugars were somewhat weak. Exchange Old and New were again beaten down 60 sen and 2 yen 5 sen respectively (for June delivery). The 50 yen shares of the Anglo Japanese "Hydro-Electrics" were listed on change for the first time this morning and commanded a premium of 5 yen.

The afternoon session was again sluggish, shares fluctuating 10/50 sen either way. Exchange shares remained stationary. Yesterday 29,740 shares changed hands.

May 2.

Although the tone of the market is still

"Bearish," a slight reaction set in this morning and all shares rose fractionally. Spinnings were in fair demand and prices went up 30/50 sen. Toyo Muslin rose 60 sen, but Exchange shares were dull, with few buyers and fell 60 sen and 15 sen for Old and New.

The afternoon market was a repetition of that of the morning, the only notable exception being the recovery of Hokkaido Tankos Old and New by 75 sen and 50 sen respectively. Toyo Muslin again rose 60 sen, others fractionally. Exchange shares were again forced down 93 sen for Old and 60 sen for New.

Yesterday, 29,560 shares changed hands.

A HOTEL MURDER.

A DARING CRIME.

The Shanghai Municipal police were on the 25th ult. engaged in investigating a tragedy which came to light in a Japanese hotel in the early forenoon. The body of a Chinese had been found in circumstances which strongly indicated murder, and the inquiries seemed to place it beyond doubt that the motive for the crime was robbery, a considerable quantity of jewelry having disappeared from the man's possession. An inquest was held upon the body of the deceased man, and a verdict of death by strangulation committed by persons unknown was returned.

The man who thus met his death, says the *N. C. Daily News*, was a shroff in the employ of Mr. I. Delbourgo, jewel merchant, 12 Nanking Road. His name was Su Yu-tai, and his business seems to have been to effect sales of his employer's valuables. About noon on the 24th he left the office, taking with him jewels to the value of \$11,300, and on his person were other precious stones making a total of about \$14,000. The valuables he had for sale were carried in a black bag. From this time until the news reached him of his death, the employer of the deceased neither saw him nor had any communication from him.

His movements have, however, to a large extent been traced. About four o'clock in the afternoon he called at a Japanese hotel, No. 41-43 North Soochow Road, inquired for people whom he seems to have arranged to meet there, but not finding them, left. About 7.30 p.m. he returned, on this occasion in company with two Japanese, and the three of them went to a room upstairs. About eight o'clock, one of the Japanese returned carrying with him the deceased's bag, and with it in his possession left the hotel. Shortly afterwards the other Japanese also left, paying the bill. There was no sign of the Chinese, and evidently the hotel-keeper took it for granted that he had left unobserved.

The assumption that the Chinese had left the hotel was wrong, for when the servants were cleaning the room they opened a wardrobe and inside found the dead body of Su. The police were called in, and from the position of the body and other circumstances, they came to the conclusion that the man had been strangled. They notified the Chinese Magistrate of the occurrence, and had the body removed to the Mixed Court, where in the afternoon an inquest was held by Mr. Nyih, Assistant Magistrate, and Mr. Johnson, American Assessor.

Det-Sgt. Reeves appeared for the police, and evidence of Det-Sgt. Kiloh, Mr. Delbourgo, employer of the deceased, a Japanese detective and others, was taken. The names of the two Japanese who had been seen at the hotel in company with the deceased were given as Ota and Moriyama, the latter being mentioned as the man who had carried the bag away with him. Inquiries had been made at Moriyama's house in Yulang Road, and it was found that he had called there at 9 p.m. for his raincoat, but had not been seen since.

In connexion with the murder, the Japanese Consular authorities have taken a Japanese into custody.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Permit us to call to your attention the fact that within a few days the business men of your city, through their commercial organization, have received a cordial invitation to join the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce, the principal organization of business men in the world, and to send delegates to the fifth session of this Congress, to be held in Boston, United States of America, September 24th to 28th of this year.

The members of the Congress are anxious that your City should have a large representation. We are, therefore, taking the liberty of addressing this letter to you, in order that you may print the facts in your valued publication at this time when our formal invitation is being sent.

The International Congress of Chambers of Commerce and Industrial and Commercial Associations is an organization representing the business men of the entire world. The delegates to the Congress are of two classes; firstly, the official delegates designated to attend the Congress by the Governments of the leading commercial nations; second, the delegates appointed by the leading business organizations of the world who are affiliated with the Congress. The purpose of the Congress is to facilitate the commercial intercourse of nations; and to promote cordial relationship between them. It strives to secure harmony of action on all international questions affecting commerce and trade by enlisting the co-operation of the various nations to obtain uniform laws with reference to commercial matters. To this end it considers at its biennial sessions questions of internal scope affecting business and business relations. The recommendations adopted by vote of the delegates are carried out by a permanent committee, the headquarters of which are at Brussels, and which keeps in touch with the constituent organizations and the Governments of all countries.

The Congress has never before met in the New World. Business organizations in all civilized countries are being invited to send delegates. Following the business sessions, at which several important questions bearing upon international business relations will be acted upon, the delegates from all countries other than the United States will go on tour. A special train will carry them to several of the principal cities of the country, where they will be entertained by the local commercial organizations and given an opportunity to observe commercial, industrial and social conditions.

Hon. William H. Taft, President of the United States, is Honorary President of the American General Committee, and Hon. Philander C. Knox, Secretary of State, and Hon. Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labour, are Honorary Vice-Presidents.

Commercial and industrial organizations in any nation of the world are welcome to membership in the International Congress. Each business organization pays a yearly subscription of \$10 (50 francs) and is entitled to name three delegates. For each additional delegate \$4 (20 francs) is payable. Individual members of a business organization may be admitted to the International Congress upon the payment of \$4 (20 francs). Only delegates, however, are entitled to a vote in the deliberations of the Congress.

The leading business organizations of Europe are already members of the International Congress, the representation from the great commercial countries being especially strong. The decision to hold the Fifth Congress on this side of the Atlantic has given a marked impetus to the American membership in both North and South America. The leading progressive business bodies of the United States have already joined, or will act upon the matter within a few months. It is hoped that South America will also be very largely represented.

Your kind attention and valued co-operation in securing a large attendance from your part of the country will be much appreciated.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE S. SMITH,

CHAIRMAN,

AMERICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Boston, April 4, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

ACTION OF THE U.S. SENATE
CRITICISED.FURTHER EVIDENCE IN THE
INQUIRY.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 26.

In the House of Lords, Earl Stanhope drew attention to the American enquiry into the loss of a vessel flying the British flag, and pointed out that if the fact of the company owning the *Titanic* being partly American were accepted as justification, this would strike at the root of the position of merchantmen in war time, rendering their nationality doubtful.

Lord Morley deprecated discussion of the question.

Lord Lansdowne said that although the procedure was unprecedented, they must also remember that the circumstances were without parallel.

London, April 27.

Senator Smith, the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee of Inquiry, referred to the British criticisms into the conduct of the inquiry, and said that the officers of the *Titanic* had assured him that they had no grounds of complaint.

The Committee had powers to handle the matter, and was endeavouring to get at the truth of the disaster, which was what the British authorities wanted.

The Mackay-Bennett has found the bodies of Mr. J. J. Astor, Mr. Straus and Mr. Hays.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO
ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 26.

The Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee of Inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic* announces that all British subjects knowing anything about the disaster will be detained until the Committee has learned everything possible.

The evidence shows that the boats were not completely fitted and that certain details of equipment and discipline were lacking, owing to the fact that the *Titanic* had been newly commissioned.

The cable ship Mackay-Bennett, engaged in recovering the bodies, reports that several hundred have been found.

The most interesting evidence before the Committee was the statement of the wireless operator of the *Californian* that before the *Titanic* disaster he warned her of the nearness of the ice.

He was told to stop because he was interfering with other messages.

It also appeared that the *Titanic* had been previously warned in other quarters.

Later.

The Mackay-Bennett has recovered 205 bodies, 91 of which have been identified.

They include the bodies of Mr. Astor and Mr. Straus.

A New York special to the *Jiji Shimpō*, under date of the 25th instant, says: Investigations by the United States Senate into the causes of the *Titanic* disaster have brought to light the fact that prior to the collision the vessel was three times warned as to the proximity of icebergs, but that she maintained full speed notwithstanding.

ing. According to the accounts of two seamen among the survivors, they descried a ship running about 15 miles ahead at the time of the disaster, which, however, in no way responded to the alarm signals from the *Titanic*.

A London dispatch to the *Nichi Nichi* says that the committee appointed in England to investigate into the cause of the *Titanic* disaster is considered as the strongest ever organized for such a purpose. General satisfaction is felt at the appointment of Lord Mersey as the head of the Committee. The completion of the investigation will take a month at least. In the Court of Inquiry, the Attorney General will represent the Board of Trade, while the survivors from the *Titanic* and the engineers, as well as the representatives of the yard where the vessel was built, will also be summoned as witnesses.

A series of questions were raised in Parliament on the 24th ultimo concerning the *Titanic* disaster. Most of the Members gave expression to their indignation at the overbearing attitude of the American Senate in starting an investigation as to a disaster to a British steamer. One asked if the *Titanic* was, at the time of the collision, sailing under the American flag, while another asked why the British Embassy in America did not give due protection to British subjects summoned before the Senate Committee of Inquiry.

A funeral service for the late Mr. Stead was held on the 26th. Among the prominent persons attending the function were Lord Haldane, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. John Burns and Lady Warwick. Queen Dowager Alexandra despatched a representative.

The body of Mr. Stead has been recovered. The other bodies are said to be scattered over an area of a few square miles. A German steamer is said to have discovered the body of a woman holding her child in her arms, of a man clinging to some wreckage and of a girl embracing her pet dog.

A London dispatch to the *Jiji* says that the investigation started by the United States Senate into the *Titanic* disaster continues to elicit severe criticisms from the British Parliament and public, and the good feeling in existence between England and America is more or less strained in consequence. The British people regret that the Senate has detained English subjects as witnesses in inquiring into a disaster to a British steamer, and are indignant at the ridiculous questions put to those witnesses. The British Government is greatly concerned with this deplorable development of the situation, and has requested the British Ambassador in America to submit reports on the objects and scope of the Senate's investigation. Even the most prudent English papers now adversely criticise the Senate's inquiry and advise the public not to recognize the investigations, but to await the decision of the British Court of Inquiry.

ANOTHER SENSATION.

STATEMENT OF ENGINEMAN ON
"CALIFORNIAN."

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 28.

The Mackay-Bennett has found the bodies of Messrs. Astor, Straus and Hays.

The inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic* at Washington has developed another sensation.

Gill, a donkey-engineer on the *Californian*, declared that he saw the *Titanic* very plainly going at full speed at 11.56 in the evening when the *Californian's* engines were stopped for ten minutes on account of the drifting ice.

Later he saw a rocket ten miles distant, and then another.

On the following morning he heard an

officer tell another that the captain had been notified of the rockets.

The entire crew of the *Californian* talked about the disregard of the rockets.

Captain Lord of the *Californian* denied Gill's allegations, and said he saw neither the *Titanic* nor her signals on Sunday evening.

The survivors of the crew of the *Titanic* are to arrive at Plymouth to-day.

Extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the Press and the public obtaining access to them.

THE FRENCH BANDITS.

RUN TO GROUND IN A PARIS
SUBURB.TERRIBLE VENGEANCE OF
THE MOB.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, April 29.

The Paris police on Saturday night surrounded an isolated house at Choisy-le-roi, where the motor-car bandits had taken refuge.

The siege of the house resembled the scene at Sidney-street, in Mile End, London, last year.

The bandits kept up a steady fire on the large forces of police and Republican Guards, commanded by M. Lepine—who had assembled.

The citizens of Choisy-le-roi also participated in the attack, assembling in thousands, armed with hay-forks, etc.

There was a fusillade of rifles, sporting guns and revolvers, but in spite of this, the police were at first driven back.

On a third attempt, an explosion of bombs caused the wall of the house to collapse and the building to be set on fire.

The police then rushed in. They found the noted anarchist Dubois dead, and Bonnot, the chief of the gang of motor-car criminals, in a dying condition.

Both had committed suicide.

The police and the troops had the utmost difficulty in preventing the crowd lynching Bonnot, and many were injured in the struggle.

Ultimately the police were compelled to abandon the body of Dubois, which the mob trampled upon, dancing and yelling with delight.

The whole siege was recorded on a cinematograph.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO
ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, April 29.

The leader of the motor-car bandits, who has terrorised Paris and the neighbourhood for six months, was discovered with a confederate in a suburb at Choisy-le-roi in a motor-car garage.

After a four hours' siege by the police and a company of troops, accompanied by a desperate fusillade from both sides, the building was finally blown up with dynamite and the ruffian captured.

He died shortly after and his companion was found dead.

After two police officers had been wounded in attempting to approach the house, mattresses and a haycart were brought, under cover of which an officer succeeded in

placing a charge of dynamite and blowing out the front of the house.

The police then rushed in and found the ruffian still firing.

Thousands of spectators, including many photographers, witnessed the scene.

(REUTER'S SERVICE).

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 25.

The Italian casualties in repulsing the attacks on the 23rd and 24th inst. on the new positions in the Macabez peninsula were seven killed and seventy wounded.

The Italians have occupied the island of Stampalia in the Aegean and established a revictualling base there.

THE MUTINY AT FEZ.

London, April 25.

In the mutiny at Fez, a terrible scene took place in the room of the wireless telegraph operators.

With only one revolver they killed fifteen of their assailants, but eventually the Moors climbed on to the roof and poured burning oil into the room.

One of the wireless operators was killed, and his three comrades committed suicide to prevent themselves falling alive into the hands of the natives.

REVIEW OF HOME FLEET.

London, April 26.

King George will review the Home Fleet at Portland on the 6th of May and will participate in the manoeuvres.

CHINA AND MONGOLIA.

London, April 26.

The *Times* correspondent at St. Petersburg says that Russian money is finding its way into the Mongolian Treasury in return for mining and other concessions.

The intention of China to send delegates to Mongolia to treat for the recognition of Chinese sovereignty is favourably viewed in official circles, Russia adhering to the idea that Mongolia should be an autonomous province under Chinese suzerainty.

It is believed that China will ultimately accept this formula.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, April 26.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has announced that the Home Rule Bill will be read a second time on the 30th inst., six days being allocated to its discussion.

The Opposition vehemently protested, and a heated scene took place between Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Carson.

THE INDIAN LOAN.

London, April 26.

The failure of the Indian loan, of which the underwriters are saddled with 87 per cent., is much commented upon.

AMERICANS IN MEXICO.

London, April 27.

Owing to the insecurity to life and property arising from the chaotic conditions in Mexico, the Americans are fleeing from the interior to the ports.

In response to an urgent appeal the Washington Government has sent a transport down to the West coast to pick up refugees.

THE CHINESE TROOPS AT LHASSA.

London, April 27.

The Dalai Lama's special courier, who has arrived at Kalimpong, reports that the Chinese are still penned in a corner of the suburbs of Lhasa.

A parley is proceeding, but the Chinese

are hesitating over the Thibetans' offer of safe-conduct and expenses to Szchuan, subject to the surrender of their arms.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, April 27.

Colonel Roosevelt has won the primary elections in the Missouri Republican Convention.

LAUNCH OF GERMAN WARSHIP.

London, April 28.

The thirteenth German Dreadnought, the *König Albert*, has been launched at Danzig.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 28.

Mr. Sazanoff, the Russian Foreign Minister, states that he sees no danger of a general conflict in the Near East arising out of the Italian conduct in the Turco-Italian War.

THE TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

London, April 28.

Both France and Spain are largely reinforcing their troops in Morocco, where undoubtedly a serious ferment exists.

FIGHTING AT LHASSA.

London, April 29.

News received at Simla from Lhasa through the Gyantse shows that the fighting continues.

The Thibetans are reported to be 10,000 strong. They have lost 900 killed, while the Chinese have lost 300.

A thousand Chinese soldiers are now hard-pressed in the southern suburbs, being surrounded by a large force of Thibetans.

The Prime Minister of the Tashi Lama is proceeding to Lhasa to mediate and conduct an official investigation.

News on the frontier confirms this report, but it is impossible to check the figures.

THE LENA MASSACRE.

London, April 29.

The students of St. Petersburg have held a demonstration of sympathy with the strikers at Lena.

They were dispersed by the police after 123 arrests had been made.

Strikes in sympathy continue in the provinces.

THE "TITANIC" SURVIVORS.

London, April 29.

As a result of an indignant protest by many public men, the Board of Trade yesterday evening cancelled the detention at Plymouth of the survivors from the White Star liner *Titanic*.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, April 30.

The greatest interest is taken in to-day's primaries in Massachusetts, where President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt are following each other in attacking and defending with an asperity unequalled in presidential politics. Up to now 672 delegates have been elected to the Republican Convention, 415 of whom are for President Taft and 207 for Colonel Roosevelt.

Massachusetts only chooses 36 delegates, but the election is interesting as they are expected to vote solidly one way or the other.

THE CRETAN DEPUTIES.

London, April 30.

The British cruiser *Minerva* fired a blank charge to arrest the passage of the steamer on which the Cretan deputies, who had been

irregularly elected to the Greek Chamber, were proceeding to Athens.

The deputies have been transhipped to the cruiser *Hampshire* and detained.

MEETING OF LIVERPOOL SEAMEN.

London, April 30.

At a mass meeting of seamen and firemen held at Liverpool it was resolved to refuse to coal and load ships carrying non-Union labour or Chinese.

THE PARIS BANDITS.

London, April 30.

The French police have started a campaign against all anarchists.

It appears that Bonnot and Dudois were killed by shots from the police, and did not commit suicide.

THE ACCIDENT TO VEDRINES.

London, April 30.

Vedrine, the aeronaut, who fell from his aeroplane at Epinay-sur-Seine, owing to the motor stopping, was taken to the hospital, where it was found he had fractured his skull.

The operation of trepanning was performed.

STEAMER WRECKED BY MINE.

London, May 1.

A local steamer named the *Texas* has struck a submarine mine at the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna.

Those drowned number 140. It appears that many were injured by the explosion.

THE PARIS BANDITS.

London, May 1.

Intense excitement has been created in Paris by the tracing of two accomplices to a house in a suburb, where they are now surrounded.

The men have a regular arsenal of weapons and are prepared to resist to the death.

THE SURPLUS OF THE BRITISH BUDGET.

London, May 1.

Much interest has been aroused as to the disposal of the surplus of 6½ million pounds from the British Budget.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, intimated in the House of Commons yesterday evening that the use of part of it might be necessary to meet the losses due to the coal strike, and part to meet the expenditure of £600,000 for the Navy from the previous year.

The Government had decided upon this step owing to the uncertainty as to the possible liabilities of the Navy.

Mr. Lloyd George affirmed, "We don't know what our position is even now, and it is unknown what our liabilities may be."

The Government majority dropped to 47.

THE VICTIMS OF THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

London, May 1.

The *Mackay-Bennett* has arrived at Halifax with 120 bodies, for which there were no coffins, piled up on the deck forward.

Seventy bodies, including Mr. J. J. Astor, were placed in rude boxes aft.

One hundred and sixteen other bodies were buried at sea owing to lack of accommodation and decomposition.

(By Special Arrangement with the "Tokyo Asahi Shimbun.")

THE GERMAN DEFENCE BILLS.

London, April 26.

In the Reichstag, during the debate on

the Defence Bills, the Centre Leader, Herr Erzberger, declared it was useless to talk of disarmament, as the other Powers showed no desire to disarm.

He thought that if Germany were too good-natured she might be humbugged.

THE TROUBLE AT FEZ.

London, April 26.

The French Minister of War has authorised the proclamation of martial-law at Fez.

PRESIDENT TAFT AND COLONEL ROOSEVELT.

London, April 27.

President Taft's speech at Boston, attacking Colonel Roosevelt for violation of his solemn promises, has produced an enormous impression.

It is considered in many ways the most notable political pronouncement for many years.

COPPER.

London, April 27.

Copper is quoted at 70½—71½. The tone is firm after some sales.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, April 26.

On the Stock Exchange Japanese 4½ per cents. have rise smartly.

London, April 27.

Japanese bonds are in renewed request.

THE TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

London, April 26.

A squadron of Moorish cavalry has deserted from the French camp at Sukelarba, and until reinforcements arrive the defence of the camp depends on two regiments of Moorish infantry, who up to now have remained loyal.

All the tribes in the Wazan district have received letters from influential persons at Fez, urging the extermination of the French.

THE VOYAGE OF THE "OLYMPIC."

London, April 26.

The voyage of the White Star liner *Olympic* from Southampton to New York was at first interrupted because the firemen refused to remain on board owing to the deficiency and unseaworthiness of the life-boats.

The voyage of the vessel has now been abandoned owing to the refusal of the seamen to sail with the new firemen, who are alleged to be untrained non-Union men.

The Captain of the cruiser *Cochrane* unsuccessfully urged the men to return to the ship.

Afterwards 53 of the men were arrested and charged with mutiny.

THE PARIS BANDITS.

London, April 26.

The assistant chief of the Paris detective service has been shot dead and another detective seriously wounded by the leader of the desperate band of ruffians who are responsible for the numerous recent outrages.

The detectives were visiting a suburban house in connexion with a recent robbery when they unexpectedly found the man in hiding.

A desperate struggle ensued, the murderer finally feigning death and managing to escape over the roofs.

The connexion of the band of ruffians with the anarchist organisation is clearly proved.

WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT.

London, April 26.

The Government majority on the first reading of the Bill for the Disestablishment

and Disendowment of the Church of Wales was 78 instead of the anticipated 114, owing to the abstention of Liberal Churchmen.

CRETAN DEPUTIES SEIZED.

London, April 29.

The British cruiser *Candia* has stopped a steamer conveying Cretan deputies to Athens, taking the vessel to Suda Bay, where the deputies are under the guard of international warships.

RUSSIA AND THE ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 29.

The declaration of M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Russian foreign policy is regarded as indicating the next Russian move with the consent of Great Britain and France, will be to effect the conclusion of the war at the speediest possible moment.

CRETAN DEMONSTRATION.

London, April 30.

The Cretans are organizing an armed demonstration as a protest against the British cruiser's detention of the deputies to Athens.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

London, April 30.

Dr. Morrison reports from Peking that the opening of the Advisory Council was simple, quiet and dignified.

None, seeing the earnest way in which the members are aspiring to elevate their country, and contrasting them with the antiquated reactionaries of the past system, could share the pessimism of the critics in Europe, who condemn the Republic as hopeless.

The situation is now getting under control, the consolidating forces being infinitely stronger than the disintegrating forces.

President Yuan Shih-kai's address was a carefully considered document. His insistence on the necessity of reforming the land taxation, finance, agriculture and forestry, decreasing the export duties, abolishing likin, and employing foreign experts, deeply impressed his audience.

ACCIDENT TO FAMOUS AVIATOR.

London, April 30.

Hopes are entertained that the famous aviator Vedrines, who collided with a railway-engine, and is suffering from concussion of the brain, will ultimately recover.

He was attempting to fly from Douai to Madrid in one day.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, April 27.

On the Stock Exchange, Japanese bonds are in renewed request.

SENTENCES ON EGYPTIAN NATIONALISTS.

London, May 1.

The Egyptian Nationalist leader who recently fled, has been sentenced to imprisonment for a year for a seditious speech and two newspaper directors to three months.

TROUBLE ON THE PORTUGUESE FRONTIER.

London, May 1.

It is reported from Oporto that a band of Royalists attacked the Customs post at Moncas, captured the rifles of the guards, and retreated into Spain.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, May 1.

The opening in the House of Commons of the debate on the second reading of the Irish Home Rule Bill, was characterised by determined Unionist resistance.

Mr. Winston Churchill indulged in much

special pleading, declaring the Bill would reconcile the two kingdoms.

The Opposition retorted that the Bill would mean war.

THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

London, May 1.

Mr. Ismay, Chairman of the White Star line, has indignantly repudiated the suggestion that he or anyone connected with the owners attempted to increase the insurance after the *Titanic* had foundered.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 2.

The Turkish Ministers have decided to re-open the Dardanelles.

An article in the official organ previously explained that the Italian bombardment was the last despairing effort to secure the intervention of the Powers.

The continued closure might oblige the neutral Powers to interfere, however, where-as the opening would avoid complications.

Any Italian attempt to force a passage would be utterly defeated.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, May 2.

Grave doubts have been expressed in many quarters as to whether President Taft can be nominated, as even if Colonel Roosevelt fails to secure nomination he may be strong enough to defeat President Taft's force and compromise candidates upon the Convention.

Colonel Roosevelt has shown extraordinary ability in capitalising popular discontent with machine government.

BULGARIANS CONDEMNED.

London, May 2.

Five Bulgarians have been condemned to death for being implicated in an attempt to dynamite the Kumanodo railway, and ten to hard labour.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

London, May 2.

The new British Fleet organization provides for six homogeneous battle-squadrons. It is considered a reply to the intended increase of the German Squadrons.

The fully Commissioned Fleet will be 28 battleships in home waters, whereof 24 will have their bases in ports in the United Kingdom and four at Gibraltar.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

QUEEN WILHELMINA TO VISIT MECKLENBURG.

Berlin, April 26.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, with her consort and Princess Juliana, will pay a visit to Mecklenburg.

MOROCCO.

London, April 29.

The Spanish Government, in a note replying to an interpellation of the French Government, renounces its claims on the district at Maluja river. It, however, maintains its claims on the Urga territory.

NEW CAMPANILE TOWER.

The new Campanile tower at Venice has been inaugurated with a solemn ceremony.

KAISER TO RECEIVE GRECIAN PREMIER.

London, April 25.

King George of Greece has sent the Prime Minister Venizelos to Corfu, where he will be received in audience by the Kaiser.

GUNBOATS IN COLLISION.

The torpedo-boat *G. 113* has collided

with the armoured cruiser *Friedrich Karl*, as a result of which it was damaged. It was, however, towed to Sassnitz on the island of Ruegen. All the crew escaped injury.

THE ARMAMENT BILLS.

The Reichstag has, by a majority of two votes, transferred the new Armament Bills to a Committee for further consideration, and the Bill for covering the expenses to a special Committee.

THE JESUIT QUESTION.

The German Government has come to an agreement with the Bavarian Government on the Jesuit question. The latter withdraws its former edict against the activity of the order of the Jesuits, and the Bundesrat, on the other hand, promises to issue a special declaration on this subject.

Berlin, April 26.

The Chancellor, speaking in the German Reichstag on the subject of the readmission of the Jesuit order to Germany, stated that the Bavarian Government, as a result of negotiations in the Bundesrat, had recognised that the Law of the Empire against the Jesuits, who are to be regarded as dangerous to the State, was not to be interpreted in a different manner by the various Confederated States of the Empire. This declaration has been received with great satisfaction by the majority of the House. The Bundesrat has been entrusted with the drawing up of an authentic announcement as to the proposed sphere of activity of the Order, but the Government provides that, until that date, the internal peace of the Empire will be preserved by the maintenance of the Law against the admission of the Jesuits.

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES ON STEAMSHIPS.

London, April 25.

The German Government is already preparing special steps for international negotiations on the improvement of safety appliances on board passenger steamers.

DUELLING DISPUTE IN THE REICHSTAG.

Berlin, April 26.

The Prussian Minister for War has been violently attacked in the Reichstag by the Centre party, owing to his declaration that an officer could not be allowed to refuse a duel on religious grounds.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, April 25.

Enver Bey, who was reported to have died of a wound received during the latest combats in Tripoli, is still in command of the Turkish troops at Derna.

Berlin, April 26.

The Turkish Government has postponed the reopening of the Dardanelles owing to the continued presence of Italian warships in the Aegean Sea.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government, notwithstanding the unmistakable reply of the Turkish Government to the interpellation of the Powers as to the conclusion of peace, will present a new proposal for a compromise with Italy.

THE TROUBLE AT FEZ.

Berlin, April 26.

One hundred and seventy-five men of the Sherifian auxiliary Cavalry corps in the French camp in Morocco have deserted.

RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

Berlin, April 27.

M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Duma,

especially emphasized the effectiveness of the Alliance with France and the Convention with Great Britain. Russia, however, would always maintain her traditional friendly relations to Germany, which had been confirmed anew by the interview at Potsdam, when the mutual interests of both Powers in the Near and Far East were clearly fixed. Russia's relations with Italy had been strengthened, and a satisfactory basis for the creation of an understanding with Austria arranged. It was to be hoped that the peace in the Balkans would remain undisturbed, and that no universal war would be caused by the Turco-Italian conflict. The immediate result of the common action of the Powers at Constantinople was not yet disclosed. The conditions in Persia did not give cause for apprehension as to further difficulties.

Continuing his speech with reference to China, the Minister stated that Russia had joined the Four Powers' Syndicate under the condition that her special rights in Mongolia and Northern Manchuria were to be respected. Russia could not agree to Mongolia becoming a strong military State. It was the duty of Russian diplomacy to demand a participation in the effecting of an understanding between Mongolia and China, in spite of all efforts to maintain her good relations with the latter country. Russia, for this reason, would support Mongolia in creating an autonomous administration.

The Minister concluded his speech by stating that it was to be expected that the peace of the nations would not be disturbed in the near future.

SATISFACTION IN GERMANY.

Berlin, April 28.

The speech of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs before the Duma has been received with satisfaction by the whole of the German press.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, commenting on the speech of Minister Sazanoff before the Duma, says that his statesmanlike explanation has cleared up many questions of international importance. The part of his speech dealing with Russo-German relations has been received with full satisfaction in Germany.

BATTLESHIP LAUNCHED.

The last German battleship of the Kaiser-class has been launched at the Schichau dockyard at Danzig in the presence of King Albert of Sachsen, after whom she is named.

ADMIRAL'S RESIGNATION.

Admiral Schroeder, the Chief of the Naval Station in the Baltic, has resigned, his successor being Vice-Admiral Coeper.

THE KAISER'S RETURN.

The Kaiser will leave Corfu for home on May 8th, proceeding first to Southern Germany.

RESIDENT-GENERAL AT FEZ.

General Lyautey, Commander of the X. French Army Corps, has been nominated Resident-General at Fez.

Muley Mohammed has been nominated "Sultan" by several Moroccan tribes.

GREAT BRIDGE OPENED AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The great bridge between Stamboul and Galata at Constantinople, which has been constructed by the Augsburg-Nuernberg Machine Works, has been opened.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Several Russian firms have granted a loan

to Mongolia, in return for which gold mining privileges were given by the latter. The Russian Government has not taken action to interdict the issue of this loan.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Russian Ambassador at Constantinople is making strong efforts for the restitution of the former conditions in the Aegean Sea, owing to interference with Russian commerce resulting in the accumulation of Russian corn to the amount of 10 million poods caused by the closing of the Dardanelles.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to April 14th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on April 28th.

RUSSIA IN MONGOLIA.

Berlin, April 29.

Russian troops have occupied Kuldsha in Mongolia.

KING TO GO TO MARIENBAD.

It is rumoured that King George of England will go this year to Marienbad for the "cure."

TROOPS LANDED ON ASTROPHALIA.

The Italians have landed troops on the island of Astrophalia in the Aegean Sea and taken prisoners a small Turkish garrison.

COLONIAL GOVERNOR RETIRED.

Berlin, April 30.

Freiherr von Rechenberg, the Governor of East Africa, has been placed on the retired list.

MINING DIRECTOR MURDERED IN BORNEO.

The Berlin *Lokalanzeiger* reports from Borneo that a German national, Herr Lohnsdorfer, the director of a mining company, has been murdered by natives.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Ministerial Council has decided to continue the closure of the Dardanelles.

The Governments of Germany, Great Britain and Austria have made friendly representations at Constantinople with regard to the closing of the Dardanelles, by which commerce is much impeded. Russia, moreover, demands the payment of an indemnity for the commercial losses suffered by her as a result of the closing of the Dardanelles.

The Italian Press demands a strong siege of the Dardanelles and the carrying out of other strong bellicose measures against Turkey.

An interpellation has been presented in the English House of Commons as to whether a temporary opening of the Dardanelles could not be effected.

GREAT FIRE AT DAMASCUS.

The great fire at Damascus has at last been brought under control after enormous damage has been done. The Great Mosque and the Banks have been saved.

DISASTER NEAR SMYRNA.

The American merchant steamer *Texas*, with 152 passengers on board, in spite of previous warning attempted to enter Smyrna harbour, and struck a floating mine. The vessel was terribly damaged and quickly sank.

Out of 152 passengers on board 93 persons were saved.

CRETAN DEMONSTRATION.

Cretan Deputies have been captured by an English warship on their way to Athens, where they intended to attend the sittings

of the Greek Chamber. The Greek Government repeats its declaration that it will not admit Cretan deputies to the Chamber.

RUMOURS OF ANOTHER BELGIAN LOAN.

It is reported from Brussels that the Hangyang Works have asked for a loan of 30 million *taels* from the Belgian Syndicate.

THE QUESTION OF DUELLING.

Berlin, May 1.

The Prussian Minister for War, speaking in the Reichstag on the question of duelling, gave satisfactory declarations, which were accepted by all parties.

DOCKYARD STRIKE IN HAMBURG.

A strike of workmen has broken out at the Vulcan dockyard at Hamburg.

COLONIAL POLICY.

Dr. Solf, the new Secretary of State for the Colonies, speaking in the Reichstag, said that the Government would continue its present colonial policy. A Bill for the institution of a Supreme Court for the Colonies would be presented.

STEEL TRUST RENEWED.

The German Steel Trust has been renewed for a further five years.

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Unrest has broken out at Kuldja and Ak Su in Outer-Mongolia.

The Shantung Railway Company has declared a dividend of 6 per cent., preferential shares receiving a further dividend of 5 per cent.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Herr von Kiderlen Waechter, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking before the Committee investigating the Armament Bills stated that the negotiations with Great Britain, which had been entered upon after the visit of the British Minister for War, are still proceeding.

Mr. Asquith, the British Premier, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the relations between Germany and Great Britain had arrived at a point permitting a free and friendly discussion of mutual interests. An agreement had already been effected and it was to be hoped that it would continue in future.

TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

The Sultan of Morocco has issued an edict disapproving of the revolt at Fez and stating that a closer union of Morocco with France was necessary.

SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBITION.

An official American Committee is visiting the principal European states to invite their participation in the World Exposition at San Francisco in the year 1915.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Turkey remains firm in refusing to re-open the Dardanelles in spite of the last strong Note of Russia. She declares that the re-opening of the Dardanelles must absolutely depend on her own decision and that she cannot recognise the Russian demand of an indemnity for the loss caused to the Russian corn trade by the closing of the Straits.

The Italian Squadron appears to be preparing for the occupation of the island of Rhodes.

The Russian corn trade is suffering heavily from the closing of the Dardanelles.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Hungarian

Chamber, stated that the monarchy would remain faithful to the Triple Alliance and maintain friendly relations with Russia in the future. It was further to be hoped that the efforts of the Powers to find a solution of the Tripoli conflict, satisfactory alike to Italy and Turkey, would be successful. In spite of the results of the conflict, which were apt to cause some anxiety, it was to be expected that Italy did not intend to disturb the peace in the Balkans or to alter the *status quo* of Turkish rights in the same States. He further stated that Turkey intends to reopen the Dardanelles as soon as circumstances permitted. As to the recognition of the Republic of China, common action with the other Powers had been decided upon.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MARQUIS SAIONJI returned to the capital from Oiso on Monday afternoon.

A Privy Council was held on Friday morning last at the Premier's official residence.

SOME forty fishing boats from the Kurees have been missing since the storm of the 23rd ultimo.

THE first general meeting of the recently established Meiji Leather Company took place on Thursday afternoon last.

AN ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Inaw shiro Hydro-Electric Company was held on Thursday last.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Kure Gas Company took place on Sunday afternoon last and was attended by 300 guests.

AN Irish aviator named Allen, when flying from Holyhead to Dublin last month, disappeared, and no trace of him has been found.

THE First Battleship Squadron consisting of the *Katori*, *Shikishima*, *Ibuki* and *Aki*, left Maizuru for Fukuoka on Thursday afternoon last.

THE Shinagawa White Brick Company held its annual general meeting on the 25th ultimo, when a dividend of ten per cent. per annum was declared.

THE ordinary general meeting of the Kobe-Osaka Electric Railway Company took place on Thursday afternoon last. A dividend of 13 per cent. was declared.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Imperial Marine Association will take place at the Fujimi ken restaurant in Fujimi-cho, Kojimachi, on Sunday afternoon last.

THE newly appointed Russian Consul at Nagasaki left for Tokyo on Thursday last, on board the *Chikugo Maru*. He is expected to stay in the capital for a fortnight.

MR. HONDA, Consul General at Harbin, and Mr. Kawakami, Consul General at Moscow, reached Vladivostok on Sunday morning last on board the O.S.K. steamer *Honan Maru*.

MR. YAMAMOTO, Minister of Finance, who has been visiting his house at Oita, arrived at Kobe on Tuesday by the *Gifu Maru*. He is expected to return to Tokyo on May 3rd.

ONE can always rely upon a good cinematograph show at the Odcon Theatre, but at the present time something special is being shown. It depicts the French comedy, *Mam'selle Nilouche*, and is full of fine acting and clean humour. Un-

doubtedly, it is one of the best pictures the management have presented, and should certainly be seen by all who like this class of entertainment.

THE first general meeting of the Musashino Light Railway Company, organised by Mr. Hiranuma Senzo, and a few others, will be held on May 7th at the office of the Imperial Railway Association.

THE Ujigawa Hydro-Electric Company held a general meeting of shareholders on Wednesday last at Kyoto, when a dividend of five per cent. was declared. A proposal for the issue of 3,500,000 yen worth of loan bonds was also passed.

LIEUT.-GENERAL UEHARA, Minister of War, gave a banquet at his official residence on Thursday evening last. Among the prominent guests present were Prince Fushimi, Field-Marshal Oyama, Oku, and Nogi, Generals Kawamura and Oshima.

PRINCE HENRY of the Netherlands was in London last month, when he visited the Ideal Home Exhibition at the Olympia, a feature of which is the wonderful Dutch village with tulip fields, windmills, etc. Queen Wilhelmina is much interested in this exhibit. Prince Henry is fulfilling various private engagements and was to lunch with their Majesties the King and Queen on the 26th ult.

MR. C. SCHUBERT, Chief Engineer of the Osaka Enamel Ware Manufactory at Imubuku Mura, Nishinari Gun, Osaka, met with a nasty accident on the 25th ult. He was coming down by a Hanshin car, on some urgent business, and attempted to alight at Ogi Station while the car was still in motion. In jumping from the car, he fell heavily to the ground, and seriously injured his head. He was immediately taken to the Tomio Hospital, where his injuries were attended to. Happily he is not in any danger.

PIMPLES COVERED FACE AND CHEST

Festery, Irritating and Sore. Inflammation Caused Unsightly Blisters. After Three Years Tried Cuticura Soap and Ointment and Was Cured.

"The parts most affected were my face and chest which were at times covered with festery pimples and were very irritating and sore. I have been to various doctors with them to try to get them cured during the last two or three years without success. They told me it arose from stomach trouble and gave me medicine for it, but it did no good. The pimples on my face used to discharge for some time and were surrounded by a great deal of inflammation which caused very unsightly blotches."

"A friend of mine advised me to try the Cuticura Soap and Ointment for my trouble. I thought there would be no harm in sending for a sample of Cuticura Ointment and I am now very pleased I did so. I have only used three boxes of Cuticura Ointment and a like amount of Cuticura Soap and am very pleased to say I am cured. I shall certainly recommend the Cuticura Remedies to anyone I know that suffers from skin trouble." (Signed) G. S. Bailey, Oak Mead, Kimberley Rd., St. Albans, Herts., Eng., Aug. 10, 1911.

No stronger evidence than this could be given of the success and economy of the Cuticura Remedies in the treatment of all forms of eczemas, rashes, itchings and irritations of the skin and scalp. A single hot bath with Cuticura Soap and a gentle anointing with Cuticura Ointment are often sufficient to afford immediate relief in the most distressing cases. Sold throughout the world. A sample of each with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Sq., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. S. W.; Lennon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Pott & Co., Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.



COMPANY MEETING.

The general meeting for the Tobu Railway Company was held on the 25th ultimo when the following profit and loss account was passed:

Profits for the Current Term.....	Yen. 153,021,620
Profits brought over	8,243,232

Total	161,265,152
Reserve Fund.....	7,700,000
Dividend (9 per cent.)	143,100,000
Carried Forward.....	10,465,150

The Directors and Auditors were all re-elected.

The Japan Fire Insurance Company held its annual general meeting on the 28th ultimo, when a dividend of six per cent. was declared and the following profit and loss account was passed unanimously:—

Net Profit	Yen. 74,613
Legal Reserve	5,000
Bonus to Officers.....	7,400
Dividend	45,000
Grants to Retired Chief Officers	2,000
Pension Fund	7,000
Carried Forward.....	8,213

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Quotations for stocks are again higher; more particularly for Indian and Chinese grades, of which only small quantities are available locally. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market continues quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, owing to the cold snap experienced during the interval, business among retailers has been almost stopped.

RAW COTTON.

American Middling	PER PICUL. 34.50 to 35.00
Indian Broach	33.50 to 34.50
Chinese (Old crop)	—
Chinese (New crop)	34.00 to 34.50

COTTON YARN.

Nos. 2/60, Gassed	PER BALE. 260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
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Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43½" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43½" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.25

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 45 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches

3.80 to 4.70

Cotton Italians

0.25 to 0.38

Cotton Venetians

0.35 to 0.70

Turkey Reds—2 1/2 to 3 lb 24-25 yards, 30 inches

1.90 to 2.20

Turkey Red—3 1/2 to 5 lb, 24-25 yards, 32 inches

2.50 to 3.65

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches.....

14.50 to 17.50

Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches.....

1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	Y.
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Union Italians

0.45 to 0.70

Mousseline de Laine,—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium.....

0.27 to 0.29

Mousseline de Laine,—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best

0.31 to 0.33

Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches

—

METALS.

There has been practically no business offering.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square

PER PICUL. Y. 4.50 to 4.70

Iron or Mild Steel, Plate

5.28 to 5.40

Sheet Iron

5.90 to 6.10

Sheet Mild Steel

6.80 to 6.85

Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated

10.70 to 10.90

Flat

11.30 to 11.50

Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments

7.00 to 8.50

Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.

7.40 to 7.60

Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"

2.30 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is firm.

Chester	Y. 4.26
Victory	3.94
Nonpareil	4.90
Somatra	2.98 to 3.15
Burneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	3.77
Todai	—

SUGAR.

Little business doing all round.

Brown Manila	PER PICUL. Y. 10.90 to 12.40
Brown China	—
Brown Java	9.30 Duty unpaid.
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market is more or less improved.

Gold Drop	4 sacks ... 11.40
Flag	" ... 10.95 to 11.00
Royal	" ... 10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks ... 11.52
Red Seal	" ... 10.95 to 11.00
Lion	" ... 11.75
Portland	" ... 11.45 to 11.20
Premier	" ... 12.05

Japanese:—

Rising Sun	6 kwansu ... 2.70
Takasago	6 " ... 2.75
Fuji	6 " ... 2.85
Pine	6 " ... 2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

White Walla Walla, 100 lbs.	Yen. 5.25 to 5.30
Red	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

The market is quiet.

On April 14th stocks were: Filatures, 6,700 piculs; Re-reels, 150 piculs; Kakeda, 70 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	Yen. 920
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	895
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	875
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den	925
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den	910
Filature—No. 1½-2, 13-15den	855
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den	9.5
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha	845
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	8.55
Re-reels—No. 2	865
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	865
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	855
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	845

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

April.	May delivery.	June delivery.	July delivery.
27th	85.10	86.00	86.60
29th	—	85.90	86.30
30th	—	—	—
May.			
1st	85.10	85.60	87.40
2nd	85.10	87.70	87.80
3rd	84.60	85.10	87.30

WASTE SILK.

Owing to the poor quality of stocks, business is restricted.

On March 28th stocks were:—Noshi, 800 piculs; Kibiso, 3,500 piculs; Sundries, 1000 piculs.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Yen. —
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—

Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	60 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	110 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—Values have remained steady, with a slight upward tendency in some qualities.

Kanazawa:—There was a slight recovery in prices at the beginning of the month, but in some qualities values have again receded to the former level.

Kawamata:—There has been a general advance in prices.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)					
Inches.	Yen.	6½ ms.	7 ms.	7½ ms.	8 ms.
22½"	7.90	7.75	7.55	7.45	7.60
27"	7.70	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.55
36"	7.60	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.45
"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)					
Inches.	Yen.	4½ ms.	4½ ms.	4½ ms.	5 ms.
22½"	7.60	7.45	7.35	7.35	7.30
27"	7.55	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.35
36"	7.40	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.35

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 ms.	3½ ms.	4 ms.	4½ ms.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of April 24th the quotation was £69.15.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00—50.00
Ore	29.50—31.00

RICE.

The market slackened.	
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags. 579.495
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	117.831
Delivery. Closing Price	
May	19.56
June	19.36
July	19.16

(Osaka.)		(Kobe.)	
May	19.04	May	19.13
June	18.76	June	18.93
July	18.73	July	18.82

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE. (Tokyo.)		per picul.
Superior	Yen 21.45	
Medium	20.35	
Common	18.95	
Average	20.25	

TEA.

The market remains firm. The settlements at Yokohama from 1st March till 15th April amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.		nominal.
Choicest	—	
Choice	—	
Finest	—	
Fine	—	
Good Medium	—	
Medium	—	
Good Common	—	
Common	—	

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is firm	
Delivery. Yen.	
May	142.60
June	141.50
July	139.55

EXCHANGE.

London silver unchanged and sterling quotations ¼ lower but unchanged at Hongkong and local rates all mostly steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/4
— 6 months' sight	2/0 1/4
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/4
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	2/57
— Private 4 months' sight	2/61 1/4
America—Bank sight	49 1/4
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/4
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 99 3/4
— Private 10 days' sight	97 3/4
Shanghai—Bank sight	73 1/4
— Private 10 days' sight	75
Rar Silver (London)	28 7/8 @ 3/4

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. May 4
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	Su. May 5
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru 1	Tu. May 7
Hongkong	P. M.	Manchuria	F. May 10
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Kamakura M. 2	F. May 10
Europe	N. D. L.	Buelow	M. May 13
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	M. May 13
Europe	M. M.	Ernest Simons	Tu. May 14
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	W. May 15
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Th. May 16
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. May 17
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Tu. May 21
America	P. M.	Persia	W. May 22

1 Left Hongkong on the 23rd ult.
2 Left Seattle on the 23rd ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date
America	P. M.	China	Sa. May 4
Europe	N. D. L.	Prinz Ludwig	Sa. May 4
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kosai Maru	Su. May 5
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	M. May 6
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	Tu. May 7
Europe	N. Y. K.	Miyazaki Maru	W. May 8
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	W. May 8
Europe	M. M.	Yarra	Sa. May 11
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Kamakura Maru	M. May 13
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu. May 14
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Monteagle	F. May 17
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Sa. May 18
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	Sa. May 18
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	Tu. May 21
Hongkong	P. M.	Mongolia	Th. May 23
Australia	N. Y. K.	Nikko Maru	Sa. May 25
Tacoma	B. & S.	Cyclops	Sa. May 25

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Benarty, British steamer, 2,510, J. D. Sarchet, 25th April.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 26th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Uni Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, S. Nakayama, 26th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 26th April.—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 27th April.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, H. E. Morton, 27th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Yangtze, British steamer, 4,149, G. A. Roadway, 27th April.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Semiramis, British yacht, 731, C. Nesell, 27th April.—Kobe.
Mauncaster Castle, British steamer, 3,050, E. R. Howe, 27th April.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Vernachar, British steamer, 2,847, D. B. Marshall, 27th April.—New York via Manila, General.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.
Lord Curzon, British steamer, 2,337, P. G. Henrickson, 28th April.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Yimanoek, Dutch steamer, 3,510, A. W. La Rooy, 28th April.—Batavia via ports, General.—Ed. L. Van Nierop & Co.
Prinz Ludwig, German steamer, 5,704, F. V. Binzer, 28th April.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co. Nachf.
Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beecham, 28th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 29th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Vandalia, German steamer, 2,641, G. Meissner, 29th April.—New York via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Nanshan, U.S. Collier, 1,433, Prideaux, 29th April.—Manila.
Dorothea Rickmes, German steamer, 2,665, Thode, 30th April.—Antwerp, General.—Simon Evers & Co.
Ryge, Norwegian steamer, 2,492, E. Meyer, 30th April.—Hongkong via ports, General.—American Trading Co.
China, American steamer, 3,186, E. Rice, 1st May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, H. Hino-kuma, 1st May.—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Yarra, French steamer, 2,115, Tivolle, 1st May.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.
Ichigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, T. Terada, 1st May.—Newchwang, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Ariake Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,183, H. Yakota, 1st May.—Moj, Coal.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Calchas, British steamer, 4,279, W. Walker, 2nd May.—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Erioli, British steamer, 2,887, L. S. James, 2nd May.—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.
Annan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,870, T. Take-mura, 2nd May.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Lucric, British steamer, 4,100, J. Mathie, 2nd May.—Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Vancouver Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Kuwachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,782, H. Petersen, 2nd May.—Antwerp and London via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Kamga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 25th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Fidals, British steamer, 2,698, H. Chidley, 26th April.—Rangoon via ports, General.—Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, K. Kawashima, 26th April.—Newchwang, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, J. Teranaka, 26th April.—Seattle via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Hitachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,163, Yamawaki, 26th April.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Yawata Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,366, J. Sekine, 27th April.—Sydney and Melbourne via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 27th April.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
C. Ferd. Latisz, German steamer, 3,799, Selmer, 27th April.—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Ville de la Ciotat, French steamer, 2,821, Charbonnel, 27th April.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.
Maloppo, British steamer, 3,420, W. H. Dormand, 27th April.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.
Bellerophon, British steamer, 5,727, J. A. Bebb, 27th April.—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 28th April.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Uni Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, S. Nakayama, 28th April.—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, Henry E. Morton, 29th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Inaba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,837, S. Tominaga, 29th April.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimidzu, 29th April.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Benarty, British steamer, 2,510, J. D. Sarchet, 29th April.—Bassein via Karatsu, Ballast.—Cornes & Co.
Flintshire, British steamer, 2,404, G. C. Cundy, 30th April.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel & Co., Ltd.
Palawan, British steamer, 2,996, C. R. Longden, 30th April.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Pingsuey, British steamer, 4,150, R. T. Tillotson, 30th April.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 30th April.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beecham, April.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.
Ryge, Norwegian steamer, 2,492, E. Meyer, 1st May.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.
Semiramis, British yacht, 1,797, G. H. Chessell, 1st May.—Inland Sea via Kobe.
Yimanoek, Dutch steamer, 3,510, A. W. La Rooy, 1st May.—Batavia via ports, General.—Ed. L. Van Nierop & Co.
Nanshan, U.S. collier, 1,433, Prideaux, 1st May.—Shanghai.
Scharnhorst, German cruiser, 11,600 tons, 27,500 H.P., Capt. Z. S. Rosing, 1st May.—Kobe.
Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, T. Terada, 2nd May.—Sakai, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 2nd May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 2nd May.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Mongolia* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. William Archer, Mrs. W. S. Atwater, Mr. M. P. Brooks, Miss C. Carpenter, Mr. Edward M. Childs, Mr. N. Ollieb, Mrs. H. S. Hadsall, Master F. Hellyer, Mr. E. C. Howe, Mr. Pierson C. Irwin, Mrs. Fred Oglewes, Mr. Alfred Phelan, Mr. H. A. Rosenbaum, Mr. A. H. Smith, Mr. A. de Villale, Mr. Kingston Baker and servant, Mr. J. Becker, Dr. W. J. Carpenter, Mr. C. Walter Clifton, Mr. A. B. Coker, Mr. Louis Herfield, Mr. A. T. Hallyer, Master A. Hallyer, Mr. E. C. Howe, Mr. W. H. Maynard, Mr. J. Henry Phelps, Miss S. Putnam, Mr. Henry Smith, Mrs. A. H. Smith, Mr. E. A. S. Watt, Mr. R. R. Young, Mr. W. B. Atwater, Mr. John A. Britton, Mrs. W. J. Carpenter, Mr. E. J. Cowan, Mr. F. S. Fernald, Mr. H. S. Hadsall, Mrs. A. T. Hellyer, Miss Dolla Hill, Miss Mary Howe, Mr. Fred Oglewes, Mrs. J. Henry Phelps, Mr. Arnold Rothwell, Mr. J. H. Swinerton, Mr. A. H. Spauli, Mrs. E. A. S. Watt, Mrs. R. R. Young, Mr. Chas. Atwood, Miss A. Campbell, Mr. L. B. Potter, Mrs. K. H. Campbell. For Kobe:—Rev. and Mrs. R. C. Armstrong and infant, Master A. Armstrong, Master F. Armstrong, Miss Nellie Armstrong, Mr. A. C. Bryer, Dr. Thos. C. Hall, Mr. F. D. Mott, Miss M. Osgood, Mr. Leigh F. Pye, Mr. and Mrs. C. Siegfried, Mr. J. M. Tail, For Shanghai:—Mr. Alex. Campbell, Mr. A. S. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hart and infant, Mr. Wellington Hart, Miss V. Hart, Miss Carolyn Hart, Mrs. A. Hornby, Mr. Sydney Moss, Mr. William Martin, Miss Grace H. Martin, Mr. H. D. Morrison, Mr. J. W. Odell, Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Saunders and infant, Miss Vesta Saunders, Mr. W. I. Shambaugh, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sydney Smith, Mr. G. M. Malcolm. For Hongkong:—Miss Clyde Bartholomew, Mr. Walter Bollman, Mrs. Frank A. Lannigan, Mr. Cleve Callaway, Dr. H. W. S. Carter, Mr. R. S. Douglass, Mr. K. S. Heck, Mr. Howard E. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Jacobson, Mr. T. L. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. King, Miss C. Farnelle, Miss K. Paldy, Mrs. Henry L. Raymond, Mr. Byron R. Summerlot, Mrs. W. V. Tomb, Master Jas. M. Tomb, Miss E. L. Webster, Rev. and Mrs. G. S. Webster, Mr. Oliver C. Wenger, Mrs. May Swiss, Mrs. W. E. Woodburg, Mrs. T. S. Wilson and Miss Nancy Wilson in cabin.
 Per Japanese steamer *Inaba Maru* from Seattle via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. D. Gaine, Mr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. H. S. Gray, Mr. R. W. Gordon, Mr. T. Koyama and Mr. S. Mihara in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. T. Maikawa and Mr. and Mrs. S. Okura in second class; 10 Japanese and 1 Russian in steerage. For Hongkong:—Lt. Col. John Roberts White, Mr. J. McMaster, Mr. Geo. Bolen, Miss N. Ramwell, Mr. P. T. Keeler, Miss E. Diefenbacher,

Mr. and Mrs. King and one child in cabin; 4 Chinese in second class; 6 Chinese and 1 American in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. G. W. Missemer in second class. For Kobe:—24 Japanese and European in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Kishi, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bheasama and 2 children and Mr. T. Marten in cabin; Mrs. Merman and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Gojima and child, Mr. Sahara, Mrs. Nakano and daughter and 1 Chinese in second class; 29 Japanese and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per R. V. F.'s steamer *Sinbosh*, from Vladivostok to Tsuruga:—Mr. Henning Plaun, Mr. N. Molandvich and Mr. G. Aleinikoff in cabin.

Per R. V. F.'s steamer *Rizuan*, from Vladivostok to Tsuruga:—Mr. Barkovsky, Mr. and Mrs. Blackmore, Mr. Creig, Mr. and Mrs. Rock, Mr. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Bickard, Mr. Fihler, Mr. Creig, Mr. K. Ito, Mr. Y. Koga, Mr. K. Kagura, Mr. T. Sakamoto, Mr. Bunter, Mr. Brydon, Mrs. Beliaeff, Mr. Auri, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Lahn, Mrs. S'raus and Mr. K. Okazaki in cabin.

Per American steamer *China*, from Hongkong via ports:—Miss G. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Van Aars, Mr. H. W. Adams, Mrs. J. A. Barry, Miss J. A. Barry, Miss A. B. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dibert, Mr. H. C. Donnel, Miss K. Gluz, Mrs. John Gould, Mr. V. A. Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hoyt, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Langheim, Mr. W. Petersen, Mlle. G. Rousset, Mr. W. W. Saunders, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Mr. H. C. J. Wilson, Miss M. Macdonald. For Honolulu:—Mrs. Lui Lee Shee. For San Francisco:—Rev. J. W. Ash, Mr. J. Alderson, Miss Mary Anderson, Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Bean, Master B. Bean, Master Myron Bean, Mrs. J. V. Blanchard, Mr. R. C. Comie, Mr. Chen Sing, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Caukins, Mr. and Mrs. Chao Ho, Master Chan Ping Kong, Master Chang Chan, Mr. J. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cameron, Master Duncan Cameron, Mr. J. W. Chambers, Mr. J. L. Durham, and Servant, Mrs. J. E. Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Dancy, Miss Mary Dancy, Mr. A. C. Fox, Miss E. Gortley, Miss Ida Grosseth, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Gonder, Miss Vivian Gonder, Master Harold Gonder, Miss Ivy Gonder, Miss Jessie Gonder, Mrs. M. Hicks, Miss L. Hicks, Mr. J. P. Hodgson, Mrs. S. S. Huffman, Capt. C. N. Harlow, U.S.N., Mrs. W. C. G. Howard, Mr. A. Hashin, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Isaacson, Master I. Isaacson, Miss E. Isaacson, Miss L. Isaacson, Miss S. Isaacson, Miss M. W. Jewell, Miss M. O. King, Mrs. R. Kilen, Miss Martha Kilen, Mr. W. R. Kelly, Rev. and Mrs. Geo. J. Lapp, Miss Lois Lapp, Miss Pauline Lapp, Mrs. A. Lerch, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. W. Longacre, Mrs. G. H. Meeker, Master

Alton Meeker, Master Harrell Meeker, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Millard, Miss Alleen Millard, Miss Molly Millard, Mrs. Ben Moss, Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Noyes, Master Henry Noyes, Master S. Noyes, Rev. Father M. O'Callaghan, Lieut. R. F. Robinson, Mrs. E. E. Rodger, Mrs. F. D. Snyder, Master L. Snyder, Miss H. C. Stevenson, Miss A. Scheddiger, Mr. Fred. Schuten, Mrs. R. E. S. Taylor, Master Paul Taylor, Mr. G. S. Throne, Mrs. R. E. Valentine, Mr. W. Vogler, Mr. and Mrs. N. White, Miss N. White and Master Wun Ming in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Ville de la Ciotat* for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. Misa, Miss Bardot, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Barlow, Major Hawken, Mrs. Maurice, Mr. and Mrs. Jacique, Mr. Paynter, Mr. A. B. Roberts, Mr. D. Messulam and Mr. de Villèle in cabin.

Per British steamer *Palawan* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mrs. B. G. Corney, Fleet Surgeon Thos. D. Halahan, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard, Miss E. Pritchard, Miss G. Pritchard, Miss M. Pritchard, Mrs. G. E. Noble, Miss Noble, Mr. F. W. Askham, Mrs. F. W. Askham, Mr. Sherlock, Mr. H. Bunce and Mr. G. Birdall in cabin.

Per British steamer *Empress of India* for Vancouver, B.C.:—Mrs. K. M. H. Blackford, Mr. H. L. Brown, Mr. L. S. Bunnell, D. A. B. Carlil, Mr. A. J. Carlil, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Carree, Count de Charnieres, Mrs. Crawford add 2 children, Mr. P. Davidson, Miss E. Downing, Miss G. D. Downing, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Dryden, Mr. C. N. Edge, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fletcher, Miss Fooks, Miss G. Franch, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Gorton, Mr. E. F. Gould, Miss A. Gould, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Hall, Mr. Harvey, Master Harvey, Mr. R. Henderson, Major F. A. Holmden, Mr. R. M. Hopkins, Miss Hughes, Miss Ivey, Dr. C. A. Johnson, Miss E. Kearney, Mr. Kinkaid, Miss L. Knight, Mrs. R. Langton, Miss M. Lediard, Mr. H. Little, Mr. Macafee, Mr. A. McCulloch, Dr. McKeegan, Miss McKeever, Miss A. McKeever, Miss McLaren, Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Mills, Mr. J. Garrica Moner, Mr. A. Morfe, Mr. C. Nakamura, Mr. Ogilby, Mr. J. Parks, Rev. and Mrs. Peirley, Dr. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Rodwell, Mr. W. W. G. Rose, Mr. Roxburgh, Colonel R. H. R. Rudyerd-Helpman, Lady Salvesen, Mr. E. Salvesen, Mr. W. B. Sanders, Mr. G. Saunders, Mr. Saunders, Mr. W. H. Schultz, Mr. Murry Scott, Miss O. Sevd, Miss Squire, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Stewart, Mr. J. W. Stewart, Miss Stitt, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Stokes, Mr. Storey, Mr. W. H. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Tooker, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Townsend, Mr. F. S. Unwin, Mr. R. W. Wells, Mr. J. Wilkinson, Mrs. L. Williams, Miss Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Wolf in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Siberia*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 27th inst.:—

T.E.A.						
	S.	N. Y.	Chicago.	Omaha.	Baltimore.	Honolulu.
Shanghai...	792	—	5,496	—	—	—
Yokohama...	—	—	8	—	—	—
H'kong...	512	—	—	—	278	100
Total...	1,315	—	5,504	—	278	100

SILK.				
From	S. F.	N. Y.	Holyoke.	City.
Shanghai...	35	71	—	30
Hongkong...	—	261	—	—
Yokohama...	—	539	20	—
Total...	35	871	20	30

Mexico.				
From	S. F.	N. Y.	Holyoke.	City.
Shanghai...	—	—	—	136
Hongkong...	—	—	—	261
Yokohama...	—	—	—	559
Total...	—	—	—	956

Per British steamer *Empress of India* for Vancouver, B.C.:—

T.E.A.						
	Chicago	New York	Pacific	Other	Total	Pack.
From	Canada	& West.	& East.	Coast.	Cities.	ages.
Hongkong...	1,090	—	35	—	—	1,125
Shanghai...	—	—	2,312	1	—	2,313
Kobe...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shimizu...	—	314	155	—	—	469
Yokohama...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	1,090	314	2,502	1	—	3,907

SILK.				
From	New York.	Easton.	Spring Valley.	Mon. treat.
H'kong & Canton	266	—	—	—
Shanghai	92	—	—	—
Yokohama	792	25	10	—
Total...	1,150	25	10	—

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Ville de la Ciotat*:—

		RAW.		WASTE.	
		Marcella Option.	Lyons.	Monow.	Waste.
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	204	—	—	—	—
Hara Yoshitsuten...	185	—	—	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	149	—	—	—	—
do	41	—	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	100	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	55	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Co.	43	—	—	—	—
L. Mottet and Bar-	—	—	—	—	—
mont	17	—	—	—	—
Samuel Samuel & Co.	33	—	—	—	—
Pila & Co.	25	—	—	—	—
Baviera & Co.	—	—	—	—	—
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson	—	—	—	—	—
& Co.	—	—	—	—	—
do	—	—	—	—	—
Dell Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	—
Total	754	58	32	5	348

† Peignes. * Tamaito.

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The Japan Weekly Mail

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AS A NEWSPAPER.

YOKOHAMA, MAY. 11TH, 1912.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 1912.

DEATH.

SEEKAMP.—On April 15th A.C. at Bremen, of nervous prostration, Mr. AREND SEEKAMP, aged 42 years, for 16 years a resident of Yokohama.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Japan Denmark Treaty was officially published on Monday afternoon.

H.M. THE EMPRESS has announced her intention of attending the general meeting of the Tokyo

Charity Association to be held on the 13th instant at its office at Atago-cho, Shiba.

A REVISED time table for the Tokaido and Sanyo lines will come into force on and after the 15th of June.

BARON ISHII, who has been appointed Ambassador to Paris, will leave Tokyo for his post on the 23rd instant.

THE Bank of Japan forwarded bullion weighing some 20 tons to the Osaka Mint by the 9.10 a.m. train on Wednesday.

LEUT. SHIRASE and his party are expected to return to Kobe on the 14th instant by the N.Y.K. steamer *Nikko Maru*.

A GENERAL meeting of the Russo-Japanese Association took place on Sunday afternoon last at one at the Peers' Club.

UNDER the auspices of the Exploitation Bureau, a Colonial exhibition will be held in September by the side of Shinobazu pond, Ueno Park.

MR. MOROI, the new First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin, will start on his journey to Europe from Shibashi on the 10th instant.

COL. SEMINOFF, Military Attaché to the Russian Embassy, has been ordered home. He is expected to return to Japan again in the autumn.

PRINCE HENRY of the Netherlands lunched at Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen on the 27th ult. and afterwards sailed for Holland.

AN official telegram reaching the Foreign Office reports that Mr. Uchida, the new Minister to Sweden, arrived at Stockholm on the 6th instant.

MR. YAMAZA, Councillor of the Embassy in London, who is now en route for home, is expected to arrive in Yokohama on the 24th instant.

THEIR MAJESTIES the Emperor and Empress have been pleased to grant the sum of eight hundred yen to the sufferers from the recent Yubari mine disaster.

MRS BUCK, widow of the late Hon. Alfred E. Buck, formerly American Minister in Japan, was received in audience by H.M. the Emperor on Tuesday morning.

THE Russian Ambassador in Tokyo, M. Malevsky-Malevitch, and the Russian Minister in Peking, M. Krupenski, have been awarded the Vladimir Order of the Second Class.

THE first sitting of the general Convention of the International Red Cross Association took place on the 17th instant. Mr. White was elected Chairman and Baron Ozawa Vice-Chairman.

THE German Ambassador, Count von Rex, gave a dinner on Sunday at noon at the Embassy in honour of Prince Waldemar. The Prince is expected to stay in Tokyo until about the 13th instant.

YAKEGADAKE, the famous volcano in Shinano province, is reported to be again active. A great quantity of ashes fell on Wednesday in the outskirts of Matsumoto, doing some damage to the mulberry trees.

THE news of the death of Mr. Arend Seekamp, notice of which we publish elsewhere, will be received with regret in Yokohama, where his kindness and ready sympathy made him a general favourite with the foreign community. Mr. Seekamp resided in Japan for 16 years and

was, we believe, during the major part of this time, connected with the firm of Carl Rohde & Co. He was only 42 years of age.

THE library which has been in course of construction in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Keio University, is now all but completed. The opening ceremony will be held on the 8th instant.

H.M. THE EMPEROR left the Capital on Friday morning last at 9.30 for Yotsu Gaido in Chiba prefecture, to pay a visit to the Field Gunners School there. His Majesty returned to Tokyo the same afternoon by the 4.30 train.

BARON KIKUCHI, Dean of the Kyoto Imperial University, and Baron Kitagaki were appointed under date of the 8th instant to the places on the Privy Council rendered vacant by the death of Baron Takasaki and Baron Saigo.

BARON ISHII, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs was formally appointed Ambassador to Paris on the 8th instant, and Mr. Kurachi, Chief of the Political Affairs Bureau in the Foreign Office, was simultaneously appointed to succeed him.

THE Eastern Railway Administrative Bureau has revised the time tables on the old Nippon, Ou, Ryomo, Mito and Shinetsu lines, so that the running hours are largely curtailed. The revised table goes into operation on and after the 17th instant.

A DESPATCH from Taihoku, Formosa, reports a railway collision on the Kwareuko line on Tuesday night. The locomotives were completely smashed, and fifteen passengers seriously injured. Mr. Wada, engineer of the Monopoly Bureau, was killed.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE gave a banquet on Tuesday evening at the Aoyama Palace, among the guests honoured with invitations being Prince Yamagata, Marquis Matsukata, Count Okuma, Viscount Hirata, and General Hasegawa, Chief of the General Staff.

THE ceremony of conferring the honours recently granted by the Teikoku Gakushi-in will take place on Sunday morning, the 12th instant, at ten o'clock. Among the speakers will be Baron Kikuchi, President of the Gakushi-in, and the Ministers of the Household and Education.

THE wedding took place on Thursday at Christ Church of Mr. F. V. Hawley and Miss Amy Gray, daughter of the late Mr. Jesse W. Gray of Yokohama. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. J. G. Gray, while Mr. B. Farrer was best man. A reception was afterwards held at the house of the bride's brother.

A GENERAL convention of the International Navigation Association will take place on the 23rd inst. at Philadelphia. Commander Matsunuma, of the Naval Department, Mr. Yoshida, of the Osaka Communications Superintending Bureau, and Mr. Hara, engineer of the Home Department, will be despatched as delegates from this country.

ACCORDING to a London special to the *Hochi*, Baron Kato, Ambassador to London, when interviewed by a Press representative, remarked that he had no doubt as to British confidence in the sincerity of Japan, and as to Britain's sincere efforts for the maintenance of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. He further noted that the Alliance was now fostering wholesome international relations in the Far East. The remarks of the Ambassador have been heartily endorsed by the English Press.

CHINA'S LOANS.

Friday, May 3.

As has been more than once predicted in these columns, the Belgian-loan question has been amicably adjusted. The basis of agreement is that Belgium shall be repaid in full all the money advanced by her, on condition of receiving, in addition, a sum equivalent to one year's interest. Mr. Tang's precipitancy in dealing with Belgium has cost a great deal of money.

It further appears that all cardinal difficulties have been swept out of the path of the Six-Powers Syndicate. China has addressed to the representatives of the Syndicate a thoroughly satisfactory note, and it is now clearly understood that so soon as the supervisory council of foreigners is organized, and so soon as satisfactory arrangements are made about security, the final terms will be formulated and agreed to. There is talk of increasing the amount of the loan from 100 million yen to 100 million sterling, but such a change will require full confirmation before commanding public credence. Further, no difficulty will be raised by the Syndicate in furnishing to the Chinese Government 30 or 40 million yen in order to meet current obligations.

Certain Japanese publicists are writing in a very pessimistic strain about China's finances. They refer specially to the statement recently made by the Minister of Finance to the effect that a deficit will appear in this year's budget to the extent of 260 million taels. Startling as this estimate is, its framers are charged with over-optimistic views. They based their calculations on the figures accepted in the last Manchu budget, and thus arrived at the conclusion that the revenue of the State amounts to 400 million taels. But the critical publicists deny that any such sum is forthcoming. They adduce the fact that Manchuria, which has always hitherto been counted a certain source of income for the Central Government, has, through the voices of its local governors, explicitly declared its inability to furnish even one sen out of its taxes. If this is the case with the Three Eastern Provinces, the plight of the eighteen home provinces must be still less favourable, and in such circumstances, it appears obvious that the 600 million taels promised by the foreign Syndicate will serve only as a temporary palliative.

Another local loan is reported to be under negotiation. The amount is put at 30 million francs, and the capitalists are said to be Belgians. The object of the loan is to repair and extend the Hanyang factory, and it does not appear that any objection to the transaction has been raised in Europe. For some time back nothing has been heard of the Han-ya-Ping loan with which Japanese financiers were at one time closely connected. But the above intelligence, if confirmed, would indicate that the Han-ya-Ping project has been abandoned.

Saturday, May 4.

In spite of the very positive news received on the 3rd instant in Tokyo, it would appear that things are not moving altogether smoothly in the matter of China's foreign loans. The problem of foreign supervision is proving difficult of solution. On the other hand there are not wanting publicists who affirm that the

Chinese Government's apparent reluctance to submit to foreign supervision is only a subterfuge, conceived for the purpose of making things easier in other directions. Tang Shao-i seems to be asking that 26 million taels shall be at once accommodated for the purpose of disbanding the troops, and that the remaining payments shall be made in monthly instalments of 10 million taels. This would mean the provision of 86 millions in the period commencing with May and ending with October, and it is easy to see that such a piece-meal method of financing the loan must be decidedly inconvenient to Western capitalists. Some onlookers are persuaded that China will never consent to foreign supervision. She is ready enough to agree that a detailed statement showing the exact purposes to which the proceeds of the loan are to be applied shall be drawn up and officially presented to the foreign syndicate, but Tang Shao-i and several of his colleagues are represented as declaring that Young China will never be induced to submit to foreign supervision in such a matter. A deadlock has thus occurred in the negotiations; but inasmuch as China has to accept the foreign terms or become bankrupt, we may be reasonably confident that she will choose the former course. She is indeed between the devil and the deep blue sea. These financial transactions may prove an effectual solvent of her national stability. Never was such an opportunity offered to Western States for acquiring a conclusive voice in adjusting the affairs of a huge realm.

Some of the Tokyo journals continue to write pessimistically of China's financial condition. The telegrams recently received as to the amount of the loan have been perplexing on account of confusion between sterling and silver. But the fact appears to be that the amount of the loan as now contemplated is 60 million taels, whereas the journals to which we refer maintain that 100 million taels is the smallest amount that can possibly satisfy the demand for money in the new Republic.

Another contradictory account concerns itself with the Belgian Loan. It affirms that the Belgian financiers are indignant at the treatment they have received. For it appears that up to the present they have received nothing more than a curt announcement of the termination of all transactions, and no reasons whatever have been given. This version of the situation requires much more credulity than we are disposed to accord.

A telegram to the *Chuo Shimbun*, which journal has distinguished itself for promptitude in obtaining information in Peking, speaks of the long-anticipated agitation about the terms of the loan being now on the eve of breaking out tumultuously. This sudden development is thought to have been made for the purpose of strengthening Tang Shao-i's hand in the negotiations with the Syndicate. It is feared, however, that Premier Tang may find it impossible to stay the commotion which he has contrived to start. On the other hand, rumour insists that the new movement has for ultimate object the removal of Tang Shao-i from his post as Premier. The Council of State will be called upon almost immediately to decide as to the expediency of the foreign loan under such conditions as those proposed by the foreign Syndicate. The two political parties will then be obliged to exhibit their real colours, and it is not

improbable that the result may be fatal to Tang Shao-i's tenure of power.

Sunday, May 5.

The news this morning indicates that the Chinese statesmen have fallen into a somewhat meticulous mood. They are not unwilling to concede the appointment of a foreign financial adviser, but they would fain have it understood that his functions shall not extend to the disposal of the moneys temporarily loaned to the Chinese Government in anticipation of the conclusion of the main loan agreement. They apparently consider that if the funds incoming from a provisional loan be subjected to foreign supervision, China would be virtually receiving the treatment of a bankrupt. It is difficult to comprehend this distinction between the permanent and the provisional loans. The latter form virtually an integral part of the former, and since the provisional loan is to be repaid out of the funds accruing from the principal loan, we fail to see that any precaution adopted with regard to the latter should not be equally adopted with regard to the former also. It would appear as though the Chinese statesmen intend to apply a large portion of the provisional loan to purposes which cannot conveniently be proclaimed from the house-top. The telegraph further says that the harsh terms demanded by the Six-Powers Syndicate are attributable mainly to Japan's inclusion among the creditors, and that were she not included, the lenient disposition originally shown by the Four Powers Syndicate would have been obeyed. This theory has evidently been conceived by Japan's enemies. It is in the last degree improbable that she has shown a disposition to impose terms less sympathetic than those that would have satisfied the original representatives of the Syndicate.

It has to be premised that the consent of the Council of State, which represents a provisional national assembly, must be obtained before this loan can be concluded. But in order to submit the matter to the Assembly it is of course necessary that a clear understanding as to terms should be arrived at between the Cabinet and the Syndicate. Mr. Tang Shao-i has therefore invited from the Syndicate's representatives a written statement of the terms that will satisfy them. The Syndicate, however, declines to furnish such a statement, and thus a fresh deadlock is created.

Meanwhile excitement is growing keener with reference to this loan problem. The Chinese are beginning to cry out vehemently against submitting the nation's economics to the control of foreigners. They are said to regard such a procedure as a manifest violation of their country's independence, and there is an increasing disposition to hold Mr. Tang Shao-i responsible for the difficulties of the situation.

With regard to the Provisional National Assembly it is said that a secret conference has been held with an absolutely abortive result. Not so much as one member of the Assembly ventured to support the loan proposition in its integrity, but, on the other hand, nobody showed any disposition to condemn it openly.

President Yuan has appointed a committee of four, headed by Premier Tang, and has entrusted to them the duty of negotiating the loan. The Committee are said to have approached Mr. Odagiri and solicited his good offices for obtaining easier terms, but

It is believed that so long as the problems of the Belgian Loan and foreign supervision remain unsolved, no means of adjustment can be recognized.

By those who have closely followed the course of recent events, it will be observed that in addition to the problems of the Belgian Loan and the Syndicate's supervision, there remains another question, namely, that relating to the disbandment of Chinese troops. It is understood that the Syndicate places in the fore-front of its demands China's consent to submit all payments on account of the troops to a committee of foreign officers chosen from the staffs of the forces now stationed in Peking. Evidently the object in formulating this demand is to provide against dishonest diversion of the proceeds of the loan. The condition, however, is extremely hard upon China, and moreover, it seems somewhat superfluous inasmuch as the financial supervisors can easily be instructed to watch this phase of the transaction as closely as any other. Things ought not to be made needlessly harsh for the Chinese nation.

The *Jiji Shimpō* has a paragraph which indicates that the Belgian affair is not by any means settled. Its latest phase is that the Belgian Minister has privately intimated to his country's financiers that they must step aside from the loan-transaction. But the Belgian Syndicate are by no means disposed to acquiesce. They declare that deficient in good faith as was the original action of the Chinese statesmen in approaching Belgium, their treatment of the latter, as formulated by the Belgian Minister, would be a still greater evidence of untrustworthiness.

It appears that the Chinese residents of Java and its adjacent regions have formally offered to put up a sum of 3 million taels on the security of the Wuhu Railway, which offer has obtained the unanimous assent of the Local Assembly concerned. The same capitalists, headed by the same Mr. Tsai, have offered to finance, to the extent of 12 million taels, the work of railway-building and copper-mining in the province of Fukien.

Monday, May 6.

The weary discussion about the loan from the Six Powers Syndicate continues to absorb public interest and seems to be as far as ever from a settlement. A party of critics have made their appearance who contend that even in the age of Manchu incompetence, the idea of appointing foreigners to supervise China's finances was never seriously entertained. These agitators contend that the only course to be taken consistently with the safety of the realm is to adopt General Hwang's project, namely, to issue domestic bonds and compel their purchase by wealthy Chinese citizens on a *pro-rata* scale. Further, the policy of issuing inconvertible notes is said to be finding favour daily, and since in so doing, China would merely follow the example set by Japan in early *Meiji* days, that programme is said to be winning strong advocacy. It is said to have been gravely proposed by the Minister of Education that every unit of the population should be called on to contribute 1 yen to the coffers of the State. This would produce 400 million yen, assuming that women and children were included in the account and that the population of China amounted to 400 millions. But of course, President Yuan denies the possibility of recourse to such an expedient. Rumour says that Premier

Tang advocates the compulsory payment of 400,000 yen by each person who possesses property valued at one million yen and upwards, but it is obvious that this device could never be carried into practice. In some quarters a cry is raised against what the Chinese are pleased to call the extravagance of foreign capitalists, and a few are disposed to lay the major part of the blame on Japan's shoulders, though by what processes of reasoning they have come to entertain such a notion, no explanation is given. Meanwhile, three members of the Cabinet are said to have come out definitely in favour of a foreign loan, and these three statesmen are President Yuan's chief supporters.

It is alleged that the administration in Peking cannot pay its way for more than five days longer, and the administration of Nanking for more than seven days. There is a strong party in favour of Tang Shao-i's removal from office, the ground taken by the advocates of this step being that much easier terms could have been obtained from the foreign Syndicate had not the latter's confidence been impaired by the affair of the Belgian Loan.

The above details are supplemented by a confident statement that the pay due to officials and police in Peking, Fuchow and Paoting was not forthcoming in full at the close of April, and signs are beginning to show themselves that the endurance of these officials will not hold out much longer.

The Tokyo press publishes a telegram which is evidently furnished by some news-agency. It represents as daily gaining intensity, the struggle between centralization and local autonomy. These generalizations, however, must be accepted with great reserve.

Tuesday, May 7.

The situation is not rendered at all brighter by the news received on the 7th instant in Tokyo. The Representatives of the foreign Powers concerned in providing funds to keep the Chinese Government on its feet are reported to have held a meeting on the 6th instant, when a very pessimistic view of the situation was taken. Of course the opinions entertained by these Ministers are not published in detail. Nothing has been sent across the wires except the broad statement that they see no hope of immediate settlement. As for the provisional National Assembly, the members appear to be quite undecided in their views. Their attitude suggests that even if a settlement can be effected, the stability of the Cabinet must be impaired.

It would appear that what the Chinese specially object to is foreign supervision of the moneys paid in advance of the principal loan. A large part of these funds would probably be applied to purposes which cannot conveniently be made public, although they may not themselves be open to severe criticism. To submit the distribution of the funds to the scrutiny of the world would therefore be a most irksome condition. That feature of the case cannot fail to be amply evident to the foreign Representatives, and therefore we are inclined to think that it is not their intention to insist upon this particular feature of the supervisory arrangement. They probably intend their demand to furnish material for concession. In other words, they will withdraw their demand for scrutiny of the preliminary payments on condition

that the disbursement of the main loan is strictly supervised.

The Chinese Government can of course fall back on the device of fiduciary currency, and indeed they are beginning to talk of that step as the most expedient that presents itself in the circumstances. But it is to be earnestly hoped in the best interests of all parties, including the Chinese themselves, that inconvertible paper will not be called into existence. The consequent dislocation of trade, to say nothing of the demoralization of the people, cannot be contemplated without the gravest misgivings.

There is confirmation of the news that strong anti-Russian and anti-Japanese feeling has been engendered by the course which things have now taken. The Chinese vernacular press is said to be roundly accusing these two Powers of creating difficulties in connexion with the loan. Such a theory sounds curiously inconsequential, but China's attitude towards Japan has not always been of the most perspicacious character.

A rumour is gaining strength in Peking that Prince Tang will be sacrificed on the altar of the financial problem, and that his functions in connexion with the loan will be dedicated to the Minister of Finance, Hsiung.

Wednesday, May 8.

China's loan problem continues to engross the attention of all persons interested in the Far East. Evidently Premier Tang Shao-i will be obliged to go out of office, and to leave the negotiations in the hands of the Minister of Finance. It is scarcely credible that Mr. Tang can have seriously hoped to obtain an immense sum of foreign money without some arrangement for foreign supervision. Such an idea would be less extravagant if he represented a firmly established Government with all its parts in due working order. But since the Chinese polity has scarcely yet emerged from the transition stage, and since the new Republican Government has not yet given any practical proof of administrative competence, nothing can be taken on trust. One would imagine that these things must be perfectly clear to a statesman of Mr. Tang's experience and ability. Nevertheless the telegraph alleges that on the 2nd instant he definitely declared his resolve not to agree to foreign supervision of the country's finance. This was followed on the 4th instant by a despatch addressed to the Representatives of the six Powers, announcing Tang's resignation, and proposing that his duties in connexion with the loan should be handed over to the Minister of Finance. To that proposal the foreign Representatives formally agreed on the 6th instant, and it is expected that the negotiations will be reopened at once. The Representatives of the six Powers have declared on their side that supervision is the *sine qua non*, and there can be no doubt that many Chinese appreciate that feature of the problem.

As for Mr. Tang Shao-i, the present forecast is that he will hand over his portfolio of Premier to Mr. Wu Ting-fang, and that he will retire for the moment from official life. There is no definite conjecture as to his motive in taking this line. Possibly his idea is to place himself at the head of a movement to oppose foreign intervention in Chinese financial affairs. In adopting that course Tang would certainly be able to pose as the champion of a very popular cause, and would find himself in touch with many statesmen who belong to the Southern party. On the

other hand, he may frankly believe that an understanding acceptable to both sides cannot be reached, and that his own wisest plan is to dissociate himself from the inevitable failure. The latter hypothesis derives some force from a rumour that the programme of supervision contemplated by the foreign Powers is altogether too minute to be endurable by the Chinese. We have no detailed statement as to the methods of supervision, but a telegram from Peking says broadly that if the foreign Powers' plan be put into operation, the control of the Chinese administration will practically fall into foreign hands. This telegram adds that President Yuan and his Cabinet have approached Japan seeking her good offices to soften the harsh features of the supervisory programme.

It appears that in conformity with the resolution adopted by the Representatives of the six Powers on the 6th instant, a meeting was held by these Representatives and Mr. Hsiung, Minister of Finance, on the afternoon of the same day. But it was found that the questions presenting themselves for discussion belonged to the realm of finance rather than to that of diplomacy, and the Representatives accordingly retired from the debate leaving its conduct in the hands of the foreign bankers.

Apparently the first step taken by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Hsiung, was to intimate to the Syndicate that China could not consent to foreign supervision of her finances in general; but that she was ready to submit in the matter of the salt gabelle, which constitutes ample security for the proposed loan.

The idea of issuing a compulsory domestic loan or of putting fiduciary notes into circulation is now said to have emanated from Premier Tang, and to have been denounced as unpracticable by President Yuan and the Minister of Finance. On the other hand, a strict injunction is alleged to have been addressed to all the local Governors-General, enjoining upon them the imperative necessity of forwarding to the Central Government the proceeds of all the taxes, undiminished in transit. If this could be effected, the Central Government's revenue would be materially changed.

It is noticeable that some of the leading journals of Tokyo concur in regarding the appointment of a supervisory board as absolutely essential to the satisfactory arrangement of the proposed loan. They do not think that China can be absolutely trusted in such a matter, and they believe that a *via media* will be found in mutual concession.

Thursday, May 9.

The news this morning indicates that a more hopeful situation has been reached. On the 7th instant the Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Hsiung, met the banking representatives of the Syndicate, and offered a series of explanations which are said to have been so well formulated and so clearly advanced as to produce a very good impression on the bankers. It is now thought probable, as was conjectured in these columns some days ago, that the foreign Syndicate will be willing to dispense with the supervision of the moneys paid in connexion with the disbandment of the troops. They will also be satisfied to make the process of supervision as general as possible in order to avoid wound-

ing Chinese patriotism. In the original proposals it was stipulated that the supervision must extend even to provincial finance, but the representatives of the Syndicate are now said to have agreed to accept the Central Government's statements with regard to these figures. One process emphatically insisted on by the Syndicate and strongly opposed at first by the Chinese, was that all the proceeds of the taxes must be paid into foreign banks designated by the Syndicate. At one moment it seemed as though the negotiations must be wrecked on this rock, but ultimately the Chinese are said to have consented. It is also stated that the Council of State is not averse to foreign supervision, and that the Cabinet and the Council being thus in accord, the clouds overcasting the sky have been largely dispersed. One telegram says that 6 million *taels* will be at once paid over by the Syndicate to meet the pressing necessities of the moment, and that the monthly instalments will be arranged so as to suit Peking's convenience. Everything, therefore, now points to a satisfactory solution.

In the above circumstances, it is not surprising to hear that Mr. Tang Shao-i is likely to lose his portfolio. He will be arraigned by the Council of State, and it seems to be thought certain that he will resign. Rumour alleges that when the negotiations for the loan seemed likely to fall through, Premier Tang wired to General Hwang at Nanking in the sense that the pourparlers had failed and that a popular demonstration was desirable. There is, however, one difficulty about Tang's resignation of his portfolio, and that difficulty is that before setting out from Nanking for Peking to take up duties in the latter city, the Ministers of State agreed that the Cabinet should be jointly responsible for the acts of its individual members. Hence, if Mr. Tang resigns the Premiership, all his colleagues will have to step down at the same time, and as this would be very inconvenient at such an early stage of the Ministry's career, it appears probable that Tang will merely resign his functions as plenipotentiary for the loan negotiation.

LIUTENANT-GENERAL FUKUSHIMA.

The Chinese seem to be somewhat alarmed by the appointment of Lieutenant General Baron Fukushima to the Governor-Generalship of Kwantung. They recall the facts that the General's career hitherto has been purely military, and that he led the van of the army which invaded China during the era of the Boxer troubles. In view of this record, they are said to be much perturbed, and to recognize in General Fukushima's advent a proof that Japan is about to renew her military activities in the region of Kwantung and Port Arthur. This is decidedly a fine fear. The retiring Governor-General, Viscount Oshima, has just as war-like a record as Lieutenant-General Fukushima, and no one ever suspected the former officer of Jingo propensities. Those that have the pleasure of General Fukushima's acquaintance know him to be essentially a lover of peace and recognize in his appointment a guarantee of the continuance of tranquillity rather than an evidence of belligerent purposes.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

It will be remembered that at a recent meeting of the bankers in the Kwansei district, it was unanimously decided to address the Government in favour of keeping the Sinking Fund inviolable. That meant, in other words, that the present Cabinet is invited to pursue the financial policy of its predecessor. Naturally also, the memorial to the Government inspired a feeling of some apprehension in the breasts of foreign capitalists. They argued that if an important section of the banking world of Japan deemed it necessary to formulate such a request, the banks must have had reason to fear that the Government entertained some intention of reducing the dimensions of the Sinking Fund, and diverting the money thus saved into some other channels of expenditure. A semi-official statement is now made that no notion of changing the dimensions of the Sinking Fund has ever been seriously entertained. In this respect the Saionji Cabinet will adhere to the policy pursued by its predecessors. Every move made by Japan in the matter of finance is closely scrutinized by her foreign creditors. There is not of course the slightest proof of the hypothesis that a change of policy should be made in a matter of such moment. Moreover, the Saionji Cabinet and the Katsura Cabinet alike are both pledged to redeem at least 50 million *yen* of the national debt every year. It may be said with all deference that the bankers of the Kwansei region showed great want of judgment in formulating such a request. As one Tokyo journal says, they shot an arrow where no target existed, and their ill-judged procedure created uneasiness both at home and abroad.

Nevertheless it must be confessed that by some irresponsible publicists there have been outcries from time to time in favour of cutting down the annual allotments to the Sinking Fund, and employing the money thus saved in some direction such as would ease the nation's taxation burden. It is not surprising, therefore, that the permanence of Japan's resolution in this matter should have offered food for query.

CHINESE STUDENTS.

Chinese students are beginning to return to Japan for educational purposes. There were at one time as many as eight thousand of these students in Tokyo. But a few years ago a question connected with their supervision created so much dissatisfaction that a large number of them left Japan altogether. Thereafter this exodus was still further increased by a proclamation of the Authorities in Peking to the effect that to proceed to Japan for purposes of elementary education was superfluous, as such education could be obtained very well in China, and finishing education alone should be sought in Japan. These causes co-operated to greatly diminish the number of Chinese students visiting Japan, and of course many more were compelled to return to their own country in consequence of the recent political disturbances. Now that order has been restored, however, Chinese youths are beginning to make their appearance again in the Japanese capital, and it is said that as many as a thousand are studying there to day.

CHINA.

All the telegrams on Saturday morning agree in stating that the dispute in the ranks of the Council of State has been adjusted in the sense indicated roughly in our last number. That is to say, the duly elected members have agreed that the Nanking representatives shall be regarded as *locum tenentes* and shall be treated as duly authorized Councilors pending the election of their successors. With that understanding the Chamber has agreed to organize itself without further delay, and the President and Vice-President have been elected. The Chamber, therefore, opened its regular session on the morning of the 3rd instant.

In the Cabinet also it appears that dissensions, which at one moment threatened to have serious consequences, have been amicably settled. The Home Minister and the Minister of War have agreed to withdraw their resignations and a much more healthy state of affairs has been contrived.

The difficulties connected with the formation of political parties are, it is said, becoming daily accentuated. We have spoken of these matters at sufficient length in previous issues, and strange and complicated as the situation seems to be, there is very little doubt that a peaceful solution will be found.

President Yuan is evidently a great man. He has succeeded hitherto in effecting disentanglements that threatened again and again to be overwhelming, and although his opponents have often predicted his downfall, he seems to stand firmer than ever to-day. No clouds are allowed to cover his political firmament permanently nor does any complication present itself for which he does not speedily find a solvent. Whatever may be said in the way of criticism, history will certainly recall the fact that in her moment of storm and stress China was able to produce a statesman thoroughly capable of holding the reins of power. After all, nothing succeeds like success.

An attempt is being made to throw doubts on the story sent across the wires two days ago, namely, that a bomb had been exploded within the precincts of General Hwang's residence. The authorities in Nanking have taken steps to reassure the public by declaring that nothing of the kind had taken place. At the same time, attention is drawn to the fact that special orders have been issued in the sense that nobody who is not furnished with a passport shall be allowed to come within the enclosure of General Hwang's dwelling.

A certain Mr. Hwang has raised the standard of independence in Kansu and has proclaimed himself Governor-General of that province. This act has elicited a proclamation from President Yuan, which derives special interest from the fact that it enumerates four other localities as being in a disturbed condition. These localities are, Sinkiang, Szchuan, Kwangsi and Kweichow. The disordered state of the country may be inferred from this enumeration. In the same context we note that a riot is reported from the province of Honan. A detachment of troops travelling by rail, alighted at a place called Chingchow and engaged in pillage for some hours. From Peking also comes intelligence of two military riots which were happily quelled without much difficulty, but

which bear witness to a very unstable condition of public peace and good order.

A telegram received in Peking on the 3rd instant from Chengtu, the capital of Szchuan, says that a movement has been started there for the extermination or expulsion of all missionaries and Christian converts. Measures are in progress to defeat this design before it assumes large proportions, but the Central Government's arm is not long enough to reach Szchuan with any effect, and considerable uneasiness is felt.

It is of course of the greatest importance to China that not a day should be lost in obtaining foreign recognition of her new Republican polity. On the other hand, the great Powers are naturally reluctant to commit themselves hastily to such an important course. At present, according to a telegram from Peking, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs in that city is strenuously endeavouring to induce the British and Japanese Governments to conjointly sign the desired recognition, whereafter, steps will be taken to procure the signatures of the other Powers. China will then send a mission round the world to tender thanks for this recognition. There is no conjecture as to the time that will be required to complete the programme, but we may fairly assume that there will be no precipitancy whatever, and that the great States of the world will exercise the caution invariably observed by them on such occasions.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

It is now stated that one of the main purposes of the Franco-Japanese Bank will be to furnish funds for railway construction in Japan and further, to put up money as Japan's share of the Six-Powers Syndicate. The Government has hitherto been financing the building of the railways by means of funds drawn from the Post-Office Savings Banks. These funds have to be replaced, and that will be effected by the aid of the new Bank, which will also furnish Japan's share of the Chinese Loan. This statement is published by all the Tokyo newspapers, and therefore may be regarded as emanating from some news-agency.

There is a growing belief that the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank will open a new era of prosperity for the Industrial Bank. During Mr. Yamamoto's tenure of office as President of the Hypothec Bank, the affairs of the latter were managed with conspicuous ability and the Bank was able to give large assistance to farmers throughout the Empire. Meanwhile the Industrial Bank found its hands tied by meticulous rules which effectually prevented it from attaining the object with which it was established. Mr. Soyeda is not the man to quietly acquiesce in such a state of affairs. He has thrown all his influence into the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank, and it is believed that its connexion with that institution will go far to remedy the difficulties under which the Industrial Bank has hitherto laboured.

The establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank is receiving much attention at the hands of the Tokyo press. It appears to be thought that the Bank will furnish an exceptionally good avenue for the advent of cheap French capital to Japan. Just at present there are no profitable oppor-

tunities for placing funds in Europe and China does not offer much inducement. Therefore it is believed that French money can be imported to Japan at a net interest of 3½ per cent. Mr. Soyeda, as our readers will remember, is now *en route* for Paris, where he will complete the arrangement necessary for establishing the Bank.

ELECTRIC LIGHT IN TOKYO.

Much talk is beginning to be heard in Tokyo about the advisability of amalgamating the Electric Light Company and the Tokyo Railway. It must be fresh in the memory of all our readers that in the days when the Tokyo Railway Company was seeking permission to raise its fare, several not unimportant journals in the capital cried out against the proposal, and did not hesitate to declare that if the Railway's affairs were administered more ably and with greater integrity, the 4-sen uniform fare should be quite sufficient. But the Railway has now been in the hands of the Municipality for several months, and, so far from earning a substantial profit, the result of its working is said to be anything but lucrative. Great reliance was placed upon the electric-light branch of the company's enterprise, but this prospect also has been marred by the government's refusal to sanction the Company's charter, and the question now is whether it might not be wiser to amalgamate the Electric Light Company and the corresponding section of the Tokyo Railway Company. One thing is evident, namely, that whether in the Municipal hands or in the hands of a private Company, the Railway cannot be made a paying property at present rates, and if the newspapers, which a few years ago devoted so much space to blacken the reputation of the Railway Company's experts, have any sense of justice, they ought now to openly retract the injurious comments made by them at that time.

TERRITORIAL WATERS.

A few days ago it was announced by a news-agency that the Russian Authorities in Siberia had decided to extend the limits of territorial waters in northern fishing grounds from three miles to twelve miles. This would have practically ruined the prospects of Japanese fishermen in the northern seas, and Japan, therefore, entered a very strong protest—so strong indeed that she was said to have sent three cruisers, namely, the *Nanivva*, the *Yamato* and the *Musashi* to the scene with instructions to protect the interests of Japanese fishermen by force, if necessary. On the other hand, the Russian preventive squadron of three armed cruisers, together with the gun-boat *Manjur*, were on the watch to enforce the new regulation. Of course there was no idea on either side of going to war about such a trifle. In the event of any vessel being seized by the Russians on the ground of transgressing limits, the matter would have been carried to the Hague Tribunal, a costly and tedious method of procedure. It is now stated, however, by a Vladivostok journal, that Russia has abandoned her purpose and will make the affair a subject of conference with Japan. There must be some good reason for Russia's apparently arbitrary action, but no statement in that sense has hitherto been published.

MONGOLIA AND THIBET.

The Mongolian affair has occupied a large share of public attention during the past few months, and the latest development is not the least interesting. The new Government in China has just published a body of fifty-six rules which are regarded as supplementary to the Constitution. These rules provide that twenty-five provinces shall be included in the constituencies of China for the purpose of electing the National Assembly. The provinces are the eighteen constituting the home country, the Three Easterns—that is to say, Manchuria,—Outer and Inner Mongolia, Tsinghai (a portion of Ili) and Thibet. It is laid down that out of these twenty-five, twenty-four will each send five representatives to the Assembly, and one, that is to say, a part of Ili, shall send one. But when this was intimated to the Mongolians, they declared that they had no need to be represented in the Assembly, and that to send delegates to Peking for such a purpose would be to declare Mongolia practically an integral part of China. The envoy sent by President Yuan to convey to these outlying countries the provisions of the fifty-six laws relating to the Chinese National Assembly, was sent back to Peking with a distinct repudiation of China's right to dictate any terms whatever to Mongolia. As to the answer returned by Thibet and Tsinghai, nothing is yet publicly known.

With reference to the above, a telegram to the *Chuo Shimbun* from Peking says that the Russians are earnestly advising the people of Mongolia to act with the greatest possible circumspection at this juncture, since any careless acquiescence shown towards Chinese overtures might easily lead to untoward consequences. The telegram does not make it clear whether this advice emanated from Mongolia or from St. Petersburg.

A Mongolian Prince in Kulon has issued a declaration strongly denouncing the Mongolian Princes in Peking and accusing them of flattering Yuan Shih-kai. The declaration states that Mongolia has from time immemorial been independent, and the establishment of a Republican government office in Mongolia should therefore be prohibited. Contravention will subject the offending state to destruction by a large force of Mongolian troops.

Shanghai sends us a wire to the purport that under the pretext of succouring the *Dalai Lama*, many thousands of Tibetans are assembling in the neighbourhood of Lhasa, and Great Britain, fearing for the lives and properties of her people in Thibet, is sending troops thither.

It appears only too probable that there will be a great difficulty in restoring good order and public peace in Central Asia. According to present appearances England will be constrained to adopt towards the Tibetans a less ambiguous attitude than she now shows. As for Russia in Mongolia, she is evidently proceeding with great circumspection, but that she will ultimately be obliged to interfere vigorously in the affairs of Outer Mongolia, can scarcely be questioned.

The course of events seems to have compelled President Yuan to assume a definite attitude towards the Thibetan and Mongolian problems. A force of British troops

has entered Thibet, and the British Representative in Peking has informed the Chinese Government that the object of this move is solely to protect British life and property. President Yuan has taken the opportunity of appointing commissioners to consider the situation and, if possible, to elaborate some satisfactory settlement. A similar course has been adopted with regard to Mongolia, and in the meanwhile a strong detachment of troops has been ordered to proceed from Szchuan in the direction of Lassa. It is to be inferred from this intelligence that the Chinese Government is not by any means disposed to abandon its suzerain titles in either Mongolia or Thibet.

A few days ago we published a telegram with regard to the composition of the Chinese National Assembly. The telegram was to the effect that the outlying States of China should each send five representatives to the Assembly, Ili alone being confined to one representative. But it is now wired from Peking that the Cabinet has determined to establish a separate office for dealing with Mongolian and Thibetan affairs, and that they will be placed under the direct jurisdiction of President Yuan. If this programme be carried out, it is evident that Mongolia and Thibet will stand in a special category, and will not be represented in the Chinese National Assembly. That was perhaps to have been anticipated.

In this context it is to be noted that Governor-General Chao has memorialized the Central Government in the sense that the military and civil administrations cannot be conveniently separated in Manchuria and that the better plan would be to place the Three Eastern Provinces on the same footing towards the Central Government as Siberia occupies towards the Russian Government.

STRIKE LEGISLATION.

Baron Sakatani, ex-Minister of Finance, in the course of a speech on economic questions delivered at the conference of the principals of the Middle Schools on the 7th instant, made a reference to the question of strikes, which had of late begun to partake of an international character. The coal-miners' strike in England was followed by a similar strike in France, and threats were also made of a strike in Germany. Strikes were thus being systematised, and threatened to suspend economic organizations, which were not affected by the local strikes such as had been witnessed in bye-gone days. This tendency had engaged the profound attention of economists. Economists of the old school looked upon strikes as merely disputes between masters and men and argued that they should be left to take their natural course. Since strikes had now assumed an international character, they could not be thus treated, and an opinion was fast gaining ground in Europe and America as to the advisability of checking their spreading by the enactment of a special law, requiring certain procedure to be observed in starting a strike and subjecting delinquents to severe penalties. Such a law was actually in operation in New Zealand, where labourers occupied a predominant position, and in the case of a strike in that country it was imperative to give two weeks' notice to the Government.

FORMOSA.

The Japanese are evidently having a hard time in Formosa. They are encountering the usual resistance in the usual sequence but on more than the usually sanguinary scale. In other words, they have succeeded in occupying the positions indicated as the object of the expedition, but have subsequently been made the target of fierce attacks by the aborigines. The van of the force is stationed at a point some 12 miles in advance of the main body, with which it was in telegraphic communication. But the aborigines have succeeded in cutting the wires, and in consequence, a detachment numbering 14 or 41 men according to different telegrams,—which was sent out to re-establish communications,—encountered a large force of the aborigines, and is believed to have been completely destroyed. A company mustering some seventy men has been despatched to save the situation, but it is evident that the estimates formulated as to the issue of this expedition were somewhat sanguine.

The campaign in Formosa is costing the Japanese very heavily. No less than thirty-seven of the invading force have been killed and eleven wounded. The nature of the warfare accounts for this remarkable discrepancy between killed and wounded. Fighting takes place at very short ranges, the aborigines being highly skilled in concealing themselves behind trunks of trees and otherwise taking shelter. The reports do not say how many the casualties were among the *ayu* and how many among the Japanese. The most serious affair of all took place when a Japanese detachment of 41 men under the leadership of Police Inspector Nagakura was returning from a reconnaissance on the 1st instant. They fell into an ambush in a thickly wooded valley, and out of the whole forty-one, only five escaped uninjured. Inspector Nagakura's place was taken by Mr. Yoda, and six days later the troops under his command, taking advantage of the very inclement weather, drove the aborigines from their second line of defence. The first line had been seized and occupied in the sequel of the original attack. There are evidences that the aborigines have suffered severely, for messengers from them soliciting aid from other tribes have been intercepted.

TOKYO HARBOUR.

The perennially discussed problem of building a suitable harbour at Tokyo is again beginning to be talked of in connexion with places and estimates drawn up by Professor Kondo, who holds a high position in the Home Department. Mr. Kondo favours Haneda as the site of the harbour and calculates that the cost of the work will aggregate from 30 to 40 million *yen*. But how is that money to be found? Hitherto the idea has been that the cost of harbour construction could be recouped by the sale of the reclaimed land and by tonnage dues. But Professor Kondo does not place much faith in such methods. He advocates a tax on every unit of the city's population, his view being that the benefit accruing from the harbour would be felt by the whole of the city. He calculates that two-thirds of the goods now reaching Yokohama from abroad have to be carried to Tokyo by lighters, and if the harbour existed at the capital, the greater part of this expense would be economized.

MR. YOKOYAMA.

The account given by Mr. Yokoyama of his fishing experiences on the coast of Mexico reads like a romance. He alleges that from time immemorial the native inhabitants of the region never learned the value of fish for edible purposes. The consequence is that the fish in those waters are absolutely tame, and have attained in some cases enormous dimensions. Thus cuttle-fish six feet long are commonly found and mackerel as large as four feet. There is not the least difficulty in catching the fish and Mr. Yokoyama alleges that with two or three boats manned by twenty-one fishermen he obtained from 500 to 750 yen worth of fish daily, which figure there will be no difficulty in increasing to a thousand yen. He has returned to Japan, for the purpose of forming a company with a capital of three million yen to exploit this source of wealth, and we are obliged to say that some of his utterances appear to be addressed mainly to probable subscribers. We note that he says practically little of a market for these fish, although that is the cardinally important question. If the inhabitants of the country have discovered only now that fish is a useful and palatable article of diet, it is difficult to believe that a thousand yen worth of fish could be sold locally every day.

The news brought by Mr. Yokoyama with regard to Mexican fisheries seems to be attracting much attention in Japan. It is alleged that the waters of western Mexico offer a much richer harvest to fishermen than do the Russian waters in the northern seas. The extent of the concession given to Japan by the Mexican Government covers a distance of 840 miles south of Manzanillo, and every part of the coast-line abounds in plentiful fisheries. Of course Japan is not alone in the matter. Similar concessions have been granted to England, America, Germany and France, but there is ample room for all. The *Jiji* takes up the subject and discusses it in the most optimistic strain. It notes that the concession is for ten years, and that stations for curing fish may be freely erected on land belonging to the Republic. The formation of a large Japanese company competent to exploit this source of wealth is advocated by our Tokyo contemporary, and the opportunity is taken to dwell upon the extreme good-will shown invariably by Mexico towards Japan, and to compliment the Mexicans on their freedom from racial prejudice.

MAGDALENA BAY.

We take from the *Japan Times* a translation of important news received by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* from Washington:

Washington, May 2.

The Japanese Government has made a clear sweep of all the complaints with regard to the Magdalena Bay question. A report prepared by the State Department would have the effect of making foreigners or foreign corporations or Governments understand that the Monroe doctrine is a principle according to which the American Government does not wish to have emigrants sent over to American soil.

President Taft has sent Secretary Knox's report to the Senate. The report says, in substance, that certain Americans had made every effort to sell to certain Japanese a piece of land owned by them (in Mexico). The Japanese declined, however, to buy it unless with the support and approval of the Japanese Government, while the latter had made it clear that it would give no such support, unless with the con-

sent of the American Government. Thereupon the Americans in question sought to be informed of the attitude of the State Department in regard to the matter. Finding out that the State Department was not prepared to encourage any transaction of the kind, the Americans came forth with a joint-stock company, half of its shares to be held by Japanese, but with the right of its control remaining in the hands of the Americans. The State Department again refused to encourage such a scheme.

The above statement practically coincides with the information gathered by the present correspondent.

It may be noted further that Secretary Knox declares in his report that there is absolutely no room for entertaining any doubt as to Japan, pointing out at the same time that the frequency of the rumours of the particular kind concerning Magdalena Bay is doing harm to public opinion abroad, as well as to the friendly relations between America and Japan.

In the debate on the report, Senator Lodge accepted the State Department's report. He said that the land negotiations having ended in failure, there was nothing to cause any anxiety in the situation. He asserted that while the Japanese were now starting an enterprise on the Western coast of Mexico, all they needed was a very small lot of land where they might salt their sea-catches. The Senator then urged his Government to definitely shape its policy so that the Government of a friendly nation might not be drawn into complications, out of which it might find it difficult to escape. He concluded by emphasizing that Magdalena Bay was only useful as a military base, and its possession by any country other than Mexico would be a serious menace to the United States, and that therefore to allow foreign countries to become interested in the locality was to upset the Monroe doctrine.

The Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs will report on the policy the American Government should adopt in the present connection.

TOKYO SENTIMENT.

It is emphatically denied by an anonymous Alderman of Tokyo that there is any intention whatever of increasing the tramcar fares. The vehemence with which this idea is negated suggests that any rise of fares would be regarded as an iniquity. It is curious that such a sentiment should have grown up in the Japanese metropolis. That the fares now levied are wholly inadequate to compensate the service rendered, is universally admitted. In fact, we doubt whether in the whole length and breadth of Tokyo there could be found so much as one citizen who maintains that the charge now levied is adequate. This question, which ought to be treated strictly on its practical merits, has been carried into the realm of emotionalism, and the citizens are prepared to tax the whole population of the metropolis rather than to make the people who use the trams pay something like a fair price for the privilege. In every part of Japan outside Tokyo this problem has been solved with matter-of-fact readiness, but a little band of agitators have succeeded in occupying the Tokyo stage, and instead of following the old and just rule that every service should be duly recompensed, the inhabitants of the city are content to sit quiet under a system which violates every principle of fair play.

FORGERIES.

A very interesting action has just been taken by the Japanese police. They have arrested several great curio-dealers, among these being the renowned Mr. Yamanaka of Osaka and Kyoto. From time immemorial no restraint whatever has been placed upon the copying of pictures by great masters alike of Japan and China. Numbers of skilled painters have been engaged

upon the work, and experts have been employed to reproduce the seal marks found on the originals. Of course this means that the paintings thus produced were frequently offered for sale to unsuspecting collectors, and many such spurious specimens have been acquired by so called connoisseurs at home and abroad. Even the signatures of the Emperor himself and of Prince Ito have been unscrupulously reproduced. Hitherto it has not been thought possible to deal effectually with this class of deception, inasmuch as only art experts can distinguish between the true and the false in such a matter. But the police are evidently persuaded that the law provides against this form of chicanery, and they have suddenly laid their hands upon over twenty artists and proprietors of art stores. It will be extremely interesting to watch the progress of this trial. If the police can obtain the evidence of a few genuine pictorial artists, there will be no difficulty in dealing with the fraudulent pictures and scrolls. But there are very few owners of private collections who will be willing to submit their treasures for the judgment of a police tribunal.

AN INFLAMMATORY SUGGESTION.

The semi-official Gazette of Nanking is telegraphically reported to have published an article of a highly inflammatory character. It says that Russia, Japan and Great Britain have evidently joined hands to pursue an aggressive policy in Mongolia, Manchuria and Tibet, and that China's sway in Asia is likely to be seriously affected by the action of these three Powers. It cannot be denied that there are some grounds for this suspicion. We have, on the one hand, British troops moving against Lassa, and on the other, Russia's declaration that it is not in her interests to suffer the development of Outer Mongolia, while as for Japan, though she makes no declarations nor shows any uneasiness, all sorts of designs are attributed to her by Western agitators. Finally, the Peking Government is practically powerless to maintain public peace and good order in its outlying provinces or to protect foreign life and property there. The conditions, in short, offer every inducement to aggression, and the history of the world shows that such opportunities invariably mature to the interests of those that are powerful enough to take speedy advantage of them.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

Naturally the imminent approach of the general elections occupies public attention in Japan almost to the exclusion of every other topic. The most interesting feature of the situation is that the electorates do not appear to know what they are fighting for. No great principle is at stake. Such problems as home rule, disestablishment of the Church, female suffrage and so forth, do not disturb men's minds. It seems to be sufficient to belong to some special group of politicians without giving any explanation of one's proclivities. Of course a great deal of attention is directed to the outcome of the administrative and financial reforms which the Government committee is debating. But on the whole, no very signal results are anticipated. On the contrary, the tendency seems to be want of faith in the possibility of any drastic economies.

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

Talk is again beginning to be heard about the expediency of taxing unearned increment in Japan. Attention has been directed to this question by want of funds to carry on the business of city-improvement and administration. Now that the suburbs of Tokyo are being rendered gradually suitable for residential purposes by the building of tram lines, it is considered just that the consequent increase of the market price of land in these suburbs should bear some part of the city's growing expenditures.

We may mention here that there is said to be on foot a plan for building what is called a "rural city" (*denyen tokai*) at some point within half an hour or an hour's drive by rail from the centre of the metropolis. This is evidently a corollary of the recently developed speculation in land, which commenced in Osaka and spread thence northward.

It seems to be a contradiction of terms to speak of a rural city, but such is the name (*denyentshi*) chosen by Japanese capitalists for a town which they are about to build at Koze in Kanagawa prefecture. This project was treated somewhat lightly at the outset, but people changed their minds when the list of projectors showed such names as those of Messrs. Ohashi, Asabuki, Masuda, Gō, Makoshi and Mayeda. The idea of the company that is to be formed for the purpose, is to secure for the inhabitants of the projected city all the advantages of a rural site combined with the facilities offered by a town. Osaka set the example in this matter, but Tokyo is taking up the scheme with much gusto. One feature of the plan is that all persons of the lower orders are to be excluded from the place, and special arrangements are to be made for educational purposes. Koze is spoken of as being within an hour from Tokyo by train, but that seems to us to be a miscalculation.

MUKDEN.

The Japanese Consul-General in Mukden is said to be now engaged investigating the claims for compensation preferred by Japanese residents in that city. These claims are believed to amount to a considerable sum. They include not only direct injury done to property, but also indirect losses sustained in connexion with breaches of contracts which resulted from the unquiet state of affairs prevailing in the city during the revolution.

Another newspaper has appeared in Mukden under the name of the *Achou Jipao*. It is stated to be essentially an anti-Republican organ, and a sum of 6,000 taels has been put up by Mr. Chang Tso-lin to assist in equipping the journal.

It is reported from Mukden that the issue of secret inquiries conducted by the order of President Yuan has been the arrest of three more men who belong to the "Iron and Blood Party" and have been acting as leaders of the anti-Republican party. These men have been sent to Peking for examination, and it appears to be thought that their apprehension will prove a fatal blow to the clique they represent.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE SOCIETY.

We take the following from the *Japan Times* :—

The sixth general meeting of the Russo-Japanese Society was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Peers' Club. The usual business reports and the discussion of the revision of the articles of the Association being concluded, the members present were invited to a dinner at the palace of H.H. Prince Kanin who is the patron of the Society.

Prince Kanin made an address stating that the chief end and aim of the Society was to promote economic and social close relations between Japan and Russia, and he asked that they make an effort to attain this object of the Society.

Count Terauchi, President of the Society, responded, thanking His Highness for his gracious instructions, and saying that the members will strive for the furtherance of the object of the Association.

The Russian Ambassador, M. Malewsky-Malewitsch, as honorary President of the Society, made an eulogistic speech. After some prefatory remarks and expressing his thanks for the cordiality shown him by the Society, he said that he would render assistance to the work of the Society and endeavor to make known the principles and purpose of the Russo-Japanese Society among his countrymen. He referred to the establishment of a similar body recently in St. Petersburg under the title of the Russo-Japanese Association, which has among its members a large number of eminent Russians both official and private. The Ambassador was glad to see the formation of such an organization in his country, which might prove of valuable assistance in the work of the present Society and offer a fine opportunity to the Society to co-operate with the newly-born Association for the furtherance of their common interests. He was convinced of the future prosperity of the Society due to the able guidance of H. H. Prince Kanin, and of Count Terauchi and Baron Goto, respectively President and Vice-President. It would greatly contribute to the promotion of social and economical amity between the two peoples.

The members of the Russo-Japanese Association met at the Peers Club on the 6th instant to consider a proposed amendment to the rules of the association. Afterwards the members repaired to the residence of H.H. Prince Kanin, Director-General of the Association, when his Highness delivered a brief address, expressing a desire that the Association should serve as an instrument in promoting cordial relations between the two countries. Mr. Malewitsch, the Russian Ambassador, who was recently nominated honorary president of the Association, in responding to the address, made a reference to the formation in Russia of an institution known as the Russo-Japanese Association, which includes many prominent persons. The Ambassador also expressed a confident belief that the association will contribute not a little to the promotion of the social and economic interests of the two countries.

THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM IN MUKDEN.

Some years ago an experimental farm was established in the neighbourhood of Mukden under the auspices of Viceroy Chao. Japanese experts were employed, and there was much prospect of success. But when the Viceroy was replaced by Mr. Hsib, American methods were introduced, and an American citizen, Mr. Parker, was employed, the Japanese experts being dismissed. A telegram published by certain Tokyo journals now alleges that on the re-accession of Mr. Chao to the position of Viceroy, it was found that the progress made at the experimental station was not at all equal to that which had been obtained at the outset, and that the Viceroy, after a recent visit to the place, decided to revert to the Japan-

ese methods. This has now been effected, Mr. Parker being relieved of his duties with a year's salary paid in advance.

We may here state that in spite of the popularity and reputation acquired by Viceroy Chao, a party has been formed in Manchuria to effect his downfall, and there is some talk of his resigning office.

THE FORMOSAN VISITORS.

It goes without saying that the main object of inviting Formosan aborigines to make a tour in Japan is to convey to them an adequate idea of this country's military and naval might and to suggest the consequent hopelessness of resistance on their part. On the 6th instant they had a unique opportunity of observing the Tokyo garrison, for from morning till evening the soldiers of the garrison flocked to the *Shōkōnsha* to worship the spirits of the gallant dead. The weather was perfect, and the aborigines are said to have been profoundly impressed by what they saw. They did not imagine that the whole world could have brought together at one time such a force of troops, and when they were told that what they saw represented a mere tithe of what Japan could show were so minded, they could scarcely fail to appreciate the futility of resisting the might of such an Empire. They will be taken to visit all the principal arsenals and dock-yards throughout the country, so that their holiday and their tour will be instructive as well as pleasant.

THE PANAMA EXHIBITION.

We recently quoted from Japanese newspapers a paragraph to the effect that the Japanese Government had not made any provision for taking part in the Panama Exhibition of 1915, and that it was now too late to obtain a satisfactory site. This is now emphatically denied by Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. He says that so far from being belated, Japan's application heads the list, and she possesses, therefore, the first right of choice. The Government intends to despatch a committee of investigation without loss of time, so that its labours may be completed before the date for the compilation of the Budget next October. The sum contributed by the State to the St. Louis Exhibition was 800,000 yen, and that will probably be the approximate sum allotted for the Panama affair. It is a flagrant misconception to allege that there has been any dilatoriness on the Government's part in this matter.

CHOSEN.

It is reported from Seoul that the trial of eighty-one persons against whom a *prima facie* case of high treason was recently established, is not likely to come up for public trial before the first week in June. The ramifications of the murderous conspiracy are so extensive as to require lengthy investigation. Moreover, it is thought that the trial will occupy the court's attention for at least a fortnight.

A scheme is on foot to build a dock in the neighbourhood of Fusan and to supplement it by an iron foundry. The names of the projectors are not given, but the capital is put at a million yen, which shows that the enterprise cannot be on a very large scale.

THE OPENING OF THE STATE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT YUAN'S MESSAGE.

A Peking special to the *Jiji Shimpō* gives a translation of the Message of President Yuan Shih-kai to the State Council, as under:—

Since I have been installed in the Presidency by the recommendation of the five great races, I have always been in trepidation. It is a mistake to expect of me any immediate betterment of the destiny of the nation. The essence of the foundation of a country lies in regulating the discipline and setting up an equitable system to enable the strong and weak alike to rest at ease, or, in other words, to consolidate the foundation of the country and prepare the people to take their place among the other nations of the world. The recent civil commotion has thrown the people out of work, and their destitution has reached a climax. The officials betray a lack of the sense of duty of obedience, while the common people lack public spirit. They are all prone to indulge in either empty talk or in ideals. They show too much readiness to serve their private ends at the expense of the general public. It is not too much to say that unless a radical reform be introduced, discipline and order will fall to the ground, so that the safety of the lives and property of the nation cannot be ensured. I have long espoused a progressive policy and have taken much pains to conduct the administration on that principle, which is no doubt appreciated by the nation. At the present era of national reform I propose to maintain public order and to build up a new country on a sound basis, as in erecting a large edifice, where the architects have to choose materials more with a view to their solidarity than to their outward appearance, in order to construct a massive building. It is most essential to consolidate the foundations of the State which must rest upon its finance. The revenue last year stood at 260 million *taels*, but the paralysis in commerce and industry witnessed during the past six months have brought about a decrease. Our present resources do not admit of the redemption of foreign loans. It is absolutely necessary to create a fund by raising new foreign loans, to consolidate the basis of our finance. The interest due on foreign loans annually amounts to about 50 million *yen*, which is to be disbursed out of the Customs revenue and *likin* tax. I propose to enter into conference with the foreign Powers regarding the abolition of *likin* and decrease of the export duties. The Customs revenue now amounts to from 44 to 60 million *taels*, but the revenue is hypothecated for foreign loans. Railway and other loans are redeemable with the railway revenue, the deficit being met with the revenue from the salt tax. Provincial loans aggregate about 10 million *taels*, while public and private loans, amounting to 12 million *taels*, negotiated last winter, are left unredeemed. I propose to redeem these latter loans with the proceeds of a large loan negotiated by the new Government. I also propose to increase the salt tax to 50 million *taels* and also the tax on land on a new survey. Currency reform is the key of the State finance and it will be effected as speedily as possible. Unfortunately China has few experienced ex-

perts to undertake such reforms, so I propose to retain the services of foreign advisers. The existence of a country depends on the development of its commerce and industry. Departments of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture and Forestry have been created in the new Government to look after these interests. China is an agricultural country, so that due importance must be attached to the development of cattle breeding and other agricultural enterprises. I propose to inaugurate an industrial law, as well as a law of weights and measures. Military reform will receive careful attention, and freedom of religious belief will be guaranteed. Steps should also be taken to reform evil customs and to spread education. The people lack a sense of rights and duties, because of the imperfect judicial system. The foreign Powers maintained strict neutrality throughout the terrible ordeal China has just gone through, and all treaties must be respected. China has now emerged from despotic rule, but the nation is yet backward and in the initial stage of civilization. It is earnestly to be desired that the people should strive hard to advance in the path of civilization, and to make China a strong Power.

CHINESE POLITICS.

LOAN QUESTION SETTLED.

A Peking special to the *Chunuo* reports that the loan question has been concluded between the Chinese Government and the Ministers of the Six Powers concerned, and the matter relegated to the Syndicate. The negotiations are now expected to make rapid progress. The financial distress of the Chinese Government is greater than anticipated. The newspapers estimate the actual capital required at 1,000 million *taels*, but the loan will be limited to 600 million *taels*. On further progress in the negotiations, the matter will be referred to the Six Powers bankers' conference in London for final decision.

The most important matter brought forward before the State Council is no doubt the loan question. By Clause 4 of Article 19 of the provisional constitution, the Council has power to deal with the issue of national loan bonds, etc., and the Government must introduce the loan programme to the Council for sanction. Party strife is, nevertheless, rampant in the Council, and the coalition party, having the Unionists for a centre, show an inclination to sacrifice the loan for the exclusion of Tang Shao-i. Criticisms concentrate themselves on the proposal to grant foreign creditors the right of supervision over China's finances. One article of the provisional Constitution provides that when three-fourths of the existing members of the Council are present, the Council is entitled by the votes of two-thirds of the members to pass a vote of censure on a Minister of State. The present membership is 129, and it is possible to secure more than two-thirds of the votes if the Unionists coöperate with the Hupei party and gain the Szechuan, Yunnan, and Kweichow members on their side. Tang Shao-i was shrewd enough to direct the Government party to make the council pass a vote of confidence on the Ministry at an initial stage, but the attempt failed owing to a dispute between the new and old members, which culminated

in the resignation of the President of the Council.

The right of supervision over China's finances is an essential condition of the loan, and President Yuan and the Ministers of State are no doubt doing their best to obtain the consent of the members of the Council, but it seems difficult to array any hostile feelings against Tang Shao-i. A belief obtains that the Council will finally consent to the supervision clause, but will impeach Tang Shao-i in revenge. Inasmuch as the State Council is indissoluble until the National Assembly comes into existence, the members show a strong front to the Government. Wang Chi-chang, a leader of Kueiliu bandits, is now in Peking with several hundred desperadoes under him, to support Tang Shao-i and the Cantonese party. They are trying to intimidate the members of the opposition parties.

REDEMPTION OF BONDS BY PURCHASE.

When the national securities began to fall both on the foreign and home markets towards the end of October last year, the Government applied to domestic bonds the method of redemption by purchase, which had up to that time been adopted in the redemption of foreign bonds alone. One and a half million *yen* worth of domestic bonds were redeemed by purchase on November 14th last, which was followed by another redemption of the same amount on the 30th of the same month. At that time 5 per cent. bonds were quoted at 96 *yen* and 4 per cent. bonds at 86 *yen*. Since then the Government has continued to redeem bonds by way of purchase and one and a half million *yen* worth were thus redeemed on March 5th and 29th last. The market price of the bonds does not, however, show any improvement, which is considered conclusive evidence of the futility of this method of redemption. The Government has in mind redeeming by purchase about 10 million *yen* worth of bonds out of 40 million *yen* worth of domestic bonds redeemable this year, but since it has been found that this method of redemption has had no better effect in maintaining the market price of bonds than redemption by lottery, the bonds redeemable by purchase this year will be limited to small amounts.

COUNT NOGI AND THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

As already reported H.M. King George has been pleased to confer on General Count Nogi the Order of the Bath. The investiture took place on the 25th ult. at the British Embassy, in the presence of Sir Claude MacDonald and several British military and naval officers. Sir Claude delivered a congratulatory address, to which it is reported that General Nogi, who was greatly moved by the honour done him, with bowed head made a brief but eloquent reply.

The Order of the Bath is the highest Order next to the Garter. The Japanese recipients of the Order now number five, including General Count Nogi, the other holders being H.H. Prince Fushimi, Prince Katsura, General Count Terauchi, and Vice-Admiral Viscount Saito. The report that Admiral Count Togo has also received the Order is erroneous.

TRAM-FARES IN TOKYO.

The veto of the one-million light scheme has created a large deficit in the Municipal finance, so that the Municipality finds it difficult to pay interest on the tramway loan. The anticipated grant of a subsidy of one-half of the cost of drainage improvement will also be unrealised, as the Government refuses to grant more than one-third of the cost, which will make a deficit of some six million *yen* in the finance. Besides, the Municipality, which has up to now been granting the ward offices only two-thirds of the cost of building new elementary schools, is now to bear the whole cost, which makes another deficit of some two million *yen*. The improvement of public roads and other public works, also, will cost the Municipality several million *yen*. As there is no adequate source of revenue to cover these sums, the Municipality is now said to have under consideration raising the tram-fares by one *sen*, in order to raise about one million *yen* a year. The Municipality also announces a readjustment of the house tax, with a view to a reduction, but this, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, is to curry favour with the citizens, in order to get their consent to the proposed increase in the tram-fares. Our contemporary adds that the proposal is now being secretly investigated by the Electric Bureau. Inasmuch as it is an undeniable fact that the Municipality, when the one-million light scheme was shelved, suggested that the Government, should give its official consent to a future increase of the tram-fares, the proposal may be put into practice at any time.

A responsible authority of the Electric Bureau of Tokyo Municipality emphatically denies the rumour that the Bureau has under contemplation the raising of the tram-fares to make good the deficit in the Municipal finance. The tramway business is on a paying basis and does not require any increase of the present fares, and although there may be some Municipal Councilors who would raise the fares to increase the Municipal revenue, the Electric Bureau does not endorse the view. It is moreover improbable that the Government would sanction the increase.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

The day of the General Election is drawing near, and the election campaign is now being waged all over the country. There are altogether about 690 candidates in the field to contest 381 seats. When classified according to the political parties to which the candidates belong, the result is as under:

Seiyu-kai.....	312	Popular party.....	193
Central	54	Independents.....	158

With the exception of the *Seiyukai*, no other party will be able to command a majority in the House, even if all their candidates are returned. There are only 16 electorates, returning to the House 15 members, which are uncontested, and when this number is deducted, the contesting candidates number 671. Computing their campaign expenses at from 3,000 to 6,000 *yen* each, the total expense involved in the General Election is calculated to reach between 2,013,000 to 4,026,000 *yen*. There can be no doubt that the *Seiyukai* will return the largest number of members, the only question being whether they can obtain a majority over the combined forces of the other three parties.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

In the course of an address delivered before the conference of leaders of elementary schools now in session, Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, stated that elementary school education had for its prime object to form the national character in consonance with the Imperial Rescript on Education, and to impart to the pupils the knowledge essential for a healthy nation. The success or otherwise of the instruction directly affected the welfare of the people. National education was the foundation of the State, and endeavours must be made to strengthen the national spirit in consonance with the national tradition and the development of the civilization of the world, so as to prepare the pupils for the practical business of life. Especially must the greatest care be exercised to adapt the pupils to the environment, attention being paid to local conditions. The utmost care must also be paid to inculcating habits of frugality and diligence. There had of late been a remarkable improvement in the methods of instruction, but there still existed the evil of sacrificing substance for form and allowing the pupils to place too much reliance on others instead of thinking for themselves. Such an evil must be speedily eradicated. Physical culture was no less important than moral and intellectual culture. The physical education now enforced in the elementary schools was by no means satisfactory, and improvements must be introduced.

Mr. Haseba also emphasized the necessity of bringing the expenditure on education into conformity with local finance. The improvement of school education must not be sacrificed for financial considerations; but at the same time, outward appearances should not outweigh financial circumstances. It was desirable that attempts should be made to improve the substance of education rather than its form.

CONDITIONS IN SOUTH CHINA.

Consul-General Segawa, who was recently transferred to an important post in the Foreign Office, arrived at Moji by the *Panama Maru* on the 6th instant *en route* to Tokyo, and was interviewed by a press representative. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his followers returned to Canton on the 25th ult., said Mr. Segawa, when an enthusiastic reception was accorded them by the Cantonese. Dr. Sun's mission is to devise a post-bellum programme and to restore order and peace. His sojourn will extend over two months. Economic circles in Canton are unaffected by the recent commotion and foreign trade continues to flourish. The revolution has in fact created a new demand. Those who continue to wear queues are jeered at as ultra-conservative. Caps were at first worn, but these were quickly superseded by felt hats, which were soon replaced by tall hats. The people are thus eagerly following the fashion. Umbrellas, cigarettes, etc. also command a ready sale. A preference is given to foreign made articles, just as in Japan after the Restoration, and a manifesto has been placarded in conspicuous places in the city to dissuade the people from this tendency. Canton is the industrial centre of South China and produces a large quantity of articles of export, but

the interior was infested with bandits, who are committing plunder with impunity, causing thereby a congestion of trade. With the gradual restoration of order, business will begin to show activity. It is possible to extend the market for Japanese goods, if the merchants take pains to study the tastes of the Canton people. German and American merchants have begun to direct their attention to the articles of daily use. Japanese merchants are mostly commission agents and no attempt has yet been made at direct importation, the inauguration of which is an urgent need. Attention must also be paid to trade marks and packing. It is of prime importance to exercise due discretion in criticism of China and the Chinese. Any harsh criticisms are reported by the Chinese students in Japan, and are calculated to injure their feelings, which would have no small effect on Japan's China trade.

THE CHINESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

A Peking telegram gives the gist of the organization of the National Assembly and the Law of Election as under:—

The National Assembly shall consist of two Houses, to be named the Senate and House of Representatives.

The Senate shall be composed of representatives of the districts and the members of the House of Representative shall be elected on the basis of population.

Each house shall sit for four months, the tenure of office of the members of the House of Representatives being four years, while one-third of the members of the Senate shall be re-elected every two years.

The election shall be based on the plural election system. The small electoral system shall be adopted for the initial election, and the large electorate system for the second and final election.

Men over 25 years of age who have resided in an electorate more than one year and who pay more than one dollar a year for taxes shall be entitled to vote.

All male citizens of the Chinese Republic over 25 years of age are eligible for election.

The members of the Senate shall be chosen from amongst the citizens of over 30 years of age and elected by the Provisional Assemblies.

The Bill was to be introduced to the State Council on the 6th instant.

CHINESE LOAN QUESTION.

A Peking telegram to the *Chunwa* reports that the loan negotiations will henceforth be conducted by Hsiung Chi ling, Minister of Finance, the announcement having been made to the Six Powers Syndicate on the 7th instant. He was to meet the representatives of the syndicate on the 8th instant. It appears that the supervisory rights will be limited to the Customs revenue, and salt tax, and not extended to general finance. Some more complications are unavoidable, in view of the popular agitation.

Tang Shao-i wanted to resign to facilitate the loan negotiations, but as his resignation, under the present organization of the Ministry, whereby all members hold themselves severally and jointly responsible for the acts of others, would lead to a Ministerial collapse, he reconsidered his determination.

JAPAN'S FINANCES AND FOREIGN TRADE.

INTERVIEW WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, who returned to Tokyo on Sunday last from a trip to the Kwansai district, has been interviewed by the *Tokyo Asahi*, to whom the Minister stated that the resolution adopted by the Osaka bankers in favour of a reduction of the sinking fund has apparently startled economic circles. He regretted that his views on the question should have been erroneously reported by the newspapers, it being an important question which is to be decided on full consideration by the Investigation Committee. The Government is maintaining the Sinking Fund system intact, and he did not think it necessary to say anything either in favour of or against the system.

The readjustment of the administration and finance is now in course of investigation. Needless to say, the readjustment of the tax-system occupies an essential part of the proposed readjustment. He could not give any definite opinion on the subject until the conclusion of the investigation, but the readjustment had for its object that the burden of taxation should fall fairly and equitably on the nation. It may therefore be found necessary to reduce the heavy taxes and to increase the light ones in order to maintain a fair proportion. The Government aimed at a radical reform of the taxes with a view to reduction.

The foreign trade this year showed an unprecedented excess of imports, which amounted to about 80 million *yen* up to the end of April. When this excess is viewed by itself, it is sufficiently grave to inspire a sense of uneasiness in the minds of the public; but every result has its cause, and the excess of imports may be traced to causes in existence for several years back. If his views were correct, it would take several years to improve the conditions of foreign trade, and in view of the present conditions of finance and economics, he felt confident that the best policy lay in accelerating the development of productive industries, thereby encouraging the export trade, measures being taken at the same time, to check extravagant habits and all other causes which tend to accentuate an excess of imports. Any sharp turn made by a train in motion might result in derailment, and there was no alternative but to divert the course of foreign trade gradually.

The Franco-Japanese Bank will come into existence very shortly. Some critics argue that the Government policy of raising loans in the home market is inconsistent with the introduction of foreign capital through the medium of the Bank, but such an argument could not be sustained. Even if the day came when an equilibrium was maintained in the balance of foreign trade, there would continue an annual outflow of specie amounting to seventy or eighty million *yen* in the redemption of national loans and payment of interest due on them. This could be arranged without any difficulty with the specie reserve kept abroad for several years to come, but it is absolutely necessary to make some provisions for the distant future. Any injudicious introduction of foreign capital must of course be avoided, but as it is impracticable to redeem a large loan

at one time, loans must be raised to meet the payment of the interest on the existing loans. The formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank has this end in view. The Government, nevertheless, had no intention of impeding the introduction of foreign capital for productive purposes by private individuals. The excess of imports had its origin in the extravagances both of the Government and the people, and the way to consolidate the basis of the national finance and economics was to check this extravagance.

THE ACTION AGAINST THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

As already reported, the judgment rendered by the Tokyo District Court in the civil action brought by Mr. Kokubo against the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, claiming the invalidation of the resolution adopted at a recent general meeting of shareholders of that company, which was in favour of the defendant, was quashed by the Tokyo Appeal Court. The gist of the judgment pronounced by the Appeal Court is as under:—

At a general meeting of shareholders of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, held on September 20th, 1912, a resolution was adopted, giving approval to the inventory, balance sheet and other accounts of the company. The plaintiff claimed the invalidation of this resolution, on the ground that not only had the Company neglected, for five years, ending the latter half of 1910, to set aside a portion of the profit as a reserve fund for depreciations of liners as prescribed by the Articles of Association, but they had submitted to the general meeting improper accounts, in which no money was carried to the reserve fund, and also declared a dividend, pretending that there had been a net profit. The plaintiff contended that such a resolution was illegal and should be invalidated. The defendant contended that the plaintiff had no right to bring the action. The point at issue is whether the plaintiff had or had not the right of action.

The reservation of a fund for depreciation of liners has for its object the preservation of the Company's property and the declaration of a dividend without setting aside a portion of the profit in contravention of the Articles of Association, not only imperils the existence of the Company but is also injurious to the interests of the general shareholders. The plaintiff, as a shareholder, had an interest in the matter and therefore a right of action. Article 163 of the Commercial Law, cited by the defendant, does not prejudice the right of a shareholder to claim the invalidation of a resolution adopted by a general meeting in contravention of the Articles of Association.

A general meeting of shareholders is the highest tribunal of a *Kabushiki Kaisha*, and a resolution passed at such a meeting is an expression of the will of a juridical person. The resolutions adopted at a general meeting, giving approval to the accounts and the division of profit, have therefore the effect of binding the shareholders. The question is whether the plaintiff has or has not a legal interest in confirming the non-existence of the obligation to abide by the resolution. The Court is of opinion that the plaintiff has a legal right to claim its invalidation when his interests are being injured by the action of the defendant Company, and when such injury continues up to the time of judgement being pronounced.

JAPANESE IN NEW CALEDONIA.

Mr. Takagi of the Japan Immigration Company, who recently returned from New Caledonia, has given to the *Chuwo* some information as to the Japanese immigrants in that island. The total population of New Caledonia consists of about 100,000, of whom 20,000 are aborigines. All the enterprises in the island are in the hands of the French people. The alien immigrants consist exclusively of Japanese and Japanese, the latter now numbering some 2,000. Some 15 years ago, batches of Japanese immigrants were first sent to the island under the patronage of the Toyo Imin Kaisha. After that none were sent for several years, but in 1910 immigrants again began to arrive, the total during that and the following year being some 14,000, bringing the total up to 21,000. These immigrants are mostly employed in the Nickel mines, while a small number are engaged in farming, laundry business, etc. Nickel is the only staple product of the island, and other enterprises are conspicuous by their absence. There is room left for another 1,000 immigrants.

The Japanese immigrants enjoy high popularity and are accorded treatment on a level with the white labourers. Their incomes vary between 35 and 40 *yen* a month. Although this is not to be compared with the earnings in Hawaii and the United States, the cost of living in New Caledonia being only from 10 to 12 *yen* a month, the Japanese immigrants are doing very well in the island. Located as the island is in the tropical zone, the climate is hot, but not any hotter than the summer in Japan. Endemic diseases are totally absent, the forests are free from ferocious animals and poisonous insects, and the drinking water is good. Thus the island makes a suitable colony for Japanese immigrants.

There are only three Japanese stores in the capital of the island, which has a population of about 8,000 persons. There is no electric light, and the existing railway lines extend only about six miles, while another six miles is under construction. The voyage to the island takes about 16 or 17 days, direct from Japan, but over 40 days by way of Australian ports.

BANDITS IN SZCHUAN.

A Peking special to the *Chuwo* reports that bandits have risen at Yinhsien and elsewhere in Szchuan, and have marched on Chengtsu, commencing to plunder and murder everywhere with impunity. They also burned down the churches and menaced the safety of the French missionaries, and injured a Germany missionary. On receipt of the news, the War office issued an instruction to the Wuchang Magistracy, ordering it to dispatch a detachment of troops. Bandits have also appeared in various other provinces and seized the merchandise now in transit to Changking from Yunnan, Kueichow, and Shensi. They have also plundered foreign residents. The leader of the bandits is named Yang Kinshan, who is a follower of the deceased Tang Fu-chang, well known in the Boxer trouble. It appears that the leader makes Kueichow the basis of his operations. As the Szchuan army is composed of bandits, it is feared that they will throw in their lot with them.

MR. OTANI AND THE INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. Otani, President of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, is quoted as saying that for an insular country like Japan, with over-sea markets for her products, low freight rates are all important to enable her products to compete with foreign-made goods. The present high freight rates were detrimental to Japan's export trade and the Chamber had under consideration entering into a conference with the shipping companies to obtain a reduction. It therefore came as a surprise to hear of the proposed increase in the rates. A certain government authority was recently quoted in the newspapers as saying that in granting subsidies to shipping, the Government attached prime importance to preparations for emergencies, the protection of trade interests being of secondary importance. If the authority was quoted correctly, this must be denounced as a mistaken view. The Government laid stress on military matters as a guarantee of peace but in time of peace the protection of trade interests were no less important than military matters. Conceding that war is the prime object of a State, it is impossible to prosecute the war successfully with an empty purse. The subsidised shipping companies were now trying to increase their freight rates jointly with foreign shipping companies, and he could not understand why the action was being passed over unnoticed both by the Government and the people.

A shipping conference was as great an evil as a trust. If freight rates were increased, the export of Japanese products to foreign markets must cease. The nation, groaning under a heavy post-bellum taxation, is still ungrudgingly according protection to a few shipping companies. If the companies take this to heart, they should protest against the increase of freight rates proposed by the shipping conference and determine to compete with them, if the protest be disregarded.

FOOD AND POPULATION.

An official investigation as to the proportion between the increase of population and the increase of rice cultivation has been made, and shows that whereas the annual increase in the population is between 400,000 to 500,000, the annual yield of rice ranges between 49 million and 50 million *koku*, while the annual import amounts to about two or three million *koku*. The consumption of rice is estimated at one *koku* per capita a year. If the population goes on increasing at the present rate, it will reach 70 millions in thirty years, while the annual yield of rice can be brought up to 60 or 65 million *koku* by improving the methods of cultivation. Moreover there is a good prospect of a large increase in the production of rice in Chosen. It is therefore believed that sufficient rice can be grown to meet the demand during the next thirty years. The consumption of barley now amounts to about 20 million *koku*, but in many cases it is limited to one crop a year. It is possible to double or treble the present yield, if the cultivation of two crops be encouraged. The conclusion of the authorities is therefore that the supply of rice and other cereals will not fall short of the demand for some years to come, especially if emigration be encouraged.

CHINESE POLITICS.

Mr. Toyama Mitsuru, who recently returned home from China, has been interviewed by the *Tokyo Asahi*, to whose representative he gave his views on Chinese affairs. The financial distress in China, he stated, has now reached a climax, and China has no alternative but to have recourse to either foreign or domestic loans to tide over the crisis. It is curious that Tang Shao-i should have raised a strong opposition to the concession of supervisory rights over China's finances, thus causing a deadlock in the loan negotiations, and there must be some special reason prompting Yuan Shih-kai's Government to assume this strong attitude. It would seem that the revolution had given rise to a racial feeling that foreign loans would endanger China's sovereignty. The same opposition was raised to the joint enterprise of the Hanyu-Ping Corporation. The issue of a domestic loan might be arranged, but the six Powers concerned will no doubt manage to bring their loan negotiations to a successful conclusion. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the leaders of the southern revolutionists announce their intention of starting an active movement as the leaders of political parties, but Dr. Sun will certainly not join Yuan Shih-kai's Government, nor has he any ambition for the Presidency. Chinese feeling *vis à vis* foreign countries has shown marked progress. There has sprung up a strong conviction that China must be ruled by the Chinese themselves, and the present opposition to the foreign loan is an outcome of this national sentiment. Very few Chinese, however, make any attempt to develop the destiny of the nation, and the Government is in the dark as to the line of diplomatic policy which China ought to pursue. It behoves the Japanese authorities to pay attention to these phenomena and improve Japan's China policy, which shows a lack of knowledge of Chinese affairs. The Government's diplomacy might be likened to the manner in which a new servant tremblingly carries a glass filled with water to the brim. If the Government adopt a strong attitude, it will score a final success, but too frequent changes in policy will lead to failure.

A HARBOUR FOR TOKYO.

Dr. Kondo, expert engineer to the Home Office, advocates the construction of a harbour for Tokyo, the location of his choice being on the foreshore at Haneda. Two-thirds of the goods landed in Yokohama are destined for Tokyo, whither they are transported by means of junks, which involves a considerable delay and expense. If a harbour were built at Haneda, all the steamers, foreign and domestic, which frequent Yokohama would, Dr. Kondo thinks, go to Haneda, to save time and expense. It is argued that the passengers travelling by the mail steamers would prefer to land at Yokohama, and therefore Kaneda harbour would be of less value, but this is a question of accommodation. If full accommodation were made at Haneda to facilitate landing, there is no reason why passengers should give preference to Yokohama. The question turns on how and in what manner would the Tokyo Municipality redeem the cost of construction, estimated at between 25 to 30

million *yen*. The wealth of Tokyo would naturally increase on the completion of the harbour, so that it might be well if the Municipality set up a plan to effect the redemption by an increase of the Municipal taxes. If the Municipality attempted to redeem the cost with the proceeds of the sale of the reclaimed land, tonnage dues, harbour fees, etc., it would find it a very difficult task indeed.

CHINESE LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

VIEWS OF DR. TERAO.

Dr. Terao, who was legal adviser to the Nanking Government, recently returned home, and has been interviewed at Osaka. He regards it as impossible for Yuan Shih-kai and his followers to do anything without the assistance of the revolutionary leaders in South China, but at the same time, as those leaders are all patriots, he thinks it unlikely that they will again throw China into turmoil in a contest for power. The Royalists, on the other hand, will be a source of trouble for some years to come. The loan negotiations are at a deadlock, owing to a difference in the question of supervisory rights; but the fears of the foreign Powers that China will become bankrupt if foreign financial supervisors be not appointed, are illusory. China's debt only amounts to about 1,200 million *taels* and would not quite come up to Japan's debt, even if an additional loan of 1,000 million *taels* were raised, though 1,000 millions are insufficient to meet future requirements. Any increase in the land tax is impossible in the present conditions, but a further financial source can be obtained for the salt monopoly, if the rock salt be worked. If endeavours be made to develop China's domestic industries, the future of her finances need not be a matter of concern. If the Japanese Government intervened on behalf of China to bring the loan to a successful conclusion without the appointment of financial supervisors, Japan would win the favour of the Chinese nation.

THE ORIENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Some years ago there were formed in Tokyo two societies called the "Korean Society" and the "Formosan Society." In 1907, these two were amalgamated into one with the name of the "Oriental Association" (*Toyo - Kyokwai*), under the Presidency of Prince Katsura. Last month, the Emperor donated a sum of 10,000 *yen* towards the endowment of the Association, and it now possesses property producing 12,000 *yen* annually. The main purposes of the Association are primary and technical instruction for Japanese youths in Formosa and Chosen, and it is understood that much success has hitherto attended the work of the Association. On the 8th instant, a meeting of the Association was held in Tokyo, when Prince Katsura delivered an address, describing the progress made by the schools under the auspices of the Association, congratulating the members on the success that had hitherto attended their efforts and explaining that numerous valuable reports had been compiled by students of the schools and officials of the Association. Prince Katsura further stated that 700 students had graduated at the schools since their establishment.

JAPAN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBITION.

Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, referring to Japan's participation in the Panama Memorial Exhibition, to be held in San Francisco in 1915, is quoted as saying that in view of the close proximity of San Francisco to Japan and the presence of a large number of Japanese residents there, the Japanese Government is anxious to make a larger provision than was done at the Colombian Exhibition and the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition. Japan is one of the principal participators, and it seems that importance is attached by the American authorities to Japan's participation. The cost of such work has heretofore been first submitted to the Imperial Diet for approval, but this time the procedure is reversed. The Government is to undertake the inspection of the area to be allotted to Japan and draw up its plan and estimates, before asking the Diet for an appropriation, and Exhibition Commissioners will be dispatched very shortly for the purpose. The Exhibition must be on a grander scale than that of the Alaka-Yukon Exhibition that preceded it, as the total cost is put at 50 million *yen*. Japan was the first to receive an official note from the Washington Government, inviting her to participate, and he thought Japan was the first to respond to the invitation.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

A Peking special to the *Chunwa* reports that Yuan Shih-kai has put forward to the Minister of a certain Power a proposal that consent should be given by the Powers to an increase of the Customs tariff by 5 to 12 per cent. in lieu of the concession of the right of supervision over China's finances, to alleviate the popular opposition to the concession of supervisory rights. Yuan Shih-kai also intimated his disposition to abolish the special Customs duty imposed on imported goods over and above the regular tariff, if the foreign Powers agreed to an increase in the Customs tariff. The Minister was unable to make any promise on such an important matter. A belief obtains that China finds great difficulty in conceding the supervisory rights as they would extend to supervision over the disbandment of the troops, and also because of the strict conditions imposed as to the supervision.

THE RAISING OF THE FREIGHT RATES.

The Department of Communications has decided to grant its official approval to the proposed raising of the freight rates on the European line, subject to the condition that the present freight rates shall remain intact on goods of a special nature, which have rivals in the foreign markets, those which show favourable prospects, low-priced exports, and imported foreign-made machinery and staple materials.

The decision was officially notified to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha on the 1st instant. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is reported to have subsequently entered into official negotiation with the Shipping Conference on the matter.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

It is said that the Government has decided to promote the establishment of a number of petty banks throughout Japan which shall serve for accommodating persons in need of small loans. Semi-official means already exist for furnishing money on the security of movable property, and trustworthy shares. But when we come down to the lower orders, who live from hand to mouth, a shockingly pitiable state of affairs exists. The pawn brokers alone meet the needs of the situation, but they carry on their operations in such an exorbitant manner, and they contract loans on such ruinous terms, that if a man once gets into their hands, he may abandon all hope of future solvency. The programme now is to assist these small money-lenders so that they shall be able to furnish funds for the people at easier rates.

It is stated that the number of applicants for telephones which are now borne on the Government's books exceeds a hundred thousand. This accumulation of applications has taken place since 1907, and tends constantly to increase. Tokyo journals state that the annual total of persons desiring to have telephonic equipment placed in their houses exceeds 20,000, and at present there is not the slightest appearance of that total being diminished. Telephones in Tokyo are highly prosperous institutions, and if the service was in the hands of a private company the present great discrepancy between supply and demand would never have arisen. The Diet in its next session will be invited to consider a bill for effecting the necessary expansion at a cost of some 6 million *yen*.

It is some years since all the banks in Japan ceased to include *rin* in their accounts. The *rin*, as our readers are doubtless aware, is the tenth part of a *sen*, and as 4 *sen* go to a penny, the extremely small value of the *rin* is apparent. Nevertheless the Government has not followed the example of the banks in this matter, Officialdom continuing to levy every *rin* in collecting the taxes, thereby causing much confusion and delay. Japanese financiers are said to have resolved to seek the Diet's sanction for abolishing the *rin*. Some people seem to apprehend that instead of dispensing with the *rin*, it will be raised to the dignity of a *sen*. In other words, the *rin* which appear in the accounts at present will be written down *sen*. We do not believe, however, that any such procedure will be adopted.

The Yabuta firm,—well known bill-brokers of Osaka,—which has been in financial embarrassment for some time, suspended payment on the 4th instant. It is stated that the firm at one time had made over a million *yen*, but subsequently failed in speculation until it has now become insolvent. The liabilities amount to about 1,400,000 *yen*, of which 1,100,000 *yen* is covered by security, while the assets total about 1,100,000 *yen*. When the securities are disposed of, it is thought the proceeds will be more than enough to cover the debts. It is believed that the matter can thus be speedily settled.

Some attention is beginning to be attracted by the 5 per-cent. State Bonds of Japan. These securities are now quoted in the immediate neighbourhood of 94.30 *yen* per

each 100 *yen* bond. They have remained in that position for several months past. Now, however, the Government is said to have decided that a considerable part of the Sinking Fund shall be applied to purchasing the 5-per-cents, which will then be redeemed by lot. The idea is that these bonds are now at their lowest figure, and that the State could not do better than to purchase them at once, and remove them from the field of finance. The journals by which this rumour is circulated do not belong to the highest type, and may possibly have lent their columns in the interests of speculators on change.

Mr. I Yong-kyu, ex-leader of the *It Ching-hoi* who is now lying sick at Suma, is said to be in a most critical condition. He has lost his left lung, and is now threatened with complications which he has no strength to fight against. Nevertheless he talks perpetually of the future of his country, gesticulates strongly, and does not at all suggest a dying man.

Under the auspices of the Japan Surgical Association and twenty-three other medical institutions, a memorial service was held on the 2nd inst. at the Japan Hygienic Association in Kojimachi in commemoration of the late Lord Lister and his services to medicine. Naval Surgeon-General Dr. Honda, President of the Japan Surgical Association, delivered the opening address, and Baron Dr. Takagi read a eulogy of the deceased in English. The service was conducted according to the Shinto ritual. Amongst the two hundred people present were Sir Claude MacDonald, British Ambassador, Baron Saito, Minister of the Navy, Mr. Fukuhara, Vice-Minister of Education, Drs. Aoyama and Ogata and other prominent men in the medical profession.

The *Tokyo Asahi* reports that Mr. Magoshi and other Tokyo financiers have under contemplation a scheme for forming a company with a capital of five million *yen*, of which two million *yen* is to be paid up, for the erection of a garden city. The proposal is to buy about 1,000,000 *chobu* of land at a places about five miles from a railway station to the east of Kodzu, and to erect thereon an ideal city. An electric line will be laid to the nearest railway station, to enable residents to get to Tokyo within an hour. The city is to be provided with fine roads, drainage, schools, hospitals, gardens, clubs, telephones, electric light, waterworks and all modern accessories to make life comfortable. The Company expects to derive a profit from the sale of land and rents.

It is stated that the assets of the Deposit Bureau of the Department of Finance on the 30th of last month consisted of securities and other negotiable documents valued at 303,164,659 *yen*, in addition to 35,158,673 *yen* in cash. Since 4,000,000 *yen* worth of 5 per cent. bonds were redeemed in cash on the 1st instant, that amount has been deducted from the amount of securities.

A few years ago some excitement was caused in Japan by intelligence that Mr. Morgan, a wealthy American, had paid 40,000 *yen* to obtain the hand of a celebrated *Kyoto geisha* called Yuki. Whether this is the Morgan who represented the great house of that name the public did not learn, but that he was a very wealthy man there

could be no doubt. News has now been received that he died a few days ago, and that he bequeathed to his wife a sum of 200 million *yen*. If this be true, Mrs. Morgan is the richest person, whether man or woman, in Japan.

The Central Hygienic Association met on the 2nd instant to consider the Methyl-Alcohol Control Regulations drafted by the Hygienic Bureau of the Home Office. The draft was referred to a special committee of five.

The South Manchuria Railway Company's liner *Taizan Maru* (500 tons), built at the Dairen Dock, which is now conducted by the Kawasaki Dockyard Company, was successfully launched on the 4th instant. This is the first steamer built in South Manchuria.

A Vladivostok paper reports a rumour that the Volunteer Fleet liner *Kolya* (?), which left Vladivostok for Kamchatka on the 19th ult., sank near the Kurile islands, with all her passengers and cargo. Later news, however, reports the safe arrival of the vessel.

As a sequel to the disastrous explosion at the Yubari coal mine, it is reported that after a search instituted by the relief party, altogether 79 bodies had been recovered up to Saturday morning last. As the first step towards relief, the Colliery Company has presented 20 *sho* of rice and 40 *yen* to each bereaved family. The families of the sufferers are well satisfied with the treatment meted out to them by the Company.

It is stated that an immense bed of the best reindeer moss has been discovered near the mouth of the Poronai river in Kamchatka. The bed extends to a distance of 75 miles along the coast, has a width of over 9 miles, and a depth of 6 feet. This particular kind of moss is used in the manufacture of cardboard, but the materials have hitherto been wanting in Japan and it has been found necessary to employ imported material. The estimate is that by using the Saghalien product, paper now costing 125 *yen* per ton will be procurable for 85 *yen*.

An official telegram received at the Foreign Office reports that Baron Kato, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, arrived in London on the 5th instant.

The Tokyo Municipal Revision Commission, appointed by the Home Office, met, after a long interval, on the 6th instant, to consider the proposed extension of the water-works, when a decision was given in favour of the second programme, which provides for the construction of a large reservoir at Murayama capable of holding 133 million cubic-feet of water, which is to be drawn from the upper course of the Tama river. The water stored in the reservoir is to be led to two filter beds to be newly constructed at Sakai and Wadabori, and thence on to Yokohashi for distribution. The work of construction is to be spread over five years, the cost being estimated at 20,720,000 *yen*. The resolution was forthwith submitted to the Home Office for approval.

It is now an open secret that the Government has in view the inauguration of new taxes to cover any deficit that may arise from the contemplated readjustment of the tax system, and the imposition of a

new tax on aerated waters seems to be certain. The demand for aerated waters has of late shown a remarkable increase. In 1906 the consumption totalled 77 million bottles, but reached 299 million bottles in 1911, with a tendency to further increase, the ratio of annual increase being from 30 to 50 per cent. Computing the tax at the rate of one *sen* a bottle, it is possible to raise three million *yen* from this source.

Vice-Admiral Winslow, Commander-in-chief of the British China squadron, is expected to arrive at Yokohama on the 12th instant, with the *Defence*, *Monmouth*, *Kent*, and *Newcastle*. After about a week's sojourn the squadron will leave for Kobe on the 22nd, and afterwards proceed to Weihaiwei through the Inland Sea.

Several changes are announced in the personnel of the Foreign Office in Tokyo. The most important of these is the appointment of Baron Ishii to be Ambassador in Paris, his place as Vice-Minister of State for Foreign Affairs being taken by Mr. Kurachi, who has hitherto been serving at the Head of the Political Bureau in the same Department. Mr. Kurachi's office will be filled by Mr. Councillor Abe. Further, Mr. Shidehara becomes Councillor of the United States Embassy and Mr. Hata becomes Minister Plenipotentiary in Brazil. All these gentlemen are already so well known to the foreign public that no words of ours are required to introduce them on this occasion.

It appears that the coal strike in England is now beginning to make its effects felt in Japan and the Far East generally. Moreover, the demand in Chinese waters has increased rapidly, and altogether the mineral is at a premium. The Mitsubishi, the Mitsui and the Hokkaido companies are reported to have held a conference, and to have determined that the price should be raised by from four to five *yen* per 1,000 cattie. These facts are confidently affirmed by Tokyo journals.

An official despatch to the Foreign Office from Mexico reports that the ex-Minister of Home Affairs, who fled to the United States, returned on the 4th instant and established a provisional government, under the pretence that he holds a mandate of the Rebel leader Orozco, and has appointed the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and War, declaring himself as the provisional President. Not much importance is attached to the provisional government by the citizens of Mexico.

Lieutenant Shirase addressed the Japanese Club in Hongkong on the 7th instant. He said that certain persons had conjured him not to return alive unless he could report the completion of his project. But he considered that whereas his death would not benefit any one, he could by living, discharge his duties to his comrades and further the cause of science. He intends to make an expedition to the North Pole and he is now engaged in collecting funds for that purpose. He seems still to have the support of Count Okuma, but there is reason to apprehend that he will experience much difficulty in equipping himself for a renewed adventure.

A telegram from Bangkok dated the 7th instant says that great leniency has been shown by the Throne in dealing with the

recent Siamese conspiracy. The sentence of death passed against the three ring-leaders has been changed to imprisonment for life; the twenty men originally sentenced to imprisonment for life have had their punishment reduced to twenty years' imprisonment; and the remaining sixty-eight whom the Court condemned to imprisonment for twenty years and lesser penalties have all been pardoned. This action is justly interpreted as showing that the Royal Family of Siam feels entirely secure as to the loyalty of its subjects and is not disposed to treat the recent plot as a really serious matter.

All the attempts made hitherto to reduce the price of rice have been unsuccessful. It is true that the cereal has fallen from the neighbourhood of 20 *yen* per *koku* to the neighbourhood of 18, but experts regard this as a transitory fluctuation, and look forward to immediate appreciation. One of the two largest dealers in rice, Mr. Iwasaki, is quoted as saying that the matter rests in the hands of the Japanese consumer. There is plenty of cheap foreign rice obtainable in the market, but it finds no purchasers. The people will not eat it. They say it is not palatable, and they prefer to pay the higher price for the home-grown rice which tastes better. In these circumstances it is plainly futile to attempt to reduce the price by artificial means. If folks deliberately prefer the costly article, they are themselves solely responsible for the price it commands in the market.

The China-Japan S.S. Company has announced its intention of carrying tourists from Nagasaki to the Yangtze River during the summer holidays. The programme contemplates a nineteen days' trip; three days will be occupied in travelling to and from Nagasaki from and to Shanghai, and sixteen days will be devoted to visiting all places of note along China's great water-way. The charge per head is extraordinarily small—only one *yen* per diem, leaving one *yen* for contingent expenses, so each tourist will only be required to pay twenty *yen* in all. No mention is made as to the limit of numbers, although that precaution will certainly have to be taken unless the Company is indifferent to the crowding of its steamers.

There has been a great deal of talk recently about deleterious beverages composed from wood spirit (methyl alcohol) which are freely offered for sale in Tokyo, Yokoyama and Yokosuka. At the last-named place the wood spirit is frankly mixed with water and sugar, coloured with aniline dye and sold as claret. How much sickness has been caused by these abominable beverages it would be hard to conjecture; but now that the season for cold drinks is approaching, the police have warned the public to be careful, and especially to avoid drinking a liquid marked with an "X" over six figures, namely, 909,044. The principal place where this poisonous compound is sold is said to be Onishi's store in Tokyo.

An official telegram reaching the Foreign Office from San Francisco reports that the United States has decided to build a large fort on the island off the mouth of the Panama Canal on the Pacific coast, so that an enemy could not be able to obtain access to the canal before it had destroyed the fort. Six 14-inch guns and five large mortars are to be mounted on the fort.

THE EXCESS OF IMPORTS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 4.)

AS already reported, the foreign trade of Japan for March showed an excess of imports amounting to 24,112,525 yen, or roughly 6¼ millions more than for the corresponding month of last year. The total excess of imports for the first three months of the year amounts to 59,627,575 yen, compared with 46,111,194 yen for the corresponding period of 1911 and 16,471,420 for 1910. On the other hand, the exports for the month show an increase of 2¼ million yen over those for March 1911, and the total for the three months is 106,074,896 yen, compared with 99,027,782 yen for the corresponding period of 1911, and 99,630,829 yen for 1910. The imports for the month show an increase of nine million yen compared with March 1911, and for the three months of nearly 30 million yen compared with the corresponding three months of the previous year. In regard to the increase in exports, the monthly returns now to hand enable us to see how the excess is made up. Taking the figures for the first three months of the year, as compared with the figures for the corresponding three months of 1911, the greatest increase is in Group VIII, comprising yarns, threads, etc., the total increase in value being in round figures some sixteen million yen. Of ginned cotton, 2,192,842 piculs were imported, against 1,613,775 piculs for 1911; wool, 5,433,970 kin, against 3,711,102 kin; and jute and Manila hemp, 5,877,912 kin, against 4,995,958 kin. The value of the increased import of cotton was alone fourteen million yen. Ores and metals showed a growth in value of over fourteen million yen, the principal items showing increases being, pig iron, 114,710,238 kin, against 37,272,696 kin; bar and rod iron, 86,607,548 kin, against 65,628,416 kin; plates and sheets, 94,857,306 kin, against 46,160,274 kin; galvanised wire, 13,768,359 kin, against 9,777,898 kin; bands and hoops, 1,363,704 kin, against 346,306 kin; pipes and tubes, 15,839,277 kin, against 8,336,187 kin. In other metals zinc takes the lead with an import in ingots alone of 2,403,467 kin, against 824,002 kin; and lead follows with 6,168,045 kin, against 3,393,071 kin. Drugs, chemicals, etc. show an increased import valued at nearly 1½ million yen, the principal items being soda ash, 10,107,461 kin, against 6,830,200 kin; and sulphate of ammonium (crude), 40,759,59½ kin, against 19,966,822 kin. It may be noted that of nitrate of soda only 11,544,262 kin were imported, against 20,168,650 kin in 1911. In Group XVI, which comprises all kinds of machinery and instruments, there was an increased import to the value of 1,200,000 yen, half of which is accounted for by the import

of 10 steamships valued at 900,000 yen, against 7 valued at 277,268 yen in 1911. Metal manufactures show an increased import of nearly a million, half of which is accounted for by iron nails, 20,389,012 kin, against 10,564,596 kin, and iron rivets, 1,067,888 kin, against 260,557 kin. There were also large increases in materials for constructing buildings, bridges, vessels, docks, etc. Minor increases are shown in paper pulp (22,703,477 kin, against 15,533,581 kin for 1911); kerosene oil (18,030,843 gallons, against 13,151,011 gallons); and in miscellaneous goods, including copra, cork bark, and fine woods for inlaying. It will thus be seen that the increases in imports are confined practically to raw materials for manufacture and appliances for the handling of the raw materials. The excess of imports may thus on the whole be taken as signifying a revival of Japanese manufacturing activity, the effect of which on her exports will be seen later.

THE CHARGE OF FORGING DOCUMENTS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 7.)

THE judgment delivered by the Tokyo Appeal Court, in the charge against a foreigner of forging official documents and fraud, a translation of which appeared in a recent issue of the *Mail*, is a carefully considered document, which shows the care and attention the Court has given to what is admitted to be a peculiarly difficult case. In commenting upon the judgment of the lower Court we ventured to suggest that it showed signs of haste. Such a criticism cannot be advanced against the Appeal Court, which throughout was evidently impressed by a desire to take a judicial view of the facts. Nevertheless, a perusal of the judgment leaves some uneasiness as to whether the evidence on which it rests is strong enough to be used as a basis for a verdict against the accused. The case, the details of which have been before the public for some time, turns upon the credibility of evidence. There is no doubt as to the forging of the official documents, which is admitted by both sides; there is also no doubt that the two Japanese accused, one of whom has withdrawn his appeal, while the other is still under trial, did, on their own confession, take part in forging the documents. The doubt centres on the part played in the matter by the foreign accused, who, it may be noted, was the first to draw the attention of the authorities, through the firm's lawyer, to the matter, and who continues to have the full confidence of his employers. The evidence on which the charge against him rests consists of the following:—(1) The statements of MATSUMURA TAKESIGE, the Japanese prisoner; (2) the statements of SATO KENJI, the other Japanese accused; (3) the statement of Mr. MITSUHASHI YUKIO as to what was told him

by Mr. METCALF, the manager of the firm; (4) the documentary evidence; and (5) the evidence of a Chinese printer as to the printing of invoice forms. Of the other evidence cited in the judgment, that of the Customs official merely confirms the confession of the two Japanese concerned that fraud was committed, since it shows the amount of duty actually paid was lower than the amount for which cheques were drawn by the firm. The evidence of Mr. METCALF also is merely to show that he was absent from Japan at the time the affair happened, and the evidence of Mr. WATERLOW to show that Mr. MUNSTER was in charge of the office during Mr. METCALF's absence.

The evidence given by the Chinese printer, that he received an order for 500 sheets of invoice forms in May, 1910, which were included in the May accounts and paid for by the firm, was not cited by the lower Court in its judgment, and is of some importance. It is contained in a deposition made before the Public Procurator on March 14th, 1911, by a Chinese printer, working under the name of TONG CHEONG, at No. 51 Yamashita-cho. He stated that they received many orders for printing from the firm of BABCOCK and WILCOX, and that payment of the account was generally made every month. In 1910 they received an order for 500 sheets of invoice forms, the person giving the order being MATSUMURA. Payment for the order was included in the account for May that year and he recognised the foreign accused as the person who paid the account, which came to a total of 52 yen, from which 5 yen was deducted, whether because the account was too high or whether as a "squeeze" does not appear. From other evidence it seems certain that the account was paid by the firm, though, according to the statement of the foreign accused, he was quite unaware that any invoice forms were included in the order. The defence is that MATSUMURA, who certainly ordered the forms according to the evidence of the Chinese printer, introduced them among other orders, trusting that HARGREAVES, who had his hands full in the absence of the manager, would not take the trouble to check them. In this context it is curious that MATSUMURA should have forgotten all about this order until April 16th, 1911, that is until after the deposition of the Chinese printer had been taken. In evidence taken before the Preliminary Court on September 19th, 1910, hardly six months after the order had been given, on being shown a sample of the invoice forms, he said he did not know when they were ordered, but he thought it was about the Spring of 1909, from a Chinese printer at No. 180 and something, 300 copies being printed. On the 13th October in the same year, in further evidence before the same Court, he stated that the forms were ordered from about February of the year before last (1908) from a Chinese printer at No. 51, but he still said nothing about an order having been given in May that year. On the 16th April, 1911, he made the more definite statement that HARGREAVES ordered the forms from a Chinese printer and that payment for them was entered in the cash book. Finally, on the 27th October, in the same year, at the public trial, he made the statement that he got the forms printed by HARGREAVES' order on two occasions,—once in the 40th year of Meiji (1907) and once in

the previous year (1910). (The 40th year of Meiji seems to be a mistake for the 41st, as neither HARGREAVES nor MATSUMURA joined the firm till 1908.) It seems not unreasonable to conclude from MATSUMURA's reluctance in this matter, that he was not quite certain of the ground on which he stood in acknowledging the placing of the order until after the discovery of the Procurator that such an order had been placed. As some confirmation that the ordering of the forms was not known to HARGREAVES a matter may be noted which is also referred to in the judgment. After the fraud has been discovered and MATSUMURA dismissed from the firm, his desk was examined. The pass key of the office, it was found, would not fit one of the drawers, and it was broken open. Inside were found some invoice forms, which HARGREAVES, acting on the advice of the firm's lawyer, Mr. McIVOR, ordered to be destroyed. The attitude of the Court seems to be that in destroying these forms HARGREAVES wished to remove any evidence of his culpability, but if this had been the case, he would hardly have made a public examination of the drawers of MATSUMURA's desk, but would have endeavoured to get rid of the contents secretly. There is evidence that he showed great reluctance in ordering the forms to be destroyed, that he made no attempt to conceal their existence from other responsible persons attached to the firm, and that he finally acted on the best advice obtainable. To conclude that that advice was given to shield HARGREAVES himself is to imply the existence of a conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice. Moreover when this advice was given HARGREAVES was already in possession of MATSUMURA's confession, made in front of Mr. WATERLOW, that he had committed the fraud by himself, without any accomplices. The destruction or otherwise of the invoice forms therefore could not affect him. In the two extracts from the evidence of HARGREAVES given in the judgment, the intention is apparently to show that HARGREAVES contradicted himself, by stating on October 31st, 1910, that he had neither destroyed blank invoice forms nor had ever kept such forms, and on December 5th, 1910, that he had ordered KURIYAMA, an employé of the firm, to destroy them. An examination of the questions and answers leading up to the statement on October 31st, 1910, throws a different light on the matter, however, as the following extract shows. A form of invoice used in the forgery was shown to the accused and the following examination took place:—

Did not you and MATSUMURA have such forms made after conferring together?—Never.

Were there not other forms of invoices which were destroyed or disposed of in some other way?—I have not destroyed a single sheet. I have not such things in my possession.

From this it will be seen that the question and answer do not refer to the forms found in MATSUMURA's desk, but to other, supposititious forms in the possession of HARGREAVES. If HARGREAVES laid himself open to suspicion by ordering the forms found in MATSUMURA's desk to be destroyed, it certainly might have been thought that the testimony of Mr. McIVOR, who has had a long and honourable career in Japan, should have been taken on this point. Reverting to the question of the printing of the forms used in the case, it is curious that the place where the Customs receipts were printed has not been traced. The only reference to this in the judgment is a statement by MATSUMURA,

on the 13th October, 1910, that the blank receipt forms were printed in March or April, 1910, by a Chinese printer named Ho TUNG at No. 159, Yamashita-cho. No. 159 was at that time, and had been for many years previously, a portion of the premises of the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works. Whether they employ any Chinese we do not know, but it is obvious that the printing could not have been done there. In the depositions made before the Public Procurator there is one by a Chinese named NIN SHO MAN (Japanese reading), of No. 52, to the effect that he knew that a certain Chinese, formerly living at No. 41, which it may be noted are the offices of Messrs. BLUNDELL & Co., then in Canton, had received an order from MATSUMURA for printing in copper-plate such forms. The Court evidently thought this evidence was too vague to be used, as nothing is said about this deposition in the judgment. MATSUMURA stated that 300 of these forms were printed, and as only a very few were used the question naturally arises, What became of the remainder? It is curious that MATSUMURA should have so easily remembered the ordering of these forms, even down to the number and the price paid for them and where they were printed, and should have failed to remember the ordering of the invoice forms only a month later, until the placing of the order was discovered. It is also noteworthy that while in the case of the invoice forms he alleges that the order was placed on several occasions, he only alleges one instance of an order being placed for the receipt forms.

In regard to the evidence of the witness Mr. MITSUHASHI as to a statement alleged to have been made by Mr. METCALF, accusing HARGREAVES of complicity, this, as pointed out before, is purely hearsay evidence and does not admit of proof. There was no third person present who could confirm the statement, and thus we are reduced to considering the credibility of either side, Mr. METCALF affirming that he made no such suggestion. At his examination in the Yokohama Court Mr. MITSUHASHI acknowledged that he met MATSUMURA at Shinbashi Station and that MATSUMURA got him to ask Mr. METCALF to settle the affair without the interference of lawyers and such like people. This implies that Mr. MITSUHASHI was asked by MATSUMURA to intercede for him, and that it was on account of this that he spoke to Mr. METCALF. Mr. MITSUHASHI at the public trial in the Yokohama Court, declined to commit himself as to the exact words used by Mr. METCALF, but at the Preliminary Court he stated that Mr. METCALF told him the affair was the work of HARGREAVES and MATSUMURA and the penalty would be rather high, but matters would be left to take their course without calling in the assistance of lawyers. Mr. METCALF's version of the conversation was given in his examination as a witness at the public trial in the Yokohama Court. He acknowledged that he had a conversation with MITSUHASHI, but affirmed that he only told him that whoever was guilty, he meant to take strict measures, and that MITSUHASHI had misunderstood him if he thought he said that HARGREAVES was concerned. If that had been the case he would not have kept HARGREAVES in his employ after the discovery was made. We have thus two opposing statements. It is very probable that the manager was vexed with HARGREAVES for having allowed

the fraud to escape his notice, and that he may have said it was the fault of the foreign accused, meaning thereby that HARGREAVES should have taken more care; but that he should wilfully charge his sub-manager with a crime, investigation as to which was proceeding, and should make this charge to a minor employé of the firm, is surprising, to say the least. The judgment of the Appeal Court, moreover, is worded to show that the accused was deceiving the manager, which in itself is contrary to the Court's apparent acceptance of Mr. MITSUHASHI's statement.

Besides the statements of the other two accused, there remains only the documentary evidence. This merely goes to show that the invoices were re-written and the receipts forged. It is true that MATSUMURA, as an after-thought, stated on July 26th, 1911, that he thought HARGREAVES took some of the receipts home and got someone else to fill in the figures, but there is no confirmation of this, no expert in handwriting being called to decide the question. It is equally as probable that MATSUMURA himself got some one to put the figures in. In regard to the seals used, that for the Moji Bianchi Treasury has never been discovered, and an insinuation made by MATSUMURA is mentioned in the judgment that HARGREAVES got this made. As there is evidence, however, that the other accused, SATO, got the stamps made for the Nagasaki and Kobe Branch Treasuries, and as in his examination in the Yokohama Court, on the 27th October, 1911, MATSUMURA stated that an acquaintance in Tokyo was caused to make the Moji and Yokohama stamps about March or April, 1910, the accusation falls flat. Taking into consideration the statement of SATO, on November 2nd, 1910, that on thinking the matter over, it appeared to him that every time he returned the balance of the money fraudulently obtained he was asked to write one of the forged Customs receipts, and the many admissions of MATSUMURA that he helped to forge the receipts, and that he endeavoured to imitate SATO's writing on some of them, the evidence that HARGREAVES had any part in these documents is very weak, if not non-existent.

In regard to the statements of the other accused, MATSUMURA and SATO, it must be again pointed out that these are confessions, and that to establish a precedent that a confession can be used as evidence against others than the person making it is very dangerous. It has already been indicated how contradictory these confessions are, more especially at the commencement of the inquiry, when the two accused had not had an opportunity of conferring with each other, but two more instances may be given. The eleventh count in the indictment refers to the payment of duty amounting to 3,939 88 yen to the Moji Customs. The invoice was re-written to represent a duty of about 2,000 yen, but the Moji Customs declared the price too low and on appraising the goods demanded an extra duty of 1,300 yen. The cheque drawn on the firm was of course for the proper amount of duty,—3,939 88 yen. SATO's first explanation of the procedure in this case,—given only two months after it happened,—was that on receipt of the news that the Moji Customs had increased the duty, he and MATSUMURA visited Har-

HARGREAVES at Kamakura to consult as to what should be done, and that on the following day MATSUMURA handed him a cheque for the proper amount of duty, which he cashed, returning the balance. This statement was made on the 1st October, 1910. On the 2nd November following, the statement was varied by saying that on the day following the visit to Kamakura he received from MATSUMURA a cheque for the extra duty demanded by the Moji Customs, which he cashed and despatched. Then followed the extraordinary statement that the report of the collection of additional duty was received before the original duty was despatched, so that a cheque for both the original duty and the extra duty was received at the same time. This revision of his original evidence was apparently made because he foresaw that inquiries would be made as to what bank the cheque for the extra duty was drawn on, no such cheque having been drawn by Messrs. BARCOCK and WILCOX. Subsequently SATO, apparently realising that the true facts of the case would be easily discovered, made a further alteration of his statement and said that the amount of extra duty was received in cash. His only explanation of the contradictory nature of his statements was that he forgot. The facts of the case, as far as they appear before the Court, are given in a statement made by SATO's former employer, the head of the Toyo Transport agency, that the cheque for 3,415 yen was cashed on the 16th August, that 2,107 91 yen was transmitted to Moji on the 17th August, and the balance of 1,304.44 yen on the 22nd August. No confirmation of this statement appears to have been obtained by the Court, although there seems no reason to doubt it. Again in regard to the visit to Kamakura to consult HARGREAVES, SATO's statements in the Preliminary Court and in the Yokohama Court gave the impression that he had himself spoken with HARGREAVES. It was not until the case got to the Upper Court that SATO acknowledged that he did not go to the house at all, but waited by the roadside. His statement that HARGREAVES was in the house, thus rested entirely upon what MATSUMURA told him, SATO even not going as far as the gate. MATSUMURA therefore can produce no evidence that he saw HARGREAVES on that morning, while on the opposite side there is the evidence of the cook that the master was out fishing all the morning and that no one called. One cannot but feel that under a proper system of cross-examination all these contradictions would have been exposed at the first hearing with a considerable saving of the time of the Court.

There is one other point to which reference should be made as it is of some importance. In the evidence of MATSUMURA given on October 13th, 1910, cited by the Court, it is stated that in the procedure in passing goods through the Customs the transport agent, after receiving the documents for the Customs, took to the office a demand note of the Custom House. In the evidence of HARGREAVES, given on the 31st October the same year, the statement also appears that "demand notes" were obtained from the Customs and taken to him. The word used in the original is "kakitsuke," which merely means a written document, but as the document was presented by the Customs and specified

the amount of duty due, it appears that some form of demand note is meant. If HARGREAVES had received such a document from the Customs, however, the fraud would at once have been discovered, since it would have been seen that the amount specified in it did not correspond with the amount which the original invoice demanded. Therefore if such documents were handed to HARGREAVES and he saw the amount which the Customs demanded as duty, the only conclusion to be formed is that he was conniving in the fraud. The statement made by HARGREAVES in the examination in question, however, is not that he was brought a Customs document, but simply "a document." The words used, as recorded by the Court, are, "He (the transport agent) will come back (from the Customs) with a document in which the amount is given and show it to me." This is a very different statement from the emphatic one of MATSUMURA which reads: "When the goods arrive the transport agent brings the Customs declaration stating the amount of duty." Hargreaves acknowledged that he received a document. If it was not a Customs document what was it? The answer is that it was a temporary receipt of the transport agency. On this point SATO again gave a lot of conflicting evidence. On the 2nd November, 1910, he denied that he gave such receipts as far as Yokohama was concerned, although he acknowledged there were cases where temporary receipts were given for duty paid to the Moji Customs. In the Appeal Court five months later he acknowledged that when there was not sufficient time the documents were taken at first to the investigation office at the Customs and the amount of duty ascertained, and that then he went to the Company with a temporary receipt and got a cheque for the duty. Further he acknowledged that in one case when HARGREAVES was absent he gave a temporary receipt to MATSUMURA for about 850 yen when the amount paid to the Yokohama Customs was only about 500 yen. His only explanation of his previous statement that no temporary receipts were given in the case of Yokohama was that he did not remember. The conclusion seems to be that he gave temporary receipts in all cases; and that it was on the amount recorded on these receipts that the cheques were drawn. Such temporary receipts were afterwards, of course, returned to the transport agency, but happily when the fraud was discovered the firm was still in possession of one of them.

It has been asked what object MATSUMURA can have in persisting in his original statements, now that he has withdrawn his appeal. It would be more to the purpose, however, to ask what he would gain by now denouncing his former statements. It requires but a small knowledge of human nature to know that men very rarely withdraw their statements, even when at extremes. Undoubted criminals have gone to the gallows protesting their innocence with their last breath when it was apparent that further protestation was useless. There is also the personal element to be considered. It was through HARGREAVES that MATSUMURA's fraud was discovered and the refusal of HARGREAVES to condone the matter in any way no doubt aroused MATSUMURA's anger. There was produced to the Court a blackmailing telegram which MATSUMURA sent at that time to Mr. WATERLOW, stating that if he were

not saved he would make statements reflecting on the Company's credit. This is evidence of his state of mind.

The case has now gone to the Court of Cassation as far as the foreign accused is concerned, while judgment has yet to be pronounced on SATO by the Appeal Court. It is not usual in such cases to deal with accomplices separately, but apparently the Court was anxious not to delay the proceedings. It now remains for the Court of Cassation to either uphold the judgment of the lower Court or send it back for re-trial.

PRINCE WALDEMAR.

H.H. Prince Waldemar arrived at Shimabashi at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning last, and was received by Count Rex, German Ambassador, the Embassy Staff, Prince Ito and others. Immediately after arrival the Prince drove to the German Embassy. His Highness is travelling *incognito* and has declined the treatment accorded to Royalty proffered by the Imperial House. The Prince will, however, proceed to the Palace to pay his respects, when H.M. the Emperor will confer on him the Grand Cordon of the Chrysanthemum.

Prince Waldemar paid a visit to Enoshima and Kamakura on Tuesday, where he visited the Hachiman Shrine, Kenchoji Temple, the tomb of Yoritomo, and many other historical relics.

On Tuesday His Majesty the Emperor presented Prince Waldemar with the Grand Order of Merit and the Grand Cordon of the Chrysanthemum.

H.H. Prince Waldemar repaired to the Imperial Palace at 11.50 a.m. on the 8th instant, and was presented to H.M. the Emperor by Count Rex, the German Ambassador. The Prince was afterwards received in audience by H.M. the Empress. His Highness was then conducted to the Home Chamber and entertained to a banquet. Amongst those invited to the banquet were Prince and Princess Kanin, Prince and Princess Higashi-Fushimi, the staffs of the German Embassy, and Japanese high officials. After the banquet H.M. the Emperor adjourned to the Chikusa chamber, where his Majesty conversed with H. H. Prince Waldemar until about half past one.

THE RUSSIAN MERCHANT MARINE.

The *Birjele Vedmosti*, of Vladivostok, gives some interesting details about the Russian merchant marine, which, on January 1st, 1911, consisted of 943 steamers, with an aggregate registered tonnage of 463,000 tons, and of 2,504 sailing vessels, with an aggregate registered tonnage of 260,000 tons.

The larger proportion of these vessels is in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, where there are 403 steamships and 786 sailing ships. The Pacific occupies the fifth place, with 25 steamers, having an aggregate registered tonnage of 27,897 tons, and two sailing ships with a registered tonnage of 100 tons.

The total value of the steamers is put at 144,600,000 roubles, of which the steamers in the Pacific comprise 7,000,000 roubles. The total value of the sailing ships is put at 16,300,000 roubles.

About 75½ per cent. of the steamers were built abroad in foreign dockyards while 97.3 per cent. of the sailing ships were built in Russia. Most of the foreign built steamers were constructed in England.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

DISBANDMENT OF TROOPS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Nanking, May 2.

One thousand Kiangsi soldiers, three regiments of cavalry and artillery soldiers of the Chekiang army and two thousand Canton soldiers left Nanking for their respective homes on the 28th ult. They are to be disbanded at the places where they were enlisted.

CONDITIONS IN FUCHOW.

Fuchow, May 3.

The financial distress in Fuchow is becoming keener than ever. For three months past only one half of the regular pay has been given to the soldiers. Wild rumours, are rampant. Public opinion vehemently attacks the Magistrate concerning the question of the provincial assembly and the Magistrate has been compelled to tender his resignation.

MAGISTRATE HU YING.

Chefoo, May 3.

The transport *Tsian* left here for Tientsin on the 2nd instant to receive Magistrate Hu Ying and his party.

KILIN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Kilin, May 2.

The provisional Provincial Assembly of Kilin came into existence on the 27th ult. on an agreement between the members of the assembly and various public bodies in the town of Kilin. Amongst the conditions agreed upon was one stipulating that the agricultural, industrial, commercial and educational associations shall be represented by two members each. The consent of the Magistrate was obtained to the agreement. After the Assembly came into existence, it nevertheless refused to admit the members elected by these four associations, which greatly resented the action and insisted on the reorganization of the Assembly. The Magistrate intervened to effect an amicable settlement of the dispute, but the Assembly remained obdurate. The Magistrate has therefore telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, asking for his interference.

MOUNTED BANDITS.

Hsinming-fu, May 3.

A large band of mounted bandits has recently made its appearance in the jurisdiction of Chinanhsien, where they made their influence felt in all directions. A number of cavalry, artillery and infantry soldiers, with two guns were dispatched there on the 2nd inst. for their suppression.

SITUATION AT CANTON.

Canton, May 2.

The revolutionary party in Canton is to be disbanded very shortly. The members resent the proposal in the belief that they will no longer be eligible for important posts in the government and have started a disturbance. The situation is rather grave.

LIANG TUNG-YUAN.

Canton, May 2.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Liang Tung-yuan now in Canton urging his speedy return to Peking.

A RELIEF FUND.

Peking, May 4.

A Relief Association has been organized to help the indigent. Public subscriptions

towards the fund already reach 18,000 dollars, including 3,000 dollars donated by Yuan Shih-kai.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Peking, May 4.

Hu Ying, who relinquished the Magistracy of Shantung province, will be appointed magistrate of Shen-kan, or Thibet.

A MONGOLIAN ADVISER.

Peking, May 4.

Yuan Shih-kai has in mind appointing the Mongolian Prince, Kuajihsin (?) as the highest adviser in the Mongolian administration.

THE SZCHUAN TROOPS.

Peking, May 4.

The Magistrate of Szchuan has telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, asking for instructions on the disposition of the troops in that province, amounting to about six or seven Divisions.

A WAR COUNCIL.

Nanking, May 4.

A War Council will be created to give appointments to those who have brilliant military and naval careers.

TROOPS IN SHANTUNG.

Peking, May 4.

Chang Hsun has enlisted 18 regiments of troops in Shantung province and is making his influence felt all round. Seven thousand soldiers have been dispatched to the Shantung frontier from Nanking to watch their movements.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Chefoo, May 5.

Chou Tsz-chi, the new Magistrate of Shantung, arrived here on the 2nd instant to enter on his new duties.

THE KILIN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

Kilin, May 5.

Yuan Shih-kai still reserves his reply to the telegraphic request addressed him by the Magistrate of Kilin concerning the arbitration of the dispute between the Provincial Assembly and the public bodies in Kilin, but the Magistrate is resolved to dissolve the present Assembly and to organize a new one if it remain obdurate and refuse to admit the members elected by the four public bodies in Kilin.

THE STATE COUNCIL.

A Peking special to the *Chungwa* reports that nothing important was discussed at the regular meeting of the State Council, all questions relating to the loan being dealt with in secret conference. An opinion predominates in the Council as to the advisability of cancelling all loan contracts and raising the necessary funds by the issue of patriotic bonds.

THE PAYMENT OF THE SOLDIERS.

Wang Chen-yuan and other commanders of Army Divisions emphasize the necessity of a speedy payment to the soldiers of the pay in arrear, and argue that the loan contract should be cancelled if it be unduly protracted and a fund be raised by the issue of patriotic bonds. If wealthy people fail to subscribe for the bonds, troops should be dispatched in order to bring them to reason. This opinion is widely endorsed in military circles.

THE SUPERVISION OF FINANCES.

Yuan Shih-kai's Government is worried over the rights of supervision over China's finance claimed by the Six Powers' Syndicate. The Ministers of State attribute the

claim to a joint demand of Russia and Japan, but this betrays a lack of knowledge of the internal affairs of the Syndicate or a willful perversion of the truth, thereby betraying a lack of sincerity on their part. Yuan Shih-kai's Government does not show any repentance of its breach of good faith, but is trying to stir up a hostile feeling among the people.

THE SWATOW TROUBLE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Swatow, May 4.

Since the disappearance of Magistrate Chen, the Lin army has radically altered its behaviour, assuming a provoking attitude towards Wu. Wu thereupon recalled to Swatow all the detachments of his troops. The situation has become rather disquieting. The transport *Taishun* arrived on the 3rd instant, though it still remains doubtful whether the Lin army will embark on board the steamer.

Swatow, May 6.

Through the mediation of Wu, the Lin army has received 65,000 dollars from the city notables in Swatow, and consequently a majority of the troops embarked on board the transport *Taishun* to-day and left for Canton.

Swatow, May 6.

A majority of the Lin army embarked on board the transport and Commander Liu and several staff officers left for Hongkong on the 2nd instant, while the Lin army left for Canton at 11 o'clock this morning.

SITUATION IN FUCHOW.

Fuchow, May 5.

The situation in Fuchow and vicinity is disquieting. The citizens are preparing to take refuge outside the city. Financial distress still prevails and the troops are suffering from destitution. The whole of the northern expeditionary troops returned to Fuchow on the 2nd.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ATTACKED.

Peking, May 6.

A riot has broken out in Kan-su in the north of Szchuan, and many Christian Churches have been burnt down. The foreign missionaries are all safe; but a large number of native converts have sustained injuries. The disturbance partakes of the nature of an anti-foreign agitation. The report is confirmed by telegraphic dispatches received at the French and German Legations from Chengtu.

MAGISTRATE CHAO.

Peking, May 7.

Magistrate Chao of the Three Eastern Provinces is losing popularity in official circles in Peking, being accused of a lack of definite views and easily influenced by the opinions of his subordinates.

SUPERVISION OF CHINA'S FINANCES.

Peking, May 4.

Representatives of the Japanese, British, German, American and French capitalists, had an interview with Tang Shao-i on the 2nd instant, when they raised the question of supervisory rights over China's finance; but Tang Shao-i definitely refused to concede these rights. The negotiations have thus ended in failure.

THE IMPORT OF ARMS.

Nanking, May 6.

The citizens of Nanking strongly resent the secret importation of arms by the German

merchants to the order of Royalists, and threaten to declare a boycott against German merchants.

THIBET.

Canton, May 6.
Almost all Chinese residents in Thibet have withdrawn to Szchuan. Public order has been restored in Thibet and a declaration of independence will be issued shortly.

THE BRITISH TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, May 7.
The British troops stationed at Hankow will be withdrawn on the 15th instant and sent back to Hongkong.

DISBANDMENT OF TROOPS.

Nanking, May 7.
The troops in Nanking will be gradually disbanded. A portion of Chekiang and Canton troops started for their respective homes a few days ago.

CHINA'S FINANCES.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuo* reports that Hwang Hsing and other revolutionists in Nanking hold that the concession of the right of supervision over China's finance is an infringement of China's sovereignty which may lead to the destruction of China. Their opposition is so strong that they are determined to start a second revolution if Yuan Shih-kai's Government concede the rights to the foreign syndicate.

A Shanghai special to the same journal also reports that the gamblers have organized an association in opposition to the loan. The actors have also organized an association and are placing on the stage dramas inspiring a spirit of independence. Women are also making public speeches against the loan. Numerous other bodies have come into existence to stir up public sentiment in opposition to the loan.

According to a Nanking dispatch, Hwang Hsing will attend the State Council in Peking to deliver a speech against the terms of the loan. Lengthy telegrams are being exchanged between him and Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The situation is evidently becoming critical.

Chin Chi-mei's departure for the north has again been postponed, for fear of an uprising among the soldiers.

DISBANDMENT OF TROOPS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.)

Chefoo, May 8.
General Feng Lin-kuo has been entrusted with the commission to undertake the disbandment of the Lan army now in Chefoo. The general is to proceed to Peking to-morrow to consult with the War Office as to the method of disbandment.

RIOT IN A THEATRE.

Chefoo, May 9.
A number of soldiers belonging to the Kuanfu army in Chefoo started a riot in the theatre last night. Commander Lien dispatched 200 men for their suppression. The riot will probably not lead to serious consequences.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Chefoo, May 9.
Chou Po was appointed chief of the civil administration of Shansi on the 7th instant and Wang Ching-ting takes charge of the Department of Commerce and Industry

during the absence of Chen Chi-mei in Shanghai.

THE TROOPS AT CANTON.

Canton, May 1.
Through the earnest request of the War Office and the advice of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, General Chen returned to Canton on the 5th instant and assumed command of the new army, Lung Chi-kuang being at the same time appointed Vice-Commander of the Guards. The northern expeditionary troops, composed of 2,000 men, returned to Canton on the 6th instant. Tranquillity now prevails.

THE RIOTS IN SZCHUAN.

A Peking special to the *Chuo* reports that according to telegraphic dispatches from Chengtsu and Changking concerning the disturbances in Szchuan, the Socialists in Liangshan-hsien have encountered the government army at Kiangchow and elsewhere. There were casualties on both sides. A detachment of the Yunnan army which entered Szchuan led by Commander Chang, encountered the Szchuan troops near Kaipai, and a battle was fought. The students of the Military Academy in Kiangpei, who are bent on independence, have deserted in response to an invitation of the Socialists and are making their appearance in various districts. They openly declare their intention of killing and plundering the foreign residents. Moreover they have been joined by bandits, and thus the district between Chengtsu and Changkiang is now extremely dangerous. The foreign residents are suspending their travels in that district.

A party of French miners, who were crossing the Szchuan frontier from Yunnan via Kueichow, retraced their steps to Mongolia. Although the reports of the murder of foreign residents are not yet confirmed, the foreign residents in Hsuechow (a town lying between Chengtsu and Yunnan) are said to have telegraphed to the French Railway Guards in Yunnan for protection. The Yunnan troops are engaged in effective suppression of the riot, so that it is presumed that the lives and property of foreign residents in that district are safe.

SOCIALISM IN CHINA.

A Peking special to the *Chuo* reports that the Chinese Socialists have under consideration the holding of an inaugural meeting in Peking, to inspire in the minds of the public the cause of communism. It remains doubtful whether Yuan Shih-kai's Government will tolerate such a meeting.

IMPEACHMENT OF TANG SHAO-I.

A Peking despatch to the *Chuo* reports that according to Chinese newspapers the Unionists in the State Council have decided to impeach Tang Shao-i and bring home to him the whole responsibility for the loan question. The date of the introduction to the Council of the impeachment still remains uncertain.

CHINA'S FINANCES.

There is now a prospect of the dispute as to the supervisory rights claimed by the Syndicate being arranged, and as the State Council will most certainly not oppose the new arrangement it is expected to succeed.

The explorer Borup, who accompanied Commander Peary to the North Pole, has been drowned in Long Island Sound by the upsetting of a canoe.

DR. ELIOT.

In view of the approaching visit to Japan of Dr. Eliot, the following lines from the pen of Prof. Francis E. Peabody, of Harvard University, are of interest. They form the dedication to his last volume of sermons:—

To C. W. E.

Severest critic, best of listeners,
Questioning all things with the perennial youth,
Quick to detect when faulty logic errs,
Yet quicker to discern each note of truth:
Men call you unimpassioned, cold, and stern,
The last survivor of the Puritan,
They little know the sympathies that burn
For every worthy cause or troubled man.
Straight to its mark your candid counsel flies,
Its shaft of judgment tipped with kind desire,
And those it pierces still unwounded rise,
Chastened but strong, and purified by fire.

Along the coast where we have lived together,
There comes at evening-time, in summer weather,
A hush of Nature, when the sighing firs
Cease their complaining, and no land-breeze stirs
The drowsy ocean; while the burnished bay
Mirrors the splendour of the dying day.
So, after many and tempestuous years,
And many an angry gale of doubts and fears,
The hostile breezes slacken and then cease;
The harbor-lights are lit, of love and peace;
And life's calm evening settles over you
As sunset gathers over Asticou.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 3.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness, and movements either way were limited to fractions.

Saturday, May 4.

The market on Saturday last showed an improvement as a reaction from the previous dullness, the strong tone being maintained throughout.

Monday, May 6.

The market yesterday opened strong, all shares moving up in prices. A weak tone began to develop towards the close of the session when shares witnessed a slight collapse.

Tuesday, May 7.

The market yesterday opened active, all shares moving up in prices, but a weak tone developed towards the close of the session.

Wednesday, May 8.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness, and only small business was done, prices being unchanged. A weak tone began to develop towards the close of the session.

Thursday, May 9.

The market yesterday opened weak, shares showing a slight collapse all round. The tone began to improve towards the close of the session, however. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

May 8th. May 9th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—	—	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	115.70	115.30	—	.40
Toyo Kisen.....	47.35	47.30	—	.05
Specie Bank.....	—	—	—	—
Tanko Kisen.....	22.30	22.10	—	.20
Tokyo Gas.....	72.10	72.10	—	—
Tokyo Dento.....	71.25	—	—	—
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	90.85	90.30	—	.55
Tokyo Spinning.....	—	—	—	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	109.80	109.35	—	.45
Beer.....	—	—	—	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	64.65	64.55	—	.10
Nippon Oil.....	—	—	—	—
Rice Exchange.....	—	—	—	—
Stock Exchange.....	156.95	157.20	—	.25

THE RAILWAY BUDGET.

Commenting upon the Railway Budget, the *Tokyo Asahi* notes that the revenue of the nationalized lines amounts to 94,648,008 yen, as against an expenditure amounting to 99,275,840 yen, and the question of how to cover this deficiency of 4,627,832 yen thus created is under consideration. According to the authorities of the Railway Bureau, the above deficiency may be covered by the surplus from the budget for the preceding fiscal year. This may be practicable, but it is nevertheless but a temporary and even dangerous policy, inasmuch as it is based upon something not appearing in the budget. For this awkward state of affairs the Seiyukai should be held responsible in a large measure. As everybody knows, the Seiyukai have frequently attempted to win local favour by promises of construction or extension of local lines. In consequence the Party had to include in the budget the construction of such local lines as were not immediately necessary. The Finance Department declining to defray any money for such purposes, the Railway Board was obliged to seek a source of revenue by temporary measures. What is still more awkward, the authorities have never taken in hand the construction of those local lines as promised, thereby making the programme no better than nominal. This is the case almost every year, and hence the growing increase in the amount of the so called surplus to be carried forward in the railway budget, as the following table clearly shows:—

Fiscal Year.	Surplus. yen.
1907.....	3,183,615
1908.....	2,652,496
1909.....	5,348,282
1910.....	11,422,419

As will be seen from the above figures, due to the inclusion in the budget of schemes of such a nature as cannot be executed in the proposed period, the amount to be carried forward every year is constantly increasing, jumping from 3,000,000 yen in 1907 up to over 11,000,000 yen in but four years. In these circumstances it is little wonder that the budget of the nationalized railways undergoes a constant abnormal expansion, the amount of loans already aggregating over forty million yen. In view of the no small difficulty thereby experienced in the compilation of the State Budget, the *Asahi* urges the Railway Authorities to always see that only such schemes are included in the budget as can be taken in hand in each fiscal year.

The Railway Budget for the present fiscal year provides an outlay of 54,800,000 yen for the construction of lines and improvements, of which 100,000,000 yen is to be defrayed with the profit from the railways, and the balance is to be met from a fund raised by the issue of loans. Three million yen out of the first issue of the railway bills, amounting to 30,000,000 yen, are available for use in the construction and improvements contemplated this year. Twenty-five million yen has been raised by the second issue of railway bills, so that 28 million yen out of a total loan of 40,000,000 yen is actually in the hands of the Railway Board, while there still remains 12,000,000 yen to be raised in future. Inasmuch, however, as the execution of the work of construction is usually delayed owing to the difficulty of expropriation of land, etc., the balance of some 12 million yen will be carried over to the ensuing year. In the circumstances, it is thought improbable that any further loan will be raised from the National Treasury this year.

THE GALE IN YOKOHAMA.

DAMAGE ON LAND AND WATER.

A very strong gale prevailed in Tokyo and Yokohama Districts throughout Saturday morning last. According to reports from the Kanagawa-ken Meteorological Observatory, about six on the morning of the 4th, a depression of some 744 m.m. appeared in the gulf of Harima and off Noto province. Consequently there were heavy rains and strong winds throughout the district extending from Southern Kyushu to Kwantō through Shikoku and Chugoku. In Yokohama the barometer had continued to fall from the 3rd inst., and about three o'clock on Saturday morning, rain began to fall. The wind later shifted to the south and gradually increased in force until at one o'clock it was blowing a gale with a speed approaching almost 23 metres. The depression lay at that time over the vicinity of Kumagaya. The rain ceased about half past two, the total fall amounting to 42m.m. Almost simultaneously with the stoppage of the rain, the wind abated, but it was not before four o'clock that the weather completely recovered.

In the forenoon when the gale was at its worst, not a few vessels, big and small, were in some danger. Among others the German steamer *Prins Ludwig*, which had been at anchor at No. 4 Buoy, weighed anchor at half past eleven in the morning and was slowly making her way outside the harbour, when she was blown out of her course and came into collision with the T.K.K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, of 6,500 tons. Fortunately, neither ship sustained any serious damage. The O.S.K. liner *Annan Maru*, of 3,016 tons, which was at No. 1 Buoy with two anchors down, was blown away from her anchorage and would have collided with the Communications Department's cable boat *Okinawa Maru* lying to leeward, had not the latter been able to get out of the way in time. The *Okinawa Maru* drifted to Kanagawa, where she finally went aground. The Yokohama Dock Company's steam launches *Nogayama Maru* and *Tobayama Maru* went to the rescue, but it was not before six in the evening that the vessel was brought back to her former anchorage.

The cargo boats, *Bampuku Maru*, *Chitose Maru* and a few others belonging to the Hoshino Shipping Agents at Yokohama, which left for Tokyo about seven in the morning with full loads of coal, towed by the steam launch *Takanawa Maru*, were caught in the gale off Kawasaki and were obliged to turn back. When they got as far as Tsurumi, the towing rope was broken by the high seas and the *Bampuku Maru*, *Chitose Maru* and *Chokyu Maru* went aground at the mouth of the Tsurumi river, while the other two met the same fate near Koyasu. All the boats foundered before any vessels could get to their rescue. No lives were lost, however.

A boat carrying four fishermen when off Honmoku, near the breakwater outside the port, was blown on a shoal about half past nine, some three cho distant from Namamugi, and finally capsized. One of the fishermen was rescued, but the rest are missing.

Another cargo boat, the *Kotoku Maru*, loaded with paper valued at 1,700 yen, on her way to the Japan Warehouse in Fukagawa, was also capsized about four o'clock in the afternoon near Tsukishima in Kyobashi. The boatmen on board however were rescued in time.

On shore, many fences and trees suffered both on the Bluff and in the lower part of the town, but no casualties are reported.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their Daily Report for May 3rd, state:—

The morning market opened a trifle firmer but transactions were on a limited scale. The principal advance were Nippon Yusen, 40 sen, Kogyo Bank 30 sen, Yensuiko Sugars 85 sen and

others 10/20 sen. Exchanges Old and New advanced 1.60 yen and 40 sen respectively; afternoon business was again dull, prices being irregular and fluctuating within narrow limits. There was nothing out of the ordinary to mention. Exchanges Old declined 70 sen, and new gained 25 sen. Yesterday 29,020 shares changed hands.

May 4.

Owing to the profit-taking of the "Bears," combined with the expectation of increased dividends, prices advanced 5/50 sen all round this morning. Spinnings especially were favoured with the following rises, Fuji Gassed Old and New 50 and 95 sen, Kanegafuchi Old and New 3 yen 5 sen and 85 sen, "Tokyo" New 35 sen, and Nisshins 20 sen. Sugars were also in demand, notably Yensuikos with a rise of 1 yen 30 sen and Taiwan New 60 sen. Exchange shares advanced 1 yen 40 sen for Old and 1 yen 75 sen for New.

In the afternoon prices again advanced, notably Fuji Paper Old which rose 1 yen 30 sen, Taito Old and New 60 and 30 sen, Spinnings 10/40 sen, Sugars 15/60 sen. Exchange shares were hotly contested and resulted in a rise of 20 sen for Old and a drop of 5 sen for New.

Yesterday, 21,170 shares changed hands.

May 5.

Owing to the increased activity in the Spinning and Sugar Industries, all the principal shares rallied this morning; "Yusen" 60 sen, Kogyo Bank 1.05 yen, Fuji Paper Old 50 sen, Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electric 1.30 yen, Spinnings 25/85 sen, Sugars, especially Yensuiko, 1.20 yen, Toyo 75 sen, others from 5/40 sen. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 1.25 yen and 1.05 yen respectively.

The afternoon Session was irregular in tone and prices fluctuated within small limits, with the exception of Yensuiko Sugars which rose over 1pt. for this and next month, but only 50 sen for July owing to profit taking. Exchanges fell 1.25 yen and 70 sen for Old and New. Yesterday 34,470 shares changed hands.

May 7.

Owing to the favourable buying basis for almost all sound stocks, the morning market opened fairly active. Yusen advanced 75 sen, Kogyo Bank 85 sen, others 5/25 sen. Spinnings were a trifle weak, but Sugars were firm, and advanced 10/45 sen. Exchange shares were keenly contested and gained 50 and 90 sen for Old and New.

Business was somewhat irregular in the afternoon and prices fluctuated fractionally. There was close competition for Exchange shares and the Old gained 50 sen, and New 70 sen. 4,000 shares changed hands yesterday.

May 8.

Although Bonds and Scrip transactions were very active, the morning market opened somewhat fickle in tone; all shares vacillated 5/20 sen down the list, the whole attention of the "Bulls" and "Bears" being concentrated on Exchange shares, which were again hardly contested and resulted in the Old shares gaining 90 sen, and the New losing the like amount.

The tone weakened in the afternoon, and prices declined 5/50 sen. Sugars were particularly weak; "Yensuikos" fell 70 sen, and "Toyo" 80 sen. Exchange shares were badly hammered by the "Bears" and collapsed 1 yen 45 sen and 1 yen 25 sen for Old and New respectively. Yesterday, 31,210 shares changed hands.

May 9.

The morning market opened dull and inactive and prices declined fractionally, with the exception of Goto Woollens, which regained 45 sen, and Toyo Sugars 60 sen. There was again keen competition over Exchange shares. The "Bulls" were vanquished, whilst the Old dropped 1 yen and New 15 sen.

Business was again stagnant in the afternoon, the only notable changes being Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electric with a rise of 50 sen, and Yensuiko Sugars 70 sen; other shares fluctuated

10/20 sen. As a reaction against the continued depression, Exchange shares advanced 1.30 yen and 1.75 yen for Old and New.

Yesterday, 28,840 shares changed hands.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN KOBE HARBOUR.

SEVERAL LIVES LOST.

A disaster occurred in the harbour on the morning of May 7th, states the *Kobe Herald*, as a result of which four men were drowned and three others are missing. A lighter that was alongside the steamer *Kumsang*, with fifty-five coolies, was struck by the steamer's propeller and so badly damaged that she threatened to go down. The coolies on board jumped into the sea and made for the Mitsui Busan Kaisha's steam launch *Tsubame* (chartered by the Kamigumi) which was standing by to tow them to the Hatoba. The coolies tried to get on the steam launch but as most of the men attempted to clamber up on one side the launch capsize and sank.

Three coolies and one Chinese foreman were drowned, while three others are missing. Two Customs officers who happened to be on the launch were also thrown into the water, but fortunately they escaped, though one of them received a wound on his forehead. The four bodies were soon recovered and brought to the Customs Compound, where efforts were made to resuscitate them, but in vain. The corpses were removed to a godown behind the O.S.K. Office for examination and will be handed over to their respective families. The wives and relations of the unfortunate victims were soon on the scene. Some were crying bitterly and all seemed stunned by the disaster. The American Hatoba was crowded when the unfortunate men were brought on shore.

AN INCONSISTENT SUFFRAGETTE.

"There was no special chivalry attached to it," said Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, when questioned as to the large proportion of women and children among the *Titanic*'s survivors. "It was the universal rule in shipwrecks that women and children should be saved first."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the daughter of Mrs. Pankhurst, and one of the principle leaders of the militant Suffragette movement in London, is quoted by a London paper as having expressed the above opinion; and for sheer, unmitigated selfishness, we think it would be hard indeed to surpass. Here is a woman who maintains the equality of the sexes and the right of women to vote as well as men; and yet when a great catastrophe happens like the sinking of the *Titanic*, and the much despised male animal shows his gentle chivalry and courage by insisting that the woman shall have the first chance of life, and himself meets death with a calm bravery that is heroic, it is coolly asserted that as there are rules on all ships that women and children should be saved first, the sacrifice of man does not show any special chivalry. Women of this stamp are fortunately few in number, and so long as men have good mothers, good sisters, or good wives, the protective, assisting instinct of the male animal will remain untarnished. But the dominance of a type like the above, would kill it as dead as Charles Dickens' proverbial coffin nail.

AVIATION IN YOKOHAMA.

Mr. W. B. Atwater succeeded in making short flights on his hydro-plane on Sunday and Monday. On Sunday morning the aviator reached a height of several hundred feet, and covered a course of about six miles over the harbour. In the flight on Monday morning Mr. Atwater remained in the air about seven minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LOSS OF THE "TITANIC."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The strike of firemen on the *Olympic* emphasizes what is probably felt by every right thinking person, that on such liners an insufficiency of lifeboats is absolutely inexcusable. And yet one of the painful negative results of such a catastrophe as the loss of the *Titanic* may well be that attention is drawn to the obvious and easily understood and diverted from the less obvious but really more serious lessons which ought to be conned and learned and applied.

In one of your recent leaders, Mr. Editor, you asked the question whether, while a former British law required that boats sufficient for all on board should be provided, this requirement had been rescinded. The answer to this question is easily supplied. In 1893 a Committee was appointed by the President of the Board of Trade "to consider and report upon the spacing and construction of Watertight Bulkheads in Ships of the Mercantile Marine." This Committee reported in 1891 and in clause (8) went beyond the limits of one of the questions referred to them and submitted that if the requirements they stipulated for in the matter of spacing and construction of bulkheads were fulfilled, "in such case owners might be relieved of the obligation to carry any part of the additional boats, rafts and other life saving appliances required by the Rules issued by the Board of Trade under the Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Act, 1888." The Report was signed by Sir Edward Harland, Prof. Jenkins, Dr. A. C. Kirk and three others. The wording of this clause is undoubtedly unfortunate in view of such a catastrophe as the loss of the *Titanic*; but the clause does bring out very forcibly what, I think, is an absolutely sound opinion, viz.—that proper subdivision of a ship is enormously more important than the number of lifeboats carried.

The question as to life boats is not at all so simple as it appears on the surface. In many cases of the loss of a ship, her foundering is preceded by a heavy list; in such event the boats on the high side cannot be launched—and it may therefore well be argued that there ought to be enough boats on each side of the ship to carry all the souls on board. Then again number alone is not sufficient; some years ago a type of boat was allowed which is not now accepted; a raft form about 1 ft. deep with canvas sides folded down while on steamer's deck, and raised only when the boat was to be launched; such boats could be stowed three deep; they would have sufficed in the case of the *Titanic* but were condemned years ago, perhaps rightly, as not sufficiently seaworthy, and consequently a serious danger trap. The methods of swinging boats from on board and letting go when they reach the water have perhaps been developed a little in recent years, but are certainly capable of further improvement.

All these matters point to the superiority of proper subdivision into watertight compartments, either with or without watertight closing doors. Whether these closing doors should not be absolutely prohibited in liners, and the watertight bulkheads left unpierced, is itself once again brought forward as a serious question; convenient as they are for the working of the ship in the engine's department, the doors can be done without; and their absence would remove one of the possibilities of mischance. For closing watertight doors there are at present two well recognized systems of control by which they can be operated at will from the captain's bridge; one of these systems is British and uses hydraulic power; the other American and uses electric power. In the *Titanic*, Messrs. Harland and Wolff, the builders, used a method of their own; of this I cannot speak from any previous experience. The ship was divided into 16 compartments and was so designed that she would still be safe if any two were placed in free communication with the outside water. So far there seems to be no evidence as to how many compartments were opened to the sea; nor whether the closing of the doors, after contact with the iceberg, was efficiently done. If the collision caused a very large portion of one side of the ship to be practically torn away, no closing of doors could possibly save the ship. It may be interesting to note, however, that there is a method of ship construction, well recognized but not often adopted, which would meet even this case. The *Titanic*, like most modern ships, had a double bottom but not double sides; the form of structure I refer to is one in which double sides also are introduced; it may be that in the ocean going passenger ship of the future this arrangement will have to be provided.

I have myself inspected an Atlantic liner damaged by collision with an iceberg. It was, I think, the old

Guion liner *Arizona*. In her case fortunately the collision was bow on; the forward compartment, in front of the collision bulkhead (i.e. the foremost bulkhead) was flooded; the collision bulkhead was "sprung" a little, and water passed into the next compartment; but the quantity of this water was not large and could be controlled by the pumps; under these circumstances the ship got safely into port.

The conclusion I would arrive at is that, important as the boat question is, there are other matters of greater importance still. Even in the *Titanic* the subdivision was successful in keeping her afloat for many hours; if it had been less efficient she would have foundered sooner, and the boats that she did possess would have been useless for lack of time.

Yours truly,

F. P. PURVIS,
Prof. of Nav: Architecture.

Tokyo Imp: University, 1st May, 1912.

"EVERYMAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your very interesting London letter in today's issue dealing with "Mysteries and Moralities" contains a slight error with regard to the first production of "Everyman" in England.

This took place in July 1900 in the quadrangle of University College, Oxford, in connection with a series of lectures, then being delivered before the the Oxford University Extension Meeting. Photographs which I took of these performances show this quite distinctly and the representation was given in the open air in order to reproduce as much as possible the actual conditions under which the play was staged in the Middle Ages,—the actors waiting off the stage for their cues in full sight of the audience, etc. I enclose my card.

Yours, etc.

P.

May 2nd, 1912.

SIR HARRY PARKES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The reference in your issue of the 3rd instant to the late Sir Harry Parkes induces me to write a few lines concerning the last resting place of that highly respected and esteemed representative of Britain in Japan.

Those who like myself knew and honored Sir Harry Parkes, feel an interest in the place of his burial, and during a recent visit to London my inquiries in this regard, addressed even to friends who had resided for years in China and Japan, elicited no response. At last I received the following terse direction: "When in Tottenham Court Road take the bus to Cricklewood. On arrival there, join the tram for Edgware. Fifty yards beyond the terminus, to the left is Whitchurch Lane, and six hundred yards further will be seen an old country church, and in the enclosure you will find the grave of Parkes and his wife." I followed these directions, found the old church without difficulty, and there, under the waving trees, on a sunny, breezy August day, I saw two plain tombstones, one dedicated to Sir Harry Parkes, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., her Majesty's Minister to China and Japan, and by his side Fanny Hannah, wife of Sir Harry Smith Parkes. After a stormy and eventful life in the Far East, Sir Harry Parkes sleeps peacefully in an English churchyard.

Yours, etc.

W.H.T.

Tokyo, May 3rd, 1912.

A DANGEROUS CEREMONY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—It is a well known fact that the Japanese have made great advances along the lines of sanitation and hygiene; what I have to say now is not in the spirit of criticism, but only to make a suggestion. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

At this time of the year festivals are being held everywhere, and great crowds of people come together at the shrines to worship. They usually wash their hands and rinse their mouths at the vessels provided for that purpose. Some time ago I stood by and watched the crowds as they dipped their hands into the vessel to wash them, and then place some of the same water in their mouths. People suffering from tubercular troubles were there; syphilitic people were also there:—who knows but that lepers dipped their hands into the water too? Of course everyone knows that this is very unhygienic and dangerous. May not this method of purification be one reason for the spread of tuberculosis and syphilitic diseases? Surely the proper officials could stop this dangerous practice.

Sincerely yours,

S. M. ERICKSON.

Takamatsu, May 6, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

BOMBS DROPPED FROM
AIRSHIPS.

TERRIBLE EFFECT.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, May 4.

Dirigibles have made a reconnaissance of the Turkish camps at Azizia, Sumani and Benaden, where they dropped forty bombs with terrible effect.

The Italians at Homs have seized Lebda and routed the Turks, of whom three hundred were killed.

The Italian casualties were small.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, May 4.

The Italians attach strategic importance to the capture of Lebda, east of Homs, which was strongly occupied by the Turks, who left 300 killed.

OCCUPATION OF RHODES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, May 6.

The Italians have landed a division of troops, commanded by General Ameglio, on the island of Rhodes. They met with no opposition. The Press of Rome is jubilant at this fresh display of Italy's mobility, and declares the object of the occupation is to damage the prestige of the enemy and is part of a plan to isolate Constantinople.

The territory will be restored to Turkey when the Turkish troops are withdrawn from Tripoli.

The debarkation of the troops and material took place at Kalitefay, eight miles south of the town of Rhodes, and lasted from 4 o'clock in the morning to 2 o'clock in the afternoon; there was no attempt to oppose the landing.

The Italians immediately commenced an advance towards the town, the Turks being repeatedly compelled to retire before the Italian rifle-fire and bayonet charges.

The town surrendered and the garrison retired to a plateau, whereon the ships opened fire.

Subsequently the Italian flag was hoisted over the town.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, May 6.

The occupation of Rhodes by 8,000 Italian troops is intended as a lesson for Turkey, meaning that Italy has complete command of the sea.

It will also please the Italians, who are becoming rather tired of the inactivity in Tripoli.

The occupation will harm the Turks very little, however, though they are annoyed that their formidable European army cannot be used.

It is improbable that the Italians will attempt any serious operations in Tripoli before the Autumn meeting.

The Arabs' enthusiasm for the war is undiminished.

The difficult and dangerous work of clearing the Dardanelles of mines has been begun

by the Turks, who are confident of the strength of their defences.

BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW.

KING GEORGE AND THE
MANOEUVRES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, May 7.

A great fleet is gathering in Weymouth Bay to await the King's arrival to-morrow. Intense interest has been aroused in the manoeuvres, owing to the King having issued a command that they are to be held on a war footing and not as a conventional naval review.

Naval Aviators are busy practising.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, May 7.

An imposing fleet of 120 warships, including 42 battleships and cruisers, has assembled at Weymouth for the King's inspection on Tuesday.

King George desires a practical demonstration of the efficiency of the Fleet in tactical exercises and marksmanship, and the operations are to include gunnery practice at sea, a daylight attack by submarines and a night attack by destroyers.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION.

The complete returns in the Massachusetts election give to President Taft a plurality of 3,605, but the delegation to the Convention consists of 18 for President Taft and 18 for Colonel Roosevelt.

POLITICAL ARRESTS IN PERSIA.

London, May 2.

In virtue of the powers conferred on the Chief of Police by the Persian Cabinet to arrest any opponents of the Government, sixteen have already been arrested, including Salim-an-mirza, the Democratic leader in the last Mejliss.

This action is interpreted as showing a desire on the part of the Government to prepare for the election of a pliant Mejliss.

THE DALAI LAMA'S AGENT.

London, May 2.

Buriat Djourjeff, the Dalai Lama's agent, has arrived at St. Petersburg.

MAGDALENA BAY.

London, May 2.

President Taft has informed the U.S. Senate that the State Department has no evidence whatever of any acquisition of land or intention to acquire such, directly or indirectly, in Mexico, on the part of Japan.

Accompanying President Taft's message is one from Mr. Knox, Secretary of State, attributing the rumours of Japanese activity in Magdalena Bay to unsuccessful efforts on the part of an American syndicate to dispose of a concession there to a Japanese syndicate.

NAVAL AEROPLANES.

London, May 2.

The Battleship *Hibernia*, fitted with a launching platform, has left Sheerness for Portland with four aeroplanes.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
S. N. CO.

London, May 2.

The Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co.'s half-yearly dividend is at the rate of 5 per

cent. per annum on the preferred stock and an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the deferred stock.

The Company is issuing £1,160,000 preferred cumulative 4 per cent. stock at 110 for the improvement of the service.

There is no reference to any rumoured amalgamation or combine.

A SENSATIONAL RUMOUR.

London, May 3.

The papers deny the rumour that the Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States, who has just started on a holiday trip to Australia, has been recalled from Washington.

The papers state that his leave was arranged long before the publication of the old letter from President Taft to Colonel Roosevelt, declaring that reciprocity would make Canada only an adjunct to the United States.

The appearance of the letter has caused a sensation in Canada.

London, May 4.

President Taft's letter, which was written on the 10th January, 1911, ten days before his signature was attached to the Reciprocity Treaty, stated:—

"The amount of Canadian products we would take would produce current business between Western Canada and the United States, which would make Canada only an adjunct to the United States and would transfer all their important business to Chicago and New York, with their bank credits and everything else, and increase greatly Canada's demand for our manufactures. I see this is an argument against reciprocity which is made in Canada. I think it a good one."

Colonel Roosevelt replied cordially endorsing the letter.

The letter was published in the course of the campaign in Massachusetts as the result of a reference made to it by Colonel Roosevelt.

The American papers did not pay much attention to it till the Canadian and British Conservative press took it up. They now comment upon the President's indiscretion.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 3.

The Turkish Cabinet has decided to reopen the Dardanelles, reserving the right to re-close them in case of necessity.

ACCIDENT IN THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 3.

A tug, which was inspecting the buoys in the Dardanelles, fouled a mine and was blown to atoms, four officers, twelve soldiers and the crew being drowned.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL
S. N. CO.

London, May 3.

The stock of the Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co. has fallen from 405 to 340, on the Company's statement, disposing of the amalgamation and other rumours, being published.

BRITISH NAVAL REFORM.

London, May 3.

The British Admiralty has announced a further important step in the reorganisation of the Fleet.

When the changes are completed, which will be in about six months, the six battle squadrons will be homogeneous.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 4.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replying to questions con-

cerning the China loan, of which the British Government approves, said that nobody wishes to infringe on the independence of China in any way, but if China borrows money it is for the lenders and the Governments concerned to fix the conditions affording proper security for the loan.

THE "OCEANA" COLLISION.

London, May 4.
An Admiralty Court has decided that the P. & O. steamship *Oceana* was alone to blame for the collision on the 17th March.

MEXICAN ARMY DEFEATED.

London, May 5.
Advices received by the U. S. Treasury Department are to the effect that the Mexican Federal Army has been defeated by the rebels under General Orozco in a big battle at Torreón.

OCCUPATION OF RHODES.

London, May 5.
Admiral Viale occupied Rhodes yesterday morning, unopposed.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

London, May 5.
Much uneasiness is felt in Paris as to the situation in Morocco, where there are signs of unrest in all directions.

The prospects of an agreement between France and Spain are improving under stress of circumstances.

FIGHTING IN MOROCCO.

London, May 6.
The Moors attacked a French reconnaissance party at El Maagiz, when the French casualties were seven killed, 30 wounded and seven missing.

THREATENED STRIKE ON P. & O. BOATS.

London, May 7.
A deputation of the Sailors and Firemen's Union has waited on the Manager of the Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co. and demanded an increase of pay.

The white seamen threatened that if the reply of the directors was unfavourable the whole force of the transport workers would be brought to bear.

CHINESE REFUGEES FROM MEXICO.

London, May 7.
The U. S. authorities have admitted 280 Chinese refugees from Mexico at Eagle Pass. The refugees will be kept under Government supervision.

THE STEEL TRUST.

London, May 7.
The suit for the dissolution of the Steel Trust, brought by the U. S. Government, has been opened.

It is expected to last for two years.

THE OCCUPATION OF RHODES.

London, May 7.
The Italians had one killed, and seven wounded in the occupation of Rhodes. The Turkish losses were 23 killed 48 wounded, and 57 taken prisoner.

The Italian bluejackets who occupied the town were well received.

General Ameglio has published a proclamation that he will take measures for the continuance of the public services.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

London, May 7.
The report that Herr von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador to Constantinople, will shortly replace Count von Metternich as Ambassador to London, is widely credited in Berlin, where it is agreed that the appoint-

ment if confirmed is of the greatest importance and may possibly mark a new epoch in Anglo-German relations.

THE FIGHTING IN MOROCCO.

London, May 7.
The French casualties at El Maagiz were 27 killed and 30 wounded.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THIBET.

London, May 8.
The Times correspondent at Thibet hints that the irresolution of the Dalai Lama and his continued lingering at Kalimpong, are due to a report of the advance of the strong Chinese relief force to Lhasa from Fataug. The correspondent fears that if the force succeeds in reaching Lhasa, there will be severe reprisals.

The Times says that if the Thibetans now refuse to accept the domination of China, Great Britain can do nothing to help them. If, on the other hand, they succeed in emancipating themselves from Chinese control, Great Britain will certainly not repeat the involuntary aid given to China by the Lhasa expedition.

"We went to Lhasa," adds *The Times*, "to redress our own grievances, not to destroy the qualified independence of an ancient and not unkindly race."

THE FLOODS IN THE STATES.

London, May 8.
The floods in the Mississippi Valley cover an area of 875 square miles.

The agricultural losses in Louisiana alone amount to nearly two millions sterling. Terrible sufferings have been caused.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

London, May 8.
The trade returns for the month show that imports have increased in value by £8,565,127, principally in cotton, silk and leather, and exports have decreased by £2,805,329, the chief items being coal, iron and steel, wool and cotton.

THE P. & O. STRIKE.

London, May 8.
The Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co. has refused the demand of the Sailors and Firemen's Union, and consequently the men's officials has called out all the men from the Company's liners at Tilbury.

THE OCCUPATION OF RHODES.

London, May 8.
It is officially announced that the Turkish garrison at Rhodes numbers 3,000 men and is plentifully supplied with ammunition and provisions.

It is expected the garrison will be able to conduct a guerilla warfare.

THE U. S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, May 8.
The early returns of the Maryland primaries show that Colonel Roosevelt has secured forty delegates and President Taft fourteen.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 3.
General European relief is felt at the decision of the Turks to re-open the Dardanelles.

The British public thinks the Government has carefully fulfilled the duties of a friendly Power in recognising the enormous Mahomedan interests involved, as well as the traditional friendship of Italy.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

London, May 3.
The Government has appointed a com-

mittee of the Cabinet to investigate the problem of industrial unrest.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 3.
There is a general determination in Italy not to give a pledge to limit naval action to the Aegean.

The programme will be carried out as opportunity serves.

Italy refuses any responsibility for the closure of the Dardanelles by Turkey.

REVOLT IN AFGHANISTAN.

London, May 3.
Ten thousand well armed Mongol Afghan tribesmen have revolted.

It is feared that the revolt will spread to other tribes, including the formidable Ghilzais.

The Afghan Government is exhibiting timidity.

RESCUES AT SEA.

London, May 4.
The majority of the Powers have agreed to Germany's suggestion for a conference to discuss rescues at sea.

COPPER.

London, May 4.
Copper is quoted at 69½—70½. The tone is firm after a depression.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, May 4.
Paris is buying Japanese and Russian bonds.

THE U. S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 6.
The personal charges and counter-charges between President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt, marking the Massachusetts campaign are being continued in Maryland, where the result is doubtful.

FRENCH RULE IN MOROCCO.

London, May 6.
Tribal discontent in Morocco is increasing. Competent judges believe that unless the benefits of French policy are speedily shown to the population, the French will be placed in a serious situation.

London, May 7.
The military situation in Morocco engages the attention of the French Government.

The Commander of the Army of occupation considers reinforcements indispensable.

The attitude of the Sultan regarding abdication complicates the situation.

THE BALKANS.

London, May 7.
The first-class reservists of Roumelia are to be immediately mobilised.

The Commander has gone to inspect the defences on the Greek frontier.

Active military preparations are reported on the Bulgarian frontier.

A TYPHOID SERUM.

London, May 8.
M. Metchnikoff and Dr. Alcock have submitted to the Academy of Science a new typhoid serum made from living bacilli impregnated with certain substances in the serum of animals most immune to typhoid, like the horse.

Forty-four persons have been successfully inoculated.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 8.
Fighting at Rhodes continues. The Turkish Press affirms that the garrison will be able to hold out for a long time. The Italian dirigibles are attacking the

camel caravans in Tripoli, apparently with deadly effect.

London, May 9.

Ten Italian warships with ten transports and fifteen destroyers have anchored at Rhodes and landed ten thousand troops.

THE BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW.

London, May 8.

King George, aboard the Royal Yacht, is fog-bound of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

The Royal Yacht is surrounded by four cruisers.

London, May 9.

King George has arrived safely at Portland Roads.

The fog prevented the Fleet exercises in the Channel.

Four naval airmen gave a marvellous exhibition, including bomb-dropping, on hydro-aeroplanes, which repeatedly rose from the water to great height and scouted at tremendous speed.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, May 8.

Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, telegraphs that the agreement with the six nations' banks to provide China with a loan of thirty-five million *taels*, mainly to pay for the disbandment of the troops, will undoubtedly be effected, despite the distasteful provision as to effective foreign supervision over China's finances.

Hsiung Hsi-lin's attitude favourably impresses the bankers.

RIOTS IN THE STATES.

London, May 9.

Serious rioting has taken place in the anthracite mining districts.

Four men have been killed and many injured at Minersville, Pennsylvania, where the police fired on the mob.

The riot was incited by foreigners and by women desperate for the want of food.

THE REICHSTAG.

London, May 9.

The German Reichstag, in reforming its procedure, has decided to allow the debate on interpellations to be followed by motions calculated to show agreement or disagreement with the policy of the Chancellor.

The British system as to the sort of questions to be allowed is to be adopted.

THE "KOLYMA."

(SPECIAL SERVICE.)

Tsuruga, May 7.

The Russian Volunteer Fleet steamer *Kolyma*, which was reported missing, has arrived safely at Petropavlovsk.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE SHANGHAI CUSTOMS RETURNS.

Shanghai, May 1.

The Shanghai Customs returns recently published, show that the Customs revenue for the three months ended March, amounted to 2,340,000 *taels*, showing some decrease as compared with the 2,550,000 *taels* recorded for the corresponding period of last year, and also with the 2,860,000 *taels* for the year before last. Of the revenue 1,200,000 *taels* stand for import duty, which shows a decrease by 150,000 *taels* as compared with last year and by 250,000 *taels* as compared with the year before last; but the revenue from export duty amounted to 390,000 *taels*, showing some increase over the preceding two years, despite the decrease of the export of cotton. Shipping traffic is now very

brisk, but the money market is rather dull, and almost no business is being transacted by the private banks. The advances made by the foreign banks altogether amount to 2,300,000 or 2,400,000 *taels*, showing no increase or decrease as compared with the early part of this year. Cotton transactions with Szechuan were very active at one time, but since the veto of the exportations of silver from that province, only small business has been recorded. The private banks in Hankow are now under readjustment and the transactions with Shanghai are rather limited. At present, business transactions are more or less speculative, and the normal tone remains unrecovered. *Bona fide* business will not revive until after the proceeds of the large loan gradually flow into the provinces.

THE SILK TRADE IN CHINA.

Shanghai, May 6.

A party of cocoon buyers was to start on a business trip to Shaohsing district in the company of several foreign merchants, but the Chekiang authorities demanded cash for the war notes issued for the purpose of making purchases in the interior. Not only is the transportation of cash unsafe, but as there exist some doubts as to the ready circulation of war notes in the interior, the departure of the party has been postponed. Up to date only a few buyers from Shanghai are at the place of production. The amount of transaction in Shaohsing district shows a marked decrease, but there is a prospect that no inconsiderable quantity of cocoons is in demand for re-reels in the interior.

(“DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST” SERVICE TO THE “JAPAN HERALD.”)

TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, May 2.

The Turkish Ministerial Council has decided to re-open the Dardanelles on May 4th. Turkey announces that she does not intend to expel all Italian subjects from Turkish territory.

A Turkish towboat has struck a floating mine off Dede Agatsch on the Macedonian Coast of the Dardanelles and foundered.

MECCA-MEDINA RAILWAY.

Construction work on the Mecca-Medina Railway will be commenced in the very near future.

INHERITANCE TAX BILL.

In the Budget Committee of the Reichstag the Liberals, supported by the Socialists, proposed the reintroduction of the Inheritance Tax Bill to meet the expenses of the Armament Bills.

QUIET SOCIALIST MAY MEETINGS.

The Socialist May Celebrations have passed very quietly everywhere in Europe.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to April 18th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on May 2nd.

RESIGNATION OF AMBASSADOR TO LONDON PENDING.

Berlin, May 3.

The resignation of Count Wolff-Metternich, the German Ambassador in London, is reported to be imminent. As probable successor, Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, the present Ambassador at Constantinople, is mentioned. The latter will be succeeded by Freiherr von Wangenheim, the present Minister at Athens.

POWERS CONFERENCE.

The European Powers possessing great

mercantile navies have agreed to accept the proposal of Germany to convene a universal conference for the consideration of improvements with regard to life-saving apparatus on sea-going vessels.

RUSSIAN IMPORTS BILL.

The Russian Ministerial Council has passed a Bill for the unrestricted import of foreign goods into the province of Irkutsk via the Northern Ice Sea.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Berlin, May 4.

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has left for Karlsruhe, where he will meet the Kaiser to report on the situation in Turkey.

HERR VON BENNINGSEN DEAD.

Herr von Bennigsen, the former Governor of the Caroline Islands, and son of the well known late politician and founder of the National Liberal Party, is dead.

BOOM IN SHIPPING SHARES.

A boom has set in in German shipping company shares as a result of exceedingly favourable business results.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

French troops will be sent to Mogador and Agadir in South Morocco as a result of the representations of other Powers, including Germany. This action was prompted owing to the fact that the lives and property of foreigners living in the Sus district are endangered.

Berlin, May 5.

Sultan Muley of Morocco will go to Rabat where he will meet General Lyautey, the new military Governor of Fez.

WORLD'S PEACE CONGRESS.

Berlin, May 4.

The World's Peace Congress will be summoned at the Hague in the month of September.

RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK DIVIDEND.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank is paying dividend of 8 per cent.

TURKISH CHAMBERS ELECTIONS.

The Turkish elections for the Chamber have resulted in an absolute victory of the Committee for Union and Liberty, to which have fallen 215 of the 222 seats.

AMUR RAILWAY DISTRICT.

Berlin, May 5.

The Russian Government is preparing a Bill providing for the prohibition of settlement of all foreigners in the Amur Railway district, except in a zone of 100 versts along the frontier, where Chinese colonists will be admitted.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The revolutionary party in Mexico elected Senor Gomez as provisory President.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, May 4.

The occupation of the island of Rhodes by Italian troops, which was carried out without opposition from the Turkish troops, has made a great impression on the Italian Chamber.

Berlin, May 4.

The restitution of the passage to its former condition and the reopening of the Dardanelles are not to be expected before the middle of May.

PANAMA COMMISSION IN BERLIN.

Berlin, May 6.

An American Commission has arrived at Berlin which has been entrusted with

presentation of an invitation to Germany for the participation in the opening of the Panama Canal.

CHANCELLOR TO MEET KAISER.

The Chancellor will go to Karlsruhe on May 12th, where he will meet the Kaiser to report on the situation.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The people of the island of Samos have declared the annexation of their island by Greece, in order to avoid its occupation by Italian troops.

An address to the Turkish Senate, prepared by a special committee, states that the nation will not hesitate to defend the rights of the Ottoman Empire and the honour of the fatherland to the last.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

The departure of Sultan Muley Hafid for Rabat, where he will meet the new Military Governor of Fez, has been postponed.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN BERLIN.

Berlin, May 7.

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has had an important conference with the Chancellor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Berlin.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIFE-SAVING AT SEA.

A committee has been appointed by the German Home Office, and has been entrusted with the preliminary arrangements for the convocation of an international conference for the improvement of safety provisions on board sea-going vessels. Measures will be taken to protect damaged steamers against sinking, and the number of lifeboats will be strictly fixed according to the passenger accommodation. Wireless telegraph stations will be constructed along the most frequented routes, and rules will be agreed upon for fixing the speed of steamers in the vicinity of ice-fields.

The committee stated that the present German rules for the oversea commerce of steamship lines were at least equal to those of other countries. It was further stated that the laws governing the number of lifeboats on board sea-going vessels were very severe. A special committee was also appointed to carry out examinations of, and improvements in, bulkhead provision of great passenger boats.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Government has succeeded in concluding a loan contract with the Ottoman Bank amounting to 10 million francs, with interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the customs revenues being offered as security.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

It is reported from Paris that a convention has been concluded between M. de Selves, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Muley Hafid, providing for the abdication of the latter. He now seeks sanctuary behind this convention as being no longer responsible for the state of affairs in Morocco.

SERVIAN MINISTER RESIGNS.

The Servian Minister for War, M. Stephanovich, has resigned.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

A provisory Budget for the term June 1st to December 31st, 1912, has been presented to the Austrian Reichsrath.

NO CHANGE IN THE ORIENT POLICY.

Berlin, May 8.

Rumours, according to which the recall of

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein from Constantinople is stated to be the first sign of a change in Germany's Orient policy, are officially contradicted at Berlin. Declarations announcing the continuance of Austria's Orient policy are published by the press at Vienna.

It is also stated that the visit of the Ambassador to Berlin has nothing whatever to do with the peace negotiations between Italy and Turkey.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Dardanelles will probably be reopened for free passage on May 8th.

The Italian Senate has passed the new Italian naval budget.

THE TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

The compound of the German firm of Renschhausen near Tangier has been attacked and burnt by native Moroccan cavalry. The Government has promised an immediate investigation as a result of a strong protest by Freiherr von Seckendorff, the German Minister.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Count Wolff-Metternich, the German Ambassador in London, has been received in audience by the King.

The nomination of Freiherr von Bieberstein to the post of Ambassador at London, as successor to Count Wolff-Metternich, is commented upon in a very friendly manner by the English press.

EXCAVATIONS IN CORFU.

The Kaiser has sent a telegraphic report on the results of the excavations in Corfu to the Archaeological Museum at Berlin, stating that the Cardaki temple had been fully exposed.

NETHERLANDS NAVAL BILL REJECTED.

The Netherlands Chamber has rejected the Bill providing for the construction of new battleships for the Netherlands Indian squadron.

GREAT EARTHQUAKE RECORDED.

A disastrous earthquake at a distance of 2,500 kilometers was recorded by German and Austrian seismographic stations on May 6th.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING HANDSOME.

A correspondent sends us a little story which may interest those engaged in business in the port. Recently, a Japanese lady, who is looking for a poor youth of good appearance to educate, was asked why she laid such stress on good looks. She replied that it is easy nowadays for a Japanese of good appearance to become rich, as many foreign firms engage their Japanese employees solely on this recommendation. As an instance, she cited a case where a *banto* employed by a now extinct foreign firm, received a high salary solely on account of his good appearance, as he was quite destitute of any ability.

THE RED CROSS DELEGATES FROM JAPAN.

ARRIVAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

The delegates from the Red Cross Society to the International Convention of the Red Cross, to be held in Washington, had a warm reception at San Francisco.

Consul General Nagai was among those who received the distinguished arrivals and he took a

prominent part in the entertainment of his countrymen during their stay in San Francisco.

Every courtesy was extended to the Japanese visitors, the courtesy of the port being extended upon orders from Washington. The baggage and personal effects of the members of the party were passed by the Customs officials without question.

When the steamship *Tenyo Maru*, on which the party arrived, entered the harbour, Dr. George H. Richardson and Allan Pollok, of the San Francisco Red Cross Chapter, boarded the steamship in quarantine and bid the distinguished party of Japanese welcome. At the dock, a party of ladies from the Red Cross, among them Mrs. Fred G. Sanborn, Miss Anna Beaver, Mrs. I. Lowenberg and Mrs. Thurlow McMullin, greeted the ladies of the party and escorted them to waiting automobiles.

The men of the party were also taken to automobiles, and all were driven to the Fairmont.

Dainty bouquets of California wild violets were presented to the visiting ladies, and flowers were placed in the rooms to be occupied by the ladies of the party at the Fairmont by the committee of the local Red Cross.

"This is my third trip to the United States," said Baron Ozawa. "I was here thirty-six years ago, when I attended the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, and I made the trip home from London after the last International Red Cross convention by way of the United States."

"We are working to secure the next convention, and have every hope of winning. I have been in this work nearly all my life, and have been during those years advocating international peace. We expect at Washington to gain many ideas of great benefit to us in our Red Cross work in Japan."

Count Ogasawara, while educated at Cambridge, England, is making his first trip to America. He stated that he is making the Red Cross work a life study and is deeply interested in the work for international peace.

THE ALLEGED TORTURING IN CHOSEN.

Referring to the letter which recently appeared in our columns from the Rev. Albertus Pieters, on the alleged torture of accused persons in Chosen, the *Seoul Press* says:—

The reverend gentleman seems to be perplexed as to the reason of "the arrest of people without the prisoners or their friends being informed of the charge against them," and of "their detention for long periods without trial or opportunity of defence." To us it appears that in both cases there is nothing wrong on the part of the authorities concerned. The conspiracy was believed to have been participated in by many, and it was, we think, to prevent accomplices getting wind of police activity concerning the case and escaping from the clutches of the law that the police tried to keep it as secret as possible. Naturally they refrained from informing the prisoners or their friends of the charge against them. As for long detention, the number of prisoners was so large and their cases were so complicated that it required a long time for the police to make preliminary examination of them. In these examinations of course the prisoners are not publicly tried or allowed to have their cases defended by lawyers or friends. In the public trials shortly to take place, however, they will certainly have ample opportunities for defence. As for the allegation that the prisoners were tortured to extract evidence, we can only say that it is quite groundless. We cannot of course hold up the prisoners concerned to public view and so show that they bear no marks of torture on their bodies, as it is alleged they do. We hope, however, that the Rev. Mr. Pieters will see how things stand with an unbiased mind. The Korean prisoners concerned, and their friends, naturally enough wish to discredit our authorities in the public eye as much as possible, and so invent and circulate all sorts of stories unfavourable to them. The allegation that the prisoners were tortured owes its origin to this source and not to facts.

DEATH OF BANK PRESIDENT.

The death is announced of Mr. Nakazawa Hikokichi, President of the 84th Bank, the sad event taking place at his villa at Tsukuda-jima on Sunday afternoon. Prior to his demise, Mr. Nakazawa was raised to the Sixth Rank of the Junior Grade for meritorious services in the development of commerce.

The deceased was born in Kyobashi, just seventy-four years ago, and was once a Member of the House of Representatives. He has contributed, in his will, a sum of 10,000 yen towards the educational fund for primary schools in Kyobashi. The funeral service will be conducted on Sunday next at the Hongwanji temple at Tsukiji.

FIRES.

A fire is reported to have occurred in a factory at Toyohara-machi, Saghalien, about three o'clock on Wednesday morning last. Fortunately the flames were suppressed before they could spread, but the loss is estimated at 50,000 yen.

On Sunday evening about eight o'clock a fire broke out at a vacant house on lot No. 185, Yamashita-cho. As the first and second companies from the Satsuma-cho Fire Brigade promptly appeared on the scene, the flames were quickly suppressed before they could do any serious damage.

On Tuesday night about half past nine, a fire occurred at Hikawashita-machi, Koishikawa, resulting in the destruction of six houses.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The official trial run of the newly built cruiser *Yahagi* will take place on the 12th instant.

The Yokohama Commercial School will hold its spring regatta on the 15th instant off the Bund.

The death is announced of the well-known actress Miss Beryl Faber, wife of Mr. Cosmo Hamilton.

In view of the number of Japanese emigrants in the Southern Seas, the Bank of Formosa has decided to establish a branch office at Singapore.

In consequence of the severe storm that prevailed on Saturday last at Iwanai, Hokkaido, 30 persons were drowned and 82 are missing. Some 37 fishing boats were wrecked.

The remains of the late Mr. Sidney Spooner, who died at London in February last, were interred at Shanghai on the 1st inst. Mr. Spooner came out to Shanghai as a straw-braid expert for Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., and later joined Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

TYPHOID fever now prevails in Shinjuku, the patients since January numbering thirty-five. Fresh cases are daily reported. Mr. Iguchi Shinroku, aged 31, son of Lieut. General Iguchi, is among those who recently succumbed to the epidemic.

The Oriental Marine Insurance Company held its annual general meeting of shareholders on Saturday last, when the following profit and loss account was passed unanimously:—

	Yen.
Gross Profit	48,170,930
Legal Reserve	2,500,000
Special Reserve	10,700,000
Bonus	4,500,000
Dividend (10 per cent.)	25,000,000
Carried Forward	547,930

The auditors were re-elected.

A DESPATCH from Sapporo reports that a very severe storm prevailed in the vicinity of that city throughout Saturday night last, and in consequence the Toyohara and other rivers overflowed. There were quite a number of houses submerged and two were washed away and eight inmates drowned. Some thirty fishing boats, engaged in

the herring fishery, were capsized off Iwanai, and about half of the fishermen on board, numbering some three hundred, are missing. The dead bodies recovered by the 5th instant numbered 45.

A GENERAL convention of the International Trans-Continental Railway Association will be held early in September at Vladivostok. Mr. Kono-shita, Director of the Business Section in the Imperial Railway Bureau, is expected to be appointed delegate from this country.

The foreign trade with China since the month of March has shown a very healthy tone, the returns for the last ten days of April, for instance, showing an increase of well nigh 407,000 yen as compared with the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year. Details are shown in the following table:—

	1912. Yen.	1911. Yen.
Exports	2,595,301	2,177,757
Since January	23,795,517	26,489,429
Imports	1,303,472	2,172,442
Since January	11,313,228	20,716,393

The funeral of the late Dr. Edward Divers, F.R.S., who died on the 8th ult. at his residence in Kensington, in his 75th year, took place on the 11th at Brookwood Cemetery. A Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Victories (Pro-Cathedral), Kensington, was held in the morning and was attended by the members of the family, Sir William Tilden, F.R.S., Professor Gowland, F.R.S., and others representing the Royal Chemical Society and other societies. Among those present at the funeral at Brookwood were the Comte and Comtesse de Labri (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. Tilden (daughter), Miss Moylan (niece), Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, and Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont (nephew and nieces). There were also present many representatives of learned societies, including Professor Mondy (University of Tokyo).

It is Criminal to Neglect the Skin and Hair

THINK of the suffering entailed by neglected skin troubles—mental because of disfigurement, physical because of pain. Think of the pleasure of a clear skin, soft, white hands, and good hair. These blessings, so essential to happiness and even success in life, are often only a matter of a little thoughtful care in the selection of effective remedial agents. Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment do so much for poor complexions, red, rough hands, and dry, thin and falling hair, and cost so little, that it is almost criminal not to use them.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold throughout the world. A liberal sample of each, with 32-p. booklet on the care and treatment of the skin and hair, post-free from nearest depot: Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U.S.A.; Newbery, Dept. H.K. 21, Charterhouse Sq., London, E.C. 6, Town; 4 Co., Sydney, N.S.W.; Lennan, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Macleod & Co., Calcutta and Bombay.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

American Middling from local stocks is now only obtainable at 36 yen @ 36 5; that price is, however, still below the present replacing cost in the States. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, prices have gradually advanced. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, no change to report since the last issue.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	36.00 to 36.50
Indian Broach	34.00 to 35.00
Chinese (Old crop)	33.00 to 34.00
Chinese (New crop)	—

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 265.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds, 36 in... ..	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings:—	
A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.81
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—	
A. 44" x 46 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—	
44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70

Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards	10.30 to 13.75
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 18 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.50
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.37 to 0.53

Cloths—Pilot, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—
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METALS.

The home market is firm.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.55 to 4.80
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.30 to 5.55
Sheet Iron	6.10 to 6.30
Sheet Mild Steel	6.90 to 7.25
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.85 to 11.50
Flat	11.40 to 11.60
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	7.15 to 8.50
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.50 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.40 to 2.45

KEROSENE.

The market is firm.

Chester	Y. 4.26
Victory	3.94
Nonpareil	4.90
Somatra	3.17 to 3.25
Burneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	3.77

SUGAR.

Business doing all round.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 12.50
Brown China	11.50
Brown Java	16.30 to 16.40
White Java	14.40 to 14.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.50
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 24.00
" second	20.00
Java, first	32.00
" second	28.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenjia"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market improving.

	Yen.
Gold Drop 4 sacks	11.25 to 11.30
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy 4 sacks	11.52
Red Seal	11.35 to 11.50
Lion	11.75
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.95 to 12.00
Japanese:	
Rising Sun 6 swamms	2.70
Takasago 6	2.75
Fuji 6	2.85
Pine 6	2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	5.25 to 5.35
Red	5.25
Blue Stem	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A steady business doing.

On April 30th stocks were: Filatures 7,200 piculs, Re-reels, 80 piculs; Kakeda, 50 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	925
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	805
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	875
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 9-11den	925
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 10-12den	915
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 13-15den	850
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 11-13den	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	840
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	865
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	865
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	855
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	845

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

	May	June	July
4th	84.20	84.50	86.80
6th	83.80	83.90	86.80
7th	83.90	84.20	87.40
8th	84.10	84.40	87.40
9th	83.90	84.10	86.90
10th	89.00	84.20	87.00

WASTE SILK.

A fair business doing; prices generally a little firmer.

On April 30th stocks were:—Noshi, 900 piculs; Kibiso, 2,800 piculs; Sundries, 800 piculs.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	110 to 140
Noshi—Shimshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shimshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shimshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	95 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—There has been a general decline in prices.

Kanazawa:—Prices generally are unchanged, though the narrow widths have shown a slight decline.

Kawamata:—Prices for 36" goods in all weights have advanced.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

	6 ms.	6 1/2 ms.	7 ms.	7 1/2 ms.	8 ms.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.85	7.70	7.55	7.45	7.55
27"	7.70	7.45	7.45	7.40	7.45
36"	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.40	7.40

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAWATA.)

	4 1/2 ms.	4 3/4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.	5 ms.	5 1/2 ms.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.60	7.40	7.30	7.30	7.30
27"	7.55	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.40
36"	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.45	7.30

KAWAMATA.

	3 ms.	3 1/2 ms.	4 ms.	4 1/2 ms.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of May 8th the quotation was £69.12.

Refined per 100 kin	... ..	Yen	43.50-45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	... ..	"	38.50-40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	... ..	"	47.00-50.00
Ore	... ..	"	29.50-33.00

RICE.

The market a little active:

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	509,128
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	125,588
Delivery	Closing Price
May	19.56
June	19.36
July	19.16
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
May	19.50
June	18.92
July	18.88

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen 21.65	
Medium	20.55	
Common	19.15	
Average	20.45	

TEA.

The market can scarcely be said to be open. The settlements at Yokohama from 30th April till 1st May amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	Y. \$3 to 60
Finest	—
Fine	—
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market maintains healthy tone

	Yen.
Delivery	
May	146 35
June	143 25
July	142 80

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 10. London silver 1/4 to 1/2 and China sterling quotation not yet received but local rates on China are slightly firmer. The Bank of England rates of discount was yesterday lowered to 3 per cent.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 08 3/4
— Private 10 days' sight	do 9 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	74 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	75 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	27 1/2 @ 28

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,413. S. Nishio, 3rd May.—Shanghai via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kageshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,373. W. Wade, 3rd May.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Duplitz, French cruiser, 7,700, Vergas, 3rd May.—Shanghai.

Indian Monarch, British steamer, 2,818. K. P. T. Wood, 3rd May.—New York, General.—Sale & Fraser Ltd.

Keemun, British steamer, 5,865. R. Conradi, 3rd May.—Tacoma and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437. W. E. Filmer, 4th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759. N. Kobayashi, 5th May.—Tacoma, Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Glenstrae, British steamer, 3,054. J. McGilivray, 6th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,418. J. McCurdy, 6th May.—Ilo Ilo, Sugar.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Seminole, British steamer, 3,797. H. D. Clarke, 6th May.—San Francisco, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458. T. Date, 6th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Harleiden, British steamer, 2,924. F. H. Soares, 7th May.—Seattle, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Bentley, British steamer, 2,509. H. Hastie, 7th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Carnegie & Co.

Dalhousie, British steamer, 3,999. R. Tatham, 7th May.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912. R. Shimidzu, 7th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ers Franz Ferdinand, Austrian steamer, 3,843. B. Cobal, 7th May.—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Peshawar, British steamer, 4,885. E. W. Bruce, 7th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Borneo, British steamer, 2,944. W. H. S. Hall, 7th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Peking, Swedish steamer, 2,900. S. Nordstrom, 8th May.—Gothenburg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Kitano Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,277. F. E. Cope, 8th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Indien, Danish steamer, 3,613. Jensen, 8th May.—Tacoma, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Silkhonia, German steamer, 4,239. Koite, 9th May.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,798. K. Soyeda, 9th May.—Seattle, Wash., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Keemun, British steamer, 5,865. R. Conradi, 4th May.—Liverpool via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Prins Ludwig, German steamer, 5,704. F. V. Bmser, 4th May.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Yangtze, British steamer, 4,149. G. A. Rodway, 4th May.—Genoa, Marseilles and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

China, American steamer, 3,186. E. Rice, 4th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Lucerne, British steamer, 4,100. J. Mathie, 4th May.—Hongkong via ports and Manila, General.—American Trading Co.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,413. S. Nishio, 5th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Vandalia, German steamer, 2,641. G. Meissner, 5th May.—Ilo Ilo via Moji, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Erroll, British steamer, 2,887. L. S. James, 5th May.—Manila via Moji, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437. W. E. Filmer, 6th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759. N. Kobayashi, 6th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Muncaster Castle, British steamer, 3,050. E. R. Howe, 7th May.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Dorothea Richmers, German steamer, 2,665. Thode, 7th May.—Kobe, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Miyasaka Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,270. T. Murai, 8th May.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912. R. Shimidzu, 8th May.—Seattle, Wash. via Victoria, B.C., Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, H. Hino-kuna, 8th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Yennachar, British steamer, 2,847, D. B. Marshall, 8th May.—Moj, Ballast.—Sale & Frazer, Ltd.
Saint Michael, British steamer, 2,418, J. McCurdy, 8th May.—San Francisco, Sugar.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Lord Curzon, British steamer, 2,337, P. G. Henrickson, 8th May.—Moj, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Seminole, British steamer, 3,797, H. D. Clarke, 9th May.—Itoaki, Kerosene Oil.—Standard Oil Co.
Harlesden, British steamer, 2,724, F. H. Soares, 9th May.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
Indian Monarch, British steamer, 2,811, K. P. T. Wood, 9th May.—Moj, General.—Sale & Frazer, Ltd.
Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 9th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Indian, Danish steamer, 3,613, Jensen, 9th May.—Kobe, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *China*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. J. Alderson, Rev. J. W. Ash, Miss Mary Anderson, Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Bean, Master B. Bean, Master Bean, Mrs. J. V. Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cameron, Mr. J. Campbell, Master Duncan Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Caulkins, Mr. J. W. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Ho, Master Chan Ping Kong, Master Chang Chan, Mr. Chen Sing, Mr. R. Comie, Mr. and Mrs. F. Dancy, Miss Dancy, Mrs. J. E. Donaldson, Mr. J. Durham and servant, Mr. A. C. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Gonder, Miss V. Gonder, Master Harold Gonder, Miss Ivy Gonder, Miss Jessie Gonder, Miss Gorley, Miss Ida Groeth, Capt. C. N. Harlow, U.S.N., Mr. A. Hashin, Mrs. M. Hicks, Miss L. Hicks, Mr. J. P. Hodgson, Mrs. W. C. Howard, Miss S. S. Huffman, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Isaacson, Master L. Isaacson, Misses Isaacson (3), Miss M. W. Jewell, Mr. W. R. Kelly, Mrs. R. Kilen, Miss Kilen, Miss M. O. King, Rev. and Mrs. Geo. J. Lapp, Miss Lois Lapp, Miss Miss P. Lapp, Mrs. A. Lerch, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lindsay, Mr. and Mrs. W. Longacre, Mrs. Lui Lee Shee, Mrs. C. H. Meeker, Master Harrell Meeker, Master Alton Meeker, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Millard, Miss A. Millard, Miss M. Millard, Mrs. Ben Moss, Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Noyes, Master Henry Noyes, Master Wm. Noyes, Rev. Father M. O'Callaghan, Lieut. R. F. Robinson, Mrs. E. E. Rogers, Miss A. Schediger, Mr. Fred Schuten, Mrs. F. D. Snyder, Master Snyder, Miss H. Stevenson, Mrs. R. E. S. Taylor, Master Paul Taylor, Mr. G. S. Throne, Mrs. R. E. Valentine, Mr. W. Vogler, Mr. N. White, Mrs. L. White, Miss N. White, Master Wun Ming, Mr. E. M. Abraham, Mr. N. Aoyama, Mr. John Austin, Mr. Norman W. Barlett, Mr. A. Browne, C.G.M., Mrs. Browne, Mr. A. I. Howie, Miss A. G. Carlson, Mrs. I. Carrothers, Mrs. L. Davie, Mr. and Mrs. H. Donkin, Mrs. T. Enokuchi, Miss L. Gaffney, Paymaster J. F. Hatch, U.S.N., Mrs. Hatch, infant and servant, Mrs. Chas. Hillier, Miss E. Hocking, Mrs. S. Horie, Mr. James Howard, Miss E. A. Howard, Mr. R. Ichida, Mr. S. Kagesa, Mr. D. L. Kieh, Mrs. F. Kinoshita, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Lockhart, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Lorensen, Mrs. F. Mead, Mr. and Mrs. K. Otake, Miss K. Otani, Mr. K. Ono, Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Rinker, Mr. and Mrs. D. Sako, Mr. T. Takasagawa, Mr. W. B. Turner, Mr. F. W. Vyal, Dr. O. Wolff and Mr. S. Yagi, in cabin.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of the Rt. Rev. C. W. S. ubbs, D.D., Bishop of Tiuro.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE paid a visit to the Communications Department on Monday morning.

MRS. KOCH, wife of the late famous Dr. Koch, has arrived at Kobe and is now staying at the Tor Hotel.

COUNT ROBILLARD CORNAC has been killed while flying at Antibes, on the French coast, between Cannes and Nice.

H.H. PRINCE WALDEMAR went to Koshigaya on Friday morning last for duck-hunting in the Imperial Preserve.

THE launching ceremony of the armoured cruiser *Kongo*, now building in England, will take place on the 18th proximo.

A VERY slight earthquake shock was felt in both Tokyo and Yokohama on Saturday evening last, lasting about a minute.

GENERAL OSHIMA, ex-Governor of Kwantung, who has been appointed a Military Councillor, arrived in Tokyo on Thursday.

THE ceremony of conferring the prizes in the Tokyo Industrial Exposition took place on Friday last at Ueno Park.

A RUSSIAN Tourist Party, consisting of some 60 students and 30 teachers in Vladivostok, will leave for Japan about the middle of June.

THE official tests of the guns mounted on the warship *Setsu* were concluded on the 15th instant. The results were satisfactory.

MR. TOM MANN, the labour leader, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second division for inciting soldiers to mutiny.

THE British Admiralty is forming a new reserve of men under thirty-two years of age which will be immediately available in case of emergency.

LIEUT.-GENERAL BARON FUKUSHIMA, the new Governor-General of Kwantung, will leave for Manchuria by the 3 40 p.m. train on the 22nd instant.

"THE TIMES" announces that Lord Feversham has sold Rembrandt's picture "A Dutch Merchant" to Mr. H. C. Frick of New York for £50,000.

It is officially announced that H.H. the Crown Prince will pay a visit to Count Okuma's residence on the 17th instant and afterwards visit Waseda University.

THE authorities of the Nippon Yusen, Osaka Shosen, and Amagasaki Kisen Kaisha have decided to raise the freight rates on the Chosen route to five yen per ton.

THE party of Formosan aborigines left Tokyo early on Sunday morning. After doing the sights of Western Japan, they are expected to sail for home early in June.

H. M. THE EMPEROR has announced his intention of attending the graduation ceremony of the Paymasters School at Wakamatsu cho, Ushigome, to be held on the 18th instant.

A DESPATCH from Fukushima reports that a severe frost was experienced on Saturday last throughout Shinobu district. The mulberry leaves suffered considerable injury.

PRINCE KANIN, Commander of the Imperial Guards Division, left for Chiba prefecture on Friday morning on official business. His Highness is expected to return on the 16th instant.

THE death is announced of Prof. Doenick, of the Tokyo Imperial University, the sad event taking place a week ago at his home in Berlin. The deceased was in his seventy-fourth year.

MR. MISHIMA, of the Japan Gymnastic Association, and Mr. Kanekuri, of the Tokyo Higher Normal School, Japanese Champions for the Olympic Games, will leave this country on the 16th inst.

ACCORDING to the latest official investigations, the candidates for election number 616 in all, of whom the Seiyu-kai candidates number 285, the Popular Party 161, the Central Club, 54 and the Independents, 116.

THE death is announced of the financier, Mr. Henry Oppenheim, who was the confidential adviser to the Khedive Ismail Pasha, and was associated with Great Britain's purchase of Suez Canal shares.

THE customs revenue for the month of April amounted to 4,664,000 yen, showing an increase by 1,159,000 yen as compared with the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

THE graduation ceremony of Keio University took place on Sunday morning in the Lecture Hall. The graduates numbered 349. Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, delivered an address on the occasion.

M. MALEVITCH, Russian Ambassador, and M. Gerard, French Ambassador, were guests of honour at a banquet given by Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on Friday evening last at his official residence.

THE Admiralty has decided to build at Maidzuru a large mine-boat, with a view to its completion early in 1914. On completion it will be named the *Sokuten Maru No. 1*, and placed on service at the naval port in the Pescadores.

THE German Emperor has decided to introduce fox hunting into Germany and has commissioned Mr. Bartlett, huntsman to Earl Fitzwilliam, to form a pack of foxhounds for Potsdam. Prince Muel Friedrich will be the Master of the hounds.

GRAND MANOEUVRES of the fleet under the Yokosuka Naval Admiralty will be held for three days from May 15th off Yokosuka, under the direct command of Prince Higashi-Fushimi, Commander-in-Chief of the Yokosuka Reserve Squadron.

BARON KIKUCHI, having been appointed a member of the Privy Council, has resigned the Presidency of the Kyoto Imperial University. Dr. Kuhara, Dean of the College of Science and Polytechnics in the same institute, will be appointed to succeed him.

THE statement of the Financial Secretary to the Northumberland Miners' Association shows that the expenditure in the last two and a quarter years has exceeded the income by £150,000, including £70,000 paid during the recent strike.

UNDER the auspices of the International Peace Association, the first united English-speaking meeting is arranged to take place at the Chuwo Daigaku hall in Kanda on the 18th instant. Students of the Imperial University and eight other colleges will take part. Dr. MacCauley will also deliver an address.

It is reported that the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company in London has under consideration a scheme for installing long-distance wireless stations connecting England and America with the Far East. The stations would be at San Francisco, Hawaii, Philippines and other important places in China and Japan.

CHINA'S LOAN.

Friday, May 10.

The news received this morning with reference to the important subject of the Chinese Loan is far from explicit. The main fact discernible is that, although the foreign Syndicate has endeavoured to modify its demands as to a financial inspectorate, the Chinese Government encounters so much opposition in attempting to localise loans involving foreign financial inspection, that the main programme will be practically abandoned. The six Powers will be asked to lend only as much money as will be amply covered by the securities offered, the further needs of the administration being met by domestic loans. The relations between the Minister of Finance and the representatives of the foreign Syndicate are said to be excellent. The Minister has shown complete frankness, and all the information called for by the Syndicate has been fully furnished or promised. But the Cabinet thinks that the nation would never agree to have its finances supervised by foreigners, and therefore the dimensions of the loan will be limited to the amount fully covered by the securities which do not involve the supervisory condition. Canton is reported to be specially animated in preferring objections, and there is talk in that city of the speedy organization of a bank with a capital of 10 million *taels*, which will be placed at the immediate disposal of the Central Government. It is impossible to estimate how much of this new programme is sincere, and how much of it is devised merely for diplomatic purposes. We do not see how China can possibly dispense with a large loan from abroad, and we are therefore disposed to think that an exit from the present dilemma will be found.

The above facts are collated from various sources, but we observe that the *Chuo Shimbun* has a telegram in a somewhat different sense. It alleges that the draft of the loan treaty has been practically compiled, and that the representatives of the foreign Syndicate are endeavouring to meet the Chinese Government's views with regard to supervision. If they cannot discover some satisfactory *via media*, the Ministry will resign *en bloc* and appeal to the nation to endorse that step. It is thought, however, that the divergence of views will not be carried to an acute degree, inasmuch as Mr. Odagiri, the representative of the Specie Bank, is using every possible endeavour to effect a compromise.

It is stated confidently that the Austro-Hungarian Government has joined the Loan Syndicate, which, therefore, becomes a Seven-Power congeries. The *Kokumin Shimbun* also, has a special item of intelligence. It amounts to saying that while President Yuan is not averse to foreign supervision in consideration of the restraint that would thus be imposed on ill-advised expenditure, his Excellency considers it impossible to obtain the nation's consent to such a provision, and he therefore proposes an arrangement in the sense that an accurate list shall be drawn up showing the uses to which the proceeds of the loan are to be applied, a copy of which document would be submitted to the country's foreign creditors. But it is evident that such a programme would be a mere formality, inasmuch as it would not invest foreign Powers with any competence of practical veto or approval.

Saturday, May 11.

The telegrams received this morning with

reference to the Loan are numerous and more or less conflicting. The crucial question continues to be supervision. It is understood that Chinese statesmen are willing to agree to the fact of supervision provided that the name be changed to "investigation," and provided also that the scope of this investigation be limited to the Departments concerned. This would really make very little practical difference, but the Chinese Government appears to think that its face might be saved by such an arrangement. The Foreign Syndicate, however, remains obdurate and will not consent to any modification whatever. The Chinese statesmen are said to have pressed very urgently for an immediate advance of a sum variously stated as 3 million *taels* and as 6 millions. They allege that this amount must be paid forthwith for military and administrative purposes. But the Syndicate declines. Meanwhile, another difficulty has presented itself. It appears that no less than four loan transactions have been concluded between Chinese provincial authorities and German firms. The latest of these is represented by an Austrian company said to be acting at Germany's instance. The amount involved is 8 million *yen*; the net price per share is 95; the rate of interest is 6 per cent., and the unredemption period is ten years. Much uneasiness is said to have been caused by these transactions, since they indicate a want of union on the part of the creditors. It is pointed out that whereas five out of the six Powers forming the Syndicate have acted hitherto with absolute unanimity, Germany has shown a marked disposition to score off her own bat, independently of her colleagues. Doubtless these transactions are in the ordinary course of business, but it is confidently asserted that the proceeds of the loans find their way to the Central Treasury, and that so long as this want of co-operation exists, China cannot be induced to accept a satisfactory programme. Thus at this moment of writing—Saturday morning—an *impasse* may be said to have been reached.

As for the talk recently heard in the sense that there is no imperative necessity to have recourse to foreign funds, the Council of State is said to have decided that without a foreign loan the situation cannot be saved. The Council appears to be proceeding in logical order. It has considered, in the first place, whether foreign money is essential, and it has relegated to the second rank the problem of foreign supervision. This sequence obviously lends itself to one interpretation only.

The officers connected with the army in the South have taken a very patriotic step. They have all assembled at Nanking in person or by proxy, and have agreed unanimously to accept reduction of pay in order to lessen the money required by the Government at this juncture. The scene when this resolve was recorded is said to have been very animated. Swords were drawn and vigorously flourished, and there were shouts in the sense that China must not be suffered to drift into the situation of a second Egypt. It is nevertheless observable that in spite of this exhibition of patriotism at Nanking, the provincial authorities are contracting foreign loans on their own account. Not even Canton is exempt from this contradictory procedure. Of course the season is particularly unsuited to dispensing with ready money. The seasons for silk and tea are coming

close, and the funds usually available for

those industries are unprocureable. The notes issued by the military authorities in the Yangtze Valley seem to have entirely lost credit. Nobody will receive them in any circumstances. Thus, the Central Government is vehemently importuned for a supply of hard money, but even if it were possible to comply so far as actual funds are concerned, the great insecurity of communications renders it impossible to forward coin to the provinces. The province of Chili is specially referred to in this context. Its income in normal times amounts to 16 million *taels* annually, but at present only 8 millions are in sight.

Sunday, May 12.

The outlook this morning is still darker than it was yesterday. Speaking briefly, the Chinese Government has definitely refused to make any general supervisory concessions to the foreign creditors. The most that it will consent to do is to allow supervision of the securities actually pledged on account of the loan, and to report the manner of employing the funds raised. It is rumoured that the representatives of the Foreign Syndicate have hinted that they are prepared to make further concessions, but the Chinese statesmen declare that they have pronounced their ultimatum. That the negotiation has really developed such a phase is of course very improbable, and the same comment applies with still greater force to a rumour that the Chinese Government has practically declared itself unable to preserve public peace and good order unless funds are forthcoming. Such a menace would concern the Chinese themselves more intimately than it could concern foreigners.

There continues to be a weak spot in the armour of the Six Powers Syndicate. Unanimity is wanting. A German, a Dutch and an Austrian group of financiers are said to be offering loans locally in the metropolitan province and in Shanghai. The Chinese Minister of Finance is represented as averring that these transactions cannot be concluded without the consent of the Central Authorities; but another rumour has it that the foreign financiers concerned in these local enterprises are acting at the indirect instigation of President Yuan. In short, Chinese statesmen are supposed to be playing their old game of setting off one foreign Power against another. The Syndicate has a further difficulty to contend with, namely, that it has already lent funds in anticipation of agreement as to the main loan. Altogether, the situation is most complicated. Germany's action in separating herself from the Syndicate, if the rumours about that phase of the transaction be correct, is very embarrassing. Nevertheless, we entertain little doubt that a satisfactory settlement will be ultimately evolved. Meanwhile, as is very natural, the outcry in favour of relying upon domestic money grows daily stronger among the Chinese.

Monday, May 13.

Such vital issues depend upon the Chinese loan that we make no apology for giving to the subject a prominent place in these columns. The latest news is more encouraging. Mr. Odagiri of the Specie Bank, who represents Japan in the Syndicate, is said to be strenuously working to effect a compromise, and it is thought probable that he will succeed, the immediate outcome being that a preliminary sum of 6,400,000 *taels* will be handed over by the Syndicate to the Treasury. This intelligence comes through

the telegraphic columns of the *Chuo Shim-bun*, which adds that Mr. Odagiri is acting at the instance of President Yuan. The *Fiji Shimpō* also has a telegram of a hopeful character, though the details differ somewhat from the *Chuo's* news. From the *Fiji* we learn that at the meeting on the 11th instant between the Syndicate and the Chinese Minister of Finance, a spirit of mutual accommodation was displayed, and both parties agreed to modify their views, embodying the modifications in the document to be presented at the next meeting. Thus compromise seems to be the order of the day though what lines it will take we cannot as yet clearly ascertain. What is certain, however, is that although the Syndicate may abate its demands as to the scope and method of the proposed supervision, it will insist on supervision in some form or other. Meanwhile, military men and party politicians are crying out vehemently against a foreign loan in any shape and under any conditions; but an impression prevails that this commotion is manufactured by Chinese negotiators and will be quieted by them without much difficulty when the occasion arises.

Meanwhile it is positively asserted that a loan of £800,000 has been concluded between the Local Authorities in the Metropolitan Province and an Austrian firm representing German capitalists. President Yuan is said to have sanctioned this loan, but that seems highly improbable. The salt-tax in the province of Pehchili is reported to be the security given for the loan; but, on the other hand, it is understood on the best authority that the salt-tax for the whole Republic is to be pledged as security for the principal loan, and evidently that security would become valueless if parts of it might be diverted to other purposes. That is palpable to the lowest order of intelligence; nevertheless this story of the Pehchili loan is repeated with a semblance of confidence.

Tuesday, May 14.

Things continue to look much more hopeful with regard to the Chinese loan. The Six-Powers Syndicate are said to have agreed that the presence of foreign officers may be dispensed with on the occasions of disbanding the Chinese troops, and they have also agreed that there shall be two supervisors, one Chinese and one foreign. This establishes a working basis on which a sufficiently satisfactory system may be erected without involving any humiliating conditions on either side. Therefore, unless some now unexpected hitch occurs, the loan transaction may be regarded as consummated. Premier Tang however, continues to hold out. His speech before the Council of State was delivered on the 13th instant, and an agreement had been reached on the previous day with regard to the loan. Nevertheless, in that speech, Premier Tang declared himself irrevocably opposed to introducing foreign money at this juncture. A similar declaration was made by the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and the only possible inference is that Premier Tang intends to sever his connexion with the Cabinet on account of the loan. The curious feature is that Tang himself figured for some time as an advocate and a negotiator of the loan, and we cannot be greatly surprised by the telegraphic assertion that his *volle-face* has created some amusement. Nevertheless, Premier Tang has the support of General Hwang, Commander-in-Chief in the Yangtze

Valley, whose influence is scarcely inferior to that of Tang Shao-i himself. Moreover, a wave of romantic sentiment threatens to sweep over the country in connexion with this matter. Even women and children are raising their voices against recourse to foreign money, and are calling upon their country's capitalists to show liberality such as shall dispense with this dangerous procedure.

Wednesday, May 15.

Apparently the conditions laid down by the Six-Powers Syndicate and provisionally agreed to by the Chinese negotiators in connexion with the great Chinese Loan were formulated on the 13th instant and are tolerably stringent. Their purport is first, that a supervisory office shall be established and presided over by two supervisors, one Chinese and the other a foreigner, the expense of maintaining the office being defrayed by the Chinese Government; secondly, that no part of the loan shall be applied to any purpose which has not previously received the approval of the supervisors; thirdly, that the Chinese Department of Finance shall publish in the *Official Gazette* once every two months a statement of accounts; fourthly, that all expenditures shall be entered in ledgers compiled according to the foreign system of book-keeping, these ledgers to be open for inspection by the supervisors at all times; fifthly, that in disbanding the troops everything shall be done in the presence of a foreign member of the Chinese Customs; and that the facts shall be embodied in a triplicate document, one copy of which shall be submitted to the Governor-General, one to the Imperial Customs and one to the office of the supervisors; sixthly, that all foreign loans hereafter shall be made through the Imperial Customs, and no loans, local or otherwise, shall be concluded without compliance with this condition, and seventhly, that special arrangements shall be made with reference to the disbanding of troops in the Metropolitan Province.

There is some ambiguity in the language used in transmitting the above intelligence. One cannot be certain that the conditions alluded to above were not formulated by the Chinese themselves, but from the tone of the proposals they seem to have been the outcome of consultation between both sides. Meanwhile, opposition to the supervisory provision appears to be growing more and more determined, and there is now talk of introducing a bill in the Council of State vetoing all foreign loans concluded in accordance with such conditions. Indeed, a certain Mr. Chang, in conjunction with several fellow-members of the Council of State, is said to have actually drafted a bill in the sense that China's financial needs must be met out of her own pocket, for which purpose the bill recommends that the State shall form itself into a species of joint-stock company, all wealthy men purchasing shares which shall exempt them from paying taxes to the amount of their shares. We do not profess to understand how this strange system would work, but it appears to be eminently futile, since it would bring money to the coffers of the State simultaneously with paying it out.

One very practical step has been taken, the significance of which can scarcely be over-rated. The Minister of Finance has issued an order vetoing all local loans from foreign capitalists unless the approval of the

Central Government has been previously obtained. This veto should effectually put a stop to the independent transactions of finance about which so much has been heard within the past few weeks.

General Hwang, who commands in the Yangtze Valley, seems to be adhering to his exceedingly unpractical proposal for procuring funds by calling upon every unit of the population to subscribe one *yen* each, and by inviting all officials and officers to agree to a reduction of their emoluments. Hwang expresses the conviction that if this proposal were made the subject of an appeal to the patriotism of the people, it would certainly be successful. He further urges that Japan shall be approached for the purpose of obtaining her mediation in the matter of the international recognition of the new Chinese Republic. The General thinks that Japan's interests in China are sufficiently large to warrant her in taking the lead in this matter.

Thursday, May 16.

It appears from to-day's telegrams that the seven conditions which we published yesterday were not the outcome of consultation between both parties, but were formulated by the Foreign Syndicate as a basis of negotiations. The latest wires allege that these terms were considered by the Council of State, though not in actual session, and were approved with slight modifications, the first provision with regard to a supervisory office and the fifth with regard to the presence of a foreign member of the Chinese Customs when the troops were disbanded, being changed, though not in a radical manner. The document thus amended was forwarded by the Council of State to the Cabinet, an important comment being added in the sense that China's financial conditions imperatively demanded a foreign loan.

On the other hand, the Foreign Syndicate is said to have definitely offered to provide 75 million *taels* in the course of the next five months and a half; of which sum, 35 millions would be treated as a fund to meet the expenses of disbanding the troops, and 40 millions would be employed for administrative reform.

With regard to the above provision of allotting 35 million *taels* to the expense of disbanding the troops, that figure is said to be arrived at by the following process of calculation, namely, a lump sum of 2,000 *taels* to all officers above the rank of brigade commanders, together with a monthly allowance of 200 *taels*, to be gradually diminished so as to terminate in nine years; a solatium of 200 *taels* to all officers below the rank of brigadier general, together with an allowance of 50 *taels* per month, diminishing gradually so as to terminate at the end of nine years; finally, a solatium of 20 *taels* to all noncommissioned soldiers.

On the whole, it may be affirmed that the prospects of the loan look bright. On the 15th instant there was held in London a meeting of the representatives of the Six Powers concerned, and they appear to have agreed to the conditions approved by the Council of State. As for Mr. Tang Shao-i, there does not now seem to be any prospect of his resignation. The interpretation of the talk that has been heard of late on this subject is that Tang was holding out for better terms; that he threatened to give up office rather than fail in obtaining some substantial modification, and that in thus acting he was coöperating all the time with President Yuan.

CHINA.

Friday, May 10.

It appears that the expenditures of the Nanking Government amount to 2 million *taels* a month. At all events, General Hwang has applied to Peking for that sum to meet the outlays during the month of April.

The people of Wuchang and Hankow are said to have decided to establish a bank in commemoration of the establishment of the Chinese Republic. The institution will be called the Yuan-hung Bank. Yuan-hung being the personal name of Vice-President Li. It is added that President Yuan has subscribed a million *taels* toward the capital and that the objects of the Bank will be the commercial and industrial development of Wuchang and Hankow.

Peking has been somewhat lax hitherto in enforcing the anti-opium regulations, but orders are said to have now been issued that the greatest strictness shall be observed in this matter from the 15th of the current month. Anyone detected selling the drug will be severely punished.

Some of the inhabitants of Inner Mongolia having shown a disposition to follow the example of Outer Mongolia in throwing off the Chinese yoke, Governor-General Chao has officially announced, not only to his colleagues in Kilin and Amur, but also to the foreign Consuls in the regions concerned, that the proclamation which was issued from Peking at the time of the establishment of the Republic, included Mongolia in its specification of the Chinese realm, and that no departure from the terms of that document will be permitted. Our readers will remember that five regions were included in the proclamation; namely, China Proper, Manchuria, Mongolia, Tsinghai and Thibet.

There has been a military outbreak at Jehol but it appears to have been quelled without much difficulty or any serious loss of life.

The Peking Government is evidently determined to deal strenuously with the Thibetan problem. In compliance with orders issued by President Yuan, a force of 5,000 troops has been organized in Szchuan, and is about to march for Lassa. This expedition is said to be accompanied by six men thoroughly conversant with the conditions existing in Thibet and with the topographical features of the country. The flying column is believed to consist of carefully selected men, and it will push forward with all haste. But considering the distance between the capitals of Thibet and Szchuan, several weeks must elapse before China is in position to make her strength felt.

Premier Tang's lot seems to have fallen upon evil times. In addition to all his troubles connected with the foreign loan, he is said to have shown so little zeal in his discharge of the duties of Premier that the Council of State is much exasperated. That body is alleged to have adopted a resolution which amounts virtually to an impeachment of Tang. The document points out that although several days have elapsed since the Council of State opened its first session, neither the Prime Minister nor any one of his colleagues has attended the Chamber or offered any responsible statement of the political situation, and the Council regards this procedure as evidence of contempt. It must be confessed that the new regime in Peking is encountering difficulties which were not anticipated.

Not much had been heard of the Red

Cross Society in China until the recent insurrection in the Yangtze Valley offered a field for its benevolent ministrations. The nurses and physicians of this Society won a large share of popular approval by their conduct on that occasion. A telegram just received in Tokyo says that President Yuan has petitioned the Empress Dowager to become the Honorary Patroness of the Society. This would constitute a feature of the Society's organization precisely the same as that existing in Japan. President Yuan deserves much credit for the thought.

Saturday, May 11.

Symptoms of disruption between the North and the South are becoming more and more apparent. The immediately crucial question is whether the local Governors-General shall be chosen by the people of the province forming their jurisdictional area, or whether they shall be nominated by the Central Government. Canton has set the example of exercising local autonomy, and other provinces in the South have followed that example or are showing a disposition to follow it.

It will be remembered that the Peking Cabinet recently determined to organize a special Bureau for the management of affairs relating to Mongolia and Thibet. The Council of State, however, has rejected this plan. It appears that the councillors are willing to approve of a special administrative machine, but they object to placing it under independent authority. The Government's plan had been to appoint a second Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs who would exercise control over the special Bureau.

On the 10th instant, amid a scene of considerable excitement, the Council of State in Peking decided by acclamation that the national flag of China should henceforth be five-coloured. This of course signifies that Mongolia and Thibet are to be regarded as integral parts of the new Republic.

Sunday, May 12.

There is disquieting news from Szchuan. A French missionary has been assaulted by a Chinese mob in Chengtu, the capital of the province, and American and German places of worship have been destroyed. The Authorities are taking vigorous action, but the great distance of Szchuan from Peking renders it difficult to deal speedily with disturbances in the former locality. These riots seem to be frankly anti-foreign.

From Mongolia it is wired that the *Gegen* is making use of mounted bandits to organize an attack upon Manchuria. Flying columns have been sent out by Governor-General Chao to deal with this emergency. The accounts are very vague.

The Mohammedan leaders in Peking are said to be concerting measures with those of their faith in Hsinking; their programme being to disavow allegiance to the new Republic and to raise the standard of revolt.

A telegram published by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* from Harbin says that for the past three years Russian enterprise in Mongolia has been conducted entirely by the War Department in St. Petersburg, the Minister of Foreign Affairs not being at all consulted. Recently, however, this state of affairs has been completely changed. Military influence has been eliminated, and Russia's policy has become correspondingly pacific. Various details are given by

our Tokyo contemporary's correspondent, but the broad outlines are as stated above.

Monday, May 13.

There have been some symptoms of a renewal of a pillaging disposition among the troops in Tientsin and Hankiaslu, between which places there is a distance of seven or eight miles. It appears to have been agreed by the troops at these two positions that a raid should be made for the purpose of collecting over due pay and allowances. But the affair did not develop, though for a moment things looked very threatening. There is said to have been some rifle-firing, but it was not directed against the citizens, being merely an interchange of signals.

At Kaifong in Honan, also, a military riot is reported to have taken place but no particulars are to hand.

It is said that President Yuan has sent a warm invitation to ex-President Dr. Sun Yat-sen, requesting him to come to Peking. Yuan offers to send his own son to meet Sun if the latter accepts the invitation.

Tuesday, May 14.

Foreign onlookers will receive with no little disquiet the announcement made by the Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce before the Council of State on the 13th instant in Peking. Mr. Wang announced in so many words that the policy of the Republican Government will be to subsidize native industries so as to enable them to hold their own against foreign competitors in the domestic markets. There are cases in which such a policy becomes commendable, but these cases are few and far between; and nothing can ultimately be more mischievous than to assist private enterprise by grants of public money. Fortunately, however, China has treaties with other Powers and these treaties will prevent her from pursuing such a dangerous policy for the present at all events.

A Peking special to the *Chuo* reports that the Six Powers Syndicate has accepted the loan terms formulated by Hsuing Chi-ling, Minister of Finance. While the supervisory rights are retained in principle, some modification has been introduced in the form, whereby the supervisory committee is to be appointed conjointly by the Six Powers and China. The committee shall have no power to interfere with the disbandment of the troops, but a report is to be made on the disbandment. The revised terms are to be introduced to a secret meeting of the State Council for final approval, and are then to be telegraphed to the Six Powers' bankers' conference to be held in London on the 15th instant, when the matter of payment of 6,400,000 *taels* in advance will be arranged.

Wednesday, May 15.

Since the assassination of General Liang Pi, the Imperialists in China seem to have postponed *sine die* the execution of any scheme they may have for the restoration of the Throne. Liang's mantle might have been expected to fall on General Tieh Liang, but that high official's conduct at the siege of Nanking did not win for him a heroic reputation. He has now made his way to Moji, and it is said that he never emerged from his state room once throughout the voyage. Rumour alleges that he would have established his residence in Manchuria, had not that place already become a *rendezvous* for Imperialist leaders, and therefore a

probable target for the weapons of assassins. General Tieh will proceed to Suma where Mr. Sheng, the former Minister of Finance, and Mr. Chang, some time Viceroy of Kwangtung, are already residing. Japan promises to become the asylum of not a few Chinese statemen. There are now some indications that Prince Kung, who was expected to take up his residence at Port Arthur, will make Suma his home.

The Minister of Communications has put forth a plan for opening communication with Outer and Inner Mongolia, as well as Changkia-kau in order to annex the whole of Mongolia to China, and has made to Yuan Shih-kai a suggestion for the construction of a Changkia-kau—Kulon railway as a private enterprise by forming a company with a capital of 100 million *taels*, of which 60 million *taels* is to be borne by the American China Development Company, to which the Government is to grant a subsidy to guarantee the payment of interest. The scheme is welcomed by the Mongolian princes.

A Peking telegram to the *Chunuo* reports that Bills relating to the veto of the importation of opium and also the cultivation of poppies have been introduced to the State Council by influential councillors and will be included in the order of the day as an urgent motion in a day or two. The Bills will be adopted unanimously. The Bills propose to prohibit the importation and cultivation on and after June 1st next. Diplomatic negotiations will be entered into with the British Government concerning the importation of Indian Opium.

According to a Wuchang report, says a Peking dispatch to the *Chunuo*, the Wuchang Government has decided to work the famous Onyang silver mine and Hankia copper mine. A German expert who inspected these mines is of opinion that if the Onyang silver mine be perfectly worked, it will affect the quotations of silver in Shanghai.

A Peking special to the *Chunuo* reports that the loan Bill is now under investigation in the hands of the special committee of the State Council. The Government earnestly desires that a vote be taken on the Bill immediately, so that they may be able to submit a report to the Six Powers bankers' conference being held in London.

Thursday, May 16.

There is a confidently asserted item of news from Kansu to the effect that General Yun Sheng has succeeded in getting together the nucleus of a formidable army recruited mainly from Mohammedan sources. It will be strange if the Mohammedan population of China remains quiet at this crisis of her history.

As for the insurrection reported to have broken out a few days ago at Jehol, it is stated that the Peking government has commissioned General Chiang Kwei-ti to proceed thither at the head of 5,000 troops. Evidently the affair is not regarded as cardinally important.

There has been an engagement between the mounted bandits at Chaoyang and the troops sent from Hsinmington to oppose them. Victory rested with the bandits, who are said to have concentrated their principal strength at Chaoyang. These somewhat unfamiliar places may be roughly described as lying just beyond the Great Wall.

The insurgent leader at Jehol is given as Kun Yuan and his troops are said to be

killing every Chinese who appears without a queue.

A strange piece of news comes from Sian-haikwan. It is to the effect that a Chinese leader called Chang Chi has established a socialist village on an island near Lanchow. Apparently republicanism is not the only novelty that the Chinese are disposed to test at this juncture.

During the past few years there has been talk again and again of vigorous measures contemplated by the Japanese Government for the final subjugation of the mounted bandits in the three Eastern Provinces, but these good intentions have never been realized. President Yuan is now said to recognize the necessity of dealing with these perpetual disturbers of peace, but in all probability the consummation of the task will be deferred *sine die*.

It was recently announced that the Governor-General of Kilin had tendered his resignation, on the plea that the authority newly vested in him as Governor-General was nominal, not real. The explanation of this is that all officials ranking as Governors at the time of the declaration of republicanism were at once raised to be Governors-General. But the new organization involved some clash between these Governors-General and the former Viceroys who equally received the title of Governor-General. This conflict of authority seems to have made itself specially felt in the Three Eastern Provinces, where the Governor-General of Kilin and Amur found that their newly acquired powers were not commensurate with their rank. To the Governor-General of Kilin the situation proved so intolerable that he resigned, but President Yuan has now instructed Governor-General Chao at Mukden to settle the difference, inasmuch as conflicts of this nature would be very inconvenient at the moment of establishing a Republican polity.

CHINESE JURIDICAL SYSTEM.

On the memorable 13th instant, Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, Minister of State for Justice in Peking, announced that it was the Government's intention to seek the people's consent to establishing the system of trial by jury, as well as the system of an officially recognized Bar. There is at present some talk in Japan also of trial by jury, but one may seriously hope that such an evil system will never be introduced either in China or in Japan. It has often been said with absolute truth that whereas a guilty man desires to be tried by a jury, an innocent man prefers a bench of judges among all tribunals. Juries were not originally impanelled for the purpose of pronouncing verdicts. Their object was simply to declare the opinion locally entertained with regard to the subject before the court. It is easy to understand that partizanship would be quickly developed under such a system, and that it exactly what did take place. From giving expression to his knowledge of what the people of the locality were saying, the juryman passed quickly to becoming an exponent of popular opinion as to guilt or innocence. It is inconceivable that sensible juriconsults would ever have deliberately elaborated a system under which any issues, however important, were left to the judgment of twelve ignorant men picked up at random along the hedges and ditches.

JAPANESE LABOUR IN AMERICA.

Mr. Majima, Manager of the Yokohama branch of the Mitsui Bank, returned on the 2nd instant from a trip to the United States. He makes some interesting comments. Thus he estimates that the number of Japanese labourers in the great Republic is about 90,000, and that it remains stationary at that point in consequence of the restrictions imposed on immigration. The net earnings of a Japanese labourer, after deducting days of rest, are some 50 dollars (gold) per month, and about half of that sum is paid for living while the remainder is saved and probably a large part of it is sent to Japan. Labouring classes of America are strongly opposed to the competition of the Japanese, but the latter achieve success owing to their comparatively economical style of living. Wherever the two come into direct conflict, the victory is generally on the Japanese side, in spite of all the efforts made by their opponents. Thus, to mention an instance, Japanese washermen struck out the plan of delivery by means of bicycles, whereupon their American rivals employed motor-cars, but their customers preferred the Japanese after all. It is observable that whereas Japanese labourers have hitherto shown a disposition to pass from one employment to another, they are now gradually settling down and have homes of their own. Mr. Roosevelt, writing in the *Outlook*, complains that the Japanese always remain Japanese and cannot be assimilated but Mr. Majima doubts whether assimilation is always acceptable in the full sense of the term. With regard to the anti-Japanese feeling in the United States, Mr. Majima says that the existence of such a feeling is incontrovertible, and that neither the tenets of religion, nor the principles of humanity will ever obliterate the prejudice. But he thinks, on the other hand, that the Japanese are too sensitive, and that they allow themselves to be discouraged by incidents which would be trifling if they were viewed with greater magnanimity.

DISBANDING OF THE CHINESE TROOPS.

It is stated that a final decision has been reached by the Chinese Authorities with reference to the disbanding or reorganization of the troops now under arms. They are to be divided into three classes. The first class will consist of men who are well armed, well equipped and well drilled. These will be kept with the colours and will be regarded as the standing army of the country. But if their number exceeds the fixed establishment, the surplus will be handed three months pay, together with their travelling expenses, and will be ordered to proceed to their native provinces. The second class will be those who are badly equipped and insufficiently trained. To these will be given one month's salary and their travelling expenses to their native provinces. The third class will comprise the men who were enlisted solely for the purposes of the insurrection, and who consequently have no proper equipment nor have received any effective training. To these men, nothing but their travelling expenses will be granted. This reads like a very intelligent differentiation, but it will probably prove difficult to carry out thoroughly.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Mr. Mochizuki Kotaro, according to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, has abandoned his candidature for election to the House of Representatives. The reason he assigns is briefly that the situation has come to be swayed entirely by money. When he was previously elected, his total expenses did not exceed 172 yen, but on the present occasion he would have to make a very much larger outlay. In fact, it is the man with the heaviest satchel who can secure votes. That is the only way to reach the Diet. Mr. Mochizuki alleges that he was given 5,000 yen as an election fund, but he handed it over to charitable institutions rather than engage in such a corrupt fight.

Meanwhile the Authorities are enforcing the law with the utmost vigilance. Twenty-four canvassers representing the Matsushita group, in other words, the *Yamato Shimbun* coterie, have been apprehended on a charge of bribery and corruption, and forty-six supporters of Mr. Mochizuki Unai, have shared the same fate, as have also fourteen partisans of Mr. Tano Futaka. It does not appear that there has been any actual bribery in the common sense of the word: inviting to banquets and providing free seats at the theatre are the methods chiefly employed. At the same time, the *Asahi Shimbun* has a telegram from Sendai which says that votes are openly offered for 10 yen in that city.

Three groups of politicians, arrested on a charge of corrupt practices in connexion with the approaching general elections, were brought up for trial on the 11th instant in Tokyo and sentenced to fines varying from forty to seventy yen; to forfeiture of the franchise for a period of five years and to the repayment of any profits made in connexion with the entertainments furnished for the voters. It is believed that this will be taken as an example in dealing with future cases of a like nature.

The electioneering methods resorted to in Japan on the present occasion are not calculated to win votes solely by munificence. The blackening of the candidate's character is a device which has been resorted to in a very heinous manner. Mr. Takamatsu, one of the candidates for Fukushima prefecture, has been made the object of a scandal in the sense that he is a Nihilist, and that any one voting for him will be a traitor to Japan. This charge was embodied in a printed circular and scattered broadcast throughout the prefecture. Many copies are said to have been distributed before the facts came to the knowledge of the police. Steps were then taken of course to check the libel, but not before much mischief had been done. Some accounts indeed say that Mr. Takamatsu has retired altogether from the field, but others represent him as determined to carry on the fight.

The most remarkable feature of the elections is that none of the politicians who occupy the field seem to have any fixed opinions. They utter very specious platitudes and pronounce many abstract truths, but any one who attempts to set up a tangible difference between their platforms finds himself confronted by a hopeless task. It is scarcely too much to say that recrimination is the principal weapon employed in all quarters. It is

universally recognized that the main questions to be debated by the new House of Representatives will be the problems of finance and of the Army and of the Navy. But no one attempts to clearly expose his views on these subjects or to set forth the policy that he professes. It is very bewildering, and one longs for a measure of practical statesmanship, however small.

The *Asahi Shimbun* approaches the question of the elections from an interesting direction. It says that the number of persons who, though qualified to vote, abstain from doing so, is steadily on the increase. Thus at the general elections in 1902, 11 per cent. of the voters did not exercise their rights; at the next elections the percentage rose to 13.82; at the next, to 13.94, at the next to 14.46, and the number on the present occasion will probably be 15 per cent. The aggregate of the votes which were thus uncast at the last five elections was 200,160, and as there are forty-five constituencies throughout the country, it appears that in every constituency the number of persons not exercising the franchise averaged over 4,000. On the other hand, the number of votes actually cast averaged 2,987 for each candidate. It thus appears that if these numerous abstainers came forward and united their strength they could return at least one candidate in every electorate. What is particularly regrettable is that the franchise holders who thus stand aloof are, in the main, the best educated and the most respectable elements of the population. Thus the *Asahi* arrives at the conclusion that Parliamentary institutions are not receiving any increased measure of respect in Japan.

The *Fiji Shimpo* notes that, up to the evening of the 12th instant, that there were thirty-one ascertained cases of bribery and corruption throughout the Empire, and how many more would be discovered if the truth were known, it is impossible to say. Our contemporary shrewdly observes that if there were no persons to accept bribes, neither would there be any to give them. Therefore the *Fiji* recommends that voters should completely disregard any obligation in connexion with the receipt of bribes. They might take what is offered to them, but thereafter they should go to the polls without any compunction whatever, and should cast their votes for whomsoever they like. If this plan were pursued, corrupt practices would soon cease.

There is little to be reported about the general elections which take place on the 15th instant. Naturally there is considerable excitement, though, as we have already remarked, the electorates do not seem to know clearly what they are fighting for. Mr. Mochizuki Kotaro, who created some interest by withdrawing his candidature from Yamana-shi prefecture on the ground of corrupt practices, is now standing for Gifu in the interests of the *Seiyu-kai*. We mentioned in our last issue that some thirty cases of corrupt practices had been discovered by the police. Of course that did not mean that only thirty persons had been arrested. In one instance as many as forty-six were summoned to answer to accusations of bribery. Another reservation also is necessary; namely, that no charge of corrupt practices has been laid at the door of any of the candidates themselves. The irregularities have been perpetrated solely by their agents and partisans. Neither has there been any instance of criminal punishment. Warning and a fine have been considered sufficient to meet

exigencies in every case. Nevertheless the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* writes in a pessimistic strain. It accuses a majority of the candidates of making promises which they have no intention of attempting to perform. A railway here or a road there or a harbour somewhere else are readily held out as baits to the gullible electorates, and the latter allow themselves to be deceived again and again by the same tactics. If an accurate record were kept of the professions of the candidates and their actual practices, many of those elected with flying colours would be irrevocably laid aside. These utterances of the *Nichi Nichi* are echoed by most of the leading journals of Tokyo. In fact there seems to be a general feeling of dissatisfaction and a belief that Parliamentary institutions in Japan are losing credit in the eyes of the nation.

Two or three days must elapse before the public is placed in possession of absolutely accurate information about the successes achieved or the defeats suffered by the different political parties at the polls. According to present estimates, however, the Unionists (*Seiyukai*) will win 210 seats at least and the Nationalists (*Kokumin-to*) will return 110 representatives. This leaves only 49 seats for the Centre (*Chuo-to*) and the Independents.

The police are exercising extraordinary vigilance to prevent anything in the shape of bribery or corruption. The number of persons convicted of violating the law in this respect will run into hundreds, but thus far no penal sentences seem likely to be pronounced. Among the curious stories circulated, one is to the effect that the name of Mr. Miyake Setsurei, formerly editor of the *Nippon*, has been put forward as a candidate absolutely without his own knowledge.

The balloting for candidates in the General Election took place on Wednesday throughout the country and the results will be made known on Thursday. The candidates at one time numbered over 700, but several of them withdrew at the last moment and the actual number who went to the poll was 667, allotted as follows: *Seiyukai*, 300; Popular Party, 160; Central Club, 52; Independents, 155. Of these, those who held seats in the last session of the Diet numbered 129 *Seiyukai*, 64 Popular party, 32 Central club and 24 Independents, totalling 249 in all, the others being new candidates.

The prosecutions for violation of the Election Law pending in the Courts number 49 cases in which 469 persons are concerned.

FIRST RESULTS.

Eighteen candidates contested the eleven seats in Tokyo and the result of the ballot was as under.

Mr. Takagi Masutaro (Popular party).....	5,412
Mr. Kurahara Ikaku (Popular party).....	3,378
Mr. Suzuki Umeshiro (Independent).....	2,634
Mr. Nakajima Yukitaka (Independent).....	2,369
Mr. Hoshino Shoku (Independent).....	2,298
Mr. Kurosu Ryutaro (Popular party).....	1,965
Mr. Seki Naohiko (Popular party).....	1,951
Mr. Minowa Shinjiro (Independent).....	1,868
Mr. Kojima Kanzuo (Popular party).....	1,818
Mr. Inamoto Saburo (Independent).....	1,787
Mr. Matsushita Gunji (Central party).....	1,413

The eleven candidates who secured the highest number of votes are returned. It will be noticed that there was no *Seiyu-kai* candidate contesting the election in the capital.

In Yokohama, Mr. Shimada Saburo

received 2,041 and Mr. Wakao Ikuzo 1,491, these being the two highest recorded and accordingly elected.

RICE.

The Government's action in attempting to check speculative sales of rice at the Fukagawa stores has resulted in the arrest of no less than thirty-seven tradesmen, among whom are included a number of well-known men. The most curious feature of this affair is that the Principal Managing Director, Mr. Nakamura, repaired to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce a few days ago, confessed that irregular practices have been going on, and promised that nothing of the kind should occur again. But almost before these words had ceased to be audible, the rice-dealers were carrying on precisely as before. Warrants were therefore issued for police investigation, and thirty-seven men were arrested, either red-handed or on the evidence of their books. The affair has created great commotion.

The Government has the power, in case of emergency, to impose its orders upon the brokers of the Exchanges. It is believed that this power has now been exercised in the sense of vetoing all sales of rice for immediate and next month deliveries, sanctioning only transactions known as "forwards," namely, delivery at the close of the third month after purchase. It is thought that this restriction will have the effect of greatly lowering the price of the cereal. Among the brokers, however, there are some who contend that the desired effect will not be produced. These experts insist that the main two causes for the present appreciation of rice are, in the first place, the general rise in the prices of commodities, and, in the second place, the unwillingness of holders to part with their stocks on a rising market.

In addition to the above measures, the Authorities are said to have determined that the duty on imported rice can be reduced to 50 *sen a koku*.

The Authorities of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce insist that the present appreciation of rice is partly due to artificial causes. They adduce figures in proof of this assertion. Thus the average increase of the rice crop during the past five years has been 958,000 *koku*, and the average increase in price, 37 *sen*; while the average price per *koku* has been 15.50 *yen*. Taking these figures as a basis of calculation, the highest price ought now to be 18.20 *yen per koku* whereas it is 20.80. It is obvious that manipulation must have had something to do with these figures, and the Authorities are quoted as saying that whatever allowance may be made for the growth of luxurious habits, something must be done to protect the country's great food staple from exploitation by speculators.

The price of rice rose on the 14th instant in the open market to 27.10 *yen*. The highest point to which it had previously climbed, namely, on the 22nd of July 1911, was 26.20 *yen*. If we compare the price ruling at the cheapest time of last year with the rate to-day, the latter is found to be higher by 7.50 *yen*. Of course we are speaking here of hulled rice. The fact has to be noted that whereas at this time last year, the rice in the Fukagawa godowns totalled 1,700,000 *koku*, this year there is only

500,000 *koku*, and as Tokyo consumes 180,000 *koku* per week, the immediately available supply is sufficient for a month only.

In these circumstances it has been thought necessary to suspend operations on the Tokyo Rice Exchange.

Transactions upon the Tokyo Rice Exchange were resumed on the 14th instant, and for a moment things seemed likely to settle down into a quiet groove. But before the market closed, signs of disturbance made themselves again apparent and the price for unhulled rice rose to 20.60 *yen*. No one ventures to predict what the final outcome will be.

PRESIDENT YUAN AND GENERAL HWANG.

We mentioned in our previous issue that a number of the officers in garrison at Nanking had formed a political party; had announced their intention of relinquishing a part of their pay and allowances in order to lessen the stress of the financial situation, and had denounced in the strongest terms the idea of having recourse to a foreign loan. This action on the part of the troops seems to have evoked severe censure in Peking. President Yuan addressed a strongly worded message to General Hwang, pointing out that military men must stand aside at all times from politics, and that their formation of parties for the purpose of interfering with the Government's action was intolerable. The President warned General Hwang against the danger and impropriety of such procedure. This seems to have led to the resignation of General Hwang. He replied to the President's letter in somewhat acrimonious terms, his argument being that the post assigned to him was not consistent with the idea of a centralized government; that he had already disbanded 20,000 of the troops; that there need not be any special difficulty in disbanding the rest, and that his position having thus become anomalous and unnecessary, he wished to be relieved of his duties. This split between the two most responsible members of the new Government is said to be regarded with great misgivings as the first really serious indication of a rupture in the ranks of the Republican leaders. It is pointed out that 100,000 troops remain to be dealt with in the Yangtze Valley, and that General Hwang's plea of having already disbanded 20,000 is inadequate and inconsequential. The fact would seem to be that Hwang and the other principal officers of the Nanking army are thoroughly indisposed towards a foreign loan involving the humiliation of foreign financial supervision. If their opposition were encouraged at the outset for the purpose of facilitating negotiations, that part of the display was carried too far, and the Peking statesmen may find themselves confronted by a difficulty of their own creation.

JAPAN AND SOUTH AMERICA.

In the context of expressions of much satisfaction on account of the establishment of an extensive Japanese fishery in Mexican waters, the *Jiji Shimpō* offers a wholesome suggestion to Latin-America. The gist of the article embodying the suggestion is that the growth of constantly closer relations must be anticipated between Japan and the Central and Southern parts

of the American Continent. The Magdalena Bay Company may be said to have already been formed, and there is also a company called the Tokyo Syndicate which projects extensive colonization and agriculture in Brazil. Other similar institutions will surely follow in the wake of these two, and it is quite possible, nay, even probable, that in carrying out such enterprises, steps may be taken which would be easily construable as constituting strategical features. Our Tokyo contemporary expresses a strong hope that should events of that nature occur, they will be fully investigated and considered before any decisive step is taken by the Latin-Americans or before any untoward construction is allowed to attach to them. Thus, and thus only, will it be possible to avoid complications which, if treated precipitately, might disturb the friendship between Japan and the United States. The tone of the *Jiji's* article, while perfectly courteous and calm, is not wanting in firmness. We cannot possibly close our eyes to the fact that there are publicists in America who do not attach sufficient importance to their international responsibilities, and nothing can be more desirable than that the people should learn the danger of crediting these agitators' statements without the fullest investigation.

Professor Kawakami writes from Chicago to the *Yorodan Choho*, regretting profoundly that the anti-Japanese feeling hitherto confined to the Pacific Slope shows a tendency to declare itself in the eastern section of the United States also. In support of this view he instances the bills and questions recently submitted in the Senate, and he insists that whereas the feeling hitherto has been commercial or industrial rivalry, it has now become largely racial. Of late there have been some Japanese who preached a doctrine of retaliation, but Professor Kawakami strongly condemns any such course. He says that there is nothing for it except a pacific appeal to reason.

THE KILIN-CHANGCHUN RAILWAY.

It appears that, after all, the railway from Kilin to Changchun will be finished and open to traffic by the close of the current year. The building of this railway is provided in Japan's treaty with China, the arrangement there specified being that each country shall find one-half of the required funds, which were estimated at about 4 million *yen*. The Japanese put up their money in due time, whereas the Chinese not only failed to discharge their obligation in that respect but also dishonestly or negligently made away with something like a million *yen*. This led to a formal complaint preferred in Peking, and, ultimately, the responsible Chinese engineers were all dismissed from office. It was then thought that the completion of the line would be much delayed, but the telegraph now says that things will not be as bad as was expected. The South Manchuria Railway Company has agreed to lend the necessary funds at a moderate rate of interest, and the work will be pushed on vigorously. The most difficult point, namely the tunnel at the Tumen Pass, has been nearly completed and about forty of the eighty bridges required in that part of the line have been put up.

KOREA.

Viscount Cho, formerly Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in Korea during the days of the Japanese protectorate, has been spending some time in Japan, and has just reached Shinonoseki en route for Fusan. Interviewed by a representative of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, the Viscount spoke in very high terms of Japanese organization and industry, and strongly praised the steps taken by the Japanese Authorities for the unification of Korea and Japan. But one point struck him as calling for amendment. He observes that the commercial relations between the island Empire and its peninsular appanage are not satisfactory and show very little sign of improving. The two peoples have not yet developed a disposition to work together in the field of commerce and industry. Something is obviously wanting to foster a coöperative spirit. Viscount Cho believes that the best plan would be to establish a Korean bazaar at Shinonoseki and a Japanese bazaar at Fusan. He says that he has repeatedly brought this project to the attention of the Japanese Authorities, but hitherto his efforts have been unsuccessful.

Baron Shibusawa and Mr. Takenouchi having undertaken to act as mediators between the former Imperial Household of Korea and Mr. Collbran, it is expected that the case will not come up for judicial decision. The telegraph says, however, that among the pleas put forward by the defendant, one is that the property in question did not belong to the Imperial Household of Korea but to the Government, and consequently after annexation the shares should have come into the hands of the Japanese Government. Mr. Collbran further claims that he received nothing in connexion with the transaction except a commission amounting to \$5,000 yen.

"KANKAN-RYO."

There is talk of an attempt on the part of Japanese silk men to abolish the *Kankan-ryo* (weight money) which has been a feature of the silk trade in Yokohama ever since the *Ansei* era, that is to say, ever since the exportation of Japanese silk commenced. According to the *Niroku Shimpō*, this *Kankan-ryo* was originally a *douceur* paid by Japanese silk owners or middlemen to Chinese compradores, and its object was to induce the latter to raise no difficulty in the purchase of silk by their foreign employers. At first the payment was small, but it increased in proportion to the complacency of the compradores, and ultimately became somewhat onerous. An attempt to abolish the practice was made in the year 1900, but proved a failure, and now again the question has been brought upon the tapis on the plea that the proceeds of the *kankan ryō* should be set aside yearly and ultimately be applied to the construction of a large silk ware-house in the vicinity of the Bund, the occasion chosen for the consummation of the enterprise being the fiftieth year of the Emperor's reign. According to our Tokyo contemporary, however, there is a divergence of views, some of the silk men being in favour of applying the money for the purchase of better banking facilities, and others advocating the abolition of the charge altogether as a remnant of the evil past.

CHINESE FINANCE.

Nothing could have been more outspoken than the address delivered by the Minister of Finance in the Chinese State Council on the 13th instant. The details, so far as we know them, are published elsewhere in our columns. Mr. Hsiung did not hesitate to declare that his country was approaching a condition of bankruptcy. The Central Treasury is practically empty. In the face of an expenditure of 260 or 270 millions of *taels*, the Peking Treasury has practically no visible assets. Of course this statement was accompanied by the elaboration of a project which, if faithfully pursued, will restore Chinese finances to a sound condition. None the less, however, the Minister's account of the existing condition was very disquieting, and we cannot at all be surprised that there is much delay on the part of foreign financiers to supply China's wants. In effect, the country has been suffered to drift into a very difficult situation. So long as the old system of Viceroyalties existed, the finances of the Empire were administered locally without much reference to the Central Government. But now that the realm has been intergrated, or is about to be intergrated, into a compact whole, the effect of the old system becomes apparent; but at the same time we cannot but applaud the frankness shown by the Minister of Finance. Mr. Hsiung appears to have taken the public completely into his confidence, and he could not have adopted any better plan to gain national and international credit.

ROUND-THE-WORLD TOURS.

Wednesday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes Railway Board Notification No. 47 relating to the provisions for round the world tours *via* either Canada or Siberia.

Travellers starting from London can make arrangements with the local agent of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Railway Company for either the easterly or westerly route. Those taking the westerly route will receive railway and steamship tickets for Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki or Shanghai, together with transfer tickets, and those taking the easterly route, transfer tickets to St. Petersburg or Moscow and also tickets entitling the holders to travel to London *via* Canada.

The round the world tourists starting from London will travel to Southampton or Liverpool by train and thence on to Quebec, Montreal, New Brunswick or New York by the Atlantic liners. To Vancouver they will go by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's line, and to Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki or Shanghai by the Royal Mail liners, and then to Moscow or St. Petersburg by the Siberian railway.

The rate is fixed at £68.15s. between London and Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki or Shanghai for first-class, including meals and all other charges during the voyage, with sleeping car accommodation.

The following rates will be charged for those travelling between Moscow and Far Eastern ports, etc. :-

From Moscow—	YEN
To Tsuruga or Hiranuma	316.70
To Tsuruga or Kobe	312.30
To Dairen or Shinonoseki	320.65
To Dairen or Kobe	314.40
To Moji or Nagasaki	309.50

The tickets are available for two years, and the maximum weight of the luggage transported free is limited to 350 pounds.

GENERAL VISCOUNT OSHIMA.

We take the following from the *Second Press* :-

General Viscount Oshima, who has just retired from the Governor-Generalship of Kwantung, gave a farewell party at the Dairen Businessmen's Club, Dairen, on the 7th inst. The *Manchuria Daily News* says that the distinguished host delivered an impressive address of farewell, in the course of which he said :-

"At the time when the Kwantung Government was established in September, 1906, everything was still in a chaotic condition. The uncertainties of war times kept everyone's mind ill at ease. The Chinese inhabitants in the Leased Territory little knew what they were to expect from their new master.

"On the borderlands of the Leased Territory were prowling bandits ready to rob and murder. My attention was directed first to the establishment of peace and order, and then to the execution of the various plans of peaceful enterprises. I am pleased to say at this parting that, through the hearty co-operation of everybody, these plans, all necessary for carrying out the national policy in the Leased Territory and along the S. M. Railway Area, have been firmly established and are on a fair way to happy fruition. In a word, the territory under the Kwantung Government has entered upon a new career in which the economic and educational activities will take the best part of its energies. I consider it as a piece of good fortune that the task of organizing the Government and giving it a start should have been left to me, and I thank you all for the valuable services you have rendered me ungrudgingly. The Imperial order calls me to Tokyo, and I must leave the place which has become a second home to me and is full of pleasant associations. I shall follow with a solicited interest the future of the territory under the Kwantung Government, especially of the port of Dairen, which is rapidly pushing itself to the fore as one of international importance. While regretting my prospective separation from you, it affords me consolation to reflect that you will have in my successor a new Governor-General who, equipped with brilliant intellect and wide knowledge and experience, is conversant with the tide of events of the world, and particularly with the intricate affairs of China. I congratulate you and my fellow countrymen in general upon the choice of the right man in the right place."

Mr. J. Kato, General Post-Master, made a brief but touching response, in which he said that he could find no fit words to express the depth of gratitude he and the Japanese residents at large bore to His Excellency, and thanked the genial host for the honour of their invitation to the function.

Mr. Harold G. Parlett, British Consul, then rose and spoke on behalf of his colleagues and the foreign community. He said in part :-

"There was hardly a single house fit for habitation in the Leased Territory when Your Excellency assumed the reins of the Kwantung Government, and now Your Excellency leaves it a land of peace, comfort and prosperity, having also raised the port of Dairen to a high place on the list of the Far Eastern ports. Your Excellency's achievements as Governor-General are widely known, and we are all deeply sorry to see Your Excellency leave us. Still, the Imperial Court must have Your Excellency in Tokyo, and on the eve of Your Excellency's departure, I beg in voice the sentiments of the foreign community of Dairen in wishing Your Excellency many more years of distinguished service to the State."

The guests were then entertained to tiffin. Mr. K. Kubota, Director of the S.M.R. Co., proposed the health of the ex-Governor-General, which was enthusiastically honoured by the large company.

The Viscount, who is a poet of no mean order, composed a Chinese poem over his prospective departure from Port Arthur. A rough rendering of this poem follows :-

Flowers are falling like snow flakes,
As I pass out of my dear home,
Not to return.
I hear a woodcock's parting note
And cast a lingering glance over
The Fortress Town.
Seven years are gone like a dream
Since I came to rule this outpost
Of my country.
I hasten to answer Duty's call,
And Fate's decree to leave my work
Only half done.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY IN AMERICA.

At the eleventh meeting of the conference in Washington the Red Cross Society found itself confronted by a question which led to much discussion. The American representatives of the Society introduced a proposal that the ministrations of the Society should extend to insurgents as well as to regular combatants. This was strenuously objected to by the Russian delegates among others. The objectors took the view that to include rebels would be to associate the Society openly with the perpetrators of crime. The American delegates replied that an insurgent might be a criminal from the standpoint of his own Government, but that he need not be a malefactor from the standpoint of humanity. The argument is said to have waxed very sharp, but the American proposal was finally rejected on the ground that such a provision could not be inserted with propriety in the resolutions of such a body.

We may mention here that the President of the United States of America addressed a warm message of thanks to the Empress of Japan for her Majesty's munificent gift of 100,000 yen to the funds of this Society, and that her Majesty replied in suitable terms to President Taft's message.

OKAMOTO RYUNOSUKE.

On the 14th instant there died in Shanghai a man whose name had been associated with several deeds of violence. In fact, Okamoto Ryunosuke once enjoyed the reputation of being Japan's principal *sōshi* leader. Originally an officer in the army, he held the rank of Major at the time of the Takebashi mutiny, and was sentenced to imprisonment for the part he acted in that affair. Ultimately released from confinement on the plea of insanity, he remained quiet for some years, and was next heard of in connexion with the assassination of the Queen of Korea, though his part in that affair was never clearly ascertained. When the insurrection broke out in China, Okamoto lost no time in proceeding to the Yangtze Valley, where he doubtless recognized the existence of conditions favourable to some violent enterprise. He expired on the 14th instant, the immediate cause being hemorrhage of the stomach, and we cannot frankly say that his country suffers any great loss by his demise.

THE CHINESE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION.

From the long telegram published by the *Jiji Shimpō* and reproduced in these columns, it would appear that the military administration and the civil are to be distinctly differentiated in the various provinces of the Chinese Republic. Such is the impression conveyed by the *resumé* of Premier Tang's speech which appears in our Tokyo contemporary's telegraphic columns, and the inference is that the relations between the civil administration and the military are to be placed on a footing similar to that of newly conquered territory. There is to be a civil governor-general and a military governor-general, each acting independently of the other in normal times. It appears to us that some vital links which hold the two organizations together have been omitted in the *resumé*.

THE LATE OF MR. B. C. HOWARD.

As already announced, the death took place of Mr. B. C. Howard on the 10th instant in California, at the comparatively early age of sixty-two. Mr. Howard had been for some months incapacitated for the discharge of business, and he left Japan in November last, hoping that the change from Japan to America, would restore his health. He served for twenty-six years in Japan, occupying for the greater part of that time the important position of manager of the Pacific Steamship Company. He was universally esteemed, and his business abilities received full appreciation. The Emperor of Japan conferred on him the Order of the Rising Sun, and it was the universal opinion that this honour had been well merited. Indeed Mr. Howard's name will always be intimately connected with the development of this country's mercantile marine in Eastern waters.

We deeply regret to learn of the death of Mr. B. C. Howard of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. at Santa Barbara, California, on Friday, May 10th. The cause of death was apoplexy, the end being swift and merciful. Mr. Howard was the agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and the heartfelt sympathy of his many and dear friends in this port will be sincerely extended to his wife and daughters.

Mr. Benjamin Chandler Howard was born in Boston, Mass. on June 17th, 1849. He commenced service with the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. in the year 1873, and came to Japan to reside in 1885 and was made Agent of that company and the Occidental and Oriental S.S. Co. in 1892. He was appointed Agent of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, when their service was inaugurated in 1898, filling the position until the year 1911, at which time that Company took over the traffic management. In 1904 he was appointed Agent of the Portland and Asiatic S.S. Co., and was appointed Consul of the Republic of Hawaii in 1895, resigning his post in the latter part of 1896.

Mr. Howard left Yokohama with Mrs. Howard for Paso Robles, California, on December 27th last. He remained there about three months, then going to Santa Barbara where he died on Friday May 10th. Mr. Howard leaves a wife, and two daughters, the elder, Mrs. C. W. Atkinson of Kobe, and the younger Mrs. R. F. Moss, of Yokohama.

We learn that on the suggestion of the Governor of Kanagawa-ken, His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon Mr. Howard the posthumous rank of the Fourth Order of the Rising Sun.

CHINA'S MILITARY SYSTEM.

Speaking in the State Council on the 13th instant, General Tuan Chi-jui, Minister of State for War, declared that it was the intention of the Government to disband a moiety of the troops now under arms, but his Excellency admitted frankly that considerable difficulties would attend the operation. Doubtless the chief of these difficulties is connected with the funds to pay off the disbanded troops. Nothing presses more imperatively for settlement than that problem. General Tuan stated further that it was the Government's intention to adopt the system of conscription, but if his Excellency is a clear-sighted man, he must have been looking forward to a distant date when he made that assertion. For conscription cannot possibly be carried out in a country where no accurate census of the population exists. China has no such census, and in historical times she appears to have

been always deficient in this branch of national equipment. But to remedy the defect must be a work of several years, however diligently it may be prosecuted, and must entail considerable expense however economical are the methods pursued. This, however, is only one of the many obstacles that lie in China's path to an effective Republican polity.

SHIRASE'S EXPEDITION.

Lieut. Shirase and a few of the members of his Antarctic Exploration party arrived at Nagasaki on the 12th instant by the *Nikko Maru*. When interviewed by a Press representative, Lieut. Shirase stated that the party abandoned the idea of making a rush to the Pole and limited its work to scientific research in deference to the instructions of his supporters at home. Sailing from Sydney in November last, the *Kainan Maru* safely arrived at Whale Bay, located in 78 degrees South latitude, on January 16th this year, whence the party proceeded on a south-easterly course. Lieut. Shirase and four other members separated from the rest of the party and pursued scientific researches for eleven days, commencing from January 20th, while the rest of the party made an ascent of Mount Alexandra. Leaving Whale Bay on March 4th the party called at New Zealand, whence the *Kainan Maru* left direct for home on April 1st and is expected to reach Japan on June 10th next.

The sphere of exploration was limited to between 78° 40' and 85° south latitude. The party captured some specimens of penguins, albatrosses, seals and other animals. Photographs were taken continually after the *Kainan Maru* passed south of 78 degrees south latitude. Had the party arrived at Whale Bay three days later, they would not have been able to effect a landing.

INSURANCE ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.

It is a noteworthy fact that in spite of the generally depressed condition of the share-market, the quotations for shares in the principal insurance companies are so high that they barely pay two per cent. on the money invested. The following quotations illustrate this fact:—

Name of Company.	Amount paid up per share. Yen.	Market Price per share. Yen.
Meiji Seimei	100.00	1,900
Triokoku Seimei	12.50	246
Nippon Seimei	25.00	650
Aikoku Seimei	12.50	115
Toyo Kaijo	12.50	105

These extraordinary prices are mainly attributable to the fact that the scrip of insurance companies has proved itself the safest form of investment and holders are so unwilling to sell that there is practically no market price. At present there are ten applications for permission to establish new insurance companies, and four of them have been sanctioned.

JAPAN is again the subject of an attractive play in Paris. At the Odéon, M. Paul Anthelm's *L'Honneur Japonais* deals with the past, long before European civilisation made its impress. It contains examples of barbaric virtues, and the traditional indifference to death when "honour" is concerned. The piece is well mounted and ably interpreted.

THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL.

SPEECHES OF MINISTERS.

The State Council sat at Peking on the 13th instant, when the Minister-President, H. E. Tang Shao-i, and all the other Ministers of State, excepting Chao, the Minister of Home Affairs, attended. The strangers' gallery was packed to its fullest capacity. According to a dispatch in the *Tokyo Asahi*, H. E. Tang Shao-i gave an outline of the administrative policy in a speech lasting for an hour. The Minister-President emphasized the necessity of separating military affairs from the civil administration. The cost of the recent revolution had laid a heavy burden on the nation, and the Government had in view the disbandment of the troops to decrease the war expenditure. The strict neutrality maintained by the foreign Powers had rendered the organization of the Chinese Republic possible. In regard to the reform of the currency, the Minister declared that the Government intended to engage the services of a Dutch adviser and also to abolish the Bank of China, creating adequate public and private Banks for the readjustment of the finances. A Department of Commerce and Industry as well as one of Agriculture and Forestry, had been created for developing practical business. In conclusion the Minister-President referred to the outstanding loans and said that the Government had no alternative but to raise a foreign loan to tide over the present financial crisis, but the Government would certainly not accept any terms which were deemed detrimental to China's suzerainty. The Government would raise funds by national subscription if necessary. The funds immediately needed comprised 1,250,000 *taels* for readjustment of administration, 2,000,000 *taels* for military expenditure in Nanking and 1,000,000 *taels* for military expenditure in Peking.

H. E. Hsuing Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, spoke for nearly an hour and a half on the subject of finance. In the course of his speech he said that China was now on the verge of bankruptcy. As a result of the revolution each province had proclaimed its administrative and financial independence, so that the Central Government had no revenue at all. The Southern provinces, which were rich, could afford to stand independent in the matter of finance, but it was otherwise in North China. The unification of finance was thus an urgent necessity. The deficit in the Budget last year was estimated at 75 million *taels*, but it now stood at about 150 million *taels*, owing to the increase in the interest payable on foreign loans and to the war expenditure, coupled with a decrease in the tax revenue consequent on the revolution. Besides, extraordinary expenditure, amounting to about 130 million *taels*, was needed for the disbandment of the troops and the establishment of the new Government. The deficit this year was calculated to reach about 270 million *taels*. The measures of relief consisted of the disbandment of the troops to decrease the war expenditure, the establishment of national and private banks to give an impetus to the development of commerce and industry, the unification of the currency system to fix the standard currency and issue subsidiary paper money, the readjustment of the tax system, including the abolition of *likin*, raising of the Customs tariff, inauguration of a stamp duty, increase

of the sake, land and silk taxes, establishment of a tobacco monopoly and readjustment of the salt tax, with a view to increasing the national revenue. There would also be a regulation of the national and local taxes to give precedence to the national taxes, the appointment of auditors to remove the existing evils, and the issue of domestic loans. The Minister further declared that the Government was unable to frame the Budget pending the arrival of reports on the provincial finances, but made no reference to the foreign loan.

General Tsuan, Minister of War, stated that the Government intended to disband about one half of the present soldiers, but the method of disbandment was still under consideration. The Minister also briefly referred to the contemplated enforcement of the conscript system and the manufacture of arms.

Tsai Yuan-pei, Minister of Education, and Lin, Minister of the Navy, also spoke.

Sung Chiao-jen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, who spoke next, said that the Government would protect and encourage agricultural and forestry enterprises, by raising foreign loans to meet the expenditure. The Minister emphatically asserted that there was no danger in the investment of foreign capital in productive enterprises.

Wang, Minister of Justice, emphasized the necessity of the independence of judicial functions and inviolability of personal rights. He also dwelt at some length on the necessity of the adoption of the jury system and on prison improvement.

The Minister of Communications explained that the Government would devote its energy to the restoration of the means of communication, either destroyed or damaged during the revolutionary disturbances.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry dwelt on the necessity of adopting a protective policy, in order to foster domestic commerce and industry with a view to driving foreign articles from the Chinese market. The Minister also advocated the codification of the Commercial Law and the encouragement of the formation of commercial companies to develop the national resources. He expressed himself strongly in opposition to the foreign loans, which he described as detrimental to the interests of the State.

The speeches of the Ministers of State produced a profound impression on the councillors. After the speeches were over, a great many questions were raised by the councillors, but as the time was then advanced, the Chairman allowed only a few questions to be put, and then announced the session closed at 3 o'clock. After the close a conversation was held at which an apparently rather animated debate took place on the administrative policy outlined by the Ministers of State.

PROPOSED TOKYO EXHIBITION.

With reference to the scheme of holding a Grand Exhibition, mooted by the Tokyo Municipality, it is reported that the matter is making steady progress at the hands of the Exhibition Committee of the Municipal Council, who are now in correspondence with the Government, as well as the Tokyo Prefectural Government, on the scheme. The Committee is negotiating with the Government with a view to obtaining an unconditional cession of 160,000 *tsubo* of land on the Aoyama parade ground for the

purposes of the Exhibition. After the close of the Exhibition the Municipality proposes to make a public park, covering 80,000 *tsubo*, and to dispose of the remaining 80,000 *tsubo* in order to appropriate the proceeds to the cost of the Exhibition. At the same time, the Municipality is approaching the Tokyo Prefectural Government for the defrayal of 1,000,000 *yen* towards the cost, which is estimated at 5,000,000 *yen*. It is proposed to make the Exhibition nominally a private undertaking, so as to avoid all troublesome legal procedure, while as a matter of fact holding it as a joint undertaking of the local government and the Municipality, the Chamber of Commerce and other commercial bodies being allowed to participate. It is, nevertheless, thought difficult for the local government to furnish 1,000,000 *yen* for the purpose. A section of the Municipal Councillors think that the Exhibition should be held in 1917 by the Municipality at an estimated cost of 5,000,000 *yen*, which can be made good with the proceeds of the sale of 70,000 *tsubo* of land estimated at 2,000,000 *yen*, and the sale of tickets etc., estimated to reach 2,000,000 *yen*, together with a Municipal outlay of 1,000,000 *yen*. This section advocates that as soon as the concession of the Aoyama Parade Ground has been obtained, the matter should be put to the Municipal Council and the work of construction of the Exhibition buildings commenced from this fiscal year. It remains doubtful, however, whether the Government will grant an unconditional concession of the land, and thus the future of the scheme seems rather doubtful.

THE DISCOVERY OF A TYPHOID SERUM.

The report of the discovery by Professor Metchnikoff and Dr. Alcock of a typhoid serum is much commented upon. Dr. Miura is credited with having stated that if the serum be effective it would prove a boon to physicians. A pupil of the celebrated bacteriologist, Dr. Koch, first discovered that the typhoid bacilli had toxin elements in themselves, but it was left to the famous Dr. Chantemesse to make a practical application of the serum treatment to typhoid patients, when the death rate was reduced from 17 to 43 per cent. The matter had long been studied in the Bacteriological Institute in Tokyo and an anti-typhoid serum is on sale. The anti-typhoid serum discovered by Professor Metchnikoff is on the principle known as passive immunisation, that is inoculation with a neutralizing serum obtained from a horse. In case of diphtheria or tetanus the bacilli that circulate in the blood cause a poison, so that the diseases are curable if the poison be neutralized; but it is very difficult to cure typhoid by serum treatment because the typhoid bacilli are themselves poisonous. The treatment of typhoid patients in vogue is to regulate the diet so as to protect the affected portion of the intestines and leave the disease to follow its natural course.

Dr. Miura stated he had never tested Dr. Chantemesse's serum, so he could pronounce no opinion on it. The Japanese-made typhoid serum was sometime efficacious, but sometimes otherwise, and physicians did not attach importance to the serum treatment of typhoid. The new anti-typhoid serum will prove a great boon to mankind if it is as efficacious as the anti-diphtheria or anti-tetanus serums.

CONDITIONS OF TRADE IN CHINA.

Mr. Takeuchi, Managing Director of the China-Japan Steamship Company, who has just returned home from a tour of inspection in the Yangtze Valley, is quoted as saying that the Shanghai-Ningpo railway began to run sleeping cars since last month; and on travelling by the train he was surprised to see the radical change in the Chinese passengers since the Revolution. Prior to the Revolution, Chinese passengers were seldom seen in the first-class cars, but this time he was surprised to see all the sleeping compartments occupied by Chinese passengers. Their dress also had undergone a transformation, as they were all in fashionable foreign attire. Their incomes have not increased since the revolution, and this extravagance may be due to a consciousness of their superior position consequent on the revolution, and therefore of a necessity for altering their method of living. At present there are some thirty-six dealers in hats in Shanghai. Formerly cheap straw hats, ranging between 60 *sen* and one *yen*, were most in demand, but now more costly ones, sold at 3 *yen* to 9 *yen*, command a ready sale. In view of the radical alteration in the method of living, the imports must continue to exceed the exports in China's trade.

The civil commotion at one time threatened to paralyze the money market in Shanghai, but a normal tone has been restored through the liberal measures adopted by the foreign banks in their dealings with Chinese customers.

A scheme was mooted for rebuilding the town of Hankow, but the land-owners are raising strong opposition to the scheme, lest they might thereby lose a portion of their property. It remains doubtful whether the scheme will succeed, even if a loan is raised.

The Hankow merchants are now carrying on their business in temporary buildings and are limiting themselves to cash transactions. Considerable time must elapse before the restoration of trade there. Some merchants laid in enormous stocks on speculation and made a large profit. Speculation is rife and the steam ships arriving at Hankow from Shanghai bring large quantities of merchandise, which the merchants are unable to take delivery of. The warehouses of the steamship companies are, therefore, packed with merchandise. The cotton yarns under contract for August or September delivery are said to reach an enormous amount.

The construction of the Tsin-Pu railway is nearly completed, there remaining only the Hwang river to be bridged over. Freight rates are not yet scheduled, but the southern line is unofficially opened to traffic, two or three trains being run per day. This has caused a great increase in the transportation of goods between Nanking and Shanghai. It was first conjectured that on the opening of the railway the major part of the Shanghai traffic would shift to Tsingtao, and its present prosperity suffer a relapse, but it is thought more economical to transport the products of the districts on the north of the Yellow river to the Gulf of Pechili by way of canal than transport them to Tsingtao by train. As to the products in the districts on the south of the river, the canal trade has for centuries past been monopolized by Chingkiang, so that the merchandise will continue to reach the banks of the Yangtze,

irrespective of whether they be carried there by railway or canal. Excepting the goods shipped at Tsingtao direct for Europe, all the merchandise has to be re-shipped at Shanghai for transport abroad. A belief has therefore begun to obtain that the German railway enterprise must end in failure.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that the Belgian Syndicate has forwarded to Yuan Shih-kai's Government, through the Belgian Minister, the following memorial:—

The Belgian Syndicate should not be deprived of its legal rights of contract, whether the Six Powers loan come into existence or not. The Syndicate is composed of Belgian, English and French bankers, and is represented by the Belgian-Chinese Bank in Peking. The one million sterling loan is a political loan to the central and local governments, as specified in the memorandum of the loan contract, and is not an economic loan. By the loan contract, the first lien on the Peking Changkiakau railway is clearly vested in the Syndicate, which has also acquired, by virtue of the said contract, the right of priority in accepting a loan for half a million sterling. On signing the contract, the Vice-Minister of Finance declared that he had the authority of President Yuan Shih-kai, and Sun Yat-sen, President of the Nanking Government, with the approval of the State Council. The Belgian loan thus came into existence with the concurrence of the Peking and Nanking Governments. The contract is, therefore, perfectly legal. The Four Powers Syndicate has, nevertheless, raised a protest against the loan and has thus complicated matters.

In conclusion the Memorial asserts that the Syndicate will in no way tolerate any change in the railway security, and considers that it has a rightful claim for participation in the Six Powers loan, when the historical relation of Belgian investments in China is considered.

THE CHIHLI PROVISIONAL LOAN.

With reference to the ramoured Chihli provisional loan, a Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* further reports that prior to the declaration of the adoption of a Republican polity, Magistrate Chen of that province tried to raise a loan from the British and German banks to relieve the financial distress in Tientsin, but the negotiations fell through. The Magistrate then approached an Austrian firm with a proposal for a loan, and the negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion on January 14th last. The loan is for 2,400,000 *taels*, carrying 6 per cent. interest, and is redeemable in five years, the net proceeds being 95. The contract was duly signed, but the loan was, nevertheless, suspended, owing to strong opposition on the part of the Provincial Assembly. Another loan of 6,000,000 *taels* was afterwards concluded with the foreign firm on the same terms. The loan is in reality a German loan, to be undertaken by the German Bank. In view of the loan partaking of the nature of a political and economic loan, it still remains to be seen whether Yuan Shih-kai will give official approval since it is calculated to provoke the resentment of the Six Powers Syndicate.

THE EXCESS OF IMPORTS.

Reviewing the foreign trade for the past four months, a responsible Government authority states that the excess of imports up to May 10th this year reached a total of 93,633,000 *yen*, the highest reached in recent years, as the following statistics indicate:—

	Yen.
1907	54,343,000
1908	76,880,000
1909	25,404,000
1910	15,981,000
1911	62,318,001
1912	93,633,000

Of the imports, cotton headed the list to the value of about 120 million *yen*, which shows an increase by about 40 million *yen* over the average year. Amongst other articles showing a radical increase in imports are wool, which increased by over 2,000,000 *yen*, phosphoric ore and bean-cake by about 1,500,000 *yen*, pig iron by about 2,000,000 *yen*, bar and sheet iron by about 6,000,000 *yen*, iron tubs and pipes by about 500,000 *yen*, and machinery by about 1,000,000 *yen*, making a total of about 53,000,000 *yen*. The import of cotton will not last long, while the increase in the import of wool is also temporary. Though there is no prospect of a decrease in the import of bean-cake, phosphoric ore and other fertilizers, the increase is due to the development of agricultural enterprise. There is also no prospect of a decrease in the import of iron. Iron had heretofore been imported in the form of warships and arms, so that the import does not show any marked increase this year. Subtracting the 53 million *yen* shown above from the total excess of imports—93,633,000 *yen*, the excess shown up to May 10th does not materially differ from the excess recorded for the same period every year. Moreover the foreign trade usually shows an excess of imports in the first half of the year, the exports beginning to exceed the imports in the latter six months, as shown by the statistics cited under:—

Excess of exports.

	Yen.
1907	6,259,000
1908	26,963,000
1909	46,431,000
1910	22,906,000
1911	38,109,000

The heavy excess of imports witnessed up to date may be balanced to a certain extent by the excess of exports in the latter half of the year, so that it seems probable that the excess of imports this year will be lower than that recorded for last year, when they amounted to 66,000,000 *yen*.

MONOPOLY BUSINESS.

Mr. Hamaguchi, Director of the Monopoly Bureau, is quoted as saying that the result of the monopoly business last fiscal year was satisfactory, the revenue, it is calculated, exceeding the budget by about two million *yen*, and amounting altogether to about 63,340,000 *yen*.

The demand for cigars and cigarettes has somewhat decreased, but there has been an increased demand for cut tobacco. The demand for salt was unusually brisk last year, and the sale totalled about 1,140 million *kin*, the highest ever reached. Great developments in celluloid industry have radically increased the demand for camphor, and the sale greatly exceeded the estimate.

ARREST OF RICE SPECULATORS.

The Government has at last decided to bring the law into motion for putting a stop to corner operations on the Rice market, and a general crusade has been started against speculators. Altogether 37 members of the Fukagawa Rice Exchange and others interested in the operations have been arrested up to date, the charge preferred against them being contravention of the Exchange Law. The accused are being subjected to examination in the Metropolitan Police Bureau, on the accusation that they engaged in transactions on the fluctuation in the market price of rice without *bona-fide* purchase or sale, thus bringing themselves under the provisions of the Criminal Law against gambling. It is also stated that among the numerous business books seized are many pass books, wherein large amounts of transactions are entered but not duly stamped, this neglect constituting a violation of the Stamp Duty Law. Further developments are being watched with considerable interest. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is reported to have under contemplation the enforcement of adequate measures for removing the existing evils in the rice market.

ACTION OF THE AUTHORITIES.

With reference to the arrests of speculators in rice on the Fukagawa Rice market, reported in our last issue, we learn that the majority of those arrested have since been released pending further examination. The Metropolitan Police Bureau has made public to the representatives of Tokyo journals the nature of the charges against those arrested, from which it appears that the Fukagawa Rice-Merchants Guild is a sort of Exchange established in September, 1895. Since its inauguration the Guild has been dealing in ten and fifteen days' forwards, but these transactions were only nominal, and were done in order to take advantage of the fluctuation of prices in the interval, without making *bona-fide* purchases or sales. Almost all the members of the Guild have been engaged in corner operations to raise the price of rice in order to enrich themselves at the expense of the general public, more especially since the close of last year. These operations reached a climax on April 10th, when the rice nominally dealt with reached 219,000 bags, while the rice actually cleared did not exceed 20,000 bags. Matters were still worse on the 29th ult. when only 5,300 bags actually changed hands, whereas the rice dealt in reached a total of 263,000 bags. The Guild disregarded the warnings repeatedly given by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and continued to transact business without making *bona-fide* purchases or sales. The Bureau therefore decided to set the law in motion, and sent twenty detectives on the 9th instant, to order the production of the books and at the same time summoning all the members of the Guild, numbering thirty-seven. On examination the Bureau decided to criminally prosecute twenty-two members on charges of contravention of the Exchange Law and the committal of acts resembling gambling. The Bureau is aware that there are wire-pullers in the background and is determined to start a general prosecution against them.

After the drastic measures taken by the police authorities the operators on the Guild

assumed a desperate attitude and made extensive purchases to corner the market on the 10th instant, thereby forcing the price up over 20 *yen*. Besides, they declared a boycott of the rice known as "kuni-baku," directly imported to Tokyo from Soshu and other provinces, as the direct importation was calculated to render their corner operations futile.

The measures taken by the Police Bureau have caused consternation amongst the banks which have been granting accommodation to the operators, and they have begun to assume a cautious attitude in their dealings with rice-speculators.

The operators also subsequently stopped the sale of rice in the market to deal a blow to the bears, and the effect is already felt in the Rice Exchange, where the quotations for May delivery rose to 20.28 *yen* on the 10th instant, while the market price of 1st class cleaned rice rose to 28.40 *yen*.

The Police Bureau is evidently determined to push the prosecution to extremes in order to eradicate the existing evils, which are directly responsible for the abnormal increase in the price of rice now witnessed, and the measure is receiving the general endorsement of the public.

KEIO GRADUATION CEREMONY.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony at the Keio University on the 12th instant, Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that he was himself an old student of the institution and it gave him great pleasure to be present at that memorable function. The graduates were now about to plunge into the turbulent stream of life, in which they must keep themselves afloat. Practical life was harder than the life in the school rooms, and they must be prepared to apply themselves to their work with strong self-conviction and diligence. The secret of success lay in being sincere and faithful in all work. Those who are faithful to their work will surely succeed, while those who attach too much importance to themselves and neglect the work they have in hand will fail. They must have lofty aims and yet find no work too low for their hands. The times demanded faithful and capable men in all walks of life, and the students present should strive hard to meet the demand.

Mr. Kamada also delivered a brief address.

THE SUPERVISION OF CHINA'S FINANCES.

A Peking special to the *Chunwa* reports that Hsuing Chi-ling has refused to concede the supervisory right claimed by the Six Powers' Syndicate. The Syndicate is expected to notify the Minister of Finance that the right of supervision being of prime importance in a political loan, it can not consent to the cancellation of the clause. The extension of the supervision to the administrative expenditure is unavoidable, but the Syndicate will be pleased to revise the form of the supervision in order to accommodate China. Should China reject the demand, the political loan will not come into existence and the negotiations must end in failure. Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Hwang Hsing and Li Yuan-hung that there is no other means to tide over the financial crisis than raising the loan on the terms offered.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

The *Yorodau* is the authority for a report that Mr. Iwasa, chief of the Banking Department of the Oriental Development Company, has started a secret movement for raising a fund either by a loan or by the issue of debentures. The paid up capital of the Company amounts to 5,000,000 *yen*, of which 1,500,000 *yen* is invested in land, so that the available fund is limited to 3,500,000 *yen*, in addition to 5,500,000 *yen* borrowed from the Industrial Bank. The Company proposes to call up another instalment of the subscriptions to the extent of 2,500,000 *yen* on the 6th of next month, at the same time raising a large loan. The ostensible reason is that the available fund is hopelessly insufficient to meet the ever-increasing demand for the capitalization of the growing enterprises in Chosen, but in reality the Company has in view financing the Chosen Government. It may be remembered that the note-issuing power of the Bank of Chosen was some time ago increased, but it is still insufficient to meet the demand for all public works undertaken by the Government. An endeavour is therefore being made to extend the Banking Department of the Company, and to allow it to deposit its funds with the Bank of Chosen, thereby increasing the issuing power of the bank. There is no prospect of a successful issue in the home markets of the Company's debentures, nor is it likely that the Department of Finance will readily sanction any issue on the foreign markets. The Company will, therefore, have no alternative but to raise a fund by a temporary loan from the Industrial Bank. In the circumstances, the issue of Chosen works bonds is generally anticipated.

ELECTRIC CURRENT FROM GAS.

A SCHEME FOR OSAKA.

The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha is said to have under contemplation a scheme for supplying the city of Osaka with electric current generated from gas. Mr. Iida, of that firm, is quoted in this context as saying that while it is true that the firm has such a scheme under investigation, it is not yet sufficiently advanced for immediate execution. Japanese coal furnishes cheap fuel, and over 10 *yen* worth of ammonia can be obtained from each ton of coal consumed. This chemical can be manufactured with profit as a by-product only, and in view of the marked increase in the demand it would be profitable to produce it as a by-product in the generation of electric current from gas. For generating electric current from gas, such a city as Osaka, where electric current is in large demand and water-power little utilized, is eminently suited. The installation of an hydro-electric plant would cost between three and four hundred *yen* per horse-power, but for the production of electric power from gas the cost would be only 175 to 200 *yen* per horse-power. The working expenses are smaller in the production of electricity from water-power than in the case of gas, owing to the constant consumption of coal. This drawback can, nevertheless, be made good by the sale of the ammonia produced as a by-product. This new venture will no doubt claim the attention of the public in future.

THE INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES.

It is stated that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been in negotiation with the representative of the shipping conference in Kobe concerning the restriction imposed by the Government on the proposed increase of freight rates on the European service, but the negotiations do not yet seem to have come to a conclusion owing to the difference of views between the parties concerned. In view of the time having arrived for the enforcement of the increase in the freight rates on the outward voyage, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been compelled to ask for a postponement of the enforcement of the increase until the negotiations have been settled. This proposal has been referred to the head office of the Shipping Conference in London. No answer has yet been received. The Kobe representative of the Conference is stated to have consented to the postponement, but in return asked for certain concessions on the part of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha regarding the restriction, and thus a hitch has been created. The Yusen Kaisha has decided to levy the old rates in the meantime. All the shipping companies in the conference are said to show indifference to the proposed increase, except the P. & O. S. N. Company. A belief obtains that the P. & O. Company will have to choose between enforcement of the increase of freight rates from the specified date, that is the 15th instant, or the continuation of the negotiations on the said restriction, consenting to the postponement in the meantime.

It is reported that the shipping conference in London has wired to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha agreeing to the postponement until July 1st of the enforcement of the increase of freight on the European lines, which was to come into force from the 15th instant.

With reference to the proposed increase of freight on the Pacific lines it is stated that the attitude of the Japanese steamship companies is undecided and that they do not seem to agree to the proposal. Some of the foreign steamship companies are reported to have decided to take independent action, and Messrs Butterfield and Swire, agents for the Blue Funnel line, have notified the Shipping Conference of its decision to withdraw from membership.

MANCHESTER AND EASTERN ASIA.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* has a telegram from London to the effect that the *Manchester Guardian* recommends Sir Edward Grey to state clearly whether Russia and Japan have formulated any demands with respect to special interests in Mongolia or Manchuria. Of course this must be taken as indicating that the Liberal Organ suspects that Japan and Russia have adopted such a course, and all things considered, there is not much reason to be surprised that suspicions of that nature should be entertained. We may take it for granted, however, that the subject has already received the fullest consideration in St. Petersburg, London and Tokyo. Practically everybody recognizes that Russia and Japan have special rights in the regions indicated, though to ask for an explicit statement of those rights might be exceedingly unwise. There are some things which diplomacy wisely refrains from dragging prematurely into the light of day.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

Inasmuch as there exists some misapprehension in Europe regarding the organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank, Dr. Soyeda is to proceed to England and Germany, after the conclusion of the inauguration of the Bank in Paris, in order to dispel any misunderstanding. An apprehension existed even amongst French bankers, that the interests of the Indo-China Bank in the Straits Settlements would clash with those of the new Franco-Japanese Bank, but that anxiety has been removed, as it has been decided to limit the sphere of business operations of the new Bank exclusively to Japan and China. It has also been further arranged that the new Bank will enter into consultation with the Indo-China Bank, even in its Chinese enterprises, when there is any possibility of the interests of the two banks clashing.

It appears that considerable misunderstanding was caused in France by statements made in Japanese journals to the effect that the first transaction of the Franco-Japanese Bank would be to finance Japan's share of the Chinese loan. This news caused the Bank to become unpopular in French eyes, but fortunately Mr. Soyeda's arrival in Paris enabled him to remove the false impression and it is now stated that arrangements for establishing the Bank are on the verge of completion.

THE SIX POWERS LOAN.

A Peking special to the *Chungwa* reports that the loan negotiations came to a successful conclusion on the 15th instant, and the Six Powers Syndicate has received from London an instruction to pay to the Chinese Government 6,400,000 taels in advance for the April instalment.

Three delegates will be chosen by the Six Powers Syndicate for the supervision of China's finances. It is expected that delegates will be selected by Great Britain, France and Japan. Mr. Odagiri of the Specie Bank will be chosen as a delegate.

Hsuing Chi-ling, minister of Finance, paid a visit to the Japanese Legation to tender thanks for the friendly assistance rendered China in connexion with the loan.

A Shanghai dispatch to the same journal reports that strong opposition has been raised in Nanking against the loan, Hwang Hsing taking the lead. A great demonstration is being arranged. The military men have organized the Patriotic Association with Hwang Hsing as a leader, and they threaten to make Central China the basis of operations. Tsen Chunhsuan has also organized a National Party in opposition to the loan.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Her Majesty the Empress has presented a sum of 100,000 yen to the Red Cross Society on the occasion of the meeting now being held in the United States of America. This beneficent donation is to be employed for the ordinary work of the Society.

Baron Kikuchi has resigned his position as President of the Kyoto University and has accepted the post of Privy Councillor. Of course as a mere question of official promotion, this means a great deal to Baron

Kikuchi; but the loss to the Kyoto University is irreparable.

During the first half of last fiscal year there were apprehensions that the State revenue would fall considerably below the estimates, but fortunately things mended thereafter, and it is now apparent that the revenue actually collected will exceed the estimate by from 4 to 5 million yen.

The *Seoul Press* writes as follows:—

The proprietors of a Siamese newspaper have distributed handbills containing the following notice: "The news of English we tell the Wit in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder get commit, we hear of latest and tell it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it. and borders of somber. Staff has each one been colloged, and write like the Kipling and the Dickens. We circle every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it. Buy it. Tell each of you its gretness for good. Ready on Friday, Number first."

Various economic causes are driving women in Japan to seek employment, and the sphere of their activity is now so widened as to encroach on that of men. The female population in Tokyo now reaches 752,000 in round figures, says the *Chugai Shogyo*, of whom 191,000 are engaged in one or other occupation. When classified according to the nature of their work, maidservants head the list with 59,000, dressmakers come next with 26,000, and shop assistants third with 24,200. Bar and hotel-maids number about 20,000, while teachers and those engaged in other professions number 14,500. The women employed in this and other work form 30 per cent. of the total number of workers, male and female. The majority of the women workers are unmarried women and widows, their ages ranging between 15 and 60.

Mr. Murota, President of the Hokkaido Colliery Company, who recently returned from a visit to the Yubari coal mine, states that the pit where the disastrous explosion occurred on the 29th ult. is still closed, as the fire has not yet been extinguished. Altogether 106 bodies had been recovered up to the 9th instant. As a first step towards relief, the sum of 40 yen has been paid to each bereaved family and the Company is ready to pay 160 yen more per family. The output of the mine has suffered a decrease by 300 or 350 tons a day on account of the explosion. The direct loss was estimated at about 100,000 yen, which swallows up all the net profit for the present business period, while it is calculated to reach some 400,000 yen when indirect losses are added.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce made public on the 9th instant the expenditure for the encouragement of local industries for the present fiscal year, the total being 11,246,692 yen, showing an increase of 1,839,278 yen as compared with last year's budget. The nature and amount of the expenditure are as under:—Agriculture, 3,797,588 yen; sericulture, 2,283,593 yen; tea planting, 29,090 yen; marine products, 826,976 yen; cattle breeding 711,755 yen; forestry 1,620,408 yen; commerce and industry, 1,171,481 yen; meteorological observatories, 268,035 yen; local competitive exhibitions, 301,348 yen; compilation of reports and Statistics, 24,032 yen; others, 210,366 yen.

According to the latest official investigations the outstanding local municipal bonds reached a total of 175,412,215 yen at the

end of 1911, showing an increase of 16,950,903 yen over the preceding year, as shown below:—*Fu* bonds, 1,873,055 yen; *Ken* bonds, 27,879,624 yen; *Gun* bonds, 1,378,353 yen; city bonds, 129,620,628 yen; ward bonds, 2,066,667 yen; town bonds, 4,103,657 yen; village bonds, 3,605,219 yen; local guild bonds, 4,885,133 yen. The above statistics exclude loans for which official approval is not required, which also amount to a considerable sum.

The balance, amounting to 18 million yen, of the Tokyo Municipal loan was paid in London and Paris on the 9th instant. The proceeds will be deposited with the Deposit Bureau of the Department of Finance to the credit of the Municipality, 5 per cent. interest being paid thereon.

Over 1,200 pupils of Dr. Tamba, Professor of Pharmacy in the Tokyo Imperial University, gave a dinner at the Seiyoken restaurant in Ueno Park on Saturday evening last, to commemorate the Professor's twenty-five years public service in the cause of pharmaceutical education in the University. Amongst the invited guests present were Count Okura and Ogimachi, Baron Dr. Kato, Baron Tsuji, Baron Hamano, President of the University, and 350 well-known persons in educational circles. A pair of silver vases and other articles were presented to Dr. Tamba, and numerous congratulatory addresses were read; Count Okura also delivered a congratulatory speech.

According to investigations of the Home Office there have already been 31 cases of contravention of the Election Law throughout the country, the persons prosecuted for the offence numbering 321 in all. When classified according to the political parties the result is as under:—

	Number of cases.	Prisoners prosecuted.
Seiyukai	10	140
Popular Party	8	91
Central Club	3	44
Independents	7	49

Chinese woollen merchants in Tientsin are of opinion that the woollen cloth, mainly for soldiers uniforms, imported from Germany and Japan, is of almost the same quality. The German goods are somewhat cheaper, but Japanese manufacturers are ready to reduce the price to the German level. Whereas it takes about 50 days to order the goods from Germany, it takes only some ten days to get them from Japan, and it would naturally seem that it is more convenient to order the goods from this country, except for the fact that the Japanese manufacturers cannot execute any large orders promptly. On the other hand, the German manufacturers are ready to promptly execute any order by a stipulated date. The Chinese merchants are therefore compelled to buy from Germany despite the drawback of the long time taken in transportation. The remark also holds good of all other articles.

It is announced that a further extension will be given to the business transacted under the *furikae-chokin* system. Henceforth it will be possible to transact all business relating to the purchase of public-loan bonds through the agency of the post offices, without any charge whatever. This means that a not unimportant branch of banking functions will be placed entirely in the hands of the post offices. The only

advantage remaining to the banks will be that post offices will not accept cheques, but will require ready money payments. This new development is going into operation on the 20th instant. How it will be regarded by the banks remains to be seen.

Official investigations conducted by the Nippon Ginko into the prices of 56 staple articles ruling in the market in April show that prices have risen in the case of twenty articles and have fallen in fourteen articles, while twenty-two articles remained unchanged. As compared with March, prices thus show an increase of .92 per cent.

The Railway Authorities are at length awakening to the fact that there is room for improvement in their rolling stock. They have devised what are to be called *tembōsha*, which word signifies "carriage for viewing a distant prospect." Trial has already been made and the new carriages will be placed on the lines from the 25th instant. The fare is to be 20 per cent. more than that for an ordinary first class carriage.

A Peking special to the *Chuwo* reports that the Electric Light Company, which possesses the licence for the construction of an electric tramway in the city, has concluded with a German firm a contract for a loan of one million *taels* on hypothecation of the tramway licence and the control of the tramway business. The President of the Company publicly announced that official approval has been obtained to the loan contract. This announcement has startled British, American and French merchants. It remains doubtful, however, whether the loan will come into actual existence, because the so called privileges in China have no legal effect; and also because the Peking Municipal Council has in view the municipalization of the tramways.

A presentation of awards by the Imperial Academy took place on the 12th instant, in the presence of the Ministers of the Imperial Household and Education, the recipients being Drs. Ariga, Fujikawa, Hirase, Ikono and Takamine. Drs. Takahashi, Otsuka, Iijima and Ozawa explained the nature of the meritorious services in the cause of science rendered by the recipients and the awards, which consisted of a medal and 1,000 yen, were presented by Baron Kikuchi, President of the Academy. The ceremony was attended by over two hundred persons.

Statements are circulated in Tokyo to the effect that a difficulty has arisen in negotiating the revised treaty between Japan and Italy. Nobody imagined that the task would involve any special effort, and it was handed over by the Katsura Cabinet to the Saionji Cabinet without any uneasiness, but Italy is said to have shown herself notably obdurate and, at present, the prospect of a satisfactory revision has not come in sight. In fact, it is predicted that a considerable time must elapse before the questions at issue are decided.

It is said that the losses suffered by Japanese property at Nanking from the outbreak of the insurrection in October last to the restoration of peace, aggregate 100,000 yen. Out of this aggregate, claims to the extent of 30,000 have already been investigated. The figures are unexpectedly small, especially when it is noted that they include compensa-

tion to twenty Japanese subjects who were in Chinese employ at the time of the outbreak. Of course the bills from other places may greatly swell the total, but according to present appearances there will not be any feature of extortion on the Japanese side.

A project is on foot to form a land company with a capital of 3½ million yen in a suburb of Tokyo. The idea is to purchase 700,000 *tsubo* between the rivers Tsurumi and Rokugō. Out of this, a canal would be dug to a width of 60 yards for the sake of providing facilities of communication, and the remaining space would be devoted to sites for factories and workmen's houses.

Messrs. Mishima and Kanaguri left Tokyo on Friday afternoon for Sweden, to take part in the Olympic Games to be held in Stockholm, as representing Japanese athletes. They are to travel by the Siberian railway. Mr. Mishima is a law student of the Tokyo Imperial University, and Mr. Kanaguri, a student of the Higher Normal School.

General Tiel Liang arrived at Kobe from Dairen by the *Tainan Maru* on the 15th instant, accompanied by Mr. Yokoyama of South Manchuria Railway Company, and put up at the Mikado Hotel. The General is travelling under an assumed name, ostensibly to recuperate his health, but presumably to escape the danger of assassination. Great precautions are being taken by the visitor and all interviews are refused. It is stated that on arrival at Kobe he refused to land in a steam launch with other passengers. According to Mr. Yokoyama, the General will stay in Kobe for some time and his present visit has no political significance. The General has no acquaintance with Kwan Yu-wei and Liang Chi-chao, but is on intimate terms with Sheng Huan-huai and Chang Ming chii.

A scheme is on foot for the construction of a canal between Tsurumi and Kawasaki to facilitate the traffic between Yokohama and Tokyo. The promoters propose to form a company with a capital of 3,500,000 yen, to purchase about 700,000 *tsubo* of land lying between Tsurumi and Kawasaki and to cut a canal connecting the lower course of the Rokugo and Tsurumi rivers. The canal is to be 180 feet wide and both banks are to be reclaimed to the extent of about 600,000 *tsubo*. On the completion of the necessary investigations, the prospectus will be issued.

From Dairen comes news that the South Manchuria Railway Company has under contemplation building a 20,000 ton sailing vessel equipped with a subsidiary steam engine, for the purpose of transporting Wushu Coal to South America. On completion, the coal will be carried to Peru to start with.

Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has telegraphed to Minister Sato at the Hague an instruction to convey to the Danish Government a message of its most profound condolence over the demise of H.M. the late King of Denmark.

BARON IWASAKI gave a dinner on Wednesday at his villa at Fukagawa to Vice-Admiral Winsloe, Commander-in-Chief of the British China Squadron, now at anchor in Yokohama Bay, and his staff. Invitations were extended to Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Admiral Saito, Minister of the Navy, General Ijima and others,

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 19.)

A SPECIAL committee appointed by the International Bible Student's Association, visited the Far East last summer to investigate certain questions in regard to Christian Missions. The Committee visited Japan, China, the Philippines, and parts of India, and the result of its investigations, which has now been presented to the Association, forms an elaborate report. The questions which the Committee was asked to answer were of a rather *naïve* character, showing remarkable absence of knowledge as to the conditions in the East and the character of the nations residing there. The Association also made a free but probably innocent use of the word "heathen"—an objectionable term, since it means nearly an uneducated or uncivilised people, and is therefore inapplicable to nations whose civilisation is different in kind and not in degree to that of the West, and altogether showed a degree of provincialism which one would not have expected from an international association. The report of the Committee, turning as it does on these questions, is thus made to appear a more damaging statement than it would otherwise have been, since the very *naïveté* displayed in the questions lays them open to censure, if not ridicule. To the first question, "Are foreign missions conducted along Christian business lines?" the Committee answers, Yes, with the *proviso* that these terms are taken by it in the sense in which they are generally understood. The second question referred to the success of the methods employed in reaching the people and bringing them to Christianity, and to this the Committee's reply is unsatisfactory. It says:—

The success attained by Missionaries in the past is very small. We found Oriental Christians about as sincere, intelligent, and earnest as the average of Church attendants in America and Europe; and, as there, very few who gave evidence of being consecrated to God and His service.

But viewing the question from the standpoint of the present and future rather than the past, our report is different. The present methods cannot be called successful; Christianising endeavours seem pretty generally to have ceased! Present missionary endeavours are almost exclusively along the lines of secular education. Although this is not Christianising work, it is, of course, a good work; for the poor Orientals surely need education.

In your Committee's opinion, however, there is less need for Academic and Collegiate education, such as the Missionaries forward, than for Common Schooling. The Oriental, after obtaining higher education, is spoilt for the common affairs of life about him, and aspires only to teaching, clerkship, and office-holding, which are over-supplied. Unable to get such employment, he is in trouble. He will not dig, and to beg he is ashamed. The general Common School education, your Committee believes, could best be done by the Government, and along unsectarian lines, after the method followed by the United States of America in its supervision of the Philippine Islands. Christians, of course, would be the best for teachers.

Obviously this answer does not refer to Japan, whose common school education is as thorough as that in the United States. It would thus appear that as far as Japan

is concerned the report of the Committee on this question is not very helpful.

As to the teachings and inducements to accept Christianity, and the permanence of the results, the Committee is equally pessimistic. It says:—

There are evidences of positive teachings in the past, but there is very little religious teaching now being done, because the people would resent it, and keep their children from the schools. We heard of instances where a small coin per day was given to each child attending school; but aside from schooling, the inducements offered by Missionaries are chiefly social and medical.

Of late the natives are more and more averse to a public acceptance of Christianity, because with increasing intelligence come doubts. The tendency of the times in the Orient, as in the Occident, is towards *unbelief in any religion*. If a Missionary falls from faith in the Bible—into "Higher-Criticism-Infidelity"—he may continue his office and profession. But the Orientals have no such inducements to profess outwardly what they no longer believe (except native teachers). Besides, these Orientals are very *honest* in respect to their religious professions, except where spoilt by contact with the hypocrisy of the whites.

Here again the Committee seems to have China more in its mind than Japan, since any aversion to a public acceptance of Christianity is unknown in Japan, where many prominent men profess the faith. The concluding remark in the answer, it may be noted, is a tribute to the tolerance of Far Eastern nations, since it admits that the absence of outward observance of religious professions does not involve any loss of respect, as is often the case in the West. The answer to the next question is even more definite on this point. The question referred to the attitude towards missionaries and Christianity, and the Committee, in answer, state:—

The Orientals are remarkably tolerant of all religions. They are often perplexed at the Missionary competition and opposition of Christian denominations. The higher castes consider the medley of Christian doctrines presented to them less philosophical than their own. Their own, however, they confess is not satisfactory, but before exchanging for another they want to know that the change will be for the better. The common conception that all the people of India, China, and Japan are *heathen savages* is very erroneous. Their upper classes, or castes, include some splendid characters of truly noble manhood, the moral and intellectual peers of Europeans and Americans. Indeed, the masses of these peoples are less vicious and less rude; more kind and considerate than are the masses of Europe and America. Drunkenness and outward immodesty are almost unknown amongst the Orientals.

This is a very significant answer, which should do some good in opening the eyes of the International Bible Students' Association. Evidently the implication is that the Committee came to the East prepared to find all the people of India, China and Japan "heathen savages," and it can only be concluded that this idea was derived from the Bible Student's Association itself. If an international organisation of special workers can hold such views, what must be the views of the mass of the people who contribute towards its support, since they have even less opportunity of getting at the facts?

In regard to changes in the teaching which would render the mission work more successful, the Committee expresses equally strong opinions of a doctrinal character. It says:—

The great change necessary to make Missionary work more successful is for the Missionaries to have and to impart to the people a more logical gospel. To preach to the millions of the Orient that God fore-ordained them to ignorance of the true religion, and condemned all the generations of their forefathers on account of that ignorance to an eternity of torture, is not logical, not loving, not just, not gospel at all, when we remember that the word means "Good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." They would thus be much more successful in reaching the hearts of those they would serve.

Although the doctrine of the Trinity corresponds considerably with the teachings of the Hindu religion, it is nevertheless difficult for those of other religions fully to accept it. They cannot understand the matter of three Gods in one person, as some put it; or three persons in one God, as others put it, and there is a simplicity and honesty about these people that is commendable, and which refuses to confess that which they cannot understand. The message of Messiah's coming Kingdom, in which God's will shall be done on earth even as it is done in heaven, would, we believe, appeal to large and increasing numbers of Orientals.

The hope of the conversion of the world during this present generation through the Laymen's Foreign Missionary Movement, with their proposed thirty million dollars, is, of course, dismissed as absurd.

No one who knows anything of Oriental conditions would have the least expectation of the world's conversion during this generation through the use of the thirty million dollars proposed. Nor indeed if the sum were a thousand times that.

The Committee, however, does not discourage the giving of money for missions, although some of the advantages it thinks will be derived from such benevolence appear rather doubtful. Thus it says that "every million spent benevolently in Oriental lands will help to bring in the more extravagant civilisation of the West. It will increase the wants of the natives (*sic*), and thus promote commerce." As the extravagant civilisation of the West is not exactly a commodity which Japan, at any rate, desires to see introduced, this alleged advantage might cause her to regard missionary efforts somewhat coldly. It is possible, however, that the Committee is here indulging in a little sarcasm, for it goes on to state that "vital Christianity" is not purchasable and also makes the significant admission that it is a question "whether Western civilisation will really be of advantage to the East."

The Orientals—economical and industrious, are also contented, which cannot be said of their more favoured brethren of the West. Nor can we claim that our Western civilisation would make them more honest or more truthful.

The very suggestion of the conversion of the world is ridiculous to the peoples of the East—including the Missionaries. One Methodist minister frankly said: "I had to come here and see for myself, before I dropped the idea of the world's conversion, and the associated idea that all unconverted will suffer endless torture."

The answer to the last question, as to the extent of the benefit derived by the "heathen" from the money donated to missions, is that the money seems to be wisely enough used for the intended purposes, although there is some waste in the machinery of collection.

In some general remarks at the conclusion of the report, the Committee says it has nothing to suggest—except that the true gospel of salvation be preached. If it has

nothing to suggest, however, it has a good deal to imply, as this summary of the report shows. It is a courageous and honest document, even if it is, according to the heading given it in the copy sent to us, "A damaging report."

AN APPRECIATION OF JAPAN'S LOYALTY.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 16.)

AN interesting letter has been sent to the *London Morning Post* by that journal's Tokyo correspondent, but it is a letter compiled from very questionable materials. The correspondent writes as follows:—

It is safe to say that Japan has but little confidence in the President of the new Republic. There is a widespread conviction among the Japanese that Yuan Shih-kai from the first secretly furthered the cause of the Revolutionists while ostensibly pretending to be considering the interests of the Imperial House. It is said that certain Chinese who know the inside of national politics declare that Yuan for some time looked to revolution as the only hope of his recall from exile, and that when the revolution broke out, and the first call to him came from Peking, he was much surprised, as he expected it to come from the revolutionary side. At any rate, Japan regards him as a monument of disloyalty and duplicity, and a dangerous example to some of the more aggressive and erratic politicians of Nippon. Indeed, it is remarkable what an effect the revolution seems to have had on the Japanese mind. The teaching of Japanese history and national education has been that revolution is of the devil, and can in no case be regarded as consistent with loyalty. But since the success of the outbreak in China the Japanese Press has been filled with articles and opinions on the utility of revolution, and the good accomplished by the revolutions of European and American history. One of the leading periodicals has devoted a single number wholly to the history and importance of the revolutions that have taken place abroad. A resident of Japan cannot but be astonished at the equanimity with which such sympathy with revolution has been received. Of course, official circles are silent. The least expression of opinion favouring Socialism and the like is at once visited with disapproval and, if necessary, punishment. The apprehension that the revolution in China has had a disturbing and inimical effect on Oriental political ideas is confirmed in the Japanese mind by the recent conspiracy unearthed in Siam, where an attempt was being made to overthrow the reigning house and establish a Republic.

Now the result of all this on the Japanese mind has led to most interesting tactics. They have come to the conclusion that in the national system of education there is somehow a lack of moral motif, and that a reformation must be brought about. To find how the more enlightened nations, like England and the United States, manage to preserve their balance in the face of Socialism and anarchy, Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, recently made a tour of investigation in those countries, and the Vice-Minister has returned with a conviction that Anglo-Saxon ideas of religion have much to do with the loyalty of British and American civilisation. Consequently, the impossible has happened. The Japanese authorities have called a conference of the leading teachers of religion in Japan, embracing representatives of Buddhism, Shintoism, and Christianity to consult with them as to the best means of promoting the moral and patriotic ideals of the Empire. Not least among the results of the conference is the already apparent good feeling excited among the representatives of the various religions and their followers. Indeed, some of the religious leaders appear to have been strongly impregnated with the Government idea that in essence all religions are one. The Vice-Minister of Home Affairs believes that there can be no Japanese loyalty without spirituality, and faith in unseen forces; and he contends that without religion this is impossible. It will be at once seen that this is a very frank attitude for the representative of a Government to assume, and certainly interesting in the light of Japan's past indifference to the subject. Most people regard the new move in favour of religion as directly the outcome of the Anarchist plot. It was well known that Kotoku wrote a book, before his execution, in which he ridiculed religious faith, and especially aspersed what he considered

the superstitions of Christianity. . . . This whole new movement that is going to have so vital an effect on Japanese civilization is the outcome of the spirit of revolution, first in Japan, and later in China, which has profoundly affected the whole Japanese people, and led the Government to take its present stand in favour of a more spiritual conception of morality and national weal.

Judging from the tone of the Japanese press, we are compelled to admit the truth of the above correspondent's assertion that Japan has little confidence in the President of the new Chinese Republic. But this distrust is not of recent growth. It dates from the days, some thirty years ago, when YUAN, representing China at the Court of Korea, resorted to every possible device in the cause of Peking's policy—the buffer State policy, which, while repudiating all direct responsibility for Korea's doings, nevertheless manoeuvred unceasingly to defeat Japan's programme of asserting the independence of the Peninsula. It is true that YUAN, in thus acting, obeyed the instructions of his immediate chief, Viceroy Li; but in Japan's eyes he figured as the agent of a most objectionable system. Thus he earned his first unpopularity. Then followed the KANG YU-WEI episode, when YUAN betrayed the confidence reposed in him by the Reform Party and won for himself throughout the East the stigma of treachery. Here again he may have acted in strict conformity with what he counted the interests of his country, but Japan, while admitting the untimely nature of KANG's programme, had no hesitation in condemning YUAN's perfidy. Surely it is strange to be told that with such a record behind him, YUAN waited for a call to lead a party which he had deliberately betrayed a few years previously. Very much stranger, however, is the analysis of Japan's sentiment as set forth by the *Morning Post's* correspondent. He tells his readers that while "the teaching of Japanese history and national education has been that revolution is of the devil, and can in no case be regarded as consistent with loyalty, yet since the success of the outbreak in China the Japanese Press has been filled with articles and opinions on the utility of revolution and the good accomplished by the revolutions of American and European history." It would scarcely be possible to misrepresent the sentiment of Japan more flagrantly. No such articles nor any such opinion has ever found a way into Japanese newspapers. Not one Japanese journal—we make the assertion in its strictest sense—has published so much as one paragraph expressing sympathy with revolutions or approval of their utility. The surprise is, not that a foreign resident of Japan must have been "astonished at the equanimity with which such sympathy with revolution has been received," but that any one living in Japan should have been so grossly, so egregiously misled as to the contents of Japanese journals and the trend of Japanese

thought. The same wholesale denial may be extended to the view which the correspondent of the *Morning Post* takes of the religious conference recently held in Tokyo under official auspices. He represents Japanese statesmen as seeking to discover a religion which may serve for a pillar of loyalty, and he alleges that the object of the journey recently made to the West by the Vice-Minister of Home Affairs was to find how the more enlightened nations, like England and the United States, manage to preserve their balance in the face of socialism and anarchy. To any one possessing even a rudimentary knowledge of the relations existing between the *Shinto* cult and Japanese Imperialism, it will be found exquisitely comical that Japan should go to the Occident in search of a creed to add another buttress to the *Mikado's* Throne.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 10.

The market yesterday opened strong, all shares rallying until Spinnings came up for bidding, when the tone began to collapse.

Saturday, May 11.

The market on Saturday last was characterized by general dullness, but the tone recovered considerably towards the close.

Monday, May 13.

The market yesterday opened strong as a reaction from continued dullness, all sources rallying considerably. The tone, however, slightly collapsed towards the close of the session.

Tuesday, May 14.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness throughout the session, the shares generally moving down in prices.

Wednesday, May 15.

The market yesterday opened rather weak, all shares moving down in quotations. The tone continued dull and weak throughout the session.

Thursday, May 16.

The market yesterday showed an improved tone, but shares were quoted rather low, business being at a deadlock towards the close of the session. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

May 15th. May 16th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—	—	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	115.30	115.15	—	.15
Toyo Kisen.....	47.25	47.20	—	.05
Specie Bank.....	—	—	—	—
Tanko Kisen.....	21.15	21.20	—	.05
Tokyo Gas.....	—	—	—	—
Tokyo Dento.....	71.00	—	—	—
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	9.60	9.20	—	.60
Tokyo Spinning.....	52.65	—	—	—
Kanagatachi Spinning.....	110.95	111.00	—	.05
Beer.....	—	—	—	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	64.40	64.75	—	.30
Nippon Oil.....	—	—	—	—
Rice Exchange.....	107.00	108.00	—	1.00
Stock Exchange.....	156.40	156.05	—	.35

LIEUT.-GENERAL UEHARA, Minister of the Army, gives a dinner on Thursday afternoon at the Koraku-en Garden to the Commander-in-Chief of the French Far Eastern Squadron. The British Ambassador, Admiral Saito, the Minister of the Navy, and thirty other high officials of the Department of the Navy will also be present.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

GERMAN TROOPS FOR HANKOW.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAM.)

Shanghai, May 9

The *Titanica*, which left Tsingtao on the 7th instant, has on board about 50 German soldiers destined for Hankow.

SWATOW QUIET.

Shanghai, May 9.

The town of Swatow is pacific since the departure of Lin's army.

NANKING WAR-NOTES.

Nanking, May 10.

The war-notes issued in Nanking have suddenly been thrown out of circulation. The Nanking authorities are in consternation and have forthwith applied to the Peking Government for a remittance.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the public opposition to the Six Powers loan continues as strong as ever. The Government is making efforts to modify the terms of the supervisory rights so that they will not affect the national honour, and is in negotiation with a view to obtaining 6,400,000 *taels* in advance before the 15th instant, another 3,000,000 *taels* on June 10th, and a further advance of 6,400,000 *taels* on August 15th; these advances being incorporated into a large loan in September next. The negotiations bid fair to be successful.

The State Council sat *in camera*, when Hsuing Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, explained the loan and the supervisory rights clause. The loan Bill was adopted by the Council by a majority of 5 votes. The Minister of Finance was to meet the representatives of the Six Powers Syndicate on the 10th instant.

LOCAL LOANS.

A Peking special to the *Chuwo* reports that all the provinces contemplate raising foreign loans to relieve the financial distress. A German firm in Tientsin, who is acting as sole agent for an Austrian rifle-manufacturing firm, is negotiating a loan of 1,000,000 *taels* (net proceeds 800,000 *taels*) conditional to the concession of the privilege of supplying China with all the arms that she may need in future. The Shanghai Magistracy is also making endeavours to raise 2,000,000 *taels* from the firm, hypothecating the salt, tea and sake taxes for the loan, and it is reported that the approval of Yuan Shih-kai has been obtained, though the report is officially denied by the Department of Finance. Honan province is in negotiation with the Anglo-Chinese Syndicate for a loan of 3,000,000 *taels* on the security of the mines in that province, while the negotiations between Kwantung province and the Standard Oil Company for a loan of 5,000,000 *taels* is nearing consummation. The various provinces are thus bent on raising independent loans.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, May 11.

The Chinese prefect in Yaonanfu has recently received from the Russian Consul at Harbin a telegraphic communication, informing him that Russia has concluded with the Mongolian princes an agreement relating to the use of a certain tract of land in Yaonan

and has dispatched a small number of Russian troops for its protection. The Consul asks that this action should not be misconstrued by the Chinese authorities.

KILIN AND AMUR.

Peking, May 11.

The provinces of Kilin and Amur have petitioned the Government to be hereafter placed under the direct supervision of the Central Government, instead of being under the control of Magistrate Chao of the Three Eastern provinces.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

Peking, May 11.

Yuan Shih-kai has asked Li Yuan-hung's consent to the proposed appointment of Lan Tien-wei as the Chief of the General Staff. Lan Tien-wei is well received in military circles.

STUDENTS AND QUEUES.

Peking, May 11.

The Minister of Education has issued to the students of all the public schools an instruction, ordering them to forthwith cut off their queues. Delinquents will be punished with expulsion.

CHINA AND THIBET.

Hankow, May 11.

Li Yuan-hung has suggested to Yuan Shih-kai that a magistracy shall be established in Thibet and a large army trained to guard the frontier districts. Also that attempts be made to spread education and to improve religion, and that railways be laid and mines worked.

ENVOY TO SZCHUAN.

Hankow, May 11.

Chang Chen-wu has been sent to Szchuan from Wuchang as an envoy to convey to the people of that province the President's Message and to induce them to own allegiance to the Republic.

ATTEMPTED LOOTING AT TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, May 12.

At 8 p.m. last evening a report was received that the Chinese police, etc. had started looting in the Chinese town, and at about 11 o'clock about 100 Chinese soldiers were seen assembled in the neighbourhood of Hinhiaochao, when an exodus of the citizens began to take place. About half an hour later, rifle reports were incessantly heard in the direction of the new railway station, where looting was commenced. Applications for assistance were received by the Japanese authorities from various quarters. At 1 o'clock on the following morning, the soldiers and policemen of the various foreign Powers were detailed throughout the town. The disturbance was started by the Chinese policemen in collusion with the soldiers stationed at Hankiashu, for the purpose of plunder, but it failed to assume any large proportions as the foreign troops were called out and detailed with alacrity. The situation is now quiet.

TROUBLE IN SHENGKING.

Kinchow, May 11.

A few days ago, about 1,000 soldiers broke out in revolt at Chaoyang, a town 25 Chinese *li* to the north-west of Kinchow in Shengkung province. Over 1,000 infantry and artillery have been dispatched there by trains from Kaiping and Shanhaikwan.

RUMOUR AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, May 12.

A rumour is rife that the Royalists intend

to effect an entrance into the city. A strict search is being enforced on all steamers arriving at the port.

GERMAN TROOPS AT HANKOW.

Hankow, May 12.

Fifty German soldiers arrived at Hankow on the 12th instant by the *Titanica*.

HANYANG IRON WORKS.

Hankow, May 12.

The Wuchang Military Government is in negotiation with the Belgian Syndicate for raising a loan of 30 million *taels* for the readjustment of the Hanyang Iron Works.

ALLEGED ASSASSINATION OF A MINISTER.

Hankow, May 13.

According to a Nanchang telegram, the Minister of Home Affairs has been assassinated by Hu Keng, an official in Hukan, at a certain Magistracy. Internal trouble is feared.

THE TROUBLE AT TIENTSIN.

Tientsin, May 14.

In view of the rumours circulated in the town since the 10th instant of a probable mutiny among the troops, many Chinese have taken refuge in the settlement. The false rumour originated in the dispatch of troops from Hankiashun to Chaoyang to suppress a revolt there. The people mistook this as a march of troops on Tientsin and a false alarm was raised. At the same time several soldiers belonging to the troops stationed in Hankiashun arrived in the town to instigate the guards of the Magistrate's *yamen* to mutiny. The police, who had received information of the plot, reported it to their superiors, whereupon a large number of police were detailed at important places along the route between Hankiashun and Tientsin to prepare for emergencies. The plot was thus nipped in the bud.

At about 10 p.m. on the 11th instant rifle reports were heard in the neighbourhood of the Magistrate's *yamen*, causing great consternation amongst the public. In the subsequent inquiry, it was discovered that the police force had a plot to start a riot that evening, acting in collusion with the guards of the *yamen*, in order to plunder the Mint and also to attack a rival section of police. The rifle reports were the signal for the uprising, but the plot was not executed owing to some internal trouble. Immediately after the rifle reports were heard, Magistrate Chang set out for the inspection of the town, despite the remonstrances of the Commander of the guards, and safely returned to the *yamen* some hours afterwards. This action was the cause whereby the plot was frustrated.

REVOLT IN SHANSI.

Chefoo, May 13.

According to a Shansi dispatch, a large number of Royalists in Shansi have combined with the Mahomedans in the advocacy of the preservation of the Manchu dynasty and are trying to incite the people to revolt. They are gaining great influence.

HU YING.

Peking, May 14.

Yuan Shih-kai has appointed Hu Ying, formerly Magistrate of Shantung province, as the chief commissioner in Hsinking and Tsinghai.

THE YUNNAN TROOPS.

Peking, May 14.

The Yunnan soldiers who were in Hsichow returned to Yunnan on the 10th instant where they were enthusiastically received.

PROPERTY AT PORT ARTHUR AND DALNY.

Yesterday's issue of the Official Gazette publishes the Private Property Readjustment Regulations promulgated by the Governor-General of Kwantung Province, which go into force on and after July 1st next.

The regulations provide that owners of land and buildings on the right bank of the Lungho at Port Arthur and in the old Russian leased-area at Port Arthur and Dairen, whose ownership has not yet been confirmed, may apply, within six months of the date of operation of these regulations, to the Governor-General for confirmation of ownership. The unclaimed property will be sold by public auction, and the highest bidder will acquire the ownership of the property. The proceeds of the sale will be paid over to the original owner or to any person who can afterwards establish their claims to the property, minus the expenses incurred in the sale. In the event of no rightful claimants appearing during the period of five years following the public sale, the money will go to the Government.

MUSICAL COMEDY AT THE GAIETY.

SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE BY THE HUGHES COMPANY.

At the Gaiety on Friday evening the Hughes Musical Comedy Co. opened a short season by presenting "The Speculators" before a crowded house. Yokohama is not often favoured with visits from professional companies, and, but for the local amateurs, would be badly off for entertainments. It is therefore not surprising that the Hughes Company met with great applause,—applause which was moreover well deserved.

"The Speculators" turns upon the financial transactions of a gentleman "looking for an investment" and the situations into which he is led in the pursuit provoke some excellent humour. The plot, however, as in most musical comedies nowadays, is not of the kind to bear analysis, being merely a convenient peg on which to hang jokes, songs, dances, etc., which, as the object is to amuse everybody, is only right. Mr. Paul Stanhope as "Mike Bloom," and Mr. Bert Le Blanc as "Dennis Blossom," the "gentleman looking for an investment," were the leading characters among the male performers and kept the house in roars of laughter. "Mike Bloom," it may be mentioned, was the other "Speculator," though of a different type from "Dennis Blossom." Mr. B. C. Lydston, as the Broker, also played his part cap'tally, and the songs in which he took part with the "Speculators" brought down the house.

Turning to the ladies, Madame Pearl Lloyd, as the discarded sweetheart of the Broker, had an opportunity to display the powers of song which have earned for her the title of the "Californian Nightingale." Her voice is powerful and sweet, and was fully appreciated by the audience, judging by the encores. Miss Pearl Hickman, who took the part of a stenographer, showed something new in dancing, of which the audience could hardly have enough. Miss Fritzee de Guy, the Broker's wife, and Miss Birdena Hughes, as the office boy, also did well. The chorus of pretty girls must also not be forgotten, who looked their best in innumerable changes of pretty dresses.

Altogether the Company may be said to have made a great success, and there can be no doubt that their two remaining performances will be equally well patronised.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of May 10th, state:—

Owing to the rumour of the lowering of the Bank of England Discount rate by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the morning market opened active and prices were somewhat firm. Yokohama Trams, New, advanced 70 *sen*, Yusen 60 *sen*, Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electrics 1.15 *yen*, Goto Woollens 55 *sen*, and others 5/20 *sen*, but when Exchange shares came up the tone suddenly deteriorated through renewed "Bearish" movements; the Old declined 50 *sen* and New 1.35 *yen*.

In the afternoon, the tone again became weak, business being scarce owing to the approaching General Election on the 15th inst. and prices declined all round fractionally, with the exception of Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electrics, which again advanced 65 *sen* and Goto Woollens 15 *sen*. Exchanges Old fell 50 *sen*, but New remained unchanged.

Yesterday, 26,710 shares changed hands.

May 13.

This morning, although transactions were limited, the tone was active, the most noteworthy being Naikoku Tsuun (Express Co.) New 2.20 *yen*, and Anglo-Jap. Hyd. Electrics 3.90 *yen*, in consequence of the "Bears" being caught napping. Spinnings were in demand, especially Kanegafuchi which rose 1.85 *yen* and 1.05 *yen* for Old and New, owing to the rumour that a 14 per cent. Dividend will be declared. Exchange shares were stagnant; Old declined 70 *sen*, and New advanced 45 *sen*.

The depressed tone of Exchange shares affected all other shares, and the afternoon Session was weak and inactive and prices fluctuated, the only notable changes being the decline of "Naikoku Tsuun" (Express Co.) by 1.95 *yen* and 2.25 *yen* for Old and New, and the rise of Anglo-Jap. Hyd. Electrics by 1.30. Exchange shares were again weak, the Old rose 20 *sen* and New fell 1 *yen*.

Transactions on the Rice Exchange market have been temporarily suspended.

On Saturday, 17,330 shares changed hands.

May 14.

The morning market opened dull and inactive and lasted barely one hour, owing to the inertia of both Bull and Bear operators. Prices declined all round, even the Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electrics, the latest bid, fell 1.65 *yen*. Spinnings were weak and dropped 10/25 *sen*, likewise Sugars 10/25 *sen*. Exchange shares Old and New fell 1.65 *yen* and 80 *sen* respectively, in sympathy with the sluggish tone of the market.

In the afternoon the same conditions prevailed, with the exception of woollens, which rose 40/60 *sen*; others fluctuated within narrow limits. Exchange shares again declined 70 *sen* and 1.00 *yen* for Old and New.

Yesterday, 29,330 shares changed hands.

May 15.

As the thoughts of operators are still engrossed with the coming General Elections business was dull on change this morning and prices receded slightly there being no momentous changes to report. Exchange shares, Old, fell 60 *sen*, and New rose 30 *sen*. The afternoon Session was again inactive and shares fluctuated fractionally, the only notable exception being Naikoku Tsuun (Express Co.) which gained *yen* 3.00 for New. Towards the end of the market, the tone somewhat improved and Exchanges advanced 60 *sen* for Old and *yen* 1.10 for New.

Yesterday, 19,270 shares changed hands.

May 16.

The morning Session opened somewhat active, although the tone was far from strong; the shares most in demand were Spinnings, Woollens, and Muslins, which rose 20/50 *sen*; Exchange shares were sluggish; the Old gained 60 *sen*, but the New fell 90 *sen*.

The afternoon market was particularly dull; transactions were on a small scale, and prices stationary, the whole business being over in an

hour. Exchange shares were again weak, the Old fell 95 *sen*, New rose 20 *sen*.

Yesterday 16,120 shares were transacted.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES IN YOKOHAMA.

A portion of the British China Squadron, consisting of H.B.M.S.'s *Defence*, *Monmouth*, *Newcastle* and *Kent*, dropped anchor in Yokohama Bay on Sunday morning. The Admiral in command, Vice-Admiral Alfred L. Winsloe, C.V.O., C.M.G., is flying his flag on the first class cruiser *Defence*, a vessel of 14,600 tons.

In the afternoon — about three o'clock, Rear-Admiral de Castries, of the French cruiser *Dupleix*, made an official call on his English confrere on the *Defence* and on leaving after a short stay, received the Admiral's salute of 13 guns. An hour later, Admiral Winsloe returned the call and on leaving the French cruiser was also honoured with a similar salute.

The usual exchange of visits took place on Monday morning. Mr. J. Carey Hall, H.B.M.'s Consul-General, accompanied by Mr. O. White, the Vice-Consul, went out to meet the Admiral of the Squadron. Shortly afterwards, the Admiral and his senior officers paid a visit to shore and called on the Governor and the Mayor of Yokohama. Within a very brief period, His Excellency the Governor, attended by his private official staff, went out to H.M.S. *Defence* and stayed there for tiffin.

The Commander-in-Chief of the British China Squadron now in port and the Captains of the four cruisers are evidently thinking kindly of the small Britishers in Yokohama. On Friday afternoon, the boy scouts of the city, in the charge of Mr. Clarence Griffin, visited H.M.S. *Monmouth* and were duly escorted over the warship and had one of the great times of their lives. On Friday afternoon, the British girls were invited to a similar pleasure on the flagship, the *Defence*; the steam launches to carry the fair young ladies being timed to leave the Hatoba at 4.30 prompt. We trust the midshipmen of the vessels gallantly played the part of gentle courtiers as their Elizabethan predecessors did.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

The Nishin Kisen Kaisha held its general meeting on Monday afternoon, when the following accounts were passed:—

	Yen.
Brought forward from last account	216,877.36
Profit for Current Term	154,242.51
Legal Reserve	7,712.13
Dividend (6 per cent.)	243,000.00
Bonus	7,712.13
Carried Forward	112,695.61

The Kyushu Colliery Steamship Company will hold its annual general meeting on the 29th inst. when the following profit and loss account will be submitted:—

	Yen.
Income	343,652.67
Expenditure	249,654.50
Net Profit	94,098.16
Brought forward from last account	10,166.13
Legal Reserve	4,800.00
Special Reserve	9,500.00
Bonus	9,400.00
Dividend (7 per cent.)	70,000.00
Carried Forward	10,561.29

A general meeting of the shareholders of Luna Park will take place at Yogyoji Temple, Asakusa, on the 27th inst., when after the reading of reports for the month of April, the following accounts will be discussed:—

	Yen.
Net Profit	12,004
Legal Reserve	650
Fire Insurance Reserve	1,300
Redemption Fund	870
Bonus (15 per cent.)	9,375
Carried Forward	709

FIRES.

A FOREIGNER'S HOUSE DESTROYED.

A fire broke out at 8.30 on Sunday morning at 204 Bluff, occupied by Mr. J. McClure. The official report states that the brigade, consisting of the 1st, 7th, and 8th companies, was in attendance but suffered from lack of water, with the result that the main building was quite destroyed, only the servants' quarters being saved. Two hand-pumps for hydrants were used and as usual, the pressure for the hydrants on the Bluff was nil. To take the heavy hand-drawn steam engine from the Settlement up the steep hills to the Bluff is out of the question, and unless some drastic innovation is brought about by the authorities, a great fire may occur on the Bluff some day that will horrify the foreign residents. The blame will not rest on the shoulders of the Brigade, for they do the best possible with the poor implements at their disposal. A powerful motor-engine that can work from the sea-front and the canals, together with a light steamer for the Bluff, is an urgent necessity.

At about eleven on Saturday night last, a fire occurred at a house at Kure occupied by a Warrant Officer on the warship *Yodo*, resulting in the total destruction of eleven houses. Some casualties are reported.

On Sunday morning at half past ten, a fire broke out in a warehouse at Nagoya Station. A strong wind happened to be blowing, and as the godown contained paper, mineral oil, wax oil, coal tar and such like inflammable goods, a big blaze resulted. The fire spread in all directions, and when the fire brigades, as well as the 5th Company despatched from the 6th Regiment, appeared on the scene, another warehouse covering some 225 *tsubo* was already well alight. The fire was brought under control about noon. No casualties are reported, but the loss is rather heavy. The official residences of the Station Master and other railway officers were partly damaged, but documents and other important articles were all saved. The cause of the outbreak is suspected to have been carelessness on the part of one of the porters.

In a fire which occurred on Monday afternoon at Shin Osaka-machi, Nihombashi, two houses were completely destroyed, while three were partly damaged. The cause of the outbreak is uncertain.

On Wednesday evening about six o'clock, fire broke out in the ironfoundry at Ogawamachi, Ushigome. The flames rapidly enveloped the building, and found their way to a large lodging-house standing behind the factory. The collapse of the boarding house influenced the power of the flames and the fire was not brought under control until about seven o'clock, when some 15 houses had been destroyed or partly damaged. The cause of the outbreak is suspected to have been incendiarism.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA TENNIS.

The following are the results of the Tokyo-Yokohama Tennis matches played at the bluff Gardens on Saturday:—

Tokyo.	I. ROUND	Yokohama.
Condict	... 2 sets. v. Chapman	... 1 set.
Brinkley	... 2 sets. v. Carr	... 1 set.
Yamazaki	... 2 sets. v. Van R. Smith	... 1 set.
Azabuki	... 2 sets. v. Stephens	... 1 set.
Kawasaki	... 3 sets. v. Bastin	... 0 set.
Kuredo	... 3 sets. v. Schlumpeter	... 0 set.
Piggott	... 1 set. v. Cox	... 2 sets.
Tanaka	... 1 set. v. Stuart	... 2 sets.
II. ROUND.		
Condict	... 3 sets. v. Van R. Smith	... 0 set.
Brinkley	... 3 sets. v. Stephens	... 0 set.
Yamazaki	... 3 sets. v. Chapman	... 0 set.
Azabuki	... 3 sets. v. Carr	... 0 set.
Kawasaki	... 3 sets. v. Cox	... 0 set.
Kuredo	... 3 sets. v. Stuart	... 0 set.
Piggott	... 1 set. v. Bastin	... 2 sets.
Tanaka	... 1 set. v. Schlumpeter	... 2 sets.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PRESTON "CHRONICLE" CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL,"
Sir,—I learn that after more than a year's delay since the order was obtained from the Court, the lawyers of Mr. W. T. H. Preston, the late Canadian Commissioner of Trade, have sent an advertisement to the newspapers purporting to be an apology to Mr. Preston from me. I shall be glad if you will permit me to state that the use of my name is quite unauthorised. No such apology has been signed by me, nor have I even been asked to sign any document of such a nature.

I am, yours truly,

ROBERT YOUNG,
Editor, *Japan Chronicle*.

Kobe, May 11th, 1912.

"THE KOREAN CANARD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL,"
Sir,—I am under great obligations to you for your reply to my inquiries under date of April 23rd. It had not occurred to me that in your editorial entitled "The Korean Canard" your indignant denials were intended only to apply to the charge that the Japanese Government was attempting to extirpate Christianity. In that respect I am satisfied that you are right. I have never for a moment thought, and do not now believe, that the Japanese authorities have any animosity towards Christianity in Korea as such. On the other hand, I do not wonder at the fact that such conclusions have been drawn from the manner in which the arrests in this case were made. When large numbers of persons are arrested without any one knowing what for, the public mind will seek a reason; and since the only prominent point to connect the prisoners with each other was apparently their religion, the inference was naturally, although mistakenly, drawn that this was the cause of their arrest. Thus it is quite unnecessary to trace these reports to malicious slander. Mistaken I am sure the inference was; unreasonable it was not.

However, it was not this phase of the question, as you term it, but the other, the reported harsh treatment of men arrested on suspicion, that caused my anxiety, an anxiety that is not much relieved by the explanations you were kind enough to furnish. I enumerated four allegations against the conduct of the Japanese police in Korea which had been made to me by travellers. They were that men were arrested without the prisoners themselves or their friends having any information of the charge against them, that they were detained for long periods without trial or opportunity of defence, that they were examined through interpreters without any means of knowing whether their statements were correctly rendered, and that they were tortured to elicit confessions. In reply you say that the first three allegations rest solely upon the testimony of the "incriminated parties." Allow me to point out that this is a mistake. When a man is torn from his home and hurried off to prison without any charge against him, then that fact need not be established merely by his own evidence; it is a matter of common knowledge in the community where it takes place. Also if he remains in prison for weeks and months his family and friends know it only too well. Statements as to his treatment while he is in prison rest, to be sure, upon his evidence, in the nature of the case. If his statements are summarily to be rejected on that score, how would the oppressed of any age or clime ever find sympathy or redress?

However, you must have read my letter somewhat hastily or you would have noticed that I referred to marks of torture on the bodies of released prisoners. Some of the men arrested on suspicion have been released because there was not sufficient "prima facie" evidence even to hold them for trial. It is these men to whom the American missionaries referred in their memorial to General Terauchi and of whom I spoke, quoting them as authority. These are innocent men, declared so by the Japanese authorities, men against whom even the breath of suspicion has been dissipated by the preliminary examination. What is there against them that their evidence should be discounted?

Recently light on this whole question has come from an unexpected source. I have received, by courtesy of the editor of the *Seoul Press*, a copy of that journal, dated May 4th, in which my letter is reproduced and commented on. After explaining that it was of importance to the Japanese police to observe the utmost secrecy in this case, the editor

says: "Naturally they refrained from informing the prisoners or their friends of the charge against them. As for long detention, the number of prisoners was so large and their cases were so complicated that it required a long time for the police to make preliminary examinations of them. In these examinations, of course, the prisoners are not publicly tried or allowed to have their cases defended by lawyers or friends." The editor also remarks: "To us it seems that in both cases there is nothing wrong on the part of the authorities concerned." We are also assured in your editorial that the preliminary trial of these men was conducted in strict accord with the rules of judicial procedure as observed in Japan. That may be true. I am in no position to deny it. But if it is true, then the facts thus admitted by the *Seoul Press* constitute a terrible indictment of the judicial system under which they are perfectly in order. Unhappy is the country where men may be arrested without any information as to the charge against them, and where they may be imprisoned for weeks and months, while the police—to use the sinister phrase of Bishop Harris—"elicit confessions by various methods."

So then, the first three allegations referred to above are true, if we may accept this statement of the *Seoul Press* as made upon sufficient information. He says nothing directly about the question of interpretation, but that follows naturally from the lack of counsel. There remains in doubt only the question of the use of torture. Concerning this you say that the Japanese authorities have denied it, and are entitled to have their denial treated with the same respect that would be accorded the denial of the authorities in any other country. Certainly, I agree with you fully. Are then charges against public officials in other countries, of the same nature, made by as respectable parties, backed by as serious evidence, dispelled by an official denial without public inquiry? Not in America by any means. Let me remind you that a body of highly respectable Americans resident in Korea, in the course of a public memorial to the Governor-General, have asserted that these charges against the Japanese police are made by released prisoners unconvicted and now unaccused of any crime, and that the said prisoners bear upon their bodies marks which can not well be explained upon any other ground than the truth of these charges.

Let me assure you that such charges, made by such persons in such a manner, supported by such proof, against police and prison officials in America would arouse a storm of indignation before which a mere official denial would count as nothing. The public would be satisfied with nothing less than a searching investigation, publicly conducted, leading either to the clearing of the officials concerned or to their exemplary punishment.

I write as a life-long friend of Japan and with the utmost earnestness when I say that this charge has placed the Japanese authorities in Korea on trial before the civilized world, and that this trial in which the Japanese officers of justice are the "incriminated parties" is one of infinitely more importance than that of the alleged conspirators. I do not say that the proof against them is conclusive. Far from it, all kinds of counter proof may be available. The American residents of Korea who presented that memorial may be in error as to the existence or nature of the marks in question, or they may be due to other causes. It is even abstractly possible that they were self-inflicted, with the malicious purpose of discrediting the Japanese administration of justice. It may be, for all I know, that this alleged evidence can be shown to be worthless, in other words, can be completely rebutted. In the meantime it can not be too earnestly pressed home to the attention of the Japanese people and Government alike that serious evidence has been presented by responsible persons and that this evidence stands until rebutted. If the Japanese authorities think it beneath their dignity to answer the charges, the case will go against them by default.

I must apologize for taking up so much of your valuable space. My plea is that this is a matter in which every lover of justice and every friend of Japan must be deeply interested.

Very sincerely yours, ALBERTUS PIETERS.
Osaka: May 8th, 1912.

PASSENGERS EXPECTED.

Per P. & O. steamer *Morea*, connecting with the steamer *Delta* at Colombo. From Marseilles April 26.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. F. Davis.

Per M.M. steamer *Nera*. From Marseilles, April 7.—To Yokohama: Mr. Yates, Mrs. Desmarers.

Per N.D.L. steamer *Deffinger*. From Genoa May 2.—To Yokohama:—Mr. R. Hager.

TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW.

KING GEORGE IN COMMAND.

EVOLUTIONS OF NAVAL AVIATORS.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

London, May 9.

King George has arrived at Weymouth, where he sailed through the saluting Fleet and boarded the *Neptune*, on which his Majesty's flag has been hoisted.

The visit is to inaugurate the reorganization of the Home Fleet.

The first, second, third and fifth battle-squadrons, value at seventy-five million pounds, are participating in the manoeuvres.

The new 13.5 in. guns were tested in the afternoon in a mimic battle.

The naval aviators made magnificent flights. Four, steering by the compass, picked up the Royal Yacht very easily.

Mr. Graham White was among the naval aviators and made some wonderful evolutions in the afternoon.

After that the fog interfered with the programme.

KING GEORGE IN A SUBMARINE.

London, May 10.

The King has been for a two miles' trip on a submarine, which was submerged part of the journey.

London, May 11.

A feature of the Weymouth review was the flight of the aviators, especially with the hydro-aeroplanes, which were most successful, whether rising from the land, or the water, or from a platform on the warships.

They are able to carry a ton in weight.

It is stated that King George is desirous of taking a trip on a hydro-aeroplane.

London, May 12.

There was brilliant sunshine yesterday at Weymouth when the King led the battleship squadron to the open sea where they began firing practice.

His Majesty afterwards congratulated the Commander of H.M.S. *Orion* on the splendid practice made by his gunners, who with the 13-inch guns registered 21 hits out of 28 shots fired at a range of 6,000 yards.

The squadrons when returning to harbour after seven hours at sea, were attacked by the submarine squadron.

Prominence is given to the feats of the airmen in the naval manoeuvres.

The King's interest in their performances is expected to give an impetus to air-scouting in the Navy.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, after the division on the Home Rule Bill, motored to Bournemouth at full speed and took a destroyer to Weymouth, where he was just in time to board H.M.S. *Hercules* as she was putting out to sea.

THE OCCUPATION OF RHODES.

London, May 9.

The Italians have captured the Vali of Rhodes and a number of Turks who were endeavouring to escape in boats.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, May 9.

The final returns from Maryland show that Colonel Roosevelt has won by a majority of one only, leaving the chances of

the presidential election as uncertain as before.

The campaign continues to be conducted with extreme heat.

There is a definite split into two Republican factions. Consequently it is not improbable that there will be two separate Conventions.

THE MINIMUM WAGE ACT.

London, May 9.

The South Wales District Board, with Lord St. Aldwyn as Chairman, has granted the underground labourers, under the Minimum Wage Act, an advance of three pence a day.

The men are dissatisfied and a conference of the Miners Federation has been summoned.

Mr. Hartshorn, the Welsh miner agent, predicts serious trouble as a result of the decision.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, May 10.

M. Virstaed, a Director of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, is coming to London to participate in the meeting of International Bankers concerned with the Chinese loan.

THE TRANS-PERSIAN RAILWAY.

London, May 10.

M. Raindre, formerly French Ambassador to Japan, has been elected President of the Société Etudes in connection with the Trans-Persian Railway.

THE BANK RATE.

London, May 10.

The discount rate of the Bank of England has been raised to 3 per cent.

MR. ASQUITH ON NAVAL SUPREMACY.

London, May 10.

Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, was one of the guests at the Bankers' dinner on the 8th inst.

In a speech, he said he had just returned from Weymouth, where he had been witnessing a spectacle that he supposed was unparalleled in the history of the world.

He believed that never had there been in the same space of water such an aggregation of implements of destruction.

While inspecting this enormous fleet, the thought could not but occur whether the time might not some day arrive when this gigantic expenditure would be diverted to more fruitful and fertilising channels.

The world knows the British Fleet is an instrument not of aggression but of defence.

"With the world in its present temper," continued Mr. Asquith, "we cannot neglect any means that will secure the maintenance of our supremacy,—our indisputable, invincible supremacy,—on the sea, which is the first fundamental condition, not only of the integrity of the Empire but of the life of the British people."

Mr. Asquith expressed satisfaction at the prosperity and stability of British banking institutions, which remained unaltered, the deposits in the Banks within forty years having risen by between four hundred and five hundred millions.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

London, May 10.

Count Wolff-Metterich, the German Ambassador to the Court of St. James, has resigned and his resignation has been accepted.

London, May 11.

It is now generally understood that Baron von Bieberstein will succeed Count Wolf-

metternich as German Ambassador to London.

THE HOME RULE BILL.

London, May 10.

The Home Rule Bill has passed its second reading by 372 to 271.

THE CHINESE IN THIBET.

London, May 11.

It is reliably reported that fighting at Lhasa has ceased, the Tibetans having failed to dislodge the Chinese from their strong positions.

They are now negotiating with the Chinese for their withdrawal to China *via* the Gyantse.

The Chinese are expected to agree, since the disorder in Western China renders early help from that direction unlikely.

THE "MORNING LEADER."

London, May 11.

The *Morning Leader*, the Radical newspaper, ceases publication to-day, being incorporated with the *Daily News*, which will henceforth be styled the *Daily News and Leader*.

NEW GUNS.

London, May 11.

Mr. Gledhill, of Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., speaking at the Iron and Steel Institute, said there were whispers of new eighteen inch guns weighing from 150 to 200 tons.

THE HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINE.

London, May 11.

The Hamburg-Amerika line announces an increase in its capital by twenty-five million mark.

THE GERMAN ARMY.

London, May 11.

The Reichstag has read a second time the Bill increasing the peace strength of the army.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO MALTA.

London, May 11.

The *Times* understands that Mr. Asquith will pay a visit to Malta at Whitsuntide, to meet Lord Kitchener.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY.

London, May 12.

The Budget Committee in the Reichstag has begun the debate on the Naval Bill.

Admiral von Tirpitz, the Naval Secretary, alluding to the strained relations between Britain and Germany last summer, while accepting Mr. Asquith's denial that Britain intended to attack Germany, declared that Britain undoubtedly made preparations on a not inconsiderable scale.

Although these preparations were unnecessary, they meant an intention to go to war.

Admiral von Tirpitz repeated his assertion that Germany's Navy was not of an aggressive character.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 12.

The work of removing the mines from the Dardanelles has been suspended on the plea of unfavourable weather.

The delay is disquieting shipping circles and making an impression in diplomatic quarters that Turkey is hurrying troops into Albania, where a revolt has broken out.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 13.

The clearing of the Dardanelles is pro-

gressing satisfactorily and is expected to be completed to-morrow.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER TO STOCKHOLM.

London, May 13.

The King of Sweden has received Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Minister.

WARSHIP IN COLLISION.

London, May 13.

There was a collision yesterday morning off Folkestone between H. M. S. *London* and the tramp steamer *Don Benito*.

The latter was badly damaged and had to be beached.

THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

London, May 13.

Baron Mersey has issued an award fixing the rates in Northumberland at 4s. 9d. for day workers and 5s. 6d. for piece-workers.

The award is generally approved and is compared with Lord St. Aldwyn's 4s. 6d. for day workers in South Wales.

THE BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW.

London, May 13.

The King at Weymouth, replying to an Address, expressed his untiring interest in the splendid service of the Navy and his pride and satisfaction in finding the high standard of its glorious past was maintained as securely as ever.

AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY.

London, May 13.

Sir George Reid, the Australian High Commissioner in London, has arrived at Berlin on an important mission to extend German-Australian commercial relations.

THE RUSSIAN MILITARY MANOEUVRES.

London, May 13.

An order has been issued by the Russian Minister of War in which it is mentioned that 42 infantrymen, who were "in advance of the guns," were wounded by shellfire at the recent manoeuvres.

THE FLOODS IN THE STATES.

London, May 14.

The outlook in Louisiana is improving, as the rain has ceased, though there is still some danger of the bursting of levees.

THE GERMAN NAVY BILL.

London, May 14.

The Reichstag has passed the Navy Bill unamended, the Socialists alone opposing the measure.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 14.

The Italians have surprised the Arabs at Tobruk, and driven them off, after killing over a hundred.

The Italian casualties were six.

The Italians have captured the islands of Kalimo, Lero and Patmos.

London, May 15.

The Italians are making extensive preparations for the administration of the captured islands, and have established a steamship service between Brindisi, Stannipalia, and Rhodes.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

London, May 14.

Herr Wangenheim, the German Minister at Athens, has been appointed Ambassador at Constantinople.

THE CHINESE IN THIBET.

London, May 14.

It is understood that the negotiations

between the Thibetans and Chinese at Lassa continue amicably and an early settlement is hoped.

The *Statesman's* (Calcutta) correspondent at Calimpong wires that all the Thibetan troops stationed at Gyangtse have been ordered to Lhassa, and the people living at Shigatse and Gyangtse have been summoned to serve in the defensive force to check the progress of the Chinese troops on the Khamba road.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 14.

The U.S. Presidential campaign is waxing hotter.

President Taft has publicly appealed for the women's votes in the Californian primaries to-morrow.

Such an appeal by a President is unprecedented.

The Democrats are delighted at the complete split among the Republicans.

London, May 15.

Colonel Roosevelt has opened his campaign in Ohio.

He declares that the fight is between the plain people and the bosses and the greatest since the death of Lincoln.

FIGHTING IN MEXICO.

London, May 14.

There has been a twelve-hour battle at Orenoco, in which 5,000 Mexican rebels and 5,000 Federal troops took part.

There were five hundred casualties on both sides.

The rebels have abandoned ten guns and much ammunition, and are retreating, burning the bridges behind them.

They are expected to make a stand at Escalon.

DUELLING IN GERMANY.

London, May 15.

The Reichstag has adopted a resolution aiming at the restriction of duelling in the Army, with the Socialist amendment that no officer is dismissible from the army for declining to accept a challenge.

Herr Ledebur, the Socialist, said that the Kaiser, although the supreme commander, was still at the lowest moral level, in rejecting duelling for himself and his family and forcing others to fight.

WAR CORRESPONDENT KILLED.

London, May 15.

Mr. Smallwood, the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* with the Turks, has been killed in a skirmish at Derna.

DEATH OF THE KING OF DENMARK.

London, May 15.

The King of Denmark died suddenly at an hotel in Hamburg last night.

The sudden death of His Majesty, King Frederick VIII. of Denmark at Hamburg on Tuesday evening last, will plunge the Royal and Imperial Courts of Europe and Britain into mourning. The cause of death is not officially announced, but it may be safely assumed that it was either due to an aneurism of the heart, or an attack of apoplexy. It appears from the telegrams to hand that His Majesty—quite unattended—was walking through one of the markets in Hamburg when he suddenly dropped to the ground unconscious. Every sympathy will be felt and extended to the dear Lady at home whom all Britishers love—Her Majesty Queen Alexandra. King Frederick was her elder brother, whilst her daughter, Queen Maud of Norway, is the wife of the late King's second son.

His late Majesty was noted for his *bonhomie*

and his simplicity of manners. He was also a fine scholar, a good soldier, and a patron of art, music, and letters. He is succeeded on the throne by his eldest son, Prince Christian. Both King George of Greece, and the Dowager Empress Marie of Russia, are brother and sister to the late King.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 15.

The first meeting of the bankers representing the Six Powers was held to-day at the offices of the British Chinese Corporation.

M. Verstraed, Director of the Russo-Asiatic Bank, has arrived in London to represent Russia.

He conferred immediately on his arrival with the Russian and Japanese Ambassadors.

M. Verstraed informed Reuter's correspondent that Russia had no political motives or aspirations beyond safeguarding her special interests in Mongolia and Western China.

All the Powers strongly felt that political control of the vast sums in contemplation should take precedence of the financial control. He held that it was most important that the Bankers should act on the decisions taken by the representatives of the Six Powers at Peking and co-operate with them.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS.

London, May 9.

A Turkish infantry regiment has suffered severely in an encounter in the Black Mountains with the Albanians.

Other tribes are greatly excited.

A report from Vienna says the Bulgarians are busily preparing their internal organisation, while outrages have occurred in Macedonia.

FURTHER TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

London, May 11.

The force of Moorish rebels which is threatening Fez has been driven back by the French troops, but has not been dispersed.

Further operations will be necessary.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, May 11.

On the Stock Exchange, Japanese bonds are steadily supported.

RACE MEETINGS IN INDIA.

London, May 11.

A Bombay report states that the new Racing Law prohibits bookmakers but permits totalisators.

Fifteen race meetings are allowed annually.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 13.

It is reported from Athens that owing to the delay in the opening of the Dardanelles, the price of bread has risen and serious scarcity is anticipated.

THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

London, May 13.

Despite the Government's assurances that the Minimum Wage Bill would prove satisfactory, the South Wales Miners are resenting some of the decisions of the Chairman of the Joint Board, and are resolved to boycott it until their grievances are considered by a national conference of the Miners Federation.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

London, May 13.

The *Times* again discusses the appointment of the new German Ambassador and warns him not to attempt any Press campaigning methods such as he practised in Germany.

The London journal emphasizes the fact

that British policy lies in the maintenance unimpaired of the existing good relations with France.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, May 13.

Both President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt are spending practically the whole of their time campaigning in Ohio.

Never before have two such distinguished men indulged in so much vituperation.

In the next nine days President Taft intends to make eighty speeches.

Colonel Roosevelt is apparently preparing to camp on the train.

The sober public is getting tired of the discussion.

THE BALKANS.

London, May 14.

The Turks are taking the most elaborate precautions to prevent the invasions of Bulgarian bands.

An ambuscade has been prepared in the passes, where 3,500 gendarmes are engaged in pursuing the Bulgarians, with whom they are having frequent encounters.

THE ITALIANS AT RHODES.

London, May 14.

The Italians are making great military preparations at Rhodes, where they are dredging the harbour and repairing the fortifications.

Masses of war materials have been landed.

Eighteen hundred Turkish troops are entrenched in the mountains.

MOTOR-CAR BANDITS.

London, May 15.

Two more motor-car desperadoes have been discovered hiding in a villa at Nogent-sur-Marne, a few miles from Paris.

They are being besieged by the police and troops.

A continuous fusillade is being maintained.

Three detectives have been wounded.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made to blow up the villa.

FIGHTING IN MOROCCO.

London, May 15.

Sharp fighting has occurred between the Riff Moors and the Spanish troops at Melilla.

The fighting resulted in the dispersal of the Moors, who daringly occupied several positions inside the Spanish lines.

THE BALKANS.

London, May 15.

The Albanian revolt is spreading with alarming rapidity.

BRITISH POLITICS.

London, May 15.

The Liberals regard the Welsh Disestablishment Bill with increasing disfavour.

The House of Commons is confused at wearily labouring at Bills, the operations of which may be suspended under the Parliament Act.

There is not much prospect of the Opposition being wearied out by the threat to sit through the summer, concerning which a Liberal revolt is threatened unless an adjournment is made early in August.

The Ministry is beset with Labour troubles in addition to its gargantuan programme of legislation.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE BANK RATE.

London, May 9.

The Bank of England lowered its official

discount rate from $3\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 per cent. on the 9th instant.

THE SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBITION.

San Francisco, May 8.

The President of the Panama Memorial Exhibition to be held in San Francisco, welcomes the participation of the Japanese Government, and states that this will contribute a great deal to the promotion of the cordial relations between the two countries, and induce the participation of the European Governments. The *Call* and *Chronicle* also publish their views in a similar strain.

On the 7th instant a banquet was held in honour of Secretary Knox, when about one thousand representative citizens attended.

The President emphatically referred to Japan's participation in the Exhibition. The speech was received with an ovation. At a reception given at the Journalists Club the same evening, Secretary Knox read the response of the Japanese Government to the invitation for participation and proceeded to make a reference to the very cordial relations existing between the two countries, saying that no country in the world had such a good feeling toward the United States as Japan.

The Secretary also stated that he had every opportunity to know accurately the feelings of the Japanese Government and people towards the United States and he did not believe there was any question that could not be solved by diplomatic means. Secretary Knox's speech has been reproduced in to-day's issue of the *Examiner*.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

KAISER LEAVES FOR HOME.

Berlin, May 9.

The Kaiser has left Corfu for Germany.

HERR KIRSCHNER RESIGNS.

Herr Kirschner, the Chief-Burgomaster of Berlin, has resigned, his successor being the former Secretary of State for the Treasury, Herr Wermuth.

ARMY INCREASE.

The Budget Committee of the Reichstag has passed the new Bill providing for the army increase.

DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK.

The Deutsch-Asiatische Bank declares a dividend of 5 per cent.

EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY RUMOURED.

French papers report that negotiations are going on between Great Britain and Germany as to the cession of Zanzibar to Germany in exchange for some concessions of the latter in conformance with Great Britain's policy in the Persian Gulf. This rumour must, however, be treated with great reserve for the present. Strict silence is being observed at Berlin with regard to the negotiations.

THE TOUBLE IN MOROCCO.

The French troops in Morocco have been reinforced to the number of 43,000 men.

MASSACRE AT LENA MINES.

Further debate on the Lena gold mining troubles has been adjourned in the Duma.

ITALIANS EXPELLED FROM SMYRNA.

Some Italian nationals have been expelled by Turkey from Smyrna.

AUSTRIA'S PARTICIPATION.

The Presidents of several Austrian Banks have arrived at Berlin for conferences with

German financiers on the participation of their Banks in the Chinese Six Powers' Loan.

AMBASSADORS'S RESIGNATION CONFIRMED.

Berlin, May 10.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* announces that the resignation of Count Wolff-Metternich, the German Ambassador to London, which was already tendered by him a year ago, but was not accepted owing to circumstances, has now been granted. The nomination of the new Ambassador will be published after the agreement of the British Government has been received.

REICHSTAG ADJOURNED.

The Reichstag will be adjourned on May 24th till the autumn.

FOREIGN SECRETARY TO MEET KAISER.

Herr von Kideisen Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will go to meet the Kaiser at Karlsruhe on May 14th, at the latter's special desire.

SOCIALIST SUSPENDED.

An incident between the President and a Socialist Deputy has happened in the Prussian Landtag, which is causing much alarm. The whole German Press, with the exception of a few Socialist papers, condemns the attitude of the Socialist member and supports the action of the President, ordering the suspension of the obstinate member during the Session.

DUELLING CONDEMNED.

The Centre Party has presented to the Budget Committee of the Reichstag a resolution condemning forced duelling in the German army.

FLOODS IN SOUTHERN GERMANY.

Inundations, caused by overflowing of the rivers, are doing much damage in Northern Tyrol and Southern Bavaria.

Inundations are reported from Southern Germany.

COLONIAL RUMOURS CONTRADICTED.

The rumours as to the acquirement of Zanzibar from England and other similar negotiations on Colonial territorial questions between Portugal and Germany, which are reported by French papers, are officially contradicted at Berlin.

BYE-ELECTION AT JEVER.

In a bye-election for the German Reichstag at Jever in Oldenburg the Liberal candidate Wiener has been elected against the Socialist candidate Hug.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Count Berchthold, the new Austrian-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be presented to the Kaiser at Berlin on May 25th.

PANAMA CANAL COMMITTEE.

The American Panama Canal Committee, now travelling in Europe, was received by the German Chancellor at Berlin on May 9th and presented the invitation to participate in the Panama Canal Exhibition in 1915. From Berlin the Committee will go to St. Petersburg for the same purpose.

VOLCANO ERUPTION.

An eruption of the Volcano Colima in South America has taken place, followed by an earthquake, by which the town of

Zapotitan, on the Caribbean Gulf, was destroyed. Thirty-four persons are reported to have been killed.

PLAGUE IN THE URALS.

The Ural district has been declared to be infected by plague.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION.

Berlin, May 11.

With regard to the pending crisis in the Russian Ministry for War, it is now reported that the Tsar has accepted the resignation of Lieutenant-General Polianoff, the present assistant of the Minister, by which the latter's position has been much strengthened.

DUTCH NAVAL MINISTER.

The Dutch Minister of the Navy Wentholt has resigned owing to the non-acceptance of the naval programme for Netherlands-India.

MOROCCO TROUBLE.

The French Resident-General in Morocco, General Lyautey, will limit all military actions in Morocco to defence until October, owing to climatic conditions.

THE ARMY BILL.

The Reichstag has passed the second reading of the Army Bill without any amendments.

The whole German Press, commenting on the decision of the Reichstag as to the passing of the Army Bill, welcomes this decision as a proof of the unanimity of all parties.

THE HAMBURG AMERIKA LINE.

The Hamburg-Amerika line announces an increase in its capital by 25,000,000 mark.

FOUR YEARS FOR ESPIONAGE.

The Supreme Court at Leipzig has condemned the copper-smith Boellert, who was arrested on suspicion of theft and espionage, to four years' hard labour.

CONFERENCES AT KARLSRUHE.

The Kaiser, the Chancellor, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the German Ambassador at Constantinople are holding conferences at Karlsruhe.

PRINCE REUSS FOR VIENNA.

Berlin, May 12.

Prince Reuss XXXIII., the former Secretary at the German Embassy at Tokyo, has been appointed Secretary at the Embassy at Vienna.

AMBASSADOR'S APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein has been definitely appointed German Ambassador to London, after the British Government had given its consent to his selection.

AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION.

A conference will be held at Vienna on May 15th, the object of which will be the participation of Austrian Banks in the projected Chinese Loan. The amount taken up by these banks, however, will probably not exceed 5 per cent. of the whole loan.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Unrest has again broken out in Albania. A division of reserves has been sent to suppress the revolt.

The Italian newspaper *Secolo* announces that severe combats, resulting in serious loss on both sides, have taken place between Turkish and Italian troops in the island of Rhodes.

THE GERMAN NAVY BILL.

Admiral Tirpitz, speaking in the Budget Committee of the Reichstag, stated that the

new naval Bill was the outcome of the experiences of last summer, when a very great danger of the inception of war existed. Mr. Asquith, the English Premier, as a reply to this suspicion had, however, later stated that a hostile surprise attack against Germany had never been contemplated by Great Britain, which declaration had been received with satisfaction by the German Government. On the other hand, it was not to be denied that certain preparatory measures against unexpected events had been taken by the responsible authorities in both countries. These, however, could not be interpreted as proving any certain policy on the part of either country.

He further congratulated the Reichstag for having emphasized the absolutely defensive and peace-preserving character of the German navy, which was further proved by the simple fact that only a navy which was superior to its supposed adversary could be used for aggressive purposes.

He concluded by stating that he had too high an opinion of the British Admiralty to believe that it could in reality suspect a German attack on the English fleet and coast.

CONFERENCES END.

Berlin, May 13.

The Chancellor has returned to Berlin and Herr von Kideien Waechter and Freiherr von Marschall have also left Karlsruhe.

EUGEN WOLF DEAD.

The German explorer, Eugen Wolf, has died at Muenchen.

TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

La Tribuna at Rome reports the occupation of the islands of Scarpanto, Kasos, Episkopi and Nisyros of the Southern Sporades group. In connection with the occupation of Rhodes and Astropalia, the Aegean Sea is now absolutely closed by the above action of the Italian Battle Fleet and Turkey is excluded from any communication with the Mediterranean Sea.

RUSSO-ASIATIC DIVIDEND.

The Russo-Asiatic Bank has declared a dividend of 9 per cent.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to April 28th ex-Yokohama arrived at Berlin on May 13th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, May 14.

Italian troops have occupied the Turkish islands of Calymnos, Patmos and Leros in the Aegean Archipelago.

The Italian journal *Secolo* announces that the expenditure of the Tripolitan war up to the present amounts to only 176,000,000 lire.

As a result of a friendly intimation from the German Embassy at Constantinople the expulsion of 50 Italian subjects from Smyrna has been withdrawn.

THE NAVY BILL.

The Budget Committee of the Reichstag has accepted the new Navy Bill. In his speech on the Bill, the Secretary of the Navy, Admiral von Tirpitz, declared that nobody possessing commonsense would consider the German Navy as an aggressive instrument against England. Further the Admiral promised an improvement of the condition of petty officers.

HERR WACHLER DEAD.

State Director of Mines Wachler, a

member of the Board of Directors of the Shantung Railway Co., is dead.

STORMS IN THE WEST.

Heavy storms have swept over Belgium and the western districts of Germany, causing great damage.

MEXICAN COMPENSATION.

The Mexican Government has decided to pay an indemnity of 400,000 mark in connection with the murder of German subjects.

BELGIAN MINISTER RECALLED.

Baron Greindl, the Belgian Minister at Berlin, has been recalled. His successor will be the Minister of the Royal House, Baron Beyens.

DUELLING IN THE ARMY.

The Reichstag has passed a resolution of the Committee on duelling to the effect that no officer shall be dismissed from the army if he refuses to take part in a duel.

SHORT PARAGUAN REVOLUTION.

A revolution in the Republic of Paraguay has been brought to an abrupt conclusion by a decisive victory of the Government forces.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Government has demanded in a new Recruiting Bill, an increase of the standing army by 136,000.

MONTENEGRIN KING ILL.

King Nicholas of Montenegro is ill.

AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY.

The High Commissioner of Australia, Sir George Reid, has arrived at Berlin, to discuss German-Australian trade relations.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The revolutionists in Mexico have sustained a great defeat at the hands of the Government forces.

GERMANY.

Berlin, May 15.

The Reichstag has passed the Naval Bill without any amendments.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINE.

Dr. Siegfried Heckscher, Lawyer at Hamburg and Member of the Reichstag, has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Hamburg-Amerika Line.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Turkish Government has given its consent to the nomination of Freiherr von Wangenheim as Ambassador to Constantinople.

SWEDISH POET DEAD.

The great Swedish poet August Strindberg, born in 1849 at Stockholm, is dead.

THE DEATH OF THE KING OF DENMARK.

Berlin, May 15.

King Frederick VIII of Denmark died suddenly at Hamburg on the evening of the 14th instant. His Majesty had only arrived on the previous day from the South, where he had been recuperating after his severe attack of pneumonia last year. On the evening of his death he left his hotel and, quite unattended, proceeded on a walk through the Goose Market. While in the market he was observed to fall unconscious and was immediately removed to the harbour hospital, where life was pronounced to be extinct. No suspicion entered the minds of the hospital authorities that the unfortunate victim of heart failure was King Frederick VIII of Denmark.

In the meantime his family, who were

also at the hotel, became anxious at his long absence, and, as a result of a search, his body was located at the hospital.

The remains were removed to the hotel and were transferred to Copenhagen this morning.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE NEW MINISTER OF WAR AND THE WAR OFFICE.

The May number of the *Shinkōron* contains a number of articles on the above subject. All the writers are agreed in thinking that Lieut.-General Uehara is a very able man and that great things may be expected from him. It is asserted that had it not been for his great fitness for the post he now fills, no sudden departure from the practice of placing the War Office under the control of a Satsuma General would have been witnessed. As to the views of the new Minister on the military policy to be adopted by the State, much difference of opinion is expressed. Major-General Kurosawa confidently asserts that the Minister is in favour of considerable expansion. Among the remarks made by this writer we find the following:—Among our army men to-day there are few to be found who are so well versed in the military affairs of other countries as Lieut.-General Uehara. He has been to Europe and America four times. During his last visit to Europe he attended one of the Hague Peace Conferences, where he distinguished himself by the eloquent speeches he delivered. The whole Conference was struck by his sharp-wittedness and by the readiness with which he replied to the arguments of opponents. It was hoped that he might be appointed Minister of War when the Saionji Government was formed last year, but the Satsuma prestige sufficed to prevent that.

Lieut.-General Uehara being a man who knows our army through and through, and having great strength of purpose, if radical reform in its organization were called for he would certainly see that it is carried out. But the general opinion among our military experts is that our army has undergone so many improvements, as the outcome of the study of military organization in Europe and as the result of the experience gained in actual warfare, that there is now no room for further reform. (*Izure no ten yori kwanseisu suru mo, yōi ni kaikaku no to wo kudashubeki yochi nakaran*). When a new Minister is appointed there are always people who urge on him the need of reform, but in the present case it is most improbable that any radical changes will be made. The Minister will certainly oppose the reduction in the number of troops which is advocated in some quarters, and will rather be in favour of increasing the number of the Divisions as soon as the State of our finances allows of this being done.

Mr. Matsuda Genji, a Member of the House of Representatives and one of the Seiyūkai leaders, thinks that the time has come for placing the War Office under the control of a civilian.

Baron Den Kenjiō expresses the wish that steps should be taken by the War Office to supply the nation with fuller information respecting military affairs than has been hitherto done. Japan is certainly behind other countries in this matter, says Baron Den. He draws attention to the fact that while in the opinion of experts the Japanese army is the most perfect piece of machinery the country possesses, civilians know far less about this army than about any other body or organization in the land. There is surely a limit to what are called "military secrets." There are scores of interesting subjects connected with our Army that need to be written up for the benefit of the masses, observes Baron Den.

THE PREVAILING HIGH PRICES AND COUNTRY FOLKS.

Writing on the above subject in the May number of the *Shinkōron*, Dr. Yokoi Tokiyoshi remarks that people living in country villages who obtain a living from farming or other country

pursuits grow their own food to a large extent and only buy in these hard times as little as possible. The high price of rice more than makes up to them for the high prices asked for other things. So they suffer much less than the people living in towns who have to purchase all their food as well as other necessities of life. Dr. Yokoi says that though so much complaint of hard times is heard in Tōkyō and other large towns, he finds that there are numerous signs of prosperity throughout the provinces. The demand for manure coming from farmers within the past few months has been unprecedented. Though the price of it has risen, that has not affected the sale in the least. Magazines that discuss farming subjects have never sold better than they do to day. Provincial newspapers too are reported to be greatly in demand. It is true that sericulture is in a bad way, but there are numerous causes for that. That industry is now largely run on borrowed money. (*Yōsan wa shakkin wo koshiraeu tame ni gatte oru yō na arisama de, shidai ni shakkin ga mau*)*

THE ATTACK ON DR. NITOBÉ.

It now appears that the writer of the nine articles against Dr. Nitobé over the signature "Fukutsu Sei," which began to come out in the *Jitsugyō no Sekai* on Aug. 1st last, was no other than the editor of the Magazine, Mr. Noyori Shuitsu. In the April 1st number of the *Jitsugyō no Sekai* Mr. Noyori stated that his reason for concealing his identity was the fact that legal proceedings were going on against him in a criminal court, but that now he is prepared to accept full responsibility for all that has been said against Dr. Nitobé in the Magazine. He is still continuing the attack, no less than to new charges being brought against the author of Bushidō in this number of the Magazine. No doubt this writer has correctly described some of the weak points in Dr. Nitobé's character and has shown up certain inconsistencies of which the learned Doctor has been guilty, but the articles are so full of signs of personal animosity and so one-sided that no sober-minded and well-informed reader is likely to be influenced by them. Raw students will no doubt be found who enjoy this kind of writing. Taking the country through, it is doubtless correct to affirm that personal abuse of an extremely petty kind is very popular among young men, and that is why the newspapers publish so many slanders and innuendoes.

PRIVATE EDUCATION AND STATE EDUCATION.

There seems to be a growing feeling among eminent Japanese educationists that in this country education is not keeping pace with other things and that one of the principal reasons of this is lack of capital. When one thinks of the enormous number of richly endowed private schools that England possesses and the fine education which is to be had at these schools at a very cheap rate, one is not surprised at the concern shown at the comparatively backward state of education here by such earnest-minded scholars as Messrs. Kamada and Sawayanagi and Dr. Kikuchi Dairoku, all of whom have recently contributed articles to Count Ōkuma's organ, the *Shin Nihon*, on this subject. We propose to give the substance of these essays here.

I. Mr. Kamada Eikichi, President of the Keiōgijuku University.—Of both State and private education it is true to say that it ought to keep pace with the general development of the country. As wealth increases the number of well conducted and well equipped schools should grow larger. In the case of private schools this is more likely to take place than with State schools; because the latter are almost entirely dependent on the sums of money voted by Governments, which in this country are constantly short of funds to be devoted to education, owing to other urgent calls on State

* Dr. Yokoi rightly observes that the people who are suffering most from the high prices now prevailing are those who dress beyond their means, who swell about in foreign clothes, with white shirts, silk ties and high collars, instead of keeping to their simple inexpensive native costume. It is quite true to say that, considering their means, most of the Japanese are over-dressed.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

revenue. It is then to private schools that the nation must mainly look for an adequate supply of well prepared men to fill the numerous vacancies occurring in the business world. Schools are not money-making concerns. Money is made in the business world. But the business world is dependent on schools for the manufacture of the right kind of men for employment in its offices and factories. Business can not prosper if these men are not forthcoming. That fact is known to our leading business men to-day; hence their readiness to support those educational institutions that are turning out what they regard as the right type of men. For the business world the greater the variety in the class of men produced the better. Consequently the Government schools do not meet the requirements of business men, as they aim at reducing the students to one dead level, at moulding them all alike. Private education in this country, as elsewhere, has a grander future before it than State education. It alone is free to adapt itself to the ever changing demands of successive ages or successive decades. It can not be said that money flows into the coffers of educationists to-day as rapidly as is desirable. Surely the Government might act a little more magnanimously and grant medals and decorations to the donors of large sums of money for the endowment of private schools, as they have been in the habit of doing when big donations have been made for State schools, since it would seem that certain capitalists are small-minded enough in attach much weight to titles and the like. The importance of the education imparted in private schools can not be over-estimated, as it is in these schools alone that learning is wholly independent and possesses authority of its own. It is only by the elevation of these schools to a high rank in the land that the eradication of the deep-seated national proclivity towards the blind worship of officialdom can be effected.

II. Mr. Sawayanagi Masatarō, President of the Tohoku Imperial University.—The distinction constantly made between Government schools and private schools is, it seems to me, founded on a misapprehension. It is assumed that State schools, because they are supported by Government funds, are being run in the interests of bureaucrats, that they are institutions whose chief object it is to manufacture officials. To me it seems that facts warrant no such assumption. State schools are established for the good of the people and the principles on which they are conducted and the subjects taught in them do not differ essentially from those of private schools. The notion that scientists, jurists, doctors, literary men, teachers of engineering, agriculture or art are in any way controlled by Government officials is quite absurd. Every teacher is free to teach as he pleases. The material made use of in teaching is mostly culled from foreign books or has been learnt by the Professors in our colleges in foreign countries. Though the authorities may curtail the liberty of lecturers on politics and law (*Aruteta kono ni kura [Aruteta, eiji] jigū ni dekinu to shite mo*), no restrictions are placed on the teachers of other subjects (*Ta no gakumon ni nanra no seigen mo ukenu*). It is then not correct in say that as regards our Imperial Universities and High Schools learning has lost its independence. Even in law and politics our Governments have never been able to prevent the free expression of opinion in the Tōkyō Imperial University. In this year 1892 the Government was very anxious to let the new Law Codes go into operation at once. But the opposition to this measure was so strong among certain Professors in the University that eventually the Government had to give way and the enforcement of the new laws was postponed. The notion that there is any great difference between the teachers in Government schools and

* Numerous other instances of strong opposition to Government policy shown by the Professors of the Tōkyō Imperial University might be cited. Again and again has Government policy been publicly condemned by Professors of Law or Political Economy in the University.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

the teachers in private schools is diminished by the fact that hundreds of Government school teachers devote their spare hours to teaching in private schools.

But when we come to compare the results of the teaching carried on in Government schools with those obtained by the instruction given in private institutions, we see at once that the pecuniary support the State schools receive enables them to employ better teachers and to furnish appliances that are in every way superior to those obtainable by private schools. If private schools were better supported in this country, this would not be the case. But the fact is that a great many of these schools are very poorly endowed, if endowed at all, and they are engaged in the hopeless task of trying to collect school fees enough to meet their monthly expenditure. In Western countries private schools are usually far ahead of Government institutions. They have vast sums of money at their disposal and can afford to employ the most talented teachers available. But in Japan the day is still far distant when this state of things will be witnessed. Here we have only the State to depend on for educational development. No great achievements can be looked for elsewhere. This reliance on the State for the accomplishment of big undertakings is not confined to our country. It is growing apace in Western lands. More and more are Europeans and Americans looking to the State for the carrying out of difficult enterprises and for the reform of serious abuses. Belief in the omnipotence of States prevails far and wide. If other businesses are left to private enterprise, in all civilized countries it is maintained that one of the most sacred of all the duties of a State is to educate the people on whom its stability depends. The opponents of State education in this country are very numerous. The newspapers and magazines repeatedly publish virulent attacks on the Mombushō and its system of education, but most of the antagonism to the work of the Department of Education is traceable to the prevailing idea that Government schools are all run in the interests of the bureaucrats, that they are not the people's schools in any sense,—an idea which I consider to be entirely erroneous.

Of course it can not be denied that there are Professors in Government colleges and schools who indulge in the flattery of officials in order to curry favour with them, but the number of such men is not large enough to warrant the wholesale condemnation of the instruction given in Government schools as lacking in independence. Sympathy is by no means a Government monopoly. It is an article that will be found in big quantities in private schools also, as Henry George shows in his work entitled *The Menace Privilege*. In that work he cites many instances of enforced silence on existing abuses on the part of some of the Professors of America's biggest private Universities.

III. Dr. Kikuchi Dairoku, President of the Kyōto Imperial University.*—My opinion is that the demand for high-class schools and universities in this country is likely to increase as time goes; because the openings for highly educated men are constantly growing more numerous. The expansion of our empire and our close proximity to China, where things are going ahead at a rapid pace, render it desirable that we should add to the number of our High Schools and Universities. But there is another reason for doing this, and that is the fact that well educated Japanese are in request in America and are likely to become more so hereafter.

Now the question of how the funds required for the establishment of more schools and colleges are to be raised is a very serious one. In the United States the interest taken in higher education is so great that there is never any difficulty in raising funds for the establishment of schools and universities. In the various States property is taxed for the purpose of collecting

sufficient money to endow and erect schools. Ground for buildings is granted by the local Governments, and so on. Our Japanese system of taxation and local government does not allow of this method of raising money being adopted. Hence we have to devise some other means of obtaining the wherewithal for the improvement of the schools we have and for the addition to their number.

As regards universities, they exist as much for purposes of investigation as for the education of young men. The subjects that call for further study are so numerous that there is perhaps no university in the world that is supplied with adequate funds for carrying on learned investigations. When in America a year or two ago I visited all the principal seats of learning there, and everywhere the Professors told me that the money at their disposal was quite insufficient for the explorations they desired to make (*Inure mo mina keiki no fusoku wo utatte oru*). This complaint showed how eager for new knowledge these Professors are. Now it is very important that our universities should not fall behind those of other countries in the matter of learned investigation. The money required for this can be raised by the adoption of the following plan. Since the Government is not in a position to disburse any big sums of money for the purpose of furthering high education, they should make liberal grants of forests and waste land to universities. This land can be converted into a source of income to them by proper management. Already a beginning has been made in this line. The Tōkyō Imperial University has received grants of land in the Hokkaidō and in Formosa, and the Tohoku Imperial University owns a big piece of land in the Hokkaidō. The Kyōto University also owns land in Formosa. In each case the land owned will doubtless serve as the nucleus of an endowment fund. How far we can rely on donations of money is very uncertain. Nobody dreams that in Japan such big sums of money as are subscribed in America will ever be forthcoming. The donations to Harvard University for a number of years averaged one million dollars a year. But nevertheless the educational needs of the country will certainly be recognized by a certain number of our capitalists and their help may be relied on.

LOCAL TAXATION.

An interesting article on this subject appears in this month's *Taiyō* from the pen of the well known writer on finance Mr. Honda Seichi. The system of taxation now in vogue in the provinces is rightly regarded by the Government as very unsatisfactory and the Home Minister has ordered the various Prefects to make a thorough investigation of the sources of local revenue and to send in their reports to the Home Office by the 31st of July next, Mr. Honda informs us. The principal taxes levied in the provinces are assessed on the basis of the taxes paid to the Central Government. The same income or property undergoes double taxation. In addition to this source of revenue there is the money yielded by the taxation of sundry local industries, but these two sources of revenue do not suffice to meet the ever growing demands of municipalities. It is considered by the Home Office authorities that a thorough readjustment of local taxation is called for and this will probably be effected later on when the subject has been thoroughly investigated. The present methods of assessing local taxes are open to serious objection, observes Mr. Honda. He is in favour of the abolition of what are known as supplementary taxes.

Mr. Honda has a good deal to say in reference to local expenditure on education. In towns and villages all over the country the outlay on education stands at 40 or even 50 per cent. of the total expenditure. The annual average cost of keeping up the schools now established throughout the country is 50 million yen. But every year the number of schools increases and the recent extension of the tie during which pupils are obliged to attend school will of course add to the burdens of taxpayers.

A close examination of the way that money is

being spent by the local authorities reveals the fact that everywhere public works are undertaken which are by no means urgent and that much money is wasted by the way in which they are carried on. The establishment of schools is no exception to the rule. Petty jealousy between the local magnates of one district and those of another has often resulted in the opening of two schools where one would have sufficed. Various methods of reducing local expenditure on education have been proposed: one is the reduction of the 6 year period of compulsory attendance at Primary schools to 5 years. The Imperial Education Society is said to be inclined to recommend this course. With a population constantly increasing and with prices on the upward tendency, it is difficult to see how local expenditure on schools can be materially decreased. There are no doubt a few cases where the buildings put up are more ornamental or more costly than is necessary, but instances of this kind are not sufficiently numerous to be worth much consideration.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.

To the May numbers of the *Taiyō*, Dr. Kuwaki Genyoku, of the Kyōto Imperial University, a well known writer on philosophy and ethics, contributes an article on the above subject, the gist of which we now proceed to give. People rightly regard thought as an ever active, ever progressive and a strongly self-assertive living body. Like all strong things opposition only tends to increase its activity. But it certainly needs freedom for its full development. How far does it obtain this freedom? This question, which is of considerable interest, I now propose to discuss.

The history of thought may be conveniently considered under two headings, (1) The history of its construction and (2) the history of its expression. Language is closely connected with both the construction and the expression of thought. It is true to say that no elaborate system of thought exists anywhere where linguistic development is in a very low stage. The ideas of barbarians are naturally crude and lacking in accuracy and minuteness. During the middle ages as far as Europeans were concerned, the Latin language was the medium for the expression of learned thought. What was incapable of being clothed in that tongue could not be expressed at all. But in modern times each civilised country has a language of its own which is qualified to become a vehicle for any and every idea it is desired to express. In this country not so very long ago, many people maintained that the only medium available for the expression of abstruse ideas was classical Chinese. But our leading scholars to-day are no longer of this opinion (*Konnichi de wa nichijō hanasu ūri no kotoba de shisō wo happyō suru koto ga ūten to mi-nagaruru koto to natte kite oru*). They feel able to express all their ideas in the language which is in daily use. This freedom in the expression of thought is something to have gained.

When we come to consider how far we possess liberty in the construction of thought, we are bound to confess that all thinkers are hampered to a certain extent by traditions, by widely held theories and by the fixed meanings which are attached to certain words. So that when any man is elaborating a new system of thought he finds himself subject to numerous restrictions. To disregard all these and to break up entirely new ground in the world of thought, though not altogether impossible, is seldom accomplished by anybody.* And even supposing that such a feat could be accomplished, ideas that had no connection with existing systems of thought would stand a very poor chance of being accepted.

The forces that curtail liberty of thought are of two kinds; one being external and the other internal. The external forces consist of Gov-

* *Koreru no seigen (limits) wo kotogetoku mushi shite, sensen hakenko [破天監] no shisō wo kōsei suru to iu koto wa mattaku fukunō de wa nai ga, shikashi ōku no batō ni oite shippai ni owatte shimanu no de aru.*

* This was written before Baron Kikuchi's acceptance of a seat in the Privy Council and resignation of his post at the Kyōto University.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

ernment or religious authority, or public opinion; the internal ones of the state of our own minds, of fixed habits of thought and dependence on language as a thinking medium. The interior obstacles to freedom of thought are perhaps more easily overcome than the exterior ones. Rulers of all kinds, secular or spiritual, are inclined to be very conservative and very despotic, and they are always afraid that radical changes of thought will weaken their authority, and so they generally come forward as defenders of prevailing ideas whatever they may be. Many moralists are very unprogressive and they are ready to denounce new ideas as dangerous. The newspapers are guilty of placing numerous obstacles in the way of freedom of thought. Many of them constantly publish paragraphs which hold up to ridicule new ideas simply because they are new and because the writers know that a great many readers prefer not to have time-honoured notions disturbed—they like to jog along sleepily in the old grooves. It often happens that in working for the suppression of new ideas high officials and newspapers are found in the same camp. (*Kono sokuron ga kenryokusha* [authorities] to *ketugō shite, seisei dōdō no rōgi* too *hakugai suru baiai ga soku-nakunai*).

The limits to the development of thought in each man's mind coming from tradition and the meaning attached to words are not easily overcome. Though old words, understood as they have hitherto been understood, in many cases fail to express the new ideas which have come into existence, most philosophers and scientists employ them for want of suitable substitutes. It is impossible for any thought development to go on independently of language. Hence absolute freedom of thought there can not be. All thinkers are bound by tradition to a certain extent. Unconsciously and unavoidably they follow in the wake of other explorers in the world of thought. Yet the fact remains that certain men do give new ideas to the world—ideas which can be comprehended and applied in various ways.

As regards the external hindrances to freedom of thought, wherever certain fixed ideas take a strong hold on the mind, sooner or later they snap the bonds placed on them by Governments, ecclesiastics, or moralists, and obtain an authority to which even the greatest earthly potentates have to bow. As regards the power wielded by thought, that depends entirely on the extent to which it is associated with life and is of vital importance to it. Ideas that have hardly any bearing on human life, that neither help to solve its problems, to lessen its burdens nor to raise it to a higher level, wield little power in this practical world of ours.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The opening ceremony of the Shin-Ohashi bridge in Fukagawa will be held on the 1st proximo.

LIEUT.-GENERAL KIMURA, ex-Commander of the 18th Division has been placed on the reserve list.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will hold its general meeting about the 14th instant, when a dividend of 15 per cent. will be declared.

A GENERAL meeting of the South Manchuria Railway Company will take place at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce on the 22nd proximo.

The shareholders of the Keihin Electric Railway Company will meet in conference on the 15th instant at the office of the Railway Association.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha will hold its general meeting on the 28th instant at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, when a dividend of ten per cent. will be declared.

REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA, who has been in South China in command of the Third Squadron since the outbreak of the Revolutionary disturbance, for the protection of general foreign residents, returned to Tokyo on Wednesday afternoon.

He was received at Shimbashi by Admiral Saito, Minister of the Navy, Vice-Admiral Ijuin, Chief of the Naval Headquarters, and a number of other high naval officers.

MR. HASEBI, Minister of Education, will give a dinner on the 14th instant, to the Principals of the Middle Schools now in the capital for their annual conference.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Japan Business and Technical Association was held on Sunday afternoon at the Seiyoken, Tsukiji. Among the speakers were Dr. Matsunami and Dr. Sano.

A BANQUET was given on Friday evening last by the German-Japanese Association at the Military Club, Kudan. Count von Rex, German Ambassador, Ambassador Inouye, Major-General Oshima and some eighty others were present.

A GENERAL meeting of the Imperial Marine Disaster Relief Association will take place on the 28th instant at the Amphitheatre, Ryogoku. H. H. Prince Arisugawa, President of the organization, is expected to honour the occasion with his presence.

THE annual general meeting of the Japan Hygienic Association will be held on the 26th instant. The Minister of Home Affairs will deliver a congratulatory speech which will be followed by lectures from Drs. Kusakabe, Kitasato, Kanazumi and Miyake.

THE Franco Japanese Association entertained M. Gerard, the French Ambassador, and the Commander-in-chief of the French Far Eastern Squadron, at a banquet on Monday evening. Invitations were extended to Viscount Uchida, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Admiral Saito, Minister of the Navy, Lieut. General Uehara, Minister of the Army, Lieutenant General Ijuin, Chief of the Military Headquarters, Procurator-General Matsumuro, Dr. Tomii, and others.

ECZEMA ON WRIST AND RIGHT ARM

Swollen and Inflamed to Shoulder.
Dry, Crusty Scales. Could Not
Sleep for the Itch. Used Cuticura
Soap and Ointment. Now Cured.

"The Cuticura Remedies I can strongly recommend to any person suffering from eczema. I can tell you I got relief the first time I used the Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I had eczema on the wrist of my right arm; I had it for fully six months and tried lots of remedies that people told me about, but did no good. A chemist told me it was eczema and gave me a small box of ointment. I asked him if I would require to take anything inwardly, he said nothing but a little sulphur, but it had no effect. I often saw the Cuticura Remedies advertised so I resolved to try them and see."

"I am very pleased to say that the first time I used both the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment they gave me relief. I suffered over six months and sometimes I could not get to sleep for the itch in my arm. Then the pimples broke and the moisture spread on my arm and a dry crusty scale came over it. My arm was all swollen and inflamed up to my shoulder. I could hardly lift it up. When I got the crusty scales washed off, it was raw red flesh underneath, but in about a week's time you saw it disappearing and a nice new skin coming over it."

"It is all nice and strong and I can work in as much water as I need, it does not hurt it. I just cured it with Cuticura Remedies. I can recommend anybody suffering with it to try them." (Signed) Miss M. Lillie, Hatchedville, Coldstream, Berwickshire, N. B., April 13, 1911.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold throughout the world. A liberal sample of each with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse St., London; R. Town & Co., Sydney; N. S. W.; Lennon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.



LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, May 18.

American Middling from local stocks is now only obtainable at 36 yen @ 36 5; that price is, however, still below the present replacing cost in the States. In Cotton yarns, there is little change in the market. As to Cotton Piece goods, prices have gradually advanced. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, no change to report since the last issue.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling ...	36.00 to 36.50
Indian Broach ...	34.00 to 35.00
Chinese (Old crop) ...	33.00 to 34.00
Chinese (New crop) ...	—

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed ...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed ...	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed ...	500.00 to 531.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in... ..	5.75 to 11.00
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Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 45 yards	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 45 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 45 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 45 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70

PER PIECE.

Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards	10.30 to 13.75
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.35
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Filots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The home market is firm.

	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.55 to 4.80
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.30 to 6.35
Sheet Iron	6.10 to 6.20
Sheet Mild Steel	6.90 to 7.25
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.85 to 11.00
Flat	11.40 to 11.60
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	7.15 to 8.30
Tin Plates, 30 lbs. I.C.W.	7.50 to 7.60
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	0.24 to 0.25

KEROSENE.

The market is firm.

Chester	Y. 4.26
Victory	3.94
Nonpareil	4.90
Somatra	3.17 to 3.25
Burneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	3.77
Todal	—

SUGAR.

Business doing all round.

	PER PICUL.
Brown Manila	Y. 12.50
Brown China	11.50
Brown Java	16.30 to 16.40
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done in artificial dyes.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00

FLOUR.

The market improving.

	Yen.
Gold Drop 4 sacks ...	11.25 to 11.30
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy 4 sacks ...	11.52
Red Seal	11.35 to 11.50
Lion	11.75
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.95 to 12.00
Japanese:—	
Rising Sun 6 <i>kwamme</i>	2.70
Takasago 6 "	2.75
Fuji 6 "	2.85
Pine 6 "	2.70

WHEAT.

The market maintains a quiet tone.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 <i>kin</i> ...	5.25 to 5.35
Red " " "	5.25
Blue Stem " " "	5.35

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A steady business doing.

On April 30th stocks were: Filatures 7,200 piculs, Re-reels, 80 piculs; Kakedas, 50 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse ...	925
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse ...	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse ...	895
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den ...	875
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den ...	925
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den ...	915
Filature—No. 1½-2, 13-15den ...	850
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den ...	910
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha ...	840
Re-reels—Extra ...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 ...	—
Re-reels—No. 1½ ...	865
Re-reels—No. 2 ...	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra ...	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop ...	865
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop ...	855
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop ...	845

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

May.	June delivery.	July delivery.
11th	84.00	84.30
13th	83.90	84.00
14th	83.90	84.00
15th	84.00	84.00
16th	84.00	84.20
17th	84.00	84.20

WASTE SILK.

A fair business doing; prices generally a little firmer.

On April 30th stocks were:—Noshi, 900 piculs; Kibiso, 2,800 piculs; Sundries, 800 piculs.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best ...	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium ...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior ...	110 to 140
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good ...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium ...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior ...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good ...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium ...	80 to 90
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior ...	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium ...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior ...	95 to 120

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—There has been a general decline in prices.

Kanazawa:—Prices generally are unchanged, though the narrow widths have shown a slight decline.

Kawamata:—Prices for 36" goods in all weights have advanced.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 <i>me.</i>	6½ <i>me.</i>	7 <i>me.</i>	7½ <i>me.</i>	8 <i>me.</i>
22½"	7.55	7.40	7.25	7.25	7.30
27"	7.50	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.35
36"	7.50	7.40	7.45	7.45	7.30

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4 <i>me.</i>	4½ <i>me.</i>	4¾ <i>me.</i>	5 <i>me.</i>	5½ <i>me.</i>
22½"	7.85	7.75	7.55	7.45	7.55
27"	7.55	7.45	7.45	7.45	7.35
36"	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.45	7.30

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 <i>me.</i>	3½ <i>me.</i>	4 <i>me.</i>	4½ <i>me.</i>
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.50	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of May 18th the quotation was £72.12

Refined per 100 <i>kin</i> ...	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 <i>kin</i> ...	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 <i>kin</i> ...	" 47.00—50.00
Ore ...	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market a little active.

	bags.
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	536.558
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	123.362
Delivery. Closing Price	
May	20.34
June	20.25
July	20.18
(Osaka.)	
May	20.15
June	19.80
July	19.71
(Kobe.)	
May	19.99
June	19.89
July	19.67

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per <i>soku</i> .
Superior	Yen 22.20	
Medium	21.10	
Common	19.70	
Average	21.00	

TEA.

The market can scarcely be said to be open. The settlements at Yokohama from 30th April till 1st May amount to 53,868 piculs, against 83,716 piculs, at the corresponding date last year.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest ...	nominal.
Choice ...	¥. 53 to 63
Finest ...	—
Fine ...	—
Good Medium ...	—
Medium ...	—
Good Common ...	—
Common ...	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market maintains healthy tone

Delivery.	Yen.
May	145.75
June	143.80
July	142.90

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 16.
London silver ½ higher spot and forward China sterling quotations ½ @ ½ higher and local rates on China lower accordingly, all other rates are steady.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 ¾
— Sight	2/0 ¾ @ ½
— 60 days	2/0 ¾
— 4 months' sight	2/0 ¾
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 ¾
— 6 months' sight	2/0 ¾
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 ½
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	251 ¾ @ 1
America—Bank sight	49 ¾
— Private 30 days' sight	50 ¾
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 ¾
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 69 ¾
— Private 10 days' sight	do 97 ¾
Shanghai—Bank sight	73 ¾
— Private 10 days' sight	74 ¾
Bar Silver (London)	28 @ 28 ½

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, Ernest Bent, 10th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Coila, British steamer, 2,552, C. Lassen, 10th May.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 10th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 10th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.
Walton Hall, British steamer, 3,203, L. Fraser, 12th May.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.
Newcastle, British cruiser, 4,800, Capt. G. P. E. Hunt, 12th May.—Hongkong.
Kent, British cruiser, 9,800, Capt. A. J. Hunt, 12th May.—Hongkong.
Defence, British cruiser, 14,600, Capt. Henry Harvey Bruce, 12th May.—Hongkong.
Monmouth, British cruiser, 9,800, Capt. B. Bartlett, 12th May.—Hongkong.
Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 13th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 13th May.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)
Minnesota, American steamer, 13,323, T. W. Garlick, 14th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—G. N. S.S. Co.
Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Girard, 15th May.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Cie.
Fasika, British steamer, 2,698, A. E. Whillingham, 15th May.—Rangoon, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.
Chiyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, W. W. Greene, 16th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, M. Yagi, 16th May.—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Westminster, British steamer, 2,764, W. J. Williams, 16th May.—New York via ports, General.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.

DEPARTURES.

Bentley, British steamer, 2,509, H. Hastie, 10th May.—Rangoon via Kulsunutsu, Ballast.—Corney & Co.
Glenstrae, British steamer, 3,054, J. McGillivray, 10th May.—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Dalhanna, British steamer, 3,999, R. Tathan, 10th May.—Manila, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.
Esse Frans Ferdinand, Austrian steamer, 3,843, B. Cobal, 10th May.—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.
Feshawur, British steamer, 4,885, E. W. Bruce, 10th May.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Peking, Swedish steamer, 2,900, S. Nordstrom, 11th May.—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. Ltd.
Yarra, French steamer, 2,115, Tivolle, 11th May.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.
Satsuma, British steamer, 2,690, S. Kerr, 11th May.—Kobe, Phosphate and Cotton.—Dodwell & Co. Ltd.
Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 11th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 11th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, E. Bent, 12th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,795, K. Soeda, 13th May.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Kuwachi Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,782, A. Christiansen, 13th May.—Bombay via ports, Colombo and Singapore, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Borneo, British steamer, 2,944, W. H. S. Hall, 14th May.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
Calchas, British steamer, 4,279, W. Walker, 14th May.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Sithonia, German steamer, 4,239, Kotze, 14th May.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 14th May.—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)
Ccila, British steamer, 2,552, C. Lassen, 15th May.—Geelong (Australia) via Barracouta (Russia), Ballast.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.
Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 16th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVALS.

Per Japanese steamer *Kasuga Maru* from Shang-

hai via ports:—Mr. Y. Fukushima, Mr. T. Akita, Mrs. P. Y. Angus, Mrs. Rumseger and Mr. A. Harris in cabin; Mr. S. Onishi, Mrs. S. Inai, Mrs. K. Nonomura and 3 Chinese in second class; 22 Japanese and 15 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kumukawa Maru*, from Seattle, Wash.:—Mr. James L. Halch and Mr. Ether Spackman in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. T. Oka in second class; 15 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe:—1 Chinese in cabin; Mrs. M. Ishii in intermediate; 38 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—1 Chinese in cabin; Mr. P. D. Webb in second class. For Hongkong:—Mrs. Mary A. Jones, Mr. W. J. G. Neal, Mr. F. S. Knight and Mr. Walter R. Bailey in cabin; Mr. S. E. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hills, Miss Edna P. Hills, Mr. H. G. Hills in second class; 3 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Carron, Mr. D. S. Clinton, infant and native servant, Miss Smith-Clinton, Mr. D. M. Gubbay, Mr. H. Frankel, Capt. and Mrs. J. A. Moore, Mr. H. D. They, Mrs. M. A. Seymour's servant and Mr. H. A. Witt. For San Francisco:—Mrs. R. Arderp, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Brown, Mr. B. Cameron, Dr. and Mrs. M. S. Charles, Miss Charles, Master Charles, Mrs. J. E. Clough, Miss M. P. Clough, Mr. D. S. Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Durborow, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Force, Mr. F. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hart, Mr. L. A. Jennings and native servant, Judge C. D. Johnston, Mr. J. F. Kutz, Mr. F. W. Ladd, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Manning, Master Howell Manning, Mr. M. E. Mitchell, Rev. P. T. W. D. Noon, Miss I. O'Connell, Mrs. E. A. Orr, Miss E. Orr, Mrs. C. C. Owen and four children, Mr. E. A. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. I. R. Sanl, Mrs. M. A. Seymour and daughter, Mrs. V. A. Shittleworth, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Wasson and two children, Mr. R. G. Webber, Mr. A. P. Welch, Mr. K. C. Woodhull and Miss H. Woodhull in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakuai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. M. Jones in cabin; Mr. Yamashita in second class; 11 Japanese, 9 Chinese and 2 children in steerage.

Per American steamer *Minnesota* from Hongkong via ports:—Mrs. K. Smithers, Mrs. I. Beck, Mr. J. S. Hord and Mrs. V. M. de Camps. For Seattle:—Mrs. R. L. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Violett, Dr. and Mrs. D. Young, Miss E. Eichels, Mrs. J. Graham and child, Judge W. D. Vancey, Mr. and Mrs. L. Finster, Major and Mrs. T. L. Hartigan, Capt. and Mrs. G. Malcolmson, Mr. B. R. Still, Mrs. H. A. Wheeler and child, Mr. L. Hong, Mr. H. Horn, Mr. T. Kan, Mrs. W. She, Mr. J. Chong, Mr. L. Wing, Mr. E. A. Schramek, Mrs. E. Dickerson, Mr. N. G. Baylie, Miss N. Webster, Mrs. C. Shatto, Miss M. Garrow, Mr. V. A. Ruth, Mr. H. E. Price, Mrs. H. Beaumont, Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Mr. F. R.

Miller, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Smith and 4 children, Mr. L. Stewart, Mr. A. L. Williams, Mr. L. Tue, Mr. H. Yuen, Mr. C. Wood, Mr. J. Gong, Mrs. S. She, Mr. L. Yuen and Mrs. L. Wing in cabin; 111 in Asiatic steerage.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hivano Maru* from Europe via ports:—Mr. J. Y. Miller, Mrs. Plant, Master Plant and Master L. Plant in cabin; Mrs. T. Peters in second class. For Yokohama:—Mr. S. Komizo, Mr. and Mrs. C. Yamanaka, Miss H. Yamanaka and Miss K. Yamanaka in cabin; Mr. H. Kimura and Mr. T. Kashiwado in second class.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Palawan* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mr. G. W. T. Parker and Mr. G. A. Shaw in cabin.

Per French steamer *Yarra* for Marseilles via ports:—Mr. H. Ashmead, Mr. and Mrs. du Saureus, Melle d'Oncien de Chaufford, Mr. T. M. Little, Dr. R. Wischin, Mrs. R. Wischin, Mr. T. Zell, Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Green, Mme. Loew, Mr. K. Hasebe, Mr. Angbade, Mr. Le Gars and Mr. Leon Souce in cabin.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mrs. R. Ardey, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Brown, Mr. B. Cameron, Dr. and Mrs. M. S. Charles, Miss Charles, Master Charles, Mrs. J. E. Clough, Miss M. P. Clough, Mr. D. S. Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Durborow, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Force, Mr. F. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hart, Mr. L. A. Jennings and native servant, Judge C. D. Johnston, Mr. J. F. Kutz, Mr. E. W. Ladd, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Manning, Master Howell Manning, Mr. M. E. Mitchell, Rev. P. T. W. D. Noon, Miss J. O'Connell, Mrs. E. A. Orr, Miss E. Orr, Mrs. C. C. Owen and four children, Mr. E. A. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Saul, Mrs. M. A. Seymour, Miss Seymour, Mrs. V. A. Shittleworth, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Wasson and two children, Mr. R. G. Webber, Mr. A. P. Welch, D. K. C. Woodhull, Miss H. Woodhull, Mr. E. Agache, Mr. G. I. Allen, Miss G. Armstrong, Mr. H. G. Barker, Miss J. L. Beard, Mr. Robert Belcher, Mrs. A. W. Belcher, Sir John Benton, Lady Benton, Miss S. Flora Broadhead, Mr. and Mrs. I. Tucker Burr, Miss Tucker Burr, Miss N. H. Canfield, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cassidy, Mrs. Ella Cassidy, Mr. Jas. P. Cassidy, Mrs. Frank Connell, Mr. P. Dambicourt, Mr. L. N. David, Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Diebert, Mr. V. A. Dodge, Mr. H. C. Donnels, Mr. Jos. Donohue, Mr. J. Doyle, Miss A. Doyle, Mrs. S. D. Dye, Dr. H. K. Emerson, Miss R. Gleinz, Mrs. A. R. Greenwood, Miss Mabel Greenwood, Miss C. D. Greenwood, Miss Irene Herscheimer, Mrs. Emma Shafter Howard, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Howard, Mr. T. Herscheimer, Mr. R. W. Irwin, Jr., Mr. L. Joliet, Mr. E. H. Jones, Mr. G. E. Kelly, Mrs. Geo.

Wm. Knox, Mr. H. Knudson, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Lawrie, Mrs. C. H. Layson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lewis, Mr. J. E. Lewis, Mr. C. M. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Linnard, Miss Anna L. Linnard, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Langheim, Miss Ethel Lowenstein, Mr. V. Lorent, Miss B. L. McChesney, Mrs. M. McDonald, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. McLaughlin and infant, Miss Lorianie McLaughlin, Master Dwight McLaughlin, Master Ronald McLaughlin, Miss Vadie Marshall, Miss Margaretta Marshall, Mr. E. Maurer, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Mellersh, Miss Mellersh, Mr. R. T. Murdoch, Mr. R. C. Myles, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Neville, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Newberger, Mrs. S. V. Parks, Mr. P. S. Penfield, Mrs. G. K. Perry, Mr. W. Peterson, Mr. Chas. Bin, Mr. T. Pingree, Mr. J. F. P. Rice, Mr. N. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Riker, Miss M. C. Riker, Mr. F. Riley, Miss G. Rousselle, Mrs. D. C. Royall, Master Royall, Mr. W. V. C. Ruston, Mrs. Thos. Sammons, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Santini, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Sargent, Mr. W. W. Saunders, Mr. T. Sizer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sloan, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, Miss A. Smith, Mr. Van Smith, Mr. Tom Smith, Mr. A. K. Smith, Miss W. Smith, Mrs. Gaillard Stoney, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Stringfellow, Mr. Chas. Tartier, Mr. Maurice Tartier, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Taylor, Mr. Roy Taylor, Mr. Mathew Taylor, Mr. R. Thomas, Mrs. Milian Tige, Miss G. A. Tolman, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Upham, Mr. H. S. Walker, Mrs. Theodore Welch, Mr. J. Wood, Jr., Mr. John Wyeth, Mr. J. F. Zimmerman and Maname A. Zucchi in cabin.

Per British steamer *Banco* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Miss V. Kenion, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Rutledge, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Paynter and Miss Paynter in cabin.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer *Palawan* for London and Antwerp via ports:—

	Waste Silk.	London, Manchester, & Antwerp.
Pila & Co.	—	70
Cornes & Co.	—	73
Bavie & Co.	—	94
Total	—	237

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Manchuria*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 11th inst.:

	S. F.	N. Y.	Chicago.	Onaha.	Honolulu.	Baltimore.	O. City.	Total.
Shai...	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	420
Kobe...	—	—	404	—	—	—	—	822
Y'hama...	99	276	—	—	—	—	—	375
H'kong...	569	—	—	90	—	—	—	659
S'mizu...	170	—	215	239	—	—	—	624
Total	838	292	637	643	90	—	73	2,573

SILK.

	S. F.	N. Y.	Florence.	S. M. H'kong.	Easton.	Total.
Shai...	10	224	—	—	—	234
H'kong...	—	322	—	—	—	326
Y'hama...	—	1,064	—	55	15	1,134
Total	10	1,610	—	55	15	1,690

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Sept. 9th, 1911. S. 17

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明治廿五年三月廿日
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MAY 25TH, 1912.

DEATH.

WILSON.—On May 17th, 1912, Charles Wilson, beloved son of Frederick S. and Emma E. Kochendorfer, in his 7th year.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Chinese gunboat *Eitho*, now being built at the Mitsubishi Dockyard, will be launched early in June.

MR. HARA, Minister of Home Affairs, proceeded to the Imperial Palace on Monday morning and was received in audience by H.M. the Emperor,

when he reported to the Throne the results of the general election.

THE official trial run of the battleship *Settsu* was completed on Tuesday at Kure with satisfactory results.

THE death is announced of Sir George White, Kt., Liberal member of Parliament for North-west Norfolk.

ON Monday morning about half past one, a severe earthquake shock was felt at Sendai, lasting about two minutes.

AN official telegram to the Foreign Office reports that the Mexican Government has issued an order, indefinitely vetoing the importation of arms and ammunitions.

ABOUT 600 workers employed in the Arakawa mine in Akita prefecture, belonging to the Mitsubishi Company, went on strike on the 18th inst. for an increase in wages.

THE graduation ceremony of the Naval Staff College will take place on the 22nd instant at ten in the morning. H.M. the Emperor will honour the occasion with his presence.

MR. YAMAZA, Councillor of the Embassy in London, who is *en route* for home on furlough, is expected to arrive at Yokohama on the evening of the 24th instant by the *Tamba Maru*.

THE opening ceremony of Keio University Library, established in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the school's foundation, took place on Sunday afternoon at the Lecture Hall of the College.

THE interest due on the foreign loans for the month of June amounts to 5,050,000 yen in all, of which 4,320,000 yen is for public bonds, 174,000 yen for municipal and 625,000 yen for company loan bonds.

ACCORDING to the latest issue of the *Official Gazette*, the grants to be allowed this year to local governments by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, for the purpose of improvements, aggregates 237,000 yen.

THE authorities of Osaka City have decided to float a municipal loan of 7,000,000 yen, at the issue value of 92 yen per 100 yen face value. The bonds will bear annual interest of 5 per cent. and will be redeemable in thirty years after ten years from the date of issue.

A COMPANY has been newly established in Formosa, with a capital of half a million yen, for the cultivation of rubber trees, bananas, and pineapples. Its general meeting was held on the 7th instant at the Kyushu Club, when the Directors and Auditors were elected.

THE death is announced of the centenarian Mr. E. L. Osbaldeston Mitford, the traveller and author. Mr. Mitford accompanied Mr. Leyard on his first eastern expedition and the then famous journey overland to Ceylon, where he entered the Civil Service. He was father of the novelist Mr. Bertram Mitford.

THE new members of the House of Representatives are classified in the following occupations: Barristers, 49; bankers, 43; farmers, 42; journalists, 29; merchants, 27; ex government officials, 8; government officials, 8; traders, 7; landowners, 5; mine-owners, 6; physicians, 4; fishery owners, 3; cattle breeders, 3; weavers, 2;

ex-Buddhist priests, 3; educationists, 2; printers, 2; notary-public, tea trader, sake brewer, timber merchant, communal mayor, transport agent, hotel proprietor, marine products trader, one each; while those having no fixed occupation number 153.

THE annual general meeting of the Railwaymen's Association will take place on the 26th instant at the Seiyō-ken, in Kyōbashi. Count Okuma, Baron Goto and some 600 other Government officials and private business men are expected to be present on the occasion.

ACCORDING to an investigation of the Communications Department, the capital invested in electric enterprises during the year 1911 aggregated 366,020,000 yen, of which 258,210,000 yen is already paid up, 107,810,000 yen outstanding, and 43,600,000 yen borrowed.

A SHANGHAI dispatch to the *Chungwa* reports that owing to the lack of available funds the Shanghai Spinning Mill is unable to purchase American cotton. Chinese cotton has risen in price considerably, and the stock has almost run out. Many spinning factories have suspended work.

VICE-ADMIRAL the Hon. Stanley C. J. Colville, C.V.O., C.B., has been appointed to the command of the First Squadron and Rear-Admiral C. J. Briggs to the Fourth Squadron. Rear-Admiral C. H. H. Moore has been appointed Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, and Rear-Admiral F. E. E. Brock has been appointed Admiral Superintendent at Gibraltar.

AN Antung dispatch reaching the Foreign Office reports that the violent storm experienced there at dawn on the 18th instant caused an overflow of the lower course of the Yalu river, when two Japanese sailing vessels sank off Antung, and a quantity of timber was washed away by the flood. The opening and closing of the iron bridge built across the river was suspended in view of the danger.

AT about 1 p.m. on the 21st instant a disastrous explosion occurred in the army gunpowder magazine at Iwahara, a village located to the south of the town of Maebashi. Two workmen were seriously injured in the explosion and were quickly removed to the garrison hospital in Takasaki, where they are lying in a precarious condition. The damage done is comparatively slight, it being estimated at only 5,000 yen.

THE death is announced of Marchioness Sasaki, formerly Guardian of Princesses Kane and Michi, the sad event taking place on the 20th instant, at her residence, Aoi-cho, Akasaka. Prior to her demise she was decorated with the Fifth Order of Merit. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress have also been pleased to grant the sum of 3,000 yen towards the funeral, which is to be conducted to-day at Aoyama Cemetery. The deceased was in her seventy fifth year.

A PARTY of ten members of the House of Peers will start early next month on a tour of inspection in Chosen and Manchuria. Landing at Fusan, the party is to proceed to Mukden *via* Chinhai Bay, Seoul, Chemulpo, Chinnampo and Ping-yang, and thence to Dairen and Port Arthur. The party is then to visit Peking, travelling by the extra-mural railway and thence proceed to Hankow by the Peking Hankow railway. From Hankow the party will reach Shanghai *via* Changsha and Nanking. It is expected that they will have an interview with Yuan Shih-kai in Peking. The tour is to occupy about forty days.

CHINA'S LOANS.

Friday, May 17.

It appears that at last an agreement has been come to with regard to the accommodation to be given by the six Powers to China. The agreement was made on the 15th and 16th instant, and its main features are that there are to be two loans, a greater and a smaller. The latter will be paid in six weekly instalments of 6 million *yen* at a time, and the whole payment of a hundred million *yen* will be effected by the end of October. This of course includes the money already paid. The greater loan is to consist of 400 million *yen*. But the exact time and manner of payment are not yet announced. The consent of the Council of State has to be obtained for this transaction, and strenuous efforts have been made to overcome all opposition by that body. It is said that the Chinese statesmen have agreed to strict supervision, but as to that, we are inclined to be doubtful.

General Hwang continues to oppose the loan, and his persistence seems not unlikely to end in the resignation of his office. Indeed it is said that his resignation has already been accepted.

Saturday, May 18.

The discussion of details with respect to the manner of delivery and the arrangements for supervision in the case of the Chinese loans continues to present some points of difficulty; but, on the whole, things seem to be progressing favourably. The method of supervision adopted in the case of the small loan is to be extended to the large one, and there will apparently be no foreign supervision in the matter of disbanding the troops. A Shanghai telegram says that the former manager of the German Asiatic Bank has been appointed supervisor, or is to be appointed, but there is evidently some uncertainty about this matter. It is stated confidently that the Council of State is disposed to establish a board of foreign advisers in connexion with the loans. This project has not yet actually come up for decision, but there is said to be a strong feeling as to its expediency. The details are not very clearly given, but we gather that the idea is to have the whole six Powers equally represented on the advisory board. Such a device would probably lead to much needless discussion and difference of opinion.

Naturally there are some Chinese who regard the situation at present with great misgivings. Thus it is stated that a leading member of the political party known as the *Tungming hui* has addressed the Council of State, vehemently contending that if the present grooves be followed, the independence of the Chinese nation will soon be a thing of the past. We cannot wonder that such a forecast should present itself to many Chinese.

A very strange feature of the situation is that Premier Tang, while agreeing on the one hand to negotiate loans with foreign Powers, is strongly insisting, on the other, that such a course would be fatal to the country. In connexion with this, Shanghai telegraphs that fifty-seven political or semi-political parties in Nanking have formed themselves into a single association having for its purpose the vetoing of all foreign loans. This association is under the leadership of ex-President Sun and of General Hwang, whose resignation of the post of Governor-General in the Yangtze Valley has just been announced. Whether Premier Tang intends

to join the Nanking association we do not yet clearly gather; but it is tolerably evident that the statesmen of China are forming two mutually hostile camps, namely, the Southern and the Northern.

The Peking Government is now said to have pledged itself to abstain absolutely from all loans from outside syndicates. In other words, the Government will limit its foreign monetary transactions to the Six-Powers Syndicate. This seems very improbable. It signifies more than the Syndicate was ever disposed to ask. Firm option has hitherto been described as the limit of the Syndicate's proposals.

The newspapers in Peking appear to be certain that the loan has been concluded, and it is reported that a much letter feeling has already asserted itself in commercial quarters.

Sunday, May 19.

Some difficulty has arisen in connexion with the admission of Russia and Japan to the Loan Syndicate. It appears that at the meeting of the Representatives of the six Powers held in London, a condition was inserted by the four original Powers in the sense that each member of the Syndicate must put up its own share of the loan, and that, failing to do so, the other Powers shall disburse the necessary funds. To this the Russian delegate objected. He took the position that each member of the Syndicate shall be free to find the necessary money without any question of *provenance*. The meeting broke up without coming to a definite decision on this point, but it is not thought that the difficulty will prove cardinal. Meanwhile the original Four-Powers group has paid into the Chinese Treasury two sums of 1½ million *yen* each. In fact, it is evident that the Syndicate is doing everything in its power to facilitate matters for the Chinese Government. The idea underlying the above difficulty seems to be that the original Four Powers wish to differentiate the interests accruing to the various members of the Syndicate. So at least one telegram received on the 18th instant in Tokyo says.

Monday, May 20.

The telegraph says that on Russia's shoulders rests the responsibility for the hitch that has now occurred in the loan negotiations. The Russian Government contends that the Russian Bank, acting through its Kulon agency, has established relations with the finances of Outer and Inner Mongolia, which relations include a pledge that the money lent by the Six-Powers Syndicate shall not be applied to railway purposes in Mongolia, and that all railways built in Mongolia shall be secured by liens upon the property thus created. The other members of the Syndicate regard this stipulation as too drastic, and a temporary check has thus been given to the negotiations. The sum of the matter is, according to some correspondents, that Russia claims special privileges in Western Mongolia and Northern Manchuria, and that without full recognition of those privileges she will not be a party to the major Loan. As to the minor Loan, the transaction is limited to the original Four-Powers syndicate, and the two sums of 1½ million *yen* each which were reported to have been paid on the 18th instant into the Treasuries at Peking and Shanghai, respectively, did not concern Russia. Of course Japan is understood to prefer the same demands as those made by Russia, and thus the progress

of the major Loan negotiation is temporarily suspended. It is not thought, however, that this hesitation will prove permanent.

The Government of China is represented as regarding this new complication with very little concern, her idea being that the rupture of the negotiations with the Six Powers would free her hand for approaching other sources of finance, and that she has, therefore, nothing to do except to sit quiet and watch the progress of events. But the Peking Government is likely to find itself mistaken if it forms so light an estimate of the situation.

The various political parties in Canton—and there are many of them—are reported to have joined forces for the purpose of protesting vehemently against foreign supervision of the new Republic's finance. These party politicians are said to have addressed a protest to the Cantonese representatives in the Council of State, and to have urged upon them the necessity of employing every possible method to avert such a humiliation.

The Chinese Minister of Finance is said to have announced that he will ask the Six-Powers Syndicate to increase its loan by 150 million *taels*, and bring the grand total to 750 millions. This extra money will be devoted as follows, namely, 50 millions for the establishment of a salt gabelle; 50 millions for banking enterprise throughout the Republic, and 50 millions as a reserve. It is curious to observe that while Canton and Nanking are inveighing vehemently against incurring any pecuniary obligations to foreign countries, the Minister of Finance in Peking should be placidly pursuing this policy of borrowing great sums from Western capitalists.

Tuesday, May 21.

The Four Powers Syndicate is said to have stipulated that neither the sum of 36 million *taels*, which is to be devoted to the expense of disbandment, nor the 40 million *taels*, which is to be paid by monthly instalments up to the end of October, shall be applied to any purpose connected with Mongolia or Manchuria or relating to national defence. The Peking statesmen consider this limitation unreasonable, and thus a fresh difficulty has arisen.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* Peking correspondent wires to Tokyo that the Minister of Finance has drawn the attention of the metropolitan journals to the fact that the celerity or tardiness with which the loan under negotiation is concluded concerns the very existence of the State. Therefore it behoves all publicists to treat the question with the utmost gravity. Of late there has been much talk about Mr. Tang Shao-i's mistakes of policy and mismanagement. But that is altogether a misunderstanding. The whole responsibility for everything connected with the loan rests on the Minister of Finance himself, and sight must not be lost of that fact.

Our readers will have observed that Tang Shao-i's share in the loan transaction has been of a very puzzling character. At one moment he figured as the chief negotiator of the loan; at another, he stood forward as denouncing all recourse to foreign money at this juncture. The above statement attributed to the Minister of Finance shows, at all events, that Mr. Tang is acting in unison with his colleagues of the Cabinet.

On the 20th instant a meeting with closed doors was held between the Councillors of State and the Cabinet Ministers. With the

exception of the Minister of Home Affairs, all the portfolio-holders now in Peking were present. The Minister of Finance informed the meeting that an understanding had been come to in the sense that the "supervisor of Chinese finance" mentioned in the loan agreement should be changed to "supervisor of the foreign loan," and that with regard to the disbandment of the troops a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs was to be present. The Council of State is said to have agreed to this arrangement but to have insisted that if any more delay took place, the idea of raising money abroad should be abandoned and recourse should be had to the patriotic feeling of the home capitalists. It was further suggested that no obstacle should be put in the path of local loans contracted in the foreign market for purposes of provincial convenience, but the Minister of Finance condemned this method of procedure as calculated to disturb the unity essential to the safe conduct of national affairs.

It will be observed that the above intelligence contains no reference to the difficulty that is said to have arisen among the representatives of the Six Powers in London. As to that there are two interpretations; one political, and the other purely financial. The political interpretation is that Russia and Japan stipulated with regard to the disbandment of the Chinese troops in Manchuria and Mongolia that Russian and Japanese supervision should be exercised, whereas with regard to the disbandment of troops elsewhere no such provision should be demanded. The conference, not being able to arrive at any immediate decision on that point, separated for the moment. The other interpretation, namely, the financial one, is that the addition of two further countries to the Syndicate involved rewriting of the conditions of the loan as to interest, price of issue and other purely financial questions, and that the conference found it necessary to postpone a final decision on these points. The latter explanation seems to us much more probable than the former, but at any rate, the impression prevails that this delay in London is not serious and that Russia and Japan will not raise any radical difficulties. We note a rumour that the Four-Powers Syndicate endeavoured to stipulate that each nation participating in the transaction must furnish funds out of its own pocket. Such a restriction evidently points to Japan in particular, and it is therefore most unlikely that England will be a party to any differentiation of the kind.

We observe that the *Hochi Shimbun* adopts its usual jingoistic tone. It practically urges Russia and Japan to consult their own convenience mainly in this matter, and not to agree to anything that would involve blind submission to the wishes of foreign Powers. It must be confessed that the throwing of oil upon troubled waters is not a favourite pastime of the *Hochi Shimbun*.

Wednesday, May 22.

It has been stipulated by the Four-Powers Syndicate that in the event of a local loan being made in China it shall be offered in the first place to the Syndicate. To this condition the Minister of Finance has acceded; from which we infer that local loans are to be permitted over and above the loans contracted by the Central Government with the Syndicate. This was a point that promised at first to prove somewhat troublesome,

as the Syndicate was naturally anxious that all foreign loans made by China should pass through the hands of the Syndicate. In connexion with this the Central Government is said to have instructed the Governor-General of Mukden to make a detailed statement of all financial obligations incurred by him subsequently to the proclamation of the Republic, and has further intimated that any loan subsequently proposed shall be submitted for the approval of Peking before consummation.

Some excitement has been caused in journalistic circles of Peking by the announcement that Russia stipulates against the employment within her spheres of influence in Manchuria and Mongolia of any part of the Six-Powers Loan, and that she declines to coöperate in the transaction unless that limitation is imposed. The Chinese Press appears to think that this is a trouble purposely raised by Russia to impede the progress of the loan and that she has Japan at her back. But inasmuch as all Russia's conduct with regard to this loan has been hitherto perfectly fair and above board, the world will not readily believe in any radical change of front by her at the present juncture.

As to the question said to have been raised at the London conference by Russia, namely, that in the event of any of the coöperating countries being unable to contribute its share of the loan, the option of supplying the deficiency should be given to the other Powers forming the Syndicate, the explanation now suggested is that Russia had planned to obtain the necessary funds through Belgian agency, and that the Syndicate is averse to Belgian association in any form.

It must have been remarked by even a casual reader of contemporary history that for quite a long time back the Chinese statesmen have been declaring themselves wholly impecunious, and have been announcing to the world that unless funds were quickly furnished, not only must the organization of the State be dislocated but also a military emeute would become imminent. Nevertheless, in spite of these ominous predictions there has been no dislocation of the administrative machinery nor any outbreak on the part of the troops. In short, while proclaiming herself bankrupt, China is carrying on her affairs without any special inconvenience. Observing this curious contradiction between facts and statements, the members of the Foreign Syndicate are beginning to entertain a feeling of distrust. They imagine that the Peking statesmen are playing a deceptive game, and that in reality the financial situation is not by any means so pressing as the public has been invited to suppose. That is a very far fetched conception. A debtor who exaggerates his own impecuniosity in order to obtain credit is a novel figure on the financial stage.

Thursday, May 23.

It is telegraphed from Peking that Mr. Chen Kin-tao has been appointed Chief of the Accounts Bureau and Mr. Hsu Yuan Supervisor of Foreign Loans. These two appointments are both connected with the foreign loan.

Meanwhile, some fresh cause of mutual distrust appears to have arisen between the Chinese and the Syndicates. The latter are said to be quite willing to pay over at once the remainder of the 6-million-tael loan, but the Chinese are not prepared to receive it.

The exact cause of this reluctance on the part of the Chinese is not given, but it would seem that the growing temper in the South against the danger of contracting foreign loans in existing circumstances is beginning to produce an effect in Peking. Nanking and Shanghai appear to be the centres of this anti-foreign-loan feeling. Meetings of political parties have been held at both places, in Nanking specially, while great enthusiasm has been aroused in favour of recourse to domestic funds. President Yuan, while approving of the spirit shown by these politicians, is said to be urging upon them the danger of resorting to any riotous demonstrations.

In some quarters in Tokyo a not very optimistic view appears to be taken with regard to the stipulation made by the Four-Powers Syndicate that each representative nation should put up its share of the money; but, that failing ability to do so, recourse should be had to the other members of the Syndicate, and not to any outside source. This restriction is supposed to be intended as a means of ultimately excluding Russia from all potentialities connected with the loan, and if that be Russia's fate, it will be Japan's also. In short, the ultimate purpose of the Syndicate is to close the door in the face of Russia and Japan. Considering the very outspoken views expressed by the Syndicate with regard to the open door and equal opportunity, this device is regarded as a decided lack of good faith. But of course if the restriction in question has really been made, the Syndicate obviously exposes itself to such suspicions, and it has been observable throughout that every opportunity of suggesting evil interpretations has been utilized by some class of politicians in the East. Therefore, credence must not too readily be given to injurious rumours which occupy the stage in the absence of more distinct intelligence.

CHINHAI BAY.

On the 19th instant quite a serious disturbance occurred at Chinhai Bay. The story told by the telegraph is that the Korean habitants of a neighbouring village were required by the local authorities to vacate their land as it was required for official purposes. In these circumstances the land was handed over without difficulty, but subsequently it was put up for sale and disposed of to Japanese subjects who proceeded to convert it into a market garden. The Koreans who had previously occupied the village, thinking themselves aggrieved, turned out on the 19th instant to the number of over 200, and proceeded to take the law into their own hands. The situation could not have been dealt with by the comparatively small police force available, but the Japanese inhabitants came to the assistance of their countrymen, and order was restored after a sharp conflict, in which several of the Koreans were hurt, and one Japanese constable was severely wounded. It is stated that all the original inhabitants of the village were Christian converts, and it is therefore not improbable that some capital will be made out of this phase of the story. Of course it is possible that the Korean owners were harshly treated, but that is not probable considering that the affair was managed by the naval authorities.

CHINA.

Saturday, May 18.

The resignation of Mr. Chao, Minister of Home Affairs, is said to have become an accomplished fact, to the great regret of President Yuan, who had counted throughout on Chao's support.

The celebrated General Chang, the *Bombastes furiosus* of Nanking, appears to have raised a force of 10,000 men and to be holding possession of the Chin-Pu Railway. This incident has excited the ire of General Hwang, Governor-General of the Yangtze Valley, who has written to President Yuan, denouncing Chang as a rebel and demanding that immediate steps shall be taken for his suppression and punishment.

The disturbance in Mongolia seems to be growing more and more formidable. The Governor of Hsin-kiang has been killed, and the country is practically in a state of anarchy.

Sunday, May 19.

The resignation of General Hwang is naturally causing some sensation. The reason originally assigned for the resignation was that Hwang objected to a foreign loan, but latter intelligence suggests that the proximate cause of the rupture was an order issued by President Yuan for the speedy disarmament of the troops in the Yangtze Valley. Whatever the real cause may be the resignation of such a prominent statesman is producing a great commotion, and is rapidly widening the breach between the North and the South. Two days ago it was confidently asserted that the resignation had been accepted, but the version now given is that the acceptance of the resignation has been suspended in deference to probable complications. Everything goes to show that the peaceful union of the North and South for administrative purposes will be difficult to achieve.

The situation with regard to General Chang's troops, which are in occupation of Kungchow station on the Chin-Pu Railway, has not improved. Chang apparently declines to disembodify the force and his action in this respect creates much suspicion among the generals in the Yangtze Valley. In fact, in some quarters it is alleged that the maintenance of these troops on a war footing is the real cause of General Hwang's umbrage. The Republican leader does not appreciate the justice of disarming the Yangtze troops and maintaining those of the Imperialist, Chang.

Things seem to be going on from bad to worse in Jehol. Five thousand of the Government forces have gone over to the insurgents, and the force known as the Hwai-gun has been despatched to the place.

Tientsin telegraphs to the *Asahi Shimbun* that large quantities of arms and ammunition are finding their way into the interior of several provinces. The necessity of making provision against possible complications in connexion with the disarmament of the troops is given as a pretext, but in reality these purchases are supposed to be preparatory to an outbreak of imperialism on a large scale, and a general feeling of unrest is said to be growing rapidly.

From the north-west comes news that the Mohammedan uprising in Kansu is daily developing more formidable dimensions. The Mohammedans have marched into Szchuan, and in Kansu they are defying the Govern-

ment's forces. Such is the gist of the situation, stripped of details which only serve to confuse.

Turning southward, we find the commotion between Yunnan and Kweichow growing to serious proportions. The Kweichow people fared so ill at the hands of the Yunnan troops that the former are contemplating reprisals on a large scale. The Central Government is endeavouring to avert a collision between the two forces, but success has not yet come in sight.

Monday, May 20.

It will be remembered that three days ago news reached Tokyo of the assassination of Mr. Yuan, Governor-General of Hsin-kiang. Fuller information is now to hand. It says that the assassination actually took place, and that it was caused by reactionary indignation at Mr. Yuan's hair-cutting edict. The Governor-General proved himself to be a too wholesale reformer, and his order for docking the queue created indignation. Mr. Sung Yen, who is now Minister President of Outer Mongolia, where he represents the insurgent's party, has issued an extraordinary proclamation calling upon the people to kill everybody who appears without a queue or who professes Christianity.

Mr. Tsai, Governor-General of Yunnan, is said to have reported to Peking that the British troops in Piennia are marching against Szchuan. No reason is given and the report is not credited in the Chinese capital.

The Eight Banner Corps are said to have presented a petition of considerable dimensions to the Government in Peking. They demand, with reference to the provision stipulating for their support in the Abdication Edict, that two areas of land aggregating 7,000 *chō* (17,500 acres) together with a sum of 3 million *taels* annually shall be handed over for their support. It is thought that if this demand is not complied with, the Banner Corps will take up arms.

There are very conflicting reports with regard to General Hwang's retirement from the Governor-Generalship of the Yangtze Valley. Some allege that in taking this step the General is influenced by purely patriotic motives, his sole object being to avert from the Republic the perils associated with a foreign loan. These on-lookers predict that Hwang's retirement will prove to be the prelude of a serious disturbance. From other sources of news, however, we have a distinct statement that President Yuan has accepted General Hwang's resignation and that the incident has passed without any untoward consequences.

Tuesday, May 21.

It is alleged that Imperialist conspirators in considerable number have found their way into Wuchang and are sowing the seeds of anti-Republican disaffection among the troops there. Of course it is always on the cards that the disbanded troops enrolled originally for the establishment of the Republic, may object strongly to be sent about their business so soon as the Republic becomes a *fait accompli*. But certainly Wuchang is not a likely place for any trouble of this kind to break out.

From the capital of Szchuan and from Chungking it is reported that the two Governors General are on very bad terms in reality, although ostensibly they are working in unison; and there are apprehensions that trouble may break out at any moment in these remote regions.

The very positive assertion made two

days ago as to General Hwang's resignation having been accepted, turns out to be at least premature. President Yuan is now said to have pointed out that Hwang's retirement from office at this juncture, when the work of disbanding the troops is very far from being completed, would be most injurious to the public interests. Hwang is therefore invited to reconsider his resignation or at any rate postpone it. Premier Tang has addressed General Hwang in the same sense.

Thursday, May 23.

In Peking rumours are again current that Premier Tang has tendered his resignation and that President Yuan has summoned Mr. Chao, Governor-General of Manchuria, to repair to the capital for the purpose of conferring about Mr. Tang's successor. Another account, however, suggests a suspicion that the summoning of Chao to Peking has caused the rumour of Tang's resignation.

It is also rumoured that the Minister of Communications has tendered his resignation on account of disputes that have arisen between him and one of his colleagues. Altogether the Cabinet of the Republic does not seem to be working very smoothly.

As to Governor-General Hwang, he continues to tender his resignation and President Yuan continues to urge his reconsideration. In several quarters it is alleged that Hwang wishes to absent himself from China at this juncture, and that he will probably proceed to Europe or to Japan.

Peking has received a telegram from Chengtu to the effect that on the 15th inst. heavy fighting took place on the borders of Thibet and Szchuan between the troops of the Republic and the insurgents. The former are said to have been defeated with heavy loss.

The Peking Government, in order apparently, to placate the Mongolians, has just presented to the Council of State a bill providing for the partition of Mongolia into four parts, from each of which five representatives shall be chosen for the first National Assembly. This bill has passed its second reading by the Council of State, and the idea is that by thus increasing the numerical representation of Mongolia, the inhabitants will be brought back to their old allegiance.

In our last issue we mentioned that disagreement had arisen between the Governors-General now officiating in Manchuria. Originally, each of the Three Eastern Provinces had a Governor, and in Mukden there was a Viceroy presiding over the whole. But one of the first steps taken by the Republican statesmen was to abolish the distinctions of Viceroy and Governor, and confer the title of Governor-General on the incumbents of each of these offices. This change of system seems to have worked fairly well throughout China, but in Manchuria, where the Viceroy's power had been exceptionally great, it was found difficult to prevent a clash of authority, especially since the former Viceroy became Governor-General not of one province but of three. The Council of State in Peking has now adopted a measure for changing that title to "Governor-General of Mukden," thus depriving ex-Viceroy Chao of all power outside the Metropolitan Province. In these changed circumstances we shall not at all be surprised to learn that Chao has tendered his resignation.

CHINA'S INTEGRITY.

We take the following from an American exchange:—

As the Japanese Press awaken to the serious nature of what they regard as Russian designs upon Mongolia they seem to realize that the territorial integrity of China is in grave danger. This apprehension grows stronger as they perceive that England can no longer be looked upon as the champion of the *status quo* in China. While the majority of the Japanese editors still hesitate openly to challenge Great Britain, there are such influential journals as the *Tokyo Nichi Nichi* and the *Osaka Mainichi* which voice in no uncertain terms their distrust of Japan's Western ally. The *Osaka Mainichi*, in an editorial entitled "Is the Alliance Still in Force?" declares that the Anglo-Japanese pact virtually died when it was revised last year, for, in the *Osaka* journal's opinion, the treaty of alliance, in its revised form, gives no guaranty for the preservation of China's territorial integrity. Moreover, the *Mainichi* places at England's door these serious charges:

"Our ally is no longer faithful in its professed principle of the preservation of the territorial integrity of China. She connives at, aye, she views with perfect equanimity, the Russian encroachments upon Mongolia, for she knows that the Russian absorption of Mongolia will furnish excuse for her doing the same thing in Tibet."

The *Tokyo Nichi Nichi*, reviewing the situation in Mongolia and Tibet, comes to the same conclusion as that reached by the *Osaka Mainichi*. Had the original spirit of the alliance been lived up to, it asserts, England, in conjunction with Japan, ought to have protested against the Russian measures in Outer Mongolia. But:—

"England is rather inclined to approve of the steps which Russia is taking in Mongolia. The truth is that since the war with Russia, Anglo-Russian relations have been growing closer, while our friendship with England has been cooling. This certainly is an unfortunate situation, yet we are confident that it was not engendered by any fault on our part. Our stand with regard to the tariff revision, which seems to have been one of the reasons for alienating British sympathy from us, was not in violation of justice and fairness. Again, the revision of the Alliance last year was made in such a manner as would serve British purposes, even at the sacrifice of our interests."

Even the *Jiji*, whose editorial opinions are usually characterized by sanity and moderation, does not hesitate to urge that Japan must be prepared to shoulder the whole responsibility for the preservation of the territorial integrity of China, and it adds:

"Outer Mongolia occupies nine-tenths of the total area of the two Mongolias. As Inner and Outer Mongolia have an area of 1,367,600 square miles the area of Outer Mongolia would be approximately 1,230,600 square miles. Should Russia absorb such a vast territory, the anti-foreign feeling always latent in the Chinese mind would inevitably find its vent even with such fury as was witnessed in the Boxer disturbance, throwing the whole country into chaos and anarchy. This Japan must prevent, even at the point of the bayonet."

This subject does not come to us as a novelty. It has been discussed with more or less insistence during the past fifty years and especially since the Franco-Chinese state of Reprisals in 1885. But what is meant by "China's Integrity?" Are we to interpret it by the light of China's own acts? Is it the integrity of which she furnished an example in her treatment of the problem of Annam, of Tonking, of Yunnan, of Tibet, of Burma and of Korea? If so, it is impossible to suppose that either England or Japan, when they pledged themselves to preserve the *status quo* and the open door in China, thought of including any of the above buffer States in the arrangement. Certainly if they had entertained any such thought, Japan could not have absorbed Korea into her territories, and Great Britain could not have been a contented onlooker. The fact is that the relations between China and her buffer States do not fall into the category of any working theory as to the preservation of the Middle Kingdom's integrity. This difference has to be considered carefully before we un-

dertake to determine the limits of an agreement like that which binds England and Japan together to-day.

MR. YONE NOGUCHI.

Mr. Yone Noguchi, writing in the columns of the *New York Nation* declares that "Japanese life, as well as art, suffer from nervous debility as a result of the wholesale Western invasion, under which we have become spiritual Gypsies, losing our own homes." This criticism tempts us to ask at what period of her history Japan's art had a home of its own where it could live and flourish independently of alien influence. We know of no such time nor any such home. The truth is that Japan borrowed her art, whether pictorial art or applied art, from China, and that the more closely she approached her foreign model, the greater her achievement was considered to be. Like the late Mr. Lafcadio Hearn, Mr. Yone Noguchi cherishes the idea that Japan has lost much by every assimilation of Occidental moods or motives. Our own belief, on the contrary, is that she has gained largely by the process. There is no country in the world and there never has been any country, which can remain stationary in art while progressing in civilization. And all the nations of Europe are imitative rather than inventive in the realm of art. There was in Japan's modern career a brief interval during which she was guided by her own mistaken notions of Occidental taste, and translating those false conceptions into the language of art, she produced a very unlovely result. But she soon emerged from that blundering estimate, and it would be impossible, we think, now to point to any realm of art in which she is not greater and broader than she was a century ago.

MAGDALENA BAY.

Some American newsmongers are determined that the Magdalena Bay question shall not be suffered to rest. A newspaper published at El Paso has given currency to a statement said to have been made by Mr. Peter Aiken, to the effect that in consideration of receiving a grant of land on the west coast of Mexico, the Japanese have promised to lend military aid to the leader of the Mexican revolution. This has been confirmed by Senator Gelfor. He declines to give the name of his informant but he alleges that a person fully qualified to speak about Mexican affairs has made to him, the Senator, a statement identical with that quoted by the El Paso journal. The tenacity shown by the authors of this canard is really remarkable. One would have imagined that by this time some inkling of the truth should have reached them.

The Senate of the United States evidently thinks it wise to allow the atmosphere of publicity to penetrate the Magdalena Bay question. A motion has been adopted inviting the State Department to publish all documents conveying information as to the facts of this curious scare. The United States Department will thus have an opportunity of finally contradicting all the alarmist rumours that have been circulated with reference to this imaginary effort of Japanese aggression. That is what the Senate wants and what the Department of State wants also.

FOURTEEN-INCH GUNS.

The new Japanese armoured-cruiser *Kongō*, which was launched at Messrs. Vickers and Company's building yard on the 18th instant will have for principal armament eight 14-inch guns. This will be the first occasion of employing these artillery monsters on ships of war. The *Kongō* will have a speed of 27 knots and a displacement of 27,500 tons. Altogether this will be the most powerful vessel afloat. It is very interesting to note that whereas the American naval architects introduced 14 inch guns to the world, the first American vessel armed with such weapons was launched on the same day as the *Kongō*. The speed of the American cruiser, however, will be only 20 knots. Three sister ships of the *Kongō* are now in the course of construction, namely, the *Hiei* at Yokosuka, the *Haruna* at Kawasaki and the *Kirishima* at the Mitsubishi. These four vessels will constitute a great addition to the Japanese navy.

An ordinary layman naturally supposes that the difference between a twelve inch gun and a fourteen-inch may be roughly estimated from the arithmetical difference in these figures. But that is a very inadequate notion. For example, whereas the weight of a twelve inch gun is only sixty-six tons, that of a fourteen-inch is ninety tons; and whereas the weight of a twelve-inch shell is 853 lbs. that of a fourteen inch is 1,500 lbs. In fact, the projectiles are compared not by their relative weights but by their penetrative power. The twelve inch pierces eleven inches of steel at a range of 10,000 metres and the fourteen inch penetrates twelve inches of steel at the same range. The great difference between the two shells may be estimated from these figures, and it is easy to understand the satisfaction of Japanese naval men when they find themselves on the verge of coming into possession of four giant cruisers with such immensely powerful armaments as the new *Kongō*.

"MISS JOHN BULL."

We take the following from an American exchange, the book alluded to not having yet reached Japan:—

After ten years in England, Yoshio Markino, the artist, has collected his most interesting impressions of his English sisters into a volume, which in the original edition was called "My Idealized John Bullesses." His pen pictures are quaint and recorded in naive and sometimes broken English, and he has illustrated his text with numerous clever black-and-white sketches or line-drawings. Mr. Markino professes great admiration for the young Englishwoman, and his judgments and criticisms are keenly intelligent and sometimes, sharply satirical, especially when he considers the subject of dancing and out-door sports. "I feel almost sure that the origin of the European dancing might have been indecisibly vulgar, but now it may be nothing but the grace." There is hardly any point of view from which the author has not considered his English friends, and we are amused and edified by his comments and deductions even when we do not endorse his opinions. The suffragette movement evidently made a great impression on him, and he considers himself a real convert. Here is his last word on that subject: "Your husband has only one ticket to vote now. But if you can vote, it will strengthen your husband's will twice over. I am sure you would be willing to assist your beloved husband that way." A new argument for the suffragette. "I always compare John Bullesses with the safety-matches. You can not strike it on the proper part of the box to burn it. So with the John Bullesses. They are dead still to a stranger. But if one is properly introduced to them they can burn."

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Friday, May 17.

Two or three days must pass before the results of the general elections are fully known. We stated in our last issue that there was no Unionist candidate for the city of Tokyo, but that was an error. There were three candidates but all failed to obtain a majority. The greatest number of seats fell to the Popular Party, which increased its representation by one seat, carrying five instead of four out of the eleven candidates which the metropolis returns. The independent candidates were returned in the same strength as before, namely, five out of the eleven.

A curious feature of the elections in Tokyo is described by Mr. Hoshino, who stood in the Independent interests. He says that 15,000 balloting papers were promised to be filled in by his supporters, but on the actual day of polling, only 2,298 votes were cast for him. It would seem that the citizens find themselves least worried if they promise at once to vote for some particular candidate. A similar experience is described by Mr. Hoshino with reference to people residing in his own ward of the city. Being a large business man and having his premises in Nihonbashi ward, he looked forward to securing a large quota of votes there, particularly as many inhabitants of the ward, on their way back from the polls, took the opportunity to call at his residence and to leave congratulatory cards. But when the returns were published it appears that only two or three hundred of the Nihonbashi tax-payers had voted for him.

It appears that Tokyo has been careful to demonstrate its independence of mercenary views. Had the result of the elections depended on the size of the candidate's property, the order of the men returned would have been very different. Money evidently had little to do with the question of success at the polls. In this context it is interesting to note that Mr. Kurahara Ikaku has been once again returned almost at the head of the poll, though he has always been remarkable for poverty. At the last general elections when he stood for the first time, the fact that his fortune might be represented by a cipher attracted much attention, and the same impecuniosity has again carried him to the head of the polls on this occasion. In this matter the true Yedo spirit has been displayed by the inhabitants of Tokyo city.

We observe that the well known civil engineer, Mr. Sengaku, has failed to win his seat. His absence from Japan is probably responsible for this. The celebrated Mr. Shiba Shiro has also failed to obtain election. Several names of prominent business-men are found among the independent candidates.

Saturday, May 18.

Among the unsuccessful candidates for election, four well known politicians figure prominently. The first is Mr. Ogawa Hsichichi, a barrister whose name has hitherto appeared in almost all of the Diet's debates; the second is Mr. Yamane Masatsugu, a physician who has attained considerable distinction; the third is Mr. Sasaki Yasugoro, who has identified himself so closely with Mongolian affairs as to receive the cognomen of King of Mongolia; and the fourth is Mr. Muramatsu Tsunejiro, notorious in connexion with the Portsmouth riots. The absence of these four members from the House of Representa-

tives will have the effect of introducing much calm into its discussion.

Another remarkable feature of the elections is that the group of seven politicians who, ever since the opening of the Diet, have marshalled themselves under the banner of Mr. Kōno Hironaka, now disappear altogether from Parliamentary life. Looking back to the early years of the Meiji era, we recall the plot made by Mr. Kōno and his fellow-politicians to kill Mr. Governor Mishima and to overthrow the Cabinet. For this offence they were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, but the constituencies in Yamanashi prefecture, nevertheless, selected them to represent the prefecture in Parliament. The only one of the seven who will sit in the next session of the Diet is Mr. Kōno Hironaka himself.

With regard to the representation of the various parties in the new Diet several estimates are published, but we shall be safe in assuming that the *Asahi* and the *Fiji* are nearest to the truth. The numbers given by them are as follow:—

Parties.	"Asahi Shimbun's" Estimate.	"Fiji Shimpo's" Estimate.
Seiyukai	200	217
Kokumin-tō	90	89
Chūō	31	26
Independents	56	44

These totals are not complete, as 381 members have to be accounted for, including those from Nemuro, Oshima and Ryūkyū (2).

It is well worthy of notice that throughout the whole Empire of Japan there was only one instance of resort to personal violence in connexion with the general election. This was a trifling affair at Hachioji in the Tokyo district. The Authorities deserve great credit for having so successfully preserved public peace and good order. As for the curious fact that not a single member of the *Seiyukai* was returned for Tokyo, the explanation given is that the method of organization pursued by the leaders of the Party was defective. Instead of taking care that not more than one candidate should present himself for each constituency in the *Seiyukai* cause, two, three or even four were allowed to canvass, and thus strength which would have been formidable, if exerted in unison, became ineffective owing to division. On the other hand, the absence of organization is by some politicians attributed to the Government's extreme reluctance to create any suspicion of interference.

Sunday, May 19.

The Unionists and the Popular Party have not undergone any very marked change in the number of candidates returned by them at the elections of the 15th instant. The Unionists have gained six seats so that they are now represented in the Lower House by 214 against 208, and the Popularists have obtained 93 seats against their previous 87. The Centre Party, however, has undergone something like dissolution. Its representatives have fallen from 52 to 27, and it may therefore be regarded as practically a negligible quantity. As for the Independents, they now number 46 against 32 in the last Parliament, and as it generally happens that some of the men who declare themselves independent at the polls enter the ranks of political parties subsequently, it is possible that the *Seiyukai* and the *Kokumin tō* may undergo some change in this respect.

It is interesting to note that in the five Parliaments which have existed since constitutional institutions came into operation in

Japan, six members have been uniformly returned. They are Mr. Ozaki Yukio (Mayor of Tokyo), Mr. Minoura Katsundo (Proprietor of the *Hochi Shimbun*), Mr. Shimada Saburo, Mr. Haseba Junko, Mr. Inukai Ki, and Mr. Kōno Hironaka.

It is a notable fact that, practically speaking, the above parties are not differentiated in a tangible manner. It would be impossible, we think, to build platforms showing an appreciable difference of view in the political creeds of the *Seiyukai* and the *Kokumin tō*. The Central Party would doubtless lay claim to a measure of conservatism, but they have not formulated any code of political laws setting forth such a belief.

Thursday, May 23.

Several further arrests have been made in connexion with charges of bribery and corruption at the recent elections. A great deal of interest centres on the case of Mr. Hasegawa, who formerly served a term of imprisonment in connexion with the sugar scandal. He was duly elected among the representatives of Kanagawa prefecture. But the police subsequently laid hands on him, on what charge the public is not yet informed.

Mr. Matsumura Gohei was also one of those tainted by the sugar scandal, but the circumstances of his conduct were such that some extenuation can be found for his present election. Both men belonged originally to the *Seiyukai*, but they naturally find much difficulty in gaining re-admission to the ranks of the great Party.

The total number of persons apprehended for bribery and corruption is given as 293 in the returns sent in to the Judicial department and as 309 according to the Department of Home Affairs. The law fixes one year's imprisonment as the maximum punishment, but in previous elections the police have endeavoured to confirm themselves to penalties not more severe than fines. One difficulty is that whereas the police are specially anxious to lay hands on the agents by whom the bribery was practised, they find it almost impossible to get beyond the men elected. Many have been charged with nothing worse than receiving a good dinner at a restaurant, and these the police are naturally anxious not to punish too severely. One hundred penalties have hitherto been inflicted, and the accused persons have been released in seventeen cases, but it is thought that the total number of suspects will reach to the neighbourhood of ten thousand.

CHINA'S FOREIGN EMPLOYEES.

A telegram from Shanghai with reference to China's foreign employees has reached a Tokyo news-agency. It alleges that the Chinese Government has decided to engage an American citizen named Mr. Swing(?) as adviser with regard to the abolition of opium-smoking; a British subject, whose name in its transliterated form appears to be "Frun" and a Japanese subject named Mr. Okada as legal advisers, while the place of finance adviser is to be given to the well known American citizen Mr. Jenks, who visited the East some time ago as a member of the Bimetallic Commission. We presume that these four experts do not represent the whole of China's projected employees, inasmuch as the name of Sir Francis Piggott is omitted.

THE ETHICAL ASPECT OF SPORT IN JAPAN.

The writer of the article in the *Japan Advertiser* of the 21st instant has offered so many explanations of his previous attitude towards the ethics of sport in Japan that many of the disagreeable impressions produced by his original writing have been removed. But it cannot be denied that such impressions were produced. There remains, however, one point which may not be passed over. He writes as follows:—

The writer in the *Japan Mail* states that a "Japanese never by any chance exhibits ill-temper when he is beaten in a contest of skill. He accepts the result with absolute calm, politeness, and good nature." As far as purely Japanese contests are concerned, this remark may be fairly true, but if the *Japan Mail* writer asks us to extend it to all foreign contests in which the Japanese during recent years have taken part, he is talking drivelling nonsense. One of the most obstinate phenomena to which nearly every foreigner in Japan who has played against the Japanese in foreign sports will bear testimony is that the Japanese are good winners but very bad losers. It will be conceded that matters are improving in this respect, but that in their desire to win, the Japanese, more frequently than foreigners, will resort to questionable expedients, judged by foreign standards, hardly any qualified observer would pretend to deny. The *Japan Mail* is invited to note our italics.

It will be observed that the writer in the *Japan Advertiser* cites as witnesses in support of his case "nearly every foreigner in Japan who has played against the Japanese in foreign sports." Well, we ourselves, can offer our testimony under that qualification. During forty-five years we have observed the Japanese playing poker, whist, bridge, chess, drafts, billiards, football, lawn tennis, wrestling, fencing and base ball, and we have never seen so much as one single instance of a loss of temper, politeness or good nature on the part of a Japanese engaged in these pastimes. Moreover, we have repeatedly heard foreign residents comment with admiration on the excellent temper shown by Japanese on these occasions, and we have repeatedly heard contrasts drawn between their moral calm and the very different record which stands to the discredit of not a few Westerners engaged in contests of skill. The writer in the *Advertiser* will probably dismiss our testimony as "drivelling nonsense," but we adhere, none the less, to the evidence of our own observations spread over such a length of time and never contradicted by any salient fact.

DEATH OF COUNT YI YONG-KYU.

On the 22nd instant Count Yi Yong kyu expired at Suma where he had been lying ill for some months. He was certainly one of the most distinguished Koreans of the era. He took over the Presidency of the *Il Chin-hoi* from Vis-count Sun Phong chun, and worked earnestly in support of his conviction that in amalgamation lay the only hope of finding a satisfactory solution of the Japan-Korea problem. Japanese journals speak of his character and abilities in terms of the highest praise, and say that although obscure by birth and wholly without any political patronage, he rose to be one of the most distinguished men of his time. All his family were in attendance at his bed-side at the moment of his decease, and his remains are to be cremated and carried to his native place. He was a devout religionist, and is said to have owed much of his strength to the assistance of the sect,

Tendō, between which and the *Shinto* cult he found much in common. In fact, his belief was that the mirror which constitutes the principal among the Japanese regalia came originally from Korea and that the letters written on the back of the mirror are Korean characters. For this reason he willed that his remains should be interred in accordance with the *Shinto* ritual, and in deference to that wish a high posthumous name has been given to him by the *Shinto* officials of the great Ise Shrine. The sect to which he belonged is said to have half a million followers, of whom the greater number reside in the Chientao region.

THE SHINAGAWA FORTS.

The Tokyo Municipality is negotiating with the War Department for the sale of the Shinagawa forts to the former by the latter. Those forts were built in Tokugawa times by way of defence against foreign invasion, and it has always been said that the cost of such useless works was the main contributor to the downfall of the *Bakufu*. One of the forts has for some years been used as a dockyard, and it was recently sold by the War Office for the purpose. This event inspired the Municipality to apply for the sale of the fourth and the sixth forts, the idea being to employ them as garbage-burning beds. At present a great part of the city's refuse is carried to Kazusa and there burned or used for fertilizing purposes. The War Department is not unwilling to dispose of the forts, but the difficulty is that if they are sold to the Municipality the price must go to the State Treasury, not into the War Department's strong-room. To avoid that, the only plan is for the Municipality to purchase a plot of land elsewhere and then to give it in exchange for the forts. But people are now beginning to ask whether it would not be an intolerable mistake to convert into garbage-destroying sites land lying off the mouths of the Tokyo rivers. The construction of a public park at the position now occupied by the forts has long been talked of, and naturally strong objections are raised to the offensive measure.

A NOVEL DEPARTURE.

On the 18th instant the first of a series of conferences between the Cabinet and the Press took place in Peking. This innovation has naturally attracted much attention. It means that machinery has been created for a *rapprochement* between the Ministers of State and the journalists of the capital. The meeting was opened by Premier Tang himself, who informed the newspaper representatives that the Government had resolved to organize a daily conference where the journalists of Peking might obtain all information within the limits of official expediency, and might receive news of everything that is in progress. This arrangement is said to have been welcomed most heartily, and it is regarded as an evidence that the Government is determined to consult public opinion as far as possible. The first illustration of the working of the new system was given by the Minister of Finance, who offered a detailed explanation of the course which is to be pursued with regard to foreign supervision of the Republic's finance.

PAPER MANUFACTURE IN FORMOSA.

The Mitsubishi Company are said to have at length completed their preparations for the manufacture of paper in Formosa. This industry has long been carried on under the auspices of Chinese inhabitants, but their methods have been defective and costly. They have always used the young bamboos as materials for pulp, and the consequence has been rapid decline of the essential article, and the production of inferior paper. The demand for pulp in Japan proper has been growing largely, and the domestic paper has succeeded in ousting a good deal of the foreign product. This substitution, however, has practically come to an end owing to scarcity of pulp. The yearly importation of the latter has now reached a total of 40 million lbs. and the prospect of reducing that figure is not bright. It was recognized some time ago by the Mitsubishi experts that a great opening for this industry exists in Formosa, whereby with improved methods of procedure, not only would the pressure be greatly lessened on the source of supply, but also much better paper might be manufactured. The new works are said to be capable of producing 3,000 tons of pulp yearly. The opening ceremony took place on the 27th of last month, and a brilliant future is anticipated for the works. Of course paper made from bamboo pulp is somewhat deficient in strength, but this defect can be remedied by a little chemical management.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.

Looking at the quotations of stocks and shares on the 18th of this month, it is apparent that the ease said to exist in the money market is by no means so palpable as the public have been led to believe. The following quotations for delivery at the end of the current month are instructive:—

Name of Security.	Market Price.	Rate of Interest.
Five per-cent Bonds	96.40	5.19
4 per-cent	84.65	4.73
Yusen	114.30	4.37
Specie	215.00	5.53
Gas	73.80	7.45
Electric Light	73.10	6.85
Fuji Gas	92.80	5.39
Kanegafuchi Spinning	113.30	5.30
Beer	88.30	6.80
Yusen Sugar	70.07	7.14
Formosan sugar	85.30	7.03
Hochu Oil	63.80	9.40
Nippon Oil	74.00	8.78
Tokyo Stock Exchange	157.83	4.44
(New)	126.00	2.92
Treasury Bills		5.62
Railway Bonds		5.04
Bank Debentures		6.05
Manchu Railway Bonds		6.00

THIBET.

Reuter's telegrams with reference to the state of affairs in Thibet represent the situation as very parlous for the Chinese, and report that immediate assistance has been solicited from Szechuan and Yunnan. But on the other hand, Peking wires that the Thibetans have been defeated and that the Dalai Lama and his immediate subordinates have fled to India. Which version is correct we have as yet no means of judging, but Reuter is habitually accurate, which is more than can be said about Chinese sources of information in general.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

There appears to be some trouble in the ranks of the Oriental Development Company. A meeting of the local share-holders in Nagoya was held there on the 16th instant, and a resolution was adopted in the sense that the Government subsidy of 300,000 yen should be given up, and that men of real business capacity should be appointed on the Board of Directors. It was further agreed that to be eligible for the Board of Directors, a man must hold shares aggregating at least 200, and that 10 shares should be the smallest holding recognized. It is expected that these points will be brought up for consideration at the general meeting of the Company, which is to be held in Tokyo on the 20th instant.

There has been a good deal of talk lately about the apparent dilatoriness of the Oriental Development Company. Three years have elapsed since the Company came into existence, and very little has yet been done in the shape of colonization, which is one of the many objects of the Company. An explanation is now given by Mr. Inoue, Managing Director of the Company. He is quoted as saying that the first thing necessary before encouraging immigrants was to provide means of livelihood for them. Agriculture is the principal pursuit of the Koreans, but their methods are so defective that they obtain a small quantity of products for a large expenditure of labour. The first essential, therefore, was to improve agricultural methods, and for this it was thought better, on the whole, to deal with already arable land than to attempt reclamation on a large scale. In other words, it was decided that the best plan would be to make arrangements for Japanese farmers to settle on Korean lands, and thus to create models for Korean imitation. Already tracts of land measuring 40,000 *chō* have been acquired at a cost of 6 million yen, and work had been commenced with results which, though not yet worthy to be called brilliant, are nevertheless satisfactory. It is now expected that 5,000 settlers representing a thousand households will repair to the Peninsula each year.

MINING IN KOREA.

It is announced that on the 16th instant a charter was given to the Okura Company to supply electric power for mining purposes in Korea and for the building of electric trams. At present, scarcity of fuel greatly interferes with the development of mining enterprise in the Peninsula. The two principal mines are the Unsan gold-mine, which is worked by British subjects, has a capital of 10 million yen, uses 2,000 horse power per annum, and sends to Japan every year 3½ million yen worth of gold ingots; and the Nyongpyoung gold-mine, which is in American hands, has a capital of 2 million yen, and uses 15,000 horse power. There are other mines for which charters have been given to Messrs. Furukawa, Yasukawa, and a French syndicate, but they are not yet in full working order. The great impediment is want of fuel, and the Okura Company has drawn up a plan for obtaining electric power from the coal mine at Penihisu, which has ample producing power. The project is thought to be very promising.

CHINESE RAILWAYS.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the work of construction of the Yeh-Han and Chuan-Han railway will begin shortly under the superintendence of English engineers, in order to give employment to the destitute people in the Yangtsz Valley, as well as the disbanded soldiers, to relieve the economic destitution. The destitution in Anhui and Hupeh has reached a climax, over one million people suffering starvation, while the young men have turned into robbers. The transportation of silver coins is suspended. Moreover, the exportation of silver is prohibited by order of the Magistrate in Szchuan. The trade interests on the Yangtsz valley are that seriously affected. The commencement of the construction of these railways is being welcomed as the best relief measure.

From intelligence published by Tokyo journals it seems that one of the principal causes of the delay in building the Kilin-Changchun Railway was a dispute between the Japanese and the Chinese engineers about the manner of negotiating the Tumen Pass. The Chinese experts advocated a circuitous route through the plain, but the Japanese were in favour of tunnelling. Ultimately the Chinese view prevailed, but it was then found that all the money put up on the Chinese side had already been exhausted, and that funds could not be looked for in any near future. The whole length of the line is 79 miles, and only the section of 35 miles from Changchun to the Tumen Pass has been carried to completion. It is now arranged that the whole of the money shall be put up by the South-Manchuria Railway Company, and thus Japan will stand in the position of financing the whole loan. The special reason for expedition in the building of this line is that so soon as it is in working order, it will probably become the instrument for transporting all or nearly all the crops in Kilin province. The great part of these are carried at present *via* Vladivostok.

TELEPHONES IN JAPAN.

The subject of telephones in Japan is again attracting much attention. It appears that the Government is quite unable to meet the applications for this useful instrument. So greatly does the demand exceed the supply that in Tokyo alone more than 10,000 applicants are patiently waiting until their turn comes, which may not be for several years hence. Of course it is possible to buy a telephone in the open market, and there are agents who undertake to make these purchases. But the price is at least 350 yen. All sorts of devices are resorted to by these agents, and the main part of the benefit accrues to them. As a device for public convenience it has now been decided that any one applying for a telephone in Tokyo between the 1st and the 7th of June will have his application taken into consideration, and if everything is straightforward, he will receive a telephone on payment of 185 yen. There is a limit fixed, however, namely, 3,500 instruments. If the applications exceed that number the old deadlock will be re-established. In the case of Yokohama, the maximum number is 560 and the price 135 yen.

SUBURBAN RESIDENCES.

The *Nippon* publishes its second article on the subject of suburban residences. It appears to be thought that the tendency of the time is distinctly in favour of the principle of repulsion (*enshin ryoku*), as against the sentiment of attraction (*kyushin ryoku*). This idea has been carried out to a small extent in Osaka and there are signs that companies of more or less importance will soon devote themselves to working out the idea. Now that means of communication in the shape of over-head railways and tram-cars have been so largely developed, it is evident that residential facilities may be found in regions which have hitherto been regarded as too remote from business centres to be conveniently inhabited. Of course, everybody knows that great cities of Europe and America already have their suburbs largely occupied and widely extended. It is thought that Tokyo should lose no time in following this example, and we may expect soon to see speculators taking advantage of the suburban mood and planning means for encouraging it.

Already in connexion with this matter the formation of an architectural company is announced. The plan in contemplation is to build houses to order, and to have them paid for by monthly instalments. Thus by disbursing a little more than the normal rent, a man would come into possession of his house within a few years. The Company has an excellent backing of names. Its capital is two million yen, of which the promoters take a million and a half, and the remaining half a million is to be offered to the general public.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN PEKING.

There have hitherto been five political parties in Peking, two of which stood out prominently, namely, the *Tung-i hui* and the *Tung-min-hui*. The former is under the leadership of President Yuan, and the latter under that of ex-President Sun Yat sen, and General Hwang. The three remaining parties have now thrown in their lot with the *Tung-i hui*. The *Tung-min-hui* has its headquarters in Nanking, and there is also a party called the *Kungho hui*, which has its headquarters in Wuchang and is under the leadership of Vice-President Li. The *Tung-i hui*, after amalgamation with the three other minor parties in Peking, has called itself the *Kuomin-hui*. It seems to be the most powerful of all the political associations, and its programme is centralization of administrative power, while at the same time it advocates a measure of local autonomy. Another principal plank in its platform is to cultivate friendship with the Mongolians, the Manchurians and the other outlying populations. The telegram further attributes socialistic tendencies to this Party, but what is meant by socialistic tendencies we do not exactly know. The most curious feature of the whole situation is that the same men who united their forces so strenuously in support of a Republican form of government have already found grounds for a divergence of political views. The difficulty in Japan's case has been to elaborate distinctly different programmes, and it will be most interesting to learn what exact points of contrast constitute the political creeds of the parties now formed in China.

CHOSEN.

Mr. Komatsu, Head of the Foreign Affairs Bureau in Korea, is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* as explaining that it has not yet been possible to introduce in Korea reforms so extensive as those carried out in Formosa. In the one instance Japan had to deal with a comparatively small island hitherto governed by the Chinese at a distance; in the other there was question of a nation forming an Empire of some dimensions and possessing a large population. It has been necessary, therefore, to proceed in Chosen's case with considerable deliberation, and the broad outlines of the plan pursued have been to reduce the staff, thus applying the proceeds of the reduction to administrative and industrial improvements. Several offices have been abolished, and the executive and the judiciary have been separated, so that their staff has been considerably lessened. Mr. Komatsu enters into these details at some length, but the upshot is that a saving of 478,000 yen has been effected, and the greater part of that money has been employed for the purpose of abolishing the export duties. Some attempts have been made to convict the Japanese of bad faith in this matter, inasmuch as they pledged themselves originally to make no change in the custom's tariff for ten years. But the object of this pledge was evidently to maintain whatever portions of the tariff might conduce to foreign interests, and the abolition of export duties will obviously benefit foreign merchants, so that it cannot be called a violation of the spirit of the pledge.

A CURIOUS CHOICE.

People in Tokyo are talking about a curious choice made by one of the constituencies in the general election on the 15th instant. An individual who had been imprisoned for fraud in connection with the celebrated sugar scandal of 1908, and who had subsequently undergone police supervision for a fixed period, had the assurance to present himself as a candidate at the election, and the constituency to which he appealed had the courage to elect him. His name is known but we refrain from reproducing it. Naturally the comment made in Tokyo is that although he had recovered his civil rights, and was therefore eligible in the eyes of the law, the constituency which elected an ex-convict to represent it in Parliament must have had a very low estimate of its own political status.

On the other hand, the practical disappearance of the Central Party from the arena is welcomed with enthusiasm by all the leading newspapers. They regard the Party's disruption as an evidence of the nation's dislike for bureaucracy.

A NEW BOOK.

Under the title of "Intellectual and Political Currents in the Far East," the Houghton Mifflin Company have just published a book by Mr. Paul S. Reinsch. The following review which we take from the "Literary Digest" shows that it must be a volume of very exceptional character:—

So many hastily written books nowadays are bringing to the Western world superficial impressions of the Far East that it is a relief to turn to the pages of one where Professor Reinsch has made a

special study of the intellectual life of the East, particularly as it reveals itself in the rise of a new spirit in Japan, India, and China. In the first two chapters, "Asiatic Unity" and "Energism in the Orient," Professor Reinsch points out that the unity that underlies the manifold hues of Oriental life is not a thing apart, but belongs to the general life of humanity, and that the more energetic ideals of the West can be adopted without a loss of the particular contribution which the East has to bring to the world. The author finds reason to regret the dwarfing effect which he believes the British administration has had on the intellectual and political leaders of India. The keynote of progress in the East is expressed at the conclusion of the chapter on the Chinese Reform Movement. China, "turning her back upon abuses current in the past, will make herself strong by becoming different, without ceasing to be essentially herself." The chapters on "New Education in China," "A Parliament for China," "Intellectual Life in Japan," and "Parties and Government in Japan" are also interpretative, but contain a larger element of description. Without failing to call attention to the value of the other chapters, particular notice should be given to the one on "Intellectual Life in Japan." Western folk have failed to realize what a literary artistry there is there.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

Mr. Tsukuda, Vice-President of the Industrial Bank is quoted as saying that the procedure for the organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank is making favourable progress, and the inaugural measures to bring the Bank into existence will be concluded very shortly. The most noteworthy feature of the Bank is that it is empowered to issue bank notes in Paris, on its own credit, to absorb cheap capital and invest it in small reliable municipal bonds and companies' debentures through the Japan branch of the Bank. The most important function of the Bank thus lies in investing in various enterprises the cheap capital absorbed by the issue of the bank-notes, rather than the issue of large loans on the French market.

In this context we note that Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, Mr. Hatsuda, Director of the Finance Bureau, Mr. Mizumachi, Vice-President of the Nippon Ginko, Mr. Tsukuda, Vice-President of the Industrial Bank, Viscount Mishima, President of the Specie Bank, and Mr. Inouye, Vice-President of the same bank, sat in conference at the Department of Finance on the 16th instant to consider questions in connection with the Franco-Japanese Bank that had been wired from Paris by Dr. Soyeda, President of the Industrial Bank. No decision was apparently reached, owing to the absence of any telegraphic report on the result of the Six Powers bankers' conference held in London on the 15th instant concerning the Chinese loan.

DELAY IN NEGOTIATIONS.

The representatives of the Six Powers Syndicate have been sitting in conference in London since the 15th instant, as already reported, but no decision seems to have yet been made as to the terms of the China loan, since no official report has yet been received from Mr. Mori, the Japanese Financial Commissioner in London, regarding the matter. A representative of the Indo-China Bank is now also in London. The organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank will naturally be postponed until after the conclusion of the China loan, and Dr. Soyeda, President of the Industrial Bank, will remain in Paris to push forward the formation of the Bank.

The *Hochi* reports that nearly a fortnight has elapsed since the arrival in Paris of Dr. Soyeda, but the negotiations stand unsettled,

apparently owing to objections raised by the Indo-China Bank. This Bank has special interests in the investment in Indo-China of cheap French capital. When the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank was first mooted, the investment of French capital in Chinese enterprises through the medium of the new bank was not contemplated, the sphere of its action being limited to Japan.

The Indo-China Bank therefore took part in the promotion, but when Japan decided to participate in the Four Powers Syndicate early this year there arose a rumour that Japan had in mind introducing French capital through the medium of the bank for her portion of the China loan. The Indo-China Bank thereupon began to feel some uneasiness lest Japan should absorb French capital for investments in China by reason of her special position in that country, and abruptly proposed to withdraw from the negotiations. The report came to the Japanese Government as a surprise, and conferences were held in the Department of Finance, telegraphic communications being repeatedly exchanged thereafter with Paris. All explanations having failed to produce the desired effect. Dr. Soyeda hastily left for Paris to conduct the negotiations. In the meantime the Chinese loan has come nearer to a conclusion, and a final settlement is about to be made at the Six Powers Bankers' Conference now being held in London. The French negotiators having all gone to London, the negotiations in regard to the new bank stand suspended, and some time must elapse before they can be brought to a conclusion.

With reference to the negotiations pending in Paris on the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank, the *Tokyo Asahi* learns that the negotiations are entirely in the hands of Dr. Soyeda. Prior to his departure, Dr. Soyeda consulted Marquis Inouye and the Government authorities on all points likely to be raised in the course of the negotiations, so that he had definite instructions as to the appointment of the Board of Directors, the division of the profit, the nature of the work to be undertaken by the Bank, the division between political and economic loans, and the composition of the difference of the laws of the two countries concerning the Bank. In the circumstances, Dr. Soyeda is in a position to bring the negotiation to a conclusion without consulting the views of the government or the home capitalists, except in case there arises an incident which might affect the diplomatic relations. No incident of this nature has as so far arisen, and the negotiations are presumably making steady progress. The delay is due to the great discretion needed in the negotiations.

PETTY POLICIES OF INSURANCE.

With regard to the recently observed phenomenon of a marked appreciation in the market price of insurance companies' shares, and with regard to the tendency towards founding new companies, a partial explanation is now offered. It is to the effect that the Government is supposed to be planning the establishment of a system of petty insurance, to meet the case of people who cannot afford to take out large policies, and for whose sake security against fire can be provided only by a compulsory system. This would involve the creation of an insurance monopoly, which would mean the State purchase of all the insurance companies already in existence. It is, however, positively denied that the Government has any such intention,

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

RETURNS FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES.

The following members have been returned for the principal cities and towns in the General Election:—

Kyoto:—Nakayasu Shinjiro (Central party); Hanaoka Kotetsu (Independent); and Hirai Kumasaburo (Central party).

Osaka:—Iwashita Seishu (Independent); Hishiri Seisuke (Central); Shian Shinkuro (Popular Party); Kikuchi Kwanji (Seiyukai); Mitani Kishu (Independent) and Nakahashi Tokugoro (Independent).

Sakai:—Onishi Goichiro (Popular party); Yokohama:—Shimada Saburo (Popular party) and Wakao Ikuzo (Seiyukai).

Kobe:—Matsukata Kojiro (Independent) and Nozoe Sozo (Popular party).

Himeji:—Omori Yosaji (Popular Party).

Nagasaki:—Nagami Kwanji (Seiyukai).

Niigata:—Wakasugi Kisaburo (Seiyukai).

Maezashi:—Takegoshi Yosaburo (Seiyukai).

Takasaki:—Yajima Hachiro (Central).

Mito:—Koyamada Shinzo (Seiyukai).

Utsunomiya:—Ishida Nitao (Seiyukai).

Nara:—Yagi Itsuro (Seiyukai).

Tsu:—Matsumoto Tsunenouke (Independent).

Yokkaichi:—Inouye Toshio (Seiyukai).

Nagoya:—Ishiguro Iwao (Seiyukai) and Ando Toshiyuki (Central).

Shidzuoka:—Ozaki Motojiro (Independent).

Kofu:—Satake Sakutaro (Seiyukai).

Otsu:—Murata Torajiro (Seiyukai).

Gifu:—Hara Shucho (Independent).

Nagano:—Kasahara Chuzo (Seiyukai).

Sendai:—Iwajaki Sojuro (Seiyukai).

Wakamatsu:—Kusaka Yoshio (Seiyukai).

Morioka:—Hara Kei (Seiyukai).

Hiroaki:—Kikuchi Takenori (Seiyukai).

Aomori:—Higuchi Kisuke (Seiyukai).

Yamagata:—Togori Gonnosuke (Seiyukai).

Yonezawa:—Kobayashi Genzo (Independent).

Akita:—Inouye Kokyo (Popular Party).

Fukui:—Hatta Sukejiro (Seiyukai).

Kanazawa:—Tomidzu Kwanjin (Seiyukai).

Toyama:—Iwata Daichu (Seiyukai).

Takaoka:—Kidzu Tarobei (Seiyukai).

Tottori:—Hamamoto Yiken (Independent).

Matsue:—Fukuoka Seitoku (Seiyukai).

Okayama:—Arimori Shinkichi (Popular party).

Hiroshima:—Kushimoto Kozo (Seiyukai).

Onomichi:—Doi Jukichi (Seiyukai).

Wakayama:—Sakamoto Yaichiro (Central).

Takamatsu:—Oda Tomochika (Independent).

Tokushima:—Ichisaka Shuntaro (Seiyukai).

Marugame:—Shirakawa Tomoichi (Seiyukai).

Matsuyama:—Takano Kenju (Popular party).

Kochi:—Mitsumori Tokuji (Seiyukai).

Fukuoka:—Tsuruhara Sadakichi (Seiyukai).

Kurume:—Arima Hideo (Independent).

Moji:—Hijikata Chikusa (Popular Party).

Kokura:—Tomoeda Umejiro (Seiyukai).

Saga:—Ezoe Kiyoomi (Seiyukai).

Kumamoto:—Yamada Shuichi (Central).

Kagoshima:—Tobiocka Uchihiro (Independent).

Sapporo:—Asaha Sei (Central).

Hakodate:—Hirade Kisaburo (Seiyukai).

Otaru:—Takahashi Naoji (Seiyukai).

When classified according to the political parties the returns so far announced show the following result:—

	New Members.	Re-elected.	Old Members.	Total.	Compared with previous session.
Seiyukai.....	18	12	3	33	+ 5
Popular Party...	7	7	1	15	+ 1
Central Club ...	1	6	2	9	+ 10
Independent ...	13	7	—	20	+ 4

The principal new members elected comprised the names of Messrs. Tsuruhara, Kobayashi, Kusaka, Nakashi, Ezoe, Matsukata and Iwasaki, while amongst the prominent candidates who failed in the election are Messrs. Sengoku Mitsugu, Shiba Shiro, Shindo Kiheida, Matsumoto Kimihira, Suzuki Tsutomu, Ishibashi Tamenosuke, Asano Yokichi and Yamashita Chiyoo.

The results of the general election in the rural districts have now been announced, excepting in the case of Oshima and Kagoshima prefecture. These give the *Seiyukai* 214 seats, the Popular Party 93 seats, the Central Club 27 seats, and the Independents 46 seats. As compared with the previous session the *Seiyukai* has won six additional seats, the Popular party six seats and the Independents 14 seats, while the Central Club has lost 25 seats.

Members holding the seats since the first session of the Diet without intermission now number only seven, Messrs. Kono Hironaka, Inukai Ki, Oka Ikuzo, Haseba Sumitaka, Shimada Saburo, Ozaki Yukio and Minoura Katsuto.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT CO.

PROPOSED REFORMS.

On the initiative of Mr. Tomita, one of the large shareholders of the Oriental Development Company, a conference was held at the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce on the 16th instant, when twenty-seven shareholders were present. The conference has in view introducing a radical reform in the Company's business and amongst the subjects discussed at the Conference were proposals that the number of shares of the directors of the company should be fixed at 200, and the minimum number of shares allowed to shareholders ten, the method of transfer of shares used in Japan being adopted. These proposals received general endorsement, but no resolution was officially adopted, it having been decided to further discuss the proposals at the conference of the general shareholders to be held in the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce in the 20th instant. It was also agreed to introduce to the coming general meeting of shareholders a proposal for the appropriation of 30,000 yen as bonuses for the directors and officials of the company. Four delegates were appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the submission of the proposed reforms to the conference in Tokyo.

It is also reported that the reforms comprise the discontinuance of the annual subsidy of 300,000 yen granted by the Government, and the election of new directors representing businessmen. The proposal came to the present directorate as a surprise and a movement has been started to defeat the proposed reform in the conference to be held on the 20th instant, although there is not much hope of success.

The fourth general meeting of shareholders of

the Oriental Development Company was held at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce on the 20th instant, Mr. Yoshihara, Vice-President of the Company, presiding. In the course of the business report submitted to the meeting, Mr. Yoshihara remarked that during the period under review 14,475 *chobu* of land, valued at 2,624,500 yen, had been purchased. The collection of rents had been satisfactory owing to the increase in the price of rice and other products. Altogether 780,000 yen was granted as advances to the farmers. The second batch of home immigrants introduced numbered 431 families, the land allotted to them being 761 *chobu*. The recent visit to Japan of the Chosen tourist party had had the effect of removing the misunderstanding that the Company had for its object the confiscation of the cultivated land in Chosen.

After the report had been submitted questions were raised by the shareholders concerning the accounts, the troubles in land purchase, and the method of readjustment of the Company's business, but answers were reserved until after the close of the meeting. The following accounts were approved:—

	Yen.
Net profit	510,281.35
Sum carried over.....	448,154.05
Total	958,435.98
	Yen.
Reserve fund for making good losses ...	61,370.00
Reserve fund for equalization of dividends	20,500.00
Bonuses and social expenses	25,000.00
Dividend (about 6.5 per cent.)	270,000.00
Sum carried forward	581,335.92

It is stated in regard to the reform movement recently started by Nagoya shareholders, that in a conference held early that morning, Mr. Inouye, a director of the Company, fully explained the position and the shareholders withdrew the Representation, being satisfied with the explanation. The internal trouble has thus been amicably settled.

THE TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT PROGRAMME.

The electric light committee of the Tokyo Municipal Aldermen's Council sat behind closed doors on the 18th instant, when Mayor Ozaki advocated that the Municipality should accept without murmur the Government order for the restriction of the municipal electric light programme to ten thousand kilowatts of electric current, or 460,000 lamps. An objection was raised to the proposal and it was decided to approach the Government authorities to demand a further explanation of the Government order. Mayor Ozaki, Mr. Matsuki, the Director of the Municipal Electric Bureau, and Mr. Toyohara, Chairman of the Committee, were chosen as delegates to wait on the Government authorities on the 20th instant. No importance seems to be attached to the coming interview. It is stated in this context that some of the councillors are making efforts for the introduction to the Council of a vote of censure against the Mayor and other authorities in regard to the rejection of the one million light programme and the subsidy for the construction of drainage.

As already reported a special Committee of the Tokyo Aldermen's Council has decided to approach the Government authorities for an explanation relating to the veto of the one-million light programme, and delegates were appointed for the purpose. The delegates wrote to Count Hayashi, Minister of Communications, seeking an interview on the 21st instant, but received a reply that the Vice-Minister would meet the delegates, as Count Hayashi was leaving Tokyo on an official trip to the Kwansai. The committee met on the 22nd instant to reconsider the question, when it

was decided to accept the Government order without further trouble. The *Jiji Shimpō*, from which we quote the above, uses the homely proverb "The mountain shook and the rats ran out" in describing the Council's action, and further predicts the Municipality will also meekly submit to the restriction recently placed by the Government on the tramway extension scheme.

AN INSANE PETITIONER.

On the forenoon of the 18th instant, as the Emperor was returning from inspecting the Finance Bureau of the War Department in the Ushigome region of Tokyo, a man of about five-and-forty suddenly attempted to present a petition, which he flourished vehemently so as to attract attention. One of the guards drew his sword and attempted to cut the man down, but fortunately the effort was unsuccessful. The petition was, however, seized, and on examination it transpired that the petitioner had served with the reserves in the war of 1904-5, and that although all his comrades had been rewarded, his own services were left without acknowledgment. Some time ago he obtained access to the War Department in Tokyo, where it was proved to him that his claim had no basis of fact, but the affair preyed upon his mind and he ultimately became a lunatic.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Some two years ago Mr. Masao, who was employed as local adviser to the Government of Siam, received from the King of that country a considerable tract of land for the purpose of experimental cultivation of the cotton plant. The work was entrusted to Mr. Okada, an agricultural expert, and he has just presented his report. It is not very favourable. In two places the crop was wholly destroyed by insects, and elsewhere the results were not so good as to warrant optimistic views. Mr. Okada, however, was careful to explain that the experiments have not been exhaustive, and that Siam may yet prove a suitable place for the industry of cotton-growing.

Lieut. Shirase and a few members of his Antarctic Exploration party, who arrived at Yokohama by the *Nikko Maru* on the 10th instant, returned to Tokyo the same afternoon, arriving at Shinbashi by the 4.10 train. The party was welcomed on the platform and immediately drove round by the Imperial Palace to Count Okuma's residence at Waseda, where they were cordially received by the veteran statesman, and were entertained to dinner. Count Okuma is said to have expressed satisfaction at the results obtained by the party. The souvenirs brought from the Antarctic regions will be exhibited in Waseda University and submitted to the inspection of H. H. the Crown Prince.

The Japanese Fleet will half-mast its flags for three days commencing from the 19th instant, as a token of condolence for the demise of H.M. the King of Denmark.

It is stated that although the *Toyo Kisen Kaisha* agreed to raise the pay of its seamen and stokers in the sequel of the recent strike, the Directors have equalised the situation by reducing the number of hands on board their vessels. This move creates conditions with which the discontented seamen will find difficulty in dealing. The men dis-

missed represent a mere fraction of the crews, and it is inconceivable that their comrades should support them in another strike, this time for obtaining continuance of employment.

On the 18th instant the ceremony of opening the new Keio Gijuku library took place at the college. The cost of the library has been 360,000 *yen* and the work of construction has occupied three years. The projectors timed the enterprise so that the opening should synchronize with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Keio Gijuku. All the works of the great Mr. Fukuzawa and all the documents collected by him find a place in the library. On behalf of the guests the principal address was delivered by Prince Tokugawa.

Further delay has taken place in connexion with the use of electricity to carry trains over the Usui Tōge. The work was to have been finished in October last, but it was postponed until the spring of this year, and now the autumn is spoken of as the most probable date. There appears to be a feeling, however, that the electric apparatus will not be in working order before next year.

Mr. Kinoshita of the Railway Board, who returned to Tokyo on the 17th instant from Harbin and Vladivostok, where he attended the Russo-Japanese railway conference, has stated to a Press representative that the conference had for its object to consider matters relating to the transportation of Japanese raw silk to the European markets *via* the Siberian railway, to consider reductions in the freight rates, and also to improve the railway traffic on the Harbin-Changchun and Maibara-Uraga sections. Mr. Kinoshita said he was not at liberty to disclose the results obtained at the conference prior to the submission of his report to the Railway Board, but acknowledged that the negotiations had been quite satisfactory, the railway authorities of the two countries having agreed to jointly accelerate the development of the trans-continental railway services.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Seoul correspondent wires that the protection accorded by the Chosen Government to the Chosen Mail Steamship Company has proved a heavy blow to shipping concerns in Chemulpo, and great excitement obtains amongst those interested. Originally it was proposed to form a combination at the sacrifice of their respective interests and start the service by the purchase of new liners at prices appraised by naval experts recommended by the Chosen Government. A subsidy was also unofficially promised. With the inauguration of the Chosen Mail Steamship Company, under the protection of the Government, however, the Chosen authorities have altered their attitude and have withdrawn from the Chemulpo shipping concern the proposed subsidy. This action of the Government is strongly resented.

The increase in the deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks during last fiscal year did not exceed 21 million *yen*, of which 5,000,000 *yen* refers to the transfer of interest accruing on the deposits, so that the net increase does not exceed 16 million *yen*, showing a radical decrease in the ratio of increase compared with the preceding fiscal year. The decrease is attributed to the fact that

whereas the loan rate has considerably risen since last autumn and 5 per cent. bonds are quoted at about 96 *yen*, the interest allowed on the deposits in the Savings Banks remains at 4.2 per cent. It is considered that any increase in the deposits is impossible unless the rate of interest be raised.

Dr. Tsuno, Professor of veterinary surgery in the Agricultural College of Tokyo Imperial University, has for some months past been studying the manufacture of the milk wine commonly known as "Kefir" (?) in the Caucasian district, and his labours have at last been crowned with success. The Professor is making arrangements to place the new beverage before the public through a well known wine firm. Milk wine was first manufactured by the Egyptians centuries ago and was generally used by the public as a consumption cure. It is stated that it contains a small percentage of alcohol and is specially recommended as a tonic for patients suffering from consumption, heart disease and nervous debility.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that the resignation of Hwang Hsing has given rise to an agitation in political circles. Yuan Shih-kai's followers insist on a speedy withdrawal of Hwang from Nanking after his resignation, while the southerners endorse Hwang's view of raising funds by the issue of patriotic bonds instead of a foreign loan, and insist on the advisability of dispatching Chin Chi-mei, Minister of Commerce and Industry, to Nanking to prevail upon Hwang to reconsider his resignation. The matter will be discussed in the State Council.

It is reported that the Hispano-Japanese Commercial Treaty, which was concluded last year, has already been adopted by the Privy Council in Japan but has not yet been submitted to the Spanish Parliament, not because of any irregularities in the treaty itself but because of the differences existing between the present Ministry and the parties who were in power when the treaty was drawn up and responsible for its conclusion. In the circumstances the treaty will remain unratified by the Sovereigns of the two countries for some time to come.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that a band of Mongolian rioters has made its appearance in Kupeilio, a town lying on the high way to Jehol. The garrison near the Great Wall has also risen in mutiny and thrown in its lot with the bandits. The Manchu Bannermen's village at Sahalu (?) is suffering from destitution and the young men there have all joined the bandits. The centre of the trouble lies to the north of Jehol, and it seems that the bandits are keeping in communication with their confederates in Eastern Mongolia.

H. H. Prince Waldemar, who has been staying in Tokyo, left the Capital by the 9.40 a.m. train on the 18th instant and embarked on board the German steamer leaving Yokohama that afternoon.

The deposits in the postal savings banks now aggregate 180 million *yen* in round numbers. This is an immense development as compared with the figures before the war with Russia. But it is noticeable of late that the deposits have shown little sign of increasing. In fact they may almost be said to be stationary. The reason assigned for the cessation of growth is that the interest given

by the postal banks is only 4.2 per cent., whereas the interest prevailing in the open market is 5 per cent. There has been some talk of correcting this discrepancy, but it is wisely argued that the postal banks compete already with ordinary banks quite as far as is desirable, and officialdom therefore hesitates to make any further change in favour of postal banks.

An official telegram received at the Naval Office reports that the armoured cruiser *Kongo*, built at the Vickers Dockyard, was successfully launched at 11.30 a.m. on the 18th instant. The cruiser has a displacement of 27,500 tons, with 27½ knots speed, the indicated horse power being 64,000. The armament consists of eight 14-inch guns, sixteen 6-inch guns and twenty smaller guns.

Reports from Northern Korea indicate that a heavy storm of wind and rain has visited the Yalu region and extended to Vladivostok on the east and to the Leased Territory on the west. Doubtless this is the storm whose effects have been experienced in Tokyo and Yokohama for the past two days. A Japanese fishing schooner is reported to have been lost with all hands on the coast of the Maritime Province, and there has been much destruction of property. Altogether the weather this year has been most unseasonable. The thermometer has shown a very exceptional range of temperatures, and experts say that the symptoms all point to an abnormal summer and autumn.

It has been at last agreed that rice from Chosen and from Formosa shall be quoted on the seven principal Exchanges in the Japanese Empire from the 1st of August to the 31st of October. The general belief appears to be that this step will have great effect in reducing the price of the cereal.

The Sumida river is to be spanned by another large bridge from the end of next month. The building of this bridge was commenced in 1909, and, when complete, it will have cost a sum of 590,000 yen. It will have a length of 96 ken, a carriage way of 6 ken and a foot path of 1½ ken.

Dispatches from Ili and Hsinking continue to report risings of Mahomedans in those provinces and it now seems that there is open revolt. The town of Pingliangfu is used as the basis for their operations, and the rebels have joined hands with Sheng Yin's army. Mahomedan revolts frequently occurred under the Manchu regime, when the Government experienced great difficulty in dealing with them. Owing to the lack of means of communication with these secluded parts of the Chinese dominion, it is rather a difficult task to suppress them. The Mahomedans in China number about eight millions, of whom about 2,200,000 reside in Hsinking. If they rise in a body, they will form a rather formidable enemy to the Chinese Government.

The extension of the San-in line, which has now been opened to traffic, was commenced as early as May in the 33rd year of Meiji, at first with a view to connecting the San-in-do and the Sanyo-do, with Sakai, in Izumo province, as a terminus. In June of the 36th year, however, the scheme was altered, the line been converted into a continuation of the San-in-do. Accordingly the whole line was divided for the convenience of construction into two sections, with Kunikidsumi in Tajima province as the boundary, one being called the San-in east line and the other the San-in west line. The former was completed at the end

of February this year, and the latter in March, thereby extending the whole line for a length of 195 miles. The construction cost about 26,350,000 yen or 135,000 yen per mile. It may be added that this newly opened line runs through 70 tunnels and over 230 bridges, and passes 48 stations.

The *Nichi Nichi* is the authority for the report that when an attempt was recently made to confiscate the private property of Sheng Huan-huai, on the initiative of Li Yuan-hung, and appropriate the proceeds towards educational expenses, Sheng dispatched to Li Yuan-hung a lengthy telegram explaining that his property was acquired by legitimate means, and appealing for his sympathy. Li Yuan-hung, however, persists in the confiscation, holding that Sheng's property has all been amassed at the expense of the public, the Hanyu Ping Corporation being alone left at the disposal of the Peking Government. It is stated that Sheng's property in Hupeh province is under the management of his brother Sheng Yin-huai, who recently sold a portion to the Mitsui firm and some other foreign merchants, and therefore the proposed confiscation has given rise to some troublesome diplomatic complications. Li Yuan-hung has accordingly opened official negotiations with the foreign Consuls at Hankow on the subject.

In view of the frequency of seamen's strikes and the demand for increase of wages, the question of introduction of Chinese and Chosenese into the shipping services is now being discussed amongst the shipowners and other parties interested in shipping business. The maritime countries in Europe and America all employ Chinese or Lascars on the steamers on the Indian and Far Eastern services, chiefly because of the low wages. Nearly six hundred Chinese sailors and firemen are also actually employed on the Japanese steamers with satisfactory results. They prove good sailors and firemen when well trained to their duties. The advisability or otherwise of entrusting to alien sailors and firemen the great motive power of the growing shipping traffic of this country is now being closely studied, and developments are being awaited with keen interest in shipping circles.

Official recognition of the Chinese Republic by the foreign Powers is now being discussed in China. A rumour in Shanghai, that recognition will be given on the 25th instant, simultaneously with the conclusion of the loan negotiations, is, however, according to a Japanese paper, wholly groundless. Whilst the foreign Powers are prepared to officially recognize the new Republic at the proper time and are desirous of bringing the loan negotiations to a speedy conclusion, in view of the new Republican administration being not yet in practical operation and the momentous question of the disbandment of the troops not yet settled, the Powers do not think that order and peace are sufficiently recovered throughout China to guarantee the safety of the lives and property of foreign residents. The official recognition must therefore be deferred until after the restoration of order throughout China, the prospect of which is rather remote.

Mr. Okuda, and other Nagoya capitalists have decided to form the Fusan-chin Land Company for the reclamation of about 400,000 *tsubo* of foreshore at Fusan and to erect warehouses and other buildings, have succeeded in acquiring the transfer of the privileges originally granted to Count Goto. The capital is fixed at five million yen, of which two million yen is to be paid-up. The foreshore lies about two miles to the south-east of Fusan, which is to be made the base of the Chosen Manchuria Railway in future. On completion, 80,000 *tsubo* of land are to be sold to the Government at a special rate. Fusan-chin is destined to replace Fusan as the commercial port in future.

Some weeks ago the Tokyo Municipality filed with the Government an application for official

permission for the construction of about 172 miles of electric tramways, to be completed in four years ending the 47th fiscal year, that is March 1915. The Government recently issued to the Municipality a note implying its disapproval of the extension scheme, on the ground that as the Government consented to the municipalization of the tramways on the understanding that the Municipality would carry out an extension of 80 miles of line, the Municipality would be well advised to execute this work before considering any extension beyond the 80 mile limit. It is thought that this disapproval, taken together with the recent veto of the one million light programme, seriously reflects on the credit of those who are responsible for the municipal administration.

A Peking special to the *Chungwa* reports that the Royalists in North China have commenced an active movement, with Peking for the basis of their operations. The anti-loan agitation has given them an opportunity for activity. It is rumoured that the Empress Dowager having become conscious of the difficulty of drawing the annuity of 4,000,000 taels promised by Yuan Shi-kai, under the present condition of China's finances, has declined to accept it. The rumour is evidently concocted by the Royalists, but the people have begun to look back to the Manchu regime and to show some disaffection to the Republic administration. The disturbance to the north of Jehol is taken as a proof of the tendency of the people.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 17.

The market yesterday was a trifle firmer, but only small business was done. Johu railway shares rose 6 or 7 points, and all other shares were maintained.

Saturday, May 18.

The market on Saturday last was characterized by dullness, and only small business was transacted, shares generally being quoted rather irregularly.

Monday, May 20.

The market yesterday was inactive throughout and almost no business was done, shares moving down generally.

Tuesday, May 21.

The market yesterday opened inactive, the spirits of operators being damped by the gloomy weather prevailing. Prices were maintained but only a small business was recorded.

Wednesday, May 22.

The market yesterday opened with an improved tone but begun to collapse towards the close of the session.

Thursday, May 23.

The market yesterday was characterized by a weak tone, shares moving down all round throughout the session. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

May 22nd. May 23rd.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	49.30	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	115.30	115.05	—
Toyo Kisen.....	47.25	47.15	—
Specie Bank.....	—	—	—
Tanko Kisen.....	21.05	20.95	—
Tokyo Gas.....	72.10	72.10	—
Tokyo Dento.....	71.00	71.25	+
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	91.55	91.00	—
Tokyo Spinning.....	52.85	52.85	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	111.30	111.60	+
Beer.....	85.10	85.00	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	64.25	64.10	—
Nippon Oil.....	71.65	71.65	—
Rice Exchange.....	106.95	106.60	—
Stock Exchange.....	156.60	156.05	—

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of May 17th, state:—

The morning market opened somewhat steady. Spinning shares were again in demand, Fuji Gassed rose 45 and 5 sen for Old and New, Kanagafuchi 70 and 60 sen, Nishins 30 sen. Woollens were also in favour. Tokyo Woollens advanced 45 sen. Exchange shares regained 50 and 70 sen for Old and New respectively.

In the afternoon, business was dull and prices fluctuated within 5/10 sen limits, with the exception of Woollens; Goto advanced 70 sen, and Tokyo 90 sen. Exchanges shares regained 95 sen for Old and 50 sen for New.

Yesterday, 16,000 shares changed hands.

May 18.

The morning Session was a trifle active, and prices stiffened fractionally all round, notably Goto Woollens, which again rose 75 sen. Exchange shares were sluggish, the Old gained 15 sen, and New lost 10 sen.

The afternoon market was again inactive and transactions were on a small scale, prices fluctuating within narrow margins.

Exchange shares were again weak, and fell 15 sen for Old and 70 sen for New.

Yesterday 21,490 shares were transacted.

May 20.

In spite of the easiness of the Money Market, and the lowering of the Bank of France discount rate, business was dull on change this morning; prices fluctuated fractionally. Spinnings were a trifle firm and rose 5/30 sen, Fertilisers also 25/40 sen, Goto Woollens fell yen 1.05 and Exchange shares were sluggish and declined 50 and 60 sen for old and new. The afternoon session was a repetition of that of the morning, there being no noteworthy changes to report. Exchange shares regained what they lost in the morning.

23,720 shares changed hands on Saturday.

May 21.

Owing to the indecision of Operators, the morning market opened weak and almost all shares declined fractionally; Tokyo Electric Lights were steady, Yokohama Exchange went up 45 sen, Nippon Oils 25 sen. Exchange shares were again weak and declined 1.15 yen for Old and 55 sen for New.

In the afternoon prices were somewhat affected by the excess of Imports for the 2nd and 10th days of the month by some 4,300,000 yen, but Spinnings were in fair demand and advanced 15/70 sen. Yokohama Exchange again rose 55 sen, Exchange shares Old and New regained 50 sen and 75 sen respectively. Business was pretty brisk on Change owing to carrying over operations. Yesterday, 27,000 shares were transacted.

May 22.

The morning market opened somewhat irregular in tone. Spinnings were in fair demand and prices advanced 15/50 sen, but Sugar were weak owing to the rumour that the sugar companies are unable to fulfil their existent contracts through shortage of crops caused by last year's devastating typhoon. Yokohama Exchanges jumped 1 yen 40 sen in consequence of a report of revision in the Board of Directors. Exchange shares gained 35 and 65 sen for Old and New.

The afternoon session was weak and prices declined all round 10/70 sen; Spinnings dropped what they gained in the morning. Sugars were again weak and lost 5/80 sen. Fuji Paper old advanced to 46.00 yen for May, but fell to 44.00 yen for June. Exchange shares declined 80 sen for Old and 1.15 yen for New.

Yesterday, 31,160 shares changed hands.

May 23.

Owing to the anxiety of operators as to the outcome of the large number of shares still on the books for May and June deliveries, the market opened weak this morning and prices declined all round. Sugars were particularly affected and fell, Yensuikos 1 yen, Taiwan new 50 sen, Tai-

hoku 70 sen, Hokko 80 sen; Goto Woollens also fell 1 yen 30 sen. Exchange shares declined 55 and 40 sen for Old and New.

The afternoon session was irregular, the most notable fall being Anglo Japanese Hydro-Electrics 2 yen 50 sen. Spinnings were weak and fell 10/35 sen, but Sugars recovered somewhat. Exchange shares were stationary and it is supposed that bottom prices have been reached.

Yesterday, 41,120 shares were transacted.

THE DOSHISHA COLLEGE.

As already reported the inauguration ceremony of the Kyoto Doshisha College took place on the 20th instant in the lecture hall of the institute. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, stated that much depended upon the development of higher education for the elevation of the people's morals, as well as intellectual attainments, and for successful competition in the international arena with the world Powers. The development of higher education could not be realized by the Government's efforts alone, nor by unassisted private endeavours, but by the two efforts combined. It was true that the establishment of private educational undertakings was, as a rule, attended with great difficulty, but it was equally true, that once their foundations were solidified, they obtained even more successful results than the Government institutions in view of the special conditions under which they were organised. The Doshisha was one of the oldest educational organs in this country, founded some thirty years ago by the late respected Nijima Jo. Quite a number of graduates from the Doshisha school were now playing an active part, each in his own sphere of society, with that noble spirit and laudable aspiration wherewith the founder devoted all his efforts to their training. "It is a matter of great congratulation," concluded the Minister, "that the Doshisha College should now be established. Let us hope that a long and brilliant future may lie before it."

Among the guests present were Dr. D. C. Greene, and Dr. Kuhara, President of the Imperial Kyoto University, while among those who addressed telegrams of congratulation were Col. Page Bryan, the U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo, Prince Katsura, ex-Prime Minister, Count Okuma and Baron Shibusawa.

The ceremony was immediately followed by a meeting held at the Kyoto Hotel, which was attended by the guests and the students of the institute. Mr. Mural, of Tokyo, and Mr. Nazaki, have made contributions of 3,000 yen and 500 yen respectively towards the College funds.

DEATH OF THE SWEDISH MINISTER'S SON.

We regret to learn that Mr. Raoul Wallenberg, sub-lieutenant in the Royal Swedish Navy and the only son of His Excellency Mr. G.O. Wallenberg, Minister of Sweden at Tokyo and Peking, died at Stockholm on the 11th inst.

As previously mentioned Sub-Lieutenant Wallenberg has for several months been suffering from the serious illness which has now ended his promising life.

His Excellency and Madame and Miss Wallenberg are at present staying at the Hotel des Wagons Litts, Peking.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—The Rev. Albertus Pieters, who is, I understand, attached to the Reformed Church of America, in his recent letter of the 8th inst. apparently forgot the old adage that "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." He is a citizen of a great republic, the windows of which are just now temptingly offered to missile-throwers, yet in supreme

unconsciousness of the fact he proceeds to throw stones at Japan's windows.

I do not intend to enter into the question whether some of those accused in the Korean plot were or were not submitted to some form of torture. I am inclined to think that the matter should form the subject of an inquiry. But when the Rev. Albertus Pieters says that this charge has "placed the Japanese authorities on trial before the civilised world; that the proceedings in the case are "a terrible indictment of the judicial system" of Japan; and that such charges made against police and prison officials in America "would arouse a storm of indignation," I can only smile,—albeit some what sadly. The world and "even that part of it called the United States of America,"—has not such a keen sense of rectitude as the Rev. Albertus Pieters imagines. There are many cruel and wicked actions performed in the name of administering justice, to which the world hardly gives a thought, or if it does it is with the feelings which animated the readers of Mark Twain's "Massacre."—"the pleasure of being thrilled."

Let me take the case of the Reverend gentleman's own country,—the United States of America. As a student of the American papers I sometime in its criminal annals come across the phrase "administering the fourth degree"—or is it the "third degree?" I forget which, but it is not a matter of consequence. I learn on inquiry that this is a method for eliciting evidence or confessions. I need not enter into details. I have also recollection of some incidents in the Philippines. No doubt Mr. Pieters will recollect them also. I have also before me as I write some astonishing statistics as to the inability of the law to deal with certain crimes in the United States of America, where the judicial system, I presume from the Rev. Albertus Pieters' remarks, is more or less perfect.

It has been grimly said that a murderer stands more chance of escaping punishment in America than a pickpocket. I am inclined to think this is true when I read that in the States the odds are more than three to one against a murderer ever being brought to trial; more than ten to one against his being sentenced to imprisonment; and more than eighty to one against his suffering the extreme penalty of the law. These are the average odds; they may be higher or lower according to whether the murderer is a white man or a negro. In the latter case the law generally seems to have a poor chance of getting started at all before the culprit has suffered the penalty by means to which I need not refer. There is only one country which exceeds the American record for murders: that country is Mexico. There are fourteen murders in the United States to everyone in Great Britain; twenty-five to one in Germany; and eight to one in Japan. Does this not—to use Mr. Pieters' words—constitute "a terrible indictment of the judicial system" in the States?

I am not arguing that two blacks make a white, or that because the judicial system in the States is bad, therefore Japan would be justified in having a bad judicial system. I should be sorry to see judicial administration in this country reduced to such a low level as it apparently is in the States. Japan's legal procedure admits of improvement; but the legal procedure of the United States apparently not only admits of improvement but screams for it. It might have been thought that if the ill-treatment of accused persons would arouse a storm of indignation in the States, the failure to punish admittedly guilty persons would arouse a yet greater storm. I can find no trace of this. I cannot even find any well organised body of public opinion in protest against the torture of accused persons in the States, when those persons happen to be negroes.

One would have expected a gentleman who is "a life-long friend of Japan" to have taken some trouble to make himself acquainted with the development of the country, more especially on the moral side, with which, of course, legal procedure is closely connected. Apparently Mr. Pieters is quite innocent of all such knowledge which, after all is not difficult to acquire. He has now suddenly woke up to the fact that the legal procedure in Japan, which has been in vogue ever since the first criminal code was issued, is not satisfactory. Granted that it is not, surely he must see that this is not an argument which can be used to protest against the procedure in the case under discussion. The procedure could not be altered in one special case simply because some of the accused are Christians.

To sum up, torture of any kind is greatly to be deprecated whether in prison or out, and the system of judicial procedure in Japan certainly lends itself to the administration of torture or to accusation as to its administration. But to make a sweeping indictment of Japan on a single unproved incident, to expect Japan to show a rectitude in such matters which Western nations have failed to reach, and to claim

that on the strength of such charges the Japanese authorities in Korea are on trial before the civilized world, is surely inconsistent with the Christian principles which the Rev. Albertus Pieters professes.

Yours truly,
COSMOPOLITAN.
May 19, 1912.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—I have read with deep interest the addresses made at the recent Hague Day Meeting. Baron Shibusawa, while expressing earnest desire for international peace, did not suggest a plan for bringing it about, appealing to scholars and statesmen to search for the ways and means. Some good Englishman has left at the hotel here a copy of Morley's "Life of Richard Cobden," that great and good Englishman who was yet an "international man," whose desire for peace on earth and good will among nations amounted to a passion. Will you kindly permit me to offer as a contribution to the discussion a suggestive extract from a letter written in 1842 by Mr. Cobden to a friend, Mr. Ashworth?

"It has struck me that it would be well to try to engraft our Free Trade agitation upon the Peace movement. They are one and the same cause. It has often been to me a matter of the greatest surprise that the Friends have not taken up the question of Free Trade as the means—and I believe the only human means—of effecting universal and permanent peace. The efforts of the Peace Societies, however laudable, can never be got rid of except by the indirect process of Free Trade, which will gradually and imperceptibly loose the bands which unite our Colonies to us by a mistaken notion of self interest. Yet, the Colonial policy of Europe has been the chief source of wars for the last hundred and fifty years. Again, Free Trade, by perfecting the intercourse, and securing the dependence of countries one upon another, must inevitably snatch the power from the governments to plunge their people into wars....."

As a complement to the speech of Mr. K. S. Inui, permit me to make the following quotation from the gentle Cooper, an English poet whom Cobden was fond of quoting:—

"Again, the band of commerce was designed
To associate all the branches of mankind;
And if a boundless plenty be the robe,
Trade is the golden girdle of the globe.
Wise to promote whatever end he means,
God opens fruitful Nature's various scenes;
Each climate needs what other climes produce,
And offers something to the general use;
No land but listens to the common call,
And in return receives supply from all.
This genial intercourse and mutual aid
Cheers what were else an universal shade,
Calls Nature from her ivy mantled den
And softens human rockwork into men."

It was the judgment of another great and good Englishman, John Bright, that war and tariffs were the two great enemies of mankind. I am an American, and deplore the existence of its barbarous protective tariff, which promotes insularity, national conceit and pugnacity. A destruction of its tariff would give its people opportunity to become acquainted with other people, from whom we have much to learn.

SAMUEL MILLIKEN.

Miyanoshta, May 19, 1912.

HOW FAR DID THE SHIRASE EXPEDITION GO?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Your "Weekly" of May 18 says, in regard to the above expedition, that "the sphere of exploration was limited to between 78° 40' and 85° south latitude." But did Shirase go to 85 degrees South latitude or anywhere near it? The idea I have got from reading Japanese accounts of the expedition is that he went to 80 degrees 5 minutes. The reports were vague. They said that he went to *hachi-ju go fun*—"eighty five minutes," which I took to be an absurd error in transcription, meaning probably 80 degrees 5 minutes. Any way, in the 10 or 11 days which he took for his little run inland, he could not have gone beyond the 80th parallel,—that is, at his nearest approach to the Pole he was still about 700 miles away from it.

Lieut. Shirase deserves credit for his brave attempt, but always within the facts.

Requesting the courtesy of your columns,

Yours, etc.,

INAKA.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

London, May 16.

The late King of Denmark was returning from the Riviera accompanied by the Queen and his children. His Majesty had been at Nice resting, as he was suffering from arterial sclerosis.

On the evening of the 14th inst. he was quite well and expressed pleasure at returning in the best of health to Copenhagen.

Yesterday morning, about 10 o'clock, he went out for a short walk unaccompanied, and was overcome with faintness and fell down in the street.

He was caught by a policeman, who conveyed his Majesty in an unconscious condition to the hospital, and thence, prior to identification, to the common mortuary.

The Sovereigns and Parliaments of the Powers have sent world-wide messages of sympathy.

At Copenhagen the Premier appeared on the balcony of the Amalienborg Palace, and announced in the briefest and most formal terms the death of King Frederick VIII.

He then proclaimed: "Long live King Christian X."

King Christian thereupon presented himself before the enormous crowd and promised devotion to the welfare of the country, appealing for the support of all patriotic Danes.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 16.

The Bankers of the Six Powers conferred all day as to the China Loan and are expected to meet again to-morrow.

GERMAN NAVAL ESTIMATES.

London, May 16.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking in the House of Commons, said that the German extra new naval construction for the year was for £312,466 for airships and submarines.

He would certainly have to present supplementary naval estimates to the House of Commons.

THE FLOODS IN THE STATES.

London, May 16.

The Hymelia levee at New Orleans has burst.

Enormous damage has been done, affecting a thousand square miles and sixty thousand people.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 17.

The returns in the California primaries indicate that Colonel Roosevelt has easily defeated President Taft.

Many women voted.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 17.

The conference of Bankers on the China loan has been concluded for the present.

It will be resumed at a later date, which has not yet been fixed.

Some of the delegates are leaving England to confer with their principals.

Reuter's agency learns that considerable progress has been made at the Conference, which has discussed the broad bases of Chinese finance and the details of the advances in payment of the troops.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has applied to the Six Powers for leave to participate in the loan, but no Austro-Hungarian delegate was present at the Conference.

NAVAL DEVELOPMENTS.

London, May 17.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, speaking at a banquet as the guest of the Shipwrights' Company, said that if the additional estimates for men, money and material for the Navy, for which he would have to ask Parliament, were not so large as some had hoped and others feared, yet the Government hoped that it would be able to convince Parliament of their necessity.

The naval development in the next decade would be the growth of the naval forces of the Oversea Dominions.

The Admiralty was prepared to give the Dominions full control over the movements in peace time of any naval forces which they may bring into efficient existence.

The motherland would maintain supremacy at sea against all comers at a decisive point, while the colonies guard the rest of the Empire.

FIGHTING RENEWED IN THIBET.

London, May 17.

The Dalai Lama contradicts the reported friction with the Tashi Lama.

The peace overtures at Lhasa have failed and the fighting has been renewed.

The Tibetans are bombarding a Monastery held by 800 Chinese.

The rifle ammunition of the Chinese force is growing short.

GERMAN TROOPS IN THE FAR EAST.

London, May 17.

In the Reichstag, Herr von Tirpitz, the Secretary of State for the Imperial Admiralty, replying to criticism on the strengthening of the Kiauchau forces by five hundred men, said the Consulates and the Chinese authorities earnestly requested that there should be no question of the strengthening of the garrison at Tsingtau, but a strengthening of the force in the Far East.

SCENE IN THE REICHSTAG.

London, May 18.

A scene occurred in the Reichstag, on Herr Schiedemann describing the Kaiser's threat, made in a conversation with the Burgomaster of Strassburg, to repeal the Constitution of Alsace and join it to Prussia, as a sentence of penal servitude, because Prussia had no civil rights and was a German Siberia.

The Chancellor, the members of the Cabinet and the federal delegates walked out of the Chamber.

They returned two hours later, when the Chancellor rebuked Herr Schiedemann for insulting his country.

The Kaiser's conversation, said the Chancellor, was published owing to a regrettable indiscretion, but no situation had arisen for which he (the Chancellor) would not accept the responsibility.

THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

London, May 18.

The body of the late King of Denmark has been transported to Copenhagen on board the *Dannebrog* and landed with great solemnity.

SURRENDER OF TURKISH GARRISON.

London, May 18.

Three Italian columns surrounded the Rhodes garrison in their position in the mountains, the only retreat from which was

commanded by the guns of the Italian warships.

Of the Turkish force, 83 were killed and 26 wounded before they broke and took refuge in the ravines.

Signor Giolitti announced in the Italian Chamber, amid frantic cheering, that the Turkish garrison at Rhodes had surrendered with the honours of war.

The result has caused a jubilation in Italy, the papers describing this defeat of entrenched Turkish regulars,—not Arab hordes,—as one of the most brilliant victories of a glorious war.

London, May 19.

The Italians at Rhodes took 2,300 prisoners, including 38 officers, together with 4,000 rifles and four batteries.

MILITARY AEROPLANE COMPETITION.

London, May 18.

The War Office has issued particulars of a military aeroplane competition.

The first prize is for £4,000, and the second for £2,000. Both are open to makers of aeroplanes all over the world.

There are nine prizes, aggregating £10,500, which are confined to British subjects.

THE DARDANELLES.

London, May 18.

It is officially declared at Constantinople that the Dardanelles will be re opened on the morning of the 18th inst.

London, May 19.

The Dardanelles were opened to-day, and steamers are passing out.

LAUNCH OF JAPANESE CRUISER.

London, May 19.

The Japanese cruiser *Kongo*, the largest warship in the world, has been successfully launched at Barrow by Madame Koike in the presence of a distinguished company.

The vessel represented a very heavy weight, all the machinery except the turbines, being aboard.

NEW U.S. DREADNOUGHT.

London, May 19.

The American Dreadnought *Texas* has been launched at Newport News.

The displacement of the vessel is 28,367 tons and her speed 21 knots.

TROUBLE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

London, May 19.

The tribesmen have attacked Bander Abbas.

H.M.S. *Alert* has landed parties and the transport *Minto* a detachment of Rajputs.

H.M.S. *Fox* at Karachi has been ordered to immediately proceed to Abbas.

Telegrams indicate a serious situation, the Arabs resenting interference with gun-running.

LORD KITCHENER.

London, May 19.

Lord Kitchener will arrive at Malta on the 29th inst. on the cruiser *Hampshire*.

He will join Mr. Asquith on the Admiralty yacht on a visit to Gibraltar.

MESOPOTAMIA.

London, May 20.

The John Jackson Co. has obtained a provisional contract for four millions sterling to complete another stage of Willcock's thirty million irrigation scheme in Mesopotamia.

SHIPPING ARMS TO MEXICO.

London, May 20.

The U.S. authorities have seized the British steamer *Santona* on a charge of

violating President Taft's proclamation against the shipment of arms for Mexicans.

A hundred thousand cartridges and ten cases of carbines were found aboard.

GERMANY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

London, May 20.

In the debate in the Reichstag on Germany's foreign policy the references were chiefly to Great Britain.

The Conservatives and the Centre said that if Great Britain withdrew her claim to seizures at sea, there would be no reason for an increase of the Navy.

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter said it was erroneous to think that Germany opposed the abolition of the right of seizure at sea.

The English were always held up as an example, but they rigorously insisted on demands which were not fitted for their policy.

The Socialists declared that an understanding depended upon Germany alone, as Great Britain had repeatedly pronounced in favour of an *entente*.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 20.

An Italian battleship has destroyed the barracks and magazine at Marmaris opposite Rhodes.

A COFFEE TRUST.

London, May 20.

The Federal Government is prosecuting the so-called Coffee Trust of the Brazilian valorisation scheme, alleging that it is a conspiracy for withholding coffee and attempting to restrain the coffee trade of the world.

THE PERSIAN CHIEF OF POLICE.

London, May 21.

The famous Armenian Chief of Police at Telheran, who has done Persia much service, has been killed, it is alleged by treachery, while operating against the ex-Shah's brother, Salar-ed-Dowleh, near Hamadan.

London, May 22.

The report that Yezren was treacherously murdered is discredited.

He was shot from a fort which was believed to be evacuated.

THE CHINESE TROOPS AT LHASSA.

London, May 21.

Telegrams received at Simla from Lhasa, dated the 15th inst., through Gyantse, say that the Chinese are hemmed within the buildings in the southern suburbs.

Their supply of cartridges is exhausted, and their Maxims and artillery are silent.

They are feeding on the dead transport animals.

Retreat is blocked by fifteen thousand besieging Tibetans holding both sides of the river.

The end is expected soon.

RELEASE OF THE "SANTONA."

London, May 21.

The *Santona* has been released, as President Taft had previously exempted the munitions aboard as an act of courtesy to the Mexican Government.

STRIKE OF LIGHTERMEN.

London, May 21.

Owing to a dispute arising out of the employment of a non-unionist sexagenarian watchman, the London lightermen decided to strike yesterday evening.

Six thousand men are affected by the decision and the whole trade of the port is threatened.

London, May 22.

The transport-workers seem disposed to take up the lightermen's cause and bring

about a complete standstill at the Port of London.

Even a general strike is regarded as not improbable.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 22.

It is understood at Paris that Austria has been intimated that her inclusion in the Six Powers group interested in the China loan would make the scheme unworkable, but that every facility would be offered Austria for financial participation in the loan.

THE TROUBLE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

London, May 22.

The Arabs have retreated from Bander Abbas and the landing parties are re-embarking.

ITALIANS IN TURKEY.

London, May 22.

At a special Council of Ministers at Constantinople it was decided to expel all Italians from the Turkish Empire, with the exception of workmen, indigents, and widows, within a fortnight.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 22.

The Italians have captured the island of Cos.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

London, May 22.

Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said the Government understood that the present provisional Chinese Government was as earnest as its predecessor in the suppression of opium growing, but if there was any reluctance shown in the matter the whole question of the agreement would be raised.

THE GERMAN SUGAR-TAX.

London, May 22.

The Reichstag has decided to postpone the reduction in the sugar-tax to meet the new military expenditure sanctioned and the supplementary estimates for Kiauchau, amounting to 650,000 *mark*.

THE LIGHTERMEN'S STRIKE.

London, May 23.

Mr. Sydney Buxton, President of the Board of Trade, has announced in the House of Commons the appointment of a Court of Inquiry into the dispute at the Port of London.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

London, May 23.

The *Morning Post* understands that the question of adding a Dreadnought to the Naval Estimates is under discussion at the Admiralty, which is also considering rendering the service more attractive by increasing the pay of seamen and stokers.

M. DELCASSE.

London, May 23.

M. Delcassé has declined a nomination to the Presidency of the French Chamber.

BLUE BOOK ON CHINA.

London, May 23.

A Blue book on China has been published relating to the rebellion.

It includes an Anglo-French exchange of views, both stating a desire to restrict action to the protection of the lives and property of their subjects and not to impair the integrity of China.

THE SOCIALISTS AND THE KAISER.

London, May 23.

The final sitting of the Reichstag for the session was marked by a renewed violent

Socialist onslaught on the Emperor on account of the threat in regard to the incorporation of Alsace with Prussia.

Herr Ladebur said that if the Germans roused themselves to a sense of British dignity, it would be impossible for the Sovereign to say such things.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

London, May 17.

Turkey has asked Russia to explain the continued increase of the garrisons in the Caucasus.

There is reason to believe that Russia has replied that the sole object is to maintain order.

AEROPLANE INVENTION.

London, May 7.

The aeronaut Moreau has invented an aeroplane stabiliser, enabling airmen to turn round in their seats and take photographs, while the machine is working automatically.

THE VOTING IN CALIFORNIA.

London, May 17.

An interesting feature of the Roosevelt victory in California in the primary elections is that a larger proportion of women voted than men.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

London, May 17.

The British Government has promptly replied to the German Reichstag's action in adopting an extended Naval programme.

Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, announces that he will present Supplementary Navy Estimates for more ships and men.

Speaking at a public banquet, Mr. Churchill outlined the future naval development of the country, whereby the motherland will maintain the supremacy of the Empire at sea at a decisive point, while the daughter States patrolled and guarded the rest of the Empire.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, May 17.

Chios is determined to resist the Italians. All the women, children and old men have left the island, and the rest have been armed and the garrison strengthened.

THE WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT BILL.

London, May 17.

By desperately pressing its supporters the Government has carried the second reading of the Welsh Disestablishment Bill by a majority of 81. In other words the Government was practically saved by the Irish members.

The Times calls the Bill a paltry scheme of spoliation, representing the gratification of malice and uncharitableness.

THE SCENE IN THE REICHSTAG.

London, May 18.

The German Emperor's threat to incorporate Alsace and Lorraine with Prussia and suppress the Constitution unless the Diet changed its attitude has produced a very stormy scene in the Reichstag.

A Socialist deputy violent abused the Prussian methods, and as the President took no notice of the Chancellor's signals that he should rebuke the deputy, all the Ministers and Government officials temporarily left the Chamber.

Subsequently the Centre and Conservative deputies declared the Emperor's lan-

guage must weaken the work of conciliating Alsace.

The Chancellor declared the Emperor's words were just a warning against the anti-German agitation, which could not be permitted to continue.

The Socialists continually jeered and interrupted the speech of the Chancellor.

THE PORTUGUESE ROYALISTS.

London, May 18.

It is reported that ex-King Manoel of Portugal recently visited Pontevedra and conferred with the various Royalists.

The Portuguese troops are watching all the roads on the Spanish frontier.

THE BRITISH ARMY MANOEUVRES.

London, May 18.

The King and Queen are busily engaged in closely watching the army manoeuvres at Aldershot.

COPPER.

London, May 18.

Copper is quoted at 74½—74¾. The market is buoyant, with heavy buying.

THE BALKANS.

London, May 20.

Telegrams from Salonika, Athens and Vienna state that the Albanians are greatly excited.

There has been some sharp fighting. There is abundant evidence that the Albanians are preparing for a general rising and are determined to secure fulfilment of the Turkish promises of reform.

Reinforcements of troops are leaving Constantinople.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 20.

Both President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt claim to have secured enough votes for nomination.

Colonel Roosevelt claims he has secured enough delegates to ensure success at the Republican Convention.

Roosevelt is now slightly the favourite.

SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

London, May 20.

The situation both in North and South Morocco is most unsatisfactory and unless changes are made in the French administration, a repetition of the recent Fez outbreak is likely.

London, May 21.

Large bands of natives are collecting east of Fez and the whole country between Fez and the Algerian frontier is rising.

The feeling is anti-French, not anti-European.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, May 20.

Chinese stocks are dull and lower. Russians are supported.

ASSASSINATION OF PERSIAN CHIEF-OF-POLICE.

London, May 21.

The assassination of Yeprem, the famous Chief of Police, while writing in his tent after a victory over the ex-Sultan's forces at Hamadan, deprives the Persian Government of the best leader it has for ending the internal war.

ITALIANS IN TURKEY.

London, May 21.

The Turkish Minister has definitely decided to expel all Italians from Turkey except artisans, widows, orphans and members of religious orders.

The decision is ascribed to the effect pro-

duced by the capture of the garrison at Rhodes.

THE PERSIAN CHIEF OF POLICE.

London, May 22.

Yeprem, the Persian Chief of Police, was killed in action.

The Armenian Bakhtiari swore vengeance over the corpse and then routed the enemy, killing 300.

BRITISH OFFICERS FOR TURKEY.

London, May 22.

Turkey has requested Great Britain to appoint five officers to help command the gendarmerie in European Turkey.

It is understood that Great Britain has agreed to the proposal.

CROSS CHANNEL FLIGHT.

London, May 22.

The Belgian airman Crombege has made a double flight across the Channel from Nieuport to Dover and back, on a Deperdussin monoplane.

He did not alight on reaching England and the total time occupied in the flight was 2h. 20m.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

KAISER AT HOMBURG.

Berlin, May 16.

The Kaiser, after a short sojourn at Wiesbaden and Frankfurt a/M, has gone to Homburg v.d.H.

THE ARMY AND NAVY FUND.

A movement aiming at the participation of all Germans residing in the Far East in the national subscription for the army and navy is being mooted. It is intended to present to the Government a special aeroplane as a contribution of all Germans in China and Japan and other Far Eastern countries.

SYMPATHY WITH DENMARK.

The President of the Reichstag, speaking before the members, expressed the sympathy of the House with the Danish people on the occasion of the death of King Frederick VIII. The Chancellor expressed his sympathy to the Danish Minister at Berlin, and the *Reichsanzeiger* and *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* are also commenting on the death in a very sympathetic manner.

THE ARMAMENT PILLS.

On the occasion of the discussion of the Bill for covering the expenses of the new armament bills in the Budget Committee of the Reichstag the Centre proposed to postpone the diminution of the sugar tax, which had to be carried out next year, until October 1st, 1916, by which a surplus of 100 million marks would be expected.

GAMBLING IN SHARES.

The Berlin Exchange Commissioner publishes an official warning against over-speculation in shares as a result of the existing boom.

N.D.L. DIRECTOR RESIGNS.

Herr Leist, a member of the Board of Directors of the Nordd.-Lloyd, has resigned owing to advanced age.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The passage through the Dardanelles has been reopened.

KIAUTSCHOU BUDGET PASSED.

The Reichstag has passed the Kiautschou Budget without amendment. The proposal of the Deputy Nacken providing for an increase in the wages of the rank and file of

the garrison of Kiautschou has also been passed.

SERVIAN MINISTER RESIGNS.

The Servian Minister for Finance has resigned his post.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN POLITICS.

Minister Poincaré will go to St. Petersburg during the summer for the purpose of discussing Franco-Russian political matters.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR AT VIENNA.

M. Dumaine, the former French Minister at Muenchen, has been nominated Ambassador at Vienna.

THE PROCLAMATION OF KING CHRISTIAN.

The proclamation of the Crown Prince as King Christian X. of Denmark took place on May 15th at Copenhagen. In the Folketing and Landsting the Presidents delivered speeches in memory of the deceased King.

RUN TO EARTH AT LAST.

The retreat of two Parisian automobile bandits, Garnier and Vallet, has been located by the Parisian police at Nogent-sur-Marne. The police attacked the strongly-defended house and at last succeeded in destroying it by bombs. The two bandits were found in a dying condition, but the police also suffered numerous losses.

THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

Berlin, May 17.

The Kaiser has ordered the Crown Prince and Admiral Count Baudissin to represent him at the funeral of the King of Denmark at Copenhagen.

BANK OF FRANCE.

The National Bank of France has lowered its discount rate to 3 per cent.

SCENE IN THE REICHSTAG.

Berlin, May 18.

The Kaiser, on the occasion of a visit to Strassburg, expressed to the Burgomaster in a private conversation his great regret that occasionally anti-German agitation is still heard in the Reichslande. In the light of this phenomenon, one could wish that the Reichslande had not been made an autonomous constitutional federative state, but that they had been amalgamated with Prussia.

This conversation, which had been made public as a result of an indiscretion on the part of a third person, was made the basis of a violent attack on the Kaiser by the Socialist Deputy Scheidemann, who exaggerated the incident in a very unreasonable and unpolitical manner. He criticized the Kaiser's remarks, saying that the annexation of the Reichslande by Prussia would be similar to a sentence of penal servitude.

The representatives of the Government left the Chamber after this attack, which was, however, not checked by the President, until after some violent discussion. The Chancellor, returning to the Chamber after a two-hours absence, amid the enthusiastic applause of all civil parties, refuted the unreasonable speech of the Socialist Deputy, emphasising that it was only the Kaiser's desire to see the German national interests in the Reichslande guarded, and that he had only given expression to the indignation, which was universal in Germany, at the anti-German agitation still carried on in the Reichslande.

He further said that all civil parties, even those in the Reichslande themselves, were at one in condemning the anti-German agitation carried on in certain circles.

In conclusion, he remarked that the entire

speech of the Deputy was, in view of the facts, as unreasonable as it was unpolitical and ill judged.

The enthusiasm with which the speech of Chancellor was applauded by all parties afforded proof that they all agreed in condemning not only the indiscreet action of the Socialist Deputy, but also the often repeated attempts to stir up ill-feeling in the Reichslande against Germany.

The whole of the German Press condemns the unpolitical and ill-judged speech of the Socialist Deputy Scheidemann in the German Reichstag and the unreasonable attacks against the leading Federated State of Prussia. The journals also greatly praise the speech of the Chancellor, in which he refuted the attack in a very able manner. The Socialist Deputy is stated to have injured the prospects of his party.

The French Press, up to the present, maintains a very temperate and reserved attitude.

NEW HAMBURG AMERICA LINER.

The launch of the big Hamburg-America liner *Imperator*, of 50,000 tons, will take place at Hamburg on May 23rd in the presence of the Kaiser.

ARMAMENT BILLS.

Berlin, May 19.

An agreement has been arrived at in the Budget Committee of the Reichstag with regard to the covering of the expenses of the new Armament Bills. The agreement, which was decided upon between the Centre and the National Liberals, provides for the institution of a universal property tax and the provisional postponement of the revocation of the sugar tax. The Bill has, however, again to be presented on April 30th, 1913, when the introduction of a property and inheritance tax is reserved.

EUROPEAN EXCHANGES.

Herr Arthur Gwinner, the Director of the Deutsche Bank, speaking in the Prussian Landtag, announced the gradual relaxation of the tension on all European Exchanges, which may be regarded as the first signs of the coming end of the prevailing high level of values.

NEW CRUISER'S TRIALS.

The new German armoured cruiser *Goeben*, on her trials off Heligoland, which were carried out in stormy weather, has reached the high speed of 30 miles an hour.

AEROPLANE FUND.

The sum of 195,000 mark has been collected at Hamburg for the German national aeroplane fund. The fund has, up to now, reached a sum of 3,000,000 mark.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE REJECTED IN SWEDEN.

The Swedish Upper House has rejected the Bill providing for the introduction of female suffrage.

RUSSIAN LOANS.

The Russian Upper House has passed a Bill providing for the amortisation of loans issued during the war against Japan to the amount of 100,000,000 roubles.

THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

The Royal Court of Prussia has ordered a period of court-mourning extending over three weeks, owing to the death of the King of Denmark.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, May 18.

Sign. Giolitti, the Italian Premier, speaking in the Chamber, reported that the

Turkish garrison of Rhodes had surrendered to the Italian troops after severe fighting.

Berlin, May 19.

Turkish soldiers of all ranks, to the number of 2,300, were taken prisoners by the Italians after the complete occupation of the island of Rhodes.

The Chief of Police at Constantinople has ordered the expulsion of 85 well-known Italian nationals.

The *Rjattsch* reports that Russia will not lodge any demands for an indemnity from Turkey in connection with the closing of the Dardanelles.

INTERNATIONAL AERIAL LAWS.

Berlin, May 18.

An international Committee for the consideration of international aerial laws has been convened at Brussels, a number of German representatives taking part.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Berlin, May 20.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to May 5th, from Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on May 20th.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

A new expeditionary corps will be formed by Italy for the occupation of other islands in the Aegean Sea.

Turkey has ordered the expulsion of one hundred other Italian nationals from Syria.

The French Government has issued a communication according to which it declares that France will not accept any Turkish or Italian Loan during the war. This announcement effectually discredits the rumour of the issue of a 500 million francs loan for Turkey.

EX-PRESIDENT CASTRO ILL.

Ex-President Castro, of Venezuela, is reported to be seriously ill at Tenerife.

ARGENTINE MINISTER DEAD.

General Goboy, the Argentine Minister for War, is dead.

RUSSIAN BUDGET SURPLUS.

The Russian Minister for Finance reports that the revenues of the State for 1911 show a surplus of 93 million roubles.

The Russian Upper House has rejected the Bill providing for the introduction of Semstvo Administration in Siberia.

THE BALKANS.

The King and Queen of Bulgaria will pay visits to the King of Montenegro on June 1st and to Emperor Franz Joseph at Vienna on June 6th, which is regarded as a proof of the peaceful situation in the Balkans.

PRUSSIAN ELECTION LAW.

Berlin, May 21.

The Prussian Landtag has rejected the proposals of the Liberal Parties for a reform of the Prussian Election Law.

THE FRONTIER QUESTION.

The Franco-German Committee for the determination of the new frontier between the German Cameroons and the French Congo Colonies will meet in June at Berne.

AERONAUTICS.

The Bundesrat has passed the draft of a Bill providing for pensions and accident insurance of military aviators and aeronauts.

THE ROYAL FUNERAL.

The Crown Prince, who will represent the Kaiser at the funeral of the late King of Denmark at Copenhagen, will be accompanied by the Crown Princess.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.

The Suez Canal Company has declared a

dividend of 165 per cent. and has decided to reduce its tariff, as already announced, from January 1st, 1913.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Count Berthold, the new Austrian-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, will stay at Berlin from May 23rd to May 26th, when he will meet the Chancellor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and be received in audience by the Kaiser.

PRINCE GEORGE KILLED IN MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENT.

Prince George of Cumberland, when on his way to Denmark to attend the funeral of the late King, has been killed in an automobile accident near Friesack. The Prince, who was himself steering the car, had his skull fractured and was instantly killed. His adjutant was also killed and the driver seriously injured.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Ministerial Council has decided to expel all Italian nationals from Turkish territory with the exception of labourers, clericals, widows and orphans.

ASSASSINATION OF PERSIAN CHIEF OF POLICE.

The Persian Chief of Police Jephrem has been assassinated.

LORD HALDANE'S VACATION.

Berlin, May 22.

Lord Haldane, the British Minister for War, has started for his usual annual vacation trip to the Schwarzwald. All rumours according to which this journey is stated to be in connection with the continuation of the German-British negotiations, are, however, not based on facts.

PRINCE GEORGE'S FUNERAL.

The Kaiser and Kaiserin have sent telegrams of sympathy to the Duke of Cumberland on the sudden death of Prince George. Princes August Wilhelm and Eitel Fritz will proceed to Gmunden, where the funeral will be held with full military honours.

ARMAMENT BILLS.

The Reichstag has passed without amendment at the third reading the new army and navy bills.

Proposals for the introduction of a property and inheritance tax were also presented. Referring to these the Secretary of State for the Treasury declared that the Government intended to present to the Reichstag a universal property tax bill on April 30th, 1912.

MINISTER DECORATED.

The Kaiser has honoured the Chancellor with the Cross of the Grand Commander of the Hohenzollern Order, Admiral Tirpitz with the Brilliants of the Order of the Black Eagle, and General von Heeringen, the Minister for War, with the Order of the Black Eagle, in recognition of their services towards the passing of the new armament Bills and as a sign of his personal confidence.

REICHSTAG ADJOURNED.

The Reichstag has been adjourned till November 26th.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Squadron has occupied the island of Eos in the Aegean Sea.

According to official lists, the Italian losses during the war up to now amount to 53 officers and 8,877 men, besides those who have died from sickness.

TREASURY BONDS.

A certain well-known international bank syndicate has offered to accept Chinese treasury bonds of one year's validity to the

amount of £10,000,000 till autumn of this year, on the condition that China permits control over the issue. Further actual loans to the amount of £60,000,000 would follow on the same condition.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

A rival Sultan, who has 7,000 followers, has risen in the Sus district in Southern Morocco.

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR DEAD.

Count v. d. Osten-Sacken, the Russian Ambassador to Berlin, is dead at Monte Carlo.

CHINESE SILK MARKET.

A Shanghai telegram to the Foreign Office reports that the Magistrates of Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces having agreed to the protection of foreign cocoon merchants, and the insurance companies have decided to accept the risk under certain conditions. The cocoon merchants have since quietly increased and begun to go to the markets in the interior.

A Hungchow telegram also reports that the cocoon market in Changshing has been opened since the 13th instant, when cocoons were quoted at thirty dollars per 100 pounds. The price has since risen by two dollars owing to the scarcity of goods.

According to an official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from Hungchow, the production of cocoons this year is unusually good. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Ltd., commenced the purchase of cocoons in the market on the 19th instant, the price offered being 2½ dollars for ten pounds. The goods now offered for sale are rather inferior in quality but better are expected to appear on the market in a few days, when the price will rise to about three dollars.

THE ACCIDENT TO THE "BUELOW."

The N.D.L. s.s. *Buelow*, which grounded lightly near Kobe on the 19th, was docked in Kobe the same day and after investigation was found to have a few of her plates damaged. The necessary repairs are expected to take about three days. The cargo is quite undamaged. Our contemporary, the *Kobe Herald* of May 20th, comments on the accident as follows:—"Our representative visited the *Buelow* this morning, but was unable to gather any official information from the officers of the ship. From enquiries he made from passengers and others, however, it would appear that the ship ran on the rocks in the Kii Channel at 10 a.m. yesterday morning. The engines were put astern and the ship floated within ten minutes. The water-tight doors were immediately closed and the boats' crews piped in their stations. At the time of the accident a French cruiser, the *Duplex*, was following in the wake of the *Buelow*, whose commander immediately sent a wireless message to her that he was on the rocks. The strong current in addition to the heavy fog is said to have caused the mishap. Among the passengers on the *Buelow* is Prince Waldemar."

THE FIGHTING IN THIBET.

A Peking despatch to the *Chunuo* reports that the large gold mine in Thibet has at last fallen into the hands of the Thibetans. The fight for the mine has lasted about two months and the casualties on both sides are said to reach 5,000.

According to a telegram from Szchuan, reports a fierce special to the *Chunuo*, a fierce battle was fought in the mountains lying west of Lhasa between the Dalai Lama's troops and Chinese soldiers, when 3,000 Chinese soldiers were driven into a valley, where the majority of them were slaughtered in a brutal manner.

H.B.M.S. "DEFENCE."

MONDAY'S RECEPTION TO YOKOHAMA RESIDENTS.

Admiral Sir A. L. Winsloe and the officers of His Britannic Majesty's cruiser *Defence* were "at home" on Monday afternoon; and it is needless to say that a very large number of Yokohama residents took the opportunity of going aboard to see what a modern British cruiser was like. Every courtesy and hospitality was shewn the visitors by the officers and men and the numerous questions asked by those from shore were answered with a readiness and a good humour that was delightful.

The gentle courtesy of the Admiral and his officers in giving British subjects and others the pleasure of the afternoon, will long be remembered; whilst it may also tend to strengthen the feelings of patriotism for his country which every Britisher here should possess.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

MR. LYTTELTON'S VIEWS.

Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., speaking at a meeting of the Imperial Mission recently, urged the necessity of shaping the policy with a view to a united and solid system of defence throughout the Empire. It was, he said, unthinkable that Great Britain should be burdened with the defence of the whole Empire while the participation of the Dominions was optional. But there was an increasing pressure of public opinion in the colonies on the subject.

He warned the Mission's speakers to bear in mind the natural sensitiveness of the Dominions. It would be better to let colonial opinion develop spontaneously and to let action come under its pressure.

DISTRESS IN CHINA.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that the price of rice has risen in Kiukiang, causing great distress amongst the lower classes. Disaffected soldiers are circulating wild rumours to throw the public into tumult and confusion. A vigilant watch is being kept by the commander of the garrison against emergencies.

An order has been issued in the districts on the Yangtze valley prohibiting the exportation of rice. The abnormal increase in price is attributed to the scarcity of stock and the reckless issue of war notes.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MR. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P. (Liberal, South Hackney) has resigned his seat.

A GENERAL conference of the Tea Traders Union took place at Shizuoka on the 23rd instant.

A FIRE broke out in the small hours of Friday morning last at Satsuma, resulting in the destruction of 32 houses.

THE Imperial Marine Disaster Relief Association will hold its annual general meeting on the 28th instant at the amphitheatre at Ryogoku.

THE Musashi Electric Railway Company will hold its general meeting on the 28th instant when a dividend of five per cent. will be declared.

EARLY on Monday morning a fire broke out at a house occupied by a timber merchant named Suzuki, at Tokorozawa-nachi, resulting in the demolition of three houses.

STRONG representations are being made to *Le Malin* in favour of making the Peking-Paris aviation race international. It is assumed that if this were done the prize list would be very greatly extended, prizes being allotted for various sections of the 8,000 mile route. The entries already big

Perseus, British steamer, 4,299, D. Robinson, 23rd May.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, E. Nishio, 23rd May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinshiku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 23rd May.—Kaiserslautern.—Osaka : hosen Kaisha.

Scandia, German steamer, 3,135, Knaisel, 23rd May.—Havre, Bremen and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Orel* from Vladivostok:—Mr. B. Kadomtseff, Mr. and Mrs. Wilm, Miss Aholin, Mr. and Mrs. Veber, Mr. J. Rozenberg, Mrs. E. Rozenberg, Mr. Graca de Cruz and Mr. Matia in cabin; Mr. Piotrovskiy, Mr. A. Mamellock and in second class.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Ritsan* from Vladivostok:—Mr. Kobitz, Mr. Berheim, Mr. Ebbe, Mr. and Mrs. Di Rosa, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Lasdun, Mr. Shubb, Mr. and Mrs. Jalkenhansen, Mr. and Mrs. Hayne, Mr. Droge, Mr. Nittel, Mr. Pickel, Mr. Dörner and Mrs. Ringstedt in cabin; Mr. M. Mori, Mr. Shizetn, Mrs. Fitz Skerry, Mr. Neupokoff and Mr. Fuchr in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Nikko Maru* from Melbourne and Sydney via ports:—Hon. and Mrs. W. Irvine, Mr. M. Tsutsumi, Mrs. A. Bayly, Miss L. Chirnside, Dr. W. Smith, Mr. S. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. R. Garlind, Miss B. Moore, Miss E. Robinson, Miss M. Maslin, Mr. N. Ohtani, Mr. and Mrs. F. Burnham, Mrs. S. Stanford, Mr. B. Brown, Mrs. Lazarus, Mr. and Mrs. J. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. W. Friend, Mr. J. Willson, Mr. P. Helder, Mrs. and Misses Hawthorne, Mrs. and Misses Abraham, Mrs. H. Kneidler, Master Kneidler and servant, Mr. J. Bottazur, Mr. A. Gutterge, Mr. C. Bondic, Dr. and Mrs. H. Elliott and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Brockstedt, Mr. N. McHowie and Mr. N. Lasdun in cabin; Lieut. Shirase, Mr. Takeda, Mr. Ikeda, Mr. Tazumi, Mr. Muramatsu, Mr. Murakami and Mr. Hancock in second class; Mr. Yasuda and Mr. Ikemoto in intermediate; 14 Japanese and 8 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. E. J. Tanner, Mr. H. F. Palmer and 2 Japanese in cabin; 3 Japanese in second class; 12 Japanese and 11 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Iyo Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. J. H. R. Wood, Dr. O. T. Olsen, Hon. J. C. Lister, Hon. Mrs. Lister, Miss Brockton, Miss Bentley, Lieut. Colonel S. Fukui, Mr. Nagayama and Mrs. Ono and 3 daughters in

cabin; 2 Chinese in second class; 2 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Kosai Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mrs. Albert Russell and children, Mr. F. W. Frank and Mr. Aoyagi in cabin. Mr. and Mrs. Toskovitch, Mrs. Y. Yamashita and Mr. K. Shibata in second class; 18 Japanese, 2 Russian and 2 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Nile*, from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. Julius G. de Buguino, Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. B. Swinestall, Mr. P. S. Wood. For Honolulu:—Mr. Su On Fong, Mr. K. Hayashi, Miss See Kan Nung, Mr. See Young Oong, Mr. W. di Kwan Pin, Mrs. Chin Shee, Mrs. Chin Shee, Jr., Mr. J. B. Hyde Smith, Mr. Wing Wee Yee, Dr. K. Zenhiro. For San Francisco:—Mr. M. C. Hayley, Miss Grassie Rukley, Mr. William Van Buskirk, Mrs. W. H. Bush, Mr. L. H. Badger, Mr. G. A. Baurr, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Baldwin, Master Baldwin, Mr. C. C. Baldwin, Jr., Mr. W. Carstairs, Mr. A. Cottage, Mrs. Coffin, Mr. W. Cronan, Master F. Cranew, Miss Maria Cranew, Mr. H. A. Cerrito, Mr. S. Cheu, Mr. F. H. Cheng, Mr. Adam G. Derkum, Mrs. Mary O. Dowd, Miss Edith Dowd, Miss Frances Dowd, Mrs. Thelma Elten, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Eubank, Mr. L. C. Entricar, Mr. Gro. F. Fox, Mr. W. A. Gill, Father O. Crespo Garcia, Francisco Gutierrez, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hankin, Captain P. R. Hemmelt, Mrs. B. Hart, Mrs. Agnes Jones, Mr. J. M. Jones, Miss J. H. Johnson, Sister Johnson, Dr. F. Meyt, Dr. and Mrs. L. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Kydd, Mr. L. G. Lehoussie, Dr. W. A. McVean, Miss L. McVean, Mr. E. L. Miles, Mr. H. V. Miles, Mrs. Geo. Miles, Miss Miles, Mr. J. B. Martin, Mrs. T. Miyasite, Mrs. M. Nichol, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Boutkowski, Miss Phoebe Pierce, Mr. R. Peterson, Mr. A. P. Quirnobach, Mrs. O. E. Reh, Miss Elhel Reh, Master Ralph Reh, Master Emil Reh, Mr. D. C. Roberts, Mrs. F. J. Raven, and infant, Mrs. Chum Shee, Rev. Father Saldana, Miss G. Viola Saldana, Mr. W. Sidebottom, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Steele, Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Lacey Sites, Mrs. H. C. Scofield, Miss Harriet Tabor, Mrs. S. M. Travers, Mr. N. W. Ting, M. B. Welch, Mrs. M. E. Weller, Miss Weller, Mr. K. Wong and Miss Woo in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *Minnetota* for Seattle, Wash.:—Mrs. G. S. Ayer, Mrs. G. H. Ball, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bartlett, Miss Bartlett, Mr. N. G. Baylie, Mrs. Beaumont, Mr. E. S. Blair, Mrs. F. W. Buck, Miss E. L. Burns, Mr. J. Cheong, Mrs. Chas. H. Clark, Mr. James Henry Clark, Mr. Wm. Colton, Rev. P. L. Corbin, Miss Mary E. Corey, Mrs. E. Dickerson, Miss E. Eichels, Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Finster, Miss M. Garrow, Mr. J. Gong, Mrs. W. E. Gooch,

Miss Mary Gorman, Mrs. J. W. Graham and infant, Miss E. C. Green, Major and Mrs. T. L. Hartigan, Mrs. A. W. Hastings, Mrs. R. L. Henderson, Mr. L. Hong, Mr. H. Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. F. Hubbard, Mr. A. E. Hutton, Mr. T. Kan, Mrs. K. T. Long, Capt. and Mrs. G. Malcomson, Mr. G. McMiken, Mr. F. R. Miller, Miss G. McT., Capt. and Mrs. L. L. Northcote, Mr. J. H. Patridge, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pelouze, Mr. H. E. Price, Mr. G. A. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Rogers, Mr. V. A. Ruth, Mr. E. A. Schramek, Miss A. G. Scott, Mrs. E. O. Sharples, Mrs. C. R. Shatto and maid, Mrs. S. Shee, Mrs. W. Shee, Rev. and Mrs. F. H. Smith and 4 children, Mr. L. Stewart, Mr. B. R. Still, Mrs. H. L. Tui, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Violet, Miss N. M. Webster, Mrs. H. A. Wheeler and infant, Mr. A. L. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. L. Win., Mr. J. R. Winterbotham, Miss Winterbotham, Mr. C. Wood, Mr. W. D. Yancey, Dr. and Mrs. D. Young, Mr. H. Yuen and Mr. L. C. Yuen in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer *Orel* for Vladivostok:—Mr. Bukaty, Mr. J. Pageze and 2 children, Col. B. A. Semenoff, Miss Locie On Berlin, Messrs. K. X. J. Delage, Miss L. Ruse, Mr. Sendre, Mr. J. Amexoy, Mr. F. Vidamaza, Mr. Emilio Beronnetto, Mr. K. Dehn, Mr. and Mrs. S. Perez, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hiraoka, Mr. B. Abe, Mr. and Mrs. Vicars, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Taylor and Dr. V. Vonters in cabin; Mr. R. Baner, Miss F. M. Fugill and Miss M. Pasley in second class.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Silk shippers per *Chio Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 18th inst.

	Raw Silk.	
	N.Y.	Eastern.
Nabholz & Cie.....	45	—
Siber Hegner & Co.....	80	—
Japan Villa Stearns & Co.....	25	—
Jewett & Bent.....	10	—
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.....	243	10
Kiito Comei Kaisha.....	192	35
Total.....	595	45

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Chio Maru*, for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 18th inst.:

TEA.

	S.F.	N.Y.	Chicago.	Omaha.	Detroit.	Baltimore.	O. City.	Total.
S'hai...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S'mizu...	606	325	421	—	285	—	—	1,637
Kobe...	—	140	—	—	—	—	—	340
Y'hama...	289	286	487	—	—	—	—	1,062
H'kong...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	955	951	908	—	285	—	—	3,099

SILK.

	S.F.	N.Y.	Florence	S.M. H'oke	Eastern	Total.
S'hai.....	—	35	—	—	—	35
H'kong...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Y'hama...	—	595	—	—	45	640
Total...	—	630	—	—	45	675

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YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN has arrived at Montevideo.

THE House of Commons has adjourned until June 4.

THE death is announced of Richard de Acaula Grosvenor, 1st Baron Stalbridge.

MR. GEORGE BLACK, the publisher, dropped dead in a London hotel on the 23rd ult.

THE death is announced of Sir Julius Werther, a member of Messrs. Werther, Beit & Co.

ABOUT half past nine on Sunday morning an earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, lasting half a minute.

DR. OLSEN will spend next Sunday trout-fishing on the River Tama at the invitation of the Japan Fishery Institute.

H.M. THE EMPEROR honoured with his personal presence the graduation ceremony of the Military Cadets School held on Monday morning.

A DESPATCH from Iwate prefecture reports that in the Ninoe district a severe frost was experienced on Friday morning last, and that the mulberry crop has been ruined.

A SPECIAL to the *Asahi* from Chemulpo reports that as a result of the reduction effected on the import duty on foreign rice, the quotations for time bargains have advanced.

A NUMBER of Russian tourists are expected to come to Japan on an excursion about the middle of June under the auspices of the Vladivostok Children's Amusement Society.

MR. OZAKI, Mayor of Tokyo, has received the official thanks of the American Government for the present of cherry trees, which have been planted by the tomb of General Grant.

DR. OKUDA YOSHIHITO, Mr. Kato Tsumetada, formerly Minister to Belgium, and Paymaster Captain Fukunaga Kichinosuke, have been appointed to membership of the House of Peers.

ON Monday the seventh anniversary of the Battle of the Japan Sea was celebrated at the Naval Club at Tsukiji. The function was honoured with the presence of H. I. H. the Crown Prince.

THE 17th International Parliamentary Congress will be held for three days from September 18th at Geneva University. The Japanese House of Representatives has been invited to despatch delegates.

THE death is announced of Mr. K. Harada, Judge of the Tokyo Local Court, the sad event taking place on the 28th ultimo. Prior to his death he was promoted to the Fifth Rank of the Senior Grade.

THE sixty-third anniversary of the Empress' birthday was duly celebrated on Tuesday at the Imperial Court. The day was also observed by the Women's Higher Normal School and other girls' schools of Tokyo.

THE Consul General at Vladivostok wires to the Foreign Office that according to a dispatch received from the Russian Customs authorities, during a storm on the Siberian coast on the 5th ultimo, the sailing vessel *Benten Maru*, owned by the Niigata Toyo Bussan Kaisha, sank about

three Russian miles off the fishing ground leased by a Japanese named Nakayama. The master and five members of the crew were drowned.

MR. SARO, Minister Plenipotentiary to Holland, who, in obedience to Imperial instructions, attended the funeral service conducted at Copenhagen for the late King of Denmark, returned to his post on the 26th ultimo.

THE Pioneer's Drill-book, which has been drafted by the Army Education Inspector-General's Office, is at last completed, and a special committee was appointed on the 28th ultimo, to consider and introduce such revision as is deemed necessary. The committee is to be presided over by Lieut-General Arada.

TUESDAY'S issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes Imperial Ordinance No. 189, relating to the reduction of import duty on rice and unhusked rice, which goes into operation from the date of promulgation. The ordinance reads:—"The import duty on rice and unhusked rice shall, in accordance with Article 6 of the Customs Tariff Law, be fixed at 40 sen per 100 kin until October 31st, 1912."

TUESDAY'S issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes an Imperial Ordinance concerning the Investigation Commission for the payment of compensation to seal fishers. The commission is to consist of a Chairman and six Commissioners to be appointed from the officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, Finance, and Communications, and it will be under the direct supervision of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

A COLONIAL Exhibition will be held this year, during the month of September, at Ueno Park. According to the authorities concerned, there will be exhibited all the staple products of the colonies together with models and plans illustrating the progress of commerce, agriculture and industry. The total expenditure is estimated at over 300,000 yen, the expenses required for the Manchurian section alone being expected to reach not less than 50,000 yen.

WE are informed that in a recent letter received from Lr. David Starr Jordan, he says that Prof. Payson J. Treat, Associate Professor of History, in charge of the History of the nations on the Pacific, will spend a few weeks in Japan, arriving early in June. Dr. Jordan adds:—"He is greatly interested in the Peace Movement, an interesting lecturer and a charming young man." Any inquiries concerning Prof. Treat may be addressed to Mr. Gilbert Bowles, 30 Koun-cho, Mita, Tokyo.

THE representatives of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Osaka Shosen Kaisha sat in conference with the representatives of the Pacific Shipping Conference in Yokohama on the 22nd ultimo, to consider the proposed decrease of the freight rate on tea, when the Conference resolutely opposed the demand for the abolition of the rebate system, but expressed a willingness to pay the rebate three times a year instead of twice as now practiced. The Conference is said to have met the question in a conciliatory spirit throughout. The result of the conference having been duly reported to the Department of Communications on the 23rd ultimo another meeting will take place shortly between the three shipping companies and the representative of the Tea Traders Guild for final settlement of the question.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that lit-very contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

Friday, May 24.

It would really seem that Chinese capitalists are in earnest about putting up a patriotic fund which will avert the alternative of accepting a foreign loan under the supervision of aliens. Such dimensions has the commotion reached that there is talk of the whole Cabinet resigning *en bloc*, and President Yuan is represented as finding great difficulty in dealing with the situation. In the South the political party called the *Tungming-hui* appears to be violently opposed to Premier Tang on the question of the loan, but is willing to support him in matters of general policy. The latest telegrams treat Premier Tang's resignation as a mere menace, for it is well known that the Premier's retirement would involve the shattering of the Ministry, which catastrophe none of the leading statesmen will consent to. As for the Council of State, its members are said to be exasperated by the action of the Cabinet in decreeing that no provincial loan shall be raised abroad without the previous consent of the Ministry. This the Council regards as an insufferable encroachment into the realm of local autonomy.

Other foreign banks, for example, the Dutch Bank of Java, are reported to be fishing in the troubled waters, but it is not probable that they will be able to accomplish anything which the Six-Powers Syndicate cannot manage.

The news is confirmed that the Syndicate propose to impose limitations on the scope of the loan. That is to say, the representatives insist that in the event of any one of the Six Powers failing to obtain the necessary funds in the domestic market, recourse must be had to the remaining members of the Syndicate before exploiting any new *provenance*. It is also repeated that Russia refused to submit to this restriction, and that the conference consequently dispersed *re infecta*. But on the other hand, nobody believes that this will prove a serious obstacle compared with the necessity of supplying China with funds to meet present exigencies. The *Chuo Shimbun* justly points out that the position of the Six Powers towards China is much the same as the position of the United States of America towards the rest of the American Continent. If the Monroe doctrine were abandoned for a moment, a state of chaos would ensue, and if the Central Government of China stood aside, leaving the provinces to conduct their own finances, disruption would at once follow. Japan certainly would not be a party to such a perilous position, and she may therefore be regarded as a potential intermediary at any moment. Much the same line is taken by the *Fiji Shimpō*. That journal remarks that if Japan could not find the necessary funds at home, she would be obliged to have recourse to English and French bankers, and thus the transaction would ultimately be confined to the Syndicate. On the other hand, the Syndicate's interests plainly lie in keeping the loan within as narrow a circle of capitalists as possible, and thus the attitude of the Syndicate is easily comprehended. But the Syndicate is not going to wreck the transaction on any such rock, and it may be certainly predicted that an exit from the dilemma will be found. Japan will not oppose a settlement or set her face against any-

thing except the use of the borrowed money within her Manchurian sphere of influence. To that she would inevitably object. The *Fiji* does not anticipate any obduracy on Russia's part, but it urges that no time should be lost in reaching a settlement where such large interests are concerned.

Saturday, May 25.

Public opinion in Japan seems to entertain very little question that this country associated itself with Russia in the latter's recent attitude towards the loan question. In other words, Japanese statesmen agreed that the restriction which the Six-Powers Syndicate endeavoured to impose on the *provenance* of funds for the purpose of lending to China was an untenable project. But although Japan stood side by side with St. Petersburg in this matter, it cannot be supposed that she is very strongly inclined to set herself in opposition to her colleagues of the Syndicate. In short, Japan may ultimately be brought to act the part of a mediator rather than to assist in creating a deadlock.

Italy's claim to a place in the ranks of China's future creditors is said to be based on the terms of the *Note Identique* which emanated from Washington in February, and which named eight countries, including Austria, and Italy as being directly interested in the loan problem.

Sunday, May 26.

It is stated that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation intimated to the Chinese Government its readiness to pay over on the 29th instant the remaining moiety of the 36 million *taels* loan. But the Finance Department declared itself unprepared to receive any money in the present disordered state of affairs, and did not even think it worth while to enter into any detailed explanations. Thus a strange position has been reached. The foreign capitalists are actually offering to fill China's purse and China refuses to have it filled. What the next complication will be it is bewilderingly difficult to conjecture.

Meanwhile Governor-General Hwang persists in his opposition to the raising of a foreign loan accompanied by such a condition as the presence of a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs on every occasion of paying off and disbanding the troops. The General thinks that to accept such a condition would be virtually to place China under the orders of foreign officials, and he declares that every patriotic Chinaman should provide funds to avert such a disgrace. This intelligence is published in Shanghai by a vernacular journal entitled the *Chungkwamin-pao*.

In Canton this question of funds has taken the form of a forced patriotic contribution. At first the idea was to start a domestic debt for the required amount, but subsequently the method of compulsory contribution found vogue, and it has been decided, though by what authority we have as yet no evidence, that all officials shall be required to contribute one month's salary, and that a forced loan shall be started to supplement the former source. It will immediately occur to every reader of contemporary history that the Chinese politicians are calling upon their fellow countrymen to make a sacrifice which would contrast glaringly with all past experience. Compulsory contributions to the coffers of the State have never found favour in any country, least of all in China.

Hongkong telegraphs, on unstated autho-

rity, that the appointment of a supervisor of Chinese finances and of a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs to superintend the disbanding of the troops would practically convert China into a guaranteed State, wholly without governing authority. In other words, the plan is to deprive China totally of independence.

The *Niroku Shimpō* makes a very obvious comment that Governor-General Hwang's proposal about a forced patriotic fund is simply biting off his nose to hurt his own face. His plan is that all Staff officers should contribute five months' pay and the other officers in proportion. According to this, the average disbursement of the Staff officers would amount to 490 *yen* a month. The Governor-General must know very well that nothing of the kind is possible, and thus under the guise of patriotism, he is presenting a problem which the Central Government would be quite unable to solve.

Monday, May 27.

The explanation addressed by the Minister of Finance to the Governors-General in the various provinces, and translated elsewhere in these columns, is practically unanswerable. It shows that in the Nanking Treasury only a paltry sum of 300,000 *taels* was available for the public service, and only twice that amount in Peking. Never did any body of statesmen approach a great task in such an impecunious condition. It was actually necessary, according to the Minister's statement, to hypothecate the buildings and appurtenances of the Bank of China to meet the current expenses, and of course, that source of revenue soon came to an end. The Minister very naturally says that in these circumstances recourse to a foreign loan was inevitable, and he challenges the Governors-General or the Local Assemblies to indicate any other device.

According to the latest intelligence from Shanghai to the *Hochi Shimbun*, the situation has become much brighter, and it has been settled that the Bank of Russia and the Specie Bank of Yokohama will be added to the Syndicate, thus bringing the number of foreign banks to six. It is noticeable that no difficulty is spoken of in connexion with the financial terms offered by the Syndicate. Evidently much greater importance is attached to the questions of supervision and security.

Governor-General Hwang continues to cling obstinately to his denunciation of a foreign loan. His plan is to make an issue of fiduciary paper and secure it by monetary contributions made by the people. Strenuous efforts to induce Hwang to change his opinion are being essayed, but thus far they have not been successful.

Tuesday, May 28.

The Chinese loan seems to be again within sight of settlement. The remaining moiety of the six million preliminary loan has been paid over in equal portions to Shanghai and to Peking. Moreover, the negotiations between the Chinese Minister of Finance and the representatives of the Four Powers Syndicate, met again on the 27th instant and renewed their conferences. Nevertheless, the disinclination to have recourse to foreign money is said to be growing. Thus, at Tientsin a memorial has been signed by influential citizens, urging the Peking Government to refrain from all foreign obligations, and to call for a voluntary subscription of one dollar per head of the popu-

lation. A similar course seems to have been pursued at Hankow, and General Hwang's obstinate denunciation of a foreign loan has for some time been in everybody's mouth. The military element of the population at Hankow adds its voice to the anti-foreign agitation, and it would seem that things tend more and more to a rupture between the North and the South on this question. There is one ray of hope, however. It is that Vice-President Li is said to have openly declared himself ready to support the foreign loan.

From Shanghai comes a scarcely credible story to the effect that General Wang, who commands the Twentieth Division at that place, has memorialized the Government in the sense that the troops are prepared to disband on their own account without making any charges upon the Treasury. If, on the other hand, this proposal be not accepted, the troops will rise in arms.

It must be confessed, however, that there is an element of considerable uncertainty in these reports. Thus, while Hankow is inveighing against the borrowing of foreign money by the Central Government, the provincial authorities, on their own account, are endeavouring to obtain a loan for the purpose of rebuilding the town. From other sources, also, accounts are received which suggest that while there is a strong objection to borrowing through the medium of the Central Government, there is no reluctance to obtain money from abroad for local purposes.

The latest telegram published by the *Chuo* describes as mere trickery the manoeuvres employed at present by the supposed opponents of the foreign loan. A semblance of public opinion is in process of manufacture in China, but the manufacturers will take very good care not to let things attain an impossible position, as money must be procured and the only way to procure it is from foreign sources.

Thursday, May 30.

It is explicitly stated from Peking that the American and the English Representatives in that city have advised the Minister of Finance to refrain from raising a foreign loan. The reasons they assign for this advice is that popular opinion has become so much excited about the loan question as to clearly indicate the inadvisability of proceeding with the scheme. The Minister of Finance, however, has addressed a circular despatch to the prominent opponents of the loan, asking them whether they can possibly guarantee that a sufficient sum to meet the present difficulties of the Treasury can be obtained by voluntary subscription. If it can be so obtained, the Minister is of course prepared to appeal to the patriotism of the people, and no difficulty will be experienced in abandoning the programme of the foreign loan at this juncture, seeing that the negotiations have not been carried beyond the stage of proposals. But it is exceedingly difficult to believe that the British and the American Representatives have adopted the course attributed to them. It is not at all improbable that they have suggested the advisability of practically testing the strength of the people's resolve. That indeed is what the situation must come to if the Rights-Recovery Party continues its agitation. That the two Ministers, however, have definitely committed them-

selves to a public choice between the voluntary system and the loan programme is most improbable. If such an incident has occurred, we have always to remember that no official relations exist at present between the foreign Legations in Peking and the Chinese Ministry. The latter has not yet obtained international recognition.

Other telegrams omit all mention of the course attributed to the British and the American Representatives. They depict the situation as having reached a deadlock. The Minister of Finance has submitted his resignation two or three times, and the Four-Powers Syndicate has instructed its agents in Peking on no account to abandon the provision relating to foreign financial supervision. From this we may infer that the Syndicate is quite confident of a successful issue. Indeed, if things are truly depicted by the telegraph, each side is awaiting the moment when the other's objection will be withdrawn. The Cabinet in Peking wishes to refrain from the practical test of calling for subscriptions, and the Foreign Syndicate is quite willing that that test should be applied as quickly as possible. The public cannot be supposed to have forgotten that in the history of China's past, all appeals to patriotic liberality have ended in fiascos, though not one of them has been on a scale so colossal as that now contemplated. Already, indeed, there are indications that even in the first heat of the anti-foreign loan agitation, Chinese capitalists are not inclined to show any munificence at all commensurate with the situation. The subscription sent in from the citizens of Nanking total only one million *taels*, and those from Hankow aggregate 2,400,000 *taels*. Such sums are a mere drop in the ocean compared with the amounts required.

CHINESE FINANCE.

The officials in Hupeh who constitute the administrative body of that province under the control of Governor-General Hwang, are evidently determined to put their financial theory to the test of practice. They have decided that their own salaries shall be cut down by five-tenths, but whether this is a perpetual reduction or only a temporary measure, the telegram does not clearly say. In Nanking also, a similar step has been taken. The Staff of the Governor-General have pledged themselves to agree to a corresponding reduction of their salaries, and have further decided that a system of fiat currency shall be introduced, in conjunction with a fitting establishment of banks having their central offices in Shanghai. They have also come to a decision, under the direction of Governor-General Hwang, that the delegation of authority such as he wields is opposed to the principle of corporate government such as is called for under Republican institutions. Hwang has therefore resigned his post and has asked permission to proceed to Peking, preaching *en route* a propaganda in favour of voluntary subscriptions and a fiat currency.

From all this it would appear certain that the idea of voluntary subscriptions and a fiduciary currency is rapidly gaining ground. We know of no instance in Chinese history warranting a belief that such procedure will be successful. Even when the Rights-Recovery Party were at the zenith of their agitation, and when the Central Government

seemed incapable of controlling them, the arrival of the actual moment for putting up patriotic funds saw the whole scheme fall through. Possibly the present excitement will not eventuate in a corresponding fiasco, but that it will accomplish its purpose we cannot for a moment believe. As for the proposed fiat currency, it seems to be a wholly unreflecting manoeuvre. The Chinese may carry on transactions among themselves by means of fiat paper, but the debt they already owe to foreign Powers cannot be discharged by any issue of inconvertible notes.

Meanwhile, the Central Government is persisting in its negotiations with the Four-Powers Syndicate. A conference took place on the 27th instant between the Minister of Finance and the representatives of the Syndicate, but no tangible result was reached. On the other hand, of representations from the Southern cities of the new Republic and from Chinese citizens resident abroad, number dozens daily, and it is said that the Central Government is beginning to doubt its own capacity to defy this wide-spread display of popular opinion.

It is observable, however, that, while all this commotion is going on in Peking, Nanking and other Chinese cities, the negotiations between the foreign Syndicate and the Chinese Authorities are proceeding as confidently as ever. There is talk of compromising the difficulty that has arisen with regard to going beyond the ranks of the Syndicate for funds to meet a deficiency in the contribution of any one of the Powers belonging to that body. It will be remembered that in the event of such a deficiency, the original Four Powers advocated the insertion of a clause restricting the search for funds to the Syndicate itself. To this provision Russia objected, her contention being that any member of the Syndicate should be free to procure money from any source whatever. France is now said to be disposed to adopt the role of mediator, and it is thought that she will succeed in finding some means of placating Russia.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN THE JAPANESE ARMY.

An anonymous General writes in the columns of the *Nippon* in a strain of considerable indignation against the luxurious habits into which army officers are beginning to fall. While, on the one hand, ordinary individuals are complaining of the high price of rice and of the difficulty of making ends meet, young officers are living luxuriously, spending freely and running recklessly into debt. A subaltern when he emerges from the Military College comes into immediate receipt of 40 *yen* a month, and forthwith rents a house and takes to himself a wife. Very soon he finds himself falling into arrears with tradesmen, but about that he gives himself very little concern. Then ensues a process of moral degradation which soon tells on the military capacity of the officer. The writer in the *Nippon* thinks that the only remedial course is to compel all officers to live within the barracks and to mess together. This is the method pursued at present in the case of non-commissioned officers, and the result is that although they receive less pay, it goes a great deal further, since their food and clothes are officially supplied at comparatively low rates.

DOMESTIC POLITICS IN CHINA.

Saturday, May 25.

The ferment in the Peking Cabinet has not yet subsided. Two of the Ministers of State are credited with a determination not to serve any longer, and they are said to have tendered their resignations under the guidance of Tang Shao-i. The foreign loan is the rock upon which the stability of the Cabinet was shattered, but so far as domestic politics are concerned, it may be asserted that the North and the South are forming antagonistic parties, as it was always predicted they would. Some accounts state positively that Mr. Tang insists upon resigning, and that the whole Ministry is disorganized, but other reports do not speak in quite such a pessimistic strain. Thus the *Nichi Nichi* has a telegram which alleges that President Yuan convened a meeting of the Cabinet Ministers and declared his intention of resigning if they held by their determination to do so, inasmuch as a failure of administrative efficiency at this stage of the Republican Government's organization would involve grave responsibility *vis à vis* the nation. This representation by the President seems to have produced a wholesome effect.

Meanwhile the two great political parties have taken the field with much determination. Their representatives in the Council of State have also fallen out, and on the 23rd when the Council met, a discussion of the Mongolian problem produced so much disagreement that an appeal to physical force was resorted to. What the final outcome of this fight may have been we do not yet learn. The telegraph simply says that very earnest measures are being taken to settle the difficulty.

It is confidently alleged that President Yuan endeavoured to persuade Governor-General Chao, ex-Viceroy of Manchuria, to accept the post vacated by Tang Shao-i, and that failing Chao, the President ultimately sought the co-operation of Hsu Shih-chang, but equally without success. It will be remembered that Hsu held the post of Viceroy of Manchuria prior to the appointment of Chao.

Sunday, May 26.

On the 24th instant the Cabinet in Peking is reported to have resigned *en bloc*. The Premier's assigned reasons for this step were that the agitation fomented by political parties rendered it impossible to discharge the administrative functions, and further that the Ministry was divided in opinion as to the foreign loan. The Minister of Finance resigned on the ground that he did not agree with the Premier's financial policy. The reasons assigned by the other portfolio-holders are not explicitly stated, but it would seem that they pleaded their responsibility to the Cabinet *en bloc*.

It goes without saying that President Yuan has refused to accept these resignations, and is doing everything in his power to induce the portfolio-holders to reconsider their determination. At first it was thought that everyone of the resignations would be rejected, but subsequently rumour alleged that an exit from the difficulty would be contrived by suffering the Premier alone to retire, and retaining the rest of the Ministers in office. According to the latest news, however, President Yuan is resolutely refusing to accept any of the resignations. His Excellency has appealed to the press through the columns of the *Mingli-pao*,

pointing out that actually before the Republican polity has obtained recognition from the foreign Powers, it is threatened with downfall owing to personal disagreements. If such a catastrophe overtakes the new Government the danger of disruption will be more formidable than any menace at the hands of foreign Powers, and politicians of every shade of conviction are conjured to lay aside individual schisms in the interests of the Republic. Nobody ventures to predict what the outcome of the dispute will be, but in the meanwhile the administration is paralyzed.

Monday, May 27.

It is stated that in view of the opposition offered to Tang Shao-i's financial policy, President Yuan has addressed a letter to the Local Assemblies, the gist of which is that if the Cabinet be obliged to retire from office at this juncture, the newly organized Republic will forfeit all confidence, and Yuan himself will be obliged to resign. He therefore conjures the Local Assemblies to fall into line with the Cabinet's financial policy. It is thought that this threat of resignation on the part of the President will effectually put an end to the opposition of the provinces.

A NEW DEMAND.

According to a telegram sent originally from Peking to Shanghai and forwarded thence to Japan, the Russian Representative in the Chinese capital submitted, on the 20th ultimo, some important demands for the consideration of the Chinese Foreign Office. In the first place, St. Petersburg requires that the navigation of the Amur River should be limited to vessels flying the Russian or the Chinese flag, and that steps should be taken to give practical effect to that restriction. In the second place, Russia requires that if any money be borrowed abroad for use in Mongolia, it shall be obtained from Russian financiers, the Chinese Government not attempting to interfere with this arrangement. In the event of China not agreeing to this manner of financing Mongolia's needs, the Russian Government will annul its Amur convention with China and will stand aside from all treaties which China may be at present engaged in negotiating with foreign States. Further, China must pledge herself to protect the lives and properties of Russian subjects in Sinkiang, and finally the policing of the Amur region shall be entrusted to Russian hands. An answer to these demands is required within two weeks.

The above is certainly a strange departure. Russia has hitherto been maintaining a demeanour distinctly moderate and unaggressive, and it is difficult to believe that she would have formulated such a series of demands at this moment. Possibly, however, she may think it unsafe to let things drift as they are drifting at present. At any rate the subject is too important to warrant comment without fuller information.

On the heels of the above intelligence comes news that Russia is about to lend to Mongolia a considerable sum of money which is to be applied to the organization and equipment of a strong military force in Mongolia. This would evidently fall into the category of the loans referred to above.

We published in our last issue an epitome of demands said to have been formulated by

St. Petersburg in connexion with the navigation of the Amur River and its policing. On the heels of that message there now comes a statement that Russia is interesting herself very practically in the affairs of Hsinking province. She has informed the Chinese Government that the lives and properties of Russian subjects in Hsinking are in evident peril, and that she, Russia, is reluctantly obliged to assume the active responsibility of restoring public peace and good order in the affected districts. She has consequently despatched a force of troops thither. Japanese publicists are reticent with regard to this movement, but there are evident signs that some astonishment is felt in Tokyo. We may mention for the information of non-geographical readers that the province in question constitutes the extreme north-west of the Chinese Republic. The origin of this trouble appears to have been a conflict between the mine-owners of Ili and the Chinese militia. The former obtained assistance from the Mohammedan population when the Chinese were driven out with heavy loss. It is to these troubled conditions that the insecurity of Russian life and property is to be attributed.

THE DISBANDING OF THE CHINESE TROOPS.

The vehement objection raised in Chinese quarters to the presence of a foreign supervisor on the occasion of the disbanding of the troops, is now explained in a manner not incredible to those who have any familiarity with Chinese methods. It has never been found when a crisis occurred in China that the means to deal with it were forthcoming in reality, however plainly they might have been provided for on paper. Thus, with reference to the disbandment of the troops. The fact is that the number of men actually with the colours does not represent a moiety of the number represented as carrying arms. The presence of a foreign supervisor at the time of disbandment would expose this chicanery, and the Chinese military authorities and high officials are naturally unwilling that the truth should become public property. Large sums, amounting to as much as over 100 million *yen*, have been alleged to be required for purposes of disbandment, but in reality less than one half of the amount set down would suffice. This is a feature of Chinese local autonomy, but doubtless many people would be disposed to reckon it as a legitimate feature of Chinese official ethics.

MR. YAMAZA.

Mr. Yamaza, who is regarded as one of the most promising among the younger generation of Japanese statesmen, and who has been serving for the past three years as Councillor of the Embassy in London, returned to Japan on the 24th instant. He was duly interviewed, but he does not appear to have added much to the public stock of knowledge with regard to Chinese finance. A sea voyage is not a very productive manner of gaining access to contemporary history. One very interesting comment made by Mr. Yamaza was that in his opinion, neither the strikes which prevail in England at present, nor the granting of local autonomy to Ireland, nor any other political vicissitude now in sight, is likely to wreck the Liberal Cabinet.

RICE.

The price of rice in Japan continues to absorb a large share of public attention. The import duty on the cereal under the new tariff was fixed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ yen per *koku*. This figure underwent a heavy change last year, being reduced $1\frac{1}{2}$ yen. Now, finally, another reduction has been made and the import duty is only one yen. This last figure is decreed to hold good until the 31st of October and it has of course had an appreciable influence upon the market price of the staple. But the consumers of rice continue to be dissatisfied. They admit that the Government has done well in legislating for such a large reduction of duty, but they think that the step was taken too late, as this is just the season when the demand for rice is beginning to be acute. Beside, they point out that unless greater stability of the import duty is provided for, heavy importations from abroad are not likely to be undertaken. The present reduced tariff holds good for four months only, and may at any subsequent moment be still further reduced, so that any one arranging to import a large quantity now, might find himself subjected to heavy loss. It is therefore suggested that the best plan would be to abolish the import duty altogether, and to legislate in a sense which would remove from the control of the Government the duty of fixing the rate of duty except in special circumstances. Great distress is said to be felt on the part, not only of consumers, but also of dealers in the staple; the former not being able to provide themselves with food, while the latter find it impossible to collect their debts. The Government's accounts of jail expenditure have been palpably dislocated, for, although the rice provided for convicts consists of a mixture of the cheapest qualities of imported grain, the estimates of expenditure are being largely exceeded. Great firms like Messrs. Okura and the Mitsui have not suffered at all, inasmuch as they have kept large quantities of the cereal in the Government warehouses, anticipating a fall of the import duty. But smaller merchants, who are unable to look so far ahead, have taken out their stores of rice and paid the import duty, so that reduction to 1 yen a *koku* has involved them in a very severe loss. We may mention here that permits to quote Formosan and Korean rice upon the Exchanges have been granted to the whole of the forty-three Exchanges throughout the Empire and this permission will come into force from the 1st of next month.

There is much excitement about the great reduction made by the Government in the import duty on rice. Four prominent companies, headed by the Okura and the Mitsui, have organized an association calling itself the "four days' league" and have adopted a resolution that since the Government's arbitrary action has deprived the companies of a large part of their legitimate profit, they should pledge themselves not to pay more than 690 yen per *koku* for the imported staple.

The great difficulty is that the people decline to eat foreign rice. They simply refuse to have anything to say to it. Thus, whereas the price of the best hulled rice of domestic production is now 2880 yen per *koku*, the corresponding figure for the best imported cereal is only 20.20 yen. Nobody seems

to be quite clear as to the cause of this great discrepancy. It appears to be a matter too delicate to admit of verbal explanation. But what is altogether plain is that so long as the Japanese turn up their noses at anything in the form of imported rice, reductions of the import tariff cannot affect the question appreciably one way or the other. Moreover, this great fastidiousness completely disqualifies those that expected to make any claim upon public sympathy. It is not a question of being able to obtain rice at reasonable prices. It is rather a question of willingness to pay an exorbitant price for an almost intangible luxury.

GENERAL ABE'S OPINION.

Major-General Abe, who has just returned from commanding the Japanese garrison troops in China, and who now becomes the Commander of the Tsuchima forces, is reported as having stated that the incidents now taking place in China are some what of a farce. President Yuan is a man of extraordinary resource and tact. Moreover, the relations between him and Premier Tang Shao-i are of such a specially intimate character as to preclude all danger of a rupture between the two statesmen. Therefore their menaces of resignation must be taken with a large grain of salt. As for the disbanding of the forces, it is not by any means so formidable a task as the public has been led to suppose. The disbanding of 80,000 men has been freely spoken of, but in truth, one half of that number would be nearer the truth. Asked about the rumours and the facts of several prominent Chinese seeking an asylum in Japan, Major-General Abe is inclined to regard such a course as premature. It is true that some noted Chinese publicists have been obliged to step down from very high places to very low. Such has been the case, for example, with the ex-Commander-in-Chief in Nanking, Mr. Tieh Liang. When Major General Abe last saw this Chinese Commander, the latter had a guard of honour numbering some sixty men, and was attended by all pomp and circumstance. But now he is an insignificant fugitive at Suma. There may be other instances of a similar character, but the Japanese journal thinks it improbable that, pending the final arrangement of domestic politics, there will be any noteworthy withdrawals of prominent Chinese from their country.

PRINCE PU CHUN.

One of those who suffered in the sequel of the Boxer *emeute* was Prince Pu Chun, then Heir Apparent to the Throne of China. He was obliged to abdicate and was sent into exile in Hsinking. It appears that the ex-Prince has now returned to Peking, and taken up his abode quietly in that city, devoting himself mainly to study. But his reappearance upon the scene has been construed by the newsmongers as an evidence of sinister purpose. He is suspected of a design to restore the Imperial Throne; and a rumour represents him as plotting quietly and resolutely to achieve that aim. The Prince has addressed a complaint to the Minister of Home Affairs and has asked that steps should be taken to dispel this delusion. He declares himself to be a loyal citizen of the new Republic, and he claims that his whole time is devoted to literary studies.

INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

A great deal of attention is being directed towards the state of affairs existing in the principal insurance companies in the Empire. The following table, supplementary to those recently published, shows the actual figures as they stand to-day:—

Name of Company.	Amount paid up per share.	Actual Value in the Market.	Ratio.
	Yen.	Yen.	
Meiji life	100.00	1,900.00	19
Teikoku life...	12.50	250.00	20
Nippon life ...	25.50	600.00	24
Aikoku life ...	12.50	106.00	8
Nisshin life ...	12.50	41.00	3
Meiji fire	100.00	520.00	5
Tokyo fire.....	12.40	21.50	2
Nippon fire ...	12.50	20.50	2

The next table shows the rate of interest actually received by the share-holders:—

Name of Company.	Present Value.	Dividend.	Rate of Interest.
Meiji life.....	1,900.00	16.00	0.08
Teikoku life ...	250.00	2.00	0.08
Nippon life.....	600.00	3.75	0.06
Aikoku life ...	106.00	1.25	0.12
Nisshin life.....	41.00	0.75	0.18
Meiji fire.....	520.00	23.00	0.20
Tokyo fire	21.50	0.74	0.35
Nippon fire.....	20.50	0.75	0.37

Finally, we have a table showing the amount standing to the account of the reserves:—

Name of Company.	Amount paid up.	Amount of Reserves.	Ratio.
Meiji life	100,000	2,022,916	20
Teikoku life.....	250,000	650,000	2.5
Nippon life ...	300,000	2,605,000	9
Aikoku life ...	75,000	10,300	1/4
Nisshin life ...	250,000	3,200	1/75
Meiji fire	500,000	1,876,730	3.6
Tokyo fire ...	250,000	600,000	2.4
Nippon fire ...	750,000	155,020	1/5

Nobody seems able to account for these extraordinary figures.

With regard to the extraordinary rates at which insurance shares are quoted in Japan, one explanation undoubtedly is that speculators in these shares anticipate the payment of a large dividend at an early date, as the reserves of the principal insurance companies have become extravagantly swollen. Another reason assigned is that the banks, anxious to obtain these reserves for their own business purposes, offer special facilities to the companies. And yet another analysis says that the shares are deliberately forced up by projectors who intend to float insurance enterprises of their own.

THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN CHINA.

It would seem that the Chinese Cabinet is really in a very difficult position. Requisitions for money to carry on the administration are pouring in to the Central Authorities accompanied by statements that unless the provincial demands can be speedily satisfied, a financial crisis will ensue. The following provinces are reported to have requisitioned for the sums placed opposite their names, namely, Nanking, 3 million taels; Hupeh, 4 millions; Shansi, Yunnan and Mukden, 3 millions each; and Hsinking, Kansu, Chekiang and Anhui, 3 millions each. This formidable array of figures does not by any means exhaust the list; but it furnishes material sufficient for estimating the embarrassment of the Central Government. In fact, unless money can be speedily found, a situation of the greatest gravity will inevitably arise.

MANCHURIA.

Confirmation has been received of the rumour that Governor-General Chao has tendered his resignation owing to dissatisfaction about the restrictions imposed on his authority in the sequel of the new arrangement as to Governor-General. Chao seems to be determined not to continue the administration of Manchurian affairs with the greatly curtailed authority that remains to him in the presence of his newly appointed colleagues. There is talk of removing him to Peking and replacing him in Manchuria by the present Minister of Home Affairs, but as the latter is at daggers drawn with Tang Shao-i, such an arrangement is not considered possible.

Governor-General Chao, hitherto Viceroy of Manchuria and now Governor-General of Mukden, is said to have denied emphatically the rumour that he has presented his resignation in consequence of the restrictions imposed on his authority by the appointment of three Governors-General, all wielding equal powers. He has not done anything of the kind. On the contrary, he gladly endorses the new system as more likely to conduce to the preservation of law and order in the Three Provinces than the system hitherto in force. Chao does not deny that he has for some time back desired to retire from office, but the moment is inauspicious, and he therefore remains at his post for the time being.

THE CABLE BETWEEN NAGASAKI AND SHANGHAI.

For some time there has been talk of purchasing for Japan the cable between Nagasaki and Shanghai, and it was recently announced with confidence that the transaction had been concluded, and that the high rates charged by the Great Northern Telegraph Company over this section of submarine communications would soon be reduced. But now we read in Tokyo newspapers, that, desirable as it is to reduce the rates and get the cable into Japanese possession, there is a grave difficulty in the way. The Chinese, it appears, have an agreement with the Great Northern Company. This agreement is valid until 1930, and it provides, among other things, that no shore communication on the Chinese side, except with wires belonging to China, shall be made throughout the duration of the period. Apparently no device for dealing with that discrimination has yet been found, and it is therefore altogether premature to speak of the purchase of the cable as an accomplished fact.

JEHOL.

Anarchy continues to exist at Jehol. Chinese citizens who have docked their queues are slaughtered wherever they can be found, and the lives and properties of the people are practically without protection.

Order has not yet been restored at Jehol and its vicinity. The troops which deserted their colours and joined hands with the mounted bandits are still at large, and their depredations continue. Urgent application has been made by the Local Authorities, and a force sufficient to restore the situation is said to have been dispatched from Yunnan.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

Capital is a very tender plant. In spite of the complete confidence felt by the projectors of the Franco-Japanese Bank scheme, confidence which carried the project within easy sight of consummation at the first essay, the completion of the enterprise has suddenly been delayed. An explanation which seems quite sufficient is now formulated. It is that the difficulties connected with the Chinese loans have injuriously affected the Franco-Japanese project. Not that the latter has suffered any lack of public confidence, or that any failure of good will has to be noted on either side. Neither is there any direct relation between the Chinese loans and the proposed new Bank. What has happened is simply that the capitalists principally concerned in the Chinese problem are closely connected with the Franco-Japanese problem also, and that so long as the former remains unsettled the latter must suffer more or less.

In reference to the internal organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank, it is reported that there will be seven directors to the Head Office and five directors in the Tokyo branch of the Bank. A director of one office is to serve in the other annually by rotation, to bring the head and branch offices in close touch. Dr. Soyeda will assume the presidency of the Board of Directors of the Tokyo branch and Mr. Inoue, Vice-President of the Specie Bank, Mr. Tatsuami, Chief of the London branch of the same Bank, and Messrs. Murata and Saito, Directors of the Industrial Bank, are named as probable candidates for the directorate of the Tokyo branch.

THE TOKYO CLEARING HOUSE.

The Tokyo Clearing House is attracting some attention. When it was originally organized the rules were comparatively lax, yet the number of persons whose cheques were dishonoured did not exceed thirteen or fourteen per month. Gradually this figure began to increase, and when it rose to the neighbourhood of a hundred, the regulations were amended, which step produced a wholesome effect. But it appears that the record became evil again during the current month, when no less than a hundred and six dishonoured bills were presented from the 1st of May to the 23rd. The explanation given of the phenomenon is that in consequence of the growth of the city in suburban directions, several small banks have been established, and thus accommodation has been given with more than usual facility. The principal districts concerned are those of Honjo, Azabu, Kanda and Asakusa.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN TOKYO.

It is announced that from the 1st of next month the rates for electric lights in the city of Tokyo will be lowered, with one exception. Originally the Company charged 1.20 yen per month for each 10-power lamp. This rate was subsequently reduced to 1 yen in the face of the Tokyo Tram Company's competition, and now, finally, it is to be reduced to 80 sen. The only difference between charges made by the two Companies is that a 5-candle-power light is charged at the rate of 45 sen by the Electric Light Company, whereas the figure is only 40 sen by the Tram Company. The reduction made by the Tokyo Electric Light Company will go into force from the 1st of June.

MR. LIANG KWEI-CHU.

We read in the *Nichi Nichi's* telegrams that the *Tungming-hui*, which is one of the principal political parties in Peking, has invited Mr. Liang Kwei-chu, who is now residing at Suma, to repair to Peking. This publicist has always been recognized as the lieutenant of Kang Yu-wei, and it was expected that his return to Peking would follow speedily on the heels of the establishment of the Republic. But the expectation has not been fulfilled. Neither he nor his chief nor any prominent member of their party has ventured thus far to revisit the capital. They still reside at Suma, which has become quite a conspicuous retreat for fugitive Chinese politicians. No explanation has been given, so far as we know, of this curious fact, for curious it certainly is considering that Mr. Kang Yu-wei and his disciples did not advocate a programme of reform nearly so radical as that which has actually been carried out by their sometime enemy, President Yuan. Probably the continued retirement of these men is attributable to the fact that their cause was betrayed by President Yuan Shih-kai on the occasion of the celebrated *coup d'état*, when the Empress Dowager showed herself so implacable towards the reform party in Peking.

THIBET.

Affairs in Thibet have evidently developed a situation with which the Chinese are not competent to deal. Mr. Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs, has expressed the opinion that the only feasible course is to recall the *Dalai Lama*, and entrust to him the task of composing the trouble. The British Government, through Sir John Jordan, has expressed itself in sympathy with that course and the expectation is that it will be carried out.

In the context of the above rumour comes news that England has despatched another force of 3,000 men to Pienma.

We have always to remember that Russia, England and other Powers who find themselves obliged to prefer complaints and representations to the Peking Government, have to maintain the semblance of treating China as an officially unacknowledged State. There has never been in previous history any instance quite parallel to this experience.

THE NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE.

A telegram to the *Kokumin Shimbum* indicates that a settlement of the dispute between the foreign capitalists interested in the Chinese loan has come in sight. It takes the form of explicitly reserving all Russia's special rights and privileges in Manchuria and Mongolia and further of agreeing that in the event of Russia finding it inconvenient to raise money at home, she may go abroad through the medium of Belgium.

The same journal publishes another telegram to the effect that Baron Kato, Japanese Ambassador in London, has openly stated that Japan adheres to her stipulation originally expressed with regard to the loan. That stipulation is that all her special rights and privileges in southern Manchuria shall be respected; or, in other words, that the *status quo* shall be preserved. It is expected that in these circumstances the conference in London will very soon be reopened.

POSTAL RATES.

There is talk, apparently earnest, of a rise of postal rates in Japan. Originally the charge for transmitting a postcard was 5 *rin*. This was subsequently raised to 10 *rin* and afterward to 15. Similarly in the case of letters, the original charge was 2 *sen* which was subsequently raised to 3. It is now proposed to charge 2 *sen* for a postcard and 4 *sen* for a letter. The Authorities profess regret at being obliged to impose these increased rates, but they appear to think that the measure is warranted by the general rise in the prices of commodities and of labour. Tokyo journals are evidently somewhat uncertain which side to take. They point out that the revenue derived from posts and telegraphs at present is 6 million *yen* approximately, but they do not anticipate any marked increase in the sequel of raising the rates. On the contrary they anticipate a fall of revenue specially in the matter of letters. This will of course change in time, but it is doubtful whether the growth of income would not have been more conspicuous had the old rate been preserved.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL HWANG.

Governor-General Hwang is becoming more and more conspicuous as the leader of the anti-foreign loan agitation. He now proposes that a central bank of China shall be established for the purpose of dealing with State loans, and that all the conditions which were to have been observed with reference to the Four-Power loan shall be applicable to the domestic loan proposed as a substitute, *mutatis mutandis*. In other words, the central bank would be the issuer of the fiduciary currency which would be secured by the voluntary subscriptions of the people.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that the organization of the Patriotic Subscription Association is progressing systematically. The opposition to the Four or Six Powers loan has now reached a climax in Peking political circles, and opinion is divided even amongst the Ministers of State. In the event of Russia and Japan withdrawing from the syndicate, China will presumably reject any claim for rights of supervision over her finances. The Government has begun to assume a strong attitude, impelled by the popular agitation. The secret agreement drawn up by the anti-loan party is said to contain a clause that "the nation shall be under no obligation to redeem this humiliating loan." It is believed that the loan terms will be rejected by the State Council if any strict condition be imposed regarding the supervisory rights.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* reports that despite the notice received that an advance of three million *taels* would be paid to China through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Chinese Government has not made any attempt to receive it, probably owing to the strong protest presented by the Patriotic Subscription Association. One-half of the three million *taels* is to be appropriated for the disbandment of the troops, over which the Syndicate reserves to itself the right of supervision, a right which Hwang Hsing and Li Yuan-hung strongly oppose. The Government is hesitating to receive the advance for fear of public opinion, but it will have to ultimately accept it.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that strong opposition is raised against the concession

of the right of supervision over finance in connexion with the Chinese loan. A patriotic subscription association was organized in Chihli province, each member contributing one *tael* towards the fund. The association is presided over by Magistrate Chang. The Cantonese and the people of Chekiang also held their respective meetings and set to work in inviting subscriptions toward a similar fund. The Department of Finance has received from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank three million *taels* (the balance of six million *taels* advance). Any further advance will be suspended, pending the resumption of the six Powers Banks' conference in London. Apart from the merit or demerit of the anti-loan view, the movement started in Chihli province for patriotic subscription, was endorsed by the military circles in North China and the matter is hotly debated.

The Peking papers report that Tang Shao-i will deliver a speech before the State Council concerning the loan.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that Yuan Shih-kai has, on consultation with Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, and Lu Chi-chang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, come to the conclusion that the prosecution of the Six Powers loan is in best accordance with the national policy and has decided to take adequate measures to suppress the anti-foreign loan agitation in Nanking and other provinces. It seems that the measure is approved by the State Council.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Hwang Hsing expressing a desire that Hwang shall come up to Peking in company with Chang Tso pin, in order to give his advice on the administration of State affairs. It is anticipated that Hwang will be prevailed upon to proceed to Peking.

With reference to the official dispatch reporting the conclusion of a loan for 2,500,000 sterling for the reconstruction of Hankow, we learn from a reliable source that some time ago the Wuchang Government submitted to Yuan Shih-kai a proposal for this loan. Yuan in turn submitted it to the consideration of the State Council, which referred it to a special committee. The proposal came up for discussion in the Council on Monday last, when it was approved. The loan is to be mainly subscribed for by Chinese residents in the South Seas, but it is doubtful whether there is any necessity to raise such a large local loan, when China is confronted with financial difficulties. Grave anxiety exists as to the successful issue of the loan, even with the approval of the State Council.

According to a Peking dispatch, reports the *Chuwu*, Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, has devised a plan for raising seven million *taels* by public subscription to meet the administrative expenditure required for the present month, and has telegraphed the same to Hwang Hsing in Nanking, stating that if the plan be disapproved he will have to resign in favour of a more capable man. The Republican Government can not go on without funds, and there remains only 60,000 *taels* in the national coffers. If both the foreign loan and the national subscription be vetoed, China must be led to inevitable destruction.

ELECTRIC CURRENT CHARGES IN TOKYO.

The Tokyo Electric Light Company has published an official announcement of a deduction in charges for the supply to factories of electric current, which comes into force simultaneously with the revised tariff for electric light from July 1st next, the reductions ranging between one and two *yen* all round.

The revised tariff puts the rates at 14 *yen* per horse-power for current over one horse-power, 13 *yen* per horse-power for current exceeding 10 horse-power, and 11 *yen* for current exceeding 50 horse-power. The revised tariff also provides a reduced rate for arc-lights, &c.

THE TOKYO MAYORALTY.

With reference to the withdrawal in the Municipal Council of the vote of censure introduced by the Seiwakai faction against Mayor Ozaki, reported elsewhere, a Tokyo paper states that the Tokiwakai faction, which commands a clear majority in the Council and which staunchly support the Mayor, entered into *pourparlers* with the Seiwakai for the withdrawal of the vote, on condition that measures which might prove equally effective should be taken instead. The Seiwakai refused to place any confidence in the promise, and accordingly the representatives of the two factions waited upon the Mayor, who is said to have announced his intention of resigning the mayoralty. The Seiwakai having thus obtained a pledge, consented to the withdrawal of the vote of censure. On Tuesday night last, after the council rose, the Seiwakai members met to consider what further steps should be taken. Although some doubt exists as to the alleged announcement of the Mayor, a belief obtains that as circumstances do not permit Mr. Ozaki to remain long in office, his resignation may become a *fait accompli* in the Autumn or even at an earlier date.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 24.

The market yesterday opened weak, shares relapsing all round and dullness prevailing throughout the session.

Saturday, May 25.

The market on Saturday last opened weak and shares generally witnessed a collapse. The quotations were rather irregular during the latter part of the session.

Monday, May 27.

The market yesterday opened weak and almost no business worth mentioning was done. The tone of the market continued weak throughout the session with a downward tendency.

Tuesday, May 28.

The market yesterday opened weak but the tone showed a marked improvement when Tokyo Exchanges came up for bidding. A firmer tone prevailed throughout the latter part of the session.

Wednesday, May 29.

The market yesterday was characterized by buying-in and selling-out transactions to prepare for settlement. Prices were rather irregular. The latter part of the session was closed in preparation for the settlement for the current month. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

	May 28th.	May 29th.
Kai-Hin Railway.....	47.00 ..	— ..
Yusen Kaisha	114.00 ..	114.20 .. + .20
Toyo Kisen	46.85 ..	47.30 .. + .45
Specie Bank.....	215.55 ..	214.00 .. — 1.55
Tanko Kisen	20.85 ..	20.60 .. — .25
Tokyo Gas	71.10 ..	71.15 .. + .05
Tokyo Dento	70.10 ..	70.05 .. — .05
Fuji Gas Spinning	89.30 ..	89.00 .. — .30
Tokyo Spinning	51.50 ..	51.60 .. + .10
Kanegafuchi Spinning.....	110.80 ..	110.05 .. — .75
Beer	83.90 ..	84.45 .. + .55
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	63.15 ..	63.35 .. + .20
Nippon Oil	70.20 ..	70.00 .. — .20
Rice Exchange.....	103.50 ..	103.50 .. —
Stock Exchange	153.95 ..	154.80 .. + .85

The market on Thursday was closed for settlement, which was effected without a hitch. The shares delivered in settlement numbered 118,671, valued at 5,907,380 *yen*, the average price per share being 49.78 *yen*. As compared with last month this shows a decrease of 26,320 shares in number and 1,723,920 *yen* in value, the decrease in the average price per share being 2.853 *yen*.

THE CHINESE PROBLEM.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 28.)

BY degrees the absorbing interest that centres on the solution of the Chinese problem begins to engross the attention of Occidental publicists. Among the specially notable comments that have been elicited, the most striking are from the pens of Mr. Alfred E. HIPPISLEY, until recently commissioner of Maritime Customs in China, where he lived for more than forty years; of Mr. BYRON BRENNAN, formerly British Consul-General at Shanghai, and of Sir ROBERT BREDON, late Acting Inspector-General of the Imperial Chinese Customs. Mr. HIPPISLEY and Mr. BRENNAN took the Chinese revolution for their theme at a recent meeting of the Central Asian Society, and the former is represented as having delivered an important speech on the occasion, which is thus epitomized by *The Times* :—

After tracing in detail the causes of the revolution, Mr. Hippisley showed that it had been long and carefully planned to take place in December last, and the fact that it broke out two months earlier was due to the accidental explosion of a bomb in a house at Hanau where bombs were being manufactured. The revolution, the main events of which were recalled, was described as the most bloodless in history. But there had been regrettable massacres of Manchus, and a deplorable feature had been the frequent use by the revolutionaries of bombs to assassinate leaders on the other side. A company of bomb-throwers in uniform actually formed part of the revolutionary army. The statement of the Provisional Government in the January manifesto that the establishment of a Republic was "the formal declaration of the will of the Chinese nation" was mere political clap-trap. The vast bulk of the nation knew nothing about different forms of government, and if many of the people had appeared to side with the revolutionaries it was because they had been befooled with promises of a Utopia in which trade would increase by leaps and bounds and taxation be reduced to a minimum. The intellectual classes were almost to a man against the Republic, and its only supporters were the military officers and students educated in Japan and some of those educated in America. It was true that the administrative system hitherto followed in China, under which the provinces governed themselves, had rendered the adoption of Parliamentary institutions there less difficult than in any other Oriental nation. It was not the institution of Parliamentary government so much as the haste with which it was being introduced that constituted the danger to the country.

The revolutionaries were optimists almost to the degree of being visionaries. They were satisfied with the superficial appearance of things, and did not trouble themselves to study fundamentals. They had as a rule contented themselves with destroying the old Government, and over vast sections of territory absolute anarchy prevailed. To restore order large military forces were required, and these would entail heavy expenditure. The raising of further large foreign loans seemed inevitable; but how could the funds required to cover the service of such loans be raised except by a more honest system of collection than at present? The Cantonese, who had chiefly engineered the present movement, were mistrusted in Central and Northern China. The growth of interprovincial jealousies and a tendency on the part of each province to place its own interests above those of the nation had become increasingly manifest in recent years. It now threatened to lead to separation, if not to general disintegration. There were also the dangers of a military dictatorship and of foreign intervention. The Powers sincerely desired to allow China to work out her salvation in her own way; but if anarchy continued long, they might be forced to intervene not only in order to protect their own interests, but for the sake of humanity and in the interest of the Chinese themselves. China would be indeed fortunate if she could set up a stable Government without passing through an intervening period of several years of strife and bloodshed.

Mr. HIPPISLEY was the principal speaker at the meeting and Mr. BYRON BRENNAN's

remarks were much briefer but even more emphatic. He is thus epitomized in *The Times* :—

Mr. Byron Brennan, formerly British Consul-General at Shanghai, said that he was even more pessimistic as to the outlook than the lecturer. The provinces had been largely independent of the Central Government, and their antagonisms would make it almost impossible for China to be one nation again. It would probably be divided into three or four different Governments. The main danger of foreign intervention would probably arise from the Powers encouraging their bankers and financial groups to lend money, and when funds were not forthcoming for the service of the loans the Powers would be urged to put pressure upon China to provide new sources of taxation.

Sir ROBERT BREDON, whose long service in the Chinese Customs and whose special qualifications as a statesman and a synologue lend exceptional weight to his words, has published several articles and essays, which deal in a very thorough manner with the whole question. Events are demonstrating the justness of his comments. Speaking of the form of government existing in China as the immediate sequel of the abdication, he notes that the President of the new Republic has a Cabinet nominally responsible and certainly 'obliged to seriously consider the State Council which it succeeds and the Nanking Assembly which, though nominally superseded, is still liable to assert itself. The upshot of the matter is that the President and his Cabinet resemble the form of authority under which British subjects live in China, that is to say, under the rule of the King in council; and thus, Chinese Presidential edicts are, so to speak, orders in council. Passing then to the first duty imperatively devolving on the new Government, Sir ROBERT BREDON says :—

Further, the resumption of tax collection seems to the writer the first of essentials. It is all very well for China to borrow foreign money in cases of extreme necessity, but the proceeding is only permissible in any country either as a pressing and temporary public need or as a means to natural development. To borrow money merely to replace national taxation is vicious in principle and will certainly lead to unpleasantness and complications. Besides, China must realize that the day is not far distant when foreign investors will begin to discredit a country which uses its borrowing powers as a means of covering up Government incapacity to carry on its own legitimate fiscal duties. The alternative is that the borrowed money and governing capacity may both come from abroad. In putting her financial house in order, China has not a moment to lose.

The cogency of this comment cannot be questioned.

With regard to the profoundly interesting problem of a National convention, Sir ROBERT writes that the character of the Parliament, its mode of election and its powers will doubtless be provided for in the Constitution itself, but "the manner of election and the time of the Convention's session will have to be arranged by the President and the Cabinet." He entertains no doubt that places will be found for representatives of provincial assemblies, provincial gentry, and the literary class, and he also adds a hope that room will be provided for some of the old Manchus, who in the past were "sinned against as well as sinning" and of whom some are the "best stored

depositories of the traditions of the national state-craft."

Turning to the probable action of the Convention, Sir ROBERT thinks it quite certain that every delegation will come in with the determination to get as much as possible for its own province, leaving the interests of its neighbours to be cared for by themselves. The opinion of a majority, purely because it is a majority, is not considered imperative in China. Any member of a minority is strong enough to make his voice heard provided that he has the position of sufficient personal influence. That is why in China the principle of compromise is so effective.

With regard to the ultimate form of the new Government, Sir ROBERT suggests the hope that it may be a federation based on an arrangement of compromise. He believes in the solid common sense of the Chinese, and he trusts that no recourse will be had to violence in any form, but he is evidently uncertain what to think on the subject. "There is one respect in which provincial autonomy is almost certain to assert itself," according to Sir ROBERT BREDON, and it is one which seems very natural under Republican ideas: the Provincial units will certainly demand that the local Government of each unit shall be largely, if not entirely, in the hands of their own native sons. It has hitherto been an established principle of the Imperial autocracy that no official should hold office in his own province. All the members of the higher provincial hierarchy were appointed by the Court and were strangers to the provinces they governed; often they were not able to speak a single word of the local dialect or language. This of course had the purpose, and to a certain extent the effect, of preventing officials, whose tenure depended on the Imperial will, allowing themselves to be swayed by local views against what might be called Court interests. Although the men themselves were mostly Chinese they were really the agents of the Manchu Central Government appointed to enforce the Imperial will and, being strangers, they were more likely to do it thoroughly. The principle is not unknown in countries more advanced than China and it is one pretty sure not to be allowed to continue in the new Commonwealth." As for the effects that personal home rule are likely to produce, Sir ROBERT expresses the following opinion :—

The effects which the enforcement of personal Home Government will have will be several. 1. If carried out it will immensely limit the enormous patronage of the Central Government and deprive it of one of the weapons which a strong chief has in his hand to assist in enforcing his personal will. 2. It will probably also reduce the area at the capital in which bribery and corruption can rampage. 3. It will limit, if it does not prevent, the ascendancy of any one provincial coterie in national affairs. 4. It will place the provincial officials under the immediate supervision of their fellow provincials and, unless Chinese *morale* entirely changes, it will make them careful to act with some respect for the opinion of their responsible elders and to avoid incurring the ill will of their neighbours. 5. It will give a chance to the people to supervise the local expenditure

and keep it within bounds. A Chinese piper can always be induced to play the tune his paymasters call for when they are insistent in calling.

He also dwells at some length on the organization of an army and on the attitude of the Republican Government towards the dependencies of the old Empire, namely, Mongolia, Tibet, Manchuria and Turkestan. China, he says, has been endeavouring of late years, to absorb and assimilate these dependencies, but since Sir ROBERT BREDON's comment was published, the dependencies have shown a strong determination to assert their independence.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL HWANG.

(The Japan Daily Mail, May 29.)

THE news is reiterated that His Excellency General HWANG, Governor-General of the Yangtze Valley, continues to head the movement against contracting foreign loans. His Excellency adheres firmly to his proposal that voluntary contributions should be called for to form a patriotic fund, and that for immediate purposes, fiduciary paper should be issued. We have learned to regard the Chinese as conspicuously indisposed to respond to invitations to put up money for patriotic purposes, and the general disposition is consequently to ridicule this scheme of General HWANG. But on the other hand, when we consider the high position occupied by HWANG and the prestige enjoyed by him as one of the Chief Republican partisans, it becomes difficult to conceive that he has taken such a step without having previously assured himself of its feasibility. Unfortunately, however, the sum of money required is so great that resort to a fiat currency and to voluntary subscriptions suggests simply a drop in the ocean. Governor-General HWANG has many Japanese friends, and it may be that he is inclined to adopt the method employed by the Imperial Japanese Government at the outset of the Meiji era. Fiat currency occupied a large place in the field of Restoration finance, and by their clever manipulation, as well as by the victorious war with China, the Meiji Ministers were able to emerge within less than two decades from the slough of unredeemable notes. But we have to remember that at that time Japan was under no pecuniary obligations to foreign creditors. She had only her own people to deal with. China's case is very different. She already owes to foreign financiers and to foreign Governments a heavy debt which defies the remedy of fiduciary currency. Nothing is less likely than that the outside nations to which China is indebted, should consent to accept fiduciary notes in exchange for any part of the debt. That source of relief is quite inaccessible to China. In fact, she has nothing to lean on except assistance from Europe, America and Japan. Governor-General HWANG seems to be unquestionably a patriot of the loftiest

type, but we are reluctantly compelled to conclude that no recourse is available to him and to his colleagues except to incur fresh foreign debts.

THE IMPORT DUTY ON RICE.

With reference to the reduction of the import duty on rice, the *Chugai Shogyo* quotes an authority as observing that while it is a question whether the present high price of rice is due to a deficient supply, it is not to be gainsaid that the only means the authorities can resort to, at this moment, for bringing the price of rice to a proper level, is to encourage the import of foreign rice by effecting a reduction of the import duty. In this context the following table is of interest:—

	FOREIGN RICE IMPORTED.		
	1911. Pic.	1910. Pic.	1909. Pic.
Amount	4,866,953	2,845,425	3,313,107
Value	20,568,400	11,212,342	13,485,817
Value per pic.....	4.30	3.94	4.10

As will be seen from the above figures, the import of foreign rice showed a sudden increase in 1911 on account of the poor crop for 1910, and as sudden a decrease in the year 1910 on account of the successful crop for the preceding year. The following table gives a comparison between the amount of rice imported during the first four months of this and the preceding year:—

	1911.		1910.	
	Pic.	Yen.	Pic.	Yen.
China	23,579	85,041	2,600	12,361
India	600,508	2,701,210	600,652	3,215,044
Indo-China.	619,562	2,479,113	313,348	1,426,948
Siam	212,260	781,331	241,199	855,850
Others	1,680	7,327	1,247	5,618

Total 1,497,591 6,054,023 1,159,048 5,515,821
The import of foreign rice this year thus shows a decrease as compared with the preceding year, chiefly due, to the high price. Owing to the abnormal appreciation of the price of the domestic product, however, the import of foreign rice has begun to show a tendency toward a gradual increase since March, as can be seen from the following table:—

	1911. (THOU. YEN.)	1912. (THOU. YEN.)
January	263	176
February	345	724
March	2,778	1,991
April	2,664	2,623

In these circumstances, the reduction of the import duty on rice is certainly calculated to insure a growing increase in the import. Judging from past records, it appears that the import of foreign rice rises to a maximum in the three months of May, June and July every year, as the table given below attests:—

IMPORT SINCE LAST MAY.	
(THOU. YEN.)	(THOU. YEN.)
May	3,114
June	3,277
July	3,431
Aug.	1,162
Sept.	251
Oct.	151
Nov.	127
Dec.	149

Some people seem to consider that the reduction of the import duty on rice has been made rather too late. In view of the fact that the reduction has been effected just at the time when the import of foreign rice begins to reach its highest mark, however, there can be no doubt that this timely step taken by the Authorities will contribute much toward the restoration of normal conditions.

The graduation ceremony of the Military Preparatory School took place on Thursday morning in the presence of H.M. the Emperor. Of the 267 graduates this year, 13 were Koreans, one of whom, together with three Japanese, received Imperial gifts for graduating with honours.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

Mr. Nakahashi, President of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, who has arrived at Moji from a tour of inspection in China, has been interviewed by the *Nichi Nichi*. He stated that he had inspected Peking and Tientsin and was particularly surprised to see the utter destruction of the city of Tientsin, especially its economic centre. He attended the State Council at Peking and found only 69 in attendance out of 120 members. The strangers' gallery was also almost deserted, there being present only a dozen foreign press correspondents. The reconstruction of the city of Hankow was then being discussed. An amusing side of the debates is that the members from various provinces can not make themselves intelligible to one another and the services of interpreters have to be brought into requisition in the council. The journals now wield immense power in Peking, there being over thirty of them. They mostly discuss local questions, the editors seeming to be at a loss to grasp and handle more important national subjects. It was desirable that Japanese papers should exercise greater discretion in dealing with Chinese affairs. The opinion of European journals had little weight, because of their late arrival in China. Lieut.-Colonel Sakani was acting as military adviser to Yuan Shih-kai, and told Mr. Nakahashi that there were about 10,000 troops in Wuchang and about 70,000 in Nanking. Some army men openly advocates disbandment while secretly working against it. The soldiers are pretty regularly paid as non-payment might lead to mutiny. The Government is trying to raise a loan of 75 million *taels* ostensibly for the disbandment of the troops, but the amount actually used for the purpose would presumably be comparatively small. The taxes are now collected in the Three Eastern provinces alone, all the other provinces practically enjoying immunity. The people, however, harbour great anxiety as to the imposition of heavy taxes in the future, and trouble is anticipated. These feelings are shared by Japanese and foreign residents alike. The prospect of any official recognition of the Chinese Republic by the foreign Powers is rather remote.

THE JAPAN-CHINA STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The Japan-China Steamship Company held its fifth semi-annual general meeting on Wednesday afternoon at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, with Mr. Ishiwatari, President of the Company, in the Chair.

Mr. Ishiwatari, in reporting on the progress of the Company, said that owing to the outbreak of the Revolutionary disturbance in China, the business of the Company was temporarily in some danger, but, by carefully maintaining strict neutrality, the Company was able to continue its regular shipping service through the period of political commotion. As a result of the disturbance, passengers increased, these being refugees from different districts along the China coast. The returns for the current term, therefore, showed a decided increase as compared with the preceding period. On the other hand, owing to the temporary suspension of trade throughout the disturbed districts, the revenue from freight was considerably reduced and a deficit might even have been incurred had it not been for the restoration of peace towards the latter part of the current term.

The general report and accounts having been duly presented, the following profit and loss account was taken up for consideration and was unanimously passed:—

Brought over from last account.....	216,877.36
Profit for Current Term	154,242.51
Total	371,119.87
Legal Reserve	7,713.13
Dividend (6 per cent.).....	243,000.00
Bonus.....	7,712.13
Carried forward	112,695.61

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HANKOW.

Hankow, May 23.

A wealthy Chinese merchant at Singapore has agreed to finance a loan of 2,500,000 taels intended for the reconstruction of the town of Hankow.

PATRIOTIC SUBSCRIPTION FUND.

Nanking, May 23.

On the initiative of Hwang Hsing, all the government officials, military and civil, have decided to contribute one-third or two-third of their salaries to the patriotic subscription fund. The merchants and civilians have also decided to respond to the subscription.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Harbin, May 24.

The Mongolian princes are now holding a conference in Kulon to consider the question of Mongolian independence. It is stated that the administration of the Kotokut (?) Government will be taken as a model.

HWANG HSING.

Nanking, May 24.

Chang Tso-lin, Yuan Shih-kai's special envoy, arrived at Nanking on the 23rd instant and had an interview with Hwang Hsing. Although no official negotiations are yet entered upon, Hwang, who is sick, is resolute on resignation.

HWANG HSING AND THE LOAN.

Nanking, May 25.

According to the *Chonghua Minpao*, the revolutionary organ in Nanking, Hwang Hsing has learned from Chang Tso-lin, who arrived at Nanking on the 23rd instant, of the conclusion of the three million taels loan contract between the foreign bankers' syndicate and Hsueh, Minister of Finance, on the 17th instant, which provides supervision by the Customs authorities and the syndicate committee over the war expenditure and the disbandment of the troops. Hwang Hsing holds that as the supervision amounts to control of the troops it can not be tolerated from the point of view of national defence, and he telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai, as well as the President of the State Council, that the contract should at once be cancelled and inconvertible notes be issued, in addition to issue of the patriotic bonds, to raise the necessary funds.

PATRIOTIC SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Nanking, May 24.

The Patriotic Subscription Association, composed of 75 public bodies in Nanking, has nominated Dr. Sun Yat-sen as the president and Hwang Hsing as the vice-president of the Association.

AN OPIUM BILL.

Peking, May 24.

A member of the State Council has introduced to the Council the Opium Prohibition Bill, which provides a veto of the importation of opium on and after June 20th next and the prohibition of opium-smoking on and after December 31st next.

THE LEGATION DEFENCES.

Peking, May 24.

Public order and peace having now been restored in Peking, the *Corps Diplomatique* will remove all the defence works set up around the Legation quarters shortly to facilitate communication in the city.

BANDITS ON THE YELLOW RIVER.

Tientsin, May 25.

Bandits frequent the districts along the Yellow river and the inhabitants are being looted.

CHANG'S TROOPS.

Chefoo, May 25.

Yuan Shih-kai has issued to Chang Shun a telegraphic order to transfer the troops under him to

the Shantung army. Chang, however, refuses to comply with the order.

HWANG HSING.

Peking, May 26.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to Hwang Hsing that the resignation tendered by him can not be entertained.

Both the officials and people of Kiangsu are urging Hwang to remain in office.

Nanking, May 26.

Chiang Tso-pin had an interview with Hwang Hsing yesterday, when he urged on Hwang to reconsider his resignation. Hwang, however, resolutely refused to yield to persuasion.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

Nanking, May 26.

The opposition in Nanking to Hsueh Chi-hing's loan terms has now become very strong.

POLITICAL ADDRESS AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, May 26.

Chiang Tso-pin has delivered a speech at Wuchang on current events in diplomacy. The speech made a profound impression on official circles there.

THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF MUKDEN

Peking, May 28.

The State Council yesterday approved the Bill renaming the "Magistrate of The Three Eastern Provinces" as the "Magistrate of Mukden" and vesting in him the same rights and privileges as those vested with the Magistrates of the Amur and Kilin provinces.

GATHERING IN PEKING.

Peking, May 27.

General Sun arrived at Peking a few days ago in response to the call of Yuan Shih-kai. Nearly all the leaders of the quasi-revolutionary army in Wuchang and Hankow are now in Peking.

GENERAL HWANG.

Nanking, May 27.

Hwang Hsing has for the third time tendered his resignation. He is now convalescent and is attending to his official duties.

REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF HWANG CHI-LIN.

Fuchow, May 26.

According to the *Minhsin Jihpao*, a Fuchow journal, Hwang Chia-lin, the new Director of the Board of Communications, was assassinated on the 25th instant.

A PATRIOTIC FUND.

May 26.

At the popular meeting of the Hupei people held on the 21st instant, a resolution was unanimously adopted that the executive officials shall contribute one-half of their salaries and the military men down to the private soldiers, three tenths of their salaries, towards the Patriotic national fund on and after June next.

THE CHINESE IMPERIAL GUARDS.

Peking, May 27.

Yuan Shih-kai has decided to abolish the Imperial Guards, converting them into a Peking Garrison. General Tsun Chi-kuei has been appointed commander-in-chief.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Peking, May 27.

The bill relating to the revision of the administrative districts is now being discussed in the State Council, but there is small prospect of the Bill being adopted owing to opposition. The Bill provides for the creation of new States, each having an area of 200 Chinese *li*, twenty of them forming an administrative division which is to replace the present provincial administrative districts.

HANKOW RECONSTRUCTION LOAN.

Hankow, May 27.

The negotiations in regard to the Hankow

municipal reconstruction loan have made favourable progress and provincial agreements have now been concluded between the Wuchang Government and the representatives of the Chinese residents in the South Sea Islands. The terms of the loan are as under:—Amount 20,000,000 taels (silver); security, the house tax in Hankow; interest, 5 per cent. per annum; period of redemption 25 years. The bonds are to be purely domestic and their transfer to aliens impermissible.

THE CHINESE HOME MINISTER.

Peking, May 28.

Chao, Minister of Home Affairs, who tendered his resignation in consequence of a difference with Tang Shao-i and who has been absent from his duties on the plea of illness, has been prevailed upon by Yuan Shih-kai to remain in office.

THE SUPERVISORY COMMISSIONERS.

Peking, May 28.

Chin Kin-tao is being named as one of the two financial supervisors to be appointed for the supervision of China's finances.

THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER.

Peking, May 21.

Owing to internal trouble in the Department of Communications, the Minister is said to have decided to resign. He is absenting himself from his office.

THE BELGIAN LOAN.

Peking, May 28.

An interpellation was raised in the State Council to the use of the proceeds of the Belgian loan, when Hsueh Chi-hing, the Minister of Finance, explained that it was appropriated for redemption of the War Notes.

THE TIBETAN EXPEDITION.

Nanking, May 29.

General Chang Shun obdurately refuses to start on the Tibetan expedition ordered by Yuan Shih-kai.

FIGHTING IN MONGOLIA.

Peking, May 29.

According to news from Jehol the conflicts between Mongolians and Chinese in Chaoyangfu have grown keener, and the Mongolians are killing the Chinese with impunity. Anarchy prevails in the district. A rumour is current that the Mongolian soldiers will gradually march down to the South.

RIOTERS IN CHILIH.

Tientsin, May 29.

A report states that a band of rioters has risen in Tingsien and Wehsien in Chilih province where they are looting with impunity. The rioters are armed with the newest German rifles and appeared to be connected with the Royalists.

REVOLT IN FUKIEN.

Fuchow, May 30.

Rioters rose in open revolt at Changchao, a town in the southern part of Fukien province, on the 24th inst. and the local authorities applied to the Magistrate for the dispatch of troops for their suppression.

Fuchow, May 30.

The conflict between the Fukien and Hunan people has grown worse and in consequence, Hsu, Vice-President of the War Office and Lin, Vice-Chief of the Staff Office, who are both of Fukien extraction, are now taking refuge at Nantai. The students of the Anglo-Chinese School, conducted by an American Mission, greatly resent the assassination of Hwang Chia-lin and have suspended their attendance at the school. The American Consul has expressed a desire for the speedy arrest of the assassins. Wild rumours are current and many Chinese residents in the town are getting ready to take refuge at Nantai.

At the Royal Colonial Institute banquet, Sir Frederick Lugard, until recently Governor of Hongkong, said that the possibilities of the Hongkong University were very great. He believed that it would secure the predominance of the English language throughout the Far East.

A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

THE FUTURE OF BUDDHISM IN S. AMERICA.

The above is the title of an article published in the *Shin Buckyō*, contributed by Dr. Inoue Enryō, which we now proceed to epitomize. Though Buddhism attracts a certain amount of attention in Europe and in North America, in the Southern Hemisphere it is almost unknown. When visiting South America last year I was astonished at the ignorance of the very existence of Buddhism displayed there. I was often asked to explain it to the people I met, but declined to do so on the ground that no religion can be rendered intelligible to anybody in five or six days. I referred inquirers to the books written in European languages which deal with the subject. But I felt afterwards that the course I took in this matter was by no means quite satisfactory; because the Buddhism that is best known in Europe is what is called the *Hinayana* Buddhism, which is pronouncedly pessimistic. Now in all newly opened up countries the people are very optimistic and hence to try to propagate a pessimistic form of Buddhism in the Southern Hemisphere would be a fatal mistake to make. The *Mahayana* optimistic Buddhism, as it is taught here in Japan, is the only form of the creed that stands a chance of being accepted in the Southern Hemisphere. If the right kind of men can be found to go to S. America as Buddhist missionaries, they ought to make converts rapidly. But recruits are no good. Men must have the true colonial spirit and be ready to live and die far away from their native land in order to succeed.

THE RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE MARKS A NEW RELIGIOUS ERA.

The tone of the *Kōe* in regard to the religious conference has somewhat changed. It now regards the movement with supreme satisfaction. It says that it will prove to be the beginning of a new era, in which Christianity will make its great superiority to the two other creeds plain to everybody. It maintains that the Conference is worthy of being remembered to all time as a milestone on the road of Japan's spiritual life. (*Iwaba waga kokumin no seishin-teki seikwa no michi ni ichi ri zuka wo kizuita yō na mono de, nagaku yo no owari made mo kioku serarubeki mono de aru*). Japan's two old creeds the writer of the *Kōe* article regards as the toys with which the nation amused itself in its childhood. According to this authority neither Shintoism nor Buddhism is a religion, if the original meaning of the word religion is to be our guide. There is no "binding" of man to God done by either of these creeds. Then no Divine revelation has been made to the teachers of these creeds, says the writer we are quoting. Though Buddhism is regarded as infinitely superior to Japan's ancient cult, it is characterized by passivity and pessimism and most of the countries where it is accepted to-day are in a very unprogressive state: such are India, Thibet, Siam and Burmah.

The action of the Home Office can only be regarded as an official recognition of Christianity as a creed which is on an equality with Shintoism and Buddhism. Though for many years past the law has given us religious liberty, public opinion in Japan has been against us. We have often been denounced in the newspapers as unpatriotic, as traitors, as disloyal to the throne, as betrayers of our country. The position we have occupied has resembled that of the *eta* in many respects, who for decades after being placed on an equality with other members of society by the law were regarded by their fellow-men with extreme repulsion and were constantly ostracized. Up to the present time we have not only been slandered by flippant journalists, but by noted scholars and high officials. Of course the hostile attitude towards us has been the result of ignorance of our teaching, but it has been none the less hard to bear. But henceforth there will, we take it, be no more of this. The Government's calling in

the aid of Christianity is a proof that they are convinced that for the moral renovation of the nation the creeds on which they have hitherto relied are quite inadequate.

But we would not be understood as desiring Government patronage—far from it. Full liberty to follow our own methods of propagandism is all we desire. The Catholic religion, if left free to develop itself in its own way, if left to grow as plants grow in their natural state, will always bear good fruit. The Government will never have any cause for regret that it has placed our religion on an equality with other religions. This is something that we can guarantee.*

THE FIRST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ERECTED IN JAPAN.

According to a note which appears in the May *Kōe*, the Church situated at No. 80 Yamashitachō, Yokohama, is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Japan. It was consecrated on Jan. 19th, 1862. Since at that time the Anti-Christian edicts were still in force, some people may wonder how it was possible to get permission from the authorities for the erection of this church. The explanation is that it was first designed for the use of European Catholics in Yokohama, just as the Church erected in Yokosuka was for the use of the French workmen employed in the docks there. The opening of the Church in Yokohama caused great excitement. The event was reported in one of the Tōkyō news sheets issued at that time. It was stated that the wicked foreign priests, whose religious propagandism was forbidden by the Edicts, were again engaged in spreading their pernicious doctrines in "the land of the Gods." As a result of this report not only did a large number of Japanese attend the dedication ceremony, but for many days subsequent to this, hundreds of people visited the Church. The priests in charge of the building constantly addressed the crowds who assembled on the subject of Christianity. This annoyed the Bakufu and orders were issued prohibiting the visiting of the Church. But public curiosity had been aroused, and so the prohibition was disregarded and people went on streaming into the building as before. Then the police went as far as to arrest some 30 or 40 people at a time, who were marched off to prison. This happened several times, but it did not keep people away from the Church. Many of those who attended it had travelled long distances in order to test for themselves what was the actual teaching of the much maligned foreign priests, so they were prepared to risk imprisonment for the sake of gratifying their curiosity. Eventually the authorities appealed to the French Minister, pointing out to him that the Church was erected for the use of foreigners only, and that to use it for propagating Christianity among the Japanese was contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty. The Minister had to give in and the priests were informed that they must cease speaking Japanese to those who came to see the building. This they did, but sufficient interest in the new religion had been awakened to lead to further inquiry. Chinese bibles were secretly purchased and read, and as a result of this converts were made, but not till May, 1872, were the anti-Christian edicts removed and freedom of belief granted.

RELIGION WITHOUT A FOUNDER.

In many years the notion prevailed that there could be no such thing as Christianity without a historical Christ at its back, no such thing as Buddhism without a Shaka Muni and no such thing as Confucianism without Confucius. This was tantamount to saying that the doctrines which, according to current tradition, were first taught by these founders of sects would never have been taught by anybody had these three remarkable men not come on the scene. This was of course an extremely gloomy view to take of the capabilities

* *Soshite kono oshie wo ta no dōyō ni tori-asukatta koto wo damjite hōkwa suru koto naku* (will certainly never repent); *shōrai hanarazu yorokobubeki koto nomi wo miru de arō. Kore wa wareta no chikatte hosō suru tokoro de aru.*

of the human mind and it was also a very unscientific opinion to hold. The up-to-date modern scientist will tell us that had there been no Newton, scientific progress would not have been vastly different from what it is now, as the discoveries he made would have been made by others. The theory that any single individual among mankind has accomplished intellectual or moral feats which no other individual was capable of accomplishing is now regarded as untenable by all who have ceased to believe in any kind of supernaturalism. The notion that a body of religious doctrines can never be strongly held if any doubt is cast on the historicity of the founder of the sect which defends and propagates these doctrines has been shown to be incorrect. In the May number of the *Michi* in a very well written article, Mr. Matsumura Kaisei calls attention to this fact. The sect to which he belongs has hitherto been known as the Nihon Kyōkai, that is, the Japanese Church. Seeing objections to the use of the word Church as applied to a body of religious people who are certainly more broad-minded than Christians, Mr. Matsumura informs us that he and others have decided to substitute the word *Michi* for the word *oshie* and henceforth to be known as a Dōkai, or a Religious and Ethical Society, instead of a Church. Mr. Matsumura says that his sect has hitherto kept aloof from Buddhists, Christians, Shintoists and Confucianists and has simply striven to promote the culture of virtue, brotherly love, and belief in God and immortal life. Its membership has steadily increased, which shows that in Japan to-day the state of religious opinion creates a demand for the formation of a sect of this kind.

On the decline of belief in the transcendent position occupied by the founders of the world's great religious sects, Mr. Matsumura comments thus:—The Christ that was supposed to be miraculously born has turned out to be the son of Joseph. The doctrine of the atonement, for centuries supposed to have been taught by Christ himself, has been conclusively proved to have been the invention of St. Paul. (*Poro ga jisei* (自製) *no shingaku de aru to shire*). The authority of the Bible as an inspired book has been undermined by modern criticism. Weaknesses and defects in Christ's character have been pointed out. So that the old theory of Christianity's having a Divine founder has been exploded. With the Buddhists thought has been developing on similar lines. The preachers of what is known as *hinayana* (*shōjō*) Buddhism attribute all sorts of superhuman powers to Shaka, but they are now out of date and the Buddhism that has a strong hold on the minds of educated men to-day is the *mahayana* (*daijō*) Buddhism. There is no denying the fact that the spirit of the age to-day is against the acceptance of a good deal of the teaching of Christ and Shaka. The world has gone on advancing in thought and it now refuses to be bound down to the teaching of the ancients. Christ distinctly objected even to be called good, saying "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is God." Christ never claimed the homage which was given to him by the Church in after ages.

In recent years all over the world belief in religion that consists of a blind worship of the founders of sects has steadily declined and those people who are interested in religion demand something more up to date. Though our sect does not believe either in the Divinity of Christ or of Shaka Muni, we are ever ready to profit by the teaching of both of these remarkable men as well as by the doctrines of other sages.

CONFUCIANISM AND THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

In the May Number of the *Tō-A-no-Hikari*, Professor Uno Tetsujin, a well known Chinese scholar, discusses the above subject. Like many other Japanese writers, he expresses surprise that the Chinese have shown so much disregard for Confucian teaching in the recent revolution. He notes that there have always been revolutionary elements in China's polity, but in all the revolutions of past centuries

the men who have set up a new form of government have invariably shown their respect for the fundamental political and moral principles expounded in the Confucian classics. Loyalty to masters was for centuries both preached and practised in China. But in recent years opinion has greatly changed in reference to the claims of lords to obedience irrespective of the merits they possess. Even in ancient times not a few scholars argued in favour of democracy and opposed blind allegiance to despotic rulers. And the Manchu sovereigns never insisted on the obligations of subjects to obey their lords, for the simple reason that they knew that they themselves were usurpers.

Mr. Uno asserts that the recent revolution is to be traced to five causes: (1) to the strong leaning towards democracy which has characterized the Chinese ever since they became a nation; (2) to the neglect of the Manchu Court to cultivate the spirit of loyalty among its subjects; (3) to the fact that scholars have for centuries been urging people to oppose Emperors; (4) to the propagation far and wide of erroneous theories respecting the teaching of the Chinese classics and (5) to the bad effects of Western civilisation. Mr. Uno is of opinion that the establishment of a republic in China amounts to a rejection of the teaching of Confucius, who was certainly in favour of the monarchical form of government. But the fact that there have been so many changes of dynasty in Chinese history—changes which have been of the nature of revolutions—accounts for the complacent manner in which the overthrow of the Manchus was regarded by the nation. Mr. Uno holds that Confucianism has never constituted an essential part of the Chinese polity. Only after it was adopted by Japan did the teaching of the great sage concerning loyalty to the throne shine forth brilliantly. Not in China but in Japan has Confucianism attained to the highest state of development of which it is capable. (*Kōshō no sonnō* (尊王) *ron wa vaga Nihon no kobutai to tōchi shi, hajimele kakukakutaru kōsai wo hanachi. Jukyo wa vaga kuni ni oite hajimele taisei seraruru ni ilareru; Shina ni oite wa Jukyo wa imada taisei seru.*) Regarded from the point of view of Confucianism, the revolution that has taken place is most reprehensible. It defies all its most fundamental principles, asserts Mr. Uno.

THE NET RESULTS OF THE HOME OFFICE RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE.

Now that the tri-sectarian Conference convened by the Home Office is a thing of the past, Christian writers especially are busily discussing the significance of the new Government attitude to Christianity. There is necessarily much repetition in the comments passed on the affair. We proceed to reproduce in a condensed form some of the opinions we find expressed in sectarian organs. Writing in the Protestant Episcopal organ the *Kirishutokyo Shinhō* (Christian Weekly News), in substance Mr. Mōtō Ryōzan says:—The recent Conference was not convened for the purpose of enabling the three sects to study each other's doctrines, organization or system, nor for the purpose of advancing religious knowledge. So that we religionists have really gained nothing objective from the action of the authorities. But seeing that now the Home Office has publicly owned that in teaching morality, religion will have to be utilized and have placed Christianity on a level with the two other creeds, the attitude of the general public towards us will be entirely changed and we shall obtain the public recognition which the Constitution has always permitted us to have but which has hitherto been withheld from us.

On the same subject the Presbyterian organ the *Fukui Shimpō* writes thus:—In the recent Conference there was nothing to cause much excitement among Christians (*Mata betsu ni ōsawagi wo nasubeki hodo no koto tomo omowarenu*). If the Government on that occasion began to show their respect for Christianity, all we can say is that they were somewhat late in doing it. Why they have not hitherto done so it is not easy to explain. If the movement is to be interpreted as implying that the Government contemplate using religion for their own purposes henceforth, this we

Christians shall certainly resent. For the dissemination of our doctrines we need no Government help or backing of any kind. The authority that religious truth possesses is all the authority we need. Some scholars and educationists seem apprehensive lest we Christians should misuse political power, making it serve propagandist purposes. These are silly fears. Christians would be the losers by the adoption of any such policy.

A writer in the *Kokumin Shimbun* expresses doubt as to the possibility of religionists deriving lasting benefit from the action of the Home Office. Hitherto, says this writer, the Conference has done little good. But as representatives of the three sects are to meet annually, something tangible may yet be obtained from the religious Council.

THE TENDENCY OF THE AGE.

Writing on the above subject in the *May Taiyō*, Mr. Kaneko Chikusui says:—Though in the world of thought there are many currents going in different directions, yet this does not prevent our getting an idea of the courses taken by the main currents. There is one tendency that is very marked to-day and that is a great love of practicality. A very large number of our educated men take no kind of interest in things imaginary, speculative or romantic. Religion, art and poetry have no attraction for them, because they seem to have no direct bearing on the everyday life they are in the habit of living. They are altogether lacking in aspiration. In economic questions, social questions, business questions, political questions, and the like they are interested, but of the world beyond they take no cognizance. In England Mr. Bernard Shaw is a well known exponent of this utilitarianism in thought, and in this country Mr. Tanaka Ōdō and others advocate the same principles. These realistic writers are confronted by a number of idealists. The two schools of thought have little in common and are perpetually at war with each other. But it is perhaps correct to say that at present the views of the practical and materialistic school of thinkers are more widely accepted than those of their rivals.

THE NEWLY FORMED JAPANESE UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

In its monthly organ the *Unitarian*, this Association, of which Mr. T. Hiroi is the leading spirit, thus states its Articles of Faith: (1) We believe that, despite the difference of names given to it or the forms it may take, the idea of "Reality" is the root-conception of all religions. (2) We hold in high esteem sincerity of belief and the independence of reason, uphold free investigation and denounce religious authority. (3) We have respect for and sympathy with the most enlightened conclusions of the philosophy and science of the age. (4) We advocate the comity of all religions and look forward to the realisation of religious unity. (5) We aim at the improvement of the community in which we live, the peace of the world, and the happiness of mankind, in accordance with the spirit of love and benevolence.

RECENT PRESS COMMENTS ON THE CULTURE OF VIRTUE IN SCHOOLS.

The *Kirishutokyo Sekai*, in a recent issue, epitomizes the views published in various papers on the state of morals in Government schools and the best means to be adopted for improving them. The observations made by the different newspapers are almost all founded on the instructions given to the High School Directors by the Minister of Education last month. Mr. Haseba asserted that students generally have greatly degenerated in recent years, that they have come to dislike work of all kinds, that they have grown frivolous and indifferent to the serious side of life, that they are shallow in mind and weak in action and seem to expect to succeed in life without exerting themselves in any way.* He then went on

* *Kinsei no gakusei chi kyōken* (漸次 生徒の品行は漸次悪化する) *no fū wo sate, hakushi jakkō no hei ni ochiire, anitsū wo musabōritte, kinrō wo kenenshi* (dislike work), *itazura ni kūsō ni fukeru, te wo konanukite, seikō wo motomuru ga gōboku koto wo miru wa, hanahada itan to suru tokoro nari.*

to urge the necessity of cultivating the spirit of self-exertion among students. In order to effect this, some motive for putting forth all their strength must be supplied. The Minister gives it as his opinion that the formation of character is one of the chief objects of education. He pointed out that lectures on morals delivered to students should in no cases be calculated to produce moral scepticism in their minds by the introduction of the arguments of controversialists. Though it may be necessary to explain the difference between moral standards in the West and those observed in the East, this requires to be done very carefully, says Mr. Haseba, if it is desired to keep students from losing confidence in their own ideals. Mr. Haseba expressed the fear that the exposition of high class Western ethical theories might unsettle the minds of students and unfit them for playing the rôle of strict observers of Japan's traditional moral standard.

Commenting on the address, the *Chūō Shimbun* wrote:—Though there is much that was right and proper in what the Minister said to the Directors concerning moral culture, he did not seem to realize that the young men who attend our High Schools are not content to listen to the moral platitudes and doctrines that have been served up to them in Primary and Middle Schools. They expect to be told something about the philosophic and logical basis on which traditional morality rests. Unless this is done the moral faith of these students will never deepen. The shallow ideas on moral subjects which fill their heads when they enter High Schools, if not replaced by something more serviceable during the three years they stay there, will, on their going out into the world, prove to be a source of great danger. The official way of teaching morality is to suppress inquiry as much as possible and to try to induce students to accept doctrines on authority. But students need to be told the philosophical why and wherefore of the moral course they are asked to steer and to be no longer treated as children.

The *Osaka Asahi Shimbun*, writing on the same topic, observed:—Our educational system is only fit to turn out very poor specimens of humanity (*Koninichi ni kyōiku seido wa ningen no sōsei ranō* (粗製濫造 人なるにのみてきし, etc.)). The country is overstocked with a class of school-educated youths who lack the qualifications needed for serviceableness in the business world. The truth is that boys go through the Primary and Middle Schools to-day without obtaining from their instructors powerful moral impressions of any kind. Instead of reproving them for the tendency they show in the High Schools to reason out for themselves moral problems, they should be encouraged to do this.

The *Tokyo Nichi Nichi Shimbun* chimed in in the same tones thus:—Why our school system signally fails in the cultivation of virtue is because most of the teachers are altogether behind the age. General thought has progressed so much that to be trotting out *Bushidō* morality, or old fusty *Hōtoku* (Ninomiya) doctrines, or to be citing passages from the Chinese classics that have lost their significance, can do little good. The spectacle we witness in our schools to-day is an attempt on the part of hundreds of teachers of the old school of thought to lead students who have more or less imbibed the new spirit of the age. The methods adopted by the official lecturers on ethics and other school teachers are calculated to arouse opposition and excite ridicule among students. (*Itazura ni gakusei na anadori wo kau ni sugisuru no kwan aru ni ari*).

The *Yamato Shimbun* contended that the chief thing impressed on the minds of students in State Schools by their moral instructors is the duty of loyalty to the throne and love of country, but no noble aspirations are awakened in their breasts by what they hear in the lecture rooms. Though knowledge is poured into their minds at a quicker rate than they can digest it, the culture of fine feeling, and the strengthening of the will and the development of commonsense are entirely neglected.

The *Tokyo Niroku Shimbun* alluded to the

great increase of crime among Middle School students during the past 12 months as a proof of the ineffectiveness of the moral instruction given in the schools, but thought that it would be unjust to lay all the blame of this state of things on school teachers. It is evident that the discipline that these erring students are under at home is very lax, or they would never drift into the commission of crime the way they do.

The *Tokyo Mainichi Shinbun* attributed the moral deterioration among students to the stringent examination system now in force, which leaves them little time for general culture of any kind. The system of memorizing followed is no aid to general mental development. Even the intellectual powers of the mind become stunted under this system and the moral faculties are left to starve.

In reference to the above comments the *Kirinokyo Sekai* remarks that the various newspapers have on this occasion hit the right nail on the head. Their criticism goes to the very root of the matter and shows that the writers from whom it comes have ideals of their own and are well aware of the very defective moral training which our young people receive in State Schools. The conservative tone of Mr. Haseba's address was disapproved of by all the publicists who made it a subject of discussion. This is a good sign, says the *Kirinokyo Sekai*, but what has surprised us not a little is the fact that when discussing mental culture neither the Minister of Education nor the papers mention religion. Is this to be understood as indicating that the Japanese nation is quite indifferent to religion, that it considers that in moral culture religion can be entirely avoided? Is it thought that religion is something that only serves to console silly old men and women and that it is unworthy of being used as a means of raising students to a higher level of moral attainment? To discuss moral culture in the way that has been done without even alluding to religious teaching, shows how far removed is the state of opinion here from what it is in Europe and America. There it is true to say that in all discussions on moral culture the churches take a prominent part and the opinions held by ministers of religion receive respectful consideration.

"MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

PRODUCTION AT THE IMPERIAL THEATRE
BY THE TOKYO A.D.C.

The presentation by the Tokyo Amateur Dramatic Club at the Imperial Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday evening of Shakespeare's Comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" must be pronounced a signal success. The theatre was well filled on both occasions by attentive audiences, who warmly expressed their pleasure at the efforts of the amateurs by constant applause, and the demand, on the fall of the curtain, for Mr. Conder, upon whose shoulders fell the bulk of the general and stage management, was another token of high appreciation.

The production of any of Shakespeare's plays by amateurs is usually regarded as a case of ambition overreaching itself. The two performances given by the Amateur Dramatic Club seem to show otherwise, for not only was the interest sustained throughout, this in itself justifying the production, but the actors themselves showed a reverent and sympathetic understanding of the master's work which is often wanting when matter of less worth is being handled. This was sufficient to cover the faults inevitably connected with amateur acting, such as the failure to make the voice carry through the theatre and a slight slackness in enunciation. To the professional accustomed to playing night after night in the same theatre this difficulty becomes practically non-existent, since he gets to know the acoustic properties of the building thoroughly. Obviously, however, it is a very different matter in the case of amateurs, who are probably only able to hold one or two performances in the

theatre itself and thus may reasonably be excused for failing to get the proper pitch. As a matter of fact at Tuesday night's performance, this defect, though certainly existent, was much less than might have been expected. In several cases we could have wished for a clearer enunciation, however. A drawl which may be unobserved in conversation becomes very conspicuous and, we may add, irritating on the stage. On the whole the performers showed a proper feeling for the rhythm of the blank verse, neither over emphasizing it on the one hand, nor neglecting it on the other. Mr. W. E. L. Sweet must be especially congratulated on this point.

To turn to individual parts, Miss Swift as "Oberon" and Mrs. W. E. L. Sweet as "Titania" acted very gracefully. There is, we presume, precedent for the part of "Oberon" being assigned to a lady, but we are inclined to think that a more pleasing contrast would be obtained by placing the part in the hands of a man. This, however, is not meant as in any way criticising Miss Swift's rendering, which of its kind was excellent. Mrs. Sweet again showed her ability for sympathetic acting. Miss Nellie McKim proved a very sprightly "Puck," with a slight tendency to overdo the action. She conveyed the roguishness of Robin Good-fellow very successfully, however. The other principal fairy parts were played very prettily by Miss Vera Fardel, Miss Carol Swift, Master Wilfrid Nonweiler and Master Freddie Schaeffer. Mrs. T. F. Nonweiler and Miss Purvis were the rivals "Hermia" and "Helena." The improvement in their acting as the play progressed was noticeable, and the scene of the quarrel in the wood could hardly have been improved. Miss Scheresechewsky made a stately "Hippolyta," and was ably supported by Mr. W. E. L. Sweet as "Theseus." The rival lovers "Lysander" and "Demetrius" were played by Messrs. J. D. Mason and T. F. Nonweiler. Both were inclined to be a little stiff, although here again a visible improvement was seen as the play progressed. Mr. J. Conder, in addition to his arduous duties as stage manager, played impressively the small part of "Egeus," and Mr. J. McD. Gardiner the part of "Philstrate."

We have reserved to the last the Athenian "mechanicals," who supplied the comedy, the principal of these being of course "Bottom," taken by Mr. C. F. Stephens. Mr. Stephens, we must confess, presented the character in a new light to us, who have been accustomed to think of Bottom as a conceited sharp, loquacious character. Mr. Stephens, of course, retained the self-conceit which is the background of the men, but he provided a slow-speaking, didactical, almost stately "Bottom," and did it so cleverly that he more than half converted us to his view. His restraint was admirable. Mr. A. W. Medley as "Flute" was an equally clever presentation; in fact we have nothing but praise to give to the "mechanicals," from Mr. G. B. Sansom as "Quince" to Mr. J. K. Caldwell as "Starveling." In the scene of the play before Theseus in his Court, they fully entered into the humour play and kept the house laughing. The Bergomask dance which concluded their performance was warmly applauded.

The dance of the fairies with which the comedy fittingly concludes was very beautifully done and fully deserved the encore demanded.

The scenery, done by the Teikoku Gekijo artists from designs by Mr. J. Conder, was exceedingly beautiful, more especially the woodland scenes and Theseus' palace in the last act, which was rendered noteworthy by the study of ancient Greek architecture. The lighting in the woodland scenes was very effective in adding to the charm.

The performance went trippingly from start to finish, which says much for the labour expended on it by the actors and those responsible for the arrangements. Mention must also be made of the orchestra, from the Imperial Naval Band, which by courteous permission of H.E. the Minister of the Navy, played Mendelssohn's exquisite in-

cidental music under the conductorship of Mr. Setoguchi, kindly assisted by Madame Petzold, Mrs. J. T. Swift, Miss Landis and Mr. Nobutoki.

We append the cast of the comedy:—

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

- Act I. Scene 1. The Palace of Theseus: daytime.
2. The Cottage of Quince, the carpenter: daytime.
Act II. Scene 1. A Wood near Athens: evening.
2. Another Part of the Wood: late evening.
Act III. Scene 1. Another Part of the Wood containing Titania's Bower: night.
2. Titania's Bower: dawn.
Act IV. The Palace of Theseus: night.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

Theseus, Duke of Athens—Mr. W. E. L. Sweet.
Egeus, Father to Hermia—Mr. J. Conder.
Lysander, in love with Hermia—Mr. J. D. Mason.
Demetrius, in love with Hermia—Mr. T. F. Nonweiler.
Philstrate, master of the revels to Theseus—Mr. J. McD. Gardiner.
Quince, a carpenter—Mr. G. B. Sansom.
Snug, a joiner—Mr. Basil Cahusac.
Bottom, a weaver—Mr. C. F. Stephens.
Flute, a bellows-mender—Mr. A. W. Medley.
Snout, a tinker—Mr. M. D. Kirassoff.
Starveling, a tailor—Mr. J. K. Caldwell.
Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons; betrothed to Theseus—Miss Scheresechewsky.
Hermia, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander—Mrs. T. F. Nonweiler.
Helena, in love with Demetrius—Miss Purvis.
Oberon, king of the fairies—Miss Swift.
Titania, queen of the fairies—Mrs. W. E. L. Sweet.
Puck, or Robin Goodfellow—Miss Nellie McKim.
Peaseblossom—Miss Vera Fardel.
Cobweb—Miss Carol Swift.
Moth—Master Wilfrid Nonweiler.
Mustardseed—Master Freddie Schaeffer.
Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta: Mrs. J. K. Caldwell, Misses. Denning, Paula Landis and Wallace, Messrs. Blockhuys, J. Brinkley, Clara, Levy, Macrae, Rider and Wade.
Other fairies attending their King and Queen:—Mrs. J. D. Mason, the Misses, Cahusac, Flora Fardel, Kennedy, Schramme, Struthers, and Woodman and Master Arthur Sale.
Tokyo A. D. C. Executive Staff.
General Management—Mr. J. Conder and Mr. T. F. Nonweiler.
Stage Management—Miss Scheresechewsky and Mr. J. Conder.
Scenery and Stage Properties—The Teikoku Gekijo artists from designs by Mr. J. Conder.
Costumes—Mrs. T. F. Nonweiler.
Dance—Arranged by Mrs. W. E. L. Sweet.
The Bergomask—Arranged by Mrs. J. T. Swift.
Music—Mrs. J. T. Swift.
Effects—Mr. W. M. Booth.
Properties—Mr. H. Macrae.
Prompter—Dr. Clay MacCauley.

FIRES IN THE HARBOUR.

On Sunday evening about eight o'clock a fire broke out on the steamship *Fukuyo Maru*, of 1,500 tons, anchored in Yokohama harbour. As soon as the flames were discovered the alarm was given, but in spite of all the efforts of the crew they continued to spread, until fire floats from the water police office arrived on the scene. After burning for well nigh an hour, the flames were brought until control. The loss is estimated at 4,000 yen. The cause of the outbreak is believed to have been the upsetting of a lamp.

On Wednesday night, a little after nine o'clock, a fire broke out on board the *Jinyu Maru*, owned by the Kanesō shipping agency of Yokohama. It appears that one of the boatmen, while at work, suddenly dropped a lamp upon a tank of volatile oil, with the result that the oil instantly burst into flames. The Water Police lost no time in despatching to the scene a number of steam-launches and fire-floats, and made desperate efforts to suppress the fire. The fire was at its height at 9.30, when the scene was indescribably awe-inspiring, the harbour itself seeming as if converted into a sea of flame. The fire was ultimately brought under control about half past ten. The loss is estimated at 600,000 yen.

KOREA'S PROBLEM.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.)

Korea's problem is a difficult one. Before the on-coming wave of a new world and a new civilization she is taken, in a sense, unawares; has really had no time to get her hand in, and so inch by inch she yields, till houses and lands and hills and valleys recede from her into the dim distance, and she is left asking herself "Where am I and what can the matter be?"

The matter lies not so much with the Korean as with his ancestry, his tradition, his religion. He is their victim and he will have to shake himself many times ere he looses his soul from its tightened toils.

His enemy is labour, work, sweat, hard hands, aching back, weary knees, spent strength, worn frame.

They tell a story of a citizen of Seoul, a member of the Ok-tang, or School of the Prophets, who rode a donkey and was a noted literati, a little king in his own right. This unfortunate scholar was once upon a time, at the end of a journey, seen to pass a sheaf of fodder to his jaded, weary beast. It was reported and the assembly of the sages called him up for examination. Was this an abominable rumour only, or had he actually with his own hands, he, a son of his father and mother, passed food to the donkey beast he rode on? "Answer as you value your social standing and reputation." He pleaded guilty and was expelled forthwith from their company, wretched man that he was.

This may be a slightly extreme case, but 't is just about expresses Korea's feelings to-day.

An ordinary house-boy of Seoul, getting ten yen a month, when asked to carry a parcel down town, finds himself unable to accede to it. Really he is of a class that does not carry parcels, even though wrapped in regulation paper with a white string round it.

For a Korean *amahi* to be seen carrying a foreign baby in arms out in the open would expose her to the same ridicule that condemned the scholar and the donkey.

Korea has put on labour of all kinds a smudge of condemnation such as one might daub across the entrance of a plague-stricken dwelling. She can starve and die but she cannot dig.

Still she pretends to commend labour in a sing-song way, notwithstanding the man and the donkey. One of her sacred paragraphs from Confucius reads:

"The opportunity of life lies in industry; the opportunity of the year is found in spring time; the opportunity of the day opens with the Tiger Hour (5 a.m.). If a man does not learn when he is young, age will find him ignorant; if he does not plough in spring, his autumn will be bare; if he seizes not the Dragon Hour (7 a.m.) his day is lost."

Here is another passage quoted by the same literati who condemned the man and the donkey:

"Even though the mind be at peace, the body must bestir itself; and though you may delight yourself in the teaching of the Sages, this flesh and blood must labour and toil. If you do not work you cannot escape the contempt of the sluggard; and if you have no care or prudence, you will land yourself in the company of the destitute."

"Wherein does peace of mind lie? In labour. And where does gladness result from but from frugal care? Then how can the peaceful and the happy ever forget the joyful fruits of labour and sorrow?"

This paragraph too, does right by honest labour:

"For every thread in the coat you wear, think gratefully of the woman whose fingers did the needle work; and as you dine comfortably three times a day, remember the labour of the husbandman who toiled in the mud of the paddy."

Here is a verse lamely rendered, from a very

remarkable pair of couplets, that give their vote on behalf of labour as against capital;

"To-day I climbed the city wall,
And tears o'erflowed my brimming eyes,
For of the swells who don silks, all,
Not one of them e'er weaves or dyes."

These selections, however, represent a theory rather than a living principle. The following story brings us back to the first statement:

A dweller in Seoul who got his living by this and that venture bought a supply of medicine for prostration from heat, and went out into the country at the time of the barley harvest to try his fortune on the farmer.

In one place he found a group threshing grain. They had a log pegged fast on each side to keep it from rolling, and over this they pounded the sheaves, by a kind of chariot wheel motion, first over one shoulder and then over the other. A perfect whirlwind of barley corns it was. Bang, bang, bang went the well laden ears from each side of the log and the perspiration rolled off the faces of the threshers.

"I say," said the medicine peddler, "this is a harvest for me. These individuals will all be down with prostration presently, let's wait and see." But the hours wore on with grime and sweat and still not one succumbed. Great gourds of water they drank, and went at it again till the time of siesta came.

"In the snooze," said he, "they will surely collapse, may the gods grant it." But an hour later they arose refreshed and made a new onslaught on the barley.

The gentleman peddler, seeing no hope of a nervous prostration condemned them one and all, and left in disgust, which he so advertised, that to-day a common saying in Seoul runs: *Sir-gol po ri ma-tang-jil hal-nom e cha sik*, the son of an idiot from a country barley threshing floor, or we might render it, a common country farmer lout who has to sweat for his living and yields no profit to the gentleman.

All the stories, and sayings, and mumblings of the ages intensify the problem of work for the poor Korean. He must break away through these wire entanglements, with his soft drawing-room hands, and they will be rendered torn and bleeding in the process.

"Why don't you turn to and cut stones, or learn to lay bricks, or any other kind of work that's called for and give up algebra?" the writer asked of a stout-backed country boy, with a broad face and a provincial dialect. There was no answer.

"Have you any money?" "No."

"How old are you?" "Twenty-three."

"What do you propose to do?" "Escape ignorance and become a scholar."

"And live, how?" "Live? I can't just tell, expect to live somehow, but I want to learn this algebra."

SPECTATOR.

MEMORIAL DAY.

THURSDAY'S COMMEMORATION IN YOKOHAMA.

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it is sometimes called, was remembered in Yokohama on Thursday by Americans with all reverence and loyalty. Owing to the vagaries of the weather at this time of the year, it had been decided that the service should take place in the Gaiety Theatre instead of the grounds of the American Naval Hospital. As it so happened, however, the weather was perfect and lent an added charm to the service; for outside was the glorious sun and the soft gentle air, both combining in making one think more than tenderly of those who had crossed the "Valley of Shadows."

His Excellency the American Ambassador, Colonel Charles Page Bryan, presided; and behind him were seated His Excellency Governor Oshima, the Mayor of Yokohama, Rt. Rev. H. St. George Tucker, Bishop of Kyoto, three American Naval officers in full uniform, and several other well known residents.

The commemoration service opened with "The

Pilgrim's Chorus" from Wagner's *Tannhauser*, by the small orchestra under the direction of Mr. Charles Thorn. It was followed by hymns, the reading of a chapter from the scriptures, and prayer.

Prior to the address of the afternoon by the Bishop, a quartette entitled "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" was most sympathetically rendered by Messrs. J. A. Oakes, F. R. Evans, W. R. Thomas and A. E. Schulz. The number was delivered with really exquisite taste and created quite an impression.

At the conclusion of the quartette, the American Ambassador formerly introduced the Bishop of Kyoto, who thereupon delivered the address of the afternoon.

The Right Reverend gentleman's address was delivered without the aid of any notes and in many passages was singularly eloquent. In the course of his speech, he said that the day was essentially a day of Memory. It brought back to them the fact of that *bourne* from which *no traveller returns*, and in doing so, made the compatriots of those who had died for their country, honour and reverence their memory. They had met there that day to remember the past and later they would pay their tribute to their dead in Yokohama by placing flowers upon their graves. The custom of reverencing the memory of the dead had been handed down from countless ages. It was the custom of the ancient Greeks to pay tribute to the tombs of their warriors, not solely because they were good fighting men, but because they were patriots and had given up their lives for love of country. It was the same with the men whose memory they honoured to-day. They had not fought for money or position. They had simply fought for the country that had given them birth and of which they were a part.

The Right Reverend gentleman in the course of his address also referred lengthily to the titanic struggles of the great Civil War and pointed out that the outcome of the same was the formation of a united nation.

The singing of "My Country 'tis of thee," then followed, after which came the pronouncing of the Benediction.

His Excellency the Ambassador then rose, and referred to the pleasure all present felt at the attendance on the platform of the Governor of the Province and the Mayor of Yokohama. The presence of these two distinguished gentlemen was evidence of their sympathy and good-will with all those in the hall and elsewhere who that day were commemorating their illustrious dead.

At the conclusion of the service, a procession was formed and proceeded to the cemetery, where the graves of all Americans were gently decorated with flowers.

THE CHINESE SILK TRADE.

An official dispatch reaching the Foreign Office reports that the production of cocoons in Wushih and Shaohising districts this year has been so good that it far exceeds the production of last year in quality, in spite of the mulberry plants having sustained some damage from the floods. Sericulturists are anxious to dispose of their holdings as fast as possible and prices are quoted at 32 dollars per 100 *kin* in the north-western district and at 36 dollars in the south-eastern district, this being cheaper by over 10 dollars as compared with last year. The tax levied on dried cocoons this year is \$2.70 per 100 *kin* lower than last year. The total purchase of dried cocoons in Wushih this year is expected to reach about 60,000 *picul*. The scarcity of silver coins in the interior of China has been clearly proved by the purchase of the cocoons, and sericulturists are vying with one another in selling their goods to get hold of the silver. In Liyang and Ihsing near Wushih the cocoons are being sold even at such a low price as 22 dollars per 100 *kin*. The production of cocoons in Wushih district this year does not materially differ from the amount of last year's production.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of May 24th state:—

Owing to the continuous decline in the prices of shares, the "Bulls" have taken fright and are throwing their holdings on to the market, thereby causing a slump this morning with a few exceptions. Anglo-Jap. Hyd. Electrics fell yen 1.05; Fuji Paper 80 sen, Spinnings 15/75 sen, Sugars 10/45 sen. Exchange shares Old declined 15 sen, and New 1.15 yen.

In the afternoon business increased considerably, owing to carry-over transactions, but prices declined all round, the principal falls being Kogyo Bank yen 1.10, Kyushu Collieries yen 1.40, Anglo-Jap. Hyd. Electrics 50 sen, Fuji Paper old 45 sen. Exchange shares Old fell yen 1.25, but New only 25 sen.

Yesterday 44,380 shares changed hands.

May 25.

This morning the slump continued, the weak Bulls having closed their transactions owing to their inability to hold on to them any longer. The principal falls were Anglo-Jap. Hyd. Electrics 2.70 yen, Naikoku Tsuun (Express Co.) New 1.30 yen, Kyushu Collieries 1.15 yen, Nikkan Gas 90 sen, Fuji Gassed Spinnings 1.20 yen, and others 10/70 sen. Exchange shares declined 1.00 yen for Old, and 60 sen for New.

The afternoon market opened weak and prices continued to decline, but when Spinnings came up a slight reaction set in. Fuji Gassed Old and New regained 75 and 60 sen, and others 10/30 sen. Sugars also recovered 10/50 sen, but Exchange shares were sluggish. The Old gained 30 sen, but the New fell 55 sen.

Yesterday 59,760 shares changed hands.

May 27.

Owing to the continuous slump in prices the "Bulls" have become disheartened and are throwing back on the market the shares that they had originally intended to take up this morning. Prices declined all round without exception from 10 sen to 1.15 yen; Exchange shares fell 55 sen for Old and 1.05 for New.

In the afternoon the market was irregular, consisting principally of carry-over transactions. Spinnings regained 15/80 sen, Woollens and Fertilisers also regained 15/45 sen, but the rest fluctuated fractionally. Exchange shares Old and New fell 40 and 70 sen respectively. On Saturday, 54,460 shares changed hands.

May 28.

The morning market opened somewhat irregular; there were many ups and downs in prices, as the "Bulls" have partially recovered from their panic; the principal falls were Keihin Trams 80 sen, Yokohama Trams 35 sen, Yokohama Specie Bank new 65 sen, Tokyo Woollens 50 sen, Hoden Oils 40 sen. The rises were Kogyo Bank 30 sen, "Tankos" 30 sen, Yokohama Godowns 35 sen, Nikkan Gas 60 sen, and Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old 60 sen. Sugars were generally firm and rose 5/45 sen. Exchange shares Old and New regained 95 sen and 1.60 yen respectively. The afternoon Session was a repetition of that of the morning, the most notable changes being the fall of Keihin Trams 80 sen, and Yokohama Tram 1.15 yen and the rises were Nikkan Gas 1.35 yen, Dai Nippon Brewery 90 sen, Fuji Gas Spinnings Old 70 sen. Others fluctuated between 10/50 sen. Exchange shares were sluggish, the Old rose 35 sen, and the New fell the like amount.

Yesterday 75,330 shares changed hands.

May 29.

The closing market for this month's delivery lasted for 3½ hours and was very fickle in tone as usual. Keihin Trams fell 1.00 yen but Yokohama Trams New gained 70 sen; Yokohama Specie Bank Old fell 1.55, but New gained 95 sen; Kogyo Bank also put on 1.10 yen, Kyushu Collieries 1.00 yen. Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old fell 70 sen, but New only 5 sen; Goto Woollens

fell 1.60 yen, but Toyo Muslins gained 1.00 yen. Taihoku Sugar rose 1.25 yen, Tertilisers 50 sen, and others fluctuated fractionally. Exchange shares were again dull, the Old and New putting on 50 and 10 sen respectively.

There was no afternoon session, owing to preparations for to-morrow's settlements.

Yesterday, 71,120 shares were transacted.

	May 30.
Shares changed hands	Yen.
Value of above	118,670
Value of above	5,907,380
.. per share (average)	49.78
Comparison with last month's transactions:—	
Decrease in number of Shares	26,320
.. .. value	1,723,920
.. .. price per share	2.85
To-day being Settling day, there was no Market.	

INDIAN CORN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR RICE.

In view of the growing difficulties of living due to the abnormal appreciation in the price of rice, some experts are quoted as suggesting that a partial substitute for rice might be found in maize, the use of which should be encouraged among the lower classes, as it is not only very palatable but also extremely nutritious. Maize, or Indian corn, as it is more commonly called, constitutes one of the chief foodstuffs of those living in the remote mountain villages. In the absence of any apparatus to refine the cereal, however, the demand for it has been quite limited. With proper treatment maize can be made as white as rice, and it is now finding its way on to the markets in Tokyo under the new name of "artificial rice." The cereal is at present quoted at 12 to 15 sen per sho, and enjoys a very brisk demand. Experts state from their own experience that refined maize boiled with rice in equal proportions will not only not destroy the taste of the latter, but even render it far more acceptable than when boiled with barley. At Kokura, in Kyushu, a maize refining company has been established, according to whose calculations the enterprise appears a great success. In these circumstances it is not surprising that maize, hitherto valued at 4.50 yen to 5.50 yen per koku on the market in Hokkaido, which is noted for the product in question, should be now quoted at from 8 yen to 8.70 yen.

THE MATTING TRADE.

Mr. Katayama, Chief of the Industrial Bureau of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, who is going to attend the matting traders conference to be held in Kobe, is quoted as saying that the export of matting, which once occupied a prominent position among articles of export, has shown a considerable decrease of late. The Government enforced revised inspection regulations from April 1st last in order to check any further decline, but complaints have been raised by the traders against the rigorous enforcement of the inspection. During last month one well-known matting firm was dealt with according to the penalty prescribed by the regulations, being found guilty of a contravention of them. The only way to improve the trade was to introduce improvements in the quality of the article. The grass and paper matting recently invented in the United States was forming a formidable rival to Japanese matting, and moreover the alterations in the Customs tariff did not admit of optimistic views. It was necessary to try and find a new market in China, Australia and Europe, over and above the endeavours to recover the trade in the United States. Many valuable suggestions would no doubt be made by traders at the coming conference, but strenuous efforts must be made to recover the market, although this was by no means an easy task to accomplish.

CONNECTION WITH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

As already reported, the Railway Board is to run a special train between Shimbashi and Shimonoseki on and after the 15th instant, in connection with the inauguration services between Europe and Asia. As the same time great improvements will be introduced on the Shimonoseki-Fusan steamship service. A special steamship service will be inaugurated three times a week, that is on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, to make the distance in 9½ hours instead of the 11 hours now required. On the Fusan side the train will start about forty minutes after the arrival of the steamer, and will connect with the South Manchuria railway at Changchun. The pier at Fusan has now been completed, and the sea is being dredged to give the steamers a safe berth alongside. The work of the construction of the railway pier at Shimonoseki is being pushed on with all possible haste. The Railway Board is investigating a plan whereby the time required in the transfer at Shimonoseki, which now takes about an hour, can be curtailed.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

Prosecutions for contravention of the Election Law in the recent General Election are being pushed on by the judicial authorities with vigorous hand. According to official information the cases pending up to the 27th ultimo numbered 467, in which altogether 3,483 persons stand indicted. Classified according to the political parties and the nature of the indictment the results are as under:—

	Corruption.		Bribery.		Threats.	
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
Seiyun-kai.....	40	551	146	1,087	21	50
Popular party..	17	215	97	759	8	11
Central party..	4	71	30	221	6	6
Independents..	13	127	68	367	17	18
Total.....	74	964	341	2,434	52	85

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to add to the remark in your issue of May 27th anent the Franco-Japanese Bank? In it you said that "Capital is a very tender plant," to quote your own words. I would rather say that French capital is coy and niggardly, whereas English capital is bold and liberal. Money appears to reflect its owners' national traits: French money is nothing but so much centimes held back and exacted out of the peasants' existence, whilst English money is so much pounds grown out of the adventurous investment, its owners being worthy of the appellation given by Napoleon, if I remember rightly, of a "nation of shopkeepers." This is borne out by the fact that while the Lady of Threadneedle Street steers through the financial waves in her Titanic boat with a sheet ballast of £38,000,000, her sister across the Channel is restless even with a stupendous sum of £17½,000,000 in her purse, which she sometimes reluctantly opens a bit to assist her elder sister in London in times of adversity, in order that she may not be involved herself in the broil. But the fact always remains that she and her confrères are too close-fisted to be relied on for much of their hospitality. An instance is not far to seek. It is still fresh in the memory of the present correspondent how French money had been called in out of the German market at the time when the Moroccan question threatened to irritate the old scars. Thus there are money and money, so that anybody who expects too much from the proposed Franco-Japanese Bank may well bear this fact in mind, and should be always on the alert not to hurt the susceptibility of the Frenchman's money. I hope that our good people will not be bored by the need of constant coaxing to bring it to the home of the Land of the Rising Sun.

I am, Sir, Yours truly,

OUTSIDER.

Tokyo, May 29, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)
THE CHINA LOAN.

London, May 23.

Reuter's Agency states that although great secrecy is maintained, it appears the Conference of bankers on the 15th instant failed to agree to certain proposals made by the Russian and Japanese delegates, which were not of a political but of a financial nature.

As a result the proposals were referred back to St. Petersburg and Tokyo.

It is understood that at least one other Power besides Austria has applied to participate in the loan.

Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, says the Government will not give its diplomatic support to any loan not providing adequate guarantees for proper expenditure of the proceeds and satisfactory securities for the payment of the principal and interest.

It would also refuse approval of any loan, the conditions of which infringe the policy of the open door in Manchuria and Mongolia for British Commerce.

THE SITUATION AT KASHGAR.

London, May 23.

A Peking despatch received at St. Petersburg states that in view of the disquieting situation at Kashgar, the Russian Minister has informed the Chinese Government that if the local authorities are unable to protect the lives and property of Russian subjects there, Russia will be compelled to take measures of defence.

THE U. S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 23.

The returns in the Ohio primaries show a notable victory for Colonel Roosevelt who has secured 38 delegates out of a total of 48, by an enormous majority of votes, giving him control of the State Convention.

London, May 24.

Colonel Roosevelt's victory in President Taft's own state has dismayed Taft.

It is believed that Mr. Bryan will ultimately come to the front as a candidate for the Democrats.

TROUBLE IN CUBA.

London, May 24.

The United States has ordered five hundred marines to Cuba, where a serious situation has developed in Oriente province as a result of a negro rising.

TURMOIL AT BUDAPESTH.

London, May 24.

The political turmoil at Budapesth is becoming acuter.

The opposition has proclaimed a general strike in favour of universal suffrage.

A huge demonstration of 50,000 persons came into collision with the police.

Up to now the casualties have been four killed and 114 wounded.

Troops are pouring into the city.

THE LABOUR TROUBLE IN ENGLAND.

London, May 24.

The Federation of Transport Workers has ordered a general strike in London.

It is expected a hundred thousand men will be out to-night.

PANAMA CANAL TOLLS.

London, May 24.

The U.S. House of Representatives has

adopted the Panama Canal Bill with the amendment exempting American coasting vessels from tolls on passing through the Canal.

THREATENED ATTACK ON FEZ,

London, May 24.

Reports from Fez show that the situation there is becoming worse.

An attack on the city is momentarily expected.

FIGHTING IN MEXICO.

London, May 24.

Three thousand Mexican rebels advanced to within fifteen miles of Mexico city, where they were defeated, and retreated after a two days' battle.

GOVERNMENT VICTORY IN MEXICO.

London, May 25.

The Mexican Government troops have won a great victory at Reilano.

The rebel losses are estimated at a thousand.

The Federal losses were also heavy.

U.S. MARINES FOR CUBA.

London, May 25.

Seven hundred U.S. Marines, with guns, have sailed for Cuba.

London, May 26.

The latest reports show that the insurrection in Cuba is growing rapidly.

The American planters have requested the protection of the United States' blue-jackets.

The Washington Government emphasizes the fact that intervention is not contemplated and that the plans for sending further troops are merely to protect the whites.

London, May 26.

The Third and Fourth Divisions of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet have been ordered to Key West in readiness for departure for Cuba.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE KING OF DENMARK.

London, May 26.

The remains of the late King of Denmark have been transferred in full state to Roskilde Cathedral, where they were solemnly entombed.

SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

London, May 25.

It is reported from Paris that 48 natives were court-martialled for the recent mutiny and executed at Fez in secrecy.

Later.

General Lyautey entered Fez yesterday with an imposing display of force.

It is reported that two Germans have been arrested in the Sus country, where a Pretender has been proclaimed.

A French paper alleges that they are the brothers Mannesmann, the mining pioneers.

THE RIOTS AT BUDAPEST.

London, May 25.

The fighting at Budapest is very fierce on both sides, the rioters firing on the troops with revolvers, and the latter replying with bayonet charges.

There have been seven persons killed and 160 injured. The rioters arrested number 380.

The rioting was resumed on the 24th inst.

THE STRIKE OF TRANSPORT WORKERS.

London, May 25.

Mr. Gosling, the President of the Transport workers Federation, and likewise a member of the London Port Authority, is leading the

strike of transport workers, along with Ben Tillett.

They talk of the strike lasting several weeks, and of calling out the railway men.

The outbreak of the strike was so sudden that it is impossible yet to form an idea of its effects.

London, May 26.

The strikers have been augmented by the carmen.

It is estimated that the total out to-night is 120,000.

Everything is orderly.

London, May 27.

A hundred thousand transport workers made a demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Sunday.

They behaved in a very orderly way.

The railway men are to hold a meeting to consider whether they shall strike in support.

Two hundred vessels are lying in the Thames unable to discharge their perishable goods.

London, May 28.

Protected by mounted police, the merchants despatched men to the docks on the Thames, where they unloaded and brought in to town large quantities of fruit and other perishable goods from the ships.

The Japanese dockers in Japan have telegraphed to the strikers in London, wishing them success.

London, May 30.

The Home Office has issued a statement which says that it must be understood the Government insists on the maintenance of order and will use all the resources at its disposal to ensure the safety of the food supply of London.

Mr. Sydney Buxton, the President of the Board of Trade, and the strikers, held a conference yesterday at noon, when the Board of Trade discussed the preliminaries of the conference on Friday.

The men desired an assurance that every section of the employees would be represented and that any agreement should bind all the transport employers.

DESTRUCTION OF AIRSHIP.

London, May 26.

The German airship Parseval the Sixth, dragged her anchors and was blown for two hundred yards, being destroyed.

AIRMEN'S STRIKE.

London, May 26.

The League of German aviators has threatened to strike in the flying week unless the manufacturers concede a minimum wage of £15 a month.

THE TROUBLE IN CUBA.

London, May 27.

Altogether a dozen U.S. warships will be in the vicinity of Cuba in a few days.

The United States is prepared to land an expeditionary force if needed.

A decisive engagement between the Cuban Government troops and the rebels is expected shortly.

London, May 27.

Five U.S. battleships have proceeded to Key West.

London, May 28.

President Taft has sent a message from Jersey City to President Gomez of Cuba that the United States will not intervene in the revolution now going on in the Island Republic.

SEVERE FIGHTING IN MOROCCO.

London, May 28.

The trouble in Morocco continues. The

tribesmen have made a determined night attack on Fez. The fighting was of a desperate character and lasted for eleven hours. They were finally repulsed. The attacks were made on three points simultaneously.

THE ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, May 28.
In the determined attack on Fez by the Moroccan tribesmen, which was successfully repulsed, the French losses are given at thirty killed and many wounded. The losses of the tribesmen are not accurately known but are said to be very heavy.

London, May 30.
It was rumoured yesterday that a wholesale massacre of the Europeans in Fez had taken place.

This rumour has been dispelled by a message from General Lyantey, stating that on Monday they had a very trying night.

The Berbers fired incessantly and made it impossible to leave the town, but no actual attack was made.

MONGOLIA.

London, May 28.
A telegram from St. Petersburg states that the Mongolian authorities have ordered the expulsion of all Chinese subjects from the town of Urga.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

London, May 28.
At a banquet in New York, Mr. Knox, Secretary of State, said that the object of his mission to the Caribbeans was to assure the people in those regions that the opening of the Panama Canal and its coming inauguration would draw closer the people of entire America and that it was the wish of the United States to see those of the Southern hemisphere (South America) stronger and sturdier.

THE MALTA CONFERENCE.

London, May 29.
The coming conference between Mr. Asquith, the Premier, Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and Lord Kitchener, continues to engross the British and French papers.

It is regarded as undoubtedly having an important bearing on the naval position in the Mediterranean.

CINEMATOGRAH DISASTER.

London, May 29.
A fire at a cinematograph show at the town of Villa Real in Spain, in a room crowded with 180 people and with only one exit, resulted in a panic in which 80 were killed and many seriously injured.

FRANCE'S DECLINING BIRTH-RATE.

London, May 30.
The deaths in France last year exceeded the births by 34,869.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 30.
Colonel Roosevelt has obtained a most sweeping victory in the campaign in New Jersey, where the returns indicate that he has won all the 28 Republican delegates.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 23.
Colonel Roosevelt has achieved the normally impossible in persuading Ohio to spurn the claims of President Taft, who in 1908 was its favourite son.

President Taft's humiliation is accentuated by the fact that Ohio has maintained its

orthodox attitude towards the Democratic Governor, Mr. Harmon.

President Taft's staunchest friends now fear that he cannot be nominated.

Out of the thousand delegates that have been chosen, both candidates have between 450 to 500.

The shrewdest observers think that Mr. Bryan may eventually secure the Democratic leadership.

THE MINIMUM WAGE ACT.

London, May 23.
The Miners are again grumbling. The National Federation declares that the awards under the Minimum Wage Act do not provide for a reasonable wage and asks the Government to remedy the defects in the measure.

THE STRIKE OF TRANSPORT WORKERS.

London, May 23.
The strike of transport workers at the Port of London and on the Medway for higher wages is spreading.

The meat supply is already affected, and the police are guarding the vans.

The Government has ordered an inquiry.

London, May 24.
The British Transport Workers Federation has decided to call 250,000 men out on strike.

FIERCE RIOTS AT BUDAPEST.

London, May 24.
The Socialist strike at Budapest for universal suffrage has had disastrous results.

The city is virtually in a state of siege. Thousands of lamps have been smashed and scores of tramcars wrecked and burned.

Fifteen deaths and several hundred persons injured are reported as a result of repeated collisions between the police and the rioters.

The rioters are attempting incendiarism and the excesses are assuming a revolutionary character.

LAUNCH OF NEW GIANT LINER.

London, May 24.
The new giant liner *Imperator*, for the Hamburg-Amerika line, has been launched at Hamburg by the Emperor.

It is the biggest vessel in the world. The *Imperator* has a displacement of 50,000 tons, is 276 metres in length, with 30 metres beam.

It will accommodate 4,000 passengers and 1,200 crew.

The vessel is provided with a swimming-bath, a winter-garden, a gymnasium and shops.

THE BUDAPEST RIOTS.

London, May 25.
After further rioting, in which many persons were wounded, two churches wrecked and tramcars overturned, order has apparently been restored at Budapest.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

London, May 25.
The new Resident-General of Morocco says that more troops are needed and 4,000 will shortly be dispatched.

Two Germans are reported to have been captured at Tarrident in Morocco by adherents of the Pretender.

The German Government has applied to the French Government for their protection.

A Paris newspaper says the prisoners are the Mannesmanns, the well known concessionaires.

ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, May 27.
Fez was attacked yesterday morning on

all sides by the tribesmen, who succeeded at one point in penetrating within the walls.

They were repulsed by midday, after the French had sustained a heavy loss.

ITALIAN REFUGEES.

London, May 27.
The Captain of a French ship has arrived at Naples with sixty Italian refugees.

He states that his vessel was set on fire by the firing from the Turkish forts at Sinyanana.

ALBANIA'S DEMANDS.

London, May 28.
The demands presented by the Albanians at Salonika to the Consuls of the Great Powers and also to the Sublime Porte, include the recognition of the Albanian flag, the substitution of Albanian officials instead of Turkish, the appointment of a native Governor, and the adoption of the Albanian language as the official language.

THE "TITANIC" INQUIRY IN THE STATES.

London, May 29.
The U. S. Senate Committee of Inquiry into the loss of the *Titanic* finds that the liner virtually ignored the warnings as to the proximity of icebergs.

The Committee criticises the methods employed in the loading of the boats and the discipline of the crew and censures the *Californian* for not going to the rescue.

The Committee recommends that more boats be carried and the crew receive more drilling. Also that large ships be compelled to carry search-lights and have one wireless operator always on duty.

RENEWED ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, May 30.
Twenty thousand rebels are again attacking Fez.

The French garrison of 6,000 is holding the city, but is unable to take the offensive.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, May 30.
Paris has bought Japanese and Russian bonds.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE PANAMA CANAL.

New York, May 25.
On the 23rd instant the Lower House of Congress adopted the Panama Canal Bill by a majority of 147 votes against 125. The points most carefully discussed were the veto of the passage through the Canal of vessels owned directly or indirectly by railway companies, the exemption of tolls on American vessels, and the imposition on all other vessels of a toll not exceeding 1½ dollars per registered ton. Strong opposition was raised to the last proposal, which was regarded as a violation of the Anglo-American treaty, which stipulates for the treatment of vessels of all countries on an equal footing. A belief obtains that this clause will be subject to amendment in the Senate. The Bill also comprises a clause for the transfer of the Canal to the jurisdiction of the military administration in time of war and the prohibition of access to the canal zone to persons other than Government and public functionaries and army and navy officers of the United States.

THE CUBAN REVOLT.

New York, May 28.
In consequence of the promulgation of the ordinance prohibiting the formation of political parties by negroes in Cuba, the negroes rose in open revolt in the three

central and eastern provinces. Troops and volunteer contingents were dispatched to the scene but the revolt is not yet suppressed. According to the newspaper reports the United States Government dispatched to Quantanamas (?) 700 marines by a transport on the 23rd instant. The Government had also concentrated the naval fleet at Key West. The President of the Cuban Republic wrote to the U.S. Government complaining that this attitude of the United States had hurt the feelings of the Cuban nation, to which President Taft replied that the United States had no intention of interference, steps having merely been taken to prepare for emergencies.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, May 23.

The Turkish Government has announced to the German Ambassador at Constantinople, to whom the protection of Italian nationals living in Turkey is entrusted during the war, the expulsion of all Italians from Smyrna owing to the strong pressure exercised by the people, the latter being extremely indignant at the attack of the Italians on Rhodes. (The German Ambassador demanded that the expulsion be carried out in a quiet manner.

LAUNCH OF THE "IMPERATOR."

The new Hamburg-America Line steamer *Imperator* has been successfully launched at the Vulcan dockyard at Hamburg, the Kaiser himself christening the leviathan.

THE SOCIALISTS AND THE KAISER.

In the final sitting of the Reichstag the Socialist Deputy made a renewed violent attack on the Kaiser with regard to the latter's speech on the anti-German agitation in the Reichslande. The Chancellor refuted this attack and further expressed his great satisfaction that the nation had shown itself united and willing to maintain and strengthen the bonds of peace. He also expressed the thanks of the Kaiser to the federative governments and to the Reichstag for passing the armament bills.

MOROCCO.

Berlin, May 24.

The situation at Fez in Morocco has again become serious.

M. Deschanel, the President of the French Chamber, speaking in the Chamber, announced that the French Government will send new troops to Morocco.

GERMANY.

The Prussian Landtag has passed a Bill providing for the strengthening of the national landholders in those frontier districts where their national power is threatened by foreigners' influences. A very sharp conflict resulted between the clericals in the Landtag and the Minister for Agriculture, who strongly alluded to the religious bigotry of the Centre Party.

The Prussian Landtag will be adjourned on June 7th.

RUMOURED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The rumour, according to which Russia is reported to be preparing to summon a conference for the settlement of the Dardanelles question and mediation for the conclusion of peace, is denied by well informed circles at St. Petersburg.

Le Temps at Paris refutes the idea of an international conference for the settlement of all Orient questions, no power being will-

ing to take initial action in summoning such a conference.

TURKO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Administration of the Turkish "Public Loan" Office protests against the appropriation of the revenues of the Aegean islands, which have been occupied by Italy.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER IN BERLIN.

Count Berchtold, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has arrived at Berlin. He has been welcomed in a very sympathetic manner by the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* and honoured by the Kaiser with the Order of the Black Eagle.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, in welcoming the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, affirms that both states would adhere to their traditional policy of settling all question by a personal and confidential exchange of views between the leading statesmen of each Power.

THE RIOTS AT BUDAPEST.

Very unfortunate demonstrations in favour of universal suffrage have taken place at Budapest, several persons being killed and many policemen, soldiers and civilians being wounded.

The riots at Budapest have become still more serious.

WAR MONGERS BUSY.

Berlin, May 25.

The *Kölnische Zeitung*, in a reply to a very ill-timed article appearing in *La France Militaire*, in which an offensive war against Germany is demanded, emphasizes the strong armament and readiness of Germany to defend her frontiers against any attack.

NAVAL CHANGES.

Admiral von Holtzendorff, the present Chief of the German High Sea Battle Fleet, will resign his post next autumn and will be succeeded by Admiral Pohl, the present Commander-in-Chief of the 1st Squadron (North Sea Squadron). The latter will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Lans, the Inspector-General of the Torpedo Divisions at Kiel.

CHINESE LOAN.

The Krupp firm has accepted six million marks of the Chinese Chekiang Loan against the guarantee of the Silk Tax.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

The recent incidents in Morocco in which German nationals have been concerned have been brought before the French Government in an absolutely friendly manner by the German authorities.

THE RIOTS AT BUDAPEST.

Order has been restored at Budapest after severe fighting.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

A conference has been held at Berlin between the Kaiser, the Chancellor, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs and Count Berchtold, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, now on an introductory visit to Berlin. The international situation was discussed and it was decided that neither Austria nor Germany would take the initiative in mediating the conclusion of peace between Turkey and Italy.

The Italian Press strongly opposes any idea of agreeing to a conference for the consideration of the conclusion of peace, which had been suggested by the French press.

Berlin, May 26.

The island of Rhodes has been declared free from blockade.

THE ORIENT QUESTION.

Count Berchtold has given satisfactory

declarations as to the conservative policy of Austria in the Balkans, and states that she has no territorial aims of any kind. He further states that Austria would treat favourably the demands of Russia in the Dardanelles Question.

The Russian Government states that it has no intention of convening an Orient Conference.

ITALIAN ELECTION LAW.

The Italian Chamber has passed the new Election Law Bill.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberia Mails, with dates up to May 12th, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on May 26th.

ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE.

Berlin, May 28.

English and French papers discuss in a very critical manner the alteration of the Anglo-French Entente into a full alliance. Not a few adverse considerations are, however, expressed on both sides. The German Press expresses itself in an absolutely impartial manner.

TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

The French garrison and the Sultan at Fez are being continually attacked by rebellious Moroccans. The Sultan will either flee to Rabat or abdicate.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

Public opinion in Italy is much excited at the expulsion of Italian nationals by Turkey. The Government is directly asked by several papers to occupy some more islands in the Aegean Sea.

RAILWAY STRIKE IN SPAIN.

A railway strike has broken out in Andalusia, Spain.

ON 'CHANGE.

All iron markets are absolutely steady.

SECRETARY OF STATE ON TOUR.

Berlin, May 29.

Dr. Solf, the new Secretary of State for the Colonies, has left for South Africa on a tour of inspection.

THE CONGO-CAMEROON FRONTIER.

The German-French Congo-Cameroon Frontier Committee will meet on June 5th, but the presentation of maps has had to be postponed. The German members are the following: Councillor of the Embassy at Paris von Lanken, Consul Vassel of Fez and the special expert for Togo Affairs, Councillor Meyer.

DEPOPULATION OF FRANCE.

Paris papers express their regret that the population of France has decreased in 1911 by 34,869 and state that the birthrate was the lowest on record.

ITALIAN ARMAMENTS INCREASE.

The Italian Budget demands 60,000,000 lire for the introduction of new guns for the army and an increase of torpedo-boats.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

Turkey threatens to again close the Dardanelles in the event of Italy resorting to aggressive action.

TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

The French troops in Morocco have been increased to the number of 47,000. No German nationals living at Fez have been killed up to the present.

The report of *L'Echo* of Paris to the effect that the two Mannesmann brothers, Otto and Robert, are prisoners of the native

tribesmen in the Sus district, is declared by the Mannesmann firm at Remscheid to be untrue.

ROUMANIAN MOTOR ACCIDENT.

The *Lokalanzeiger* reports from Bucharest that in an automobile accident, Prince Karl and Princess Elisabeth of Roumania, the two eldest children of Prince Ferdinand, the successor to the Throne, were severely injured. Prince Ferdinand was himself slightly injured.

UNION CHURCH LADIES' AUXILIARY.

EVENING FETE AND PROMENADE CONCERT.

A really charming evening's enjoyment was participated in by a very large number of Yokohama residents at 75 Bluff on Monday evening. Dr. and Mrs. Dearing kindly put their spacious gardens and lawns at the disposal of the Society; and owing to the glorious weather that prevailed, the hundreds of gaily coloured lanterns, an excellent string band, the quartettes by Mr. J. A. Srievert, Mr. Syd. Bartlett, Mr. J. Robson and Mr. Geo. W. Colter, together with the charming hospitality displayed by Mrs. Dearing and her pretty assistants, the event was a great success. We trust that the evening was an equal success from the financial point of view as it was from the social point of view; remembering the number of those present, it undoubtedly should have been so. Every congratulation is due to those responsible.

RUSSIA IN MONGOLIA.

The Russian Consuls in Hami, Ili, Tolbattai, Ulmuti, Kuchia, and Kashgar have published an unofficial announcement that all aliens (including the Chinese, shall not be allowed to enter Hsinking unless they are provided with a certificate issued by the Russian authorities. Russia has also established a Customs House in Hami to impose duties on foreign goods and to inspect the arrival of all aliens.

The British merchants in Hsinking advocate the necessity of throwing open Kashgar to the world's commerce, in order to destroy the monopolization of the local trade by the Russians and Mahomedans, and have referred the matter to the British commercial agent stationed in Ili. A similar movement threatens to occur in Kulon, Eastern Mongolia.

REVISED TIME-TABLE.

According to the authorities of the Imperial Railway Bureau, a revised time-table on the Tokaido and other nationalized trunk lines will be brought into force on the 15th of June. The express services between Tokyo and Yokohama will be increased from the above date by three trains, and the time table now in force will be revised as under:—

SHIMBASHI TO YOKOHAMA.		
Departure.	Arrival.	For.
8.15 a.m.	8.48 a.m.	Yokosuka.
11.45 "	12.31 p.m.	"
* 2.30 p.m.	3.07 "	"
4.30 "	5.05 "	"
10.30 "	11.00 "	Kozu.
YOKOHAMA TO SHIMBASHI.		
Departure.	Arrival.	From.
* 7.30 a.m.	8.10 a.m.	Yamakita.
8.12 "	8.42 "	Kozu.
8.50 "	9.30 "	Yokosuka.
10.45 "	11.25 "	"
4.30 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	"
* 5.00 "	5.36 "	"
5.45 "	6.25 "	"
10.30 "	11.00 "	Kozu.

COL. SIR DAVID BRUCE, Kt., has been specially promoted to the position of Surgeon-General for his services to science.

DEATH OF MR. SCRIBA.

The *Nagasaki Press* reports the death of Mr. C. P. H. Scriba, after a long and painful illness, diagnosed as Bright's disease.

Mr. Scriba was a German subject and 43 years of age. He resided in Nagasaki about twelve years, carrying on business as a stevedore and comprador, and also engaging in mining enterprises. Prior to coming to Nagasaki he was in the employ of the Chinese Government as a military instructor. He leaves a widow (Japanese) and four children.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

LATE on Wednesday night, a fire occurred at a house in Harajuku, Aoyama, resulting in the demolition of a few houses.

ON Saturday evening last a fire occurred at the Japan Publishing Company at Sugamo in the suburbs of Tokyo, resulting in the destruction of two houses.

THE organizers of the Keihin Canal Company met in conference on Tuesday last. A general meeting of the Organizing Committee will be held on the 1st of June.

THE third hearing of the case brought by Mr. Yamamoto, Director of the South Japan Sugar Refining Company, against Count Shigenoi, for fraud, will be held on the 3rd of June at the Tokyo Local Court.

THE income of the Tokyo Tramways for the second ten days of the current month amounted to 208 550 yen, which shows an increase of 19,361 yen over the figures recorded for the preceding corresponding period.

A SHANGHAI dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that Honan province has decided to issue 10,000 banknotes which are now in course of printing at the Shanghai Printing Bureau. Kiangsu province is also expected to issue 5,000 inconvertible notes.

A TELEGRAM reaching Tokyo from Formosa reports that bubonic plague has broken out at Amoy, where over ten deaths are reported daily. The epidemic threatens to invade the foreign settlement. Strict preventive measures are being taken to stamp it out.

A SHANGHAI telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that the Ping-hsien coal-mine has had to suspend working owing to lack of working funds. Sheng Huai-huan has again advised the shareholders of the corporation to work the mine under joint enterprise with Japanese capitalists.

THE exact route to be followed in the Peking-Paris aeroplane race, which is being organised by the *Matin*, has been published. After leaving Peking the stopping places include Kiakta, Irkutsk, Tomsk, Omsk, Nijni Novgorod, Moscow, Warsaw, Vienna, Trieste, Genoa, Nice, Avignon, and Dijon.

ACCORDING to trustworthy information reaching official quarters, Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, who has done his best to vindicate himself against the attacks made upon him by the southerners regarding the loan question, having so far failed to pacify the popular agitation, was compelled to tender his resignation on the 27th ultimo.

THE Tokyo Municipal Council sat at 4.50 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon last to consider the vote of censure introduced against the Mayor and the 460,000 electric light programme. Prior to the meeting the representatives of the various factions sat in conference, when it was decided to withdraw the vote of censure on a motion of Mr. Tanomogi. Mr. Toyohara, chairman of the Electric Light committee, then made a full report on the progress of the discussion in the committee. After some debate the programme was approved, together with the appropriation of 7,840,000 yen for the execu-

tion of the work. The Bill relating to the sale of land reclaimed along the outer moat between Akasaka-mitsuke to Saitwabashi was also adopted with some amendment.

It is reported that by mutual agreement the Mitsui, the Mitsu Bishi, the Dai-Ichi, the Dai-Ju-go and the Specie Bank have decided to fix the discount rate for advances to sericulturists at 1.7 sen for those endorsed by a wholesale house, jointly by a local bank, at 1.8 sen for those endorsed by a wholesale house alone, and 1.9 sen for those having no endorsement. The capital needed for the business this year is estimated at about 24 or 25 million yen.

A GENERAL meeting of the Kyushu Colliery Steamship Company took place on Wednesday morning, when the following accounts were passed:—

	Yen.
Net profits.....	104,261.293
Legal Reserve	4,800.000
Special Reserve	9,500.000
Bonus.....	9,400.000
Dividend (7 per cent.)	70,000.000
Carried forward	10,561.293

A SHANGHAI dispatch to the *Chuwo* reports that many wealthy men in Honan and Hupeh province have of late transferred their property to the name of Japanese. Li Yuan-hung regards such conduct as unpatriotic and has prohibited the transfer, but the order is being disobeyed. The measure is taken to escape spoliation by the Government in the name of the State. A portion of the property of Sheng Huan-huai was confiscated by the Government but the greater part of his property is said to be safe, as it was transferred to the name of the Mitsui firm.

THE reduction in the import duty on foreign rice, coupled with the prosecution of the corner operators on the Fukagawa rice market and the substitution of Chosen and Formosan rice for settlement on the Rice Exchanges, has already had the effect of lowering the abnormally high quotations. Rice which was quoted over 20 yen on the Tokyo Rice Exchange, moved down to 19 yen on the 29th ultimo, with a tendency to a further decrease. Altogether it is confidently believed that prices must tend to fall to a normal level in the near future.

GENERAL NAKAMURA, Military Attaché to H.M. the Emperor, who has been dispatched to China by Imperial command to inquire into the health of the Japanese troops stationed in that country, left Shanghai on the 23rd ultimo by the warship *Nitaka* for Hankow via Nanking, Swatow, Kinkiang, and Taya. After inspecting the troops in those places, the Imperial envoy will proceed to Peking by the Peking-Hankow railway, and thence to Dairen via Shanhaikwan. In Dairen he is to pay a visit to the Second Standing Squadron before leaving for home.

ACCORDING to a Shanghai dispatch to the *Chuwo*, transactions in bills of exchange are working smoothly between Shanghai and Chungking, and consequently there is a brisk export of cotton yarns, towels, hats, shirts, stockings, etc. consigned to Szechuan. Japanese goods command a better sale than German goods as a whole, and if the present progress be maintained, the day will come when Japanese goods will monopolize the markets in the Yangtze Valley. The silver market stands firm, facilitating transactions with Japan. Many Chinese merchants have removed to the foreign settlement, and business is steadily reviving.

THE third telephone extension programme had to be postponed this year owing to financial circumstances, according to Mr. Komatsu, Vice-Minister of Communications, but since the demand has increased of late to such an extent as to necessitate a radical extension of the service, the Government is determined to carry out the extension next year. The matter is now under careful investigation, but it remains still un-

settled whether the so-called six-years' programme will be followed. In view of the enormous outlay needed in the work and its close bearing on the State finances, it is difficult to predict the scope of the extension. The Government will, nevertheless, introduce an extension programme in the next session of the Diet.

Tokyo journals report that the Railway Board has at last decided to convert into an overhead railway that part of the state line traversing the centre of the city of Kobe, in order to remove the obstacles which it puts in the way of traffic, to the detriment of the prosperity of the city. Nothing is, however, stated as to the date of the execution of the work.

According to a Shanghai telegram to the *Chung* the Shanghai Spinning Mills have decided to ask the Government for financial aid, and negotiations with the Government have been entrusted to Chin Chi-mei, Minister of Commerce and Industry, who is leaving for Peking shortly. The mills ask for aid to the extent of 4,500,000 taels for the purchase of American cotton.

A LITHOGRAPHER, of Nagasaki, named Murakami Kitaro, aged 45, was arrested on Wednesday morning last on the writ of the Procurator of the Fukuoka Local Court, on a charge of making counterfeit notes. Murakami is alleged to have counterfeited the five yen banknotes of the Chinese Republic to the amount of ten thousand yen and exchanged part of them at Hakata. A domiciliary search subsequently made brought to light further evidence, and the authorities are said to be on the track of the accomplices.

With reference to the proposed issue of seven million yen worth of Osaka tramway bonds, it is reported that the Osaka bankers syndicate is now inviting the Tokyo bankers to participate in the subscription. The Tokyo bankers are indisposed to accept the proposal, however, as they consider the terms of the issue rather unfavourable under the present conditions of the money market. The bonds carry 5 per cent. interest and the net proceeds are fixed at 91. The Osaka bankers syndicate will therefore, have to accept the loan single handed or revise the terms of the issue if they desire to obtain the Tokyo bankers' participation.

A RUMOUR is current as to an increase of the minimum postage fee from 3 to 4 sen and for postcards from 1.5 to 2 sen. A responsible authority is quoted as saying that the proposal is by no means unreasonable in view of the increase in the cost of the postal service, but from other points of view it is inadvisable. The rumour may, nevertheless, turn out to be correct, although any considerable increase in revenue would not be realized. Last time the postal rate was raised the ratio of annual increase in the revenue witnessed a decrease instead of an increase. It is stated in this context that the annual increase in the postal revenue now amounts to about six million yen.

STATISTICAL investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, show that the consumption of rice, during the past three years by the Japanese people numbering 52,083,190, is, according to the latest census, on an average of 1 koku 1 shō 9 gō per capita per annum. The details are as below:—

	Koku.
Home products.....	51,136,292
Imported from abroad	1,395,096
Imported from Formosa	897,779
Imported from Chosen.....	22,826
Pre-imported	139
Exported abroad	342,413
Cleared for Formosa	34,009
Cleared for Chosen	2,134
Second export	654

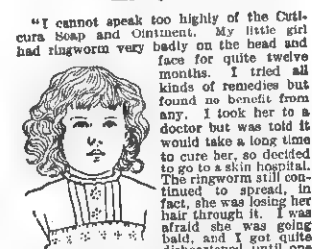
A SHANGHAI telegram to the *Chung* reports that the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce convened an extraordinary general meeting to consider the welcome to be accorded to the members of the Japanese House of Peers who are about to pay a visit to Shanghai. In the course of the meeting,

Chin Chong-li stated that the Chinese merchants planned a visit to Japan to inspect the conditions of commerce in that country and also to bring closer the cordial relations between the two peoples. Unfortunately, however, the plan had to be abandoned owing to the outbreak of the revolution. The statement of the House of Peers are now coming to China, and they must seize the opportunity to extend them a hearty welcome. The speech was received with applause.

The Salvation Army Charity Hospital, which has been in course of construction since last year at Nakaokachi machi, Shitaya, is now all but completed, and will be opened about the 15th June with Mr. Matsuda Sanya as the Medical Director. A nurses' training school, will be established within the institute, and a corps of properly trained nurses established, who will be sent to make house to house visits among the poorer quarters so that they may obtain proper medical treatment, either at the Hospital or in their own homes. In case the Hospital is found too small for all the patients, part of them will be taken into the Misui Charity Hospital and other similar institutes, with which negotiations for the above arrangement are in progress.

RINGWORM ON CHILD —WAS GOING BALD

Face and Head Affected 12 Months.
Improvement After First Use of
Cuticura Soap and Ointment.
Soon Trouble Disappeared. Also
Cured Grandmother of Bad Ulcer.



"I cannot speak too highly of the Cuticura Soap and Ointment. My little girl had ringworm very badly on the head and face for quite twelve months. I tried all kinds of remedies but found no benefit from any. I took her to a doctor but was told it would take a long time to cure her, so decided to go to a skin hospital. The ringworm still continued to spread. In fact, she was losing her hair through it. I was afraid she was going bald, and I got quite disheartened until one day I met a friend who had just cured her little girl with the Cuticura Remedies, and she advised me to try them. With the first application I could see an improvement. In a few weeks, the ringworm had disappeared, and the hair which had previously fallen off her head was growing fast, many thanks to Cuticura Soap and Ointment. My little girl will now bear inspection by anyone. She has a splendid skin and a lovely head of hair. My mother had a bad ulcer on her ankle, and it is quite cured with Cuticura Ointment and Soap. I would not be without the Cuticura Remedies, and the Soap is so refreshing and cooling in the bath. It is worth two tablets of ordinary soap for cleansing purposes. I have recommended the Cuticura Remedies to all my friends with equally good results." (Signed) Mrs. Loxley, Hale End House, Hale End Rd., Walthamstow, Essex, Eng., Jan. 14, 1911.

Samples with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Sq., London; E. Towns & Co., Sydney, N.S.W.; Lennon, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter, Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U.S.A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS.

Saturday, June 1.

In Raw Cotton, quotations, both for spot and forward positions, have fluctuated considerably during the past fortnight, owing to conflicting reports as to the prospects of the new American crop. In Cotton yarns, the market presents few features of interest. As to Cotton Piece goods, prices have gradually advanced. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the market is somewhat depressed, elections largely interfering with business.

RAW COTTON.	PER PICUL.
American Middling	35.50 to 36.00
Indian Broach	32.50 to 33.50
Chinese (Old crop)	34.00 to 34.50
Chinese (New crop)	—

COTTON YARN.	PER BAL.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in... 5.75 to 11.00

Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 46 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches 3.80 to 4.70 |

Cotton Italians 0.25 to 0.38 |

Cotton Venetians... .. 0.35 to 0.70 |

PER PIECE.

Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards 10.30 to 13.75 |

Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches... .. 14.50 to 17.50 |

Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches... .. 1.25 to 2.70 |

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels 0.44 to 0.70 |

Union Italians 0.44 to 0.70 |

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium. .. 0.27 to 0.39 |

Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best 0.31 to 0.33 |

Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches — |

METALS.

The home market is firm.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square Y. 4.55 to 4.60 |

Iron or Mild Steel, Plate 5.30 to 5.35 |

Sheet Iron 6.10 to 6.50 |

Sheet Mild Steel... .. 6.90 to 7.05 |

Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated... .. 10.85 to 11.10 |

Flat 11.45 to 11.55 |

Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments 7.15 to 7.20 |

Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.... .. 7.70 to 7.80 |

Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar" 2.40 to 2.45 |

KEROSENE.

The market maintains quiet tone.

Chester... .. Y. 4.26 |

Victory 3.94 |

Nonpareil 4.90 |

Somatra 3.17 to 3.25 |

Burneo 3.02 to 3.40 |

Hokuyetsu 3.00 to 3.55 |

Nippon 2.78 to 3.55 |

Ogura 3.77 |

SUGAR.

Business doing all round.

Brown Manila Y. 12.50 |

Brown China 11.50 |

Brown Java 16.30 to 16.40 |

White Java 14.40 to 22.50 |

White Refined (German) 15.50 to 18.30 |

" (Hongkong) 14.80 to 22.50 |

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done all round.

Calcutta first... .. Y. 240.00 |

" second 200.00 |

Java, first 320.00 |

" second... .. 280.00 |

Madras, first... .. — |

" second — |

Artificial "horse and lion" brand 2.00 |

Artificial "Kenshin" 2.00 |

FLOUR.

The market steady.

Gold Drop Yen. 11.45 to 11.55 |

Flag 10.95 to 11.00 |

Royal 10.95 to 11.00 |

Trophy 11.51 |

Red Seal 11.15 to 11.25 |

Lion 11.75 |

Portland 11.15 to 11.20 |

Premier 11.75 to 11.85 |

Japanese:—

Rising Sun..... 6 *kwansins* 2.70 |

Takasago 2.75 |

Fuji 2.85 |

Pine 2.70 |

WHEAT.

The market generally active.

White Walls Walls, 100 lbs	Yen.
Red	6.00 to 6.10
Blue Stem	5.90 to 6.00
	6.00 to 6.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A good enquiry, but restricted transactions owing to the scarcity of suitable quality.
On May 15th stocks were: Filatures 6,500 piculs, Re-reels, 120 piculs; Kakeda, 60 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	Yen.	920
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse		880
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse		890
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den		865
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den		915
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den		970
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den		900
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den		840
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha		830
Re-reels—Extra		—
Re-reels—No. 1		—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2		850
Re-reels—No. 2		—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra		—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop		855
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop		845
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop		835

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

May.	May delivery.	June delivery.	July delivery.
25th	84.00	84.40	87.30
27th	84.00	84.40	87.10
28th	83.80	84.10	86.70
29th	83.40	83.90	86.70
30th	83.60	84.00	87.00

WASTE SILK.

A steady business done; prices are firmer with a tendency towards an advance.
On May 15th stocks were:—Noshi, 700 piculs; Kibiso, 2,300 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Yen.	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good		—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good		—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium		—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior		—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good		—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium		—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior		—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good		—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium		—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior		50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best		—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good		—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium		—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior		95 to 105

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—A slight decline for the lighter weights, such as 6 and 6 1/2 me; but the grades above these remain practically unchanged.

Kanazawa:—Little change in the market; but what alterations are shown in prices have been downwards.

Kawamata:—No change; prices being maintained.

"PINK-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 me.	6 1/2 me.	7 me.	7 1/2 me.	8 me.
22 1/2"	7.55	7.40	7.25	7.25	7.25
27"	7.40	7.40	7.50	7.70	7.35
36"	7.45	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.30

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4 1/2 me.	4 me.	3 1/2 me.	4 me.	5 me.	5 1/2 me.
22 1/2"	7.65	7.90	7.45	7.45	7.40	7.40
27"	7.40	7.35	7.20	7.40	7.20	7.30
36"	7.60	7.40	7.30	7.35	7.35	7.35

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 me.	3 1/2 me.	4 me.	4 1/2 me.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.50	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of May 29th the quotation was £76.1.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen	43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin		38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin		47.00—50.00
Pre		39.50—33.00

RICE.

The market is active.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags.	496,510	
Foreign rice in Fukagawa		120,043	
Delivery,	Closing Price		
May		19.87	
June		20.06	
July		20.20	
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)		
May	20.20	May	20.06
June	20.15	June	19.95
July	19.95	July	19.86

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

Superior	Medium	Common	Average
Yen	21.90	20.80	19.40
per koku	20.80	19.40	20.0

TEA.

Supplies coming forward gradually, and the market has generally maintained a basis of yen 3 to 4 above last year. Large arrivals are looked for shortly.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	¥.48 & upward
Finest	44 to 48
Fine	40 to 44
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery	Yen.
May	—
June	144.70
July	142.80

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, May 30
London silver 1/2 lower for spot only, China sterling quotations and 1 cal rates unaltered.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	257
— Private 4 months' sight	261 1/2 @ 1
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	154 1/2
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 99 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	do 97 1/2
Shanghai—Bank sight	73 1/2
— Private 10 days' sight	74 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	28 1/2 @ 1/2

* Nominal.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Bramley, British steamer, 2,788, W. Ruihen, 24th May.—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.	
Shibetoro Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,478, T. Take-mura, 24th May.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.	
Persia, British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 24th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.	
Chikusen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date, 24th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Syria, British steamer, 4,191, R. A. Peters, 24th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.	
Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,742, S. Katori, 24th May.—Bassett (Burmah), Rice.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.	
Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,803, S. Wada, 24th May.—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Bentworth, British steamer, 2,164, F. Smith, 25th May.—London via ports, General.—Corney & Co.	
Seishu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 26th May.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	

Ume Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, S. Nakayama, 26th May.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Glenesk, British steamer, 2,275, E. Williams, 26th May.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Mexican Prince, British steamer, 1,953, J. C. Young, 26th May.—Palambang via Singapore and Kobe, Kerosine Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Goeben, German steamer, 5,151, A. Ahlborn, 26th May.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, A. W. Nelson, 27th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Pakling, British steamer, 2,875, Bie, 27th May.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Germania, German steamer, 1,714, Hansen, 27th May.—Ilo Ilo and Manila, Sugar.—Dudwell & Co., Ltd.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 27th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimizu, 28th May.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nera, French steamer, 3,429, Casanova, 29th May.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, Woodget, 29th May.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Iola, British steamer, 3,362, W. W. Tucker, 29th May.—Rangoon via ports, General.—Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 29th May.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 30th May.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American line O.S.K.)

Tjipanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Scholten, 30th May.—Batavia via Hongkong, General.—Ed. L. Van Nierop & Co.

Talhybius, British steamer, 6,225, H. Allen, 30th May.—Tacoma, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

DEPARTURES.

Westminster, British steamer, 2,764, W. J. Williams, 24th May.—Geelong (Australia) via Baracouta and Mororan, in Ballast to Baracouta.—Sale & Frazar Ltd.

Lothian, British steamer, 3,223, Lookhart, 24th May.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Panama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, K. Muto, 24th May.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co. (Agents, American line O.S.K.)

Persia, British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 25th May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Nile, British steamer, 3,135, Eggleston, 25th May.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.

Tuscarora, British steamer, 3,925, F. S. Hollinshead, 25th May.—Kutsunutsu, Kerosine Oil.—Standard Oil Co.

Nikko Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,434, M. Yagi, 25th May.—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Cyclops, British steamer, 5,748, Clarke, 25th May.—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Keul, British cruiser, 9,800, Capt. A. T. Hunt, 25th May.—Wei-hai-wei.

Mormouth, British cruiser, 9,800, Capt. B. Bartlett, 25th May.—Wei-hai-wei.

Ernest Simons, French steamer, 2,162, Girard, 25th May.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Yamaguchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,059, K. Kinoshita, 26th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shibetoro Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,478, T. Take-mura, 26th May.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Stentor, British steamer, 4,308, A. D. Baker, 27th May.—Milke, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Tamba Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,803, S. Wada, 27th May.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ume Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,714, S. Nakayama, 27th May.—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Saishu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,312, M. Taniguchi, 28th May.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Korea, American steamer, 5,651, A. W. Nelson, 28th

May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.
—P.M. S.S. Co.
Saikai Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,742, S. Katori,
20th May.—Milke, Ballast.—Mitsui Bussan Kai-
sha.
Packline, British steamer, 2,875, R. Bie, 20th May.
—Kuchino, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.
Chikusan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, T. Date,
30th May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.
—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Denverlich, British steamer, 2,164, F. Smith, 30th
May.—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Corney & Co.
Germania, German steamer, 1,714, Hansen, 30th
May.—Mojito, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

PASSENGERS. ARRIVED.

Per British steamer *Persia* from San Francisco via
Honolulu.—Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Andrews, and
Infant, Dr. Victor S. Clark, Mr. T. Domoto, Mr. and
Mrs. K. Ebeshi, Mr. and Mrs. A. Felix, Mr. and
Mrs. Jan Havass, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hudiburg,
Mr. and Mrs. E. Hartley Jr., Mr. F. Rigaud Hegoeira,
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Oberg, Mr. W. W. Wilson and
Mr. F. de St. Phalle. For Kobe.—Mr. and Mrs.
Willis Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lawrie and
Mr. E. Phillips. For Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs.
H. A. Baker, Miss M. Brommman, Miss N. Decarli,
Mr. Geo. A. Grant, Miss M. B. Jenkins, Mr. J. N.
Joyner, Mr. G. C. Morgan, Rev. and Mrs. W. N.
Ruhl and infant and Miss Ester Rohl. For Hong-
kong.—Mr. Edwin M. Amies, Mrs. M. R. Coppage,
Miss Dorothy Coppage, Miss G. W. Daywall, Miss
M. Decker, Mrs. J. Dyer, Mrs. J. A. Fowler, Mr.
and Mrs. W. Hall, Miss Anne Hall, Miss A. Ham-
lin, Mrs. C. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. E. Kummerfeldt,
Mr. Anton Lothian, Mr. C. H. Link, Mrs. E. J. Mac-
Gottick, Mrs. C. D. McGee, Mr. Thos. B. Pellett, Mr.
and Mrs. Quan Shung Tsey, Mr. and Mrs. E. F.
Russell, Mrs. H. F. Schuldt and Mr. A. Seegmiller
in cabin.

Per American steamer *Korea* from San Francisco
via Honolulu.—Mr. A. Daub, Mr. R. H. Hill, Mr.
S. E. Hangerson, Mr. I. M. Isaacs, Mr. S. Rosenthal,
Mr. T. Kawaguchi, Mr. F. R. Evans, Mr. and Mrs.
C. Paes de Barros, Miss E. Paes de Barros, Mr. and
Mrs. W. E. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Oakes,
Master Paul J. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schultz, Master
A. Schultz, Miss W. Richardson, Mrs. G. L. Pollock,
Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Bell, Mr. G. Romer and
Mr. G. A. Voute. For Kobe.—Miss Ada Mc-
Murphy, Miss M. B. Sherman, Mr. Wm. P.
Parker, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Parker and Master
Jos. Parker. For Nagasaki.—Mr. E. J. Hazen,
For Manila.—Mr. G. G. Adams, Mr. D. Arenstein,
Mr. Chas. A. Blue, Mr. H. F. Bradley, Mr. W. G.
Buckisch, Mr. J. P. Burns, Mr. A. Barnaud, Mr. C.

W. Campbell, Miss Chappell, Mr. P. Cochran, Mr.
T. J. Cole, Mr. Frank Craft, Miss Mary Crans, Mr.
J. K. Creamer, Mr. B. A. Crumb, Mr. G. Cunning-
ham, Mr. C. P. Davenport, Mr. A. W. Davis, Mr. F.
G. Decker, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Early, Mr. Guy L.
Ecroyd, Mr. G. H. Eickhoff, Mr. A. C. Elliot, Mr. A.
C. Elliot, Mr. A. Gerlach, Mr. W. Gleason, Mr. B.
S. Ton Nagen, Mr. C. H. Hallin, Mr. Harstine, Mr.
S. B. Horton, Mr. N. M. Imboden, Miss S. Johnson,
Mr. S. L. Joseph, Mr. Wm. Klepinger, Mr. S. B.
Landis, Mr. E. M. Ledyard, Miss C. H. Ioeber, Mr.
Mr. Leroy Martin, Mr. S. E. Mavity, Mr. J. H.
McBridge, Mr. Thos. D. McGrath, Mrs. L. D. Mc-
Millan, Mr. H. T. Meriller, Mr. F. E. Moir, Mr. H.
L. Morrison, Mr. A. T. Newman, Dr. P. Newton,
Mr. Geo. P. Nickerson, Miss N. B. Rice, Mr.
Q. E. Pichaudson, Mr. E. N. Richey, Mr. J. M.
Roberts, Miss H. H. Schell, Mr. H. H. Sheaff,
Mr. M. M. Shores, Mr. W. E. Simpson, Mr.
B. Spears, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Steinmetz, Master H.
Steinmetz, Mr. L. E. Stevens, Mr. K. E. Taulbee,
Mr. E. B. Thebaud, Mr. Jos. V. Thebaud, Mr. F. M.
Thompson, Mr. L. Thompson, Mrs. D. G. Thomson,
Dr. and Mrs. Chas. G. Thompson, Mr. S. C. Thom-
son, Jr., Mr. L. G. True, Mr. O. C. Turner, Mr. A.
F. Unckrich, Mr. J. G. Warwick, Mr. H. E. Willis,
Mr. Max Toulas and Mr. F. S. Towles. For
Hongkong.—Mr. M. E. Botsford, Mr. E. Davis,
G. Luper, Mrs. M. L. Rice, Miss M. R. Rice, Mr.
and Mrs. E. E. Shauer in cabin.

DEPARTED.

Per British steamer *Nile* for San Francisco via
Honolulu.—Mr. L. H. Badger, Mr. and Mrs. C. C.
Baldwin, Master Haldwin, Mr. C. C. Baldwin, Jr.,
Mr. C. A. Bauer, Miss Grassie Bulkley, Mrs. W. H.
Bush, Mr. William van Buskirk, Mr. W. Cantairo,
Mr. H. P. Cerrito, Mr. S. J. Ceeu, Mr. F. S. Chang,
Mrs. Chin Shee, Mrs. Chin Shee, Jr., Mrs. Chum-
-hee, Mrs. A. Coffin, Mr. A. Cottage, Master F.
Cranen, Mr. W. Conan, Mr. Adam C. Derkum,
Mrs. Mary C. Dowd, Miss Edith Dowd, Miss Frances
Dowd, Mrs. Thelma Elten, Mr. and Mrs. E. E.
Eubank, Mr. J. C. Entricar, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F.
Fox, Mrs. W. A. Gill, Father O. Ciespo Garcia,
Father Francisco Gutierrez, Mr. and Mrs. M. E.
Hankin, Mr. K. Hayashi, Captain P. E. Hemmett,
Mrs. B. Hart, Mr. J. B. Hyde-Smith, Mrs. Agnes
Jones, Miss J. H. Johnson, Sister Joseph, Dr. E.
Keyl Dr. and Mrs. L. Knox, Mr. W. di Kwan Pin, Mr.
and Mrs. Thomas W. Kydd, Mr. L. G. Lehoussie, Dr.
W. A. McVean, Miss L. McVean, Mr. J. B. Martin,
Mr. H. V. Miles, Mrs. Geo. Miller, Miss Miller, Mr.
E. L. Mills, Mrs. T. Miyake, Mrs. M. Nichol, Mr. H.
Peterson, Miss Phoebe Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. E. S.
Poutkowski, Mr. A. P. Quirnobach, Mrs. F. J. Raven
and infant, Mrs. O. E. Reh, Miss Ethel Reh, Master
Ralph Reh, Master Emil Reh, Mr. D. C. Roberts,

Father Saldana, Miss G. Viola Salada, Mrs. H. C.
Schofield, Miss See Kani Nung, Mr. See Young Oong,
Mr. W. Sidebottom, Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Lacey Sites,
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Steehler, Mr. So Oh Fong, Miss
Harriet Tabor, Mr. N. W. Ting, Mrs. S. M. Traven,
Mr. B. Welch, Mrs. M. E. Weller, Miss Weller, Mr.
Wing Wee Yee, Mr. K. Wong, Miss Woo, Dr. K.
Zenihito, Mr. H. W. Adams, Miss T. Bidekop,
Mr. and Mrs. B. Le Blanc, Master Cheuk Shiu In,
Master Chouk Shiu Kwan, Mr. C. H. Danzenberg,
Mr. E. C. Downing, Mr. and Mrs. H. Frankel, Mr.
and Mrs. R. H. George, Mrs. J. F. Gressitt, Mr. W.
D. Hickey, Mr. E. P. Hickey, Mr. and Mrs. W. R.
Hughes, Miss Hughes, Mrs. Y. Kimura, Miss D.
King, Mr. Lee Sing Kun, Mrs. and Mrs. A. Leoad,
Madame P. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Lydston, Miss
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Mr. E. J. S. Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Water,
Miss Maria Cranen, Mr. J. M. Jones and Miss F.
Gressitt in cabin.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date.
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	Su June 2
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Tu June 4
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India 1	W June 5
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Th June 6
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru 2	Th June 6
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Monteagle	Su June 9
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	M June 10
Europe	N. D. L.	Derflinger	M June 10
America	P. M.	Siberia 3	Tu June 11
Europe	M. M.	Salazie	W June 11
Hongkong	P. M.	Persia	F June 21
Hongkong	B. L.	Orteric	Th June 27
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu July 2

- 1 Left Vancouver on the 23rd ult.
- 2 Left Seattle on the 21st ult.
- 3 Left San Francisco on the 25th ult.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date.
America	P. M.	Mongolia	Sa June 1
Europe	N. D. L.	Goeben	Sa June 1
Hongkong	B. L.	Ocean	Sa June 1
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Kasuga Maru	Su June 2
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Canada Maru	Tu June 4
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Yokohama Maru	W June 5
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	W June 5
Europe	N. Y. K.	Iyo Maru	W June 5
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th June 6
Europe	M. M.	Nera	Sa June 8
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa June 8
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Monteagle	Su June 9
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	M June 10
Hongkong	P. M.	Siberia	W June 12
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	W June 12
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	Tu June 18
Tacoma	B. & S.	Antiochus	Sa June 22
Australia	N. Y. K.	Kumano Maru	Sa June 22
Seattle	B. L.	Orteric	F June 28
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	F July 5

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YOKOHAMA, JUNE 8TH, 1912.

明治廿五年三月廿日
第三千四百四十四號

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL," must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH, 1912.

BIRTH.

WEINSTEIN.—The wife of Mr. WEINSTEIN, of a Son,—Raymond—on 31st May, at 35-A Bluff.

MARRIAGE.

HARRISON—ROSS.—At H.B.M.'s Consulate General, Yokohama, and at St. Andrew's Church, Tokyo, on the 1st June, by the Revd. Wm. C. Gemmill, Ernest John, second son of JOHN POWELL HARRISON of Manchester, England, to CECILY MURIEL, elder daughter of John Christopher Ross of Tokyo.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

The death is announced of Sir Edward Sassoon, Bt.

The death is announced of Mary, Dowager Duchess of Sutherland.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE paid a visit to the General Staff on Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock.

BARON ISHII, the newly appointed Ambassador to France, is expected to leave for his post on the 28th instant.

COUNT TERAUCHI, Governor-General of Chosen, has been promoted to the Second Rank of the Junior Grade.

H. H. THE CROWN PRINCESS has announced her intention of paying a visit to the Women's University at Meiji-dai on the 8th instant.

THE Training Squadron *Soya* and *Asuma*, now anchored at Etajima, will start on a cruise about July 17th with 150 graduates of the Naval Academy.

PRINCE and Princess Kanin will leave for Aomori and Akita on the 20th instant to attend the general meetings of the local Women's Patriotic Association to be held on the 22nd and 25th respectively.

THE annual military manoeuvres will be held this autumn in Saitama prefecture, in the presence of H.M. the Emperor. The Imperial Guards Division, and the 1st, 13th and 14th Divisions will participate.

A DISPATCH from Kyoto reports the destruction by fire of the famous Yaami Hotel at Maruyama Park, about two o'clock on Wednesday morning. The cause of the outbreak is attributed to the fusing of an electric wire.

A OFFICIAL dispatch reaching the Foreign Office reports that despite Opposition the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet adopted the Conscription Service Bill on the 4th instant, under skillful management of the House by its new president.

PRINCE KATSURA, ex-Premier, will start on a tour throughout Europe and America on the 7th of July, accompanied by Baron Goto and others. The party will first visit Russia via Siberia, and is expected to return in the latter part of October.

MR. NICHII, Counsellor of the Embassy in Austria, Mr. Funakoshi, Counsellor of the Embassy in Germany, and Mr. Taguchi, Counsellor of the Embassy in Russia, who will shortly leave for their respective posts, were received in audience by H. M. the Emperor on the 5th instant.

THEIR MAJESTIES the King and Queen held a Court at Buckingham Palace on the 3th ult. Previous to the Court the King gave an audience to His Excellency Baron Kato, Japanese Ambassador, who delivered a message to His Majesty from his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Amongst those presented in the general circle was Miss Samuel, by her mother, Lady Samuel.

WITH reference to the accelerated telephone installation in Tokyo, applications for which will be received during the ten days commencing from the 1st instant, a responsible authority is quoted as saying that the instruments to be installed this year are limited to 3,500 in number, while the applications will be closely examined with a view to ensuring a fair distribution. Al-

though priority in application will not outweigh other considerations, those applicants who filed applications between 1904 and 1910 stand a better chance of getting an instrument than others.

MESSRS. MISHIMA and Kanakuri, who are competing in the Olympic Games, are reported to have reached Stockholm on Sunday afternoon. They were accorded a hearty reception at the pier and were the guests of honour at a banquet given by the Japanese Minister on the following evening.

THE death is announced of Colonel Akiyama Fusajiro, President of the Cavalry Training School, the sad event taking place on Sunday evening at six o'clock. His Majesty was pleased to promote the Colonel, prior to his death, to the Fifth Rank of the Senior Grade. The deceased was in his forty-eighth year.

FRIENDS of the Rev. H. B. Schwartz of Naha, Okinawa, will be surprised to learn that he has been unexpectedly summoned to America on account of his wife's health. He will sail by the *Tenyo Maru*, and may be addressed at 771 Chapman St., San Jose, California, where Mrs. Schwartz and her two daughters have been living since 1909.

THE Danish Government has decided to establish a Danish Legation for Japan and China in Tokyo. Mr. R. Feld, who was formerly Secretary of the Russian Legation in China, has been appointed the first Danish Minister to Japan and China, and he is expected to arrive towards the end of this month. The new Legation will be located temporarily on the premises of the Dutch Legation in Shiba Park.

A FORECAST published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce puts the barley crop this year at 22,055,036 *koku*, which shows an increase of 121,606 *koku*, or 6 per cent. over the preceding year, and also an increase of 856,853 *koku*, or 4 per cent., over the past five years' average. It is believed that the actual yield will reach this figure if no unfavourable weather intervenes between now and harvest time.

LIEUT. SHIRASE's Antarctic Exploration boat *Kaiman Maru*, which left Wellington on April 2nd, is reported to have arrived at the Bonin Islands on the 5th instant. It is therefore expected to reach Yokohama within a week's time. A grand reception is being arranged under the auspices of Count Okuma and other supporters. The boat will be taken either to Shinagawa or to the mouth of the Sumida river, where it will be thrown open to public inspection.

TOKYO Journals report that treaty revision having now been nearly concluded and Japanese diplomats having already been suitably rewarded for their special labours, H.M. the Emperor will be pleased to confer on Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Ambassador, the Grand Cordon of the Paulownia Imperial Order, together with some valuable presents. Baron Malevitch, the Russian Ambassador, and M. Gerard, the French Ambassador, who already hold the highest Order of the Decoration, and Mr. O'Brien, the ex-United States Ambassador, will not be decorated but will be presented with some valuable gifts, while the German and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors and the Ministers of other treaty Powers will be decorated with Orders ranging from the First-class towards the end of this month or early next month.

THE LOAN QUESTION.

Friday, May 31.

The present phase of the loan question looks very hopeless. The Foreign Syndicate has intimated to the Chinese Government that in view of the events in China and the attitude of the people, no further confidence can be placed in any engagements entered into by a Chinese Ministry. The Syndicate therefore withdraws from the conference, retracts the provisions of the seven articles embodied in the original document and declines to continue the discussion. On receipt of this intimation the Chinese Minister of Finance laid his resignation on the table, and a deadlock has resulted. Of course it is a very conceivable conjecture that an extreme position has been reached by the parties to the controversy. Neither may be altogether sincere. The Chinese, while clamouring against a foreign loan, may be fully cognizant of its necessity, and may be utilizing the Young-China faction merely for the purpose of intimidating the foreign creditors. The latter, on the other hand, may have judged that the time has arrived for forcing the hand of the Chinese sentimentalists. The danger is that each side may carry this academical discussion to an inconvenient point; a point from which there can be no retirement without violence. That, however, is not a very probable conjecture. The Chinese know perfectly well, even when they are flaunting flags of financial independence from the battlements of Nanking and Canton, that recourse to foreign money is inevitable sooner or later, and there is no reason to anticipate that if they are reluctant to empty their pockets on the altar of patriotism, they are less reluctant to shed their blood on the same account. Under whatever aspect the situation be viewed, the only feasible exit is foreign capital.

It is a veritable season of controversy. The political party known as the *Tungming-hui*, which is under the leadership of ex-President Sun Yat-sen and Governor-General Hwang, is opposing a foreign loan with the utmost vehemence and without the least sign of compromise. Two other parties, namely, the *Tung-i-hui* and the *Kungcho hui*, who are under the leadership of President Yuan and his lieutenants, insist that sooner or later recourse must be had to foreign money, and that unpleasant as the necessity is, it has to be faced. There is a fourth party calling themselves Nationalists (*Kwomin-hui*). This association is working in concert with the party of ex-President Sun and Governor-General Hwang, and is making a great deal of capital out of the alleged but probably manufactured story that the American Minister in Peking has pointed out the dangers of a foreign loan and is urging the Chinese statesmen to abstain from anything of the kind—a line of policy which is winning golden opinions for his Excellency. Altogether opinions appear to have developed a maximum of confusion, but happily a simple remedy is available. The Chinese Government can save the situation at any moment by stepping down and entrusting to ex-President Sun and Governor-General Hwang the duty of putting their theory to the test of practice. If the people and the politicians who denounce any foreign loan be afforded an opportunity of tendering their

own money in anything like sufficient volume to form a solid basis for a fiat currency, then the management of the country's financial affairs may be safely left in their hands. But if their theories be not verified by facts, then there will be nothing for them but to step aside altogether, as until one event or the other has been submitted to the test of practice the situation must be left obscure.

The *Asahi Shimbun's* correspondent in Peking sends an interesting telegram to Tokyo. He believes that all this unrest among politicians, and all this intrigue and commotion in administrative circles, is due to the personal ambition of disappointed applicants for office under the Republican regime, or to the dissatisfaction of men whom the event deprived of power and emoluments. In fact, the Tokyo journal's correspondent regards the whole disturbance as an outcome of personal ambitions.

A somewhat sensational paragraph is published by the *Asahi Shimbun*. It is to the effect that men, apparently disguised soldiers, are entering Peking daily three or four at a time, and their number has now reached some five hundred. They are suspected of being engaged in some plot and their movements are anxiously watched.

Saturday, June 1.

The attempt to finance the Chinese administration without recourse to a foreign loan seems to be about to be practically tested. At the same time, so many and such various statements have been promulgated with regard to this problem that we hesitate to accept any new account as conclusive. Since, however, it is evident that the choice lies between dispensing with a foreign loan and accepting conditions which seem to have become intolerable to the Southern Statesmen, it is not incredible that the accounts now published rightly describe the policy which the Government has decided to adopt. That policy is to issue 200,000,000 dollars of fiat currency without any security except voluntary subscriptions put up by the people. In exchange for such subscriptions the Treasury will issue bonds carrying five per cent. interest and the bonds will be handed over to subscribers at 95. It will be at once evident that this is a very hazardous scheme, since no ratio is fixed between the volume of the fiat currency and the amount of the reserves. This is of course a vital point. If a large quantity, in fact an unlimited quantity, of unexchangeable notes are to be issued without any guarantee whatever, China will cut herself off completely from everything like sound finance. It is impossible to believe that such a system is seriously contemplated. Our readers will remember that the sums offered to form a patriotic fund did not exceed 4 million dollars at the very centres of the anti-loan movement. How then are we to suppose that such subscriptions will ultimately reach a figure sufficient to constitute a reserve for 200 million dollars of paper currency? It is much more conceivable that the Central Government in Peking is endeavouring to force the hands of the Southern Statesmen, and that the Chinese Minister of Finance has simply stepped aside and left the Nanking patriots to make practical trial of their impossible scheme without committing the Central Government to any such child-like manoeuvres.

Two or three days ago, the telegraph informed us that the American Representative in Peking had advised the Chinese

statesmen to refrain from contracting any foreign loan disfigured by features which would plainly menace China's autonomy. While the public is still wondering what this telegram meant, another message is transmitted from the Chinese capital saying that the English Minister there, Sir John Jordan, has addressed a note to the Wai-wu pu suggesting that as the Four-Power Syndicate does not entertain any unfriendly feelings towards China, it would be well for the Chinese statesmen to make up their minds at once as to whether or not they seriously contemplate recourse to foreign money. Further, Sir John advises that the Minister of Finance in Peking should reconsider his project of resigning. It is hard to believe that any such suggestions can have been made by the British Representative.

As to the action taken by the Four-Power Syndicate in suspending negotiations, and in withholding the remaining sum of the preliminary loan, namely 3 million taels, it would seem that the rumour is at least premature. But the transaction continues to be enveloped in uncertainty. The only thing of which we can be quite sure, is that the Syndicate has already paid over 6,100,000 taels.

Meanwhile President Yuan is strenuously working to prevent the resignation of the members of his Cabinet, and it would seem that he has thus far succeeded.

One most extraordinary story is that the Chinese Ministry have decided to adopt the device of a lottery, and that they look forward to obtaining 50 million taels by that process.

Sunday, June 2.

Under the influence of strong pressure from many quarters the Peking Government has finally decided to put to the test of actual practice the programme which has come to be known as that of "Southern China." In other words, voluntary subscriptions in silver hard money will be invited from the capitalists of the country, and will form security for the issue of fiduciary notes to the extent of from 150 to 200 millions of taels. The idea is that the Chinese inhabitants of the Straits Settlements will find from 20 to 30 millions of taels, and the remaining 30 to 20 millions will be obtained from the capitalists of the home country. Apparently none of the Northern Statesmen anticipate a successful issue of this policy, but, on the other hand, the clamour against a foreign loan has developed such force that the only efficacious method of defeating it is to put it to the test of actual practice. Meanwhile it seems likely that the resignations of the Minister of Finance and his colleagues will be held over until the outcome of the fiat currency experiment.

The great heat which this controversy has excited may be gathered from the language of a representation which Governor-General Hwang has addressed to the Members of the Cabinet and to the Council of State. The Governor-General virtually describes all the advocates of a foreign loan as traitors to their country, and denounces the policy of such a loan as a certain means of overthrowing China. He asks whether he and his comrades drew their swords against the Manchu Dynasty for the sake of dividing China into factions and handing her over to the supervision of foreign statesmen. That was not the purpose for which the enemies of Imperialism took the field and braved the hardships of

a sanguine campaign. No loyal Chinaman will agree to lend himself to such courses. One cannot read this pronouncement without some uneasiness. The loans which the Young China Party attempted in recent years to raise for the sake of depriving foreigners of a right to interfere in China's domestic affairs, had nothing really formidable about them as their leaders were in every case men of comparative insignificance; but a movement which has the outspoken support of men like Governor-General Hwang, ex-President Sun and other republican leaders assumes a very different complexion. No one can deny that a situation of great gravity exists in China. The newly-organised Republic seems to be stumbling on the threshold of its initial endeavours.

On the other hand, there is always the hypothesis that the Government has recognized the necessity of applying the test of practise to this Inconvertible note scheme, and has no real intention of allowing it to become the financial policy of the country. In that case, which we ourselves are strongly disposed to credit, the only harm done will have been some needless delay.

The *Chuo Shimbun* says that President Yuan has adopted the shrewd course of inviting all the prominent publicists of China to meet in Peking for the purpose of discussing the situation. The names mentioned are those of General Li, ex-President Sun, General Hwang, Dr. Wu, Mr. Chang, Governor-General Chao, and Messrs. Kwan and Liang. It is, however, very doubtful whether many of these men will respond to the invitation. General Hwang will probably be among the acceptors of the situation, for he has at last obtained permission to resign provided that he hastens to the capital for purposes of consultation. But many of the other reformed leaders will hesitate to imperil themselves by a visit to the metropolis at this juncture.

It must be confessed that the administration in China is assuming the aspect of something like a fiasco. The troops who were raised to overthrow the Manchu Dynasty refuse to lay down their arms at the bidding of their leaders. The leaders are already at logger-heads with their own administrative nominees. The nominees have declined to discharge any executive functions, and the new Republic has not yet obtained the recognition of foreign Powers. Greater confusion could hardly be conceived.

Another step taken by President Yuan has been to address to the Council of State an enquiry as to whether the Council approves of the resignations of the various Ministers of State who are now absenting themselves from their offices so that the carriage of affairs is completely suspended. To this query, the Council has replied that it has no inclination to endorse these resignations. Accordingly, the President has requested the portfolio-holders to resume the discharge of their functions.

The only bright spot on the horizon is that the provincial authorities at Hankow seem to have succeeded in raising a domestic loan of 25 million *yen* for the purpose of rebuilding the city. This is called a domestic loan, but in reality the money is furnished by American capitalists, and it is thought not improbable that the amount may be increased to 30 or 40 million *yen* eventually.

Wednesday, June 5.

On the 4th instant a meeting of the State

Council was held in Peking, the principal subject discussed being the resignation of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister, Mr. Tang Shao-i, announced that in deference to the opinion of his colleagues he was prepared to remain in office. The Ministers of Education and of Communications adopted a similar tone. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Hsiung, utilised the occasion for the purpose of declaring that without foreign money the finances of the country could not be placed on a solid basis. This last declaration appears to have evoked some expressions of dissent, but on the whole the Council did not adopt any resolutions hostile to the Finance Minister's programme.

Mr. Chen, Governor-General of the province of Kilin, has addressed to the Central Government a memorial pointing out that however desirable a patriotic fund may be, it cannot possibly be raised in China without offering some special inducement to the people. If men were invited to subscribe voluntarily, they would not loosen their purse strings, and if they were subjected to official pressure, they would resort to violence rather than acquiesce. In these circumstances, Governor-General Chen expresses the conviction that the only hope lies in offering good security and ample reward. In other words, he would float State bonds carrying substantial interest and guaranteed by State property. It must be confessed, however, that these suggestions do not bring us much nearer to a solution of the problem. If it be really possible to follow the Governor-General's advice, Chinese finances are in a much more advanced condition than is generally supposed.

Meanwhile, things are taking just the course that might have been anticipated. In other words, the wealthy men are in a state of panic, and imagining that they would be called upon for heavy contributions, are busily engaged taking steps to conceal their funds. The middle and lower classes, who do not anticipate any serious inroads upon their fortunes, are not specially excited, and on the contrary are preaching the doctrine of patriotic duty. We have as yet no clue to indicate the amount of money likely to be voluntarily subscribed. There is an evident difficulty about this point, namely that the Cabinet as such can scarcely lend itself to the promotion of the voluntary problem. If the Ministers of the Republic associate themselves with that scheme, its defeat—which may be taken as a foregone conclusion—would effectually discredit the Government.

Thursday, June 6.

After the secret meeting of the Council of State on the 4th instant, the Minister of Finance is said to have repaired to the office of the Four Power Syndicate, and to have explained that if the Syndicate would agree to withdraw the two irksome concessions, namely, foreign supervision of the uses to which the loan was put, and the presence of an official of the Customs at the time of disbanding the troops, the negotiations for the loan might be resumed with a fair chance of success. The representatives of the Syndicate are said to have replied that all possible concessions had been already made, and that nothing more could be granted. The Minister of Finance is reported to have withdrawn *re infecta*.

The importance of this item of news is very clear. It shows, on the one hand, that the Central Government is willing to continue the negotiations in defiance of the anti-loan attitude assumed by the Southern Statesmen; and it shows, in the second place, that the Syndicate feels very secure in its estimate of the situation. In fact the public must now be content to await for some time the decision arrived at by the negotiating parties, and of course that interval of waiting will furnish an opportunity of which the newsmongers are certain to take advantage.

Meanwhile the only danger is that the situation may pass beyond the control of either side. A message from the big province of Szchuan suggests something of this kind. It alleges that the anti-foreign-money agitation is growing in dimensions and threatens to be as vehement ultimately as it was a year ago, when Szchuan became so conspicuous for unruly conduct.

President Yuan is reported to have invited from Governor-General Chao at Mukden a frank expression of opinion as to the needs of the situation. The President is represented as saying plainly that owing to opposition on the part of the Southern Statesmen it is found impossible to have recourse to foreign money; that talk is heard about a voluntary subscription to meet the needs of the State, but that it is extremely doubtful whether such a plan would prove adequate; and finally that since unpreparedness at such a juncture might involve a catastrophe, it is advisable for the responsible officials of the country to interchange their views with regard to the crisis. If President Yuan has really taken such a course, there is substantial reason for uneasiness. But who is to assure us that any such step has been taken? It must often have occurred to our readers that China furnishes innumerable examples of the old proverb "Nothing is so fully revealed as that which is most carefully concealed." It is the commonest possible experience in connection with Chinese administrative affairs to be told in one breath that an affair is profoundly secret, and in the next to be placed *au fait* of all its developments.

"IN MEMORIAM."

On the 2nd instant a very interesting ceremony took place in the enclosure of the First High School in Tokyo. It was the 250th anniversary of the arrival in Japan of a Chinese literateur, Mr. Chou Shun-shui. This scholar was the most eminent among the Chinese refugees who came from that country and settled in Japan at the time of the fall of the Ming dynasty. He was most hospitably received by Mitsukuni of the Tokugawa family, and he passed the remainder of his life in Japan preaching the doctrines of Confucius and the duties of loyalty. The Emperor of Japan contributed the sum of a hundred *yen* to the building of a tomb in memory of Mr. Chou, and the Mito Tokugawa family was represented by Prince Tokugawa at the ceremony. Several eminent scholars as well as leading peers of the realm took part in the demonstration.

A remarkable speech was delivered by the Minister of Education, who assigned to Mr. Chou and to Mito Mitsukuni a large part of the credit of having introduced the moral code of China into Japan. Much interest attached to a document read by the eleventh generation of Mr. Chou.

PEKING.

Monday, June 3.

Very pessimistic telegrams are received as to the state of affairs in Peking. It may be said that anarchy practically exists. The Minister of Finance, whose discharge of the difficult functions assigned to him seemed at one time likely to be crowned with popular approval, has deemed it advisable to leave the capital and is virtually a refugee in Tientsin. All the political parties are unanimous so far as concerns the foreign loan question, but they appear to think that nothing else is of capital importance, and the leading officials having fallen into a similar mood, the administration is left to take care of itself.

It is wired that Governor General Hwang is abstaining from making any use of the 25 million taels borrowed by the Hankow Municipality, and has lodged the money in the Central Bank. Hwang appears to find some inconsistency in employing foreign funds for local purposes while tabooing their use for national needs.

As to the method of raising money to meet the exigencies of the situation without recourse to foreign funds, two plans are on the tapis. One is the issue of non-interest bearing bonds with a fixed period of maturity; the other is the issue of premium bonds to be redeemed at the option of the Government.

Mr. Sung Chiao-jen, an important member of the Cabinet who at one time was expected to represent the Republican Government in Tokyo, has submitted an elaborate memorial dealing with the financial problem and the distribution of administrative power. In view of the kaleidoscopic condition of administrative authority in Peking at present, we refrain from troubling our readers about these details.

From Changcha and Suchow comes intelligence of a somewhat serious military outbreak as the sequel of official failure to pay the salaries of troops quartered at those places. Some arrests have been made, but the trouble has not yet been quelled.

As might have been expected, the loan question is at a standstill. Foreign Powers have assumed an observant attitude and there is no prospect of any renewal of negotiations until the commotion in China is settled.

Tuesday, June 4.

The telegrams this morning speak of symptoms of defection on the part of the troops stationed at two of the gates of Peking. One body of these men have been moved to a position outside the gates, but it does not appear that tranquillity has been restored by the precaution, and there are fears that a mutiny may break out at any moment. No explanation is given as to the cause of this trouble, but we presume that it is attributable to discontent among the troops.

From Fuchow also comes intelligence that the trouble there has not been quelled and that the military and administrative power has passed out of the hands of the legitimate officials. In Changsha also, the disturbance seems to be growing in importance. Twelve schools are said to have been wrecked and the mob has turned against the temples. Here again the origin of the trouble is obscure. All that can be said is that great discontent prevails.

Meanwhile the Minister of Finance has

not returned from Tientsin to Peking. His Excellency is said to be taking refuge in the Astor House Hotel, but this is a scarcely credible version of his absence from the capital.

As to the loan negotiations, they evidently continue to be at a deadlock. The absence of the Finance Minister from Peking and the passive attitude of President Yuan are construed as indicating that these statesmen have come to the conclusion that trial must be given to the programme of fiat currency and voluntary subscriptions. Until the people have received a practical demonstration of the impossibility of such a programme they will not become reconciled to a foreign loan. The experiment is therefore to be tried in actual practice, and to that end the representatives of the Six Powers Syndicate and the Ministry in Peking are leaving things to take their course. In short the nation is passing through a time of sentiment and emotion, which may be trusted to eventuate in a more sensible mood.

With regard to the premium bonds which form an important feature of the patriotic scheme, there are said to be 14 descriptions from 10 dollars upwards. The total to be raised in this way is 50 million yen. In view of the strong *penchant* which the Chinese people have always shown for transactions of a gambling character, it seems not at all improbable that success should attend this element of the programme.

The Minister of Finance is said to have telegraphically informed Governor-General Hwang that the scheme of patriotic bonds is approved, but that at least six million taels must be obtained for administrative purposes before the end of the present month.

Thursday, June 6.

Judging from the telegrams received in Tokyo on the evening of the 5th instant, the inauguration of a policy of force by the President of the Republic has created a great commotion. The newspapers have been warned that the publication of any matter calculated to promote disturbance or to encourage revolt will be visited with the extreme penalties of the law, and this order seems to have been put into operation against one journal at all events. On the afternoon of the 5th instant a secret session of the State Council was convened, and the members seized the occasion to attack the Minister of Home Affairs as well as the Prefect of Police in unbridled terms. In fact it is now evident that the so-called exponents of public opinion are ranging themselves on the side of the Southern Party.

There is always some obscurity about incidents in which the Press and the Authorities find themselves at variance, and such is the case in the present instance. So far as we can gather, a Peking newspaper published a statement falsely attributing violent measures to the Chief of Police in Peking and the Minister of Home Affairs. Steps were immediately taken to suppress the utterances of this newspaper, whereupon a substitute was immediately published, the inference being that preparations for a *coup d'état* had already been made. At all events the Government seems to have judged the situation correctly, for the newspapers have substituted for the truculent mood an attitude of submission. It is evidently the commencement of a

struggle between the northern and southern groups of statesmen, and naturally each side charges the other with having taken the initiative.

A PATRIOTIC ACT.

There appear to be solid grounds for believing that a large part of the Wuchang garrison has taken a decidedly patriotic step. Twenty thousand men of all ranks have offered to disband and return to their own provinces without receiving any *solatium*. The reason assigned for this measure is that the troops find themselves *de trop*, and seeing that the Government is embarrassed by the necessity of procuring money to meet their pay and allowances, have decided to resolve the situation by returning home to their own native provinces. It is believed that this very praiseworthy act would find many imitators were the troops invited in frank terms to accept the situation. Many of the men recognize the superfluity of their presence in arms and are quite prepared to revert to the bread-earning employments which they were practising when invited to join the Colours. On the other hand, news comes from Changsha, the capital of Hunan, that a riot has broken out in that city owing to the failure of the Authorities to supply the troops with bread or money.

A rumour has for some days been current that armed demonstration would be made on the first of June by the Imperialists at Hankow, and steps have been taken to place the German settlement in a condition to avert catastrophe. But the first of June has come and gone without any such incident.

Peking further telegraphs that a mutiny has broken out among the Chinese troops of Kweichow, and that the French Consulate-General has intimated to the Chinese Authorities that unless vigorous measures be adopted, the disturbance will certainly spread to the neighbouring province of Yunnan.

FORGED PICTURES.

There has been nothing further published as to the procedure taken by the police in the matter of forged pictures. It will be remembered that, a few weeks ago, quite a commotion was caused by the arrest of some well-known dealers in works of art who were accused of manufacturing spurious pictures and selling them as works of the great masters. It is now alleged that no less than 300 of these dishonest painters exist in Tokyo alone. They are prepared at any time to take orders for executing pictures and other documents bearing the signatures of celebrities of bygone times, and one great firm of curio dealers in Osaka is said to have had a regular *atelier* where such work was carried out, either to order or on speculation. Of course all artists who care for their reputation will eschew practices of this nature. But there are others whose scruples are not so marked, and at the same time there are numbers of amateur collectors who play into the hands of these dishonest dealers by simulating powers of discernment which they do not possess. The difficulty is that many collectors possess pictures which they frankly believe to be genuine and which in some cases have actually been handed down as heirlooms. These people will naturally shrink from exposing their much-esteemed possessions to the scrutiny of police officials.

AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL QUESTION.

A problem of much moment is engaging the attention of the juriconsults of the world. It relates to the principles applicable in time of war to straits, seas and channels which, in time of peace, constitute important avenues of maritime communications. The idea is that all such waters should be declared neutral, should be accessible to vessels of whatever flag, and that the principle of national waters should be extended from the primeval three miles to five nautical leagues. The number of places affected by this legislation would be very great, and the nature of the question will be understood when we say that all right of erecting fortifications within these neutralized zones would be strictly forbidden. All the Parliaments of the world have received an invitation to send delegates to this conference, and the Japanese Diet is said to be now considering the mode of procedure.

The International Parliamentary Association opens its debates in Geneva before the fall of the present year. The majority of the members are understood to be in favour of neutralizing all Straits which constitute important channels of communication for commercial purposes. Japanese statesmen, however, are strongly opposed to any such measure. It would practically isolate Japan from the Asiatic continent in time of war, and of course such a measure cannot be lightly viewed. Tokyo journals state that it has been almost decided not to send any Japanese representatives to the conference, as their absence would constitute a marked protest against the neutralization project. Whether this resolution will be carried out we cannot say, but it is evident that Japan will resolutely refuse to join in the neutralization scheme.

The *Niroku* quotes an anonymous naval officer of high rank as indignantly objecting to the project proposed for discussion at the International Parliamentary Association. We alluded to this subject in a recent issue, but did not treat it seriously, as it amounts to the arbitrary opening of avenues through the territories of Sovereign States. The *Niroku Shimpō's* informant, however, displays considerable feeling in his manner of discussing the question. He is so indignant that he disapproves of even sending a delegate to represent Japan at the Conference. He thinks it quite enough to submit a brief written epitome of her views. Of course, this problem has its origin in the Panama Canal, and the advocates of disarmament have found an occasion to ventilate the subject as a part of their peace programme. But many publicists will agree that no such extreme policy can possibly be adopted seriously as international law. Nevertheless, Japan's wisest course, we venture to think, is to treat these subjects with gloved hands.

The Italian Government, according to a telegram received in Tokyo, has declined to send a representative to the Geneva meeting of the International Parliamentary Union. The reason of her refusal is supposed to be that the convention would practically be placed in the position of passing judgment on her acts in connection with the Tripoli campaign. She has no desire to become the

subject of international discussion while her armies are actually in the field, and indeed it must be confessed that her reluctance is easily understood.

DEFORESTATION.

It appears that during recent years there has been a marked tendency to deforestation among the trees in Ueno Park. At the beginning of the Meiji era the Park was remarkable for magnificent pines and cherries, but these have gradually died away, and it is estimated that unless some strong measures be adopted, the hills once beautifully wooded will become quite bald. Steps have been taken recently to check these ravages, and it has been discovered that the source of mischief is probably white ants. Many of the withered trees are found to have been affected by this destructive insect, but happily the malady appears to be of limited extent. Vigorous steps have been taken to eradicate the moribund or dead timber, and it is hoped that the Park will regain its luxuriant beauty after a few years.

We explained in a previous issue that an epidemic of insects appeared to have set in among the woods at Ueno and that many trees had withered in consequence. The diagnosis of dendrological experts was that this mischief had been done by white ants, but a subsequent examination made at the Zojogi in Shiba park shows that white ants were not primarily responsible, since they attacked the trees only when the latter had already begun to succumb. The investigations made in the Shiba Park go to show that the trouble was mainly due to defective measures of protection. In order to keep off crows, recourse was had to fire-arms, but this had the effect of driving away small birds also, and the insects upon which the latter usually fed thus became destructively numerous.

A NEW JOURNAL.

Signs of reaction are making themselves apparent in Peking. A journal has been published under the title of the *Kinkang pao*, with the authorization of the Minister of Justice and the Chief of the Metropolitan Police. It contains by way of preliminary announcement a series of orders threatening dire pains and penalties for anyone attempting to overthrow the existing state of affairs; attacking officials, or indulging generally in democratic views. In some extreme cases the penalty of death is prescribed, and altogether the spirit pervading the regulations is diametrically opposed to freedom of speech or pen. That night (3rd instant), a deputation of journalists was sent to wait upon President Yuan to offer a strong remonstrance on the part of the Press. But President Yuan declined to receive the deputies, declaring that he had no business with them. This incident is construed as an evidence that affairs are tending to a crisis. More and more the South and the North are becoming estranged. Of course, there is no denying that the administration of affairs is fatally obstructed by the doings of the Southern statesmen, and we cannot be surprised if the Cabinet, finding herself menaced by having to choose between anarchy and oppression, selects the latter.

COUNT TERAUCHI.

A visit recently paid to the capital of Chosen by Baron Goto has inspired some conjecture, and has been construed as portending some important change in the *personnel* of the Government-General. But it now transpires that these suppositions were entirely groundless. Baron Goto's visit to Seoul and his conference with Count Terauchi were entirely in connection with the business of the Russo-Japanese Association, which has for President, Count Terauchi, and for Vice-President, Baron Goto. It seems that in the sequel of the recent general elections in Japan, the Russo-Japanese Association lost some of its important members and saw itself threatened with still further defections. This does not mean that the Association has forfeited any of its political influence or that its future is at all clouded. The object of Baron Goto's visit to Seoul was simply to consult with the Governor-General as to the best means of promoting the Association's prosperity. The Baron will proceed from Seoul to the Yalu Bridge, to Fushun, and to the other coal-mines, and will ultimately travel by the Antung Mukden railway to the latter city.

Baron Goto's journey to Seoul; his interview there with Count Terauchi; and his subsequent travels to Mukden, have caused some conjecture to which brief allusion has already been made in these columns. Some publicists have construed the Baron's journey as a part of an anti-Unionist movement, and have gone so far as to declare that his Excellency's travels have great political significance. But this view of the case is strongly contradicted. It is denied strenuously, and with much probability, that Baron Goto entertains any such purpose; the main object of his visit to Manchuria being the purchase of some mining concessions made originally by Viceroy Chao to Messrs. Bush Brothers and Company at the instance of Baron Goto. This is by no means the first that has been heard of these concessions, nor is it likely to prove the last.

A NEW RAILWAY IN TOKYO.

Talk is again heard of supplying Tokyo with overhead lines. This was a favorite project of the late Mr. Amenomiya, but when it was first mooted, great opposition was engendered on the part of the citizens, who claimed that their houses would become uninhabitable if their bedrooms were converted into dumping places for the filth of aerial lines, and on the part of the Tokyo Railway Company's shareholders who expected to supply all the needs of locomotion without any of its disadvantages. Now that the citizens have got the electric trams into their own hands, however, they find that the service of cars is worse than ever, and that the city seems likely to have to tax itself for keeping up this most unsatisfactory system. Application has therefore been formally made for a charter to build two principal lines of overhead railway; one running north and south from Shinagawa to Ueno, and the other east and west from Yorozu bridge to Ryōgoku and Honjō. The former of the two lines would extend to a length of 8.68 miles, and the latter to a length of 6.70 miles, the total cost of the two being 30,000,000 yen. Nothing has as yet been ascertained about the Government's ideas with regard to the proposed scheme.

HAWAII.

For the first time since warm relations were established between Hawaii and Japan, a party of 57 tourists have come to pay a visit to Japan, and to see how things fare with their native country. The occasion was taken by Mr. Consul-General Ueno to discuss and to describe the mutual friendly character of the relations between Hawaii and Japan. He said that things were eminently satisfactory and have been growing better every year for some time back. Unfortunately, out of the 39,000 Japanese settled in Hawaii, no less than 35,000 were men who had served with the colours in their own country. This fact lent itself easily to misrepresentation, but the Hawaiians are learning to perceive that no sinister importance is to be attached to this feature of the situation. There are constantly lying off Hawaii American warships, but they serve only to cement amicable relations between the two countries, as has been frequently demonstrated of late. The Japanese female servant, clean, neat, and always smiling, has an excellent effect upon the situation, and it is a matter of fact that the people of Hawaii prefer Japanese women as servants rather than any other nationals. The general theory that the Japanese residents of Hawaii are growing steadily less, would be true in ordinary circumstances, as the number of those returning to their native country would testify. But this is counteracted by a habit which has come into existence. That habit is the contracting of marriage ties by the interchange of photographs. Thus, many married couples are to be seen, and it results that children born in Hawaii more than counterbalance the tendency of parents to leave the country.

The weather was just as unkind to Japan's visitors from Hawaii as it was recently to those from Formosa. Both parties were received with a deluge of rain. The coming of so many Japanese subjects to renew their acquaintance with their native home, appeals forcibly to the emotional interest of the Japanese. The inhabitants of Hawaii now total 170,000 of all nationalities, and out of that aggregate, more than 70,000 are Japanese. When emigration from this country to Hawaii first commenced in 1867 only 48 Japanese subjects took advantage of the opportunity that offered. The enterprise had to struggle with great difficulties and its successful development was due mainly to the exertions of Mr. Robert Irwin. Nothing could deter or dismay him, and the result of his labours was that 29,000 Japanese were found living and toiling in Hawaii at the end of the year 1885. The compilation and publication of the emigration protection law in Japan had a most wholesome effect, so that at the time of the amalgamation of Hawaii and the United States, the Japanese settlers had grown to 40,000. Things have not fared in the most favourable manner since the anti-emigration law was enforced, but it may now be confidently stated that the Japanese have established a strong colony in Hawaii, and that the children born there of Japanese parentage will quickly constitute an important element of the population. The welcome given to the 50 returning Japanese on the 5th instant was of the warmest character, and naturally their visit to their native country proved a delightful experience.

MONGOLIA.

The people of Mongolia are reported to have addressed to the Russian Government a plan providing that the laying of telegraphs and railways in Mongolia shall be entrusted to Russian hands; that the inconvertible notes issued by the local Chinese Authorities shall be replaced by a convertible currency; that a Central bank shall be established under Russian auspices, and that to the Russian troops shall be assigned the duty of exterminating the mounted bandits. It is plain that the Mongolians appreciate the great superiority of Russian administration to Chinese.

Meanwhile a Russian force has reached Kashigaru and seems to be engaged in dealing with the truculent spirits in that quarter. The Chinese Government has protested against the employment of military aid for such a purpose under consular authority, but the answer given is that the preservation of law and order is the first object to be attained, and that Russia is compelled to employ whatever means are most readily available for that purpose.

It is indeed a matter of profound difficulty to discover the actual state of affairs in Mongolia. To be assured of one thing on one day, almost justifies a prediction that some other equally positive assurance in the opposite sense will be made to-morrow. The latest instance of this kind is furnished by a telegram which says that the Mongolian representatives in the Council of State have passed a resolution declaring that steps must be immediately taken to disband the worthless Chinese troops and to replace them by the best men that the Five Tributary States can furnish. This reads very like a declaration that the Mongolians contemplate reliance upon military force in the future, and that they intend to make the Imperialists the basis of that force. Placed side by side with the sentiments recently attributed to Mongolian statesmen, this assertion reads very strangely.

And on the heels of the above rumour comes a statement that the Mongols in Kulon have decided to follow Russia's example, and to proceed vigorously with the reforms called for by the occasion. At the same time the Mongolian Prince Kalachin, who spent several years in Japan, is said to have been appointed Governor-General of Mongolia by the Gegen. The Russians, however, are represented as following a more active policy than ever. They have sent troops to establish and control the administration of Mongolia and they are taking steps to secure for themselves and the local inhabitants effective control of the Amur navigation. In short it would seem that the outside public is to be carefully kept in ignorance of the actual progress of events. It would be an interesting reproduction of history to find the Mongols furnishing a ruler for the whole of China.

RICE.

Some commotion has been caused by the action of the four great rice dealers, who have passed a resolution not to sell the cereal at a price insufficient to cover the loss caused by the reduction of import duties. The head of the Mitsui firm, however, which is one of the principal companies concerned, explains that rice dealers have very

little latitude of option in such matters, for if they attempt to store the cereal, the cost of warehousing and the deterioration of the grain soon constitute a strict minimum. It follows that the four companies in question will have to pocket their losses quietly.

Meanwhile, the Government's action in lowering the rate of import duties is believed to be producing the desired effect, for prices are beginning to fall appreciably.

The four companies which have been abused for refusing to sell their rice at the low figure resulting from the reduction of the import tax, offer a very simple explanation. They say that the rice in question had been sold by them and stored in warehouses pending delivery to the purchasers. Meanwhile the rate of import duty was suddenly cut down, and the purchasers of the rice demanded delivery at the reduced rate, declining to make any allowance for the difference. This is essentially a case for compromise, and we observe with surprise that some Tokyo journals attack the sellers of the rice as though they were public malefactors.

The action taken by the Government in reducing the import duty on rice and in admitting various kinds of foreign rice to the domestic market has not had the desired effect. The market on the 1st instant closed at a point 12 *sen* higher than the immediately previous quotations. Moreover, no prospect of relief is in sight, for the holders of rice in the provinces are careful not to expose the cereal to the injury caused by damp during the wet season which is now at hand. Thus there will be no addition to the supply on the market until the rainy season is over.

In spite of the various measures taken by the Government to bring down the price of rice in the open market, a precisely opposite tendency has been created. On the 4th instant the closing quotations were 20.85 for June delivery; 21.08 for July delivery and 20.22 for August delivery. The experts now declare that the Government's efforts were too late, and that unless some new plan is devised, things will go from bad to worse.

THE NANCHANG LOAN.

With reference to the loan made by the firm of Messrs Siemssen and Company for the purpose of paying off the debt due to Messrs Takata and Company of Tokyo in connection with the electric lighting of Nanchang, the representative of the Takata firm explains that his Company did not actually lend money to the Chinese, but merely supplied machinery. The first plans for these purposes were drawn up by a Japanese expert, and things went satisfactorily enough at the outset. By and by, however, the Japanese experts were withdrawn, and from that time no profits could be declared for the shareholders. A sum of 200,000 *yen* remains due to the Takata Company for goods actually supplied, and Japanese representatives of Messrs. Takata and Company are not at all desirous of continuing their connection with the Chinese. In fact we gather from the explanations offered that the Takata Company has no ambition to continue its transactions with the Local Electric Light Company, for which there does not appear to be any satisfactory outlook.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

The public learns with some surprise that the Oriental Development Company has abandoned, or is preparing to abandon, all its enterprises in Korea except banking. Our readers doubtless remember that the Company was originally formed on a very wide basis. Agriculture, sericulture, reclamation of land, fishery, colonization, finance and in fact every conceivable enterprise was included in the programme. But of late, complaints have been growing louder in the sense that the Company's enterprises were being gradually curtailed, and that so far from setting an example of widely extended work, the members found themselves more and more limited in their action. It has finally been decided, according to Tokyo journals, that the Company will now abandon all enterprise except banking. The reasons for this very radical departure from the original programme are not given, but the fact appears to be generally believed. There is already a Central bank in Korea, as there is also in Formosa, and it is difficult to comprehend what field offers for the operations contemplated by the new bank in Korea.

The recent heavy rainfall occurring at a time when the tide was at flood, produced a serious inundation in the Yalu and the Tadong rivers. Several thousands of acres of land under crops were devastated, and very heavy losses have been incurred; mainly by the Oriental Development Company.

Mr. Egi, a prominent official of the Oriental Development Company, denies very explicitly that any grounds exist for the charges recently preferred against the Company for having failed to carry out the purposes of its charter, and having devoted itself solely, or mainly, to financial transactions. Mr. Egi declares that there is no justice whatever in these strictures. The Company's first function was of necessity to establish financial organs through which money might reach the routes of commerce and industry. That end having been achieved, resolute steps will now be taken to extend the sphere of the Company's operations. Hitherto the number of immigrants assisted by the Company has barely reached 1,000, but ten times that figure may be expected at an early date. Since the annexation of Chosen by Japan, many Japanese capitalists have possessed themselves of tracts of land, small or large, and are holding them merely for a rise, without making any effort to develop their resources. The Company appreciates the necessity of correcting this evil habit and is taking steps accordingly. Nothing is easier than talk about usurious employment of capital, but a little thought shows that to provide easy channels for the flow of money is eminently advisable from the very outset.

THE ROBERT DOLLAR LOAN.

It will be seen from translations which we publish elsewhere that the Robert Dollar Company has succeeded in obtaining a concession for three and a half million sterling and that the money is to be applied to local purposes at Hankow. There has been a certain amount of mystery connected with this loan. When the news was received originally that such a transaction was con-

templated, the Japanese construed it as an attempt on the part of the Robert Dollar Company to prevent the incursion of Japan into the field of South-China Finance, and it appeared that this interpretation was correct, for Japan stood aside from the Han-Ya-Ping loan and the latter seemed for a time to have fallen into abeyance. Subsequently the representative of the Robert Dollar Company visited Japan and explained that his firm did not for a moment contemplate the exclusion of Japan from the loan transaction, the real purpose of the Company being to prevent foreign loans to China altogether. How that is to be reconciled with the fact that the Robert Dollar Company has now obtained a concession for a large sum remains to be made clear. The subject is attracting considerable attention and evidently much is left to the imagination of the newsmonger. Some of the leading Japanese newspapers think that the Hankow loan will become a topic of international discussion; but before signing the concession, President Yuan must have taken full cognizance of all these contingencies. Of course no one underestimates the importance of this Hankow loan question. It carries with it a contract for the electric trams of Hankow and in fact it opens for the American Company a great field of enterprise in the Yangtze Valley.

ENGLAND IN PIENMA.

Monday, June 3.

According to the telegraph, Great Britain has assumed in Pienma powers of a very extensive character. In the first place, she has established military law. In the second, she has forbidden the carrying of arms by anyone who has not received an official permit. In the third, she has vetoed all travel by foreigners in Pienma unless they carry a British official passport. In the fourth, she has proclaimed herself guardian of the security of life and property in the case of the local inhabitants. And in the fifth, she has assumed judicial authority and forbidden appeal. It will be seen that circumstances are imposing upon Great Britain in Pienma a role very similar to that acted by the Russians in Mongolia.

Tuesday, June 4.

The above particulars are confirmed by a later telegram received from Yunnan. It may therefore be accepted as a fact that Great Britain has found it necessary to assume full charge of affairs in Pienma. Things have been approaching this climax for some time, and it is not at all improbable that the by-product of the trouble may make itself felt in the position of the French in Yunnan.

FORMOSA.

The expedition which was commenced in Formosa on the 26th of April came to a satisfactory termination on the 4th of this month. The aborigines appear to have offered strenuous resistance. Doubtless they still labour under the impression that they are waging a lawful fight in defence of their hearths and homes. The comparatively small forces engaged in the operations suggest an insignificant campaign, but the list of casualties does not confirm that impression. The Japanese had 26 killed and 66 wounded in the recent operations, and

though the casualties on the side of the aborigines are not given, we may conclude that they reached much higher figures. Seventy one rifles are said to have been seized, and a length of 17 or 18 miles was added to the fortified zone. It is not to be expected that any further operations on a considerable scale will take place for some months. Doubtless in the course of time the outside public will learn the exact casualties on both sides in this contest. It has certainly been a very costly affair, but the Japanese having once put their hands to the plow, could not turn back.

THE LANDED ESTATES COMPANY.

In a recent issue we alluded to the fact that a company was about to be formed in Tokyo for the purpose of investing a large sum of money in landed property, the idea of the projectors being that considerable profits are to be made by taking advantage of the steady appreciation of land property in the principal cities. Already companies of that nature have been formed in Osaka and Kobe, but the capitalists of Tokyo have some reluctance in making such an investment. Apparently, however, the idea has at last found favour, and the prospectus of the Tokyo company will soon be issued with a capital of 5 million yen. It seems to us that not much profit can be looked for in this direction. Undoubtedly many of the great fortunes of the world have had their origin in landed property, but the process of realizing has been very slow, and in many cases speculators had to lie out of their money for long periods. Of course if the land be at once utilized for building purposes, the case is different. But that involves a considerable extension of the original programme.

THE POPULATION OF TOKYO.

Statistics compiled by the Tokyo municipality put the population of the city at 1,907,000, of whom 1,026,000 are males and 881,000 are females. If, however, the population of the suburban villages be included, the total population becomes 2,300,000.

With regard to the directions in which the city is principally developing, the most conspicuous growth is in the Shibuya quarter, that is to say, the south-west of the city. That region has now a population of 43,150 and the other suburban quarters stand in the following order; namely, Oji, 26,270; Senju, 23,433; Sendagaya, 22,135, and Shinagawa 21,742. The figure given in the case of Oji is arithmetically deceptive, for that part of Tokyo was populous many years ago and has not grown in proportion to some of the other districts.

JEHOL.

We read in a telegram from Jehol that the disturbance which recently broke out there, has not by any means been quelled, the whole district to the west of the city being in possession of the rebels. Official accounts, however, depict a very different state of affairs. They allege that order has been restored and that the troops recently sent from Chinchow against the bandits and the rebels have been marched back without coming into action.

UNDERGROUND TOKYO.

It has come to be a topic of frequent comment that the streets of Tokyo are in a perpetual condition of being torn up for some purpose or other. It really seems as though some quarter of the city were doomed to be continuously impassable. Of late the matter has attracted growing attention, and it is said that nobody knows how the various pipes are mutually disposed in the underground network of the metropolis. When the first work of this nature was undertaken, no special attention was paid to the drawing of maps or the location of pipes. Gradually, however, confusion grew more and more confounded so that now it is scarcely possible to lay any pipe without more or less injury to some other. One consequence of this is that the streets have to be torn up through needless distances, and that even the best made roads do not survive for more than a few weeks. Rumour has it that there are 20 million *yen* worth of underground pipes in the city, and that the exact position of only a small fraction is known. It is thought that it will be necessary to undertake a detailed subterranean survey at heavy expense.

THE MAYOR OF TOKYO.

It is now confidently affirmed that the Mayor of Tokyo, Mr. Ozaki Yukio has resolved to send in his resignation. The event may be deferred for a few days longer, but that it will take place at an early date seems certain. The Press of the capital writes thus far in a sympathetic strain, but certain newspapers allege in effect that Mr. Ozaki is too good for the post. At any rate somebody is wanted who will lay his axe boldly at the root of the tree of corruption which flourishes so abundantly in the Japanese metropolis. It is evidently thought that Mr. Ozaki is inclined to repose too much trust in his associates, and that an official with less bowels of compassion would suit his office better. One journal likens him to a swan stepping gingerly in the company of a batch of barn door fowls.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Judgment has been finally pronounced in the case of the sixty-three conductors and motormen concerned in the strike on last New Year's Day. Two of the men have been condemned to three months' imprisonment and the remaining to two years imprisonment but with deferred execution. It follows therefore that in the ordinary course of events these sixty-one malefactors will escape all punishment except the detention which they have already suffered. It is difficult to understand the leniency shown by the court in this case.

Talk is again heard of disposing of the Government's forests. There are thirteen of these enterprises throughout the Empire and only 3 or 4 of them make a profit. On several occasions it has been urged that the wiser plan would be to sell all these forests to private companies, at the same time imposing strict obligations as to replanting. But the Department of Agriculture and Commerce does not seem disposed to adopt that advice. The officials of the Department

claim that, taking one with another, the State forests do not entail any loss, and that at times they serve a very useful purpose in supplying timber to meet special catastrophes. Were not this timber available, conflagrations would become doubly calamitous, for the timber merchants would charge their own prices.

There is much talk just at present about what is called a *mugen-kido*, in other words, a limitless tram. We gather from the descriptions published by Tokyo journals that this very novel contrivance amounts to a machine which may be described as feeding rails for its own use. No road need be laid down, and the inventors claim that they can negotiate any distance and any kind of highway. Apparently passenger traffic is contemplated, but goods seem to be mainly in view. The Minister of War is reported to have expressed himself as an enthusiastic admirer of the new system, for the sake of the great transport facilities it would furnish in time of war. A considerable time has passed since we heard the first statement of the capacities of this invention, but apparently it has undergone some process of improvement since it was last brought to public notice.

The death is announced of Mr. Takahashi Koko, an artist of high promise. He expired at his residence in Tokyo on the 2nd instant. The malady that carried him off was scarlet fever, and he had only attained his 38th year. He belonged to the school of Kikuchi Yosai, and he recently visited Korea for the purpose of obtaining material to be used in pictures of mediaeval times. The artists of the Yosai school aim at extreme accuracy of detail, and Mr. Takahashi was a faithful disciple of this method. He was taken ill *en route* for Tokyo from Korea, and it is thought that had first class medical assistance being procurable, his life would have been saved.

We spoke in our last issue of an invitation having been issued by the society calling itself Tungning-hui to the Lieutenant of Kan Yu-wei, who has been living for many years as a refugee at Kobe. The news is now confirmed, and is supplemented by a statement that this refugee on returning to China will start a political journal either at Tientsin or Peking. As for Mr. Kan Yu-wei himself, he will still remain at Suma, and will refrain from reappearing on the political stage until the republican form of government is firmly established.

The earthquake on the 31st ultimo at 12.30 a.m. was one of the severest felt in Tokyo since the Gifu shock. The centre of the disturbance seems to have been in the Boshu waters, and the tremor was experienced throughout the whole of the Kanto region. It does not appear that any damage was done, but clocks were stopped, and some people ran out into the streets. A very little more would have made the earthquake destructive, for the force developed in the vertical direction was exceptionally strong. Another shock was experienced at 9.30 p.m. on the same day, but it did not attain serious dimensions.

We read in Tokyo journals that the British, Russian, French and American Ambassadors at the Court of Japan, will not receive Orders in connection with treaty revision, the first three statesmen having already been honoured by the highest de-

corations permissible in such circumstances, and the American Representative being forbidden by the laws of his country to receive a foreign decoration. Objects of art will therefore be substituted in the case of these four diplomats.

On the 15th of this month all the necessary arrangements will be completed for travel in Manchuria via Korea. A luxurious service of coupees and sleeping-cars will be working on the lines, and every possible comfort will be provided for passengers. The time taken in travelling from Shimbashi to Seoul will be 45 hours, that from Shimbashi to Mukden, 62 hours, that from Shimbashi to Harbin 77 hours, and that from Shimbashi to Peking 84 hours.

The *Chuo Shinbun* states that through the agency of the well-known German firm, Messrs. Siemens and Company, a sum of 500,800 *taels* which represents the indebtedness to Messrs. Takata and Company in connection with the Nanchang enterprises has been paid off. There seems to be some regret at this elimination of the Japanese Company, but in the absence of fuller details we are not in a position to form any opinion. At all events it would seem that the tendency of Japanese capitalists is to withdraw from Chinese enterprises—in the South at all events.

A somewhat cryptic telegram emanates from Peking. It is to the effect that German experts have been engaged for some time in making a cadastral survey of the province of Shantung, apparently with a view to extensions of railway construction and to the development of other enterprises. The Chinese Government, having been informed by the Local Authorities that these doings are in progress, have approached Germany with a request that the survey may be temporarily abandoned in deference to the sensitive mood of the people at this juncture.

It is stated that the ex-heir of Korea, Prince Yi, has received a very handsome gift from the Imperial household. It is a tract of land covering 50,000 *tsudo* near Mishima in the Hakone range. The Prince seems to have taken a great fancy to this retreat and spends much of his leisure there. Originally the place was chosen and laid out by Prince Komatsu, but since his Imperial Highness' death, the park has not been used.

It appears from a statement made in the columns of the China Press that the advocates of a voluntary loan have a very luxurious idea of terms. They propose to float in Peking, bonds carrying 8 per cent. interest and issued at 90, payable in 5 years. This would mean an eloquent net turn-over for the lenders. It is justly pointed out that with such a programme nothing but bankruptcy could be anticipated, and in less than five years China would find herself wallowing in a sea of fiat currency.

Tokyo journals state that Prince Katsura contemplates a visit to the Occident. His Highness will set out from Tokyo on the 7th of July, and, proceeding *via* Manchuria, will visit all the principal centres of interest in Europe. He will be accompanied by Baron Goto, and doubtless his party will have grown to considerable dimensions before the time of starting arrives. The Prince is said to have long entertained a desire to

revisit the countries of the Occident where he spent several years in the early days of his career, but he has been kept so busy by politics that to carry out his plan has hitherto proved impossible.

It appears to have been definitely decided that Saghalien shall cease to be a separate prefecture, and shall be brought under the jurisdiction of the Hokkaido Local Authorities. This change will be affected at an early date, and one result will be witnessed in the personnel of the Local Government. This is believed to be a part of the scheme of reform upon which the present Cabinet is expending much energy.

The funeral of the ex-leader of the Il Chin-hoi took place at Seoul on the 5th instant. Thousands of persons were present, and if any inference is to be drawn from the *clat* attending this ceremony, the Korean nation's views as to the annexation may be said to be of a decidedly favourable character. The obsequies were performed according to the Shinto ritual, the deceased statesman having been a staunch disciple of that creed. All the principal officials of the Governor-General were present, and military honours were paid by a battalion of troops.

Eighty three of the persons charged with conspiracy against the life of the Governor-General in Korea were duly told off some weeks ago for public trial and the remaining forty two were similarly arraigned on the 3rd instant. This brings the whole number to 125, and doubtless the proceedings in open court will commence in a few days. Considering the dimensions of the affair and the difficulty of collecting exhaustive evidence in such a case, it is not at all surprising that so long a time has been required.

On Friday the opening ceremony takes place of two extensions of the Tokyo Electric Railway measuring 7 miles in all. One is in the Azabu district and the other in Shiba. There has been great delay in the building of these lines, and it will be remembered that when the work was in the hands of the Company, critics were very severe about the delay in opening the lines. The Municipality, however, has not done any better.

It is predicted that the Government's scheme of retrenchment will represent a saving of 50 million yen annually. A member of the House of Peers is responsible for this assertion, but he does not think that it will be possible to apply the pruning knife so radically from the outset. The first programme of economies will probably be limited to about 20 millions.

Denmark is about to send a Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Japan. Hitherto she has entrusted the conduct of her diplomatic duties to either Holland or Russia, but it appears that since China has become a republic there might be some inconvenience in leaving the affairs of Denmark in Russian hands.

DEATH OF DR. HENRY SWEET.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The latest English papers bring the news of the death of Dr. Henry Sweet, M.A., Ph.D., LL.D., whose name will be familiar to all Japanese students of English as the author of several works on English grammar and phonetics. Dr. Sweet

was once referred to by Professor Skeat as a "master of the English language," and as Professor Skeat himself holds a high position as an authority on English, the remark is all the more significant.

Dr. Sweet was one of that small band of workers who attempted to stem the craze for classical studies and to lead English students to a better understanding and knowledge of their own tongue, not only in its modern form but also in its older stages. Whatever success attended the movement was greatly due to his efforts, his series of manuals on Anglo-Saxon (preferably styled Old English) being now the standard works for those studying the language. But it was not only the older stages of the language which attracted him. As a scientific philologist the modern language, both literary and colloquial, seemed to him as fit objects for careful study as any dead languages. Future philologists will have to thank him, as many foreign students of English thanked him while he was alive, for the scientific, phonetic transcript of southern Colloquial English contained in the *Primer of Spoken English* and its German counterpart. Many attacks were made on Dr. Sweet for this transcript, which was asserted to be vulgar cockney dialect and not educated southern speech as it purported to be. Dr. Sweet, however, was not one who could be content to think that the interests of science could be served by recording anything but the truth. He therefore refused to substitute an ideal, dictionary pronunciation for the natural language of the time in which he lived. The pronunciation he recorded was his own, and no one who ever met him would accuse him of speaking what is known as the cockney dialect. Time gradually brought its revenge, and the principles which he laid down as to the pronunciation of Southern English are now generally accepted except in hopelessly obscurantist circles.

In the "New English Grammar" Dr. Sweet accomplished another epoch-making work, inasmuch as he was the first to study grammar on purely scientific principles and not from a dogmatic standpoint. His recognition that the colloquial language is as fully worthy of study as the literary language also marks another step in advance, since it is now generally recognised that the changes in the spoken language afford a good key to explain the changes in the literary language in the past. At one time it was rank heresy to say that the colloquial language of to-day is the literary language of to-morrow; now, thanks chiefly to Dr. Sweet, it is accepted as a truism. In grammar as in phonetics, Dr. Sweet was ruled by the scientific spirit, and felt forced to record facts, and not any imaginary rules as to what was right and what was wrong. By founding his grammar on an independent survey of the language he avoided that reliance upon the work of previous grammarians which has been the cause of the perpetuation of so many alleged "grammatical rules" which have no foundation in fact. Dr. Sweet's treatment was in every way thorough, however. As an instance, it may be noted that while Dr. Johnson could dismiss English syntax in a couple of pages, Dr. Sweet, besides a general survey of syntax in the first volume of his grammar, devoted the whole of his second volume to this subject.

Dr. Sweet, besides his knowledge of the older forms of his own language, was an ardent linguist. In addition to the classical languages, he had a knowledge of French and German, Danish and ancient Icelandic (of which he published a grammar), Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish. In later years he took up the study of Chinese, Persian and Arabic. The result of these extensive linguistic acquirements enabled him to test his theories as to practical methods in the study of languages, theories which he laid down in his "Practical Study of Languages," a work which has had great influence in modifying the methods of instruction in languages in schools. His studies in phonetics and linguistics also led him to take an interest in many other

subjects more or less allied to these, not the least interesting of which was shorthand. Here again he showed a keen originality, combined with extreme thoroughness, for it was not until after ten years of incessant testing and revision that he published the result of his labours, the system styled "Current Shorthand," which is certainly the most original system of shorthand that has been published in England since the time of Taylor.

Of later years Dr. Sweet devoted himself more or less to purely philological studies, his "History of Language," published as one of Deut's series, being one of the most suggestive works on the origins of language which have appeared of recent years.

From 1901 Dr. Sweet held the post of University Reader in Phonetics at Oxford. He was also corresponding member of the Munich, Berlin and Copenhagen Royal Academies of Sciences. His death at the age of 67 ends a career of unselfish labour it would be hard to equal. Of great learning, yet far removed from a pedant; thorough in detail, yet always with an eye for practical results; open-minded, yet with a singularly clear discernment for shams of all kinds, his influence on English scholarship would be hard to overestimate. His studies of the past never deprived him of his interest in the present. For many years he recorded in "Who's Who" his hope to fly before he died,—a hope which, after the advent of the aeroplane, he explained as meaning "real flying—not with bags and stoves." Such an anticipation was characteristic of his eager outlook upon life.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, May 31.

The market yesterday opened heavy and quotations were irregular. A stronger tone, however, began to develop towards the close of the session.

Saturday, June 1.

The market on Saturday last opened active, and shares rose all round. The tone remained strong throughout the session.

Tuesday, June 4.

The market yesterday was characterized by dullness and all shares moved down in prices. The tone remained unimproved throughout the session.

Wednesday, June 5.

The market yesterday opened very inactive and shares tumbled down all round. The tone continued weak to the end of the session.

Thursday, June 6.

The market yesterday opened active as a reaction from the previous depression and N.Y.K.'s rose nearly 3 points, all other shares following the movement. A weak tone, however, developed in the latter part of the session, when N.Y.K.'s relapsed 1.5 points followed by a general fall. The following were the closing prices for forwards:—

June 5th. June 6th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—	—	—
Yusen Kaisha	114.70	116.00	..	+ 1.30
Toyo Kisen	47.55	47.80	..	+ .25
Specie Bank.....	—	—	—	—
Tanko Kisen	21.00	—	—	—
Tokyo Gas	71.50	—	—	—
Tokyo Dento	70.50	70.50	..	—
Fuji Gas Spinning	89.45	88.35	..	- 1.10
Tokyo Spinning	52.20	51.65	..	— .55
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	111.50	111.25	..	— .25
Beer	—	—	—	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	64.40	64.60	..	+ .20
Nippon Oil	71.30	71.50	..	+ .20
Rice Exchange.....	105.80	105.00	..	— .80
Stock Exchange	153.00	154.20	..	+ 1.20

A COUNTRY CLUB.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 1.)

ELSEWHERE we publish an appeal issued by the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club in connection with the purchase of their new ground. The appeal, which seems to us to deserve warm support, is addressed to the foreign community irrespective of nationality and, we think we may add, irrespective of sex. Although it is issued by the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club, a perusal will show that it includes in its scope not only cricketers and athletes, but all who desire healthy recreation, whether for themselves, their sons and daughters, or their employés. In a recent article, urging that action should be taken to provide such a ground, we drew attention to the benefits arising therefrom, more especially to the younger portion of the community, and, in consequence, to the firms in which they are employed. It is now generally recognised that it is to the advantage of employers to see that those in their service are kept in a fit and healthy condition, since this means not only a greater ability to perform their office duties but a higher standard of work. Even from the point of view of self-interest, therefore, the scheme seems well worth supporting. But it appeals no less to the older members of the community than to the younger. With the growth of Yokohama the number of open spaces round the city is rapidly diminishing, and to those who have not time to go far afield to seek a brief interval of recreation and relief from office duties, the position is becoming increasingly unpleasant. Nor will the situation improve as time goes on, the price of land increasing and the available spaces growing fewer and fewer. The establishment of a Country Club, for such really the proposal of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club amounts to, is therefore to be welcomed on all hands. Indeed, it is a matter of surprise that Yokohama has had to wait so long for such a institution. The cost is admittedly heavy, yet not outside the means of the community. Certainly it will be much heavier if delayed for a few more years, judging by the rise in land values. Further, under the proposal of the Committee, the community will have an asset, in the shape of the land, which will increase in value as the years go on. For details as to the scheme, reference may be made to the appeal, but it may be noted that it is proposed to raise as much of the money as possible on debentures, the holders of which would not receive any interest. If at any time it was found necessary to wind up the Club, however, they would receive their share of the proceeds after all debts had been paid off. The total amount of money required is estimated by the Club at 65,000 yen, of which it is hoped to raise 30,000 yen by donations or debentures, the balance being

obtained by a loan. The value of the debentures is not stated, but presuming they are for 100 yen, it will require 300 subscribers to raise the desired amount. It might be advisable, however, to issue debentures of smaller value, even as low as 10 yen, so as to allow all to participate, and thus increase the interest in the Club and at the same time the membership. It may also be suggested that ladies should be allowed to become independent subscribing members of the Club, and that the children of members should be allowed the use of the grounds at certain hours. These, however, are details which may safely be left for decision later. The important point now is to secure for the Committee the support for which they appeal. We have little doubt that that support will be forthcoming, perhaps even more generously than the Committee anticipate. The Yokohama foreign community has often put its hand into its pockets to help others; it will certainly do so to help itself to secure that needful recreation necessary for the health—moral and physical—of both young and old.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 3.)

TODAY, Monday, June 3rd, is the forty-seventh birthday of His Majesty KING GEORGE V. of Great Britain and Ireland, and one can assume with absolute certainty that the day will be celebrated, perhaps quietly, but assuredly heartily, in all parts of His Majesty's dominions and in other lands where Britishers are scattered. KING GEORGE came to the throne on the death of his great Father, KING EDWARD, in 1910, and has only occupied his onerous position for a little over two years. Yet, even in that small space of time he has shown his sincerity of purpose, his determination, his strict constitutionalism, and his grasp of the affairs of the Empire. In short, he has proved himself. Great Britain has passed through several critical periods since his accession and has fortunately emerged safely; whilst although the fact has naturally never been officially announced, it has been stated by several of His Majesty's Ministers and leaders of the Opposition, that he himself was largely responsible for the happy solutions by virtue of his great position as King, and his zealous endeavours to follow in his Father's footsteps. His Majesty's visit to India, where he was crowned Emperor, is still fresh in our memory; whilst the brilliant success of the Imperial visit was remarkable. It is an open secret that the Government did not view the KING's journey with over much satisfaction. They realised the great and good effect it would have on the people of India, but they were afraid that owing to the unrest prevailing there, some fanatic might be led away by his passions and fancied grievances to

deeds of violence against the KING. These fears were intimated to His Majesty, but without effect; for towards the close of last year, His Majesty and the Queen sailed from England on their memorable visit and returned in February after having made one of the most gorgeous and impressive journeys of any crowned head in history. Within the last month, he has shown his ardent love for his old profession—the sea—by spending four days with his fleet off Weymouth and himself participating in the manoeuvres on the dreadnought *Neptune*. Rapidly and surely, His Majesty is proving to his people that he has their interests at heart; that he realises the high position of trust that he occupies; and that he knows that he has the whole-hearted affection of his subjects throughout the world. Birthday congratulations will reach him to day from all quarters of the globe and countless thousands will raise their glasses to the fine old toast—"THE KING! GOD BLESS HIM!"

JAPANESE VISITORS FROM HAWAII.

A Japanese tourist party from Hawaii arrived at Yokohama on Monday afternoon at four o'clock by the T.K.K. steamer *Shinyo Maru*. They were cordially received by many public bodies.

Mr. Ueno Senichi, Consul-General in Hawaii, who is among the party, is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as observing that in Hawaii the peoples of as many as thirteen countries are settled, of whom those from Japan form the majority, their number reaching well nigh over 79,700, as against 20,000 Chinese who come next. Last year a batch of Russian immigrant's crossed over to Hawaii, but were crowded out by the Japanese settlers and have now gone to other territories of the United States. The Japanese immigrants can now be said to have made a permanent settlement on the island. The birth-rate reaches 350 per month, or 4,000 per annum, which shows their steady increase.

Another matter for congratulation, the Consul-General thought, was the annual increase of those who establish themselves in independent enterprises, instead of remaining content, as hitherto, as employees, in the sugar factories of foreign capitalists. At present the immovable property in the possession of the Japanese settlers in the islands is valued at 219,994 dollars, and the movable property at 1,750,000 dollars, the taxpayers numbering for the former 470 and for the latter, about 2,290.

The party consists of some 50 members, of whom 36 are male, 10 female and 4 children. Each of them has lived in Hawaii more than seven years. They go up to Tokyo to-day, Wednesday, and after doing the sights there for two days, will visit Nikko on the 7th and return to Yokohama on the following day. The party will then visit Nagoya and other cities in the Kwansai districts, so as to arrive at Kumamoto on the 24th instant, whence they will pay a short visit to their respective native provinces and start for home early next month.

According to Mr. Sakata, head of the party, owing to the short period allowed for application, a large number could not be enlisted this time, but it is his intention to form a second and larger tourist party in October, if the present one should prove successful. The Japanese in Seattle will also form tourist parties before long for the same purpose.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE CHINESE MAGISTRACIES.

Peking, May 29.

It is proposed to abolish the magistrates in all the provinces and to replace them by Directors of the civil and military administrations. The new system will be tried in Chihli province to begin with, as an experiment.

THE CHINESE FISCAL YEAR.

Peking, May 29.

The commencement of the Chinese fiscal year will be fixed at July 1st in imitation of the American system.

THE SALT TAX.

Peking, May 29.

The right of supervision over the salt tax, which forms the security for the Six Powers' loan, will be vested in foreign comptrollers.

GRANTS TO THE PROVINCES.

Peking, May 29.

The Chinese Government has decided to grant to all the provinces three-tenths of the administrative expenditure and six tenths of the war expenditure claimed by them in order to enable them to meet urgent needs.

THE DISBANDED SOLDIERS.

Peking, June 1.

According to intelligence reaching Peking, the disbanded soldiers in Changsha threaten to rise in open revolt. The Chinese Government has therefore increased the number of guards in the foreign Consulates and Settlement to prepare for emergencies.

SITUATION IN FUCHOW.

Shanghai, May 31.

The situation in Fuchow is reported as disquieting. The Cruisers *Manian* and *Paomin* are under instructions to proceed there, leaving Shanghai on the 1st proximo.

HWANG HSING.

Peking, June 1.

It is rumoured that Hwang Hsing will start on a tour thorough China shortly, but the prosecution of the scheme is thought difficult under present circumstances.

THE MAGISTRATE OF CHILIH.

Peking, June 1.

Magistrate Chang of Chihli province will be transferred to a post in the Central Government, owing to the popular opposition raised against him. Wan Chi-chang is named as his probable successor.

THE TROOPS AT SUCHOW.

Peking, May 31.

The people of Suchow have petitioned Yuan Shih-kai for a speedy disbandment of Chang Shung's troops in order to ensure local peace.

THE LOAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Peking, June 1.

Not only are the negotiations on the Six Powers loan a deadlock, but the persistence of Hsiung Chi-lin, the Minister of Finance, in resigning has caused further trouble. The negotiations are now almost despaired of.

RUSSIANS AT KULON.

Peking, June 1.

The Russian residents in Kulon have met in conference and adopted the following resolution: Russian regular postal services shall be inaugurated in Kulon, Ulyastai, and Kobdo; telegraph-wires shall be erected in Kulon, Ulyastai and Kashgar; the Chinese Government shall be diplomatically approached to obtain the conversion of the inconvertible notes; a Russian bank shall be established in Kulon to facilitate money transactions, and Russian troops shall be employed in the suppression of the rioters to ensure the

safety of Mongolians. The resolution was transmitted to the home government.

CHINESE SUCCESSION TAX.

Peking, June 1.

As a consequence of investigations into the tax system reform the Department of Finance has decided to inaugurate a succession tax.

OUTER MONGOLIA.

Peking, June 2.

The Gegen of Outer Mongolia, which lately declared its independence, has dispatched some twenty delegates to Thibet in order to join hands with that country in opposition to the Republican administration of China.

THE REPRESENTATION OF INNER MONGOLIA.

Peking, June 2.

The members of the State Council representing Inner Mongolia have preferred a demand for an increase of the representatives of Inner Mongolia from five to six.

CHANG SHUN.

Tientsin, June 2.

Chang Shun, who recently moved to Tsinan-fu, is preparing to march on Peking shortly.

THE THIBETAN EXPEDITION.

Peking, June 2.

The Magistrate of Szchuan province has telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai that it is impossible to send out the Thibetan expedition owing to the lack of funds, but he will fit out an expedition if the necessary funds be speedily remitted him by the central Government.

THE ANTI-FOREIGN MOVEMENT IN SZCHUAN.

Peking, June 2.

The Peking Government has issued an explanation that the anti-foreign agitation in Szchuan province is an act of a section of rioters, but the people generally have no anti-foreign sentiment.

THE NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Peking, June 3.

According to a telegraphic report sent by Chang, the Vice-Minister of War, from Nanking, the people in Nanchang are eagerly responding to the invitation for the national subscription. The women are raising money on their jewellery and the men are making public collections. The Vice-Minister recommends some adequate steps be taken by the Government to make the national subscription a success.

Peking, June 3.

The National Subscription Association in Peking is to hold a mass meeting to-morrow to consider measures for starting an active movement.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

Peking, June 3.

A Presidential message was issued on the 1st instant accepting the resignation tendered by Hwang Hsing, and announcing the abolition of the Nanking Government after the official business has been transferred to Chen Te-chuan. The message also orders Hwang to come up to Peking to assist in the administration of State affairs. The whole of the 1st and 2nd armies and a portion of the 3rd army in Nanking have been transferred to the direct control of the War Office, and the rest of the Nanking army to the management of the Magistrate in Kiangsu. The readjustment of the Nanking army is entrusted to Chang Tso-pin, Vice-Minister of War, who is instructed to carry out the readjustment in accordance with the plan laid down by Hwang Hsing.

ISSUE OF WAR NOTES.

Hangchow, June 3.

The Chekiang Military Government again issued two million *taels* worth of war notes on the 1st instant. The notes are redeemable with silver at the end of March next year.

PIENMA AND HSINKING.

Peking, June 3.

Yuan Shih-kai has been in consultation with the

Cabinet Ministers in the matter of opening diplomatic negotiations with Great Britain and Russia regarding the British occupation of Pienma and Russia's dispatch of troops to Hsinking.

THE DISTURBANCE IN KUEICHOW.

Nanking, June 5.

The disturbance in Kueichow has now been suppressed under the strong arm of the local Magistrate.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

Nanking, June 5.

Poppies are being widely cultivated in Kueichow and opium is quoted at a high price. The local authorities do not enforce the prohibition lest they might lose a good source of revenue.

HWANG HSING.

Nanking, June 5.

Upon the transfer of official business to his successor, Hwang Hsing will proceed to Peking via Shanghai and Hunan and thence extend his trip to Japan.

THE CHILIH MAGISTRACY.

Tientsin, June 5.

Since the time when Chang Hsi-luan was appointed Magistrate of Chihli province the Tungminghui, a political party, has advocated that the Magistracy should be filled by a native of the province. The members of the Provincial Assembly and the Tientsin Local Assembly, etc. endorsed this view and chose by referendum Wang Chih-siang of Chihli extraction for the post and started an active movement to secure the appointment for their nominee. Tang Shao-i gave countenance to the movement. Magistrate Chang started a counter-movement with the Unionists and others of the moderate party as his supporters. The rivalry has thrown local politics into chaos. Yuan Shih-kai seemed to be at a loss to give any decision, seeing the two rival parties have equal influence, but finally decided to reject the claim of the Tungminghui on the ground that it was undesirable to remove the Magistrate to suit public opinion. In making this decision Yuan Shih-kai was not a little moved by the persuasion of Yen Hsiu and other local celebrities who represent the moderate view. Yuan Shih-kai accordingly telegraphed to the Magistrate to attend to official business without the least regard to the opinion of a section of the local politicians. The local political trouble has thus been settled.

DISBANDMENT OF SOLDIERS.

Hangchow, June 5.

The Chikiang Magistracy has decided to disband 2,745 soldiers within the next three days, and send them home to Wenchow, Taichow, Kinhua, Yenchow, Hsiangchow, Ningpo and Shaohsing, under the command of officers, between June 5th and 7th. The allowance to be granted to the disbanded soldiers is estimated at between \$30 and \$50, which is to be paid in the silver notes issued by the Chekiang Government.

TROUBLE AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, June 5.

A few days ago there were some conflicts between soldiers and police outside the foreign settlement, but the trouble ended without assuming any large proportions. When the matter of building an elementary school was being discussed in the Hunan men's hall to-day, a conflict arose amongst the members, which led to a conflict between two rival sections of the Hunan soldiers. Two soldiers were killed and several others injured, but the row was soon suppressed.

RIOT AT CHANGSHA.

Changsha, June 5.

A portion of the soldiers disbanded near Yochow entered Changsha and commenced looting. They came into collision with the town guards. The local magistrate sent troops to guard the foreign consulates and residences. The riot was, however, soon suppressed.

Changsha, June 5.

The town is now quiet. The disquieting

rumours have turned out baseless. There is no sign of any civil commotion.

THE YUE HAN RAILWAY.

Hankow, June 5.
At the general meeting of the shareholders of the Yue-Han Railway Company, it has been decided to commence the work of construction on the Hunan line and the executive committee has been appointed.

SEIZURE OF BOMBS.

Hankow, June 6.
Twenty Royalists were discovered engaged in the manufacture of explosive bombs outside the town of Wuchang. The culprits all fled, but the bombs and their material were seized.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

THE EXCESS OF IMPORTS.

Commenting upon the general tendency of Japan's foreign trade, the *Jiji Shimpō*, in an editorial, observes:—

The foreign trade since January this year has resulted every month in a considerable excess of imports over exports. The former, up to the month of May, aggregated 296,000,000 yen and the latter 189,000,000 yen, thereby bringing the total of the excess close on 107,000,000 yen. This is an increase of 32,000,000 yen as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, the exports increasing by only 18,000,000 yen, but the imports by over 50,000,000 yen. While it is almost always the case that the imports show an excess over the exports in the first half of the year, no past year has ever witnessed such a large amount of imports as is recorded for the present fiscal year.

This comparative inactivity of the export trade is, however, a natural consequence, for despite the decisive increase in the prices of the commodities for domestic consumption, the values of export goods have shown little or practically no advance, the market prices of such exports as raw silk, *habutae*, silk handkerchiefs, cotton thread and cotton yarn even undergoing a marked decline as compared with the preceding year. The effects of the political commotion in China, are also still felt and must be taken into account. Certainly the increase of ten per cent. in the export trade, as shown above, is insignificant, but it is nevertheless satisfactory that the exports should show any increase at all in the circumstances.

Turning to the import trade, it has decreased generally in cereals, flour, sugar, wine and other comestibles, in leather, dried indigo, cotton thread and such like raw or half-manufactured materials, and in manufactures such as cotton tissues, woollen cloth, etc. But on the other hand, it has shown a marked increase in cotton, wool, fertilizers, iron, and such raw or half-manufactured materials. In short the import trade this year has decreased in manufactures and increased in raw materials, which shows a healthy development of trade.

It must be further observed that now that the import of raw cotton, which is one of the direct causes of the expansion of the import trade this year, is practically finished, and the export trade with China is beginning to increase owing to the insufficient supply of daily commodities in that country, while the season for the export of both tea and raw silk is fast drawing near, the future prospects are very hopeful, as can be inferred from the following table:—

	Exports. (million yen.)	Imports. (million yen.)	Excess of Imports. (million yen.)
1912.			
January	31	46	15
February	36	57	21
March	38	62	24
April	40	68	28
May	43	61	18

As the above figures indicate, while the exports since January show an increase, the imports show a decline since April. This tendency will certainly make itself felt more and more, as time

passes, the result of the year's trade being probably a small excess of imports.

Viewed in this light, there is no reason for entertaining any pessimistic views concerning the foreign trade for the present fiscal year. Let it be noted, however, that it is for the promotion of the export trade and the restriction of the imports that the import of raw or half-manufactured goods is to be encouraged. In spite of the considerable amount of raw or half-manufactured goods which this country has imported since it was open to foreign intercourse, the fact remains that its foreign trade is conspicuous for the excess of imports over exports. The reasons for this phenomenon are various, but generally speaking, it may be said that the greater part of these raw materials is imported for domestic consumption, or for consumption in such enterprises as will not prove directly productive. Also that the so-called manufactured exports from this country are, from the most part, little removed from raw materials in finish, and but little margin can be realized between the values of the exported manufactures and the imported raw materials. In view of these facts, it is necessary that both the authorities and the people directly interested should endeavour to always see that only such raw materials as may be consumed in or applied to productive enterprises are imported, and that so far as export goods are concerned, those of a superior quality are produced, so that both labour and capital may be utilised in the best possible way.

JAPAN MISSION OF THE AMERICAN BOARD.

(COMMUNICATED.)

The annual gathering of the Japan Mission of the American Board in Arima, from May 23rd to May 27th, was a veritable old Home Week. All but four members of the mission on the field were there, and the entire company, including guests and a score of children, numbered over one hundred. Among the guests were Miss Kate Lamson and Miss Sarah Day, secretary and treasurer of the Congregational Woman's Board of Missions, Miss Henrietta F. Brewer, treasurer of the Woman's Board of Missions of the Pacific, and Rev. and Mrs. John X. Miller of the American Board's Madura Mission in India.

The annual mission report indicated that in spite of a depletion of forces by death and retirement from service, and various difficulties and setbacks, the year's work had borne substantial fruit. Mr. Miller of the Madura Mission spoke of Christian progress in India, and President Harada of Doshisha University told of the growth of that institution. Efforts, he said, were being made to raise 50,000 yen in this country as endowment for the Theological department. He asked the mission to coöperate in increasing this sum to 150,000 yen and also in securing funds for an auditorium which should stand as a memorial for the late Dr. Davis. The mission cordially responded to this request, detailing two of its members about to return to America to work for \$50,000 in the home land and appointing a committee to coöperate with President Harada in raising funds for the Davis memorial. Mr. Eisuke Nakamura of Kyoto brought greetings from the Kumiai Home Missionary Society and Rev. Hakichi Tsunashima of Tokyo gave an account of his efforts on behalf of despondent men and women.

There were numerous minor items of business to attend to and several particularly perplexing problems to solve. The foremost of these concerned the future of Sendai station, the field of which embraces Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima prefectures. There was some sentiment in favour of closing the station and concentrating forces in other places. The prevailing opinion, however, was that in spite of lack of men and money the mission could not afford to abandon a field where work had been so long

established and which was of so great strategic importance. It was therefore resolved to urge the American Board to give relief to this and other stations by sending as soon as possible new families already promised, together with increased financial aid. For the present a committee of experienced missionaries were requested to give as much assistance as possible in this field. A critical situation in the Echigo field was met by transferring a family from Miyazaki to Niigata. The language course drafted by the committee of the Federated Missions was adopted, but with an extended time limit for the completion of the course.

An evening's recreation on Saturday relieved the stress of the business sessions. In the early evening twilight the hotel terrace was suddenly transformed to fairyland as a company of little sprites in fantastic garb and with gauzy wings came skipping about singing *The Fairy Changling*. The later hours were spent in celebrating the silver wedding anniversaries of Rev. and Mrs. Sidney Gulick and Rev. and Mrs. Cyrus Clark. Miss Cornelia Judson, Miss Mary Wainwright, and Miss Annie Howe also were congratulated upon having completed twenty-five years of service in Japan.

The business sessions were broken each day by a short devotional service. The general topic of these services was *The Ministry of Reconciliation* the Message of the Mission. On Sunday Rev. H. J. Bennett preached the annual sermon taking for his subject, *The Life of Faith*. The children held their meeting in the afternoon and in the evening the mission gathered for a service in loving memory of Miss Eliza Talcott and Mrs. Gertrude Benedict Curtis, who after lives of devout service for the Master had gone to their reward.

D.I.G.

STRIKE LEGISLATION.

The Department of Justice has decided to frame a special law for the control of strikes and similar disturbances and the law is now being drafted under the personal supervision of Mr. Yamanouchi, Councillor to the Department. The Councillor is credited with having stated that the conflicts between capital and labour in European countries have of late become constant, resulting in many strikes. Not only does this deal a serious blow to the development of industries, but it also accelerates the dissemination of dangerous ideas. A great strike is as disastrous to a country as a civil war. A tendency towards such disturbances is now invading Japan, as shown by the recent tramway strike, and it is not very difficult to predict the occurrence of conflicts between capitalists and workmen in future, when commerce and industry make further advancement. The Government therefore considers it urgent to take adequate preventive measures, and the causes or motives of strikes in civilized countries, as well as the methods of control in vogue, are now being studied for the purpose of drafting a special law whereby the evil may be eradicated.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

The birthday of His Majesty King George was celebrated with every heartiness in both Tokyo and Yokohama on Monday. There was a very large gathering at the British Embassy at Tokyo, when special representatives from his Imperial Majesty attended to convey birthday congratulations to Sir Claude MacDonald, as the representative of the King. A similar function took place at the British Consulate-General in Yokohama, presided over by Mr. Oswald White as Acting Vice-Consul. At the Y. U. Club, the members also assembled, and drank enthusiastically the health of His Majesty, the toast being proposed by Mr. O. White.

A loyal message of congratulation was despatched by the British Association, to which a reply from the King's Private Secretary was received.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

STILL AN UPWARD TENDENCY.

Commenting on the movements of the market price of rice, the *Tokyo Asahi* says that the farmers show a hesitation to part with their stock in view of an increased demand, and speculative purchases on the rice market are becoming more and more prevalent, thus accelerating the rise in price. The following were the quotations on the 3rd inst. on the Tokyo and other exchanges:

	June delivery.	July delivery.	August delivery.
	yen.	yen.	yen.
Tokyo Exchange.....	20.67	20.90	30.15
Osaka "	20.26	20.25	19.73
Hyogo "	20.45	20.32	19.70
Bakan "	20.56	20.54	19.88
Nagoya "	20.245	20.23	19.50
Kuwana "	20.96	21.20	20.645

The quotations for July delivery on the Kuwana Rice Exchange are the highest ever reached, while the other quotations are generally very high throughout. It is believed by a section of the operators and farmers that the quotations will ultimately rise to 25 yen.

The substitution of Chosen and Formosan rice for standard rice in the Exchange and the reduction of the import tariff on foreign rice, which the Government introduced as a measure for regulating the price, only had the effect of temporarily relieving the strain, and the increase in price continues unchecked. When the Imperial ordinance announcing the reduction of the import tariff was issued the price of rice dropped by about 20 sen, but the effect was soon lost and the quotations continued to rise until the phenomenal price of over 20 yen was reached, the upward tendency being still maintained to the bewilderment of the Government authorities. An impression now obtains that the Government will have to take drastic measures for the regulation of the price of rice.

In view of the continued rise in the price of rice on the Rice Exchange, notwithstanding the reduction of the import tariff on foreign rice, the substitution of Chosen and Formosan rice for standard rice, and some other measures, which it was thought would prove effective in regulating the price, a rumour is current that the Government will, as a last resort, order a suspension of transactions on the Exchange. Up to quite recently the responsible authorities announced that the Government had no intention of enforcing such suspension, but inasmuch as quotations have subsequently jumped up to over 21 yen, an opinion is gaining ground in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of the inevitable necessity of suspending transactions for June and July forwards. Another opinion also obtains as to the advisability of watching further developments, as it would injuriously affect the price of rice should suspension fail to produce the desired end. The attitude of the Government thus remains unsettled, but the measure will have to be taken ultimately if the present conditions on the Exchange continue.

THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE.

Commenting on the resolution adopted by the International Parliamentary Conference for framing a special treaty for the neutralization of Chosen, and the Bakan, Soya and Tsugaru Straits, Dr. Ariga remarks that no importance need be attached to the resolution, inasmuch as the Conference which adopted it has no value in itself. Briefly speaking the Conference has no business to interfere with the Japanese dominions and the resolution is tantamount to a suggestion for providing a public road across land owned by somebody else. Moreover, the resolution is fundamentally wrong, because the Tsugaru and Soya straits are not in Japanese territorial waters, which generally extend three nautical miles from the land, whereas the two straits named were wider than that limit. In case of inland waters the whole

extent is territorial if the width at the mouth be under ten nautical miles, under which category comes the Bakan Straits. The Parliamentary Conference is not an assembly of juriconsults, and no notice need be taken of its resolution.

The attitude of Japanese members towards the resolutions adopted by the International Parliamentary Union in favour of the conclusion of special treaties regarding the neutralization of straits and canals, is to be determined at the conference to be held on the 11th instant, and in view of the effect of the proposal on the national defences and the welfare of the State, the question will be carefully studied. The resolution also demands the dispatch of a special delegate. Inasmuch as the Japanese Diet is a party to the Parliamentary Union, an answer to the note must be given, but as the Union has no power to enforce the resolution, it is felt that there is no necessity for a hasty decision. An opinion prevails amongst the Japanese members that the answer had better be withheld until the question has been thoroughly studied by juriconsults and the views of the participatory Powers have been ascertained.

THE TOKYO MAYORALTY.

Mr. Ozaki, the Mayor of Tokyo, who is now staying at Kamakura, is credited with having told an interviewer that the allegation of his having signified his intention of resigning the Mayoralty is incorrect. As a matter of fact he had neither signified any such intention nor has he any idea of resigning. He is doing his best in the interests of the City and his resignation would therefore be devoid of any significance.

A rumour is current in Tokyo that Mayor Ozaki has, on consultation with the Municipal Aldermen's Council on the 4th instant, presented his resignation to the Minister of Home Affairs. The *Tokyo Asahi* addressed to the Mayor a note of inquiry, to which Mr. Ozaki replied in the negative, strongly repudiating the rumour. It seems, nevertheless, almost certain that the Mayor has the intention of resigning.

With reference to the rumour of the probable resignation of Mayor Ozaki, the *Tokyo Asahi* reports that on the 5th inst. the Mayor sat in secret conference with the Deputy Mayors, Messrs. Tagawa, Harada, and Miyagawa, the conference lasting several hours. Subsequently Messrs. Harada and Tagawa also sat in conference. Strict secrecy is being maintained as to the nature of the conferences, but there can be no doubt that they concern the question of the Mayor's resignation. It is certain that Mayor Ozaki has not yet officially tendered his resignation, but an impression obtains in well informed circles that it will be ultimately tendered about the 10th instant.

THE ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

The *Nichi Nichi* is the authority for the report that the Government has under consideration a revision of the charter of the Oriental Development Company. The charter was originally framed in 1908, when Japan exercised a protectorate over Korea. Since the annexation of Korea in 1910 things have radically changed, and the law which was framed to suit the conditions then obtaining in the protectorate is now rather out of date and also does not quite suit the altered conditions in the peninsula. The salient feature of the proposed revision is the limitation of the sphere of the company's work to banking business, by transferring the immigration and other business to the hands of the Chosen Government, by whom it can be best conducted. As a majority of the company's shareholders are rather dissatisfied with the present condition of the company's business, they will probably welcome the revision.

UNREST AT PEKING.

CITY BEING STRICTLY GUARDED.

A Peking special to the *Chunwa* reports that the city is being strongly guarded by police. The Home Office has ordered the suspension of the mass meeting of the Patriotic Subscription Association and a number of journalists have been arrested. Over twenty of these were arrested the previous night and taken to prison, their houses being searched. Wild rumours are being circulated—one that five journalists have been already beheaded. The Republicans and other political parties are holding meetings. The Cabinet is almost deserted and the situation is very disquieting.

The State Council is vigilantly guarded by a cordon of police. The Council is to sit to-day behind closed doors. Yuan Shih-kai has evidently brought pressure to bear upon the Council.

At the previous secret meeting of the State Council the loan question was discussed, when the members strongly attacked Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs, and the Inspector-General of Police, for their interference in the freedom of public speech. The member representing Mukden province even attacked Yuan Shih-kai in violent language for trying to assume the role of monarch instead of being a faithful servant of the people. The Council rose without any decision being taken as to the loan question. The Government is exercising strict control over public speeches and the situation is not at all reassuring.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.

According to the authorities of the Deposit Bureau, the deposits in the Post-Office Savings Banks have not only made no increase since January, but show a downward tendency since April. As the following table indicates, the deposits up to the month of April last year increased by 2,930,000 yen, whereas the figures for the corresponding period of the present year show a decrease of 500,000 yen.

	1912. (Thou. Yen.)	1911. (Thou. Yen.)
January	184,252	160,809
February	184,459	162,614
March	184,592	162,892
April	183,749	163,745
Inc. or Dec. since Jan.	503	+ 2,936

The decrease is no doubt due to various causes, but the authorities are of opinion that the chief are the high price of rice, and the higher rate of interest allowed on deposits at ordinary banks.

WEDDING IN TOKYO.

The wedding took place at St. Andrews Church, Shiba, Tokyo, on Saturday afternoon last, of Mr. E. J. Harrison, the well known journalist and author, and Miss Cicely Ross, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ross of Tokyo.

The Church was prettily decorated for the occasion and a large number of the friends of the bride and bridegroom were present. The service was fully choral.

Later a reception was held at the house of the bride's father in Hikawa-cho, where the healths of the bride and bridegroom were drunk very heartily by the many friends assembled. The happy couple have gone for a honeymoon tour through Japan and afterwards to Vladivostok. Mr. Harrison's many friends in Japan will join us in wishing him and his wife all kinds of good luck and happiness.

The Chinese gunboat *Eiho* (830 tons displacement), built at the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard in Nagasaki, was successfully launched at 10.30 a.m. on the 5th instant, in the presence of a large crowd of guests.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of May 30th state:—

Transactions being for the two forward months only, business was on a small scale this morning, although prices generally improved fractionally, the most noteworthy advances being Specie Bank Old 1 yen, Toyo Muslin 1 yen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old 65 sen, and Nippon Oils 70 sen. Exchange shares were again weak and fell 55 and 45 sen for Old and New respectively. The Afternoon Session lasted 50 minutes only. Operators holding back until the new month comes into force to-morrow. The tone was somewhat irregular; the principal rises were Goto Woollens 1.00 yen and Toyo Muslins again 1.15 yen. Sugars appreciated some 10/60 sen, and Stock Exchanges regained what they had dropped in the morning. This morning 9,070 shares changed hands.

June 1.

The first market of the new month opened somewhat active and shares advanced fractionally owing to the decision of the Directors of the Kanegafuchi Spinning Co. to declare a 2 per cent. increase in Dividend, causing operators to hope that others may do likewise. In consequence Fuji Gassed Spinning, Old and New, rose 1.35 yen and 1.15 yen, Kanegafuchi Old and New 40 and 45 sen. Other noteworthy rises were Goto Woollens 1.30 yen, Taihoku Sugar 1 yen, Minami Sugar 40 sen. Exchange shares advanced 60 sen and 1 yen for Old and New respectively.

There was very little movement in the afternoon session, owing to to-morrow being a holiday. The only notable rise was Toyo Sugars 1 yen. Others rose fractionally. Exchange shares were stationary. Yesterday, 16,120 shares changed hands.

June 4.

The morning market opened dull and inactive; prices fluctuated within 10/50 sen limits, and the principal declines were Fuji Paper 30 sen, Fuji Gass Spinnings 50 and 40 sen for Old and New, Goto Woollens 35 sen, Taihoku Sugar, 60 sen; Hoden Oils rose 20/30 sen. Exchange shares were weak and declined 90 and 95 sen respectively for Old and New. There were only 9,970 shares transacted this morning.

The afternoon session was a repetition of that of the morning; the dull tone continued and shares generally declined fractionally. There were no notable changes to report with exception of exchange shares, which again fell 60 sen for Old and 1.60 yen for New.

Yesterday, 25,500 shares changed hands.

June 5.

Although the new crops of Barley and Wheat are considered good, there was a strong "Bearish" movement this morning, utilising the revision of the Stock Exchange articles as the pivot of attack. This, combined with the influence of the gloomy weather, caused a general decline in shares. Yusen lead with a fall of 1 yen 5 sen, Horisha Sugars 1 yen 20 sen and others from 10/90 sen. Exchanges slumped 2 yen 90 sen and 2 yen 20 sen for Old and New respectively.

In the afternoon a slight reaction took place. Yusen regained 30 sen, Tankos New 60 sen, Goto Woollens 1 yen. The rest fluctuated 5/60 sen. Exchange shares Old declined 70 sen, but New regained 1 yen 20 sen owing to profit-taking.

Yesterday, 18,720 shares were transacted.

June 6.

The market was roused out of its torpidity this morning by the rumour of the Nippon Yusen increasing their capital. In consequence almost all shares advanced; the principle rises were Yusen yen 2.75, Kogyo Bank 75 sen, Goto Woollens yen 1.70, Exchange shares Old and New, yen 2.55 and yen 1.55, and the rest of the shares 5/65 sen.

In the afternoon the "Bears" contradicted the rumour of increase of capital of the Yusen, and made profit out of the morning boom by selling heavily all round, thereby causing a severe reaction. Yusen declined yen 1.45, Spinnings

were very weak, Fuji Gass Old and New declined 90 and 50 sen, Toyo 40 and 30 sen, Kanegafuchi 90 and 40 sen, Goto Woollens 75 sen, and Sugars also, with exception of Yensuiko, which rose 25 sen only. All others had falls of 10/45 sen. Exchange shares again declined yen 1.35 and yen 1.15 for Old and New.

Yesterday, 24,770 shares were transacted.

THE GAIETY CINEMATOGRAH.

The Gaiety Theatre was invaded by a very large audience on Saturday evening last, the house being nearly filled. The films—as usual—were excellent; although one has still to lodge a mild protest against the "Merry Widow" waltz being played during a tragic episode in an old Roman play that was supposed to take place about 900 years ago. We know that music is naturally reminiscent, but the waltz in question is not only very young, but is also out of court. The great feature of the evening was the songs of Madame Abdala; and judging by the applause and the encores that were demanded by the audience, Madame was an undoubted success. One does not criticize the voice of a comedienne. One criticizes her acting. And with Madame Abdala, it can be frankly said that she is an actress of fine attributes and is exceedingly funny; and after all, that is all that Madame Abdalla intends to be, or wishes to be.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

AN APPEAL.

The following appeal for funds for the purchase of a new ground for sports is addressed to all those, whatever their nationality, and irrespective of whether they are members of the Club or not, who have the true interests of Yokohama at heart.

Although the necessity of a ground for games and athletics will perhaps be more apparent to those of the foreign community who have taken, or still take, part in such games, it is hoped that a perusal of this letter will convince others also that a playing ground is as essential to the community as lungs are to the human body.

For every young man a certain amount of exercise is an absolute necessity if he is to keep healthy and fit, and in a state in which he is able to do the maximum amount of effective work for his firm. Moreover, every young man requires a little excitement and amusement, and it is undeniable that if he cannot get these on the playing field, he will seek them elsewhere and obtain them probably in a less healthy atmosphere, with the result that his efficiency will be seriously impaired. There has always in the past been a ground where the young men of the port could get all the exercise they wanted. This they now lack, and at present the only forms of exercise which can be obtained are lawn tennis, golf and rowing, and of the two former it may be said that owing to the very crowded membership of the respective Clubs, a game is difficult to obtain. For cricket, football, baseball and athletics there is at present no place whatsoever, and such being the case the Committee of the Y.C. & A.C. beg you to consider whether you cannot come to the assistance of the Club and help them to obtain the ground which they need.

It will be remembered that a Recreation Club was founded in the Sixties and has therefore been one of the regular features of Yokohama since the earliest days of the port. It would surely be more than a pity to let so old-established an institution die out for want of a little support.

In 1899, at the time the Revised Treaties came into force, a lease was signed by which the Authorities continued to grant to the Club the sole use of the piece of ground known as the "Cricket Ground" for a term of 10 years. When this period drew to a close the Club lost the exclusive use of the grounds which it had enjoyed for a great many years. In view of the large number of Japanese clubs which have recently come into existence and will claim equal rights with the Y.C. & A.C. to the use of the new grounds in the Public Park, it is clear that even when the ground is in good condition the Club will only get the use of it on infrequent occasions. For some time past, therefore, the Committee of the Club have considered the possibility of acquiring a separate ground of their own, and with that object in view they have inspected all the eligible sites in the

neighbourhood without unfortunately being able to discover any place which possessed the two essential requisites—accessibility and cheapness. At last, however, thanks to the opening of the Tramway Co.'s tunnel under the Bluff, they have succeeded in finding a lot which, though not as near the settlement as the old ground was, is still within 20 minutes (partly by tram, partly on foot) from most offices. In comparing the distance, a factor which should not be forgotten is that after the game is over, the distance back to the houses on the Bluff will be less than from the old ground. As regards expense, the price of the new lot, though dear, is not out of all reason, as was the case in respect of other grounds which were suggested.

The exact situation of the ground is on the hill known as Yaguchidai, comprising about 6,800 *tsubo*, so that when properly laid out it will be large enough to be available for cricket, football, baseball, athletics, lawn tennis, gymnastics, bowls, croquet, etc. The location is a high and healthy one with a fine view of the sea and the surrounding country, and the approach is fair, and it is hoped will soon be considerably improved. It was felt by the Committee that it would be useless to lease the ground, as after they had spent much on improvements their landlords would probably have raised the rent to a disproportionate figure. They therefore decided that it was essential to buy the property outright, and at present they have secured an option to purchase it at a price of a little under 7,000 yen per *tsubo*. In addition to the money required for the purchase of the ground, a considerable sum will also be necessary in order to make it ready for play. From the estimates which the Club have obtained, it is thought that the expense of the whole undertaking will be approximately 65,000 yen, distributed as follows:—

Costs of land	Yen, 50,000
" levelling and banking	 6,500
" drainage	 5,000
" turfing say 4,000 <i>tsubo</i>	 3,500
" fencing	 5,000
" pavilion	 3,500
Incidental expenses	 65,000
Running track, etc. }	 3,500
Total	 65,000

The above figures are only approximate. The sum is admittedly a large one, but it must be remembered that by far the greater part of it will be invested in land which will probably go up in value. If it is found that sufficient support is forthcoming, it is proposed to raise the money required according to the following method, which has been laid before, and has met with the approval of, an Advisory Committee, consisting of past members of the Committee of the Y.C. & A.C. and some of the leading members of all the many nationalities which go to make up the Foreign Community of Yokohama.

The scheme is as follows:—As much as possible will be collected by means of donations or non-interest-bearing Debentures. The balance will be borrowed from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, who have kindly agreed to lend the money at a nominal rate of interest against the security of the ground.

The more money is raised by donations or debentures the better, but supposing that only 30,000 yen, half the sum required, is obtained in this way, interest on the balance, amounting to about 1,800 yen, will have to be found each year. With a membership of 250 (the present membership, which is 225, will, it is hoped, be considerably increased when the ground is obtained) and a monthly subscription of 2 yen, the income of the Club, not counting entrance fees and the profits from the sale of refreshments, will be not less than 5,800 yen. The upkeep of the grounds ought not to cost—at a liberal estimate—more than 3,000 yen (the upkeep of the old grounds was 2,500 yen), which would leave a balance of 2,800 yen, of which 1,800 yen would pay the interest and 1,000 yen would go to reduce the debt, the former sum of course growing smaller and the latter larger as years went by until the whole debt was extinguished, after which, half the yearly profits would go towards improving the Club and half towards redeeming the Debentures at par by drawing lots.

Should it, however, be at any time necessary to wind up the Club and dispose of the property, the Debenture-holders would divide such money as was receivable after the Bank's debt had been paid off. Debenture-holders, as such, would have no voice in the management of the Club, but their interests would be looked after by five trustees appointed by them, in whose names the property would be vested. It is suggested that amongst the Trustees should be the Resident Managers of the Hongkong and Shanghai

Bank and Chartered Bank of I. A. & C., in their private capacity.

The Club itself will be formed as soon as possible into a juridical person having the public good as its object, and not being organized for the purpose of making money. Messrs. De Becker, Gadsby and Nakanura have kindly undertaken to attend to all the necessary legal formalities—free of charge—with the exception, of course, of actual disbursements involved in registration, etc.

It is felt that in the past the Club has been used more perhaps by English and Americans than by members of other nationalities, this doubtless being accounted for by the fact that their tastes could not be catered for owing to the smallness of the former ground. It is hoped that when the new playing-fields are ready there will be ample room for several tennis courts, bowling greens and a croquet court, and, if necessary, and the increase in membership justifies it, arrangements could also be made for other sports and a gymnasium.

It will readily be understood that at the outset too ambitious a programme cannot be adopted, on account of the uncertainty as to the funds which will be forthcoming, but once the Club owns its grounds, improvements can be made in the property and it can be worked up in such a way that the Club will cater for the amusement of a far larger section of the community than has been done in the past. With this object in view, the name of the Club will probably be altered from Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club to some more comprehensive name to be chosen later at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Furthermore, it is hoped that we shall be able to interest the ladies of Yokohama in the new scheme. Hitherto the ladies have always most kindly come forward and assisted the club at all matches and meetings, but owing to the restrictions of space the Club has not been able to make any return by allowing ladies the use of the grounds. In future it is hoped that it will be possible to give ladies the run of the grounds with certain limitations as to Sundays and holidays.

In conclusion, therefore, we beg you to consider the matter carefully, and having done so we feel sure that you will either make a donation or take up some debentures. Pray do not turn the matter aside on the plea that you are not directly concerned. Remember that it is in the interests of the community as a whole that we appeal to you, and we trust that your generosity will impel you to give us as much support, financial and other, as you can afford, but in any case we beg for your kind sympathy.

Yokohama, May 28th, 1912.

S. ISAACS, President.
E. F. CROWE, Vice-President.
R. N. POSTLETHWAITE, Hon. Secretary.
G. H. BELL, Hon. Treasurer.
W. D. S. EDWARDS.
K. HARDMAN.
V. A. HEARNE.
R. F. MOSS.
A. P. SCOTT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Under the above heading an "Outsider," in your this morning's issue, makes a virulent attack on French Capital and on French national traits reflected by said capital.

It is very undesirable that "outsiders" should create bad blood between business men just for the sake of giving public vent to their own ideas; and in the present case "Outsider" does not seem altogether disinterested, as he signs to be, but, I rather think, finds "too raw the grapes he cannot get."

If, as he reminds us, France is a country of centuries and of shopkeepers, she holds the millions; while Japan, who is a country of *gorius* and where the aspiration of anyone having a capital of a 100 francs, is to become a shopkeeper, is still looking for the millions, whether England's bold money or France's sniggardly, to quote "outsider."

I may add, what everybody knows, that it is certainly not with the Japanese paper money that France has grown rich, the latter's products being too good and too dear for this country, whereas France is one of the best customers for Japanese raw products, bringing her heaps of her good gold money, a state of things that may change when the French people will be less generous regarding anything Japanese.

Enclosing my card, I am Dear Sir, yours sincerely,
"UN CONSEILLER DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR
DE LA FRANCE."

Yokohama, May 31, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, May 30.

The *Times* correspondent at Tangier says that twenty thousand rebels are besieging Fez.

The French garrison is 6,000 strong.

The situation is grave.

London, June 1.

It appears that the French lost heavily on the night of the 25th ult.

A telegram which the wireless station at Fez refused has been brought to Tangier by a courier. It says that the French had 42 killed and 75 wounded.

London, June 2.

The French newspapers agree that the situation at Fez is grave.

The *Matin's* Fez correspondent says the danger is growing daily, and at least ten additional battalions are required before the French can master the situation.

A holy war is being preached everywhere.

London, June 4.

General Lyautey reports that a column left Fez at dawn on Saturday to attack a very large gathering of the enemy in the hills six miles to the north east.

The column bombarded and captured the camp, the enemy fleeing to the Mobleke mountains, leaving many dead.

The French losses were 9 killed and 28 wounded.

The English non-commissioned officer, Redman, who was an instructor to the Sultan's troops, was killed while gallantly leading the attack.

THE TRANSPORT WORKERS STRIKE.

London, May 30.

The Shipowners Federation has written to Mr. Sydney Buxton, the President of the Board of Trade, declining to attend to-morrow's conference and declaring that they have loyally acted up to the agreement of last August.

London, May 31.

The Port of London authority has declined to participate in the Conference, which threatens to become abortive.

London, June 1.

There is a general belief that the transport workers strike trouble is subsiding.

The *Daily News* understands that the Government will insist upon the men resuming work immediately, and then establish a Board of Arbitration to prevent stoppages in future.

There is greater activity at the Docks.

Volunteers unloading the food stuffs for sixpence an hour struck for a shilling, which was granted.

London, June 2.

The transport workers have resolved to recommend the London Strike Committee to accept the Government's proposal, with necessary safeguards for enforcement of the decisions of the Conciliation Board.

London, June 5.

Several papers publish editorials rejoicing over the apparent collapse of the transport workers' strike,—the first of the recent great strikes which has failed to achieve speedy victory.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, May 31.

The returns in New Jersey end the per-

sonal campaign between Colonel Roosevelt and President Taft.

Despite the former's pronounced victories in all States, President Taft is still confident that he will be able to control the Republican Convention.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE.

London, May 31.

The *Times* in an editorial, says that the recent discussions as to Anglo-French relations have had excellent results in showing the strength of the cordiality and mutual regard between the two nations.

This very fact is a reason against the suggested transformation into a formal alliance of the *entente*, which has already been tested in an actual crisis and proved equal to the strain.

DEATH OF WILBUR WRIGHT.

London, May 31.

The death is announced of Wilbur Wright, the aviator, from typhoid fever.

NAVAL CHANGES.

London, May 31.

The cruiser *Defence* will be the flagship of the China Station, instead of the *New Zealand*.

Another change is contemplated.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 2.

Signor Giolitti, the Italian Premier, in an interview published by the *Daily Chronicle*, says it is not thought the war will last much longer, but unless Turkey submits soon, Italy will strike harder than she has yet done.

London, June 5.

In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Grey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, said there had been informal discussions for an endeavour to end the Turco-Italian War, but they had no definite result up to the present.

WAITERS STRIKE IN NEW YORK.

London, June 2.

Two thousand waiters at six fashionable restaurants in New York dropped their napkins at the dinner hour and walked out on strike.

The strike is spreading to the Clubs and apartment houses.

Later.

Thirty hotels and restaurants at New York are involved in the waiters' and kitchen attendants' strike, and 3,500 men are out.

College students are replacing the strikers.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

London, June 2.

The leading opium merchants at Bombay have wired to the Government of India, calling attention to the extremely critical situation of the opium trade in China.

The merchants say that unless the Government strongly supports the merchants a grave financial crisis will follow.

THE TROUBLE IN CUBA.

London, June 2.

United States marines have landed at Cuba by the concurrence of the Cuban President and the National Council.

Later.

A despatch from Santiago de Cuba says the Government troops have defeated the rebels in a battle near Palmasoriano, killing 138.

STRIKE OF COLLIERIES.

London, June 2.

Thirteen hundred colliers have struck in

the Midlands as a protest against the Wage Board's award.

THE FRENCH MINISTER TO PEKING.

London, June 3.

M. Conty, Departmental Chief in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will shortly replace M. M. de Margerie, the Minister at Peking.

M. M. de Margerie will succeed M. Conty at the Foreign Office.

TROUBLE AT SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS.

London, June 3.

The Southampton dockers have demanded an increase in wages, which the employers have refused in view of last year's concessions.

The men threaten a general strike.

FIRE ON A CUNARD LINER.

London, June 3.

The Cunard liner *Carmania*, at the dock at Liverpool, was on fire for three hours yesterday evening.

The magnificent saloons were practically destroyed.

THE REBELLION IN CUBA.

London, June 4.

The Cuban rebels sacked and burned the town of Samaya and afterwards retreated to the hills.

The negroes attacked a hamlet near San Luis, outraging the inhabitants and looting their property.

THE MEDITERRANEAN.

London, June 4.

Statistics as to the Mediterranean naval position show that till 1920, France, without the aid of Great Britain, could hold absolute supremacy.

THE BELGIAN ELECTIONS.

London, June 4.

The Brussels elections to the Lower Chamber show a victory for the Government.

The workmen in the industrial districts have struck as a protest against the clerical victory.

There has been rioting at Liege, where the gendarmes fired on the crowd, killing three persons and wounding fifteen.

London, June 5.

Furious rioting and strikes have occurred at different towns in Belgium, the socialists resenting the Clerical triumph in the elections.

London, June 6.

The Council of the Belgian Socialists has appealed to the people to be calm and has summoned a Congress with a view to the introduction of a Bill revising the Constitution.

FIRE AT STAMBOUL.

London, June 4.

A fire broke out at Stamboul at ten yesterday morning and was still burning at 11 o'clock yesterday evening.

London, June 5.

Over a thousand houses have been burned and fifteen thousand persons are homeless.

A fire occurred at Pera later, when twenty houses were destroyed.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

London, June 4.

At a meeting of the Suez Canal Company, the receipts for the year were stated to be £5,521,528 sterling, an increase of £173,360.

This exceeds expectations in view of the reduction of fifty centimes on the tariff.

A similar reduction will be made from the beginning of next year.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.

London, June 5.

The London West End tailors have decided to resume work, without obtaining their demands.

THE HUNGARIAN ARMY BILL.

London, June 5.

Owing to the strenuous persistence of the President, Count Tisza, the Hungarian Lower House has adopted the Army Bill amidst a prodigious tumult.

THE MALTA CONFERENCE.

London, June 5.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, and Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, have left Bizerta for Gibraltar.

THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

London, June 5.

The Duchess of Connaught is reported to be suffering from appendicitis, but an operation may not be necessary.

London, June 6.

The Duchess of Connaught is suffering from peritonitis.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

London, June 5.

Their Majesties spent the King's birthday quietly at Buckingham Palace.

King George received a mass of world-wide congratulations.

Celebrations were general throughout the Empire.

President Taft wired his best wishes for the personal health and happiness of the King and the continued prosperity of the Empire over which His Majesty reigns.

THE DERBY.

London, June 6.

The result of the Derby was:—(1) W. Raphael's Tagalie; (2) L. Neumann's Jaeger; (3) A. Belmont's Tracery.

The betting was 100 to 8 on Tagalie, 8 to 1 on Jaeger, and 66 to 1 on Tracery.

Tagalie won by four lengths, with two lengths between second and third. Twenty horses ran.

THE BRITISH PREMIER.

London, June 6.

Mr. Asquith has left Bizerta for Marseilles on board H.M.S. *Suffolk*.

THE PORTUGUESE CABINET.

London, June 6.

The Portuguese Cabinet has resigned.

THE SETTLEMENT OF STRIKES.

London, June 6.

Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a detailed statement in the House of Commons as to the strike.

He emphasized the necessity of a permanent peace agreement for the nation by the establishment of a joint board, fully representative of the masters and the men, and empowered to settle all disputes.

THE OPIUM MARKET.

London, June 6.

The collapse of prices on Tuesday at the opium sale at Calcutta caused a panic on the local market.

The stock at Shanghai has depreciated £2,000,000 since May 1st.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

ANGLO-FRANCO GERMAN RELATIONS.

London, May 31.

It is persistently reported in Paris that in the event of an Anglo-German conflict,

Germany would not allow France to remain neutral, while should a Franco-German conflict arise, Germany would endeavour to compel Britain to participate.

THE TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS.

London, May 31.

The Albanian rebels have massed in the mountains at Truitza and the Turkish troops at Ferizovitch.

Neither side is apparently desirous of beginning hostilities.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, May 31.

On the Stock Exchange, Japanese Four-per-cents (1910 loan) are notably strong.

THE ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, May 31.

The Europeans in Fez are confined to the Consulate quarter and guarded by French troops.

The rising is purely anti-French and the tribesmen have given an assurance that other Europeans will be untouched.

CANADA AND THE NAVY.

London, June 1.

The Conservative leaders in the Dominion consider that Canada should immediately offer Great Britain a substantial sum for the Navy or that Dreadnoughts should be built and manned at the expense of Canada.

LEGALISED GAMBLING.

London, June 1.

The Portuguese Senate has approved the Bill legalising gambling at Seaside and Country pleasure resorts.

COPPER.

London, June 1.

Copper is quoted at 75½—76. The tone is firm.

THE SITUATION AT FEZ.

London, June 1.

Though the situation at Fez is serious, the rebel activity is diminishing.

The Sultan has agreed to defer the question of abdicating.

THE LONDON STRIKE.

London, June 1.

The Government's endeavours to end the London transport workers' strike by a conference of employers and men has failed.

The employers are weary of attending fruitless conferences and consenting to agreements which the men break.

The Opposition Press says the Government is shirking its responsibility and is considering the labour vote in the House of Commons instead of the national welfare.

THE WAITERS' STRIKE.

London, June 3.

The waiters' strike at New York has culminated in serious rioting outside the hotels.

The police were attacked and replied, using their clubs and revolvers.

GERMAN REVENUE.

London, June 3.

The returns of the German Imperial revenue for 1911 show a surplus of about £11,350,000.

GERMAN MILITARY AIRSHIP.

London, June 3.

The new Zeppelin military airship flew from Friedrichshafen to Hamburg in twelve hours.

AERONAUT ACCIDENTS.

London, June 3.

Two German airmen have been killed at

Bremen by the overturning of their machine, and a Frenchman has been killed at Juvisy by the wind capsizing his aeroplane.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, June 4.

On the Stock Exchange Japanese and Russian stocks are firm, with French purchases.

THE ATTACK ON FEZ.

London, June 4.

The French flying column has returned to Fez.

The rebels have been defeated with heavy loss and driven across Jebu.

THE VISIT TO BIZERTA.

London, June 4.

The features of the visit of Mr. Asquith, the British Premier, and Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, to Bizerta, Tunis, were receptions and an official visit to the Arsenal.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 5.

The *Times* correspondent travelling in Italy declares that the Italians regard the war in Tripoli at present as a record of unbroken successes.

The correspondent is satisfied the nation has a sense of manhood.

The cost of the war is not yet felt.

LORD HALDANE'S VISIT TO GERMANY.

London, June 5.

The German rumours that Lord Haldane went to Germany on a political mission to improve international relations are unfounded.

Lord Haldane went solely for rest and change.

THE BELGIAN ELECTIONS.

London, June 5.

A special despatch from Brussels says the Clerical victory in the elections caused amazement and depression, promptly followed by angry demonstrations, alarming crowds collecting and shouting "One man, one vote."

The civic guards and troops are under arms.

WIRELESS TELEPHONY.

London, June 5.

A new wireless telephonic receiver has been invented in France.

In a test the National Anthem was played at Algiers and heard at Toulon.

UNITED STATES POLITICS.

London, June 5.

A great sensation has been caused by Colonel Roosevelt's instruction to his faction to try to turn Mr. Root out of the temporary chairmanship of the National Convention, because he is a creature of the bosses.

THE UNREST IN THE BALKANS.

London, June 5.

In view of the continued unrest in Albania and Macedonia the Turkish Government is continuing to mobilise the reserves.

London, June 6.

It is reported from Constantinople that the Albanians massed near Spek refused to disperse and were attacked and scattered by the Turkish troops.

THE TRANSPORT WORKERS' STRIKE.

London, June 5.

Despite desperate efforts on the part of the Transport Workers Federation to con-

tinue the strike, a thousand dock labourers are returning to work, tired with remaining unemployed in order to comply with the tactics of paid agitators.

AIRSHIPS IN WAR.

London, June 5.

The *Berlin Daily Review* publishes an article discussing the possibilities of the new military Zeppelin airship in reconnoitring the English coast at the moment of mobilisation.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

London, June 6.

The situation in Morocco is improving both in the North and South.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 6.

An Italian cruiser has bombarded the Turkish forts and encampments in the neighbourhood of Mocha, causing serious damage.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 6.

Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, denies that the foreign banks are endeavouring to force a loan on China, but, on the contrary, have shown great reluctance to lend the money.

Dr. Morrison further declares that the statements of certain British newspapers, that the British Government is endeavouring to destroy the liberty of China, are wantonly untrue and are causing an anti-British feeling.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE U.S. NAVAL BILL.

Washington, May 27.

The Lower House of Congress on the 28th instant rejected by a majority of 125 votes against 81 the Bill relating to the construction of two new battleships, but approved the Bill for the construction of 6 destroyers, 1 torpedo-boat depot ship, 4 submarine boats, 1 submarine boat depot ship, 2 colliers and 1 river gunboat for use on Chinese rivers. A belief obtains that the first Bill will be adopted by the Senate and that on the conference of the two houses it will be agreed to build one battleship a year.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD")

GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL.

Berlin, May 30.

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has been received in farewell audience by the Sultan. The latter expressed the hope that the Ambassador would remain a true friend of Turkey in his new post in London. He also gave the Ambassador several valuable presents.

DIRECTOR RESIGNED.

The Director of the well-known Alsacian Machine Factory, Graenstaden, has been obliged to resign his post, the shareholders and officials being no longer willing to overlook his anti-German attitude.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS AND THE ALLIANCE.

The semi-official *Westminster Gazette*, commenting on the rumour of the conclusion of an Anglo-French Alliance, warns the English Press not to write any articles pleading for the conclusion of such an alliance and thus impede progress on the Anglo-German understanding.

PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PRISONERS.

The Portuguese Government has obtained

a vote of confidence from the Chamber with respect to its lenient treatment of political prisoners.

ROUMANIAN MOTOR ACCIDENT.

The injuries of the members of the Roumanian Royal Family, which they received in an automobile accident, are now reported not to be serious.

RENEWED ATTACK ON FEZ.

Fez is now fully besieged by thousands of fanatic Berber rebels, and very severe fighting is still taking place. General Lyautey has asked for new reinforcements, his troops being scarcely sufficient to hold the city.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to May 14th, ex-Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on May 30th.

TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

Berlin, May 31.

The brothers Mannesmann have left Tarudant for Marakesh.

The French troops in Morocco have repulsed an attack of Berber tribesmen at the River Sebu.

THE BALKAN TROUBLE.

The Italian Government refutes, by means of an official statement in the *Tribuna* at Rome, the declaration of the *Le Temps* of Paris, to the effect that the Governments of Russia and Italy, on the occasion of the meeting at Raconigi, had started a difference between their own policy and that of Germany and Austria with regard to the Balkan question.

DEATH OF PRINCE GEORGE.

The Duke of Cumberland has sent his younger son, Prince Ernst August, to express his thanks to the Kaiser at Berlin, where the Prince will stay for a few days. This, however, will not result in any alteration of the succession question in Brunswick, which is decided by the Bundesrat.

NETHERLANDS CONSTITUTION.

The Chamber of the Netherlands has commenced the revision of the Constitution. The election law will not be altered, whilst the Budget Law and the Law of Succession will also remain unaltered. The Princess Juliana will receive the same allowance as the Prince Consort, and the Queen's allowance is to be increased by 350,000 fr. No Minister will be allowed to hold the post of deputy during his term of office in the Ministry.

All alterations before being ratified will have to be presented to the first Chamber.

HAMBURG-AMERICA LINE.

Berlin, June 1.

Admiral Truppel, the former Governor of Kiautschou, has accepted the post of inspector of the life protection institutions of the Hamburg-America Line.

ROYAL VISIT TO BERLIN.

The King and Queen of Bulgaria will pay a visit to the Imperial Court at Berlin.

DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

The Kaiser has received the young Duke of Cumberland in a very cordial manner, the meeting being, however, of no political importance.

NEW MINISTER AT ATHENS.

Count Quadt, the German Minister at Teheran, will succeed Freiherr von Wangenheim as Minister at Athens.

CONGO COMMISSION.

The German-French Cameroon Congo

Frontier Commission will meet on June 15th at Berne.

AERONAUTICS.

The new Zeppelin airship *Hansa* has successfully completed a 800 kilometre distance flight from Friedrichshafen to Hamburg, without any intermediary landing, in 10 hours.

Berlin, June 3.

Prince Heinrich of Prussia and Burgo-master Dr. Borchardt of Hamburg have carried out a successful flight extending over five hours in the new Zeppelin airship *Hansa*, which was commanded by Count Zeppelin himself.

NAVAL SQUADRON'S AMERICAN TRIP.

President Taft has received Count Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, in connection with the visit of the German Squadron. This squadron, consisting of the armoured cruiser *Moltke*, and two of the fastest smaller cruisers of the German navy, has arrived at the American naval port at Hampton Roads.

THE AMBASSADOR TO LONDON.

Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, when leaving for his new post said that he was fully conscious of the importance and difficulty of his mission to London.

QUEEN WILHELMINA FETED.

Berlin, June 1.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and her Consort have left for Paris on a visit extending over three days.

Berlin, June 2.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and her Consort have arrived at Paris, where they were received in a very enthusiastic manner. A banquet was held, when toasts were exchanged emphasizing the mutual sympathy of both States.

Berlin, June 3.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland has paid a visit to the tomb of Admiral Coligny in the protestant Church of Paris, where she deposited a wreath. She was enthusiastically greeted by the Parisian people. President Fallières presented her with a valuable jewel case bearing the seals of the seven Dutch provinces.

THE TROUBLE IN MOROCCO.

Berlin, June 1.

The Berber tribesmen, by whom Fez is besieged, are being continually reinforced by new arrivals from the interior. Some of the foreign consuls are reported to be preparing to leave Fez.

It is reported from Fez that General Lyautey will take the offensive in order to avoid the total isolation of the capital.

Berlin, June 3.

The garrison at Fez, after having taken offensive action, is reported to have beaten the Berber troops besieging Fez.

ITALY'S AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE.

Berlin, June 1.

New attempts of the European press to sound the attitude of Italy towards the conclusion of an armistice, are still vehemently opposed.

The occupation of the island of Mytilene by Italy is regarded by the Powers as serious, as a further closing of the Dardanelles will probably follow.

Berlin, June 2.

The Italian Government has decided to form a separate Ministry for the Colonies.

Berlin, June 3.

A great national festival has been cele-

brated at Rome, when, enthusiastic demonstrations in favour of the continuance of the war against Turkey were made. The 77th birthday of the Pope was celebrated on the same day.

RUSSIAN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.

Berlin, June 2.

Count Bennigsen, a Russian nobleman, has formed a new company for the working of mines and the improvement of Russian Commerce in Mongolia. He is already reported to have secured several concessions.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to May 19th, from Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on June 2nd.

GREEK CHAMBER ADJOURNED.

The Greek Chamber has been adjourned till October. The Cretan deputies were not admitted to the Chamber, they being continually under a military guard.

BELGIAN ELECTIONS.

Berlin, June 3.

The elections for the Belgian Chamber have resulted in a big increase in the Clerical party.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Emperor Francis Joseph, on the occasion of a banquet in honour of the King and Queen of Bulgaria, praised the intelligence of the King's Government, which was an important element of peace and order in the Balkans. He further emphasized the excellent relations existing between both States.

MOROCCO.

Berlin, June 4.

The base of the Berber troops besieging Fez has been seized and fully destroyed by the French garrison as a result of a sortie. The Sultan's departure for Rabat is reported to be imminent.

FIRE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

A new conflagration has broken out at Constantinople. The area was, however, isolated before any heavy damage had been done.

GRAND MILITARY REVIEW.

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland has attended a grand military review at Versailles. On the evening of the same day she left for Holland, receiving the best wishes of the President of the Republic.

GIGANTIC FRENCH INDUSTRIAL SCHEME.

M. Angagneur, the French Minister for Commerce and Public Works, announces the presentation of new canal projects to the Chamber. The expenditure amounts to two milliards of francs.

POLITICAL DISTURBANCES IN BELGIUM.

Several disturbances have taken place at various places in Belgium in connection with the successes of the Clerical party.

CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS.

Berlin, June 5.

Councillor of the Embassy Miguel has been appointed German Minister and Diplomatic Representative to Cairo as successor to Prince Hatzfeldt, who will go as Minister to Persia.

GERMAN SQUADRON VISITS AMERICA.

Very cordial telegrams have been exchanged between the Kaiser and President Taft on the occasion of the visit of the German Cruiser Squadron to America. Both

telegrams expressed the strong hope that the relations between the two States may grow still more friendly.

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

The Governments of several Powers, Germany included, have warned their nationals against remaining at places in Mexico which are endangered by the revolution. The recall of the American Minister to Mexico is imminent and the entry of American troops into the country is already announced.

RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF AEROPLANES.

The Russian Ministry for War has decided to purchase 150 aeroplanes of the Nieuport monoplane system.

HUNGARIAN ARMY BILL.

The new armament bills have been passed by the Hungarian Chamber. Very exciting scenes were, however, witnessed before the vote was taken.

KING GEORGE TO VISIT TSAR.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that King George will pay a visit to the Tsar next autumn.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE FIRE.

The damage caused by the recent conflagration at Constantinople is estimated at about £2,000,000 sterling.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails from May 21st ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on June 4th.

A PICTURE IN A FRAME.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

It was an April Sunday in Rome. Up till then the weather had been unusually cold and stormy for the time of year. There had been rain too. Officers went down the streets enveloped in their long cloaks of blue or grey. Flower sellers were in despair, for the rain spoilt their pansies and forget-me-nots, poppies from the Campagna, and sweet smelling boughs of lilac. Priests never went out without umbrellas to protect the silky beaver of their hats. Crossing the wet and puddled streets, they stepped delicately, lifting the skirts of their soutanes and being careful not to splash their purple stockings. Every day the Forum was a black sea of umbrellas, for tourists are the most determined of people and a little bad weather will not keep them from their natural prey. So there they were staining their fingers with the "red" of damp Baedekars, where the slender fluted columns of the Temple of Castor and Polux rose disconsolately in the grey and quivering mist.

But upon this Sunday all was changed. The morning was fresh and clear and clean, with a sweet breeze blowing and the scent of flowers at every street corner. It was all blue and gold; for the sky was blue, and so were the sharp heavy shadows which the great buildings cast, and so were the distances, and the Sabine Hills and the Albans were all perfectly blue. But the sunlight was gold, and the Tiber water was pale gold and the mellow façades of churches. The young leaves of limes and poplars newly out were gold too. That very morning they discarded their thin and sheathy coverings which still hung and floated upon the gently moving air so that the very atmosphere was golden too.

After walking the streets for some time aimless and happy, I passed by the ancient Palace of the Orsin and holding on my way by the little Temple of Vesta, enchanting in its fairylike grace, I crossed the Tiber and mounted the Janiculum. I was bound for an inn with a garden, where people go to drink a cup of wine on fine afternoons, to sit in the pleasant chequered shade of trellised vines, and to look out over the river at the

Appian Way or the enormous ruins of the Palatine. My road wound up with high walls on either hand enclosing convents and villas with their gardens. Now and then I could see clusters of rambling roses, red, white or yellow mingled in wild and delicious confusion, now and then a Judas tree overtopped the wall. Now and then I caught the fragrance of orange blossom or of lilac. Presently I had climbed the hill and for a space the road stretched level before me, still the walls on either hand.

Stopping for a moment to take breath, I found, close to me on the right, a massive wooden door breaking a long expanse of stone. Above the door armorial bearings were set and above these again I could see the darkness of cedar and ilex.

Whilst I stood looking at these things, a lame beggar slowly lifted himself from a sunny spot, where he had been lying on the ground half asleep and, limping to my side, pointed out a small round hole in the centre panel of the door. It was rather larger in circumference than a penny and was tinged with brass. I looked through the hole and could have cried aloud with sudden and exquisite pleasure. Before me was a long, green avenue of dark trees, whose arching branches met above to form a dim arcade. In the clear half circle at the end of the arcade, rose the dome of St. Peter's outlined against the blue curtain of the sky. Seen thus, it appeared to be perfectly isolated, a luminous and a lonely thing, no house or tower could be seen beside it; and this aspect of loneliness added to dignity, and the element of surprise affected me strongly. The vision touched and excited me. I felt my face glow and my heart quicken. My friend the lame beggar pulled at a chain and set a bell swinging and jangling. Slowly the massive doors rolled back, and I went into the garden.

"Thank you. . . Thank you. . ." cried the lame beggar. "Madonna bless you. A beautiful view. It is the garden of the Knights of Malta."

The garden was not large, but it was one of the pleasantest I have seen. There was shade and sunshine. There were fountains flowing with a musical and happy sound; there were gravel walks and antique seats of carved stone. And there was a delightful profusion of flowers: lilac bushes crowded with blossom, the graceful Italian spirea, bending beneath its weight of snow, camellias with stiff and glossy leaves, each flower of spotless and scentless perfection, roses and jasmine and orange blossom, pinks and pansies low growing with the lingering violet: and always there was the green arcade and the painted picture of St. Peter's Dome. I walked the length of the avenue and saw the hill fall away in terraces and the Tiber with yellow waters rolling at my feet. The warm and silent hour of noon drew on and the flowers gave out their scent in the sun.

I was not alone in the garden. Up and down the walks there strolled a priest or two talking softly together, others were on the stone seats reading their breviaries. Among the trees I could see the glinting scarlet habits of a couple of boys from the German College.

Apart from all those, in a little sunny enclosure of the garden, I saw a young priest alone. His hat and his breviary lay on the grass, so he went bare-headed and empty handed among the glowing flowers. I was quite near him and noted the thick dark curls of his hair and his ardent eyes. He was straight and tall and young. He stood before a bush of scented verberna growing against a wall and stretching out his hand, he picked a leaf. He crushed it between his fingers and stayed breathing in its sharp aromatic smell in a sort of ecstasy. I thought he would never have done. He shouldered heaved a little with the deep breaths that he drew, and his body swayed and trembled with the intensity of his pleasure.

Close to him, in full sunlight, was a bed of white stocks. Their odour came to me on the air, the clean, sweet scent of cloves. Presently the young priest was on his knees before these flowers. He bent his head, he buried his face in them, I could

see the thick, dark curls of his hair and the tonsure dimly marked. I saw his neck flush red. But his face was pale when he lifted it and his eyes full of bright tears. He shook, he glowed, he worshipped as at the shrine of a beloved Saint. But I could look no more.

INTEREST ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC BONDS.

The interest payable on domestic and foreign bonds during the month of June this year is calculated to reach a total of 26,555,264 yen, of which 21,835,137 yen is due on domestic loans and the balance—4,720,127 yen—on foreign loans.

The interest on foreign bonds is payable out of the specie reserve kept abroad, while that on domestic bonds will be paid out of the national revenue from taxes.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE Prince of Wales has concluded his cruise with the French Fleet and has returned to Paris.

A GENERAL conference of the Yokohama Stock Exchange brokers will take place on the 20th instant.

THE Yokohama Fire Insurance Company will hold its half-yearly general meeting on the 21st instant.

THE U.S. Congress will appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to provide a medal for the Captain of the *Carpathia*.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT, on his return to New York, said that he was feeling after the campaign like a moose bull.

THE Educational Department's examination for certificates for middle-school teachers will be held early in August.

THE will of the late Duke of Fife has been proved at £1,000,000. The contents of the will have not been disclosed.

A FIRE occurred on Thursday morning at a carpenter's shop in Hana-machi, Honjo. Two houses were destroyed.

MR. HARA, Minister of Home Affairs, who has been on a trip in the Kwansai districts, returned to Tokyo on Wednesday.

GENERAL BOOTH is suffering from inflammation of the eye, which seriously jeopardizes his sight. His general condition is good.

THE Akita Normal School will be closed until the 10th instant, on account of the prevalence of an epidemic among the students.

A REUTER'S dispatch received in Shanghai states that the Japanese dockers have telegraphed to the London strikers wishing them success.

In a boxing contest at Melbourne on the 27th ult. Langford beat Parky Flynn in the fourteenth round, the referee stopping the contest.

THE closing meeting for the season of the Alliance Française was held at Van Schaick Hall on Tuesday evening with great success.

MARQUIS SAIONJI will give a dinner on the 11th instant at the Seiyoken, Tsukiji, to the members of Parliament belonging to the Seiyukai.

LORD HALDANE, Secretary of State for War, was still at Goettingen on the 23rd ult. visiting the scenes and friends of his old student days.

A GENERAL meeting of the Kinugawa Hydro Electric Company will take place on the 28th instant at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce.

THE Russo-Japanese Association were to give a banquet on the 7th instant at the Imperial Hotel, inviting, among others, M. Schenkoff and M.

Socorikoff, distinguished Russian business men now sojourning in this country.

THE Yokohama Electric Company will hold its general meeting of shareholders on the 20th instant, and declare a dividend of 11 per cent.

MRS. AKITSUKI, wife of the Japanese Ambassador to Austria-Hungary, returned home on Friday evening, arriving at Shimbashi by the 5.40 train.

THE cable service between Hokkaido and Saghalien, which has been suspended since April owing to damage caused by storms, has been reopened.

THE Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company will hold its ordinary general meeting on the 15th instant, when a dividend of five per cent. will be declared.

A MOB of 2,000 people at Tyler, Texas, on the 25th ult. burned a negro at the stake who had confessed to committing a criminal offence against a white girl.

A DESPATCH from Yokkaichi reports another accident, which occurred on Monday morning about eleven o'clock at Yokkaichi station, when ten passengers were injured.

THE graduation ceremony of St. Paul's College, Tsukiji, took place on Wednesday afternoon. Colonel Bryan, the American Ambassador, delivered a speech on the occasion.

A BRITISH Army order has been issued amending the regulations to the effect that it is not now permitted for an officer to use troops to suppress rioting without reference to the War Office.

A RUSSIAN tourist party, consisting of fifty students from Habarovsk, is expected to arrive at Tsuruga on the 27th instant on board the *Hosan Maru*, leaving Vladivostok on the 25th.

REUTER'S Agency states that it is now known officially that the sentence of four years' penal servitude passed on Miss Malecka at Warsaw for consorting with revolutionaries, does not involve exile to Siberia.

ON Saturday last a disastrous fire occurred in Shirakawa-mura, Ono district, Gifu prefecture, resulting in the destruction of 30 houses, including two temple buildings, and the partial demolition of 26 other houses.

THE Bankers' Club will give a banquet on the 11th instant to Mr. Yamaza, Councillor of the Japanese Embassy in England, Rear-Admiral Kawashima, Mr. Segawa, Consul-General at Canton, and others.

A GENERAL meeting of the Fuji Spinning Company took place on Wednesday, when a dividend of ten per cent. was declared. The total profit amounted to 1,041,945 yen, 216,572 yen of which was carried forward.

THE Japan Seamen's Protection Association will hold its general meeting on the 24th instant at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce. Prince Arisugawa, President of the Association, is expected to address the gathering.

BARON MAKINO, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, who has been in the Kansai district to attend the Matsue Agricultural Products Exhibition and other functions, returned to Tokyo on Friday morning last.

THE Pierpoint Morgan Company has concluded a gigantic deal by purchasing \$170,000,000 worth of New York Underground Railway Extension shares. Many London and Paris bankers are participating in the deal.

PRINCE KATSURA will start on a tour abroad shortly, accompanied by Baron Goto. The date of departure and itinerary remain unsettled until after Baron Goto's return from Chosen. Prince Katsura has long cherished the idea of travelling abroad, and was about to fulfil his desire some ten

years ago, when he was called to the reins of State on the collapse of the Ito Ministry. It is stated that the tour is purely a pleasure trip and has no political significance. The tour will be extended through Europe and America.

THE U.S. State Department has informed the Brazilian Minister to Washington, Mr. D. da Gama, that the Department will not interfere with the holding up of coffee under the valorization scheme pending the decision of the Federal Court.

KING GEORGE has approved of the appointment of Admiral Sir Edmund Samuel Poë, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, to be his first naval aide-de camp in succession to Admiral Sir L. A. Beaumont, G.C.B., K.C.M.G.

THE inauguration ceremony of the Kyoto amphitheatre took place on Saturday morning last. Besides representatives of the Tokyo Wrestlers' Association, a number of distinguished persons specially interested in sport attended the function.

THE complete Assembly election returns in Queensland are:—Government forty-seven members, Opposition twenty-five members. The Government has the largest majority that has been obtained since the establishment of responsible government.

It is reported that the old porcelain and bronze treasures in the Chinese Imperial Palace and the collection of books kept at the palace at Jehol are to be sold in consonance with the wishes of the Empress Dowager, to raise funds for the national subscription.

THE public trial which was to be resumed in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court on the 1st instant of the case in which Sato Kenji stands indicted for the forgery and utterance of official documents and fraud, was further adjourned *sine die* owing to the illness of the accused.

THE revenue of the South Manchuria Railway for the latter half of last fiscal year is reported to have amounted to 16,600,000 yen, an increase of some 5,140,000 yen as compared with the first half and of 1,300,000 yen over the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

ON Thursday morning, about half-past nine, a fire occurred in the business room of the Legislative Bureau within the main building of the Cabinet, but fortunately the flames were quickly suppressed before they could do any serious damage. The cause of the outbreak is not certain.

THE International Navigation Congress has declined to accept a resolution limiting the size of liners. It was declared that the disaster to the *Titanic* was not due to the size of the vessel, and that, on the contrary, smaller ships would have sunk like a stone, thus increasing the magnitude of the disaster.

SPEAKING at Cork, at the Convention of the "All for Ireland" League, Mr. W. O'Brien, leader of the Independent Nationalist party, said that they were prepared to bury the hatchet and join with Mr. Redmond's supporters in an effort to force the Government to make the Home Rule Bill acceptable to Ireland.

A SHANGHAI telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that Japanese sugar is fast encroaching upon the market for the Java product in the Yangtze valley, and the merchants interested in Java sugar are holding a conference in Shanghai to devise measures to oust Japanese sugar from the market. Keen competition is anticipated.

A SHANGHAI dispatch to the *Chuwu* states that the Hanyu Ping Corporation has decided to increase its capital from 20 to 30 million dollars for the expansion of its business. As the shareholders generally dislike the increase of capital, the Corporation has formulated a plan of raising the fund by the issue of debentures and the proposal is now being submitted to the consideration

of the Board of Directors. The majority of the directors hold the same posts in the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company and they advocate the amalgamation of the two Corporations and the issue of 30 million dollars worth of debentures in the United States. The matter is now under consideration.

KING GEORGE inspected the Chelsea pensioners on the 30th ult. This is the first time the pensioners have been reviewed by a reigning Sovereign since 1805. The King also visited the house of Field-Marshal Sir George White, V.C., Governor of Chelsea Hospital, who was, however, too ill to receive his Majesty.

ON Sunday morning about half past four, a freight train bound for Maidzuru from Fukuchiyama, on the Hankoku line, was derailed near Tsukaguchi station, and, rushing on to the platform, overturned. Five carriages were completely smashed, while one fireman was instantly killed and two others severely injured.

THE trial of Royalist conspirators in Lisbon last month was the cause of wild scenes. A mob attacked the witnesses, broke the lines of the troops and overturned the van in which the prisoners were being conveyed to the prison, to which they were compelled to walk surrounded by troops. Several persons were wounded.

A PEKING telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that the Hunan and Hupeh members in the State Council recommend Lan Tien-wei as the successor to Chao Erh-sun, Magistrate of Mukden, who tendered his resignation, but the Cantonese members hold that the appointment should be given to Wang Chi-chang. Keen competition exists in the Council as to the candidates.

A SMALL fire broke out at 21 Onoyecho, 2 chome, Kannai, Yokohama, at a quarter past one on Wednesday morning. The first and second companies of the fire brigade, with one steam engine were soon on the scene and within half an hour were able to extinguish the conflagration. Four buildings were destroyed. The cause of the outbreak is not yet known but is under investigation by the authorities.

THE Osaka Shosen Kaisha steamer *Taiho Maru*, of 2,009 tons, on her way from Antung province to Yokohama laden with 1,700 tons of beans, ran aground early on Saturday last off Kurigahama. Unconscious of the damage sustained at that time to her hull, the vessel continued her voyage until half past ten the same morning, when the crew, to their surprise, found her to be sinking. The ship finally sank off Chiyoga saki, Sagami province, with the greater part of her cargo; but fortunately the passengers, numbering about fifty, were all rescued.

INVESTIGATIONS conducted by the Home Department show that in Japan the deaths amount to 1,017,000 per month. Those dying of brain diseases head the list, closely followed by those succumbing to consumption, as detailed in the following table:—

Brain disease	78,580
Tuberculosis	75,544
Meningitis	69,517
Intestinal trouble	68,849
Decrepitude	62,991
Pneumonia	62,575
Debility	5,194
Others	91,679

MR. NUMANO, acting Consul-General at New York, reports to the Foreign Office that the Custom House some time ago applied to Japanese white oak, having a thickness of eight square inches or over, Article 200 of the Customs tariff, on the ground that the timber is not material for household furniture. The importer concerned appealed to the Board of General Appraisers against the decision, and the Board decided in favour of the petitioner, holding that the fact that Japanese white oak is widely used as material for the manufacture of household furniture, is so clear as to need

no proof. The occasional use made of the wood for railway sleepers does not affect the issue, and therefore the articles comes under the purview of Article 713 of the Tariff and should be admitted free of duty.

THE commander of the *Yamato* at Ikika, in Karafuto, wires to the Admiralty that the steamer *Suruga Maru* arrived there on the 29th ult., and while the passengers were being landed, a lighter was wrecked and sank on a shoal at the mouth of the river. Boats were quickly lowered and a rescue party sent from the warship. Fourteen passengers were saved, but 21 were drowned.

The survivors are being relieved by the naval surgeons of the warship in co-operation with the local authorities.

THE Osaka Stock Exchange Brokers Association held its general meeting on the 4th instant, when the following accounts were unanimously passed:—

Profit for Current Term	Yen. 358,189
Brought over from last account	6,388
Total	364,578
Reserve Fund	18,000
Bonus	20,800
Dividend (9 2 per cent.)	334,000
Carried forward	3,778

A PEKING special to the *Chuwu* reports that the announcement of the issue of the Patriotic bonds has given rise to a cry for independence and recovery of rights. The Republicans and other political parties are hurling libellous epithets at Tang Shao i and Hsiung Chi-ling. The State Councilors are also making public wild views. The Ministers of State are bent on the expansion of their respective political parties in order to strengthen their own influence, and official business is almost neglected. All the parties agree in opposition to the Six Powers loan.

MESSRS. SOTHERBY have issued the catalogue of a valuable collection of Japanese colour prints, dating from the beginning of the 18th century till the last quarter of the 19th century, and including work of some of the lesser known artists, such as Yumiaki, Banki, and Yeyru, &c., some fine sets of the work of Hiroshige, beautiful sets of Surimono and books. It is the property of a private gentleman, and was to be sold by auction, together with some Chinese drawings, &c., on June 3rd and the two following days. A number of fine illustrative plates are included in the catalogue.

THE success of aviators in western countries has aroused Japan to a feeling that a revolution in military tactics will thereby be created. The organization of an aeronaut column is thus being keenly urged on the Japanese army, and the war authorities are enlisting officers for training in the art of aviation. Already over one hundred applications have been filed, but only five will be accepted this year. The successful applicants will be trained at Nakano for a year. The six officers recently chosen for aerial reconnoitring are all graduates of the Staff college and they are also to be trained at Nakano for three months.

A SHANGHAI telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce recently decided to give a reception in honour of the members of the Japanese House of Peers who are to visit China, but since opposition was raised to the proposed transfer of the Hanyu-Ping Corporation and the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company to joint enterprises with Japanese capitalists, a bad feeling has begun to prevail amongst the Shanghai merchants towards Japanese statesmen. On the initiative of the directors of the companies named, the reception scheme was abandoned.

OFFICIAL approval having been obtained, the Morioka Emigration Company will dispatch a batch of 100 emigrants to Peru by the *Hongkong Maru*, which leaves Yokohama on the 22nd inst. Another batch of 100 emigrants contracted for by the same company for the Panama Canal works will also be sent by the same steamer, provided

official approval is obtained in time. Otherwise they will leave by the next steamer, which goes towards the end of August. It is stated in this context that the first report has been now received by the Oriental Emigration Company as to the 1,400 emigrants sent to Brazil by that company. The Nippon Colonization Company has recently entered into negotiations for the supply of Japanese labour in a new direction, but some time must elapse before its consummation.

The Tokyo Electric Light Company will hold its general meeting of shareholders on the 17th instant at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, when the following profit and loss account will be taken up for discussion:—

	Yen.
Brought over from last account...	359,320.942
Profit for current term	1,678,749.542
Total	2,038,570.486
Reserve fund	85,012.636
Dividend (10 per cent.)	1,557,500.000
Carried forward	396,057.850

A SPECIAL committee of investigation is to be appointed in the Department of Communications to draw up a plan for a third extension of the telephone service, to be executed in the next fiscal year. The plan will be based on the six-years' programme, which was postponed, and will provide an appropriation of 45 million yen in four consecutive years for the installation of about 150,000 instruments. The programme will also comprise the construction of underground wires, telephone exchanges, the training of telephone operators, and the up keep of the existing wires.

We are informed by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha that it has now made arrangements whereby shipments per the American service to Overland common points in the United States may be forwarded via the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound Railway and its connections, besides the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways, if desired. By this arrangement shippers may avail themselves of the benefit of storage and redistribution facilities for their Overland shipments, such as tea, matting, etc., at Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee, St. Louis and St. Joseph, in addition to the Minnesota transfer.

THE June number of the *Peace Forum* (*Heiwa Shugi*) has two prominent features. One of them is Dr. Goto's work on the "Legislation of Different Governments for the Settlement of Industrial Disputes." It is accompanied by a full translation of the Lemieux Act of the Canadian Government. Dr. Goto graduated at the Tokyo Imperial University with honours in 1911 and is the holder of an Imperial prize. The other is Dr. MacCauley's speech on the "Possibilities of the English Language for International Usage." It was delivered on the students' Peace Day Celebration held under the auspices of the International Peace Forum.

A PEKING special to the *Chuwo* reports that the Minister of War of the Kulong Government has organized thirty regiments (composed of 500 men each), of which 20 are cavalry and the rest artillery and infantry. The regiments are trained by Russian officers, the rifles and other arms being imported from Siberia. The result is so far very satisfactory. On the completion of the organization, the Minister of War has in mind raising another 30 regiments of conscripts in order to strengthen the basis of Mongolian independence with a view to building up a Great Mongolia, comprising the whole of Hsinking. The Chinese Government has at present no time and money to deal with the frontier question, and things are left to follow their natural course.

A NEW precedent was recently established by the decision of the Supreme Court to the effect that a fishing boat in itself is not a fishing apparatus in the eye of the law. Under the present law, contravention of the Trawl Fishing Law subjects offenders to confisca-

tion of fishing apparatus in addition to a fine. The trawl boats *Nagato Maru* and *Yoshida Maru* were prosecuted last year for contravention of the law, and the Court of First Instance rendered judgment, confiscating the boats along with the fishing apparatus. Against this judgement an appeal was lodged, until the case came before the Supreme Court, which decided as first stated. The decision is received in fishing circles with considerable interest.

In the Criminal Division of the Tokyo District Court, judgment was rendered on the 30th ult. in regard to sixty-three tramway drivers and conductors prosecuted in connection with the recent tramway strike. The accused Motoyama and Hachiuchi, who were recognized as the ringleaders, were sentenced to three months' and all the others to two months' imprisonment. With the exception of the two ringleaders named, postponement of the execution of judgment for two years was granted to all the accused.

ACCORDING to an investigation of the Communications Department, the number of steamships and sailing vessels that entered Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Moji, during the month of May aggregated 4,202, being distributed as under:—

	Steamships.		Sailing vessels.	
	Entered.	Cleared.	Entered.	Cleared.
Yokohama	206	208	44	54
Kobe	1,148	1,135	17	18
Nagasaki	191	186	9	4
Moji	491	473	4	4
Total	2,036	2,012	74	80

A SHANGHAI telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that a Chinese Commercial Bank has been inaugurated in Shanghai with a capital of 10,000,000 dollars. The promoters are Cantonese and the Bank has Dr. Sun Yat-sen for President, amongst the principal promoters being Wu Ting-fang, Wang Chao-min, and others. The subscription list will be kept open until July 15th next. The newspapers report that the shares are being eagerly subscribed, the Cantonese in Hongkong alone subscribing for 5,000 (\$50 each). The subscribers are people from almost all walks of life. This may be taken as a popular demonstration of opposition to the foreign loan, and illustrates the popular sentiment towards its humiliating terms.

THE shipping competition on the Calcutta route has now reached a climax and in some cases cargo is being accepted at half rates. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha nevertheless continues to compete with the British India S. N. Company, which has purchased the Apar line and also shows an unyielding attitude. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has recently placed on its service five 5,000 ton steamers to meet the competition. The recent reduction of Customs duty on foreign rice will no doubt give an impetus to the importation of Saigon and Rangoon rice, so that the company is making arrangements with the consignors in regard to the shipment. Despite the existing competition, thinks the *Nichi Nichi*, the Calcutta service of the Company is likely to show great activity, along with its Bombay service.

A BELIEF obtains in some quarters that the Government is about to transfer the thirteen saw-mills now under the direct management of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, to private enterprise. Of the thirteen mills, only three or four are said to be on a paying basis, the rest being run at a loss. The indirect effect which the Government saw-mills are having on the timber business is, nevertheless, by no means inconsiderable, in that they regulate the market price of timber and give a guide to its utilization. Thus they by no means oppress private enterprises. Transfer of the mills would save Government expenditure, but as such expenditure is made good by a corresponding increase in the forestry revenue, its effect on the general account would be very small.

JAPANESE LIFEBOAT CARDS.

The following letter appeared recently in the *New York Times* from Mr. W. C. Redfield:—

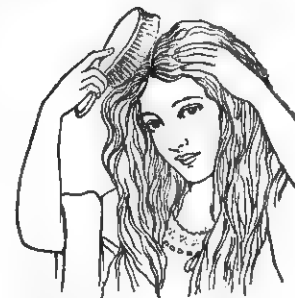
In all the discussions about the *Titanic* disaster I have seen no reference to the methods used on the Japanese steamships operated by the Toyo Kisen Kaisha (Oriental Steamship Company), operating between San Francisco, Japan, and Hongkong.

When taking recently two voyages on vessels of this Company my attention was called, when entering my cabin for the first time on each voyage, to a plainly printed card which was framed and hung in the cabin in a prominent place. This card gave the number and the location of the particular lifeboat to which the occupants of that cabin were assigned, and if I recall correctly, stated the officer in charge of that boat.

Having my attention called thus to the place allotted to me in case of disaster, it was natural to go to that boat to find where and what it was, and I found that other passengers had done the same thing. In like manner also one became acquainted with the officer in whose charge he would be in case of trouble.

It is furthermore obvious from this arrangement that lifeboats were provided sufficient, at least, for all the passengers and some, if not all, of the crew.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, June 8.

In Raw Cotton, quotations, both American and Indian descriptions, have declined, stocks of Middling again increasing in Tokyo owing to fresh arrivals. In Cotton yarns, the market presents few features of interest. As to Cotton Piece goods' business generally is quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, while arrivals have so far been

well taken up by wholesalers, it would appear that the retail spring trade has not been satisfactory.

RAW COTTON.		PER PICUL.
American Middling	...	35.50
Indian Broach	...	32.00 to 33.00
Chinese (Old crop)	...	34.00 to 34.50
Chinese (New crop)	...	—

COTTON YARN.		PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 362.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.		PER BALE.
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	...	5.75 to 11.00

Grey Shirtings:—		PER BALE.
A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	...	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	...	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	...	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—		PER BALE.
A. 44" x 46 yards	...	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	...	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	...	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—		PER BALE.
44" x 46 yards	...	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	...	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards	...	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	...	11.00 to 12.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	...	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italian	...	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	...	0.35 to 0.70

Grey Printers:—30 1/2" x 120 yards		PER BALE.
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	...	10.30 to 13.75
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	...	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	...	Y.
Union Italians	...	0.44 to 0.70
Mousseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	...	0.27 to 0.29
Mousseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	...	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	...	—

METALS.

The spot market remains quiet.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square		PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	...	5.35 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	...	6.15 to 6.25
Sheet Mild Steel	...	6.90 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	...	10.90 to 11.05
Flat	...	11.50 to 11.60
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	...	7.20 to 7.25
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	...	7.55 to 7.65
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcat"	...	2.45 to 2.50

KEROSENE.

The market maintains quiet tone.

Chester	...	Y. 4.26
Victory	...	3.94
Nonpareil	...	4.90
Sumatra	...	3.10 to 3.20
Burneo	...	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	...	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	...	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	...	3.77
Todai	...	—

SUGAR.

Business doing all round.

Brown Manila		PER PICUL.
Brown China	...	Y. 12.50
Brown Java	...	11.50
White Java	...	16.00 to 16.10
White Refined (German)	...	14.40 to 22.50
(Hongkong)	...	15.50 to 18.30
	...	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done all round.

Calcutta first	...	Y. 240.00
" second	...	200.00
Java, first	...	320.00
" second	...	280.00
Madras, first	...	—
" second	...	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	...	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin" brand	...	2.00

FLOUR.

The market steady.

Gold Drop		Yen.
Flag	4 sacks	11.47 to 11.57
Royal	...	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks	11.75 to 11.85
Red Seal	...	11.15 to 11.25
Lion	...	11.95 to 12.05
Portland	...	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	...	11.75 to 11.85

JAPANESE:—

Rising Sun	6 kwamme	2.70
Takasago	6 "	2.75
Fuji	6 "	2.85
Pine	6 "	2.70

WHEAT.

The market generally active.

White Walla Walla, 100 lbs		Yen.
Red	...	6.00 to 6.10
Blue Stem	...	5.90 to 6.00
	...	6.00 to 6.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A good enquiry, but restricted transactions owing to the scarcity of suitable quality. On May 31st stocks were: Filatures 5,000 piculs, Re-reels, 50 piculs; Kakeda, 100 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse		Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	...	930
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	...	885
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	...	895
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	...	875
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	...	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 13-15den	...	895
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	...	890
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	...	845
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	...	835
Re-reels—Extra	...	—
Re-reels—No. 1	...	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	...	850
Re-reels—No. 2	...	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	...	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	...	845
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	...	835
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	...	825

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

June.	July delivery.	August delivery.
1st	83.80	86.70
3rd	83.40	86.60
4th	83.00	86.00
5th	82.50	85.90
6th	82.50	85.80
7th	81.60	85.70

WASTE SILK.

A fair business done; prices are firmer with a tendency towards an advance.

On May 31st stocks were:—Noshi, 300 piculs; Kibiso, 1,800 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs.

Noshi—Filatures, Best		Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Good	...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	...	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	...	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good	...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium	...	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior	...	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	...	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	...	95 to 105

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—A slight decline for the lighter weights, such as 6 and 6 1/2 me; but the grades above these remain practically unchanged.

Kanazawa:—Little change in the market; but what alterations are shown in prices have been downwards.

Kawamata:—No change; prices being maintained.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 me.	6 1/2 me.	7 me.	7 1/2 me.	8 me.
22 1/2"	7.55	7.60	7.60	7.60	7.65
27"	7.65	7.75	7.60	7.60	7.55
36"	7.75	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.50

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4 1/2 me.	4 3/4 me.	4 1/2 me.	5 me.	5 1/2 me.
22 1/2"	7.40	7.35	7.20	7.20	7.20
27"	7.40	7.30	7.30	7.35	7.25
36"	7.40	7.35	7.35	7.35	7.20

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 me.	3 1/2 me.	4 me.	4 1/2 me.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of June 4th the quotation was £77.12.

Refined per 100 kin	...	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	...	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	...	" 47.00—50.00
Ore	...	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The market still active.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa		bags.
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	...	495.510
Delivery	...	120.043
June	...	Closing Price
July	...	20.95
August	...	21.16
	...	19.97

(Osaka.)		(Kobe.)
June	20.59	20.70
July	20.60	20.71
August	19.55	19.57

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

Superior		per bush
Medium	...	Yen 22.30
Common	...	21.20
Average	...	19.80
	...	21.10

TEA.

Supplies coming forward gradually, and the market has generally maintained a basis of yen 3 to 4 above last year. Large arrivals are looked for shortly.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	...	nominal.
Choice	...	¥.48 & upward
Finest	...	44 to 48
Fine	...	40 to 44
Good Medium	...	—
Medium	...	—
Good Common	...	—
Common	...	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet.

Delivery		Yen.
June	...	142.25
July	...	141.80
August	...	140.80

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 7.

London silver unchanged, Shanghai sterling quotations declined 1/2 yesterday but to-day's have not been received and local rates are all steady.

London—Bank T.T.	...	2/0 3/4
— Sight	...	2/0 3/4 @ 1/2
— 60 days	...	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	...	2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	...	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	...	2/1 1/2
Australia Docy 30 days	...	2/1
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	...	257
— Private 4 months' sight	...	261
America—Bank sight	...	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	...	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	...	51
Germany—Bank sight	...	208
— Private 4 months' sight	...	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	...	152 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	...	154 1/2
Hongkong—Bank sight	...	per \$100. 99*
— Private 10 days' sight	...	do 97*
Shanghai—Bank sight	...	74 1/2*
— Private 10 days' sight	...	75 1/2*
Bar Silver (London)	...	28 @ 28 1/2*

* Nominal.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Middleham, British steamer, 2,899, J. Walters, 31st May.—Safaga (Egypt) via Colombo and Moji, Phosphate.—Bowden Bros. & Co., Ltd.	
Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushibiki, 31st May.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Hakuai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 31st May.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, Henry E. Morton, 31st May.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.	
Nora, British steamer, 4,180, G. Philipps, 1st June.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.	
Ceylon, Swedish steamer, 3,167, Nordfält, 1st June.—Gothenborg and Copenhagen via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.	

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,935, N. Noguchi, 1st June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, K. Hori, 1st June.—Seattle and Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 1st June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 2nd June.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Hirano Maru, Japanese steamer, 5,282, H. Fraser, 3rd June.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceano, British steamer, 1,739, A. R. Davis, 3rd June.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 3rd June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 3rd June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 3rd June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 2,489, O. Lewis, 3rd June.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Rohko Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,752, I. Hirai, 4th June.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,045, K. Noda, 4th June.—Nagasaki, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hudson Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,783, S. Morisada, 4th June.—Rangoon, Rice.—C. Illies & Co.

Kurama, Japanese cruiser, 1,500, Capt. N. Hideshima, 5th June.—Yokosuka.

Benlarig, British steamer, 2,510, A. Wallace, 5th June.—London via ports, General.—Cornes & Co.

Ajax, British steamer, 4,478, Williamson, 5th June.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 5th June.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Kichiris Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 5th June.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Annan Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,870, T. Take-mura, 5th June.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. E. Filmer, 6th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Tamon Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 6th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kageshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,372, W. Wade, 6th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Prins Sigismund, German steamer, 1,844, D. Lenz, 6th June.—Melbourne and Sydney via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Brasilia, German steamer, 4,235, Deinat, 6th June.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Indramayo, British steamer, 3,370, R. Evans, 6th June.—New York via ports, General.—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Tijpanas, Dutch steamer, 2,475, P. Scholten, 31st May.—Kobe, General.—Ed. Van Nierop & Co.

Talhybuis, British steamer, 6,225, H. Allen, 31st May.—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Mexican Prince, British steamer, 1,953, J. C. Young, 31st May.—Mojito, Ballast.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Chosen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,804, Kaburagi, 31st May.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Seattle Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, T. Saito, 31st May.—Tacoma and Seattle Wash., Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,943, S. Nishimura, 31st May.—Newchwang, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iola, British steamer, 3,362, W. W. Tucker, 1st June.—Rangoon via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Goeben, German steamer, 1,515, A. Ahlborn, 1st June.—Bremen and Hamburg via ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Bramley, British steamer, 2,788, W. Ruthen, 1st June.—New York via ports, General.—American Trading Co.

Mongolia, American steamer, 8,700, H. E. Morton, 1st June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Moyori Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,736, S. Kushibiki, 1st June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kasuga Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, K. Suzuki, 2nd June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yebuchi Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,992, J. B. Clarke, 2nd June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Canada Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, K. Hori, 3rd June.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,067, R. J. McClelland, 3rd June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ceylon, Swedish steamer, 3,167, Nordfelt, 4th June.—Kobe, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, N. Noguchi, 4th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Matsumoto Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,959, S. Shimidzu, 4th June.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Yokohama Maru, Japanese steamer, 4,045, K. Noda, 5th June.—Seattle, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oceano, British steamer, 3,050, A. R. Davis, 5th June.—Hongkong via ports and Manila, General.—American Trading Co.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 5th June.—Bonn Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Iyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,918, R. Takeda, 5th June.—London and Antwerp via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chikyu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,945, Y. Fukushima, 5th June.—Katsura, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Syria, British steamer, 4,191, R. A. Peters, 6th June.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kisbi, 6th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 6th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Empress of India, British steamer, 3,003, E. Beetham, 6th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Shinyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,223, H. S. Smith, 6th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Kurama, Japanese cruiser, 1,500, Capt. N. Hideshima, 6th June.—Yokosuka.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per American steamer *Mongolia*, from Hongkong via ports:—Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. R. T. Hearn and wife, Mr. Chas. A. Low and wife, Lt. T. J. Johnson, Lt. R. S. Harris and wife, Mr. Wm. Gaun, Mr. A. J. Cameron, Miss D. Keleher, Capt. D. C. Anderson and wife, Major D. Keleher, Lt. E. T. Smith, Capt. H. G. David, and wife, Mrs. John Moore, Jr., Mr. J. W. Withington and wife, Mrs. W. H. Smith, Mrs. E. C. Clayton, Mr. R. P. Tietzen, Mrs. Promfield and Mr. Ludwig Pickel, in cabin. For Honolulu:—Miss S. Heywood. For San Francisco:—Capt. A. M. Wetherell, wife and infant, Mr. H. S. Hadsall and wife, Miss M. W. Averill, Mr. K. Himes, Mr. E. C. Howe and wife, Mrs. J. W. Bolles, Consul-General Michaels and wife, Mrs. H. E. Currier, Mr. H. E. Currier, Mr. H. Curran, Mr. W. Pat and wife, Miss Beach, Mr. A. Schwaef, Mr. O. Rauff, Mrs. I. A. Badger, Mr. E. Moran, Mrs. R. T. Bryan, Mr. W. B. Burke, Mrs. W. B. Pettes and 2 children, Mr. S. E. Lucas, Mr. T. S. Morval, Mr. P. W. Goehner and wife, Miss E. Lither, Mrs. W. F. Wilson, Miss H. T. Averill, Mr. H. E. Carmichael, Mrs. H. Noyes, Miss H. M. Bolles, Mrs. M. Berthoff, Mr. A. B. Kelly and wife, Mr. H. A. Wright, Rev. Lake and wife, Miss Mari P. Siecher, Mrs. A. H. Page and 2 children, Mr. F. H. Cunningham, Mr. S. Reeves, Mr. J. F. Musnor, Mr. A. Hillebrand, Mr. W. B. Russell, Mrs. W. B. Burke and 2 children, Mr. F. D. Holmes, Miss J. D. Fearon, Mrs. T. S. Norval, Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mrs. C. B. Hewitt, Mrs. H. B. Chapman, Mr. L. S. Discher, Capt. G. B. Peardley, Mrs. G. S. Noble, Miss Michaels, Miss K. Strickler, Capt. R. P. Stoneburn, Capt. G. E. Salisbury, Dr. E. L. Simons and wife, Mrs. W. D. Reach, Mr. E. C. Gollo, Miss L. K. Greenlee, Mr. R. T. Florentino, Mr. A. E.

Orme, Mr. R. T. Bryan, Mrs. W. B. Russell and infant, Mr. R. B. Pettus and Miss P. F. Lettelier in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Hakui Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. C. P. Denbigh and Miss E. G. Denbigh in cabin; Miss Watanabe in second class; 10 Japanese and 14 Chinese and 2 children in steerage.

Per R.V.F.'s steamer *Penza* from Vladivostok:—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Duroff and Mr. Yoshikiku Takai in cabin; Mr. Yaga Ryoko, Mrs. Marie Hvan and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hvan and child, Mrs. A. Mun, Mr. P. Anistratenko, Mr. T. Kimura and Mr. Jenichi Matsumoto in second class.

Per Japanese steamer *Hirano Maru* from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Yamanaka and 2 daughters, Mr. Komizo, Mr. and Mrs. Shirai and 3 sons, Lt. P. S. Withshire, Lt. F. B. Hitchcock, Mr. W. A. Wheeler and Mr. W. E. Knight in cabin; Mr. H. Kimura, Mr. Kashiwado, Mr. Kobayashi, Mr. Miki and 5 Chinese in second class; Mr. Suzuki in intermediate; 7 Japanese, 18 Chinese and 1 European in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—15 Japanese and 10 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Yokohama Maru* from Nagasaki via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. M. Schellenberg, Master H. M. Schellenberg, Miss M. Schellenberg, Mrs. T. Muraoka, Dr. and Mrs. F. Alker, Mr. Y. Yoshida, Mr. I. Honda and Mr. T. Kobayashi in cabin; 10 Japanese in steerage. For Victoria:—Mrs. T. Sakiyama in cabin; 18 Japanese and 120 Chinese in steerage. For Seattle:—Mrs. C. Tamaki in cabin; 31 Japanese, 2 Russians and 2 Indians in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per American steamer *Mongolia* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Miss M. W. Averill, Miss H. T. Averill, Mrs. J. A. Badger, Mrs. W. D. Beach, Miss Beach, Capt. G. B. Peardley, Mrs. M. Berthoff, Miss H. M. Bolles, Mrs. J. W. Bolles, Mr. J. N. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Burke and 2 children, Mr. E. Z. Cameron, Mr. H. E. Carmichael, Mrs. H. B. Chapman, Mr. F. H. Cottingham, Mr. H. M. Curran, Mr. H. E. Currier, Mr. L. S. Discher, Miss J. D. Fearon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Goehner, Mr. E. C. Gollo, Miss L. K. Greenlee, Miss H. Heywood, Mr. S. Hadsall, Mrs. C. B. Hewitt, Mr. A. Hillebrand, Mr. K. Himes, Mr. F. D. Holmes, Mr. E. C. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Kelly, Rev. and Mrs. S. Lake, Miss P. E. Lettelier, Mr. S. E. Lucas, Miss E. Luther, Consul-General Michaels, Mrs. Michaels, Miss W. H. Michaels, Mr. E. Moran, Mr. J. F. Munch, Mrs. G. S. Noble, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Norval, Mrs. H. Noyes, Mr. A. H. Orme, Mrs. A. H. Page and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pat, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Pettus and 2 children, Mr. O. Rauff, Mr. S. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Russell and infant, Capt. G. R. Salisbury, Mr. A. Schwaef, Dr. and Mrs. E. L. Simons, Miss May P. Steicher, Miss K. Strickler, Capt. R. P. Stoneburn, Capt. and Mrs. A. M. Wetherell, infant and maid, Mrs. W. F. Wilson and Mr. H. A. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Van Aalst, Mr. Michael Basilewitsch, Miss L. B. Boocock, Mr. Robert Boulter, Mr. and Mrs. A. Burbank, Mr. M. Calmann, Mr. W. Cantlay, Mr. and Mrs. A. Carron, Mrs. D. T. Casement, Mr. Gray Casement, Miss M. Clarke, Mr. P. K. Condit, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Cubitt, Mr. Jean De Jouffray, Mr. Wray De Prez, Mrs. N. Edwards, Mr. E. Gattes, Dr. Elliott Gorgas, Miss M. Gruenwald, Mr. F. Hammer, Mrs. E. M. Hills, Mr. E. Hohl, Master Donald Howard, Mrs. M. Howe, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Jordan, Mr. Stefan Lamm, Miss D. Lockwood, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Lomax, Dr. C. L. McCarthy, Rev. and Mrs. J. I. McGinnis and 4 children, Mr. J. D. McNerny, Mr. Hugh Macnabb, Jr., Mrs. Hugh Macnabb, Mrs. Mrs. J. P. Martin, Miss Mabel Maslin, Mr. J. Masson, Mrs. D. M. Minasian, Miss O. L. Minasian, Miss L. C. Moore, Mr. W. M. Morrison, Mr. P. Mould, Miss L. S. Nash, Mr. V. Moroni, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Otton, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Paige, Miss B. Putnam, Mr. D. Pym, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Remy, Mrs. W. H. Ridenbaugh, Miss F. Ridenbaugh, Dr. F. Rintelen, Rev. and Mrs. B. F. Shively and infant, Miss L. Shively, Master John Shively, Mrs. K. Smithers, Miss F. Stacey, Mrs. Stanley J. Stanford, Mr. H. D. They and Mrs. Webb in cabin.

Per British steamer *Syria* for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mrs. Rowland Williams, Mrs. Miner, Miss M. M. Conacher and Mr. P. H. Lacon in cabin.

Per R.V.F.'s steamer *Penza* for Vladivostok:—Mr. Bruno Arnold, Mr. A. Drege, Messrs. D. Alvord, Mr. J. Hunter, Mr. J. Waechli, Mr. M. Awoki, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Mactavish, Mr. Macaire, Mrs. C. M. Webb and child, Mrs. F. E. Harrold and child, Mr. Z. Barday, Mr. and Mrs. A. Daunt, Mr. Miyage,

Mr. A. K. Mowil and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison in cabin;
Mr. K. Kogu, Mr. G. Wurfel, Mrs. M. Grenard and
Mr. L. Bullier in second class.

Per R.V.F.'s steamer *Rissan* for Vladivostok:—
Mr. Hatanaka, Mrs. E. A. Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. A.
B. Cook, Mr. H. de la Camp and Mr. Loebbecke in
cabin; Mr. V. A. Yakhontoff, Mrs. M. V. Yakhon-
toff, Mr. F. N. Kiseleff and Mr. H. Fujishige in
second class.

CARGOES.

Per American steamer *Mongolia*, for San Fran-
cisco via Honolulu on the 1st inst.:—
Tea.

	San Francisco.	New York.	Chicago.	Montreal.	Detroit.	Boston.	Honolulu.	Other Cities.
Hankow ..	715	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	25	278	84	9	—	—	—	—
Y'hama	590	284	311	—	—	—	—	—
Hongkong ..	733	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keelung	50	5,345	315	—	—	3,832	—	5,15
Shimidzu ..	3,174	1,195	4,405	—	875	870	2	2,432
Total	4,572	7,539	5,349	84	884	4,702	44	3,453

SILK.

	S.F.	N.Y.	Flourence	S.M.	H'oke	Easton	Total.
S'hai	—	156	—	—	—	—	155
H'kong	—	191	—	—	—	—	191
Y'hama	—	776	—	—	30	15	821
Total	—	1,123	—	—	30	15	1,168

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per Japanese steamer *Seattle Maru* for Tacoma
and Seattle, on the 31st ult.

Vivanti Bros.	99
Comptoir Soles	60
Nabholz & Co.	58
Siber Hegner & Co.	40
Jewett and Bent	20
L. Mottet and Barmont ..	12
P. Dourille	10
do	5*
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	269
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	177
Hara Yushutsuten	131
Yanagisawa Shokai	7
Total	888

* Douppioni Silk.

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per British steamer *Syria* for London and Ant-
werp via ports:—

	Waste Silk.
	London, M'chester, M'selles.
Cornes & Co.	68
Pila & Co.	68
Jardine Matheson & Co. ...	34
Siber Hegner & Co.	15
Total	102

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong...	C. P. R.	Monteagle	Su. June 9
Hongkong...	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	M. June 10
Europe	N. D. L.	Derfflinger	M. June 10
America	P. M.	Siberia 1	Tu. June 11
Europe	M. M.	Salazie	Tu. June 11
Hongkong...	T. K. K.	Tenyo Maru	F. June 14
Hongkong...	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	Tu. June 18
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru 2	Th. June 20
Hongkong...	P. M.	Persia	F. June 21
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu. June 25
Vancouver...	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. June 26
Hongkong...	B. L.	Oteric	Th. June 27
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. July 2
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. July 2

1 Left Honolulu on the 31st ult.
2 Left Seattle on the 4th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	M. M.	Nera	Sa. June 8
America	T. K. K.	Nippon Maru	Sa. June 8
Shanghai...	N. Y. K.	Chikugo Maru	Su. June 9
Vancouver...	C. P. R.	Monteagle	Su. June 11
Hongkong...	N. Y. K.	Sanuki Maru	M. June 10
Hongkong...	P. M.	Siberia	W. June 12
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Mexico Maru	W. June 12
Europe	N. D. L.	Derfflinger	W. June 15
Europe	N. Y. K.	Hirano Maru	W. June 19
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Inaba Maru	W. June 19
America	P. M.	Persia	Sa. June 22
Tacoma	B. & S.	Antiochus	Sa. June 22
Australia...	N. Y. K.	Kumano Maru	Sa. June 22
Hongkong...	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. June 26
Hongkong...	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Th. June 27
Seattle	B. L.	Oteric	F. June 28
Hongkong...	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Th. July 4
Hongkong...	G. N.	Minnesota	F. July 5

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YOKOHAMA, JUNE 15TH, 1912.

明治三十五年三月廿日
第三千四百四十四號

VOL. LVII.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH, 1912.

MARRIAGE.

THORN—CAIN—At H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, and at No. 119 B Bluff, on June 12th, by the Rev. Clay MacCauley, CHARLES HASTINGS THORN, son of the late Edgar Vooris Thorn, to MURIEL ELLEN, eldest daughter of John William Cain of Yokohama.

DEATH.

HASKELL.—On Monday, the 10th June,

1912, at the Yokohama General Hospital, of Chronic Nephritis, HENRY BURDITT HASKELL, Age 66.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE Customs Revenue for the month of May reached 5,429,000 yen.

THE Exploration ship *Kainan Maru* is expected to arrive at Shibaura on the 17th instant.

MR. OZAKI, Mayor of Tokyo, will, it is believed, formally tender his resignation in two or three days.

MARQUIS SAIONJI entertained on Tuesday the Seiyukai members at a dinner at the Seiyoken, Tsukiji.

THE death is announced of the Right Rev. John Sheepshanks, Bishop of Norwich from 1893 to 1909.

BARON ISHII, new Ambassador to Paris, will leave Tokyo about the 20th instant for his post, *via* Siberia.

H.M. THE EMPRESS has announced her intention of paying a visit to the Imperial Villa at Kamakura on the 13th instant.

THE Swedish Minister to Japan, who has been on a trip in China, left Tientsin for Tokyo on board the *Taichi Maru* on Monday.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD, the British Ambassador, who has been on a trip to Matsushima, returned to Tokyo on Monday evening.

MR. H. J. WILSON, Liberal member of Parliament for Holmfirth, has resigned his seat and there will be a bye-election in Holmfirth.

THE railway bridge across the Rokugō River, which has been in course of construction, has been completed and is to be opened to traffic on Wednesday.

THE latest statistics show that the peers of this country number 919, of whom 17 are Princes, 37 Marquises, 101 Counts, 378 Viscounts and 386 Barons.

THE bronze statue of Okubo Toshimichi, which has been under construction at the Military Arsenal, is now completed, and will be erected by his tomb in Aoyama cemetery this year.

H.H. THE CROWN PRINCE paid a visit to the General Staff on Friday afternoon last, where His Highness was received by General Hasegawa, Chief of the Staff, and other higher military officers.

THE unveiling ceremony of the bronze statue erected at Anshinzuka, Yokosuka, in commemoration of Will Adams, will be held on the 16th instant in the presence of Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Ambassador, and Baron Suifu, ex-Governor of Kanagawa.

COUNT OKUMA, referring to the alleged lack of knowledge of Chinese characters on the part of the general common school teachers, which has elicited so much criticism, argues that the present opportunity should be taken to abolish the Chinese characters and replace them with Roman letters.

THE Yokohama branch of the Japan Red Cross Society has resolved to establish a Red Cross Hospital, at an estimated cost of 200,000 yen, on a lot covering 4,500 *tsubo* at Okano machi, Yokohama. The Hospital will be capable of accommodating about one hundred patients. It may be added that the branch is in a very prosperous

condition, the contributions from its regular members alone amounting to over 60,000 yen per annum.

THE Communications Department has decided to establish wireless telegraph offices on board the *Taichu Maru* and *Kagi Maru*, of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

ON Wednesday evening about 7 o'clock an earthquake shock was felt in Yokohama, but the vibrations were of so slight a character that, despite their comparatively long duration, they were hardly perceptible.

DR. NAGAOKA, Professor of Physical science in Tokyo Imperial University, has been elected one of the twelve honorary members of the Physical Society of London. This honour is only accorded to the greatest scientists of the world, and Dr. Nagaoka is the first Japanese who has won the distinction.

A DESPATCH from Nagasaki reports a fatal accident occurring at the Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Yard. On Tuesday afternoon about half past two, some men were at work in the turbine factory when four shafts suddenly crashed down on them. One man was instantly killed, while three others were severely injured.

THE King has been pleased to give and grant unto Mr. Henry William Davidson His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, which decoration has been conferred upon him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

WE are courteously informed by the Danish Consulate in Yokohama that the new Danish Minister appointed to the Courts of Japan and China is not Mr. R. Feld, as erroneously stated by us in last Saturday's issue, but Count Preben Ferdinand Anhefeldt Laurvig, who has hitherto been attached to the Russian Legation in Peking as Secretary for Danish affairs only.

A COMPARATIVELY severe earthquake shock was experienced in North Eastern Japan on Saturday afternoon last about half past one. According to the Tokyo Central Meteorological Observatory, the centre of the shock appears to have been at a spot some 500 centimetres east of Tokyo. In Tokyo and Yokohama also, about the same time a slight shock was felt, lasting about a minute.

At a meeting of the committee appointed to arrange the details, it was decided that the Colonial Exhibition shall be open for two months from September 30th to November 18th this year, in the buildings of the Tokyo Industrial Association, Ueno Park. Count Kabayama will act as President. The undertaking will have for its object not only the introduction to the general public at home of the staples of the colonies, but also inquiries into matters necessary for the expansion of the markets for colonial products.

THE Department of Communications has under consideration a scheme for laying submarine telephone wires between Aomori and Hakodate to facilitate cable communication. Mr. Toshimatsu, an expert in the Department, who was commissioned with the investigation, has now concluded his survey and a report has been submitted to the Department, which has decided to commence the work from the next fiscal year, the cost being estimated at about 100,000 yen. The distance of the telephone wires will be about sixty nautical miles.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

Friday, June 7.

The difficulty which caused a temporary suspension of the loan negotiations in Europe has evidently been settled so as, ostensibly at all events, to placate Russia. The point at issue was that Russia declined to submit to any restrictions as to the manner of floating the loan, whereas the Syndicate insisted that the issue of the bonds must be made in the name of the original issuers or in that of some bank endorsed by them. It has been agreed that no restriction of this nature shall be imposed so far as the actual form of the bonds is concerned. This point having been disposed of, the *pourparlers* would have been recommenced in London had not news arrived in the interval to the effect that China was insisting on the elision of the superintendence clauses. In fact it seems pretty plain that the commotion about the foreign provenance of the money and about patriotic loan bonds was nothing more than a manoeuvre on China's part to obtain the deletion of the foreign supervisory clauses; and the representatives of the Four Power Syndicate, having clearly appreciated that fact, returned an emphatic negative to the request urgently made by the Chinese Minister of Finance in Peking on the 6th instant after the secret meeting of the Senate. Thus a deadlock was again created and according to Reuter's telegram of this morning, it would seem that the Chinese Government then fell back upon the patriotic scheme which is now said to be progressing favourably. We are disposed to think however, that Reuter is not fully informed as to this matter. He represents the patriotic loan as progressing favourably, whereas later telegrams from the Chinese capital suggest an inference that the issue of patriotic bonds has made little or no progress, and that in all probability the form of the ultimate agreement will be altered so as to save China's face while leaving the foreign conditions practically unchanged.

Saturday, June 8.

If the stories circulated in Tokyo on the 8th instant be credible, the Chinese Government has attempted to obtain another verbal amendment of the conditions imposed by the Foreign Loan Syndicate. The Chinese ask that instead of stipulating for the presence of an official of the Maritime Customs on each occasion of disbanding troops, an assurance that the money nominally devoted to that purpose has not been misappropriated shall be obtained by entrusting the duty of supervision to an officer specially appointed for the purpose by the War Department in Peking. In short the Chinese have whittled down their proposals so that very little substantial difference now exists between the Foreign Syndicate and the native financiers. It is a tangible difference, however, for it deals with the question of foreign supervision in the matter of the troops, and considering all that has passed, we can scarcely hope that the Peking Government will yield on this point. As for the Syndicate, an immediate rejection of the Chinese proposal is said to have been formulated.

It is now alleged that the Japanese negotiators in Europe have agreed to the proposal made by the Foreign Syndicate, namely that in the event of Japan obtaining accommodation from outside capitalists, she will not limit herself to the Specie Bank

of Yokohama, but will have recourse to any or all of the following banks, namely the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank; the Teiwa Bank (representing Germany); the Indo-China Bank (representing France) and the International Bank (representing America). These stipulations are of course dictated by the question of commissions and fees. It is worth noting that all the while the Foreign Syndicate is arranging among its members for the course to be pursued in making a loan, the Government of China, as represented by the Republican leaders, is declaring its determination not to make any such loan at all.

Sunday, June 9.

On the 7th instant the Cabinet in Peking approved a project for raising a domestic loan amounting to 100,000,000 *yen* carrying interest at the rate of 5 per cent. Nothing is said as to the issue price of the bonds, but it is provided that their proceeds shall be devoted solely to financial and industrial improvement, and it is further provided that in the event of a stamp tax or an income tax being hereafter imposed throughout the Republic, these national debt bonds shall be exempt from such taxes. This programme has now to be submitted to the Council of State and if approved by the latter body will be at once offered to the public. Whether the Government expects the loan to be successful or is merely issuing it as a *ballon d'essai*, there is nothing at present to indicate definitely. The impression prevailing, however, is that the loan must be regarded as belonging to the second category, for President Yuan is said to have issued orders for special military preparations to ensure the safety of the Tientsin-Pu Railway, which constitutes the chief avenue between Tientsin and Peking. The President's object in issuing this order is construed as suggesting that he expects the Patriotic Loan to prove a failure, in which event it is not at all improbable that the advocates of the loan may have recourse to an armed demonstration.

Strange to say, the *Asahi Shimbun*, whose importance as a source of news cannot be over-estimated, publishes a telegram from Peking which says that on the 7th instant, that is to say, on the very day when the Cabinet, according to the above statement, decided to adopt the domestic-loan programme, the Minister of Finance had a meeting with the representatives of the Foreign Syndicate, and the result was to bring the foreign loan appreciably nearer completion.

It would appear from the comments of the British press on the Chinese situation, that not much confidence is felt in this domestic loan, and that on the whole English public opinion is opposed to lending a large sum to China at this juncture. The prevalent idea is that if between this month and the end of October the Chinese Government obtains 40 million *yen* for the purpose of disbanding the troops and 35 million *yen* for administrative purposes, the financial situation will be satisfactory, and it will then be possible either to proceed in a more liberal manner, or to narrow the limits of the programme.

We may here remind our readers that according to utterances of the Japanese Press, the failure of the proposed domestic loan is considered to be assured.

Already symptoms of the growth of a violent mood are beginning to make themselves evident in China. Thus the Minister

of Finance is said to have received a threatening letter in which he is menaced with death unless he abandons the idea of a foreign loan; and at the same time the Young China party is beginning to clamour for a boycott of foreign goods.

Monday, June 10.

Confirmatory telegrams have been received with regard to the programme of floating a domestic loan to the amount of a hundred million *yen* in China. It is not stated yet, however, whether the Council of State has agreed to the Cabinet's proposition, but the general belief now seems to be that no difficulty will be raised. The indications are, however, that the Central Government, while carefully avoiding any semblance of opposition to a domestic loan, is preparing the people's minds all the while for that recourse to foreign money. This is specially noteworthy when we consider the action taken in Peking with regard to public opinion in the province of Szchuan, which is not only the largest province in the Chinese realm, but is also the most remote so far as communications are concerned. The people of Szchuan are markedly disposed to drift into errors about politics and to ventilate anti-foreign views. They appear to have fallen into one of their conservative moods on this occasion, and their leading politicians are preaching a propaganda of anti-foreign dogmas. The Peking Government has given instructions that every possible measure shall be taken to disabuse the people's minds of this sentiment, and to impress upon them the fact that if China is to progress materially, then recourse must be had to foreign money sooner or later. Thus the Cabinet in Peking seems to be playing a contradictory role, for while, on the one hand, it is advising the Council of State to sanction a proposal for the issue of patriotic bonds, on the other, it is urging the Szchuan provincials to divest themselves of all prejudice against using foreign money.

Another point deserving special notice is that Governor-General Hwang does not appear to be at heart an opponent of a foreign loan. It appears that his Excellency recently asked Peking to send him ten million *yen* to meet the needs of the Yangtze Valley administration, but the Peking Cabinet responded with only two millions, and does not seem to have offered any satisfactory explanation of the great disparity between Hwang's requisition and Peking's response. This incident is said to have greatly angered Hwang and to have elicited from him incidentally a statement that he is not opposed to the introduction of foreign capital as such, but only to its introduction under conditions that would mean the downfall of the country's independence. Thus it seems reasonable to infer that the leading Chinese officials are riding for a fall in the matter of the domestic loan.

Among the various telegrams coming from Peking there is one from the correspondent of the *Chuo Shimbun*. It says that the British Representative in Peking has advised the Foreign Office that great care should be exercised in discriminating between the purposes to which the proceeds of the loan are to be applied. So far as concerns recourse to domestic money, the opportunity seem favourable, but Sir John Jordan points out that for paying administrative expenses or for defraying the cost of disbanding the troops, foreign capital is not at all desirable.

It is only for the purposes of material development that foreign capital should be imported. Sir John Jordan may very well have given expression to such views, but they seem a little belated.

Tuesday, June 11.

It is tolerably evident that the Chinese Government is wisely endeavouring to preserve the two great sources of capital independent of each other. That is to say, the Government is seeking to maintain such relations with the Foreign Syndicate as shall keep the latter's offers open in the event of the domestic loan proving impossible. On the one hand, the Minister of Finance is preserving friendly relations with the Foreign Syndicate, and is seeking to obtain all possible concessions from them, while at the same time it is utilizing the aid of the Council of State and the leading statesmen of the country for the purpose of testing the full capacity of the patriotic loan project. Moreover it would seem that the representatives of the foreign capitalists are disposed to render to China all possible assistance in the carrying out of this programme. Thus while subscriptions are diligently raised from patriotic and wealthy sources to obtain domestic funds, the Peking Government is asking the Foreign Syndicate to make two concessions. The first of these concessions relates to the question of disbanding the troops. Instead of appointing a member of the Imperial Customs foreign staff to supervise each operation of disbandment, the Cabinet is asking to have this duty of supervision entrusted to high Chinese officials. The rank of Taotai is suggested as the lowest qualification for this office. In the next place the Chinese Government is asking for a change in the organization of the general supervisory committee. The original proposition made by the Foreign Syndicate was that a special board of supervisors should be appointed to oversee the uses to which the proceeds of the loan were applied. This committee was to have been an independent body with a personnel of high officials. It would thus have been a very costly and conspicuous element of the administrative machine. The Cabinet is said to be now proposing that instead of organizing a separate board for this purpose, a bureau forming part of the Finance Department shall be authorized to discharge the supervisory function. In short the Ministry is making every possible effort to deprive the supervisory arrangement of its most objectionable features from the Chinese standpoint, so that when the domestic loan fails, as fail it will in all probability, it may be possible to fall back upon the foreign loan without seriously offending Chinese susceptibilities.

We cannot see that any wiser course is open to the Chinese Authorities. Nevertheless it is quite evident that by continuing the *pourparlers* with the Foreign Syndicate, while at the same time providing domestic money, the Government will lay itself open to the charge of insincerity. Still, the representatives of the Foreign Syndicate are evidently treating the Chinese proposals in a deferential and considerate manner; and we may hear at any moment that a basis of understanding has been reached.

Meanwhile the Minister of Finance is busily seeking to educate a conception of the difference between the uses to which foreign money and domestic money can properly be applied. His Excellency is credited with saying that for purposes of

administrative reform and military adjustment, foreign money can be properly used, but for currency reform and material progress, domestic capital is more suitable. In fact the Minister is endeavouring, so far as the limits of his functions permit, to keep the two sources of monetary supply in practical existence side by side.

On the 15th instant there will be held in Paris a meeting of the representatives of the Six Powers' Syndicate, and it is expected that highly important results will be reached. While the Syndicate is desirous of showing every consideration towards China, and rendering to her the largest possible measure of practical sympathy, a feeling is evidently gaining ground that there must be no precipitancy whatever in placing foreign funds at her disposal. According to present appearances the Peking Government and the Southern Statesmen, though they simulate large differences of opinion and much embarrassment, are really working behind the scenes to obtain foreign money on the easiest terms. But it is evident that until full measures of precaution as to security and supervision have been taken, no large sum can safely be placed at China's disposal. Thus the soundest policy at present is to limit to a comparatively small sum the pecuniary assistance given to China, and to refrain from further financial aid until the stability of her new constitution and the basis of its working have been well assured. It is thought therefore that several months must elapse before anything like a large sum of money will be placed to her account by foreign capitalists. That is the decision which the meeting on the 15th instant is expected to arrive at. Of course, such a decision would not preclude the lending of comparatively small sums at once.

Wednesday, June 12.

The telegraph this morning is conspicuously silent with regard to the features of the Chinese loan. There is a rumour that Premier Tang has still further jeopardised the situation by insisting that all the supervisory duties must be performed by Chinese officials, and that, in consequence of this demand, the negotiations have come to a deadlock. But there are no solid reasons to believe that anything of the kind has occurred. On the contrary, we are disposed to think that this story emanates from the friends of the Minister of Finance and the foes of the Prime Minister. Our readers must be fully prepared to find the stage occupied by irresponsible rumours for some time to come. The whole problem is profoundly interesting, and may easily lead to complications such as have never been previously witnessed in the East.

In the *Chuo* we find a telegram to the effect that it has been decided to hold all the discussions of the Council of State with closed doors so far as the loan problem is concerned. The reason assigned for this reticence is that the Minister of Finance anticipates the failure of the patriotic loan and desires to avoid any incidents which might compromise the situation when the inevitable alternative of recourse to borrowing foreign money comes upon the tapis. Nevertheless, another account would seem to show that privacy is not observed, for the Council of State, when invited to consider the issue of a 5 per cent. domestic loan, and the circulation of a fiat currency, committed the former proposal to a committee, and rejected the latter as inevitably

destined to lead to loss of the Government's credit and to commercial inconvenience.

Thursday, June 13.

There is no special news with regard to the loan question this morning. The telegram says that the Premier and the Minister of Finance—who are obviously working together in spite of rumours to the contrary—called in company on the representatives of the Syndicate on the 11th instant, and effected some new arrangement with regard to the preliminary loan paid over since the 29th of February, namely a sum of 9,100,000 *taels*. But what this new arrangement is, no information is publicly given. It is added, however, that pending the discussion which is to take place in London on the 15th instant, the representatives of the Syndicate decline to make any final statement.

Meanwhile the intelligence received from the South seems to indicate that the opposition to a foreign loan is weakening. The resignation of his high office by Governor-General Hwang is one of the factors tending in this direction, and ex-President Sun Yat-sen is said to have assumed a more placable demeanour, his contention being that recourse to foreign money is inevitable sooner or later.

LOCAL EXPENDITURES IN JAPAN.

In the columns of the Tokyo Press attention is directed to the rapid increase shown in the budgets of local expenditures during the past few years. Some of these expenditures show a spirit of wholesome enterprise. But others belong to a different category. Public works and education are specially referred to as following into the class of extravagance. There is a sort of mania for road making, and in many cases utility is sacrificed on the altar of ostentation. Members of local assemblies approach their constituents with promises that a road shall be built here or a river bridged there, not because such works are really needed, but rather because without them a district seems to be behind its neighbours. Then in the matter of education, where formerly the main object was to supply facilities for learning, the present purpose is rather to make a more conspicuous show than a neighbouring prefecture does. In short ostentation is preferred to utility. Side by side with these expensive proclivities there is a tendency to spend money on local bazaars and exhibitions. That is doubtless a very useful and profitable tendency. But it may easily be overdone, and the Central Government's investigations go to indicate extravagance.

PIENMA.

From a Reuter's telegram published elsewhere in these columns it will be seen that the very detailed story sent across the wires within the past few days is entirely made out of whole cloth. The story was that Great Britain had despatched a strong military force into Pienma, and had issued a proclamation which virtually placed the control of the district entirely in her hands. This is now officially denied by the British Legation in Peking, and as there are no reservations or evasions in English official documents, we may take it as established that the troops spoken of in the original message had no existence in fact.

THE CONSPIRACY IN KOREA.

The public trial of 123 Koreans charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Korean State will commence on the 28th instant, but in the meanwhile the Procurator has completed his examination and sanctioned the publication of certain portions of the charge. We thus learn from a very lengthy *precis* telegraphed to the columns of the *Asahi Shimbun* that the conspiracy, which may be said to have commenced with the assassination of Mr. Stevens in America, was altogether a part and parcel of the events which involved the murder of Prince Ito, the attempted murder of the Korean Prime Minister, and the recent incidents culminating in the discovery of the conspiracy and in the arrest of the men who now stand committed for trial. The conspiracy had its origin in the year 1905 when a Japanese protectorate was established over the Peninsular Kingdom. A number of so-called patriots then formed an association the broad purpose of which was to put away all Korean and Japanese subjects who advocated the protectorate, and with that object measures were taken to influence public opinion by circulating exaggerated stories of what was in store for the Protected Country. The association formed for this purpose called itself the *Linmin ho* and assassination appears to have been its principal weapon. The death of Prince Ito was expected by the conspirators to prove a crucial point in the scheme but in spite of the murder being accomplished, the anticipated commotion did not take place. Thereafter the assassin's bullet was directed against the Prime Minister of Korea, but that deed, although at first it appeared to have been consummated, was not responsible for any special excitement, and finally another phase of the affair was planned with the immediate idea of removing Count Terauchi, and destroying all those associated with him in introducing the annexation in July 1910. It will be observed from this brief account that the whole of those who figured at different times and on different occasions in the various plots which to the public have suggested the character of separate conspiracies, were in reality one and the same. In short a number of Koreans ever since the year 1905, carried on a plot for the overthrow of Japanese influence and Japanese supremacy in the Peninsula. We do not yet learn what particular incident led to the apprehension of the leaders, but considering the dimensions of the conspiracy and the pertinacity of the conspirators, it is easy to understand that very heavy duties devolved upon the police in searching out the various issues that have cost so much time and so much concealment. The investigation has disclosed a very striking fact; namely, that no less than six separate schemes to assassinate Count Terauchi were organized and that the Governor-General would have been made away with on some of the six occasions had it not been for the extraordinary vigilance with which that distinguished official was guarded. Among the 123 men whose public trial will commence in a few days, it appears to have been distinctly ascertained that three were propagandists of Christianity; 18 were school teachers; 18 students; 14 merchants; 6 farmers; 9 manufacturers and 4 who were already lying under sentence of the

law. The trial doubtless will occupy some time, and there will be plenty of opportunity to ascertain the truth or falsehood of the assertions that have been ventilated so freely with reference to the treatment accorded to the prisoners. One fact clearly established is that little if any success attended the attempts made by these conspirators to excite public opinion against Japan. Numerous manoeuvres are said to have been resorted to. Schools were established, newspapers were started, and rumours of foreign armed intervention were freely circulated. But no commensurate results ensued, and this comparative failure may fairly be regarded as an endorsement of the political position assumed by the Japanese towards the Korean question.

According to an opinion expressed by Mr. Komatsu, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in the Government General of Chosen, the Authorities are disposed to view the conspiracy case with considerable leniency. Mr. Komatsu is quoted as saying that assassination has been the constant resource of politicians in the Peninsula, and that to kill a political enemy was an act which carried with it a comparatively small measure of obloquy. From that point of view the affair now *sub judice* in Chosen ought not to be called a political uprising but rather a plot of assassination on an extended scale. Neither can the existence of such a conspiracy be construed as exhibiting any anti-Japanese feeling on a large scale in the Peninsula. Quite the opposite is the truth. Ever since amalgamation was effected, the Korean subjects of Japan have been learning day by day to appreciate the blessings of life and property, and constant evidence of this feeling is furnished not only in the demeanour of the people but also in the increasing strenuousness of their industry.

We observe in the columns of the *Nippon* a very outspoken article with reference to the participation of Christians in the Korean conspiracy. Our contemporary notes that out of 123 suspects who are awaiting trial, the nature of the employment pursued by them has been definitely ascertained in 81 cases, and out of these cases 18 were teachers; 18 students; 3 pastors, and one on the staff of a school. This is a very large proportion of Christians among the conspirators, and it becomes doubly significant when we recall the fact that the murder of Prince Ito and the attempted murder of the Korean Prime Minister were both the work of these professing Christians. The *Nippon* invites the Americans who have written so vehemently against the Japanese in connection with this matter to reconsider their verdict, since it is impossible to escape the strength of such evidence. But the *Nippon* seems to forget that these so-called Christians were men who deliberately employed their Christianity as a cloak for their political designs. They were not Christians in any sense of the word, and their professions of Christianity were designed to secure legal immunity for the crimes they contemplated.

The *Chuo Shimbun*, which is the principal organ of the Unionists, urges that the greatest possible leniency should be shown to these conspirators. In almost every country a national crisis like that of the annexation of Korea has tended to create erring patriots who have not hesitated to resort to the sword in support of their views. Japan certainly must be included in this category. Not a few pages of her

history contain records which may be placed side by side with the doings of these Koreans, and she can well afford to be magnanimous in such a matter. The *Nippon*, from which we have quoted above, on the subject of Christianity, takes a similar line so far as the treatment of the accused persons is concerned, and we can be pretty sure that this is the line which will be taken by all Japanese publicists.

BANKS IN JAPAN.

There is an obvious tendency at present to amalgamate banks in Japan. Originally no inferior limit was prescribed in granting charters for banks. Not a few of these institutions made their appearance with a capital as small as 10,000 yen. Undoubtedly there was much convenience connected with this arrangement, for, to whatever part of the country people proceeded, banking facilities were always obtainable. On the other hand, not a few of these petty banks proved themselves very insecure at times of crisis, while at the same time the smallness of their capital excluded them from taking part in profitable transactions of any magnitude. By degrees, the expediency of amalgamation made itself felt, and some noted examples were set. Thus the First Bank, which for some years, may be said to have managed Korean finance, had to close its branches in the Peninsula in consequence of the opening of a central bank after the annexation of Korea. The First Bank has now joined hands with the Twentieth Bank, and although the latter bears no comparison to the former in point of magnitude, the sphere of their united interests, namely Hokkaido, offers special convenience for banking purposes. In fact the First Bank, which, as our readers doubtless know, is under the presidency of Baron Shibusawa, and does not stand below any other banking institution in the country, will now occupy in Hokkaido a situation analogous to that formerly occupied by it in Korea. It is expected that similar amalgamations will take place elsewhere in Japan, and the phenomenon is said to be welcomed by the country's bankers in general.

FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

All the necessary measures for organizing a Franco-Japanese Bank are now said to have been taken successfully. The delay that occurred at one stage of the proceedings gave rise to various sinister suggestions, but it does not appear that any very serious hitch occurred in the course of the negotiations. The difficulty was that French financiers thought it advisable to wait until a little more light appeared upon the horizon of Chinese affairs, since it was pretty evident that the finance of the new Republic would become an object of early attention to the proposed bank. It is now stated that all the formalities for registering the bank have been completed, and that the few other points which presented a slight difficulty—principally in connection with founders' profits and fees—have been left in the hands of Mr. Soyeda, so that things may be said to have been settled satisfactorily. There was at one time a rumour that the manufacture of guns for naval uses was to be entrusted to a French arsenal in consideration of the formation of the bank, but we see no reason to place any credit in that story.

THE PRESS IN PEKING.

It is difficult to decipher the details of the trouble between the Authorities and the Press in the metropolitan province of China. So far as we can discern, the difficulty arose in connection with the choice of Governor-General for that province. According to the provisions of the newly framed laws, the Governor-General should necessarily have been a native of the province which he was appointed to administer, and the people of the province, speaking through the columns of the local press, attack the Central Government on the ground that it has shown illegal partiality. To President Yuan, however, the law does not admit of any such interpretation, and the new Governor-General was instructed to remain at his post with perfect confidence. This difference of opinion did not cover the whole ground. The Minister of Home Affairs and the Commandant of the Metropolitan Police, seeing that the newspapers were eluding all control, issued an official organ in which very menacing terms were employed, while at the same time they drafted laws which would have deprived the offending newspapers of all freedom of the pen. It is alleged that President Yuan was a party to this measure, and that he, as well as the Commandant of the Police and the Minister of Home Affairs, agreed that it would be impossible to carry on the administration of the State unless some limits were set to the licence of the Press. The citizens of Peking are said to have concluded that this journalistic conflict precludes an open rupture between the Press of the North and that of the South, but it is not easy to reconcile that theory with the fact that we find the Minister of Home Affairs,—who is universally regarded as President Yuan's right hand man—tendering his resignation immediately after the issue of the obnoxious restrictions upon the freedom of speech and pen. At all events it seems tolerably certain that friction between the North and the South is gradually increasing.

The conflict between freedom of speech, on the one hand, and its thorough suppression on the other, seems to have been very marked in Peking. The member of the staff of the Popular organ, who was arrested and thrown into jail on a charge of inciting to commotion and disorder, has been released, and has doubtless received some substantial solatium in consideration of illegal imprisonment. Meanwhile, the other newspaper which was started in the Conservative interest, and which used such strenuous language against the Democrats, has been suppressed altogether. It is alleged that the police measures undertaken in the case of the Popular journal were altogether unwarranted by law and that President Yuan himself acknowledged the impropriety of the step taken. It is evident that the Press in Peking wields more power than the general public imagines.

A very extraordinary incident marks the Peking Government's retreat from the very unwise policy adopted by it in attempting to strangle the Press. The leading official in this matter was Mr. Chao, Minister of Home Affairs, and he is said to have acted in full agreement with the prefect of police. But almost before the ink was dry on the document prescribing drastic measures for the oppression of free speech, the Minister invited some

thirty members of the Press to a banquet in Peking, and assured his guests that there was absolutely no truth in the despotic attitude attributed to him. This declaration is said to have elicited vehement applause from the representatives of the Press who attended the banquet. The question now is, did Mr. Chao change his mind in presence of the threatening consequences of his suppressive policy, or was he wrongly represented from the first.

CANTON.

Canton also appears to have become greatly agitated about its new Governor-General. The Cantonese contend that according to the new law every Governor-General throughout the length and breadth of China must be a native of the province which he is appointed to administer, and they claim that as the present Governor-General does not possess that qualification, his appointment is illegal. How this difference of opinion will be settled remains to be seen, but the foreign public will at once point to the incident as indicating a wholly new departure in selecting high officials. Hitherto no rule has been more strictly observed in China than that which requires that the senior officials in every province must not be natives of that province; a veto plainly intended to protect the people's interests in the face of official corruption and despotism. This indeed was one of the saving clauses of the old system, and its complete abandonment in favour of a system which tends to facilitate these very abuses cannot be regarded as a step in the direction of wholesome progress.

The telegraph says that Canton is gradually falling into a condition of dangerous unrest. A feeling begins to prevail that President Yuan is usurping an excessive share of administrative control, and that the Republic which was planted amid bloodshed exists in name only. Sun Yat-sen's son, Sun Wu, has been associated by public rumour with the latter report, and has considered it of sufficient importance to call for an emphatic denial. Ex-President Sun himself has issued a proclamation warning the Cantonese against being misled by truculent spirits, and conjuring them to turn their backs upon these rumours and to devote themselves to industry which will enrich their country.

In the meanwhile, Governor-General Hwang has received from the people under his jurisdiction an earnest request that he will continue at his post in the Yangtze Valley. This does not suggest that the people over whom he "rules" are confident in the preservation of peace and good order.

GENERAL HWANG.

At last the resignation of Governor-General Hwang appears to have been accepted, and his successor is found in the person of Governor General Cheng who is now serving at Suchow. General Hwang is expected to start a campaign against foreign money in any shape or form. As to the scene which Hwang will choose for preaching his propaganda of a domestic loan, nothing is yet publicly known, but we may fairly assume that his secession from the ranks of the Government signifies a large accession of strength to the Southern Party.

SIR HENRY NORMAN.

Since his visit to Japan 27 years ago, Sir Henry Norman has always identified himself more or less with Far Eastern affairs. The telegram now says that on the 16th instant he will ask Sir Edward Grey in the House of Commons whether the British Government has endorsed the claims of Japan and Russia to special political influence in Manchuria and Mongolia. This will be a somewhat perplexing question from Sir Edward Grey's point of view, but of course the English Minister can easily evade any embarrassing consequences. He need not go beyond the actual facts of the situation which have received the tacit acquiescence of the whole world. Nobody ever imagined that the problems of Manchuria and Mongolia had been pigeon-holed for all time.

SIR EDWARD GREY.

It would seem that even without waiting for Sir Edward Grey's response to the questions which Sir Henry Norman has given notice of his intention to submit on the 11th instant, the principal Japanese newspapers are quite satisfied with the conditions now existing. The *Fiji Shimpō* represents this phase of Japanese opinion. It says that, in the first place, Sir Edward Grey's utterances have completely cleared the financial atmosphere. Certain powers were vacillating as to the imperative necessity of foreign supervision in the case of the funds lent to China. In fact there was a disposition in some quarters to dispense with the demand for such supervision. Sir Edward, however, has put down his foot in a manner that admits no doubt. He has declared officially that since foreign money is to be employed, the purposes for which it is used must be clearly defined. In the face of such a pronouncement there cannot remain in any mind the slightest query as to Great Britain's final attitude towards this question. In the next place we have the assurance given by the Powers to Russia that there shall be no encroachment upon the *status quo* in Manchuria and Mongolia so far as Japan's special rights are concerned. That is an equally conclusive declaration, and it stands in the archives of the Syndicate's discussions. Japan has proceeded very quietly throughout the whole of this affair. She has not shown the slightest disposition to be clamorous or impatient, and she may congratulate herself on having obtained what she wanted without provoking any unwarranted suspicions.

MONGOLIA.

A great deal has been said and written about the state of affairs in Mongolia, and it must be confessed that the seeds of trouble are being vigorously sown there. In the case of outer Mongolia, independence of China may almost be said to have been completely attained, and the telegraph now says that things are little better from China's point of view in inner Mongolia. Troops are being gradually raised there, and if the *Gegen* gives the signal, a revolt may at any time be anticipated. This telegram comes from Mukden, and certainly the statements that it contains are not inconsistent with what has gone before.

PRINCE KATSURA'S TRIP.

Prince Katsura's projected journey to the Occident is evoking much comment. One leading newspaper, the *Asahi*, alleges that a meeting recently took place between the Prince and the Premier, Marquis Saionji. On that occasion Marquis Saionji is represented to have stated that complications might at any moment arise in connection with the Chinese problem, and that in that event it might be necessary to invite Prince Katsura's return to Tokyo with the least possible delay. The Prime signified his acquiescence. But when Marquis Saionji went on to speak of the possibility of a commotion in connection with domestic politics, Prince Katsura objected that domestic politics, having concern for individuals only, must be left out of such an account.

Even the great weight of the *Asahi* does not carry conviction to the minds of readers of this statement. Nor can anything more explicit be gathered from an analysis of the Prince's motives as interpreted by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*. That journal declares that St. Petersburg is the great goal of Prince Katsura's journey, and that he has the intention of following the footsteps of Prince Ito, and arranging some more intimate relations between Russia and Japan. That hypothesis accounts also for the fact that Baron Goto, whose connection with Russo-Japanese affairs is well known, accompanies the Prince on his journey.

Perhaps the least reasonable of all these conjectures is one which attributes to Prince Katsura a desire to leave the field quite free for the financial and administrative reforms which the Unionists are now engaged in elaborating. The exponents of this theory inform us that Prince Katsura fully reckons on some *faux pas* in connection with this programme of reform, and prefers that the Saionji Cabinet should commit suicide rather than be executed by their political enemies.

The Tokyo newspapers continue to devote a good deal of space to Prince Katsura's intended trip to the Occident. There seems to be much reluctance on the part of some writers to admit that the Prince's trip may be fairly represented as a voyage of pleasure. That, however, is the view that Prince Katsura himself desires to be taken. He considers it advisable that Japanese statesmen should, as far as possible, obtain first-hand information as to the conditions with which they may at any moment be required to deal. For the rest, it is merely a question of recuperation. In fact this is the fourth trip that he has taken to Europe, and he has several times been prevented from going thither by unforeseen events in his own country. He will spend a part of the summer in Switzerland, and he expects to return to Japan in the month of September.

An anonymous official informs the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* that Prince Katsura, whose foreign education may be said to be limited to Germany, is naturally anxious to see with his own eyes what changes have been effected in the administration of that great country. But beyond that there is nothing to be said. This writer points out, however, that the elections for the presidency in America are pretty sure to put a weapon into the hands of the Anti-Japanese party

in the great Republic, and that Japan must be on her guard to obviate the evil effects of such a propaganda.

The *Fiji Shimpō* has a long telegram from London with reference to Prince Katsura's visit to that city. The telegram represents British public opinion as anticipating that the presence of this eminent Japanese statesman in London will have the effect of imparting new vigour to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and will also help to bring the solution of the East Asian problem within sight. Prince Katsura is too prominent a figure to have his presence cloaked in any part of the world, especially in England.

Speaking to a representative of the *Fiji Shimpō*, Prince Katsura most emphatically denies that his projected journey to the Occident has any political significance whatever. His sole object is to extend his knowledge of persons and things, and possibly to discuss the great Chinese problem with the statesmen of the West. He will no doubt be asked a great many questions, and in his turn he will propound many, but as to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance or the Franco-Japanese Entente or the Russo-Japanese understanding or Germany's friendship with Japan or any other vital topic of international politics, he wishes to be considered a mere tourist without any special aims or instructions. Some comment has been excited by his exclusion of the United States of America from his programme of travel, but he wishes that to be understood merely as due to the fact that the presidential elections will be on the tapis just at the time when he would have reached America in the ordinary routine of his travels. It is unnecessary to insist on the inconvenience of such a synchronism.

THE ROBERT DOLLAR LOAN.

A great deal of attention is attracted to the loan said to have been negotiated by the Chinese with an American firm known as the Robert Dollar Company. There had not been previously any special circumstance calculated to bring this American Company into public prominence, and the most remarkable feature of the transaction was that the fact of its conclusion synchronized with the announcement of its completion. It is now alleged that the foreign company has not only negotiated one local loan, but also may be practically said to have floated another. The first of these two loans has already been described explicitly. Its avowed object is to rebuild the city of Hankow and to promote various municipal reforms in that town. Even from the point of view of magnitude—namely that the Robert Dollar Company pledged itself to obtain such a large fund as 3,500,000 pounds sterling for investment in China—the affair was sufficiently remarkable. But we now learn that a still more interesting proviso formed a part of the agreement, namely, a pledge on the part of the Hankow authorities that if any further sum were needed for outlays in Hankow, a firm option must be given to the American Company. On the top of this intelligence comes an allegation that the same firm has concluded another loan, this time for three millions of dollars in gold under the authority of the Chikiang provincial officials. The terms of the second loan are markedly un-

favourable to China, as she has to pay 6 per cent. interest on a bond marketable at 95. People are beginning to ask who this ubiquitous Robert Dollar firm may be, and how it has succeeded in obtaining command of such a large sum of money. In the case of the Chikiang loan the railways of that province, whether constructed or planned, are to be pledged as security for the loan, but in the case of Hankow no security whatever is given. Moreover no explanation is offered as to the palpable contradiction of allowing local authorities to conclude with foreign firms transactions which for patriotic reasons are forbidden to the Central Government. In fact people are finding considerable difficulty in reconciling the conditions with the conclusion of the two loans, and doubts are entertained as to whether this firm which has made such a brilliant *début* may not prove a mere fiasco in the end.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

The public are now becoming very curious about the results of the Commission appointed some months ago under the presidency of Marquis Saionji for considering the question of administrative reform. Nothing is yet positively known, but a great many conjectures are circulated. Thus curtailing or amalgamating the functions of several bureaux is anticipated, and it is foretold that the Departments of Education and of Agriculture and Commerce will be completely abolished. Further, the timber-felling stations managed by the Government will be done away with, as will also be the cloth factory at Senju; both enterprises being handed over to private companies. In the next place, the Saghalien Government will be abolished, or absorbed into the Hokkaido district; the colonization bureau will cease to exist, and the tailoring department of the railway bureau will be completely transferred to private management. Nothing is said, however, as to the Wakamatsu foundry, though many critics are urging its sale to a private firm. Of course the above programme is mainly conjectural, but we may be sure that a great deal will be heard of the Council's doings during the next few months.

LOCAL AND CENTRAL FINANCES IN CHINA.

The Minister of Finance in Peking has addressed to the provincial Governors-General a circular note pointing out that although the proceeds of the Customs are pledged as security for the Boxer indemnity and for China's foreign debt, it has never been found necessary to actually appropriate these moneys for the fixed purpose, inasmuch as the provinces always paid up sufficient funds to meet the occasion. Since the recent revolution, however, the provinces have ceased altogether to meet the needs of the Central Government and the latter has been obliged to apply the Customs' dues to this purpose. The result is that although the money due under the Boxer agreement has been paid, nothing has been forthcoming to meet China's foreign debt. The Minister therefore urges that every possible means shall be adopted by the provincial Governors-General to meet the exigency.

DOMESTIC POLITICS IN JAPAN.

On the 10th instant the Unionist members of the Lower House held a meeting presided over by the Premier. Marquis Saionji delivered one of those addresses which mark him as an eminently wise and moderate statesman. He reminded the great party over which he presides that the signal victory won by them in the general elections must not be misinterpreted, but must be regarded mainly as lending greater gravity to the responsibilities incurred by the Party to the country. There must be no abuse of the strength of a majority, and all affairs of State must be treated strictly on their merits. Turning to the Committee now sitting for purposes of administrative reform, the Marquis said that the task was very heavy, and that it demanded a degree of investigation and enquiry involving much time as well as conscientious study. He was not in a position to furnish any detailed information as to the progress hitherto made, but he could assure his parliamentary colleagues that no efforts would be spared to reach a satisfactory result.

On the same day, the Popular Party held a meeting of a similar character to the above, but inasmuch as the Popular Party is compelled to adopt the role of attack, Mr. Oishi Masami, who delivered the principal address, had to adopt that attitude. He declared that the Party had inscribed upon its flag in the general elections three mottoes, namely naval increment, financial reform and foreign affairs. As to financial reform there had been talk of retrenchments aggregating 60 million yen, but it now appeared that 15 millions would represent the maximum. In that event, naval increment would not be possible. Finally as to foreign affairs, the record of the Cabinet consisted of failures only, above all in Chinese diplomacy. The upshot of the situation was that alike in national defence, in financial arrangements and in foreign politics, nothing worthy to be called statesmanship was visible in the doings of the Ministry.

We need scarcely remind our readers that Mr. Oishi Masami has long enjoyed the distinction of being the "Stormy Petrel" of eastern politics.

The other leader of the Popular Party, namely Mr. Inukai Ki, spoke with complete assurance as to the necessity of fixing the basis of national defence. Hitherto it had been the custom to treat national defence as a kind of extra-territorial problem. But this was contrary to the fundamental doctrine of representative Government. Statesmen who obeyed constitutional principles must make the national defences a subject of parliamentary debate like everything else, and must decide the country's needs before attempting to satisfy them.

THIBET.

There are no signs as yet of affairs in Thibet being brought to a satisfactory condition. The Chinese military force at Lassa has been surrounded by Thibetans, and the latter are said to have driven out all the Chinese inhabitants of the city, pursuing them even across the frontier into Szchuan. From the latter province troops have been sent to drive back these Thibetan aggressors, but how things have fared with the Chinese garrison at Lassa there is as yet no indication.

JAPAN'S SHARE IN THE LOAN.

It is stated in apparently well informed circles that the principal subject discussed at the meeting of the 15th instant in London will be the manner of paying out the instalments of the principal loan. This is specially interesting from Japan's point of view. The amount already paid out by the Syndicate since the 29th of February has been 9,100,000 yen, and of this total, Japan will now have to put up one sixth, representing her share under the Six Power arrangement. This operation will be undertaken by the Specie Bank. Of course Japan's competence to render pecuniary assistance to her neighbour is comparatively limited, but happily the process need not be in any sense precipitated. When it comes to converting the money already lent into a section of the main loan, Japan's responsibility will not at the outset exceed a total of 20 million yen, and this can be furnished without much difficulty by the Specie Bank and the Bank of Japan. Altogether the responsibility that Japan must shoulder is not likely to exceed 40 to 50 million yen, and to procure that sum in her own market or in Great Britain will not overtax the resources of the nation. It will further be agreed at the meeting of the Syndicate in London that, in the event of Japan having to go outside her own market in search of funds, she will appeal in the first place to England and in the second to France. Moreover her own name will not appear among the Powers from which accommodation is sought. Thus her benefit with regard to the ultimate portions of the loan will be purely political.

THE MAYOR OF TOKYO.

It is now accepted as a foregone conclusion that Mr. Ozaki Yukio will resign his position of Mayor of Tokyo in a few days; but as to his successor, no one ventures to offer any prediction. He has served as Mayor for nine years, and the question naturally arises, how the city is to recognize the admirable services rendered by him. Osaka, in similar circumstances, presented a salutation of 150,000 yen to the retiring Mayor, but there seems to be an impression that 100,000 will be sufficient in the present case. Mr. Ozaki enjoys the unique commendation that he is the only Mayor of Tokyo whose absolute integrity is credited by all the citizens. Some people speak of him being made an official nominee of the House of Peers, but that is exceedingly unlikely. What is much more probable is that he will continue to sit in the Lower House—either as President or as a parliamentary leader of the Unionists.

CHIENTAO.

It will be remembered that one of the conditions of the settlement of the Chientao problem was that the *presque* should be recognized as Chinese territory, but should be freely open to colonization by Japanese subjects. It now appears that a very considerable number of Koreans, who of course are Japanese subjects, have been for some time entering the Chientao territory, and settling there, under the attractions of the marked fertility of the district. So large is this movement that the provincial assembly of Kilin has taken up the subject, and has memorialized the Peking Government in the

sense that unless some decisive measure be taken, Chientao will become virtually a Japanese colony. It is not easy to see how this objection can be met, for any attempt on China's part to interrupt the emigration in question would at once involve trouble with Japan.

THE CHINESE CABINET.

The news agency which derives its intelligence from Peking and Tientsin communicates to the Tokyo Press a statement to the effect that there is a marked want of amity between the Prime Minister, Tang, the Minister of the Navy and the Minister of Finance. These high officials do not meet. They carry on their communications with one another entirely in writing, and President Yuan, in addition to the other arduous items of his position, has to discharge the task of keeping the peace among his colleagues. We do not by any means attach implicit credence to this story. The public has been repeatedly informed of Premier Tang's want of agreement with the other members of the Cabinet, and at one time wholesale resignations were spoken of as imminent. These reports turned out, however, to be practically groundless, and we do not anticipate that their present successors will prove to be more accurate.

MARQUIS SAIONJI.

It is eminently satisfactory to learn that Marquis Saionji has recovered his health completely. For several years back the Marquis has suffered from chronic illness, and with difficulty he has been able to attend even a fraction of the meetings to which political duties invited his presence. But at the meeting of the Unionists on the 10th instant it was observed that the Marquis showed every sign of restored health, and addressed his followers in forcible language. His attitude on that occasion made it clear that he will leave no stone unturned to bring about the financial reforms which he is now engaged in investigating. He is not putting his hand to any lightly undertaken task, but will stand or fall by the results of his investigations. The Popular Party has accepted this challenge as conclusive, and within the next few weeks we may count on seeing the first stages of the contest.

BARON GOTO.

Baron Goto, who is now at Bakan route for Tokyo, expresses some displeasure against the newspapers which have made so much capital out of his movements. He denies most explicitly that his meeting with the Governor-General, Count Terauchi, had any political significance whatever. His sole object was to take effective steps for promoting Russo-Japanese commerce in tea and raw silk. Transactions in these staples are now carried on in a manner that invites development, and it was to contrive means of bringing about such development that the Baron undertook his journey to Seoul. He insists that the Russo-Japanese Association and its aims are purely commercial. The Baron would have returned direct from Seoul had not the occasion seemed specially suited for a trip to Antung and Mukden, to inspect the railway now in course of construction there.

THE PATRIOTIC LOAN.

The prospects of the patriotic fund are becoming more and more gloomy. The Council of State is supposed to be debating the question and the Government is said to be furnishing all necessary information. But in reality the Government appears to be taking no measures whatever for inducing the cooperation of the Council of State, and the latter body is not endeavouring to hasten the discussion or to procure information. In the meanwhile rumour says that the amount hitherto subscribed by patriotic men of means in the metropolitan province does not exceed 15,000 *taels*. It begins to be thought that when the loan is placed on the market, it will quickly perish of inanition. Our readers may be perplexed to distinguish between the funds already subscribed by patriotic men in the province of Chili and the Patriotic Bonds whose flotation awaits the decision of the Government and of the Council of State. As we understand the matter, the Chili contributions are simply donations made by enthusiastic patriots without any direct reference to the Patriotic Bonds. Still it is quite evident that a movement so lacking in *elan* at the outset can scarcely be expected to achieve any signal success. In fact the Ministry's aim is to pigeonhole the patriotic loan until the people grow tired of waiting for it and until soberer views obtain vogue.

PAUPERS IN JAPAN.

The question of paupers in Japan has failed to occupy the attention it deserves. Until quite recent years no really earnest investigation into this subject was made, though the necessity for examination was fully recognized. In June last the Government took steps to ascertain the exact particulars, but much difficulty was experienced at first in fixing the basis of investigation. It is easy to see that many things must enter into such an enquiry, and it is equally easy to see that to work on too wide a basis would over-complicate the situation. Since last year the state of affairs in the Shitaya district of Tokyo has been tabulated in an intelligible form and without excessive elaboration or insufficient examination. The number of households which may be said to be in a destitute condition in the Shitaya ward alone amounts to 2,860, and their inmates total 10,548 persons. The work is now being carried on in the Honjo and Fukagawa districts where conspicuous distress prevails. No definite plan seems as yet to have been yet laid down for relieving these mendicants. In fact the investigation now in progress is necessarily preliminary. But the idea generally entertained is that pauperism in Japan has become very marked in certain places, and that if the problem of socialism is to be solved satisfactorily, no time should be lost in getting to work.

CHINA'S FIDUCIARY CURRENCY.

Telegraphic news comes from China to the effect that the proposed fiduciary currency has no chance whatever of becoming an accomplished fact. The Council of State has refused to endorse the Cabinet's half hearted proposals for such an operation. The fact is that conclusive experiment has furnished the

Chinese with a palpable example of what might be expected if an issue of inconvertible notes takes place. These notes were issued in considerable quantities during the progress of the rebellion, being used for the purpose of defraying the pay and allowances of the troops, and meeting the cost of daily supplies. But the notes fell to a heavy discount from the very outset, and even now they circulate at a mere fraction of their face value. Evidently to extend the transaction by issuing a 100 million *yen* of these tokens would be fatally unsuccessful, and would plunge the Government at once into the slough of fiat currency, dislocated commerce, and forfeited national credit. There is no real probability of such an error being made by men like President Yuan and Premier Tang.

AN INSURANCE QUESTION.

An interesting case has come up for discussion in Tientsin. It appears that among the policies of fire insurance taken out by the Chinese residents of Tientsin, 320 houses were insured by English firms. When the Chinese applied for payment of the insurance money in the sequel of the recent disturbances, the British insurance companies refused to pay, their plea being that their policies carried no liability in respect of acts of war. The Chinese, however, insist that the burning of Tientsin was not an act of war but an incendiarism, and they have found a German barrister to conduct legal proceedings against the English insurance offices. There can be very little doubt that the judgment of the court will be in favour of the insurance companies, but the trouble is that in that event a boycott is pretty sure to be organized against British goods, whereas if the court pronounces in favour of the Chinese insurers, the results to the companies will be disastrous.

AGRICULTURAL SUFFERING.

It appears that the severe frosts which visited Fukushima prefecture and its neighbourhood in the closing days of May, caused very heavy loss to the farmers. It is estimated that the destructive effects were as follow:—

	Yen.
Mulberry trees.....	761,546
Silk worms	556,780
Barley	157,418
Vegetables	37,300
Fertilisers	10,300

This gives a total of over one and a half million *yen*, and a petition has been presented to the Government urging that the taxes payable by the farmers in this district should be entirely remitted. The Government, however, is evidently not prepared to go quite so far. It will remit a certain fixed fraction of the loss, but there is a difficulty about absolving the people from the whole payment.

KILIN.

The Government troops in Kilin province seem to be suffering from an epidemic of gradual disintegration. A short time ago a large detachment of them was sent to deal with the mounted bandits who were making themselves very obnoxious to peaceful citizens. These guardians of law and order, after inspecting the doings of the Hunghtz

at close quarters, concluded that greater profit was obtainable by predatory methods than by pacific, and they crossed over to the lines of the mounted bandits without much delay. The Authorities then seem to have come to the forecast that unless some direct remedy was applied, the whole of the military forces of the province would pass over to the bandits. To avert such a contingency it was decided to pay an additional *yen* per day to each of the soldiers, the mutiners as well as the maintainers of order. This is certainly a bizarre page of history.

MANCHURIA.

An interesting but perplexing step has been taken by the Council of State in Peking. That body has addressed to the President a message urging that the administration of civil affairs and of military shall not be distinguished provincially in Manchuria, but shall be conducted on the basis of unification of the Three Eastern Provinces. Of course it is not difficult to recognize that Manchuria presents features of radical difference as compared with the 18 home provinces of China, but it has hitherto been believed that no intention existed of recognizing these local conditions in any marked degree. The Council of State in Peking however, appears to believe that the time is not yet ripe for absolute amalgamation of the three Provinces, and of course such a decision may mean a great deal; not in the matter of domestic politics alone, but also in that of foreign affairs.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, June 7.

The market yesterday was inactive and all shares were maintained at low prices. Business was very dull in the latter part of the session.

Saturday, June 8.

The market on Saturday last was characterized by general dullness, but a firmer tone began to develop towards the latter part of the session.

Monday, June 10.

The market yesterday showed a general decline.

Tuesday, June 11.

With the exception of steamship shares, quotations showed a decline on yesterday's market.

Wednesday, June 12.

The market yesterday showed a general rise.

Thursday, June 13.

There was again a decline on the Exchange yesterday. The closing prices for forwards were:—

	June 12th.	June 13th.
Kai-Hin Railway.....	46.60	—
Yusen Kaisha	116.90	116.45
Toyo Kisen	47.70	47.55
Specie Bank.....	—	216.55
Tanko Kisen	21.00	21.05
Tokyo Gas	71.30	71.25
Tokyo Dento	70.05	70.00
Fuji Gas Spinning	88.30	88.00
Tokyo Spinning	51.70	—
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	111.95	111.35
Beer	—	—
Hoden (Takarada Oil)...	65.15	65.00
Nippon Oil	—	—
Rice Exchange.....	105.45	—
Stock Exchange	155.15	154.10

TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

The long talked of reforms of the Tokyo Stock Exchange have been embodied in a list of regulations which will be submitted for approval at the general meeting of the shareholders on the 26th instant. Broadly speaking, the object of these reforms is to provide greater security for persons operating on change. Thus whereas personal security to the extent of 12,000 yen has hitherto been deemed sufficient for a broker to put up, 30,000 will hereafter be required; and moreover, the new regulations provide against alienation of these funds for temporary purposes. Other minor reforms are also contemplated, but the main facts are those stated above.

We may mention here that the Tokyo Stock Exchange is to declare a dividend of 13.75 at its next meeting.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENT.

The *Kokumin Shimbun* has a highly appreciative notice of the excellent work done by Mr. G. V. Sansome of the British Embassy in rendering into English some of the most celebrated of the *No* dances of Japan. This is a labour from which the most ardent sinologue might justly shrink, for it involves work of a most recondite and puzzling character. The *Kokumin* thinks that no small measure of praise is due to Mr. Sansome for the patient scholarship he has brought to bear upon this enterprise, and for our own part we most heartily endorse everything said by the *Kokumin*.

Insurance seems to be the only enterprise that can be said to be in a really flourishing condition in Japan at present. There are now 32 firms, and they have written policies aggregating 750 million yen. The average value of the policies granted is 15 millions a month, so that by August next, the Japanese companies will have at least 800 million yen pledged in this enterprise. The amount of policies in which foreign companies are concerned is 80 million yen. Several new companies have applied for charters, and will certainly obtain official permission.

On the 15th instant, through connections between Vladivostok and Shimbashi will be placed at the disposal of the public. Henceforth it will be possible to perform the Trans-Asian journey with much greater facility than has hitherto been the case. Moreover the times of running the trains will be arranged so as to enable travellers to obtain specially good views of the fine scenery through which the Tsuruga-Shimbashi Railway runs.

For some time past there has existed in the Department of Education a committee which includes the names of nearly all the literary celebrities of Japan. To them is entrusted the duty of translating into Japanese the greatest works of the world's greatest literateurs, and the first of these translations has now been completed by Dr. Mori to whom was assigned the duty of rendering Faust into Japanese. A Buddhist work by Dr. Anezaki has been nearly finished and Dr. Ueda's rendering of Dante will follow shortly.

The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has intimated that all Japanese tea

imported to the United States shall be subjected to the severest form of examination. Last year the inspectors were content to pass the bulk of the tea without subjecting it to any chemical test; but henceforth there will be no such discrimination: all the tea will be examined in the same manner and according to the same system. We do not gather that this apparently increased strictness is due to the discovery of abuses in Japanese tea: it would appear that the defects are found in Chinese tea for the most part.

It appears to be thought in industrial circles that the affairs of the Fuji Seishi Kaisha (Fuji Paper Manufacturing Company) are not in a very satisfactory condition. The Company has a nominal capital of 10 million yen and a paid up capital of 6 millions. Its debentures amount to 2 millions, and its debts are 3,100,000. Thus its total liabilities may be said to be 11,100,000 yen and its fixed capital is 9,749,645 yen. These figures are certainly not very reassuring, but neither do they indicate anything disastrous. The *Niroku Shimpō* is devoting a series of articles to the company's affairs, and doubtless something of a panic will be witnessed.

The Autumn manoeuvres this year are to be held in Saitama prefecture, a place celebrated in old time wars under the name of Musashi-no-hara. This will bring the review to within some 35 miles of the capital. The plan of campaign will be an attack on Tokyo by the thirteenth and fourteenth divisions advancing from the direction of Gumma prefecture, and the lines of defence will be held by two other divisions in the valley of the Arakawa.

The Parliamentary International Association was discussed at a meeting held on the 11th instant by members of the Lower House now in Tokyo. On the motion of Mr. Ooka Ikuzo it was decided that in view of the importance of the problems to be discussed when the Association meets in Geneva, a committee of the Japanese representatives should be appointed for the purpose of fully investigating the subject. A portion of the Press of Japan has been discussing this matter in a somewhat intemperate tone, but the action now commending itself to the House of Representatives in Tokyo shows that there is no disposition in responsible quarters to take a light view of the matter.

It is reported that there has been discovered in the island of Saghalien an area of forest deposits measuring three quarters of a million acres. These weeds and other debris of vegetation have been left untouched from time immemorial, and only now has the possibility of using them for paper-making being appreciated. A company has been formed for utilizing this material, which goes by the name of *tsundara*, and the Government of Saghalien has promised many facilities in developing the enterprise. The price of the material landed in Osaka is said to be a little more than one half of the cost of that now used in paper-making there.

The trial of Count Shigenoi on a charge of fraud was concluded on the 11th instant in Tokyo and judgment will be delivered in a few days. It appears that the Count borrowed money from a certain Mr. Yama-

moto on the security of a sliding panel, which he alleged to have been painted by Kano Sanraku, and to have been presented to the house of Shigenoi by the then ruling Sovereign. The money borrowed on this object of art was only 2,700, and it should have been easy to obtain sufficient money to settle the affair out of court. But the accused nobleman appears to have few friends, for the public procurator, after inveighing in very stringent terms on the offence committed by the accused, asked the court to sentence him to a year and half's imprisonment with hard labour, and not to admit any plea for deferred sentence.

SILK PRODUCTION.

According to a report recently received at the Japan Silk-thread Dealers' Association from the Lyons Silk-thread Traders' Guild, the world's product of raw silk for last fiscal year was as shown below:—

	1910. (Thou. kk.)	1911. (Thou. kk.)
France	318	402
Italy	3,947	3,590
Spain	83	88
Austria-Hungary	352	355
East and Central Asia	2,800	2,813
Shanghai (Exported)	5,193	5,550
Canton (Exported)	2,637	1,690
Japan (Exported)	8,935	9,200
India, Calcutta and Bombay	230	215
Total	24,495	23,805

As may be seen from the above table, contrary to general expectations, the world's output of raw silk last year decreased by 690,000 kilograms as compared with that for the preceding year. This phenomenon must be set down chiefly to the decisive decrease in the output of Italian cocoons. The production in the countries of Western Europe decreased by some 350,000 kilograms, although that in France and in Eastern Europe showed more or less increase. So far as the output in East Asia is concerned, it also decreased by something like 590,000 kilo. as compared with the figures recorded for the preceding year, the export from Canton decreasing by 947,000 kilograms, though that from Shanghai increased by 357,000 kilo. It may be noted that the world's annual output of raw silk up to 1909 showed a tendency to increase, but since then has begun to show a gradual decrease. In this context the *Fiji Shimpō* observes that the only consolation to Japan is that despite the downward tendency which most of the rival countries are beginning to show, the export of raw silk in this country is conspicuous for a steady increase every year.

WEDDING IN YOKOHAMA.

The wedding took place on Wednesday of Mr. C. H. Thorn and Miss Muriel Cain, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cain. Owing to the bride and bridegroom being of different nationalities two ceremonies were necessary, one before the British authorities and one before the American. The first was held at H.B.M.'s Consulate and was performed by Mr. J. C. Hall, H. B. M.'s Consul-General. The second ceremony was at 119 Bluff, Mr. H. H. Dick, the American Deputy Consul-General, officially representing the American authorities. A religious ceremony was also held at which the Rev. Clay MacCanley officiated. Mr. Maurice Mendelson acted as best man, and Miss Edith Cain as bridesmaid, the bride being given away by her father. Many friends of the bride's family were present and also a large number of the American community. We wish the newly-wedded couple every happiness.

LIEUT.-GENERAL UHARA, Minister of War, entertained Prince Katsura at a dinner given at his official residence on Thursday.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

A CANTON LOAN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Canton, June 7.
The Canton Magistracy has concluded with the Shanghai and Hongkong Bank a two million *taels* loan and has applied to the Peking Government for approval.

THE NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION.

Canton, June 8.
In response to the call of the Central Government for financial aid, the Canton Magistracy remitted half-a-million dollars to Peking on the 6th instant, the money being a portion of the national subscription raised. The Cantonese are eagerly responding to the subscription. Dr. Sun Yat-sen and other authors of the movement, anticipate raising about thirty million dollars.

HOME-MADE GOODS.

Peking, June 7.
The Cantonese residents in Peking have adopted a resolution to use domestic articles to the exclusion of foreign-made goods in order thus to curtail the national expenditure. The resolution is to be put into practice in Canton to start with.

THE MANCHU REGIME.

Peking, June 7.
The system of official rank of the Manchu regime has been abolished and the holders have all been deprived of their ranks.

A MILITARY PROGRAMME.

Peking, June 8.
General Tsun Chi-jui, Minister of War, has set up a new military programme for which he is asking the consent of Yuan Shih-kai and the State Council. The programme comprises the enforcement of the conscript system, the creation of forty army divisions, and the expansion of domestic arsenals in order to dispense with the importation of arms from abroad; the drawing up of an accurate map of China; the construction of military railways, and the abolition of military governments in all provinces to maintain the unity of the military administration.

SITUATION IN KASHGAR.

Peking, June 8.
The situation in Kashgar seems to be critical. A telegram reaching Peking on the 4th instant reports that the British and Russian Consuls there presented to the local *Taotai* a protest against the high-handed actions of the Kolaohui; and the *Taotai* has promised to mete out punishment to the rioters. The Chinese authorities entertain pessimistic views as to the future of that locality and are sending their families home *via* Russian territory. The Russian commercial museum in Tolfun has been burned down by the rioters.

MUTINOUS SOLDIERS.

Peking, June 7.
On the night of the 4th instant soldiers set fire to the houses in several parts of the town of Kaoyanghsien, and plundered the inhabitants. The mutinous soldiers, however, fled from the town by 2 o'clock on the following morning.

THE CHINESE ELECTION LAW.

Peking, June 8.
The Election Law was taken up for discussion in the State Council when it was unanimously decided to elect a member for every 800,000 of the population.

THE CHINESE NAVY.

Peking, June 8.
Li, Minister of the Navy, has recommended to Yuan Shih-kai the appointment of Admiral Sa Chin-ping as Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Naval Squadron. Yuan has accepted the suggestion and is now in communication with the Admiral.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.

Peking, June 8.
The Prime-Minister has in mind the speedy construction of the Kilin-Hongchun railway to connect with the Kilin-Hoiron railway in order to accelerate industrial enterprises in North

China. It is stated that this railway enterprise is much coveted by foreign capitalists.

CONDITIONS AT CANTON.

Canton, June 11.

In view of a rumour current in Canton to the effect that Wang Ho-shun and Tan Ten-huang are contemplating some intrigue, martial-law has been declared, but nothing serious is likely to result.

Owing to the excessive issue of inconvertible notes, the currency has undergone a decisive decline in value, and commerce is practically suspended. A terrible panic now reigns in the market.

A HUPEH LOAN.

Hankow, June 11.

Li Yuan-hung concluded the Hupeh loan of £3,000,000 on May 31st with the representative of Messrs. Robert Dollar and Co. The loan bears interest of 5 per cent. with an issue value of 94, and is to be appropriated for the expenditure of the Hupeh administration. The security offered for the loan is uncertain, but is alleged to be the taxes from some reliable financial sources in Hupeh.

THE PATRIOTIC LOAN BONUS.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that Liang Chio, chief confidential secretary to Yuan Shih-kai, has intimated to the State Council that the Government has decided to introduce a Patriotic Loan Bonds Bill, for which its support is asked. The Council sat behind closed doors to consider the question.

A later dispatch reports that the Bill will probably be introduced to the Council on the 10th instant. The amount of the loan is 100 million dollars. The Bill will be referred to a special committee of 23, after it has been explained by Tang Shao-i. A Honan member is of opinion that all the provinces, excepting two or three, will readily respond to the loan. It will be sufficient if five million dollars be raised in each province, and thus success is almost assured.

DISHONOURING BILLS.

Alluding to the steady increase of late in the numbers of commercial bills dishonoured, which is attributed to the rise in prices, the *Hochi* says:—

The number of dishonoured bills as declared by the Clearing Houses has hitherto seldom exceeded 15 or at most 20 every month, but since the beginning of the year there has been a tendency for these bills to increase, the returns showing that there were 68 in January, 71 in February, 61 in March, 68 in April and 131 in May. This marks a new record. No doubt the phenomenon is a natural consequence of the increase of banks and the expansion of banking business, but it must at the same time be attributed to negligence on the part of the bankers to study conditions in economic circles, and also to a lack of prudence in transacting their business, the endeavour being more to secure a large number of customers than to engage in sound transactions. At bottom, of course, the increase in the number of dishonoured bills is traceable to the growing difficulty of living, in consequence of the recent abnormal rises in the price of rice and other commodities. To this the fact that Kanda and Asakusa, where commodities are most high priced, and Hori and Sabu, where poor people form the bulk of the population, are specially conspicuous for the increase of insolvent merchants, bears eloquent testimony. In view of these circumstances the increase of dishonoured bills is certainly a serious question, not only to banking circles, but also to the general public as well. It behoves the Clearing House, therefore, to conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of the increase, so that the situation may be remedied in time.

THE NEW TRAINS-DE-LUXE.

The through service between Tokyo and Shimonoseki of the Limited Express Trains will be opened on the 15th instant. On Wednesday morning a trial run was made as far as Kodzu, and back, some hundreds of guests, consisting of hotel managers, railway officials and others, making the run at the invitation of Dr. Hirai, Vice-President of the Imperial Railways.

The seven cars of which the new trains consist comprise a mail and baggage car, two second-class cars, a second-class sleeping car, a dining car, a first-class passenger car, first-class sleeping-car and observation car. Generally speaking the new expresses may be called *Trains-de-Luxe*, leaving nothing to be desired in point of appearance, equipment, and accommodation. The dining cars and the observation cars are particularly noticeable, the former being far larger and more roomy than those hitherto used in this country, and the interior conspicuous for the thorough improvement effected in every detail that may add to the comfort and convenience of passengers. The observation cars are for the use of first class passengers only, and consist of three sections, namely compartments for passengers, the library, and the compartment for the purposes of observation. This last section is provided with upholstered wicker chairs and smoking tables, etc. With large clear window-panes, on each side, the car gives a most satisfactory view of the country through which the train passes. The carved wood ceilings, the electric lamps in the shape of Japanese lanterns, and the paper-screen like ventilating windows—all these give the cars a peculiarly Japanese touch.

It may be added that each carriage of these new Expresses, of which there are five for service at present, was constructed at cost of from 10,000 to 18,000 *yen*. These special express trains will leave Shimbashi at 8.30 a.m. every morning arriving at Shimonoseki at 9.38 a.m. the following day, and leave Shimonoseki at 7.10 p.m. every day, reaching Shimbashi at 8.25 p.m. the following day, thus covering the distance between the two termini in twenty-five hours. The passengers for the new Expresses have to pay, besides the ordinary fare, 3 *yen* for first class, and 2 *yen* for second-class for a distance not exceeding 400 miles, and 5 *yen* and 3 *yen* respectively for a distance over 400 miles.

ATWATER AT OSAKA.

Atwater, the American Aviator, was only able to make four ascents on the 3rd inst. at Osaka, says the *Kobe Herald*, though he demonstrated how it is possible to skim along the top of the water on a hydro-plane. The first ascent took place at 1.10 p.m. Then he was in the air for about three minutes. He next circled round the crowded launchers, but soon had to return to the shore owing to some slight defect with the engine. This was quickly put in order, however, and at 3 o'clock he started off again, but only succeeded in travelling about 100 yards when his motor again struck work and he was towed back to shore by one of the students' boats. Repairs were once again speedily finished and Mr. Atwater gave three successful exhibitions, attaining a height of 3,000 feet.

The American Aviator, Mr. Atwater, was again successful on the 10th inst. in delighting a large crowd at Nishinomiya, with his exploits on a hydroplane. His first journey, at 11.35 a.m., says the *Kobe Herald*, was what he terms the "run and rise," one of the hardest feats of airmanship. It consists of gliding along the water for some considerable distance before rising, and on this occasion was most successful. He made one ascent with his plucky wife which deservedly called forth deafening cheers from the crowd and later took Mr. Koyama, a member of the staff of the *Osaka Asahi* for a successful ride along the water, but could not ascend with him owing to the wind suddenly dropping. This brought a successful meeting to a close for which the public's heartiest thanks are to the promoter and performers.

PRINCE KATSURA'S TOUR.

A PURELY PRIVATE ONE.

The contemplated tour abroad of Prince Katsura seem to have elicited much comment, several rumours being circulated regarding the nature of the trip. In this connection the following statement the Prince has made to a representative of the *Y.M.* is of interest:—

"It has long been my desire to make a trip round the world, but the plan had to be postponed on account of my official duties while a member of the Government and on account of ill health while out of office. Now, however, that I am no longer in direct charge of State affairs and enjoy robust health, I deem this the best opportunity to satisfy my desire. It is with this idea only that I am now starting on a trip abroad, although the public seem to attribute my tour to other motives. Of course, like everybody else going on a tour abroad, I hope to shake hands and exchange opinions with the statesmen, politicians, businessmen, scholars, and journalists of Europe, among whom I am pleased to think I have not a few friends made only by means of epistolary communications during the past ten years of my Premiership. In these circumstances I know not what unexpected and even startling things the Press may publish upon my arrival in Europe, as in my "policy," etc. But of one thing I am certain, and that is that whatever the Press reports, the Japanese Government will suffer not an iota from it, and will, I believe and trust, give equal prominence at the same time to the fact that I am touring in the world as a private person.

"While I intend to utilize the opportunity in the best possible way for the replenishment of my stock of knowledge as to general conditions abroad, I wish in particular to seize every opportunity of hearing the opinions of the world's noted Statesmen and politicians on the present and future of China, which is certainly one of the world's greatest questions, and in which I take, as every body else, a particular interest.

"As hardly needs stating, I am resolved to do my very best, during the trip, for the consolidation of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and the Russo-Japanese and Franco-Japanese agreement, which are the national guiding principles of the Empire whatever Cabinet be in power. In Germany also I shall spare no effort for the promotion of the *entente cordiale* existing between the two peoples. I would like to pay a visit to the United States also while on the trip, but, to my regret, I think I shall be unable to do so, as the American people seem to be very busy over the Presidential election."

It may be added that Prince Katsura will leave Tokyo early next month and, first visiting Russia via Manchuria and Siberia, then Germany, France, Austria and Italy, will leave Switzerland early in September for London.

THE RETURN OF THE "KAINAN MARU."

The Antarctic Exploration ship *Kainan Maru*, which has arrived at the Bonin islands, is reported to have weighed anchor on Monday afternoon at two o'clock, and is expected to enter Yokohama on the 16th instant. Upon her arrival off Shinagawa the vessel will be welcomed by a number of well-known persons, and after speeches by Lieutenant Shirase and other, the party will proceed to the residence of Count Okuma, by way of the Main Gate of the Imperial Palace.

About the 20th instant a public meeting will be held at the Amphitheatre, Asakusa Park, to report on the results of the exploration. Also, from the 25th instant till the 20th proximo, a cinematograph film of the incidents of the trip will be shown. This film is reported to be 5,000 feet long, and represents scenes among the floating icebergs, the interview on the way with the party of the Norwegian Explorer, Captain Amundsen, etc.

DEATH OF MR. H. B. HASKELL.

We regret to have to announce the death in the General Hospital, Yokohama, on Monday last, of Mr. H. B. Haskell at the age of 66. Mr. Haskell had been ill for some time from chronic nephritis, during which he had been under the care of the Doctors of the Hospital.

For many years of his life, the late gentleman made the sea his profession and served it loyally and faithfully in many capacities. On his retirement a few years ago, he came to Yokohama where he lived quietly during the latter part of his life at his residence on the Bluff. Besides being a Baseball enthusiast, he occupied for a time the post of Hon. Treasurer of the Yokohama Subscription Library and was also business manager of the Yokohama General Hospital.

The late Mr. H. B. Haskell was born near Boston, Massachusetts, and was the cousin of ex-President Roosevelt's first wife. He was a genial conversationalist and was esteemed by all who knew him.

The funeral of the late Mr. Haskell took place on the evening of Wednesday at the General Cemetery. The cortege assembled at the General Hospital and proceeded to the Cemetery where the Rev. T. Rosebery Good delivered a brief but sympathetic address and finally committed the ashes to the earth.

Among those present at the graveside were Mr. John Carey Hall, I.S.O., British Consul-General, and Messrs. E. W. Frazar and M. Schellenburg (these three gentlemen representing the Committee of the Hospital). The casquet containing the ashes of the deceased was carried to the grave by Dr. Ishiura, Mr. A. L. Bouffier, Mr. C. T. Benney, and Mr. F. G. Woodruff.

A good number of friends of the late Mr. Haskell were present to pay their final tribute of respect and affection.

DEATH OF MR. J. UMEZAWA.

We greatly regret to announce the sudden death from apoplexy of Mr. J. Umezawa, who for the past year and a half has been chief translator of the *Japan Mail*. Mr. Umezawa was at work up to Sunday evening, when a sudden effusion of blood on the brain took place, death occurring an hour later.

Mr. Umezawa was, we believe, a native of Kyoto. In early youth he visited Australia to improve his English, and later, on returning to Japan, he held various posts under the Hyogo prefectural authorities. On the outbreak of the China-Japan war he went to the front and subsequently to Formosa, where he rendered distinguished services for which he was decorated. Later he joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as translator, a post which he shortly afterwards relinquished to become chief translator of the *Japan Herald*. This position he held for seven years. On the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war he again went to the front, accompanying the army to Liaoyang. Kakke, a complaint from which he suffered for many years, compelled him to be invalided home, when he was attached to the Staff at Hiroshima during the remainder of the campaign.

Under a quiet, unassuming manner, Mr. Umezawa had a sound knowledge of the affairs of his country, while his conscientious attention to his duties, often when suffering extreme physical pain, was worthy of the best traditions of the line of samurai from which he sprang.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY LUCAS OF KOBE.

Telegrams were received in Yokohama on Monday announcing the death of Mr. Henry Lucas that took place in Kobe on Sunday afternoon. Some few weeks ago, the late Mr. Lucas met with a severe jirikiisha accident and had since been confined to his bed. He was sixty-seven years

old, and it is more than probable that his age was against him; for he quietly passed away from heart failure.

The deceased gentleman was the founder and principal of his firm, Lucas and Company. He was also an enthusiastic sportsman, cricket being his particular hobby. In his earlier days, he participated in interport matches, and retained his interest in the fine old game to the day of his accident. Mr. Lucas leaves two sons and two daughters to mourn his loss.

The funeral of the late Mr. Lucas of Kobe took place on the 11th inst. The two resident sons of the deceased followed as chief mourners, and the following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers:— Messrs. A. H. Groom, A. Woolley, J. Marshall, H. F. Teverson, C. H. Lightfoot, Dr. Martin, A. N. Hansell and G. C. Pakenham. The Rev. H. J. Raymer, M.A., Chaplain of All Saints' Church, conducted the burial service in the Chapel and read the committal sentences at the grave-side. The respect in which Mr. Lucas was held was markedly shown by the attendance at the Cemetery. Wreaths were sent from the Kobe Club, the Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club, the Kobe Cricket Club, the Kobe Branch of the St. George's Society, and numerous other public and semi-public bodies.

DEATH OF MONSIEUR MARTIN.

A WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT OF SEOUL.

The many foreigners and also Japanese who during the past six or seven years have visited Seoul, Korea, will undoubtedly remember Monsieur Lucien Martin, who was the proprietor and manager of the Astor House Hotel in that city until it closed about eighteen months ago. It is with sincere regret, remembering his genial *bonhomie* and his fine qualities, that we have to record his death in Seoul on the 3rd inst., in the 37th year of his age. As far as we can gather, his death was due to an attack of apoplexy. Monsieur Martin leaves behind him to mourn his loss a widow and six children. The funeral service took place in the Roman Catholic Cathedral there on Wednesday, the 5th inst.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. B. C. HOWARD.

The interment of the ashes of the late Mr. B. C. Howard, Agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, took place at the Yokohama General Cemetery at 10.30 on Thursday morning in the presence of the members of the immediate family only. The Rev. Walter Weston, M.A., Chaplain of Christ Church, officiated.

For the benefit of the very large circle of friends of Mr. Howard, both foreign and Japanese, it may be added that the last sad rites were entirely private in compliance with his expressed wish.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

According to an investigation conducted by the Home Department, the cases of contravention of the Election Law brought before the law courts up to the 10th instant, numbered 617, the people indicted therein aggregating 5,118. Classified according to the political parties, the number and nature of the offences are as shown below:—

Corruption.		Bribery.		Threats.		Total.	
Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
Seiyukai.....	47 592	207 1,923	32 74	286 2,589			
Kokumin-to..	21 233	117 880	11 16	149 1,129			
Chuwo Club..	4 71	51 488	8 12	63 571			
Independent..	15 131	85 673	19 25	119 829			
Total.....	87 1,029	460 3,664	70 127	617 5,118			

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of June 7th, state:—

The morning Session was dull and irregular, business being exceptionally small. Kogyo Bank declined 75 *sen*, and others 5/40 *sen*; Spinnings (with exception of Fuji Gas which fell 5/20 *sen*) were firmer and rose 5/65 *sen*; Exchange shares declined 40 and 35 *sen* for Old and New.

The same state of affairs prevailed in the afternoon, but notwithstanding the scarcity of business, the undertone seems firm and operators are holding back for a favourable opportunity. Prices fluctuated within narrow limits and there are no notable changes to report. Exchange shares regained what they lost in the morning.

Yesterday, 23,960 shares changed hands.

June 8.

The morning market was lifeless, with very few transactions; prices fluctuated within narrow limits, the biggest advance being only 50 *sen* for the Kogyo Bank, and the heaviest decline 65 *sen* for the Yensuiko Sugar. Exchange shares Old advanced 45 *sen*, but New remained stationary.

There was a slight improvement in the afternoon session, and although business was on a small scale, the undertone seemed very firm. Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old advanced 30 *sen*, Tokyo Woollens 35 *sen*, Yensuiko Sugar regained 60 *sen*, Taiwan Sugars New 20 *sen*. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 45 and 20 *sen* respectively.

Yesterday, 15,740 shares were transacted.

June 10.

Transactions were few in the morning. Kogyo Bank advancing 50 *sen*, Kinugawa W. Power 25 *sen* (owing to near completion of the works). Fuji Paper Old declined 40 *sen*, but Spinnings and Sugars were somewhat firm and advanced some 5/45 *sen*; Goto Woollens were in demand and rose 45 *sen*; Exchange shares Old were stationary, but New declined 55 *sen*.

The Afternoon Session was a repetition of that of the morning, although the undertone seems firm; the only notable rise was Goto Woollens 1 *yen*. Exchange shares again declined 45 and 30 *sen* for Old and New respectively.

On Saturday 11,880 shares changed hands.

June 11.

The morning market opened somewhat steady but business was on a small scale, as Operators are waiting for some new elements to crop up; the only notable rises were Tobu Railway 50 *sen*, Yusen 1.30 *yen*. The rest of the shares remained steady. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 40 and 75 *sen* respectively.

Owing to news of the excess of imports by some 2,770,000 *yen* the afternoon session opened weak in tone, the only exceptions being Keihin Trams which jumped 2.40 *yen*, Goto Woollens 1.55 *yen*. The heaviest fall was Fuji Papers 1.55 *yen*, owing to rumours of internal dissensions amongst the Directors of the Company. Exchange shares Old declined 80 *sen*, but new gained 20 *sen*. Yesterday 15,837 shares changed hands.

June 12.

The morning market opened somewhat active in tone but prices ruled irregular. Keihin Trams fell 2.40 *yen* in reaction to yesterday's rise and Fuji Paper fell 1 *yen* owing to continued rumours of internal trouble amongst the Directors, but New rose 30 *sen*; the rest of the shares advanced slightly, particularly Goto Woollens 1.80 *yen* (probable increase of capital), Tokyo Woollens 70 *sen*. Exchange shares rose 1.15 *yen* and 1.05 for old and new.

The afternoon session continued firm, the principal rises being Fuji Paper 40 *sen* and 15 *sen* for Old and New, Goto Woollens again 95 *sen*, Tokyo Woollens 50 *sen*, and others fractionally. Exchange shares Old and New fell 20 and 40 *sen* respectively.

Yesterday, 21,240 shares changed hands.

June 13.

The morning market was somewhat irregular in

tone and prices fluctuated 5/50 *sen* either way; there were no notable changes with exception of Fuji Paper Old, which regained 55 *sen*. Goto Woollens declined 70 *sen*, owing to profit taking. Exchange shares declined 40 and 90 *sen* for Old and New respectively.

The afternoon session was similar in tone. Fuji Paper Old again advanced 1.10 *yen*, while the rest of the shares fluctuated fractionally. Exchange shares Old fell 65 *sen*, but New rose 25 *sen*.

Yesterday, 24,000 shares changed hands.

THE LOSS OF A FRENCH SUBMARINE.

In reply to the telegram of condolence dispatched by Admiral Saito, Minister of the Navy, in regard to the loss of a French submarine, the following message has been received from the French Minister of the Navy:

"The French Navy greatly appreciates the profound sympathy of Your Excellency as representing His Majesty's Imperial Japanese Navy, and I beg to hereby tender my heartfelt thanks on its behalf."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

A PRIVY Council was held on Friday morning last at the official residence of the Premier.

THE British Government has subscribed £30,000 for the building of a national library in Wales.

COUNT OKUMA, who has been on a trip throughout western Japan, returned to Tokyo on Sunday last.

REAR-ADMIRAL HANABUSA, Chief of Staff in the Port Arthur Naval Admiralty, has been relieved of his post.

MR. MATSUDA, Minister of Justice, who is now at Atami, is expected to return to Tokyo on the 20th instant.

THE Cabinet will give a banquet on Wednesday evening at the Seiyoken, Ueno, to the members of the Seiyukai.

THE annual general conference of the Chiefs of the Naval Staff will take place for a week from the 11th instant.

THE Rt. Hon. W. Abraham, P.C.; M.P. (Mabon) has resigned the Chairmanship of the South Wales Miners' Federation.

MR. OBA NARIZANE has been appointed Assistant Professor in the Engineering College of the Kyushu Imperial University.

BARON GOTO, who has been on a tour of inspection throughout Manchuria and Chosen, returned to Tokyo on Monday evening.

THE Kyushu Hydro-Electric Company will hold its annual general meeting of shareholders on the 15th instant at the Bankers' Club.

TWO new electric-car lines, one from Fudansuji to Toranomon, and the other from Roppongi to Aoyama, have been opened to traffic.

COUNT HAYASHI, Minister of Communications, who has been on a trip in the Kwansei district, returned to Tokyo on Thursday evening.

THE first general meeting of the Jōso Light Railway Company took place on Sunday at the office of the Tokyo Geological Association.

ON Monday morning about three o'clock a fire occurred at a carpenter's house, at Kita Senjū, in the suburbs of Tokyo, destroying two houses.

GRAHAM, the assistant of Tom Ball at Raynes Park, who is only a stroke or two behind his chief, is going out to Shanghai in the autumn. He will have the distinction of being the first

golfing professional in China. There is a golf course already at Hongkong, but no professional is attached to the club.

THE graduation ceremony of the Kyoto Imperial University will take place on the 13th proximo. Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, will attend.

THE contributions towards the fund of the Saiseikai amounted up to the 10th inst. to 25,958,199 *yen*, of which 5,662,219 *yen* has already been paid.

THE Yokohama Fire Insurance Company will hold its annual general meeting on the 21st instant, when a dividend of 13 per cent. will be declared.

THE Destroyers *Yamahiko* and *Fumizuki* will have firing practice every day from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. from the 10th till the 13th instant in Tokyo Bay.

A MASS meeting of the Kwansei Medical Practitioners Association took place on the 9th instant at Gifu. Over five hundred members were present.

A LIFE insurance company will shortly be established in Sendai with a capital of one million *yen* under the name of the Tokwa Seimei Hoken Kaisha.

MR. SUGIMURA, Ambassador to Germany, has been ordered back. During his absence Mr. Hata, the Counsellor, will be in charge of general business.

MRS. MARGARET JONES, of Eastbourne, has bequeathed the residue of her estates, which will probably amount to £15,000, to the China Inland Mission.

THE Yokohama Economic Association held a general meeting on the 10th instant, in discussion problems bearing on the improvement of the harbour.

COUNT HAYASHI, Minister of Communications, who is now on a tour of inspection in the Sanin district, is expected to return to Tokyo on the 14th instant.

THE Nippon Electric Light Company will hold its general meeting of shareholders on the 27th instant at the Nihonbashi Club at Hamacho, Nihonbashi.

THE Revenue of the State railways for the month of May shows an increase of 712,940 *yen* as compared with the corresponding month of the preceding year.

COUNT VON REX, the German Ambassador will give a banquet on the 17th instant at the Embassy, inviting the members of the German-Japanese Association.

THE estate of the late Sir Julius Wernher has been proved at £5,000,000. He has bequeathed £250,000 to the South African Union Build University at Grooteschuur.

AN extraordinary general meeting of the Tōhō Fire Insurance Company will be held on the 20th instant at the branch office in Ginza of the Japan Beer Brewing Company.

A VALEDICTORY banquet will be given on Sunday afternoon at the residence of Prince Mori to Takanawa to Prince Katsura, who is shortly starting on a tour of the world.

ACCORDING to investigations by the Metropolitan Police Affairs Bureau, the cases of contravention of the election law amounted on the 10th instant to 617, involving 5,118 persons.

THE Yokohama Economic Association will hold its general meeting on the 10th instant at the Bankers' Club. Dr. Seki and Prof. Honda will deliver lectures on political economy.

THE ex-Nippon Yusen Kaisha *Kosai Maru*, now the Hospital vessel of the Red Cross Society, has been placed in the disposal of the Imperial Railway Bureau for the service between

Shimonoseki and Chosen. Accordingly the ship will sail for Shimonoseki on the 15th instant, where she will be duly transferred to the Railway Bureau.

THE Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Company has decided to enlarge its Third Dockyard by increasing its length from 714 feet to 834 feet, and the width from 88 feet to 112 feet.

At the National Sporting Club, in the fight for the world's feather-weight championship and a purse of £1,200, Jim Driscoll knocked out the Frenchman Poesy in the twelfth round.

THE Kobe branch of the Japan Red Cross Society held its general meeting on the 9th instant within the precincts of the Nanko Shrine. Over two thousand members attended the function.

THE Hongkong Legislative Council has postponed the Bill for reconstituting the Appeal Court, as the proposals are considered unworkable. The appointment of a third local judge is advocated.

THE Hongkong Rifle League has telegraphed to Singapore and Penang suggesting the re-firing of the inter-port shoot, in consequence of Shanghai not complying with the conditions of the match.

THE Kinugawa Hydro-Electric Company held a ceremony on the 9th instant in celebration of the completion of its generating station which had been in course of construction since last summer.

VISCOUNT HORI, who has been indicted on a charge of forgery of documents, etc. has been temporarily deprived of the privileges of a Peer. The convicted nobleman has entered an appeal.

WITH reference to the transport duty on tea across the Pacific, Mr. Otani, President of the Japan Central Tea Traders' Guild, called on Count Hayashi, Minister of Communications, on Sunday last.

Two small fires occurred in the small hours of Friday morning last, one at Shirokane, Shiba, resulting in the demolition of one house and the other at Namamugi, Kanagawa ken, destroying two houses.

THE Japan Rail Company will hold its general meeting on the 15th instant, when a dividend of 7 per cent. will be declared and about 17,000 yen out of the gross profit (64,000 yen) will be carried forward.

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, V. C., G.C.M.G., Governor of Chelsea Hospital, whose illness prevented him receiving the King when the latter inspected the Chelsea pensioners, is now in a dangerous condition.

THE Captain of the *Carpattia* is being lionized in New York where he has been received with ovations at the theatres. The widows of Col. John Astor, Messrs. H. B. Thayer and G. B. Widener gave him a luncheon.

A GENERAL conference to the International Railway Association will be held at Berlin on the 25th instant. Mr. Ikuno, Engineer of the Imperial Railway Bureau, has already left for Germany to represent Japan at the conference.

A DESPATCH received in a certain quarter states that the Dalai Lama, who quitted Darjeeling on February 11th last and has since been staying in Kalinpong, a town about 35 miles off, will leave there for Lhasa on the 24th instant.

THE late Mr. James Coats, cotton spinner, left £1,964,145 and the late Mr. Archibald Coats, cotton spinner, £1,356,132. Up to the present, five millionaire estates have had to pay death duties during the present financial year.

A DESPATCH from Maebashi reports that about eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning a train bound for Ashio carrying a large number of miners, was suddenly derailed while passing over the Onakagawa bridge. Three cars were capized and one

fell into the water, with the result that three passengers were seriously injured and nine others slightly. The former were at once taken to a hospital, where two of them finally expired.

WE have received from the Welcome Society the latest edition of their folding map of Japan, showing all the latest railways constructed, as well as those still under construction. No better or more useful map for travellers in Japan can be had.

THE Full Australian Court has upheld the appeal of the Broken Hill Socialist against the sentence of a fine of £100 or six months' imprisonment for preventing his son from drilling. The Court found that there was a flaw in the indictment.

THREE girls, ranging from 11 to 18 years of age, were burnt to death by a fire which occurred a few days ago in a silkworm breeding room in a house occupied by a peasant named Sawata, at Furiya-mura, Irima district, Saitama prefecture.

As a first step towards administrative readjustment, the Imperial Railway Bureau is said to have decided to abolish the bonuses usually granted at the end of July every year. The amount thus saved will reach about 100,000 yen.

LORD ST. ALDWYN, Chairman of the South Wales District Board under the Minimum Wage Act, at the request of the men spent two hours underground in a South Wales colliery on the 5th inst. in order to study the conditions which exist there.

THE Japan China Flour Milling Company will hold its general meeting of shareholders on the 10th instant at the Industrial Club, when a dividend of 8 per cent. will be declared, 40,000 yen out of the total profit of 115,000 yen being carried forward.

MR. KIVAT, who has been selected as one of the representatives of the United States at the Olympic Games, has covered the 1,500 metres in 3m. 56.4/5 sec. Mr. Gardner of Yale has covered 13ft. 1in. in a pole-jump. These are both world's records.

A DESPATCH from Sapporo reports that on Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, seven prisoners at the Kabato Prison, made their escape. One of them was run down and offering resistance to his recapture, was shot by the guards, but the remaining six are still at large.

VISCOUNT HORI CHIKATSU, who has been under trial on a charge of the forgery of documents, etc. was sentenced on Tuesday morning in the Tokyo District Court, to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, but the execution of the judgment was suspended for four years.

THE herring fishery in Hokkaido this year is reported to be more than usually promising, the catches for the last half of the season amounting to over 750,000 koku, an increase of some 150,000 koku over the figures for the corresponding term of the preceding year.

ACCORDING to a report from the Governor of Aomori prefecture, received at the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, a severe hailstorm was experienced throughout Sannoe districts on the 5th instant. The crops were greatly injured the loss being estimated at 30,000 yen.

ACCORDING to a telegram received by the Development Bureau, the estimates of the barley and wheat crops for the current year are 4,001,475 koku for the former and 965,831 koku for the latter—an increase by 2.5 and 1.7 per cent. respectively as compared with the preceding year.

PRINCE KATSURA, it is stated, will start on his European tour on the 16th instant. The Prince and his suite will first proceed to St. Petersburg by the Siberian Railway, thence to Switzerland via Sweden, Norway and Denmark. After a sojourn in Switzerland the party will proceed to Paris, thence to England and then to Germany.

Circumstances permitting, the Prince will extend his trip to the Balkan States, and return by the Siberian Railway. The itinerary will be arranged on consultation with Baron Goto after his return from Chosen.

THE King has awarded the silver medal for life-saving to Rear-Admiral Christopher Cradock, C.B., and to seven naval officers, including Commr. Niles, of Gibraltar, and the bronze medal to three officers, fifty-three bluejackets, under Commr. F. B. Noble and boarding officers of Gibraltar, in connexion with the wreck of the P. & O. S. *Delhi*.

An official telegram reaching the Foreign Office reports that details of the maltreatment of American residents in Mexico have been made public by the American refugees. There is a strong feeling for war with Mexico. The Washington Government has presented to President Madero a strong protest concerning the treatment of the American residents.

THE Iwaki Coal Mining Company will hold its ordinary general meeting of shareholders on the 25th instant, when a dividend of 50 per cent. will be declared, 50,794 yen out of a gross profit, for the current term, of 306,794 yen, being carried forward, 15,000 yen appropriated to the Redemption fund, 12,000 yen to Legal reserve, 10,000 yen to Pension fund, 14,000 yen to Bonuses, and 800,000 yen to dividends.

ALL London Society people and several members of the Royal family were present at "A hundred years ago" ball held at the Albert Hall on the 6th inst. on behalf of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society. It was the most brilliant function of the season and there were 4,000 dancers present. Many historic quadrilles were danced, the descendants of Nelson and other historic personages appearing as their ancestors.

ACCORDING to an official telegram reaching a certain quarter, the gendarmes in Nanking have arrested five men suspected of creating a disturbance. The men arrested turned out to be bandits and soldiers, who attempted to purchase rifles and ammunition in order to rise in open revolt on the abolition of the Nanking Government. The plan was disclosed, resulting in the arrests. The town of Nanking is now strongly guarded.

THE Tokyo Third Fire Brigade Station, standing outside the Hongo Gate at Kojimachi, will shortly be removed to a new building, the construction of which has just been completed. The new station is situated on Kudan hill, and consists of a big stable and business room, besides the engine-house, covering 25 *tsubo*, with a fire-tower at the front 45 feet high, commanding a bird's-eye view of the whole city. The removal will be formally celebrated on the 15th instant at the new station.

THE rainy season generally known as *tsuyu* begins on Tuesday and is conventionally supposed to last a month. The following table showing the average temperature, as well as the quantity of rainfall in Central Japan during this season for the past ten years, is of interest:—

	First Ten Days.	Second Ten Days.	Last Ten Days.
Quantity of Rain	29.3	47.4	37.1
No. of Rainy days ...	3	3	3
Highest Temperature ..	23°7'	25°1'	25°3'
Lowest " ..	17°5'	19°3'	19°2'
Average " ..	20°3'	21°8'	22°4'

THE prosecution has at last been started of the corner operators on the rice market, some ten members of the Fukagawa Rice Merchants Guild being summoned to the Public Procurators' office of the Tokyo District Court on the 7th inst., and warrants for their arrest subsequently issued. Mr. Kumazawa, Secretary to the Guild, was also summoned for examination. It is stated that the prosecution has long been contemplated, but its execution was delayed owing to the General Election. The utmost secrecy is maintained as to the nature of

the charges, but it is reported that the majority of those arrested are charged with a contravention of the Exchange Law and also with habitual gambling. The case is expected to assume wide dimensions as the examination progresses.

The Government has entertained at a banquet the delegates to the International Wireless Telegraphy Conference in London. Mr. Herbert Samuel, the Postmaster-General, in welcoming the delegates, spoke in French, German, Spanish and Italian, and said that he hoped that the Conference would create a closer bond in international relations.

A DESPATCH from Osaka reports an outbreak of typhoid fever among the Fourth Battalion of Sappers at Takatsuki. On the 5th instant some 14 cases were discovered in the battalion. The authorities have taken every possible preventive measure against a further spread, but apparently in vain, fresh cases being reported daily, the total numbering more than thirty. Military Surgeon Ota, accompanied by seven nurses, has been despatched to the scene from the Osaka Military Hospital.

In the small hours of Thursday morning a burglar, armed with a sword, broke into the house of a rice dealer named Kumamoto Man-kichi, living at Shin-machi, Kobe. Scared by the cries of the household, the man took to his heels, with the police in chase. They overtook him by the Minato river bank, when a desperate fight took place, during which one of the policemen was killed, and the other two were severely injured. The man, however, was finally captured, and proved to be an old jail-bird named Bogaki Ichizo, of Kobe, aged 35 years.

The Japan-China Printing Company will hold its general meeting on the 26th instant at the Industrial Club, the profit and loss account to be considered on the occasion being as under:—

	Yen.
Profit for Current Term.....	11,654
Brought over from last account.....	3,346
Total.....	15,000
Legal Reserve.....	600
Special Reserve.....	2,000
Bonus.....	1,500
Dividend (10 per cent.).....	7,500
Carried forward.....	3,400

AN International Railway Conference is to be held in Berlin on and after the 25th instant. The subject matters to be considered are mostly relating to the connected services on the continental railways. The questions which immediately affect Japan comprise the imposition of a uniform freight rate on the Dairen and Vladivostok service; the inauguration of a new European line *via* Chosen; the inauguration of connective services between Nagasaki and Shanghai; the participation of the North Chinese railways in the conference; and the revision of the through tickets now issued.

THE Customs revenue for the month of May amounted to 5,429,000 yen, an increase of 867,000 yen over the figures for the corresponding month of the preceding year, bringing the total for the past two months up to 9,762,000 yen. This is the largest recorded in the past six years as shown in the following table:—

Fiscal Year.	May. Yen.	April. Yen.
1907.....	3,677,971	4,494,202
1908.....	3,804,324	3,884,410
1909.....	2,799,143	2,734,924
1910.....	2,771,253	2,599,837
1911.....	4,562,183	3,505,560
1912.....	5,429,000	4,333,586

THE *Niroku* is the authority for the report that considerable progress has now been made by the Readjustment Investigation Committee in their inquiry into the proposed abolition of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, and Education, as well as the Colonization Bureau, more especially the last named, to the abolition of which the consent of Prince Katsura has been obtained. The Government has therefore decided to effect the abolition of the Bureau as the first step in

the administrative readjustment. Mr. Motoda, Director of the Colonization Bureau, will be transferred to the directorship of the administration of the Hokkaido, to which Karafuto is to be incorporated as a result of the administrative readjustment.

JAPAN'S China trade has for some time past been gradually recovering. The exports during the last ten days of May amounted to 2,802,789 yen, showing an increase by 427,220 yen over the corresponding period of the preceding year, while the import trade amounted to 1,761,280 yen, also showing an increase by 36,340 yen as compared with the period stated above. As compared with last year the total imports for the past five months show a decrease by 9,711,917 yen, while the exports show an increase by 715,362 yen.

SINCE the annexation of Korea the Koreans coming to this country for the purpose of study have been on the increase every year, their number now being 453. Of these 43 are students studying at the expense of the Government. A dormitory for the students has been established at Kojimachi, which now accommodates some 80, 9 of whom are studying in the Agricultural College of the Tokyo Imperial University, 2 in the Medical College, 4 in the High Polytechnic School, 4 in the Higher Commercial, 2 in the Higher Normal, 1 in the Marine Products School, and 5 in the Meiji University, while the rest are preparing to enter the Seisoku English School.

THE Fukushima Spinning Company will hold its general meeting of shareholders on the 24th instant at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, when the following accounts will be taken up for consideration:—

	Yen.
Profit for Current Term.....	409,428.848
Redemption fund.....	101,480.570
Bonuses to Officers.....	30,000.000
Net Profit.....	277,948.278
Brought over from last account.....	93,471.932
Total.....	371,420.210
Reserve funds.....	151,000.000
Dividend (20 per cent.).....	120,000.000
Carried Forward.....	101,420.000

As already reported, the Russo-Japanese Association gave a banquet on the 7th instant to two distinguished Russian silk traders, M. Sacorikoff and M. Schenkoff, who are now in this country with a view to inspecting the conditions of the silk weaving industry. Invitations were extended to Mr. Kurachi, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Hirail, Vice-President of the Imperial Railway Bureau, Mr. Mizumachi, Vice-President of the Bank of Japan, Mr. Asano and other noted business men. After the conclusion of the dinner Baron Shibusawa made a brief speech welcoming the two Russian guests. The function came to a close about 9 p.m.

A DESPATCH received in official quarters gives the main points of the Chekiang Railway loan, contracted with Messrs. Dollar and Company, as under:—Amount of loan, 3,000,000 dollars (gold); issue-price 95; rate of interest, 6 per cent; the period of redemption, 15 years, after being left unredeemed for the first five years; security, the Hang-chow-Chin-ting section of the railway already built and the Ningpo-Shao-hsing section now under construction. The creditors also reserve the right of being first consulted in the event of a further loan being contemplated by the Railway Company. As the loan is of a purely economic character it will be simply registered with the Chekiang military Government, the consent of the two respective Governments not being needed.

CONSUL-GENERAL OBATA, at Tientsin, wires to the Foreign Office that while the British steamer *Chonghsing*, which arrived from Hongkong *via* Weihaiwei and Chefoo, was at anchor outside Taku harbour on the 5th inst., a Chinese com-

pradore on board was taken ill and removed to the French Hospital where he eventually succumbed. On a post-mortem examination, the case was diagnosed as lung-pest. The Tientsin Customs has therefore declared Hongkong an infected port, and commenced the enforcement of medical examination on vessels arriving at Tientsin and Chin-wang-tao from that place. The *Chonghsing* had already left for Chefoo before the nature of the case was discovered. The Customs authorities have therefore issued a telegram to the Chefoo Customs asking for the enforcement of quarantine regulations against the steamer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. SAYCE AND THE DISCOVERIES AT MEROE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—After his visit to Japan early this Spring Dr. A. M. Sayce was elected Honorary Member of the Asiatic Society of Japan. Acting as Corresponding Secretary of the Society I wrote to Oxford and informed Dr. Sayce of his election. I have just received his reply, and, since there can be no better way of communicating it to the Society than through the Press, I ask the privilege of doing it through the *Mail*. He says: "Please convey to the Council of the Asiatic Society of Japan my warmest thanks for the honour they have done me in electing me an Honorary Member of the Society. I only wish that my knowledge of the Far East were sufficient to make me a worthy member of the Society and to be a useful contributor."

"Among the many pleasant recollections which I have carried away with me from Japan none are more pleasant than those of the two meetings of the Society which I attended in Tokyo, when I met so many representatives of Far Eastern learning and research."

So much for that. But there is something else in his letter which ought to serve as a mordant to fix in the memory the lecture which Dr. Sayce gave before the Society on the discoveries made on the site of the ancient city of Meroe; one of the most fascinating as well as informing lectures I ever heard in my life. Dr. Sayce told us among other things of the discovery of a bronze head of the very finest Greek type at Meroe. The week that I wrote to Dr. Sayce I read in a newspaper a statement about this bronze head, to the effect that it was of the Roman period, and therefore not of so high a type of art as he had described it, and I wondered if students of art had settled the matter thus. So in any letter I asked him about it. And this is his reply: "The bronze head found at Meroe is the work of a first-class Greek artist. The supposition that it represents Germanicus and is consequently of the Roman age has now been shown by Prof. Bosanquet (in the *Annals of Archaeology*, Oct. 1911) to be a mistake. He has proved that it represents the youthful Augustus, as Major Rhodes and I maintained at the time of discovery, and that it was executed about B.C. 30, i.e. at the end of the Greek period. It is possible that the Meroites saw in it a portrait of one of their own Kings; hence they erected the statue on a pedestal overlooking the harbour of Meroe."

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

CHARLES F. SWEET,
Cor. Sec. Asiatic Soc. of Japan.

Tokyo, June 12th, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE CHINA LOAN.

STATEMENT BY SIR EDWARD GREY.

OPINION OF "THE TIMES."

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, June 7.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replying to Mr. Ginnell in the House of Commons, said that pending the final issue of the Chinese loan now being negotiated, His Majesty's Government had assured their exclusive support to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, as the British

representative of the international combination which it is hoped will render effective the aim of His Majesty's Government to prevent any return to the former unprofitable policy of international competition in the Chinese loan.

"The support now given to this bank in nowise confers a monopoly on it for the issue of future loans.

"We have no desire to take advantage of China's difficulties. It is China who wants to borrow, not others who press a loan upon her.

"If China can dispense with a foreign loan it will be a very great relief and put an end to many troublesome questions.

"It is clear that in the present state of affairs in China, if money is lent it must be upon proper conditions, since otherwise Chinese credit would disappear and confusion and chaos result, and I cannot support anything likely to produce these circumstances."

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 7.
The Times hopes that the Chinese effort to raise an internal loan will be successful, provided the subscription is voluntary, but fears success is not likely because of the internal disorder.

The Ministry must recognize that foreign nations do not intend to lend the money without guarantees that it will be properly applied for the restoration of stable conditions.

The Times suggests that the negotiations in regard to the larger loan might be postponed and 4½ millions lent, to pay for disbanding the troops.

If the Chinese problem is left unsolved, adds *The Times*, it may prove a menace to the peace of the world.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

ITALIAN ADVANCE.

TURKS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

London, June 10.
The Italians, after prolonged inaction, have resumed the offensive in Tripoli.

Fourteen battalions of the Infantry Brigade, with cavalry and artillery marched out yesterday and seized Zanzur oasis.

An official Italian despatch describes the fierce fighting that took place and the storming of the heights with the bayonet, ending in the defeat of the Turks and the capture of the edge of the oasis.

It is not mentioned what the losses were.

London, June 10.
General Canova reports that the battle at Zanzur, on the coast ten miles west of Tripoli, lasted the whole day.

The Italian losses were 21 killed and 263 wounded.

The General reports that the Italian troops captured trenches full of dead, the enemy's killed alone being estimated at a thousand, while the number of wounded was enormous.

London, June 11.

While the Italians were storming the heights of Zanzur, a large body of Turks vigorously assailed the Italian position at Gargaroso, but were repulsed with great slaughter by the infantry and artillery.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 10.

During the Italian advance on the Turkish

position at Zanzur, the Turks attacked the reserve brigade and were themselves caught between two fires and heavily shelled, losing 1,309 men.

A NATIONAL STRIKE.

EMPLOYERS REFUSE TO YIELD.

VOTE OF CENSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

London, June 9.

The Council of the Transport Workers' Federation has prepared for a national strike, but the men are not to be called out before Monday evening.

London, June 11.

The shipowners have rejected the Government's proposal for the establishment of a Conciliation Board.

The Transport Workers National Executive has telegraphed to all centres, recommending an immediate general strike.

The Cabinet was summoned to a special meeting to-day to consider the situation.

London, June 12.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr. Asquith, the Premier, explained that the efforts of the Government to settle the strike had hitherto proved abortive.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 11.

The country is not surprised, although disgusted, at the declaration of a national strike of transport workers in consequence of the employers rejecting the Government's proposals.

The employers consider the Government's endeavours exercise undue pressure and refuse to yield because the men have repeatedly broken their agreements.

The Opposition will move a vote of censure on the Government on Wednesday, declaring it is the duty of the Government to protect the men desiring to work.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

London, June 6.

The British Legation at Peking denies the despatch of soldiers to Pienma.

It is reported that the Patriotic Bond Scheme is progressing satisfactorily.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, June 6.

In the South Dakota primaries Colonel Roosevelt has won all the Republican delegates.

London, June 9.

The supporters of President Taft are jubilant at securing a majority on the National Committee which organises the Republican Convention.

Colonel Roosevelt, however, is going to Chicago and promises an historic fight on the floor of the Convention.

His supporters say they know "there is a steam-roller at work, but the country will know how it operates."

It is believed only safe to predict a fight even closer and more bitter than ever.

London, June 10.

The National Committee which organises the Republican Convention has so far decided every contested delegation in favour of President Taft, regardless, the supporters of Colonel Roosevelt declare, of the merits of each case.

President Taft is thus given 72 additional

delegates and Colonel Roosevelt receives none.

It is expected this process of deciding the delegations will be continued throughout.

Colonel Roosevelt has issued a statement regretting that there is no Federal Law governing the National Convention nominations, as election officials have repeatedly been sent to prison for actions in no way worse than the Committee's procedure.

London, June 12.

The Washington correspondent of *The Times* says that Colonel Roosevelt has an article in the *Outlook* with regard to the contest for the Republican nomination.

He says that the issue is whether they will permit the triumph of a system of naked fraud and theft from the people.

Other passages of the article indicate the possibility of Colonel Roosevelt "bolting."

London, June 13.

The Republican Committee continues monotonously adding supporters of President Taft to the list of delegates authorised to sit on the Convention, the total up to now being 106 supporters of President Taft and none of Colonel Roosevelt.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

London, June 7.

Four U.S. battleships have sailed from Key West for Guantanamo.

London, June 8.

Five thousand American troops have been ordered to be in immediate readiness for Cuba.

London, June 11.

In consequence of a telegram from the U. S. Minister at Havana, reporting an anti-foreign negro agitation, two warships have been ordered to Havana.

The U.S. Squadron is at Key West awaiting orders.

Later.

Two more battleships have been ordered to Cuba from Key West.

The Cuban insurgents attacked the American marines who were on guard at the El Cuero mines.

The marines suffered no casualties, and the insurgents' losses are unknown.

THE FRANCO-SPANISH AGREEMENT.

London, June 7.

It is reported that the Franco-Spanish agreement in regard to Morocco is on the point of settlement.

The news is greeted with much satisfaction.

BRITISH MINISTERS AT GIBRALTAR.

London, June 7.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Winston Churchill have arrived at Gibraltar.

ACTION AGAINST SHIPPING COMPANIES.

London, June 7.

The U.S. Government has filed a civil suit in the Federal Court against the Prince, Lamport and Holt, Hamburg-America and Hamburg-South America lines, alleging they have formed a trust which is monopolising the trade of the United States and Brazil.

FIRE DESTROYS TOWN.

London, June 7.

A fire has practically destroyed the town of Cobalt in the United States.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN AUSTRIA.

London, June 8.

An explosion at the Woellersdorf Am-

munition factory near Wienerneustadt is reported.

Thirty were killed, mostly soldiers, the bodies of fourteen of whom have been recovered. A hundred were injured.

The windows were shattered in Wienerneustadt and other damage was done.

Many persons were injured by the broken glass.

The explosion was heard for thirty miles round.

SCENE IN THE HUNGARIAN CHAMBER.

London, June 8.

In the Hungarian Chamber on reassembling, the uproar was repeated, when suddenly Kovacs, the suspended deputy, appeared in the Press Gallery and drawing a revolver fired several shots at Count Tisza, the President. Count Tisza was unhurt.

His assailant then turned the weapon upon himself. His life is endangered.

BRITISH TRADE RETURNS.

London, June 8.

The increase in imports amounts to £1,198,540 and in raw cotton to £1,767,590.

The increase in exports is £1,217,641, principally in ships, textiles and coal.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LABOUR QUESTION.

London, June 8.

In the House of Common, Mr. McKenna, the Home Secretary, replying to demands why the Government had not afforded protection to the workers at Purfleet, said it was not the Government's duty to assist employers in acts, like the importation of strike-breakers, which were calculated to provoke disorder.

The attitude of the Government towards free labour is a topic of criticism in the lobby.

The Labour members are jubilant, but the Conservatives fear that the Government's attitude will actively discourage the masters from coming to a friendly settlement on the points outstanding.

The masters, it is pointed out, cannot be expected to be conciliatory if the Government is taking sides against them.

London, June 9.

The Conservatives' comments on Mr. McKenna's statement show great anger. A vote of censure on the Government is threatened.

THE CHINESE NATIONAL LOAN.

London, June 9.

The anti-loan agitators are busy in China but the people are apathetic.

THE NEW DREADNOUGHT.

London, June 9.

The Dreadnought *Conqueror* attained a speed of 23.25 knots on her trials.

ACCIDENT TO FRENCH SUBMARINE.

London, June 9.

The battleship *St. Louis* has cut in two and sunk at Cherbourg the submarine *Zenemiere*, with a crew of 25.

The submarine, which sank in ten feet of water, was practising an attack, and rose under the ram of the *St. Louis*.

There was a great bubbling of water after the collision and it is feared that all inside were drowned.

RUSSIAN NAVY VOTE.

London, June 10.

The Budget Committee of the Russian Duma has approved the expenditure of fifty

millions sterling for the shipbuilding programmes for 1912-16.

ANARCHY IN KASHGAR.

London, June 10.

A telegram from Kashgar, Kashgaria, says a condition of anarchy prevails, and the officials are in a state of panic.

The southern towns of Yarket, Kargalik, and others, are in the hands of the popular militia and all the officials have fled.

From Chengtu it is reported that General Li has retreated to Tachienlu, and that Hokow is threatened.

Two thousand soldiers have gone to relieve Datang, Litang is safe.

The garrisons of Derge, Saanai and Chianui have withdrawn.

The fate of Siangcheng is unknown.

THE POSITION IN THIBET.

London, June 10.

It is reported from Chengtu that Hokow has been relieved and that the situation in Eastern Thibet is easier.

THE KHEDIVE.

London, June 11.

A Constantinople despatch says the Khedive leaves on Wednesday to pay a visit to King George at Windsor.

RETURN OF MINISTERS.

London, June 11.

Mr. Asquith and Mr. Winston Churchill have arrived in London.

CABINET CHANGES.

London, June 11.

Lord Loreburn, the Lord Chancellor, has resigned on account of ill health.

Lord Haldane, the Minister of War, will take the Great Seal and sit on the woolsack from to-morrow when the House of Lords reassembles.

Colonel J. E. B. Seely, D.S.O., becomes Secretary of State for War.

Later.

The papers all pay a hearty eulogy to the past services of Lord Loreburn and Lord Haldane.

London, June 13.

Colonel Seely's appointment as Secretary of State for War is not yet officially confirmed.

The *Daily News* says there may be a further shuffling of portfolios.

The German Press is bewildered, its comments on Lord Haldane being based on the cherished theory that his mission in the Cabinet was to effect an Anglo-German understanding.

The papers are thus unable to decide whether the appointment of Colonel Seely is of good or evil augury to Anglo-German relations.

THE TSAR'S VISIT TO MOSCOW.

London, June 12.

For the first time in nine years the Tsar and his family have visited Moscow.

They received a most hearty welcome, the city being decorated and the bells rung.

There was a monster police-raid in anticipation of the visit, and three thousand persons were arrested, the majority of whom were immigrants seeking employment during the building season.

SIR RUFUS ISAACS.

London, June 12.

Sir Rufus Isaacs, the Attorney-General, has been appointed a member of the Cabinet.

The appointment is unique.

It is announced to be entirely personal and not intended as a precedent.

THE SITUATION AT LHASA.

London, June 13.

Telegrams from Lhasa state that the situation is more or less unchanged.

The Chinese are again making overtures of peace, but the Tibetans are not encouraging them and fighting continues.

AVIATION IN EUROPE.

London, June 13.

In the aviation race between Berlin and Vienna there were seven starters, but the German, Hirth, alone finished the race, traveling the 400 miles in 336 minutes.

By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN."

THE POSITION IN MEXICO.

London, June 7.

The position of the Mexican Government is improving, the rebels being disheartened by the constant attacks of the troops.

THE TROUBLE IN THE BALKANS.

London, June 7.

Eighteen Turkish battalions from Djakova and Mitrovitza have defeated the rebel Albanians and relieved the garrison of Ipek.

THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO.

London, June 7.

The departure of the Sultan of Morocco from Fez to Rabat marks the end of the old regime.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 8.

The Turkish military authorities are convinced that the Italians intend to make extensive naval and military operations on the Asiatic coasts of the Aegean, and have mobilized a large number of troops, 40,000 of whom will shortly be concentrated at Smyrna.

THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.

London, June 8.

President Taft's friends have apparently a comfortable majority in the Republican National Committee at Chicago, but nothing is yet certain, except that the fight will be the closest and bitterest ever fought for the Presidency.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, June 10.

The initial proceedings of the Republican National Committee strongly favour President Taft and there is no doubt that Colonel Roosevelt is disquieted.

Only the claims of the Southern delegates have hitherto been considered.

The question whether President Taft or Colonel Roosevelt has a majority in the Republican party depends upon the Northern votes.

REVIEW IN HYDE PARK.

London, June 10.

Practically the whole Press comments on the significance of the first review of the King and Queen in Hyde Park on Saturday of 20,000 men of the London division of the new National Reserve, consisting of ex-soldiers and sailors.

The movement was organized by the Territorial Force Associations and implies a sudden national awakening to Imperial responsibilities and the discovery that the country possesses thousands of trained men ready and willing to resume soldiering.

The review was witnessed by enormous admiring crowds.

RUSSIANS ENTER KASHGAR.

London, June 11.

News has reached London that the Rus-

Asian Infantry Cossacks have entered Kashgar city.

The Revolutionary Chinese troops, which were engaged in quarrelling as to details of the administration, have generally collapsed.

THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

London, June 11.

The revolt of the Afghan tribesmen continues.

The Amir appears unwilling to fight the Mahomedans, being uncertain of the loyalty of his troops.

THE BATTLE AT ZANZUR.

London, June 11.

In the battle at Zanzur there were 12,000 Turks engaged.

They showed the greatest tenacity.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

London, June 12.

Colonel Roosevelt declares that the Chicago contest has been narrowed down to the naked issue of right and wrong.

The question is whether a system of naked fraud and theft shall be allowed to triumph.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, June 12.

Japanese and Russian Bonds show a tendency to decline.

THE GERMAN SQUADRON AT NEW YORK.

London, June 12.

The New York City officials are busy elaborately entertaining the officers and men of the German visiting squadron, consisting of three cruisers.

EXPECTED ATTACK ON MYTILENE.

London, June 13.

A special despatch from Mytilene says that although an Italian occupation is not expected at once, the Turkish garrison of 4,500 men has withdrawn to the mountains in the interior, in positions which it is impossible for the Italian guns to locate.

THE GENERAL STRIKE OF TRANSPORT WORKERS.

London, June 13.

The response to the call for a general strike of transport workers has been scanty and half-hearted.

THE VOTE OF CENSURE.

London, June 13.

The Opposition motion censuring the Government for not protecting men willing to work has been rejected by a majority of 77.

Mr. Asquith, the Premier, evaded the charge that the Home Secretary had allocated to himself unwarrantable discriminatory powers, but the Unionists consider the public rightly feel uneasy and charges the Government with shilly-shallying.

THE MOORISH ARMY.

London, June 13.

The scheme for reorganising the Moorish Army practically renders the force impotent.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

ITALIAN SERICULTURE.

Rome, June 4.

Italian sericulture this year is normal. The silk worms used for incubation are nearly the same as last year. Italian yellow cocoon and the Japanese white cocoon predominating. The weather has proved favourable throughout, and the supply of mulberry leaves plentiful. The production of cocoons is expected to reach the average, but the price yet remains uncertain.

THE PORTUGUESE MINISTRY.

Lisbon, June 6.

The Portuguese parliament, which has

been dissatisfied with the administration of the Minister of Home Affairs, has at last passed a vote of censure against the Ministry, which resigned *en bloc* on the 5th instant. The resignation has been accepted by the President. The new Ministry is not yet formed.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

New York, June 11.

On account of the upheaval in Cuba, the Government United States have despatched a battleship with 1,600 sailors on board and at the same time has ordered 4,000 troops to prepare for departure. In view of the growing gravity of the situation, however, the battleships *Washington* and *Rhode Island* weighed anchor for Havana on the 10th instant. It is generally believed that the present disturbances are due to the instigation of American speculators who desire the American annexation of Cuba.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA IN CHINA.

London, June 12.

In the House of Commons Sir Henry Norman, on the 11th instant, asked a question of Sir Edward Grey as to what were the special rights demanded by Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Mongolia; whether the two Governments had recognized each other's demands; whether the demands had already been notified to the British Government; and also whether the British Government had given its recognition.

In response Sir Edward Grey stated that the special interests demanded by Japan and Russia respectively in Manchuria and Mongolia could be found in the treaties, agreements and protocols concluded between China and the two Governments; that the British Government could not consent to afford them more than the rights specified in those documents, and that if so desired he would produce the contents of the documents. The British Government had already been notified of the special rights demanded by Japan and Russia, as to which Art. I in the Russo-Japanese Treaty concluded on July 30th, 1907, might be referred to. The British Government had recognized the special rights of Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Mongolia on condition that the principle of the Open Door should be maintained for Britain's commercial interests.

(“DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST” SERVICE TO THE “JAPAN HERALD.”)

SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

Berlin, June 6.

The Sultan of Morocco and M. Regnaud, the French Diplomatic Representative, have left Fez for Rabat.

The Governments of Spain and France have come to an agreement on the delimitation of the frontier between their zones of interest in Morocco.

The various Powers signatory to the Algeiras Conference have formed a Committee for the internationalisation of Tangier.

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

The Mexican Government has paid an indemnity to the relatives of the German who was murdered at Korodango.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Excited scenes in the Hungarian Chamber have been repeated.

FRONTIER COMMISSION.

The Franco-Congo Congo Frontier Commission will be convened on June 15th at the Confederation Palace at Berne. The delimitation of the frontiers between Came-

roon and French Congo Territory, as well as an understanding on the new German territory, will be the object of the conference.

THE PORTUGUESE CABINET.

The Portuguese Chamber has passed a vote of “no confidence” in the Government owing to the latter's attitude on the school question, as a result of which the Cabinet has resigned.

THE BALKANS QUESTION.

The German Press welcomes the King and Queen of Bulgaria, now on a visit to Berlin, and recognises the King's merits concerning the maintenance of peace in the Balkans.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The inhabitants of Crete and of the islands of the Aegean Sea, which have been occupied by Italy, are endeavouring to persuade Greece to annex them.

GERMANY.

Berlin, June 7.

The President of the Prussian Chamber, Freiherr von Eiffa, has been attacked by a slight apoplectic stroke.

THE ORIENT QUESTION.

M. von Krupensk, the new Russian Ambassador to Rome, states that no special agreements exist between Russia and Italy on the Orient policy.

TRANSFER OF RUSSIAN CONSUL.

The Duma has sanctioned the transfer of the Russian Consulate General from Bombay to Calcutta.

VIOLENT SCENE IN HUNGARIAN HOUSE.

A member of the opposition in the Hungarian Chamber, named Kovacs, fired several shots at the President, but forunately without injuring him. The would be assassin afterwards committed suicide.

THE BALKANS QUESTION.

A report of the *Temps* at Paris, according to which King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is reported to have gone to Berlin to sound German political circles on Germany's attitude towards a common Bulgarian-Servian Balkan policy, the end of which would be the division of Macedonia amongst both Powers, is absolutely contradicted by the Bulgarian Government and the Press. Bulgaria will not alter her Balkan policy, and the visit of the King to Berlin, where he will stay incognito a few days longer, is of a purely private nature.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turkish Government is preparing the defences of Smyrna and Constantinople against an Italian attack.

GERMANY.

Berlin, June 8.

The King of Saxony has met with an accident, being thrown from his horse, as a result of which he is now suffering from a dislocated knee.

GERMAN POLITICS.

On the occasion of a debate on the Government's policy in the Eastern provinces, Freiherr von Schorlemer expressed himself very strongly against the manner in which the centre party was carrying out its policy in those districts. He further refuted the statement that there were existing any differences of opinion amongst the members of the Ministry as to their Eastern provinces policy.

BANQUET TO BULGARIAN KING.

The Kaiser, speaking at the banquet given in honour of the King of Bulgaria, emphasised the peaceful policy of the Kingdom, by

which the strenuous people of Bulgaria had become an important factor in the cultural progress of the Balkans. The King, replying to the speech of the Kaiser, expressed his thanks for having been nominated Hon. Chief of the 72nd Regiment. He further said that he much appreciated the great sympathy shown to Bulgaria by Germany, to which country most of the younger generation of Bulgaria was indebted for its education.

WIRELESS EXTENSION.

The German Government has ordered the construction of a line of four wireless telegraphic stations of the Telefunken System in connection with the German-Netherlands Telegraphic Society at its South Sea Colonies. New Guinea, Samoa and Nauru will in future be in wireless communication with the German-Netherlands Telegraphic Society's cable at Yap.

THE ORIENT QUESTION.

The *Temps* at Paris repeatedly states that the idea of convening an Orient Conference is in no way based on any decided action of one of the Powers.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION IN AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government ammunition factory at Moellersdorf, near Wiener-Neustadt has been destroyed by a terrible explosion. Forty persons were killed and about 150 seriously injured, the damage done to the works being also very heavy.

Emperor Franz Joseph expressed his congratulations to Count Tisza, the President of the Hungarian Chamber, for his fortunate escape. The deputy Kowacs, who fired the shots at the President and afterwards directed the weapon against himself, is not dead, but seriously wounded.

The Austrian Mercantile Marine will introduce the Telefunken system of wireless telegraphy on all its sea-going steamers.

ACCIDENT TO FRENCH SUBMARINE.

The French submarine *Vendémiaire* sank as the result of an accident at Cherbourg, two officers and a crew of 24 being drowned.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* refutes the attack directed against the German Consul at Smyrna by various Italian papers as to his failure to protect Italian nationals against expulsion. It states that Italy had not protested against the Turkish order of expulsion.

Italian warships have been sighted near the island of Lemnos and several transports have been seen near the island of Chios.

MOROCCO.

General Lyautey intends to construct new fortifications at Fez to protect the city against further attacks.

A German national has arrived at Fez stating that on his way from the coast he found Tarudant and Marakesh not disturbed and not occupied by the seditious tribes.

GERMAN MUSEUM AT HARVARD.

The foundation stone of the German Museum at the Harvard University at Cambridge has been laid in the presence of a large and illustrious attendance.

FRENCH SUBMARINE DISASTER.

Berlin, June 10.

The Kaiser has expressed his sympathy to the French Embassy at Berlin on the loss of the submarine *Vendémiaire*.

SMYRNA CONSUL VINDICATED.

The *Tribuna* writing semi-officially on

the complaints against the activity of the German Consul at Smyrna, states that they are absolutely unfounded. On the contrary, the journal declares that the Consul has won great merit by his efforts on behalf of Italian interests.

FAST AEROPLANE FLIGHTS.

A long-distance flight of aeroplanes between Berlin and Wien, a distance of 680 kilometres, has taken place, eight aviators participating. The German aviator Hirth and a passenger on his Rumpler monoplane "Taube" was the first to arrive. He occupied but four hours from Breslau to Wien.

Long distance flights were carried out on Sunday by airships of the three German types "Schuette-Lanz," "Parseval" and "Zeppelin." The flights were very successful.

WORLD'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP.

A tennis match for the world championship has been contested at Paris, which was won by the German champion Herr Froitzheim. In the Ladies' Singles, Mlle. Broquedix, the French champion player, won the first, and Fil. Rieck, a German lady, the second prize.

THE ORIENT QUESTION.

A meeting between the Tsar and the Kaiser will take place at the beginning of July at the Schaeren Islands in the Gulf of Finland, which is regarded as of political importance owing to the situation in the Orient.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian troops in Tripoli have fought a victorious battle against the Turks near the oasis of Zanzur.

The Sublime Porte again declares that it will close the Dardanelles if Italy attacks the islands of Chios and Mytilene.

PRESIDENT OF LANDTAG DEAD.

Berlin, June 11.

Herr von Erffa, the President of the Prussian Landtag, is dead.

BANK RATE.

The German Reichsbank has lowered its rate to 4½ per cent.

AMBASSADORIAL CHANGE.

Herr von Rosen, the German Minister to Bucharest, has been appointed Minister to Portugal.

KRUPP SECURES ITALIAN ORDER.

The Italian Government has ordered 50 new field guns from the Krupp firm.

KAISER AND TSAR.

At the meeting between the Kaiser and the Tsar, the Chancellor will probably be also present.

THE BALKAN QUESTION.

The Bulgarian and Servian Governments contradict the rumour according to which they are stated to have come to an agreement as to a division of Macedonia amongst themselves.

TSAR IN MOSCOW.

The Tsar and his family have gone to Moscow.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Political disturbances are still continuing in the Hungarian Chamber.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to May 25th ex Yokohama arrived at Berlin on June 11th.

BAGDAD RAILWAY COMMENCED.

Berlin, June 12.

The cutting of the first sod of the

Alexandretta-Bagdad Line has been carried out in the presence of a large number of people.

JAPANESE HAMBURG CONSUL-GENERAL.

The Japanese Consul-General to Germany, Takematsu Okuka, with his official seat at Hamburg, has been granted exequatur by the German Government.

THE VATICAN.

Clerical papers at Rome announce the issue of a new *motu proprio* by the Pope concerning morals and discipline of the Catholic Clergy.

SHANTUNG RAILWAY.

At the general meeting of the Shantung Railway Company it was announced in the report of the Board of Directors that an inspection of the lines of the company in Shantung province had resulted very favourably and that there is every prospect of a hopeful future. Admiral Truppel, Ex-Governor of Kiautschou, has been elected a member of the Board of Directors.

HARVEST PROSPECTS IN EUROPE.

Very favourable harvest prospects are reported from all districts in Germany and from many parts of Russia.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Turks have lost their able Commander-in-Chief Abdullah in the recent battle at the oasis of Zanzur.

LABOUR UNREST IN FRANCE.

A strike of lightermen and stevedores has broken out at Bordeaux and Havre.

SUFFERED 14 YEARS WITH SORE HANDS

Itched and Burned. Skin Came Off, Leaving Them Raw. Tried Cuticura Soap and Ointment. They Soothed from the First and Cure Has Stood Test of a Dozen Years.

"For fourteen years I suffered with my hands. The skin came off in patches, leaving my hands raw. They itched terribly and if I rubbed them, water oozed out, leaving them worse than before. My thumbs and first fingers were the worst, the skin came off, leaving a red, smooth surface. They itched and burned terribly. Other parts of my hands became affected, the skin first drying up and peeling off. They were drawn together and I could not grasp anything. "I tried various ointments, but they did me no good. I went to five different doctors, having medicine and ointment from each, but all to no purpose. One of the doctors told me they would never be cured, another said the oil was all dried up out of the skin. Not one gave me any hope of ever being cured. A friend thought one of my fingers was withering away. I tried various ointments recommended by friends, but they all failed to cure. After some time, a friend told me about the Cuticura Remedies, having tried them with success for hands similar to mine. I tried them, and I found that nothing had such a soothing and cooling effect. They acted wonderfully, and I noticed the soothing effect from the first. My hands were completely cured by the Cuticura Soap and Ointment. It has stood the test of a dozen years. It was wonderful, I never saw anything like it. Other members of the household have benefited by it, and we are never without a box." (Signed) Mrs. Alice Blomley, 128, Durham St., Rochdale, Eng., Jan. 3, 1911. Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment afford the speediest and most economical treatment for skin and scalp humours, of young and old. A single set is often sufficient. Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold throughout the world. A sample of each with 32-p. book on skin and scalp affections post-free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse St., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney; N. S. W. Lennan, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter & Co., sole props., Boston, U.S.A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, June 15.
In Raw Cotton, quotations, both American and Indian descriptions, have declined, stocks of Middling again increasing in Tokyo owing to fresh arrivals. In Cotton yarns, the market presents few features of interest. As to Cotton Piece goods, business generally is quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, while arrivals have so far been well taken up by wholesalers, it would appear that the retail spring trade has not been satisfactory.

RAW COTTON.

	PER PICUL.
American Middling	35.50
Indian Broach	32.00 to 33.00
Chinese (Old crop)	34.00 to 34.50
Chinese (New crop)	—

COTTON YARN.

	PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in.	5.75 to 11.00
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Grey Shirtings:—

A. 43" x 45 yards	5.30 to 5.50
B. 43" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.30

Pure Grey Shirtings:—

A. 44" x 46 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00

Grey Cambrics:—

44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50

Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
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Cotton Italians	0.25 to 0.38
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Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70
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Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards	10.30 to 13.75
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Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
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Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70
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WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.

Flannels	—
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Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
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Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.39
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Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
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Cloths—Filots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—
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METALS.

The spot market remains quiet.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	Y. 4.60 to 4.65
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Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	5.35 to 6.40
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Sheet Iron	6.15 to 6.25
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Sheet Mild Steel	6.90 to 7.10
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Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.90 to 11.05
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Flat	11.50 to 11.60
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Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	7.20 to 7.35
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Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	7.55 to 7.65
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Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	2.45 to 2.50
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KEROSENE.

The market maintains quiet tone.

Chester	Y. 4.26
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Victory	3.94
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Nonpareil	4.90
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Sumatra	3.10 to 3.20
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Burneo	3.02 to 3.40
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Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
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Nippon	2.78 to 3.55
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Ogura	3.77
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Todai	—
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SUGAR.

Business doing all round.

Brown Manila	Y. 12.50
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Brown China	11.50
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Brown Java	16.00 to 16.10
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White Java	14.40 to 22.50
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White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
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(Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50
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INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done all round.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
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second	200.00
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Java, first	320.00
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second	280.00
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Madras, first	—
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second	—
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Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
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Artificial "Kenshin"	2.00
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FLOUR.

The market steady.

	Yen.
Gold Drop	11.47 to 11.57
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	11.75 to 11.85
Red Seal	11.15 to 11.25
Lion	11.95 to 12.05
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.75 to 11.85

Japanese:—

Rising Sun	6 kwamme 2.70
Takasago	6 " 2.75
Fuji	6 " 2.85
Pine	6 " 2.70

WHEAT.

The market generally active.

	Yen.
White Walla Walla, 100 kin	6.00 to 6.10
Red	5.90 to 6.00
Blue Stem	6.00 to 6.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

A good enquiry, but restricted transactions owing to the scarcity of suitable quality. On May 31st stocks were: Filatures 5,000 piculs, Re-reels, 50 piculs; Kakeda, 100 piculs.

	Yen.
Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	930
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	895
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	875
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	910
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	895
Filature—No. 1-1 1/2, 13-15den	890
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	845
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	835
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	850
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	845
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	835
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop	825

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

	June	July	August
delivery.	delivery.	delivery.	delivery.
8th	81.50	85.40	85.50
10th	81.70	85.80	85.80
11th	81.80	85.90	86.00
12th	81.90	85.80	86.00
13th	82.00	85.80	85.90
14th	82.00	85.70	85.90

WASTE SILK.

A fair business done; prices are firmer with a tendency towards an advance.

On May 31st stocks were:—Noshi, 300 piculs; Kibiso, 1,800 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs.

	Yen.
Noshi—Filatures, Best	—
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Good	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Medium	—
Noshi—Bushiu, (or Joshu) Inferior	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	95 to 105

HABUTAE.

Fukui:—A slight decline for the lighter weights, such as 6 and 6 1/2 me; but the grades above these remain practically unchanged.

Kanazawa:—Little change in the market; but what alterations are shown in prices have been downwards.

Kawamata:—No change; prices being maintained.

	6 me.	6 1/2 me.	7 me.	7 1/2 me.	8 me.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.55	7.35	7.25	7.25	7.30
27"	7.40	7.35	7.35	7.40	7.35
36"	7.45	7.30	7.30	7.35	7.30

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

	4 1/2 me.	4 me.	4 1/2 me.	5 me.	5 1/2 me.
Inches	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
22 1/2"	7.55	7.40	7.30	7.35	7.50
27"	7.45	7.35	7.35	7.40	7.25
36"	7.50	7.40	7.25	7.30	7.25

KAWAMATA.

	3 me.	3 1/2 me.	4 me.	4 1/2 me.
Inches.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
23"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
27"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to a London telegram of June 4th the quotation was £77.12.

Refined per 100 kin	Yen. 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	47.00—50.00
Ore	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The tendency is still upward.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags. 580.309
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	125.438

Delivery. Closing Price.

June	21.25
July	21.37
August	19.36

(Osaka.) (Kobe.)

June	21.05	June	21.30
July	21.72	July	21.14
August	19.85	August	19.83

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

	(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen. 22.50	
Medium	21.40	
Common	20.60	
Average	21.30	

TEA.

Supplies coming forward gradually, and the market has generally maintained a basis of yen 3 to 4 above last year. Large arrivals are looked for shortly.

QUOTATIONS.

Choicest	nominal.
Choice	¥.48 & upward
Finest	44 to 48
Fine	40 to 44
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is active.

	Yen.
Delivery.	—
June	145.00
July	144.00
August	143.00

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 14
London silver 1/2 higher. China sterling quotations not yet received but local rates on China rule lower and all other rates unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	256 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	261
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	154 1/2
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 100
— Private 10 days' sight	98
Shanghai—Bank sight	73
— Private 10 days' sight	74 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	28 1/2 @ 28 1/2

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, N. Tera-naka, 7th June, Seattle, Wash, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Kosai Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,423, S. Nishio, 7th June, Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.	
Liberia, German steamer, 2,259, Vesper, 7th June, Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.	
Tenkat, British steamer, 3,016, Braithwaite, 8th June, Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.	

Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 9th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Bentley Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, J. C. Richard, 9th June.—Mojito, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Persia, Austrian steamer, 3,842, P. Giurgevitch, 10th June.—Trieste via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 11th June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Bushu Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,968, M. Yamamoto, 11th June.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 11th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)

Indo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,152, G. Kanoo, 11th June.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,580, K. Osawa, 11th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hercules, Norwegian steamer, 2,439, R. Wilhelmson, 11th June.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Utsula Rickmers, German steamers, 2,639, H. Ruehle, 12th June.—Antwerp via ports, General.—Simon Evers & Co.

Salazie, French steamer, 2,189, Lequier, 12th June.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 12th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,147, M. Winckler, 13th June.—Melbourne and Sydney via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nanyetsu Maru No. 3, Japanese steamer, 1,528, O. Hayakawa, 13th June.—Takao, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Tenyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 7,265, E. Bent, 13th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Prinz Sigismund, German steamer, 1,844, D. Lenz, 7th June.—Sydney, Melbourne via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—H. Ahrens & Co., Nachf.

Denbighshire, British steamer, 2,480, O. Lewis, 7th June.—London and Antwerp via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Santo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,259, S. Shinohara, 7th June.—Newchwang via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Nippon Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, W. E. Filmer, 8th June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Nera, French steamer, 3,429, Casanova, 8th June.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Glenesk, British steamer, 2,275, E. William, 8th June.—London and Rotterdam via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.

Monteagle, British steamer, 3,953, W. Davison, 9th June.—Vancouver, B.C., Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Benlarig, British steamer, 2,510, A. Wallace, 9th June.—Mojito, Ballast.—Carnes & Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 9th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hudson Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,783, S. Morisada, 10th June.—Kobe, Ballast.—C. Illies & Co.

Sanuki Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,789, J. Teraoka, 10th June.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Brasilia, German steamer, 4,235, Deinat, 9th June.—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Bentley Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,668, J. C. Richards, 10th June.—Munich, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Liberia, German steamer, 2,259, Vesper, 11th June.—Marseilles, Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Nora, British steamer, 4,180, G. Philipps, 11th June.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Prometheus, British steamer, 3,583, Woodget, 11th June.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Indramayo, British steamer, 3,370, R. Evans, 12th June.—New York and Boston via ports, General.—Carnes & Co.

Persia, Austrian steamer, 3,842, P. Giurgevitch, 12th June.—Trieste via port, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Siberia, American steamer, 5,655, A. Zeeder, 12th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Mexico Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,759, N. Kobayashi, 12th June.—Tacoma and Seattle, Wash. Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Hercules, Norwegian steamer, 2,439, R. Wilhelmson, 12th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—American Trading Co.

Tenshin Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,580, R. Osawa, 12th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tzenkai, British steamer, 3,016, Braithwaite, 13th June.—Kuchinotsu, Ballast.—Butterfield & Swire.

Indo Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,152, G. Kanoo, 13th June.—Kobe, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 13th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer **Kosai Maru** from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. Tsuzuki, Mr. Hirouchi, Mr. R. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Koaze and 2 daughters in cabin; Mr. Li Shang Ting in second class; 12 Japanese and 21 Chinese in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer **Sanuki Maru** from Seattle, Wash.:—Capt. and Mrs. H. C. Verner, Miss L. Oldham and Mr. T. Yamamoto in cabin; Mr. H. Saito and Mr. H. Komura in second class; Mr. Y. Hout and Mr. M. Panaseutch in intermediate; 5 Japanese in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. K. Shimmi in second class; 11 Japanese in steerage. For Nagasaki:—1 Japanese in steerage. For Shanghai:—Mr. P. Dowell, Mr. S. Culin and Mr. W. B. Anderson in cabin; Mr. J. Kerr in second class. For Hongkong:—6 Chinese in steerage.

Per American steamer **Siberia** from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. E. Englebert, Mr. F. Fuwa, Mr. A. T. Gay, Mrs. B. C. Howard and servant, Miss H. Hay, Mrs. A. Johnston, Miss A. W. Johnston, Mr. K. Kuroda, Dr. and Mrs. N. T. MacArthur, Mr. V. Maheux, Mrs. M. L. Roffe, Rev. C. G. Roffe-Silvester. For Kobe:—Mr. J. M. MacDonald, For Shanghai:—Mr. C. Cable, Mrs. A. N. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Gordon and Mr. J. H. Pott. For Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Fansler, Mr. P. J. Gallagher, Mr. A. S. Galajikian, Capt. A. Halstead U.S.N., Mr. C. V. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Lasalle, Mr. H. Mayer, Mr. H. Pink, Mr. R. L. Rusk, Mr. P. R. Smith, Mr. E. P. Thompson and Mr. W. A. Weidmann in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer **Simbirsk**, from Vladivostok:—Mr. R. Fulton, Mr. G. Sandfort, Mr. H. Sidney, Mr. A. Roth, Mrs. B. Buhgoltz, Miss G. Vallon, Mr. T. Takashima, Mr. C. Mita, Mr. J. Ishimoto, Mr. B. Masuda, Mr. S. Tashima, Mr. S. Iwamoto, Mr. C. Ishihata and Mr. K. Yoshida, in cabin; Mr. S. Oshiver, Mr. R. Elledge, Mrs. A. Stratanovich, Mr. Seogi and Mrs. Karazu, in 2nd class.

EXPECTED.

Per Japanese steamer **Kano Maru** from Antwerp and London via ports:—Mr. Nizo Hattori, Mr. J. B. Gomes, Major H. Omura, Mr. and Mrs. Nichiro Yawata, Miss K. Yawata, Dr. Banji Nagano, Mr. Sonojiro Taniguchi, Mr. Kiyohisa Yoshimura, Mr. Kumezo Ishiduka, Mr. Saiji Hasegawa and Mr. W. J. Brownbill.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer **Nera** for Marseilles via port:—Mr. H. G. Berger, Mr. P. Haynon, Mr. and Mrs. Kroph, Mrs. Demaree, Mr. de Castilla Mr. Domenico Paggi in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer **Nippon Maru** for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Aspin, Miss M. Bacon, Mr. C. E. Becker, Mr. F. J. Berry, Mr. W. R. Blanchard, Mr. E. Bruce, Mr. G. W. Frydges, Miss M. Mallaham, Miss J. Callahan, Mr. J. H. Collett, Mr. P. M. Coyle, Miss W. Cresswell, Miss M. Delaney, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. B. Demaree and 3 children, Mr. K. S. Demaree, Mr. Dent, Mr. E. T. Fie-man, Mr. V. Goff, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gregory, Mr. Jos. Holloway, Mr. G. L. Keel, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. King and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Kraft, Mr. R. Lopez, Mr. Y. B. Li, Mr. S. Meek, Mr. D. Durry, Mrs. H. Naele, Miss A. H. Peck, Rev. and Mrs. J. Peterson, Mr. C. E. Roop, Mrs. A. Turner and 2 sons, Miss F. Turner, Mr. G. H. White, Mr. H. Wilkins, Miss D. Abdala, Mr. M. Abe, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Batesman, Capt. and Mrs. P. S. Bond and child, Mr. E. C. Fry, Mr. N. Fukushima, Miss Emma Griswold, Mr. K. Hajikano and maid, Mrs. Chas. Hammit, Mrs. M. Hayashi, Mr. G. Hiroi, Miss Rose Johnson, Mrs. F. Koretoshi, Mrs. Helen Lewis, Mr. Y. Nakasugawa, Mr. U. Osaki, Mr. L. D. Pasano, Miss Bella Rodgers,

Mr. F. F. Rogers, Mr. T. Saji, Mr. K. Seki, Mrs. M. Shiba and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Stowell, Mr. S. Tanaka, Miss S. E. Treadway, Mr. K. Uyeno, Mr. Robert H. Wilson, Mr. M. Yamada and Mr. A. Yamamoto in cabin.

Per British steamer **Abey** for London and Antwerp via ports:—Mr. Frank Singer, Miss Botras, Miss F. Borras, Mrs. A. J. Powell, Rev. W. M. Martin R.N.R., Mr. J. W. Atkinson Ch. E.R.A., Mr. F. W. Franks, Mr. Geo. Bowack, Dr. E. O. Higgins, Mr. H. Perry, Mr. H. Pomeroy, Mr. S. D. Pewer, Mr. E. E. Rich, Mr. A. R. Woods, Mr. Wm. Barber, Mr. S. B. Brown, Mr. Ed. Bennett, Mr. Wm. Bell, Mr. Jos. Gilbert, Mr. Wm. A. Burn, Mr. John Buckley, Mr. E. W. Mutton, Mr. S. A. Tucker and Mr. R. A. Pigott in cabin.

Per R.V.F. steamer **Penha**, for Vladivostok:—Mr. L. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Duroff, Mr. H. W. Rowbottom, Mr. P. A. Box, Mr. W. H. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Douglas, Mr. A. Miyazaki, Dr. D. Suzuki, Dr. K. Tajima, Dr. I. Yokobori, Miss N. S. Barnes, Miss B. Windegriff, Miss C. Wright, Miss C. S. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Barnes, Mr. Y. Silota, Mrs. A. Byley and Miss L. C. Chirnside, in cabin; Mr. and Mrs. S. Erickson and child, Mrs. P. Kasturina, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Zuroboff in 2nd class.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IN DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date
Hongkong	N.Y.K.	Inaba Maru	Tu June 18
America	P. M.	China	M. June 19
Seattle	N.Y.K.	Awa Maru	Th. June 20
Hongkong	P. M.	Persia	F. June 21
Europe	N.D.L.	P. E. Friedrich	Su. June 23
Tacoma	O. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu June 25
Vancouver	C. P.	Em. of Japan	W. June 26
Hongkong	O. S.	Chicago Maru	M. June 24
Hongkong	B. L.	Orteric	Th. June 27
Hongkong	C. P.	Em. of India	Tu. July 2
America	T. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. July 3
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	To. July 4
Hongkong	T. K.	S. Inyo Maru	Th. July 4

- 1 Left Honolulu on the 7th inst.
- 2 Left Seattle on the 4th inst.
- 3 Left Hongkong on the 11th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date
Europe	N.D.L.	Derfflinger	Sa. June 15
Shanghai	N.Y.K.	Chikuzen Maru	Su. June 16
America	T.K.K.	Tenyo Maru	Su. June 16
Hongkong	P. M.	China	Tu. June 18
Europe	N.Y.K.	Hirano Maru	W. June 19
Seattle	N.Y.K.	Inaba Maru	W. June 19
Europe	M. M.	Salazie	Sa. June 22
America	P. M.	Persia	Sa. June 22
Tacoma	B. L.	Antiochus	Sa. June 22
Australia	N.Y.K.	Kumano Maru	Sa. June 22
Hongkong	N.Y.K.	Awa Maru	M. June 24
Tacoma	O. S.	Chicago Maru	W. June 26
Hongkong	C. P.	Em. of Japan	W. June 26
Hongkong	O. S.	Tacoma Maru	Th. June 27
Seattle	B. L.	Orteric	F. June 28
Vancouver	C. P.	Em. of India	Tu. July 2
Hongkong	T.K.K.	Chiyo Maru	Th. July 4
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	F. July 5

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YOKOHAMA, JUNE 22ND, 1912.

明治廿五年三月廿日
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND, 1912.

DEATH.

GOODBAN.—On the 22nd ult. at "Waldean" Infirmary, N. Devon, JOSEPH HENRY GOODBAN, late of the Bank of England.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THE death is announced of Sir Arthur John Olway.

SPLENDID rains are reported in Victoria and in New South Wales.

ACCORDING to the Department of Communications, applicants in Tokyo for the accelerated supply of

telephones thus far number 17,159, as against 11,135 last year.

THE death is announced in Paris of M. Pamy, the pioneer of the peace movement.

MR. OZAKI, Mayor of Tokyo, formally tendered his resignation on the 13th instant.

THE Duchess of Connaught is now out of danger, and is making progress towards recovery.

THE launching ceremony of the *Kongo's* sister-ship *Hiei*, of 27,500 tons, will take place in the latter part of August.

BARON ISHII, the new Ambassador to Paris, will leave Tokyo for his post on the 23rd instant accompanied by Baroness Ishii.

THEIR Majesties the King and Queen have received the delegates of the International Wireless Congress and their wives at Buckingham Palace.

IT is understood, a United States Consular report says, that Messrs. Lever will establish a soap factory at Kobe for utilising Manchurian bean oil.

THE CHOLERA epidemic in Taipeh and Keelung is raging with unabated virulence, 10 cases having been reported in the former place and 30 in the latter.

MR. HERBERT GOTTLIEB EIDMANN, a director of the Anglo-Japanese Bank, Limited, who died March 2nd last, aged 71 years, left estate valued at £15,364 gross.

THE gates of the main entrance to the Imperial Palace are to be re-lacquered at a cost of 50,000 yen. It will take thirty days to strip off the old lacquer from the gates.

TWELVE lady teachers of Nicholasvsk are reported to have stated for Hakodate on a tour of inspection through Japan, their special mission being to inquire into the economic conditions of Japanese village life.

COUNT TERAUCHI, Governor-General of Chosen, will leave Seoul for home on the 20th instant, accompanied by Countess Terauchi and Count and Countess Kodama, and arrive at Shimabashi on the 26th.

A COMMUNICATIONS Exhibition will be held from the 21st instant till July 4th within the building of the Communications Museum, in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of that institution.

THE Japanese Ambassador in Rome reports that the season for sericulture is now closed, and the results show little change to those of last year. Cocoons are quoted at from 1.80 francs to 3.20 francs according to quality.

THE authorities of the Chosen Government-General are reported to have in contemplation the opening of a grand exhibition in Seoul in the near future, the cost of which will be included in the budget for next fiscal year.

ADMIRAL OSHIMA, Governor of Kwantung Province, who has been relieved of his post and appointed Military Councillor, will shortly be decorated with the Grand Cordon of the Paulownia for meritorious services during his Governorship.

As already reported, Prince Katsura will shortly start on a tour round the world, first visiting Russia, *via* Manchuria and Siberia. Besides Baron Goto, the party will consist of Mr. Wakisaka, ex-Vice-Minister of Finance, Major Hata,

Mr. Sugi, Prince Katsura's private secretary, Mr. Tatsui, Baron Goto's private secretary, and Mr. Natsuki, who will accompany the party from Harbin.

CAPTAIN TOKUGAWA, while manœuvring his aeroplane at Tokorozawa on the 19th inst, fell from a height of thirty metres, but fortunately sustained no injury. The engine suddenly stopped and the plane hit the earth at an angle of thirty degrees.

THE Imperial Household Department having decided to use automobiles for the reception of distinguished foreign visitors, obtained some time ago H.M. the Emperor's sanction to build a garage for the housing of 15 automobiles at an estimated cost of 50,000 yen.

MR. A. M. CHALMERS, the British Consul at Nagasaki, is reported to have been offered the post of Consul-General at Seoul, vacant by the retirement of Mr. Henry Bonar. Mr. Chalmers, who has just returned from furlough, was appointed Consul at Nagasaki in November, 1909.

ACCORDING to a report from the Osaka Mining Superintending Bureau, the monthly output of copper from the mines under its control, numbering about 30, has hitherto averaged 1,800,000 *kins*. The amount increased in April to 2,320,000 *kins* or by 25 per cent., and the tendency is still upward.

GENERAL OZAWA, Vice-President of the Japan Red Cross Society, has wired from San Francisco stating that the speeches delivered by distinguished citizens invited by him to a dinner on the 18th inst. show that the Empress donation has created a profound impression among the American public.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL FUKUSHIMA, the newly appointed Governor of Kwantung, left Port Arthur on the 18th to start on a tour of inspection through the province. The Governor will first pay a visit to Dalny, where he is expected to stay about a week. His further itinerary is uncertain, but it is believed the trip will last about a month.

THERE being only two or three aviators in the Japanese Army, the authorities have decided to train a larger number of experts among the officers. Five are to be chosen at the outset from among one hundred and more candidates, all nominated from the various Divisions. They will take a year's training with the Aviators' Corp at Nakano.

THE recent shipping strike at Yokohama has resulted in the increase of the wages of the stokers and sailors by 1 yen and by 2 yen for their chiefs and other officers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a limit of 3 yen for those of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and by 10 per cent. of their present wages for the Osaka Shosen and the Owners' Union. The owners of small craft have also followed suit. Japanese seamen are thus now enjoying virtually a ten per cent. increase of their wages.

ACCORDING to investigations of the Bank of Japan, the index prices in Tokyo are still showing an upward tendency, the figures for May having increased by .046 compared with April, and by .0784 compared with the corresponding month of last year. The eighteen articles which appreciated include rice, barley, wheat, *shoyu* beans, mungo, dried bonito, eggs, tobacco, firewood, silk goods, tea, matches, copper, wheat flour, muslin, and kerosene; while the sixteen others which depreciated were Japanese sake, oil, fish manure, sugar, *tatami*, wax, white cotton stuff, *kaiki*, silk *habutae*, silk handkerchiefs, sugar, flannel, European nails, etc.

CHINESE FINANCES.

According to a Shanghai despatch to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the Chinese Finance Department has applied to the authorities of the different provinces for financial help, to which the following ten districts have responded, namely, Hunan, 300,000 *taels*; Mukden, 500,000 *taels*; Chungking (Szechuan?), 1,000,000; Canton, 1,000,000; Unnan, 200,000; Kiangsi, 200,000; and Shantung, 200,000. Kirin and Hunan have already paid 100,000 *taels* and 300,000 *taels* respectively.

The Finance Department is said to have stated in its application that the Foreign Bankers had declared they would withdraw their preliminary advances in case China found it within her power to raise the required funds at home. The country's financial condition is in such straits, however, that despite the financial assistance received from the Central Government for the past ten consecutive years, Hsinking, Ill, Kansu, Kuechow, Szechuan, Ulyasutai, Koputo, Altai and Tibet, have never contributed towards the State Treasury. Under these circumstances, the Finance Department is obliged to appeal to the timely assistance of the local Government. The sum required is a few million *taels*, but for the present a few hundreds of thousands will suffice. Unless the present financial crisis is averted, however, the result will be fatal, as further upheavals may occur, costing the country hundreds of millions of *taels*.

The advance of three million *taels* made by the international loan group will serve to avert the financial crisis that was imminent. The advance, according to Reuter, was made on the advice of the Foreign Ministers at Peking, and will probably be followed by others. These advances are stated to be quite independent of those to be made by the European bankers. Reuter refers to the group making the advance as the one mentioned in dispatches of the 17th inst., but apparently this telegram was not transmitted to Japan, and for the moment we are in the dark as to what group is meant.

Japanese despatches state that the Minister of Finance applied to the Four Powers' Syndicate for a temporary advance of three million *taels* to meet pressing needs, intimating that unless help was forthcoming at once, serious consequences would result. The Syndicate, however, declined to agree to the request, at least until the result of the Bankers' Conference to be held in Paris on the 18th inst. was known. The Peking Government is said to have first proposed to the Syndicate an advance of 21,000,000 *taels*, six million to be handed over by the 19th inst. and the remainder by the 30th. In view of the sudden retirement of Tang to Tientsin and the tardy progress of the conference at Paris it was felt that the proposal would hardly be acceded to. If the loan group referred to by Reuter is the Four Powers' Syndicate, as seems probable, then evidently it was induced to change its mind on the persuasion of the Foreign Ministers.

In regard to the progress of the Bankers' Conference at Paris, the meeting of the 18th seems have again been fruitless, owing to the exception taken by the British, German and American representatives to Russia's proposals. Japanese papers say that Japan adopted a neutral attitude on the question, but according to

Reuter both Japan and Russia are united in stipulating that the proceeds of the forthcoming loan should not be expended in the development of Manchuria and Mongolia, lest the undertakings of the international group should lead to the neutralisation of those territories. As to the demand of Russia for the right to float a third of her share of the loan in Belgium, to which the French financiers are said not to be able to agree, in view of Russia's financial obligations to them, this would seem to imply that France wishes to have the financing of the Russian share of the loan in her own hands, to the exclusion of Belgium. As a matter of fact the real capitalists are Britain and France, and the other four Powers will have to mainly rely on them. Russia, it is thought, will therefore not persist in her proposal.

Referring to the question of the special rights of Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Mongolia, we note that the *Fiji Shimpō* draws a distinction between the stipulations made by Japan and those made by Russia. Japan, it is stated, does not see any necessity for insisting upon the Bankers' Syndicate recognising her special rights in Manchuria, as the Syndicate has no authority to interfere in political questions. All she desires is that her rights should be recorded on the minutes of the Conference. Russia, on the other hand, absolutely insists that her rights in Mongolia should be recognised by the Syndicate and has gone so far as to propose that if one of the Six Powers takes exception to her claim, then any decision on the objects to which the advances are devoted would be nullified. France is endeavouring to effect a compromise, but the question is one of some difficulty and is hindering the progress of the negotiations.

Contradictory reports are published as to the progress of the loan negotiations. Thus the advance of three million *taels*, already announced, and now accredited decisively to the Four Powers' Syndicate, is increased in a despatch to the *Fiji Shimpō* to four million *taels*, and allotted as follows: Nanking and Shanghai, 1,800,000 *taels*; Chefoo, 100,000 *taels*; Peking, 800,000 *taels*; Kiangsi, 400,000 *taels*. To this must be added 500,000 *taels* for the pay of the Manchurian Eight Flag troops, and 400,000 *taels* for the pay of other troops.

The *Asahi*, however, adheres to the figure given by Reuter,—three million *taels*, and says that the contract for this advance was signed on the 18th inst., though the money has not yet been paid. The *Hochi's* report that the application of the Finance Minister for an advance was refused must be considered, in view of the evidence to the contrary, as incorrect.

Much has been heard of provincial loans, but it appears that they as yet exist but on paper, even if they have advanced so far as that. Thus Li Yuan-hung's loan for the reconstruction of Hankow, and the Railway loan seem to be merely provisional, since no money has yet changed hands. In regard to the former loan it is alleged that the conditions proposed by the Dollar Company, with whom the matter was arranged, are much more onerous than was at first supposed by the general public, or even by Li Yuan-hung himself, since they include a monopoly for the supply of materials for the reconstruction of the city, in addition to rights for gas, electric lighting, and other undertakings. In these circumstances the abandon-

ment of the loan is advocated in some quarters.

At the same time there appears to be considerable competition among foreign bankers, exclusive of those forming the Six Powers Syndicate, to make advances to the provincial governments, and it seems probable that some of these proposals may ultimately come to fruition, unless, of course, the conditions proposed on the Chinese side are such as may make negotiations impossible.

In opposition to the pessimistic reports published in the Japanese papers, Reuter telegraphs that the Conference at Paris practically reached an agreement at the meeting on the 18th. If this be so, then it may be considered that a very serious crisis in China's financial affairs has been averted.

THE TROUBLE IN CUBA.

The trouble in Cuba is becoming infinitely more acute, and unless drastic measures are adopted by the Government, the United States may find themselves forced to take an active part in the struggle. Should it do so, there is little doubt that it would end in the annexation of the Island. This eventually is by no means desired by those in authority at Washington, but it is one that may be forced upon them, as they cannot allow anarchy to prevail so close to their coast line and especially in a place for which they went to war with a foreign Power and which for a time was their property. The present trouble started with a rising of negroes in the eastern part of the island and the apparent inability of the Cuban Government to subdue them and so restore order and peace. The rising has naturally stagnated trade and has severely injured property of American citizens and endangered foreign lives. It is because of this danger that America has moved; for on June 11th, four U.S. battleships were ordered to leave Key West for Cuba. The previous day, some American marines who were on duty at the El Cuero mines as guard, were attacked by the negroes and a sharp skirmish ensued. It is stated that the marines suffered no casualties, and that the insurgents were driven off. The great danger of the situation is of course the possibility of the negro population of the island taking desperate reprisals on isolated foreigners and their belongings; and although up to now, no news of any such tragedy has reached the East, it is evident that the United States Government anticipates such possibilities and has despatched her warships to the scene of action so as to be ready for emergencies. It is to be hoped that Cuba will be able to manage her own family affairs and if she is able to do so, it is certain no one will be more pleased than the American Government. At the same time, the pessimism that marks the discussion of Cuban affairs is undoubtedly justified. The people seem as yet as unfitted for self-government as are the Filipinos. Nearly half of the population are negroes, and they lack initiative, control and energy. Their politicians—what few they have—are purely professional and their main object is to divide what spoils are available. With a mixed race such as the Cubans, nothing but the iron hand of a Dictator can preserve peace and order and we shall be very much mistaken if it does not eventually come to the U.S. Government becoming that iron hand.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

There is no definite news this morning about the Chinese loan, but fugitive statements are circulated in the sense that the leading Chinese citizens are beginning to incline visibly to the policy of foreign money. The Chinese are said to be willing to entrust the duty of supervision to foreigners provided that the latter are nominally employees of the Peking Government, and it is thought that this concession will be made by the foreign Syndicate, but that no further effort to placate Chinese prejudice will be agreed to. It is, however, evident that the floating of the foreign loan is beginning to be looked on with less disfavour. In the context of this intelligence we find a brief statement that the patriotic bonds and the fiat currency are going out of favour, which has been long anticipated.

Chinese journalists and politicians are evidently trying to make a diversion by disturbing the solidarity of the Syndicate. They represent France as very anxious to place money in China, and they allege that the Paris capitalists are protesting against the unwisdom of insisting too obstinately upon the supervisory provision. France has a great deal of money to lend, and she is said to reckon it as bad policy that a valuable creditor should be lost by adhering too obstinately to such a trifling provision as that of supervision. There can be little doubt, we think, that this is a very garbled account of France's attitude. She is most unlikely to have conceived any method of procedure at variance with that approved by her colleagues, and she is above all unlikely to proclaim her disagreement from the housetop.

At a meeting held by the Council of State with closed doors on the 14th instant in Peking, the Minister of Finance is said to have made a very powerful speech. His Excellency declared in effect that the fate of the country depends on the skill with which its finances are managed at this juncture. From the point of view alike of the provinces and of the Central Government the country's statesmen are confronted by most embarrassing conditions. Thus from Nanking it is officially reported that funds are not forthcoming even to provide means of sustenance for the troops. Things are even worse in the provinces of Chihli, Shantung, Honan and Shansi; where, during the past three months, there has been no funds to buy food for the soldiers, and the families of those charged with the administration of State affairs have been obliged to break up their households and go in search of means of livelihood. If things be left in this condition a crisis involving more than a mere temporary outbreak may be apprehended at any moment. Look where the country's financiers please, and follow what routes they choose to procure money, their efforts are futile. Turning to the question of the foreign loan his Excellency said that the patriotism of the people might be expected to assert itself sooner or later, but he asked what reasonable forecast could be made as to the time when such relief would be accorded. The country is threatened with a crisis which does not permit any leisurely proceedings, such as the raising of a patriotic fund. It is not to be denied for a moment that the situation is menaced by a union of Imperialists and lawless spirits who are watching for an opportunity to create a disturbance. The Central Government does

not specially approve of either a foreign loan or a domestic. What it looks for is the speediest and the most efficacious method for relieving the tension, which tends to hasten the disruption of the State. In fact those responsible for the very existence of the country are called upon to make a very grave decision as to whether China is to stand or fall to-day. The Minister concluded by conjuring the Members of the Council of State to take everything into careful consideration, and to recognize the immense responsibility devolving upon them.

This remarkable speech is said to have produced a strong effect upon the members of the State Council, who had been organized into a committee to consider the situation. They practically agree to leave the matter in the hands of the Central Government, and it is thought that the loan question may now be said to have entered a stage where emotionalism ceases to figure.

THE THREE EASTERN PROVINCES.

It will be remembered that a somewhat difficult question presented itself in the Three Eastern Provinces of China on the threshold of Republican Government. Under the old system of local administration the supreme power was exercised in the provinces by Viceroy and immediately under them stood Governors. But one of the first changes inaugurated was the abolition of the special title of Viceroy, and the elevation of the Governors to the position of Governors-General, while they exercised administrative sway on an equal footing with the former Viceroys. No special difficulty appears to have attended this change except in the Three Eastern Provinces. There the ex-Viceroy, now Governor-General Chao, reported, after a brief practical trial, that it was impossible to discharge the functions of Government satisfactorily if the Three Provinces were converted into as many entities, each wielding equal authority. He therefore asked Peking to extend a larger measure of power to himself than to the Governor-General of Kiliu or of Amur. This application and the reasons accompanying it, found favour in the eyes of the Peking Cabinet, and the change desired by Chao has been duly inaugurated. Thus the administration of the Three Eastern Provinces is placed on a footing essentially different from that prevailing in any other part of the Empire.

PIENMA.

The Pienma rumour is showing more than usual obstinacy. Again and again it has been made the subject of contradictory rumours. A few days ago the public was confidently informed that a strong force of British troops had been sent to occupy the place, and that something like martial law had been established. This very explicit story was followed shortly afterwards by an emphatic contradiction. The British Representative in Peking, acting under instructions from Downing Street, was said to have denied *in toto* that any troops had been sent to Pienma, or that any of the rumoured measures had been taken. This contradiction was of course regarded as conclusive, but now comes a very different version, namely, that British troops have actually been sent on the perennial plea of protecting the lives and properties of British subjects.

A CHINESE BOYCOTT.

It is telegraphically reported by the *Chuo Shinbun's* correspondent that secret preparations for a boycott on a very large scale are in progress throughout the whole of the Yangtze Valley and Southern China. Canton and Fuchow are indicated as the prime movers in this affair, but the correspondent does not explain the causes of the boycott or its ultimate purpose. We are led to believe that it is essentially an anti-foreign demonstration; that it is planned simply with the object of inflicting the greatest possible injury on trade with the Occident in China, and that it is animated, not so much by any special purpose as with the object of rendering China a bad market generally for foreign goods. The Chinese have shown themselves eminently skilful imitators of the Irish in this matter of boycotts, and if they are really in earnest in the movement now attributed to them, they may inflict immense injury upon Occidental dealings with the Orient. But there is one fact which must not be lost sight of, namely, that if the Chinese tradesmen and merchants are conspicuously prompt in organizing anti-foreign boycotts, they have always shown themselves markedly amenable to reason in matters where their own interests are concerned.

The boycott in the central and southern provinces in China appears to be growing in dimensions. It has assumed a practical form which suggests that the matter has fallen under the hands of practical men. The particulars given are that a special subsidy shall be given at Nanking for the encouragement of the piece-goods in use there. At Kiukiang a similar policy is to be pursued in the case of matches and tobacco. At Wuchang steps will be taken to encourage the inflow of the piece-goods and tobacco which reach that place from Hupoh, and these steps will be followed by others equally explicit in the case of special domestic manufactures. This method of promoting a boycott has palpable evidences of development. The weak point of an ordinary boycott is that the boycotters generally suffer as much as the boycotted. But where a subsidy is entered into account, a different complexion is given to the proceedings.

JAPANESE TEACHERS IN CHINA.

An interesting item appears in the Japanese papers as to the employment of Japanese teachers in China. It seems that the authorities of the State Law College at Paoiting have suggested to Governor Chang that, a Republican Government having been established in China, it is out of place, if not subversive of the State's existence, to employ the teachers of a country which is governed by a Constitutional Monarchy. Governor Chang is said to have recognised the extreme reasonableness of the argument and forthwith to have ordered the dismissal of all the Japanese teachers engaged in the College. It is scarcely possible to believe, however, that he can have shown such extreme naïveté, and the general belief is that the step has been taken for financial reasons. Japan in the early days had a good many American instructors, but we never heard that any question was raised as to the employment of the citizens of a republic being considered in any way dangerous.

PROVINCIAL DISTURBANCES IN CHINA.

Saturday, June 15.

From Yochow in Hunan comes news that a strong anti-foreign feeling is growing and that it is specially directed against the Spanish religionists, who are placed in imminent peril. The Spanish Consul has made earnest representations calling for the protection of his countrymen's lives and property.

Very much more formidable, however, is the state of affairs at Tsinan, the capital of Shantung. There on the night of the 13th instant a collision took place between the old and the new troops. Very large forces are said to have been engaged on either side, and great destruction of property took place. It is said that the seeds of this trouble were sown some time back, though the actual outbreak did not occur until the 13th instant.

Rumours come also from another part of Shantung to the effect that a strong force of Imperialists has gradually been organized there, under the leadership of a general calling himself Wan. These insurgents have hitherto met with no serious check, and there are strong fears that they may prove a formidable foe of the new Republic.

In Tientsin a quantity of explosives has been found concealed. They are believed to have been obtained for mutinous purposes for the party of malcontents who recently advocated the appointment of Governors-General, each to be from his own province.

Sunday, June 16.

The cause of the trouble in Tsinan appears to have been the disbandment of the old style troops, who were dissatisfied for some reason or other. The mutinous soldiers are said to comprise four battalions of the garrison. It is stated they marched out of their quarters at midnight and made for the railway station, but on the way started firing and looting. The Fifth Division, which is also stationed at Tsinan, was instructed to quell the disturbance and some severe fighting apparently took place, ending in the mutineers being driven out of the city. It is probable, however, that a large number of the mutinous soldiers had already left with their loot before the fighting began. Some buildings were destroyed, including, it is said, the station, and one or two Japanese shops suffered in the depredations, but no Japanese were killed or wounded.

Reports of mutinies also came from Peking, where the Imperial Bodyguard, stationed at the Summer Palace, suddenly began a demonstration against the Republic on the night of the 13th; from Mukden, where the disturbance seems to have been trifling; and from Canton, where something like an attack on the Shameen settlement seems to have been made.

Later reports state that the troops who mutinied at Tsinan were the Fourth Battalion of the Garrison force. The fires started in the city are gradually subsiding. The foreign settlement is safe, three hundred troops of the Fifth Division being entrusted with the duty of guarding it. German volunteers are also assisting. The Governor of Shantung province disappeared at the critical moment, but later returned to his duties and is now endeavouring to capture the dispersed rioters.

The trouble arose through the attempt

to disband soldiers without giving them their back pay in full. The soldiers in revenge started to loot, plundering the dry goods stores and setting them on fire. The dead bodies of the soldiers who were killed in the fighting are still lying about in the streets. General Chang is reported to have assisted the commander of the Fifth Division in suppressing the disturbance.

Monday, June 17.

The riots at Tsinan appear to have been of a very desperate character. Dispatches state that the roads adjacent to the West and East gates were piled with dead, and that besides Government offices, the station, some railway carriages, and about fifty houses were destroyed. The streets of the settlement are now under the patrol of the German volunteers.

Much indignation is said to be expressed at the conduct of the Governor, who from all accounts hardly displayed the intrepidity his high position demands. On the night of the disturbance he is said to have bribed the soldiers to guard his person, and when Commander Chang, with his men of the Fifth Division, arrived, the Governor, taking them for insurgents, told the guard to declare that he had left the previous day. The Shantung Assembly is to hold a meeting to censure his conduct and demand his withdrawal, but inasmuch as he is on intimate terms with President Yuan Shih-kai it is not thought that he will be recalled.

PRATAS ISLAND.

We learn from the Tokyo Press that in the sequel of an investigation carried out by order of Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese Authorities have decided to abandon Pratas Island, known in Japan as Nishizawa-jima. We were not aware that any committee had been sent by ex-President Sun Yat-sen to investigate the conditions existing in this region, nor do we know in what capacity the ex-President acted. But it has been understood for some little time back that the worthlessness of the island had been recognized in China, and that an opportunity alone was needed for its declaration. China was certainly very badly advised in this matter. She paid 200,000 yen to procure the Japanese withdrawal from Pratas Island, and she actually sent a warship to assert her rights. Indeed, we cannot see that anybody derived any advantage from the transaction except Mr. Nishizawa, the original exploiter of the property.

NEUTRAL WATERS.

Mr. Ogawa Heikichi has been appointed to draw up the protest against converting into neutral waters several Straits now forming avenues of communication between various parts of the globe. He has given a very succinct account of the reasons by which he and his other Japanese colleagues will be influenced at the coming conference in Brussels. But it is scarcely necessary to reproduce his arguments. In Japan's dominions there are an exceptional number of water-ways which could not possibly be left to take care of themselves in time of war, and unless some method much more practically efficacious than mere general declarations of international policy can be devised, the problem is hardly worth discussing.

LORD LOREBURN.

The retirement of Lord Loreburn from the onerous duties of Lord Chancellor, as announced two days ago in a London telegram, removes from the Cabinet its most imposing, and in many ways its most interesting, figure.

Robert Threshie Reid was born in 1846, the son of Sir James John Reid, and entered Cheltenham College in 1859, where his successes in the class-room and on the playing field have never been equalled. A recital of them reads like a page from some school story, where the hero enjoys an unbroken series of triumphs from the time he arrives, a "new boy," until he leaves as "senior prefect."

Reid was Senior Classical Scholar at Cheltenham, and won a Scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1864. His athletic prowess was remarkable in all branches of sport: in addition to being Captain of both Cricket and Football, he was Fives' Champion, Racquets' Champion, and won the Ladies' Prize at the Athletic Sports for being successful in a greater number of events than any other competitor. At Oxford, as at Cheltenham, he carried all before him, getting his "Blue" for both Cricket and Racquets. His election to the Presidency of the M.C.C. a few years ago was a fitting recognition of his former triumphs.

It has been said, and not without reason, that if a boy is Captain of Games at a big Public School, he is a greater man in his little world than he can ever hope to be hereafter, in whatever walk of life his activities may lie. Reid, when he left the oldest of the great Victorian Schools in 1864, may well have felt his heart swell with pride: in addition to being *facile princeps* in work and play, he was Senior Prefect, and Head of the School in fact as well as name,—a figure before whom small boys, aye, and middle school boys, quailed, trusted of Masters, venerated of boys, and feared by his opponents on the cricket and football fields, in the racquet-court, and on the cinder track.

Forty-one years later he became Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain: once more he was a great man, in that world greater even than his old Public School. The career of Earl Loreburn, erstwhile R.T. Reid, exemplifies what the Public School system is to England: perhaps one may add, in connexion with the old saying mentioned above, that it is, indeed, that particular exception that proves the rule.

SZCHUAN.

All the trouble about the nationalization of railways in China began in the province of Szchuan, and the private shareholders of the first lines built in that province were so shamefully treated by officialdom that no surprise could be felt at their somewhat violent demonstrations. Thereafter frequent trouble arose, and, on the whole, the sympathy of outsiders was with the Szchuanese. It is therefore somewhat surprising to learn now, that public peace and good order have been restored in the province, and that the inhabitants are showing a strong disposition to supply funds for the patriotic project. But as a matter of fact, opinions in China are so diversified at present that the public must be prepared for the most contradictory reports.

SIGNS OF UNREST.

Apart from the trouble with the Imperial Bodyguard at Peking, there are numerous signs of unrest throughout China.

A second revolutionary movement is said to have started in Shantung, where a number of disaffected citizens are collecting arms and funds. Their grievance seems to be the failure of the Government to appoint Wang Chi-hsiang to the Magistracy, and others of their faction to posts of importance in the provincial Government. The arrest of some of the members of the party has added fuel to the flames. Already 150 rifles have been collected and 70 more have been contracted for, emissaries proceeding to Peking and Shanghai to establish connection with other dissidents.

Hupeh is now practically an independent State with Wuchang as its capital, the orders of the Peking Government being completely ignored. General Li is thus acting as a Provincial President with full powers. As proof of this it is stated that the loan for the rebuilding of Hankow has now been completed and 1,500,000 taels is to be advanced on the loan on the 27th inst. Li, who appears to have entered into the contract on his own authority, stating that he will not allow the Peking Government to interfere. Part of the loan, it is stated, is to be appropriated towards establishing a reserve fund for the issue of bank-notes, a purpose rather different to that for which the loan was contracted.

In regard to the Imperial Bodyguard at Peking, it is reported that they have decided to appeal to the Empress-Dowager if they fail to receive their pay by the 19th inst. In view of the unsettled conditions, there has been some talk of bringing up troops from Canton to guard the capital, but the Minister of War is said to take strong exception to the proposal.

The non-payment of the troops remains responsible for a good deal of unrest, which has not been allayed by the rumour that some officers of the Fourth Battalion have been secretly executed on account of an attempt to force the War Department to hand over their pay. News from various localities shows how close China is to another upheaval. At Tientsin 200 men of the Flying Column threaten to rise in mutiny, and from Paoting-fu the commander of the troops wires for a prompt remittance of 200,000 taels if a mutiny among the troops is to be averted. At Hsinyen, according to advices from Antung, disturbances have actually begun, the troops of the Flying Column having started helping themselves to the citizens' property. The local authorities are doing their best to suppress them, but without much result, and people are leaving the city to take refuge elsewhere.

THE SIX POWERS' SYNDICATE.

According to a despatch received in official quarters, the third conference of the Foreign Bankers in connexion with the China loan, which was to have been held on the 15th instant at Paris, has been postponed until the 18th. The reason for the postponement is said to be a request from Russia for time to obtain an agreement of opinion among her representatives. The fundamental policy of the Syndicate regarding the China loan was decided at the second conference, leaving to the third conference to settle the conditions

of the advance, objects of investment, amount of the preliminary advances to be shared by Japan and Russia, and other considerations necessary for the transaction of the business. In these circumstances the postponement does not seem to imply any breakdown in the negotiations.

In regard to the statements that the special rights of Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Mongolia have been recognized at the Conference, or that Japan has consented to withdraw her demands for the recognition of her special rights in Manchuria on condition that her claims shall be placed on record, a Foreign Office Authority is quoted as observing that it is not for the Bankers' syndicate to decide the special positions of Japan and Russia in Manchuria and Mongolia, nor is there any reason why the two countries should seek to have their special positions decided by the syndicate. In fact all that the two Powers have done in this respect is to declare their intention of protecting their special interests in the said districts. Whether any Power was displeased with that declaration or not, is another question, but the fact remains that the Powers have expressed no opinion for or against it, nor have the two nations ever approached them with a demand for recognition of their claims.

JAPANESE PATENTS.

Some attention is being attracted at present to the question of patents registered in Japan. It appears that so far as they furnish an evidence of inventive genius these patents are not very eloquent. They are neither very numerous nor very representative of useful articles. In the year 1885 the number of applications for patents in Japan, excluding foreign inventions, was 425 and in the year 1911 the number grew to 5,465. So far as numbers are concerned there is nothing to be complained of here, but it appears that very few of the applications made were for really useful purposes. The greater part of them were petty affairs, serving simply for a temporary purpose. In fact these distinctions of quality is said to be very marked, for whereas out of 800 applications made by foreign subjects in 1911, only 752 were rejected, a very much larger proportion of Japanese applications met with that fate. One explanation given of the numerative superiority of foreign to Japanese patents is that very little inducement offers for patenting articles of Japanese use, but that is hardly a conclusive argument. The more probable explanation is that Japan's provision of machinery is very much inferior to that of great manufacturing countries like England, the United States and Germany. It is a well established fact that inventions emanate mostly from persons who have daily contact with the machines they improve or devise. The prevalent notion that inventions are made by men working in studios with paper and pencil is not supported by statistics.

MEXICAN CUSTOMS DUTIES.

The Mexican Government has promulgated a law according to which an additional duty of 5 per cent. will be levied over and above the ordinary customs duties on and after September 1st this year till June 30th next year.

THE TOURIST BUREAU.

There has lately been formed in Japan an association calling itself the Japan Tourist Bureau. It is an official affair, and has its headquarters at Gokukubashi. The idea is to collect from all quarters information useful to foreign tourists, and a representative, Mr. Ikuno, is now travelling in Europe conducting investigations. Meanwhile, the *Fiji Shimpō* asks all foreigners, whether residents or travellers in Japan, to forward to the bureau a statement of the various improvements that suggest themselves, or the faults calling for remedy in the treatment of foreigners in this country. This is certainly a very wise move, but as to its success there will be some scepticism. For many years back there has been an association called the Kihin-kai, which has honestly and industriously worked to promote the objects which the new Bureau contemplates, but truly it may be doubted whether the Kihin kai's achievements have been at all commensurate with its efforts. Many people seem to suppose that the Kihin kai was a money-making concern, whereas never from first to last did it pocket any part of the almost nominal fees collected by it.

THE TROUBLE AT PEKING.

As already reported a few regiments of the former Imperial Body Guards, stationed outside the Tscheng gate at Peking, threaten to break out in mutiny in anticipation of their disbandment in the near future. The arrival of the party of members of the House of Peers has naturally caused some activity in general political circles, and in consequence special surveillance is exercised over the military force, no soldier being allowed to go out at night.

Messages from Peking confirm Reuter's despatch as to the unrest among the Imperial Bodyguard at Peking and the execution of the leaders of the disturbance. It is alleged that the troops were instigated by some of the Royalist party. In spite of the steps taken by the authorities to ensure peace and order, which include the confinement of the men to barracks, considerable anxiety appears to be felt in regard to further developments.

THE FREIGHT RATES ON TEA.

For some time past negotiations have been going on between the Yokohama Shipping Conference and the three Japanese Steamship Companies, namely the Nippon Yusen, the Osaka Shosen and the Toyo Kisen, as to the latter's proposal to decrease the freight duty on tea. It is now reported that the Agents of the foreign shipping companies decided on the 18th to wire to their respective head offices for instructions. The Department of Communications is said to have summoned representatives of each of the three Companies and made them pledge themselves not to insist upon their proposed conditions. In these circumstances it would appear that this question will shortly be settled one way or another, and that unless the Shipping Conference accept the proposed conditions, the American freight trade will again be left to free competition.

THE CHINESE POLITICAL CRISIS.

Tang Shao-i's retirement to Tientsin remains yet unexplained. According to one story he has lost the confidence of the foreign representatives, but this seems an inadequate reason why he should leave the capital, and further, lacks confirmation. It is noticeable that the Premier did not attend the banquet given to the members of the House of Peers at present visiting Peking, by President Yuan Shih-kai. The reason for his absence was given as ill health, but it would seem as if he and the President were no longer on good terms.

The Chinese Premier's departure from the Capital still remains as unaccountable as ever, although there is a plentiful crop of rumours. There seems no doubt that it signifies some dissensions in the Cabinet. According to one of the rumours Tang resigned on the 17th, and has been succeeded by Lu Cheng-hsiang, but there is absolutely no confirmation of this. Another report is that he desires to break up the Cabinet and create one from his own party, and still another is that he has gone to Tientsin to conclude a new loan with the Belgian Syndicate in order to counteract the Six Powers' loan. The mildest suggestion—which is not without humour—is that he has merely gone to Tientsin to visit his family. Yuan Shih-kai is said to have summoned him to return, but at the time of writing there is no news as to his movements.

Tang Shao-i's attitude still remains somewhat of a mystery. According to Reuter he has intimated his intention to retire because he has lost the confidence both of the foreigners and of his own party, and his post has already been temporarily filled. Despatches to the Japanese papers do not go as far as this, however. According to them, despite President Yuan Shih-kai's repeated requests that he would return to Peking, Tang is still at Tientsin. At a meeting of the Cabinet on the 17th inst. it was decided that Tang should be given one more chance to return, when if he failed to do so the Minister for Foreign Affairs would be appointed to the Premiership temporarily. This time Tang is reported to have asked for five days' leave, on the plea of ill health. This request the President has granted, but apparently this is only a prelude to resignation.

Other resignations from the Cabinet are said to be threatening, notably that of Hsiung, the Minister of Finance, and if this is the case it seems certain that the Government will crumble to pieces. The estrangement between Tang Shao-i and Hsiung is said to have now reached such a pitch that there is little hope of any reconciliation between them. The trouble was apparently due to the loan question, Hsiung virtually ignoring Tang's proposals for a domestic loan by continuing his negotiations with the foreign Bankers. Tang's retirement from the Premiership in itself is taken as rendering certain the collapse of the Cabinet, all the members of which were selected and nominated by Yuan and Tang jointly. It is thought they will not remain at their posts in the circumstances. Tang's absence from Peking at the time of the visit of the members of the Japanese House of Peers has caused some umbrage among the Japanese

and seems to render his retention of his post further impossible.

The presence of the members of the House of Peers in Peking is, in fact, a probable reason why Tang's action has not yet resulted in a crisis. Their departure, it is feared, will be the signal for a serious upheaval.

Nevertheless, some despatches report that Tang is determined to return to Peking very shortly. Whether he returns as Premier remains to be seen.

Tang Shao-i despatched his secretary Yang to Peking with a letter of resignation on account of ill health, says a Peking special to the *Chungwa*, despite the fact being manifest that his illness is not of such a serious nature as to necessitate his resignation at this juncture. President Yuan Shih-kai has appointed Lu Cheng-hsiang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to act as Premier *ad interim*, and at the same time has granted Tang Shao-i leave, which fact is generally interpreted as being tantamount to an implicit acceptance of the Premier's resignation. As regards the attitude of Tang, there are several rumours, but this much seems certain, that he has been obliged to quit the Cabinet on account of the loan question.

An interesting feature of the situation is that Lu Cheng-hsiang is said to also intend to resign. He has hitherto been in Tientsin, keeping himself aloof from State affairs despite his appointment to the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs, and it was not until the 14th instant that he entered Peking, urged by President Yuan Shih-kai. His entrance, however, was only to receive the party of Members of the House of Peers from Japan. His appointment to the Premiership *ad interim* came as a surprise and caused him some embarrassment. It is therefore expected that he will not retain the post. Such being the case, Chao Ping-chun, Minister of Home Affairs, is generally regarded as standing in a position to assume the Premiership, and his formal appointment to the post will be published in the near future.

The retirement of Tang Shao-i is believed to be a precursor of the downfall of Yuan, who won the Presidency only through the tactics of Tang Shao-i. In disregard of this fact it seems that Yuan intends to try to retain the political power by employing Hsiung Shih-hing, Tung I-tang and other leaders of the Unionist Party. Hsiung and his party, however, are by no means bound to always favour Yuan, as in the case of Tang, while Chang Pin-lin, the Leader of the Unionist Party, is the very person who once denounced Yuan as an unpardonable traitor. Thus Tang's resignation will make President Yuan's position very difficult.

The departure of Tsai Yuen-pei, the Minister for Education, for Tientsin, presumably in the wake of Tang Shao-i, as reported by Reuter, is not referred to in Japanese despatches, which deal mainly with the movements of the latter statesman. The Premier,—or ex Premier, as he must now be called—was as first reported to have left for Shanghai, but later advices contradict this and say that he declares his intention of returning to Peking to tender his resignation, before the acceptance of which he will not leave North China. The appointment of Lu Cheng-hsiang, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Premier *ad interim*, instead of Hsiung Shih-hing the Finance Minister, or Chao Pin-chun, the War Minister, seems to be generally approved, both the latter being on ill terms with Tang.

The arrival of Sun Yat sen and Hwang Hsing at Peking, where they are expected shortly, will undoubtedly have a great effect on the political situation, but whether for good or evil it is hard at present to determine.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.

On the 14th instant a meeting of the outside members of the *Seiyukai* was held at the Maple Club under the auspices of Mr. Hayashi Homel, a politician of whom not much has been heard lately. The purpose of the meeting was to declare the Party's confidence in the men sent up to represent it in the Lower House of the Diet, and this was effectually achieved by the unanimous adoption of a resolution in the sense that the parliamentary members of the Party might count confidently on the support of the constituencies, and that every possible assistance would be given to carry out the programme of administrative reform now under consideration by the Committee under the presidency of Marquis Saionji. A great deal of interest attaches to the attitude which the *Seiyukai* non-parliamentary members are likely to assume towards this question of reform. One may almost say that the problem has been before the nation from the earliest days of constitutional Government. There has always been a feeling that very much larger reforms and more efficacious economies might be effected if the subject were taken up in full earnest. But no statesman has ever adopted administrative reform as the final plank of a constitutional platform. The Popular Party will of course do everything in its power to ridicule and discredit the work of the Committee now presided over by Marquis Saionji. But the whole of the Unionist Party are pretty sure to be found with feet strongly planted in support of the *Seiyukai*. This meeting of the great Party's non-parliamentary members thus acquires much importance.

RICE.

The appreciation of rice continues with little or no interruption, and it is said that the Government has now decided to suspend all transactions whether of buying or selling for delivery during the current month or the following month. But there is no confidence that even this drastic measure will be successful. In fact there appears to be a general feeling of bewilderment, and it will soon become a practical question whether the middle lower classes will have to be content with some inferior form of the cereal or to give up rice-eating altogether. The mystery of the thing adds not a little to the interest, for no one ventures to speak any longer in the confident terms that were constantly heard during recent months.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

As already reported, the negotiations as to the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank are making rapid progress. The first general meeting of the organizing committee will be held on the 24th instant and the second general meeting on the 3rd proximo, when the organization of the Bank will be completed. As regards the relations of the Franco-Japanese Bank and the Six Powers' Syndicate, no reports are yet to hand, but it seems that the Bank will not in any way be restricted in its activity by the Powers' Syndicate or the Indo China Bank, so long as their operations do not directly clash, an agreement to refrain from competition being concluded with the Indo-China Bank.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Some time ago it was stated by Tokyo journals that an agreement had been entered into by the Japanese government and the Great Northern Telegraph Company for the purchase by the former of the lines of telegraph from Shanghai to Nagasaki and from Fusan to Vladivostok. It was certainly an anomalous state of affairs that the Japanese should own the wires from Shanghai to Vladivostok with the exception of an intermediate portion. But it subsequently transpired that the purchase could not be conveniently effected, inasmuch as although the Japanese agreement with the Great Northern Company expired in December, the agreement with China had a considerable time still to run, and it seemed as though this complication would interrupt the purchase. But we now learn that this difficulty is not insuperable, and that negotiations have been renewed.

The negotiations of the Japanese Government with the Great Northern Telegraph Company for the acquirement of the cables between Nagasaki and Shanghai and Vladivostok appear to be making favourable progress. As our readers are aware the Company holds a monopoly in the right of landing cables at Shanghai and Vladivostok till the year 1930, so that the acquirement of the lines is a matter of peculiar difficulty, more especially as they form one of the chief sources of income of the Company.

It is now stated, however, that the Company has agreed to sell the Nagasaki-Shanghai line to the Government and decrease the charges on the Nagasaki-Vladivostok line.

The Great Northern Telegraph Company's privilege of landing on the soil of Japan its cables between Nagasaki and Shanghai and between Nagasaki and Vladivostok expires on the 28th of December next, and the Japanese Government intends to avail itself of this opportunity to purchase the cables from diplomatic and commercial considerations. On the other hand, the Company's charters from the Russian and Chinese Governments to land their cables extends to 1930. As the high charges are made of 48 *sen* per word for ordinary messages and 18 *sen* for Press service between Nagasaki and Shanghai, and 72 *sen* per word between Nagasaki and Vladivostok, these two lines are a great source of revenue to the Great Northern Company, and some doubts were felt as to the success of the Japanese overtures to take the line over. The present indications are that the Company will accede to the surrender of the Nagasaki-Shanghai line, but will demand a further extension of its privilege to use the Russian line on condition that it reduces its charges to a reasonable rate.

FUJI PAPER MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

In a recent issue of this journal it was stated that the affairs of the Fuji Paper Manufacturing Company had fallen into an evil condition owing mainly to undue fixing of the Company's capital. It would now seem that these charges are not firmly based on facts, but are begotten of a conspiracy among a certain number of shareholders who are endeavouring to discredit the present Board of Directors. A meeting of principal shareholders has been called for

on the 17th instant, and a full statement of affairs is then promised.

The Fuji Paper Manufacturing Company, whose shares have been gradually declining in price on the Stock Exchange during the last few weeks, is said to be in anything but prosperous circumstances. According to the *Fiji Shimpō*, the Company's liabilities consist of the paid-up capital of 6,300,000 *yen*, a reserve of 700,000 *yen* and a loan of 3,500,000 *yen*, of which 9,800,000 *yen* is sunk in the shape of plant and machines. This in itself is an unhealthy state of things, but when it is remembered that the valuation of plant, etc. was increased in 1909 from *yen* 7,800,000 to the present figure without any justifiable cause, there is no wonder that the Company's shares should depreciate. Under ordinary circumstances, says the paper from which we are quoting, from five to ten per cent. must be written off for wear of machinery, whilst buildings must be similarly treated. Only the land on which the factories are standing is yearly increasing in value, but in the case of lands owned by the Fuji Paper Manufacturing Company which are valued on their timber, their value must decrease with the progress of felling operations. In fact the hills and fields at the foot of Mt. Fuji which are in the possession of the Company, have already been nearly deforested, though their lands in Hokkaido may have a small portion still untouched. To reduce the estimated value of its assets to five million *yen* would have been only proper, but the Company, by taking an opposite course, is obliged to acknowledge a deficit of over four million *yen*. Unless half the present number of its shares be cancelled, there is no prospect of the Company being able to regain its position.

POLITICAL INTRIGUES IN CHINA.

According to reports received in a certain quarter, the Governor of Yunnan advised President Yuan Shih-kai to give a Government office to Liang Chi-chow, but the branch society at Canton of the Tangminhui faction is said to have warned the President not to employ Kang Yu-wei or Liang Chi-chow, since they aimed at the destruction of the Republic. It is also reported that Hu Han-min, in the name of the Governor, wired to Yuan Shih-kai, Li Yuan-hang, the Cabinet and the Governors of the different provinces to the effect that it would be detrimental to the foundation of the Republic to employ Liang Chi-chow, who is opposed to the present Government system. The Canton Assembly will shortly sit to discuss a proposal to deprive both Kang Yu-wei and Liang Chi-chow of their rights as Chinese citizens.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

It has hitherto been the custom to distinguish between national bonds and treasury bills as well as railway stocks in calculating securities for purposes of official transactions. Thus while national bonds were accepted as securities at their face value, Treasury bills or railway stocks were counted at only 80 per cent. of their market value. This distinction has always been regarded as somewhat anomalous. It amounted to discrimination against various classes of State property. Whether the obvious anomaly of such a system has been recognized, or whether the question is one of convenience in the matter of issuing Treasury bills and railway stocks, we do not pretend to say, but at any rate the anomaly is now abolished and all these securities will rank on an equal footing when taken on trust by the State.

THE TIENTSIN INSURANCE CASE.

It is evident that much importance is attached to the decision of the law courts in Tientsin with respect to the liability of insurance companies for the wholesale destruction of property which took place during the riots of the 2nd of March. According to news received on Wednesday, the principal policy-writers were English companies, but it now comes out that Japanese, German and American insurance companies are also concerned. The Consuls of the Powers whose nationals are involved find themselves called upon to solve a very formidable problem, and they are naturally disposed to treat the matter with the utmost care. Whichever way the judgment goes, there will be much discontent, and if the decision is in favour of the foreign companies we may look for a boycott on a large scale.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who arrived at Hong-kong on the 18th instant, has been interviewed by a Press representative. He is quoted by the *Tokyo Asahi* as remarking that it is his aim to make Canton a model province, for which purpose he is employing every possible means. Wang Ho-shun and others have been persuaded to abandon their contemplated intrigues, and in the conflict between the Governor and the Provincial Assembly a compromise has been effected, so that conditions in Canton are now peaceful. Dr. Sun also stated that the future of China depends on her finances, and he is prosecuting a thorough study into the financial policy to be followed in order to consolidate the basis of the Republic.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Monday, June 17.

The morning market started a little active, but the afternoon was generally dull, although not without some signs of improvement as compared with the preceding day.

Tuesday, June 18.

Some slight activity was maintained throughout the morning transactions all round, but the market generally slackened in the afternoon.

Wednesday, June 19.

The morning market generally maintained activity, but the afternoon session slightly slackened, although with an upward tendency towards the end.

Thursday, June 20.

Influenced by reports of disturbances in China, both the morning and afternoon markets started weak, with even a further downward tendency toward the end. The closing prices for forwards were:—

June 19th. June 20th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	—	—	—	—
Yusen Kaisha.....	650	116.00	—	.50
Toyo Kisen.....	48.03	48.10	+	.10
Specie Bank.....	—	218.40	—	—
Tanko Kisen.....	20.75	20.60	—	.15
Tokyo Gas.....	71.65	71.35	—	.30
Tokyo Denso.....	70.30	70.00	—	.30
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	89.45	89.30	—	.25
Tokyo Spinning.....	53.40	53.20	—	.20
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	113.70	113.50	—	.20
Beer.....	86.20	86.15	—	.05
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	67.00	65.60	—	1.40
Nippon Oil.....	73.50	72.55	—	.95
Rice Exchange.....	107.60	106.50	—	1.10
Stock Exchange.....	157.50	153.80	—	3.70

THE FACTORY SYSTEM.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 18.)

ONE advantage that Japan has over the countries of the West is that she is able to profit by their hard-won experience in industrial development and avoid all the errors into which they fell,—errors which left scars still visible on the industrial organization. Rapid transitions must always entail evils, and when the transition is one in which the whole nation is involved, the evils to be avoided are proportionately larger and demand more efficient safeguards,—safeguards which, it may be suggested, should be directed towards preventing the evils from becoming established rather than endeavouring to mitigate their effect after they have attained complete control. The history of industrialism in England unfortunately affords many examples of the difficulty of extirpating evils when they have become deep-rooted, and it is not too much to say that a good many of the labour troubles of to-day have their origin in the neglect of legislators to tackle the problems involved in the change from agricultural to industrial conditions at the initial stage. The modern industrial system, which centres round the factory, had its beginning towards the end of the 18th century. The word "factory" itself occurs for the first time in print in 1792, although the steps leading up to their establishment began as far back as 1736 and the first factory was itself built in 1771. Within a very short period the factory movement was in full swing, the inventions to facilitate weaving and spinning making this joint method of working exceedingly profitable. JOHN WESLEY records a case where a mill-owner with a capital of £500 in a few years turned it into £50,000, and there are innumerable other instances showing how the new methods of working raised the mill owners to affluence, while the weavers were impoverished. The hand-workers suffered terribly as mechanical appliances were introduced, and groups of desperate men tried to stem the tide of progress by smashing the machines, which only resulted in widening the breach between the masters and the men. Although naturally the increased production which followed the introduction of machinery allowed England to extend her markets, a large part of the wealth of the mill-owners was undoubtedly drawn from the workers. Where before, the wealth accruing from the work had been spread more or less equally over the whole body of workers, the larger proportion now tended to flow into the hands of the minority at the expense of the majority. The mill-owners pushed their rapacity to inordinate lengths, which, thanks to the impoverishment of the people, was an easy task. Pauper children were obtained from the workhouses at nominal wages, often at none at all, and

were worked for hours which, were they not seriously recorded in Blue Books, would seem incredible. The Napoleonic wars, with the Orders in Council which cut off England's trade with the Continent, made matters worse, the manufacturers, with their market stopped, seeking to recruit yet still cheaper labour, while the taxes for carrying on the war weighed heavily on the people. The result was inevitable. The workers were driven to combine against the masters, at first secretly, but later openly in trade unions, and the foundations of Socialism were laid. In spite of the ample evidence as to the evils that had grown up in the factory system and the numerous parliamentary inquiries, it was not till well on in the 19th century that any effective legislation was passed, legislation which has since received numerous additions. If the evils that were early seen to arise in the factory system when the owners were left unchecked had been dealt with at once, they could have been greatly mitigated without in any way affecting the trade. The mill-owners, it is true, would not have been able to make fortunes so rapidly, as a larger part of the profits would have gone to the workers in the form of better wages, but the output would have been the same. Indeed, it may be suggested that the output would have been larger or of better quality if the child workers had been replaced by adults. The Factory Bill which has been passed in Japan is a comparatively mild measure of reform, but the delay in its enforcement, on the protest of the factory-owners, is every year serving to make its provisions more nugatory. The argument that any interference with the development of the factory system will injure Japan's foreign trade does not seem a sound one, since it suggests that the enrichment of the owners is of greater importance than the happiness of the workers. It is true that, other things being equal, the growth of Japan's foreign trade will add to the wealth of the country and therefore of the people; but such an equality does not obtain when the workers receive an unfairly low proportion of the profits, or, to put it in another way, when child workers are employed because they can be obtained at low wages. Even from the point of view of self interest the matter is pressing, for if the many complaints as to the inferiority of Japanese goods are warranted, the conclusion may rightly be drawn that the employment of child labour—that is of cheap labour—is a penny wise and pound foolish policy.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 19.)

WHETHER Reuter's correspondent at Peking is correct in describing the present situation in China as one of the most critical phases through which the country has ever passed may be open to

doubt, but there is only too much reason to believe that but little is wanted to plunge the country into anarchy and disruption. Canton is said to be on the point of secession, if it has not already seceded, and with the unrest prevailing in various parts of the country, there is danger of such an example being followed by other provinces. The Republican Government has, in fact, failed to impress itself on the country. As a cohesive force its influence has been practically imperceptible, while its total absence of authority renders what strength it has useless. H. E. TANG SHAO-I'S departure from Peking may admit of some reasonable explanation, although none is forthcoming at the time of writing, but it is to be feared that it signifies some friction which renders his position no longer tenable. For some time there have been rumours not only of internal dissensions in the National Council, but also of trouble between the Council and the Cabinet, whose measures of reform the national representatives are said to have continually opposed and thwarted, not apparently on grounds of policy but from sheer combativeness. It is easy to understand how a body of inexperienced, untried men may show an excess of caution in dealing with the questions placed before it by the Cabinet, but solidarity is so absolutely necessary for China at the present moment that such an attitude is greatly to be regretted. The crux of the situation is the loan question. While the National Council favoured the raising of a domestic loan, the Cabinet seems from the first to have regarded the possibility of success in such an undertaking with great pessimism. The recent statement of the Finance Minister revealed the attitude of the Cabinet when he said that he was prepared to float a domestic loan in preference to a foreign loan if it were possible, but that the necessities of the Government compelled it to take prompt action, and if funds were not forthcoming quickly at home they must seek them abroad, since otherwise the country would be thrown into a state of turmoil which would cost it thousands of taels to suppress. HSUNG, the Minister of Finance, has been hotly attacked on the question of the foreign loan, on the ground of the lack of patriotism displayed in consenting to foreign supervision of China's finances. It does not appear, however, that these attacks are warranted. As already pointed out, the Powers could certainly not float a loan unless they were able to give some assurance to the subscribers that the money will be devoted to the purposes for which it is intended. Unfortunately this question of supervision has been seized upon by the more hot-headed as involving a loss of China's independence, and some attempts have been made to stir up anti-foreign feeling. It would indeed be exceedingly regrettable if the revolution, which began purely as a national movement, should end in the outbreak of an anti-foreign crusade.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The news that Mr. John Carey Hall, H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Yokohama, has been honoured by his Sovereign, in connexion with the Birthday Honours, with the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, will be received with pleasure by Mr. Hall's wide circle of friends.

At the time of the Coronation we referred to the omission of Mr. Hall's name from the list of recipients of honours, and expressed a hope that his long and valuable services would later receive due appreciation. This hope has now been fulfilled. Mr. Hall has been connected with Japan since 1867, when he came out as a student interpreter, and during the forty-five years that have elapsed since then he has acted or officiated as Consul at all the open ports of Japan, besides performing other duties. His conscientiousness, impartiality and kindness, have won him the affection and respect of both the Japanese and the foreign community.

Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, the ex-Consul-General at Seoul, who has now retired from the service, also receives the same decoration. Mr. Bonar has been long and honourably connected with the British Consular Service in Japan. His many friends will join with us in congratulating him on the honour he has received.

FULL LIST.

The Birthday Honours are given in a despatch to the Shanghai papers.

Peerages of the United Kingdom have been conferred on the Earl of Carrick (in the Irish Peerage)—Field Marshal Sir W. G. Nicholson, G.C.B. (First Military Member of the Army Council), Sir Francis Allston Channing (formerly Liberal member for East Northamptonshire), and Sir Thomas Borthwick, Bart., Chairman of the Midlothian Liberal Association.

The following have been appointed Privy Counsellors:—Lord Richard Frederick Cavendish, ex M.P. (Liberal-Unionist); Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B.; Mr. Charles Frederick Gurney Masterman, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Liberal member for Bethnal Green; Sir David Brynmor Jones, Liberal member for Swansea Boroughs; Sir Henry James Dalziel, Liberal member for Kirkcaldy Burghs; and Sir Albert Spicer, Bart. Liberal member for Central Hackney.

Nine Baronetcies have been created, the recipients including Mr. Gilbert Henry, J.P., (Chairman of the London and North-Western Railway); Mr. Harold Lincoln Tangye, M.I.M.E., F.R.G.; Mr. Alexander Cross, formerly Liberal M.P. for Darnlie, Glasgow; Mr. Rickman John Godlee, Hon. Surgeon in Ordinary to the King; Lieut.-Colonel William Hutcheson Poe, C.B.; Mr. William Phipson Beale, Liberal member for South Ayrshire; and Mr. Stuart Montagu Samuel, Liberal member for Whitechapel.

Twenty-five Knights have been created, among them being Mr. Norval Watson Helme, Member of Parliament for the Lancaster division of Lancashire; Mr. John M. McCallum, Member of Parliament for Paisley; and Mr. Laurence Charles Edward Downing Dowdall, C.B., head of administrative department, Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

The Knights Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (K.C.M.G.) include Mr. E. D. H. Fraser, Consul-General at Shanghai; Mr. Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia; and Mr. Rodman Palen Roblin, Premier of Manitoba.

The Companions of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) include, in addition to Mr. J. C. Hall and Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, the Hon. R. J. Wilkinson, Colonial Secretary, Singapore; Mr. H. Goffe, ex Consul General at Hankow; Mr. E. S. Scott, First Secretary at the Legation in Peking; and Mr. F. E. Wilkinson, Consul at Nanking.

COMPANY DIVIDENDS.

Commenting upon the dividends paid by the different Japanese companies, the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says in an editorial:—

While it is still open to question whether the economic conditions are really beginning to recover, it nevertheless remains a fact that the business returns of the different industrial companies for the first half of the current fiscal year are decidedly reassuring, compared with the results for the preceding term. In particular is this the case with the spinning companies, whose output is always short of the demand, on account of the increased consumption both at home and in China. In this context the following table will be read with interest:

Names of Companies.	Dividend for Current Term.	Dividend for Preceding Term.	Dividend for Term before last.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Nippon Yusen S.S.	10	10	10
Japan-China S.S.	6	6	6
Inland Transport ...	12	12	12
Tobu Railway.	9	6	7
Tokyo Electric Light. ..	10	10	11
Kanekafuchi Spinning ..	14	12	11
Fuji Spinning.	10	10	11
Nishin Spinning.	7	5	—
Settsu Spinning.	20	20	20
Fukushima Spinning. ..	20	16	16
Japan Spinning.	12	8	8
Fuji Paper.	7	6	6
Japan Sugar Refining ..	11	5	5
Tokyo Mushi.	16	12	8
Iwaki Colliery.	50	15	15
Japan Flour Mill.	10	10	10
Iwasaki Cement.	8	8	8
Dojima Cereals.	15	12	11
Osaka Stock Exchange.	9	8	9
Tokyo Cereals.	15	15	13
Tokyo Stock Exchange.	14	14	12

As will be seen from the above figures the dividends of the different companies show an increase from 8 to 10 per cent. or from 10 to 15 per cent., and in some cases even from 15 up to 50 per cent., as compared with the two preceding terms. While the condition of industrial enterprises can not be immediately judged from the above table alone, it is not too hasty to conclude that as a whole the returns for industrial enterprises for the current term are satisfactory so far as the leading companies are concerned. This is certainly a matter for congratulation. Notice should at the same time be taken of the fact that some of the above companies seem to have increased their dividends, not so much on account of their satisfactory working as because of their desire to appear prosperous. As those well informed of the internal conditions of general partnerships must be aware, those in charge of such companies are apt to seek to please shareholders by increasing the dividends to the full capacity. The latter, too, whenever profits show any amount of increase, at once expect and even demand a corresponding increase in their dividends, and never think of appropriating part of such profits for the consolidation of the company. In consequence, when a time of depression arrives, the companies find themselves in difficulties. It is an imperative necessity for the sound development of any company that both its directors and shareholders should convince themselves of the paramount importance of consolidating the basis of the company rather than increasing the amount of dividends. To declare dividends where the business returns show a profit, but otherwise to declare none, honest as it may be, is by no means the way to ensure prosperity. Besides, such a policy would often compel a declaration of dividends even in cases where no profit is shown, the consequences of which would be bankruptcy. It is as necessary for companies as for individuals to lay aside for a rainy day. It is due to lack of prudence in this respect that past history is full of instances where companies, generally known and believed to be sound and prosperous, have suddenly become bankrupt.

DISTURBANCES AT MUKDEN.

SOLDIERS RIOT AND PLUNDER.

An official telegram from Mukden, dated the 19th inst. states that on account of a rising among the troops belonging to the 3rd Regiment stationed outside the North Gate of Mukden, all the City-gates were closed at half past ten, and traffic entirely suspended. The interior of the City is patrolled by a Flying Company commanded by Chang Tso lin. Outside the North Gate a conflagration is going on and the reports of rifles are constantly heard.

According to telephone messages from within the City, the Offices of the Magistrate are guarded by a military force, and guns with blank cartridges are often fired. There are no signs of disturbances breaking out among the soldiers within the City.

A later despatch reports the growing gravity of the situation, a fire having been started within the City, and the soldiers again beginning looting.

The number of mutineers is not known, but looting is still being committed along the streets from the small North Gate to the Great North Gate, and the conflagration is gradually spreading outside the Gate. The outskirts of both the West and South Gates facing towards the Japanese settlement are not yet disturbed, but a spirit of unrest is nevertheless in evidence.

The conflagration outside the North Gate generally subsided about half past three on Thursday morning, when looting practically ceased although intermittent rifle reports were still heard. The area destroyed extends from the North Gate towards the outside of the East Gate, the buildings destroyed numbering about one hundred. The interior of the City is safe on account of the vigilant guard of the Flying Company. No Japanese residents suffered, as they were duly protected by the Japanese police, as well as the military forces.

As regards the cause of the upheaval, it is alleged that the mutineers were instigated by the 20th Division at Hsinmin-fu. The general belief, however, is that the ill feeling entertained by the soldiers in regard to the authorities' decision to force subscription to the Patriotic Loan, suddenly burst out, under the influence of liquor, the day having been the May Festival according to the Chinese calendar.

DOGS IN YOKOHAMA.

AN APPEAL TO THE AUTHORITIES.

Mr. Tatsutaro Hirai, Director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, called on the Commissioner of Police on the 17th inst. and requested that stray dogs should be captured in such a manner as not to bring the matter under public notice preferably in the early morning except under extraordinary circumstances, and that the dogs captured should not be chained at the police station, and that, should a passer-by observe any act of cruelty to animals and report the matter to the nearest police-box or the policeman on patrol, the latter should place confidence in the information given and at once proceed to the spot where the cruel deed was committed so as to take all necessary steps. Mr. Anraku, Police Commissioner, replied to the first demand that much the police desired to comply with the request, it was practically impossible to arrest stray dogs before dawn but he was prepared to listen to any suggestion that might be made on the subject. On the second head, the Commissioner said that an order in the required sense was already given in December last, and as for the third clause he perfectly concurred with the views of Mr. Hirai and pledged himself to see that an order be at once issued to that effect to all subordinate police officers.

The 1st and 8th *Hakata Maru* have been ordered to pay a fine of yen 5,000 each for breach of the regulations relating to trawling.

TRANSLATION OF THE REVISED INSURANCE LAW.

CONTRIBUTED BY DE BECKER, GADSBY AND NAKAMURA.

Provisions of the old Law concerning the Business of Insurance as translated by Dr. Lönholm (with slight alterations when necessary).

Art. 4. The same company must not carry on the business of life insurance and the business of insurance against loss.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 5. A company whose object is insurance against loss must annex to the application for permission the following documents:

1. The statutes;
2. A document showing the method of business;
3. General conditions of insurance;
4. A document showing the standard of calculating premium and reserve.

Art. 6. A company whose object is life insurance must annex to the application for permission in addition to the documents mentioned in the foregoing article a document in which the method of investing reserve is specified.

Art. 8. An insurance company may make alterations in the documents mentioned in Art. 5 and Art. 6 only on obtaining the permission of the competent public authorities.

Art. 9. The affairs of insurance companies are subject to the supervision of the competent public authorities. The latter may issue the necessary rules for the enforcement of the provisions of the documents mentioned in Art. 5 and Art. 6.

Art. 11. If the Government finds on the ground of the management of the affairs of an insurance company or of the state of its property that the continuance of the business is endangered, the Government may order that the prosecution of the business be suspended, or may fix a time within which the method of conducting the affairs of the company or the standard of its accounts must be changed, or may issue any other orders necessary for the protection of the rights of the insured or of the person who is to receive the insurance money.

Art. 13. The liquidation of an insurance company is subject to the supervision of the competent public authorities.

The competent public authorities may at any time make such examination as is necessary for the supervision under the preceding paragraph.

(This paragraph is not given in Dr. Lönholm's translation.)

Provisions as amended by Law No. 18, April 6th, 1912.

Art. 4. The same company must not carry on the business of life insurance and the business of insurance against loss; but a company whose object is life insurance may make reinsurance of life insurance.

Art. 4 (2). When an insurance company applies for permission, the competent public authorities may require a proper amount to be deposited, should such a course be deemed necessary.

The company may substitute securities recognized by the competent public authorities in lieu of the cash deposit mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

(In place of the words "A company whose object is insurance against loss" the words "An insurance company" are to be inserted; and the following number is to be added:—

5. A document showing the method of utilizing property.)

(Repealed.)

(The words "and Art. 6" are to be struck out.)

(The words "and Art. 6" are to be struck out.)

(In place of "that the prosecution of the business be suspended" the words "that the property be deposited or the prosecution of the business suspended" are to be inserted.)

(This paragraph remains the same.)

The competent public authorities may examine into the affairs of liquidation and the state of the property of the company, and may require the property to be deposited or issue any other orders necessary for supervision.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 13 (2). In case an insurance company is dissolved by the cancellation of the permission, liquidators are appointed by the competent public authorities.

The appointment of liquidators as provided in Art. 89, Art. 99 (6) and Art. 226, 2 of the Commercial Code is made by the competent public authorities.

This may be done without the application of any party interested.

The provisions of Art. 93 (2), 2 apply correspondingly to the cases of the preceding two paragraphs.

The competent public authorities may remove a liquidator on the application of an inspector or shareholders representing at least one-tenth of the capital or of at least one-tenth in number of the members; but, as regards members making such application, another standard may be provided by the company's contract.

For any important reason, the competent public authorities may remove liquidators without the application provided in the preceding paragraph.

The provisions of Art. 228, 2 of the Commercial Code do not apply to the liquidators of an insurance company.

Art. 13 (3). In case liquidators are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article, the company may be required to give them remuneration for their services: the amount of such remuneration will be determined by the competent public authorities.

(This article remains the same.)

Art. 20. The provisions of Art. 210 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to joint-stock companies carrying on the business of insurance.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 20 (2). A company may by contract collectively transfer to another company all contracts of insurance of the same standard of calculating reserve.

The company may by the contract mentioned in the preceding paragraph provide that the property of the company be transferred; but it must reserve such property as may be deemed necessary by the competent public authorities for the protection of the interests of the creditors of the company.

The contract mentioned in Paragraph 1 must, in the case of each company, be approved by a resolution passed in a general meeting of shareholders.

The resolution mentioned in the foregoing paragraph must, in the case of the company by which contracts of insurance are to be transferred, be passed in accordance with the provisions of Art. 209 of the Commercial Code.

Art. 20 (3). A company which intends to transfer contracts of insurance must give public notice of the terms of the contract of transfer and of the balance-sheet of each company.

In the public notice mentioned in the preceding paragraph, it must additionally be stated that any insurer who has any objection must present such objection within a fixed time which must not be less than two months.

If insurers who have presented

(This is a new article.)

their objections within the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph exceed one tenth of the whole number of insurers or if the amount for which they are insured exceeds one tenth of the whole amount of insurance money, no transfer of contracts of insurance can be effected.

(This is a new article).

Art. 20 (4). A transfer of contracts of insurance takes effect only after it has been sanctioned by the competent public authorities.

To the application for the sanction mentioned in the preceding paragraph must be annexed the contract of transfer, the minutes of the resolutions passed in the general meeting of shareholders of each company, the inventory and balance-sheet of the same and the document relating to the public notice and objections mentioned in the preceding article.

In addition to the documents mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the competent public authorities may order the production of any other documents as may be deemed necessary.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 20 (5). A company which intends to transfer contracts of insurance may not make any contracts of insurance of the same nature as the contracts of insurance to be transferred from the time when the resolution is passed in a general meeting of shareholders to the time when such contracts of insurance are transferred or until a definite decision not to transfer them has been reached.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 20 (6). When a company whose object is life insurance transfers the whole of its contracts of insurance, it may be provided by the contract of transfer that the sum insured shall be decreased and the premium for the future reduced.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 20 (7). When the reduction of the sum insured is determined in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article, the company which proposes to transfer its contracts of insurance must neither dispose of its property nor undertake obligations from the time of the resolution mentioned in Art. 20 (2), 3 to the time when the contracts of insurance are transferred or a definite decision not to transfer them has been reached: but this does not apply to such expenses as are necessary for the carrying on of the company's business.

When contracts of insurance are transferred, those obligations which have been formed by such contracts of insurance and in respect of which payment has been suspended in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph must be paid after the sum has been reduced according to the rate of reduction of the sum insured as determined by the contract of transfer.

Art. 20 (8). When sanction is granted for a transfer of contracts of insurance, the company must without delay give public notice of the fact. The same applies when such transfer ends in not being effected.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 20 (9). When a company transfers contracts of insurance, the company to which they have been transferred succeeds to the right and duties possessed by the company by which they have been transferred in respect to such contracts of in-

(This is a new article).

(This is a new article).

(This is a new article).

Art. 22. When a company is consolidated with another, the contract of consolidation and the inventory and balance-sheet of each company must be transmitted in case of insurance against loss to all persons insured and in case of life insurance to all insurers, and notice must be given to these persons to present their objections, if they have any, within a fixed time, which must not be less than two months.

If an insured or an insurer does not present any objection within the aforementioned time, he is deemed to consent to the consolidation.

If the insurance money of the persons objecting to the consolidation amounts to one-tenth part or more of the whole insurance money of the company, a consolidation cannot be effected.

When a company has made a consolidation in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing three paragraphs, such consolidation may be set up even against those persons who have objected thereto.

If a consolidation is made without a notice to an insured or an insurer being given, it cannot be set off against such person.

Art. 23. The provisions of Arts. 73, 2, 74, and 77 apply correspondingly to joint-stock companies carrying on insurance business.

Art. 25. To the application for the registration of the dissolution of the company on the ground of consolidation must be annexed a document, showing that the notice as prescribed in Art. 22, 1 has been given, and if any objections have

insurance. The same applies to property which the contract of transfer purports to transfer.

The receipts and expenditures with regard to the contracts of insurance to be transferred and any other alterations taking place with regard to the contracts of insurance or property to be transferred (after the resolution mentioned in Art. 20 (2), paragraph 3 accrue to the transferee company.

Art. 20 (10). A company which has transferred the whole of its contracts of insurance is *ipso facto* dissolved.

Art. 20 (11). Even after dissolution, but only within three months therefrom, a company may pass a resolution as specified in Art. 20 (2), paragraph 3.

The provisions of Art. 78 do not apply in the case of the preceding paragraph, except the contracts of insurance end in not being transferred.

Art. 20 (12). To the application for the registration of dissolution under Art. 20 (10) must be annexed the contract of transfer, the minutes of the resolution of the general meeting of shareholders of each company, a document showing that the public notice as specified in Art. 20 (3) has been given, and, if any objections have been made, that the sums for which the persons objecting are insured are less than one-tenth of the whole number of insurers and that their insurance money is less than one-tenth of the whole amount of the insurance money of the company and a document showing that authorization has been granted for the transfer of the contracts of insurance.

Art. 22. When a company has passed a resolution for consolidation, it must, within two weeks from the day of the authorization of such resolution, give public notice of the tenor of the balance-sheet of each company consolidated.

The provisions of Art. 20 (3), 2 and 3 apply correspondingly in the case of consolidation.

When a consolidation is made in accordance with the provisions of the preceding two paragraphs, such consolidation can be set up against the insurers and any other persons entitled to rights formed by the contract of insurance.

(In place of " , and 77 " the figures " 87 " are to be inserted.)

Art. 25. To the application for the registration of the dissolution on the ground of consolidation must be annexed a document showing that the public notice as prescribed in Art. 22 has been given, and, if any objections have been

been made, that the insurance money of the persons objecting is less than one-tenth of the insurance money of the company.

[Arts. 26-9 have been omitted by Dr. Lönholm as having no interest in foreigners because they treat of Japanese mutual insurance companies.]

Art. 30. A person other than a promoter who intends to be a member must enter in two copies of the instrument of subscription for membership the object of insurance and the sum insured and must sign or seal them; but this does not apply to a person who intends to be a member after the company has registered the formation at the place of the principal place of business.

Instruments of subscription for membership must be made out by the promoters and must contain:

1. The date of making the company contract;
2. The facts specified in Art. 26;
3. The names of contributors towards the foundation-fund and the amount contributed by each of them;
4. The names and domiciles of the promoters;
5. If the promoters are to receive remuneration, the amount of such remuneration;
6. The number of memberships for which subscription is to be invited at the time of formation.

Art. 31. When as many members as previously fixed on have been obtained, the promoters must without delay call the general meeting for organization.

All resolutions in the general meeting for organization must be passed by agreement of not less than three quarters of those present, who must be at least one half of all the members.

The provisions of Art. 43 (of this law) and Art. 156, 1 and 2, Art. 161, 3 and 4 and Art. 163 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to the general meeting for organization of a mutual company.

Art. 32. If the promoters do not call the general meeting for organization within six months after as many members as previously fixed on have been obtained, subscribers may rescind their subscriptions.

Art. 34. Within two weeks from the day when the general meeting for organization was ended, the promoters must register at the place of each place of business:—

1. The facts specified in Art. 26, Nos. 1, 2 and 4-10;
2. Places of business;
3. The names and domiciles of the directors and inspectors.

If any alteration takes place as to the facts mentioned in the preceding paragraph, it must be registered at the place of each place of business within two weeks.

Art. 35. The provisions of Arts. 9, 11-15, 19-38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 119, 133 and 138 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to mutual companies.

made by insurers, that such insurers are less than one-tenth of the whole number of insurers and that their insurance money is less than one-tenth of the whole amount of the insurance money of the company.

(This article remains the same except that the following number is to be added to Paragraph 2:

7. That the subscription for membership may be cancelled if the company is not formed within a fixed period).

(This article remains the same except that in place of "Art. 163" in Paragraph 3 the words "Arts. 163-163 (4)" are to be inserted).

The provisions of Art. 49 (2) apply correspondingly to notice and calls for payment vis-à-vis subscribers for membership.

(This article remains the same except that the following two numbers are added to Paragraph 1:—

4. If directors who are to represent the company are selected their names;
5. If it is provided that two or more directors or a director and a procurator are to represent the company in common, the provisions relating to such representation)

The provisions of Arts. 9, 11-15, 19-38, 40, 41, 44, 44(2), 44(3), 1 and 2, 45, 48(2), 119, 133, 138, 142(2) and 142(3) of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to mutual companies.

The provisions of Art. 73, 1 apply correspondingly in the case of appointment under the provisions of Art. 44(3), 2 of the Commercial Code.

Art. 38. A member cannot avail himself of a set-off against the company as to the amount payable to the company.

(This is a new article).

Art. 41. A member of a mutual company whose object is life insurance may, with the consent of the company, cause another person to succeed to his rights and duties.

(This is a new article).

Art. 44. Members at least one-tenth of the whole number may require a general meeting to be called by producing to the directors a document stating the object of the meeting and the reasons for its calling; but, as regards the exercising of this right, another standard may be fixed by the company contract.

The provisions of Art. 160, 2 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly in the case of the preceding paragraph.

Art. 45. The provisions of Art. 156, 1 and 2, Art. 157, 1, Art. 158, 1, Art. 159, Art. 161, 1, 3 and 4 and Art. 163 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to general meetings of members of a mutual company.

Art. 49. The directors must keep a list of members and enter therein:

1. The names and domiciles of the members;
2. The nature of the contract of insurance, sum insured and premium of each member;
3. The extent of liability of each member in the case of Art. 37, No. 3.

(This is a new article).

Art. 53. The provisions of Arts. 165-167, 169, 170, 174, 2, 176, 177 and 179 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to the directors of a mutual company.

Art. 55. The provisions of Arts. 167, 179-184, 185, 1, 186 and 188 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to the inspectors of a mutual company.

Art. 73. A resolution for voluntary dissolution and for consolidation must be passed by agreement of three-quarters of those present, who must be at least one half of all the members.

The resolution mentioned in the preceding paragraph takes effect only after authorization of the competent public authorities has been obtained.

Art. 77. When a company is dissolved by the cancellation of the permission, liquidators are appointed by the court on the application of any person interested or the public procurator.

(This article remains the same).

Art. 38 (2). In the case of a mutual company, the liability of whose members comes under Nos. 2 or 3 of Art. 37, matters relating to the reduction of the sums insured must be determined by the company contract.

(This article remains the same).

Art. 41 (2). The provisions of Arts. 20 (2), 1-3, 20 (4)-20 (12) apply correspondingly to mutual companies.

(In place of the words "the object of the meeting and the reasons for its calling" the words "the facts forming the subject of the meeting" are to be inserted).

("Art. 158, 1" is to be struck out; and in place of "Art. 163" the words "Arts. 163-163 (4)" are to be inserted.)

(This article remains the same).

Art. 49 (2) The provisions of Art. 172 (2) of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to notices and calls for payment of the company vis-à-vis the members, except matters coming under relations of insurance.

The provisions of Arts. 164, 2, 165-167 (2), 169, 170, 174 (2), 176, 177 and 179 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to the directors of a mutual company.

The provisions of Art. 164, 2, the proviso to Art. 166, Art. 167, Art. 167 (2), Art. 177, Arts. 179-184, Art. 185, 1 and Art. 186 of the Commercial Code apply correspondingly to the inspectors of a mutual company.

(In place of the words "for consolidation" the words "for consolidation or transfer of contracts of insurance" are to be inserted).

(This paragraph remains the same).

(Repealed).

Art. 78. When a company is dissolved by the cause mentioned in No. 2, 3 or 6 of Art. 72, the sum insured must be paid only when the fact by reason of which the sum insured is payable has taken place within one month from the time of dissolution.

After the expiration of the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph the company must pay back the premium for the time which has not elapsed, if its object is insurance against loss, or the amount accumulated on account of the insured, if its object is life insurance.

Art. 81. For any important cause the court may remove liquidators on the application of the inspectors or members at least one-tenth of the whole number; but as regards members making such application, another standard may be fixed by the company contract.

Art. 81. The provisions of Arts. 44, 51 and 54 (of this law), Arts. 84, 90-93, 97, 99, 159, 163, 176, 177, 181, 183, 184, 185, 1, 193, 226, 227, 228, 1, 230, 1, 231-233 of the Commercial Code and Arts. 79, 80 and 83 of the Civil Code apply correspondingly in the case of liquidation of a mutual company.

Art. 85. The list of members of a mutual company is deemed part of the Register and entries in the list of members are deemed registrations, which, however, need not be published.

(A new paragraph is added as mentioned in the opposite column).

Art. 86. Registration of the appointment of procurators of a mutual company is made on the application of the directors.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph apply correspondingly when application is made for the registration of the termination of the powers of representation or removal of procurators.

Art. 88.—The provisions of Art. 84, apply correspondingly when application is made for the registration of an alteration or formation on the ground of dissolution or consolidation of a mutual company.

(This is a new article.)

(In place of the words "one month" the words "three months" are to be inserted).

(This paragraph remains the same).

(Repealed).

The provisions of Arts. 44, 50-52 and 54 (of this law), Arts. 84, 90-93, 93 (2), 2, 97, 99, 157, 159, 163-163 (4), 164, 2, 167 (2), 170, 176, 177, 179, 181, 183, 184, 185, 1, 186, 191-193, 226-227 (2), 228, 1, 230, 231 and 233 of the Commercial Code and Arts. 79, 80 and 83 of the Civil Code apply correspondingly in the case of the liquidation of a mutual company.

(This paragraph remains the same).

The provisions of the preceding paragraph do not apply to the list of members of a company of which all the members bear liability to the extent of the premium.

Art. 86. Registration of the appointment of procurators of a mutual company is made on the application of the directors who are to represent the company. The same applies to the registration of the termination of the powers of representation of a procurator, the facts specified in Art. 173, 1, No. 4 of the Law concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters or any alteration or cessation thereof.

(This article remains the same).

Art. 88 (2). When a mutual company applies for the registration of an alteration on the ground of consolidation, the fact must be stated in the application and the documents specified in Art. 182, 2 of the Law Concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters must be annexed thereto.

When a mutual company applies for the registration of the formation on the ground of consolidation, the fact must be stated in the application and the documents specified in Art. 182, 2 of the Law Concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters and a document showing the capacity of persons appointed in accordance with the provisions of Art. 44 (3), 2 of the Commercial Code must be annexed thereto.

Art. 89. The provisions of Arts. 126, 1 and 3, 136-139, 141-165, 173, 174, 2, 175-178, 186, 193, 1 and 2 and 194 of the Law concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters apply correspondingly to mutual companies.

Art. 97. A person who carries on the business of insurance without having obtained the permission of the competent public authorities is liable to a fine of from ten yen to one thousand yen.

Art. 98. Directors, inspectors, or liquidators of an insurance company are liable to a fine of from ten yen to one thousand yen;

1. If they carry on business other than insurance business;
2. If they carry on life insurance together with business of insurance against loss;
3. If they act in contravention of an order of the competent public authorities;
4. If they obstruct an examination of the competent public authorities;
5. If they without just reason do not allow any inspection of the documents which they are bound to allow according to the provisions of this law, or if they omit to deliver copies or extracts;
6. If they make a distribution of profit in contravention of the provisions of Art. 19;
7. If they proceed with a consolidation in contravention of the provisions of Art. 19;
8. If they act in contravention of the provisions of Art. 95.

(This is a new article.)

(This is a new article.)

Art. 89. The provisions of Arts. 126, 1 and 3, 135 (4), 138 (3), 139, 141-164, 173, 174, 2, 175-178, 186, 193, 1 and 2 and 195 (2) of the Law concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters apply correspondingly in the case of mutual companies.

Art. 97. A person who carries on the business of insurance without having obtained the permission of the competent public authorities is punishable with a fine of not more than one thousand yen.

Art. 98. Directors, inspectors or liquidators of an insurance company are punishable with a fine of from ten yen to one thousand yen, except a criminal penalty is to be imposed for the act:

1. (This number remains the same);
2. (Do.);
3. (Do.);
4. (Do.);
5. If they without just reason do not allow any inspection of documents which they are bound to allow according to the provisions of Art. 93, or if they omit to deliver copies or extracts;
6. If they do not hand over the affairs to the liquidators in case the company is dissolved by the cancellation of the permission;
7. If contracts of insurance are transferred or made in contravention of the provisions of Art. 20 (2), 20 (3) or 20 (5);
8. If in contravention of the provisions of Art. 20 (7), they dispose of property, do acts for undertaking obligations or make payments;
9. If they proceed with consolidation in contravention of the provisions of Art. 22;
10. If they act in contravention of Art. 95.

Art. 98 (2). Directors, inspectors or liquidators of a joint-stock company are punishable with a fine of from five yen to five hundred yen, if they omit to give any public notice as provided in this law or give any false public notice.

Art. 98 (3). Promoters, inspectors or procurators of a mutual company are punishable with penal servitude or imprisonment for not more than one year or by fine of not more than one thousand yen:

1. If, with the purpose to establish a company or to register such fact or to cause it to be registered, they make a fraudulent statement to the court or general meeting of shareholders in regard to the number of members or the undertaking of contributions towards the foundation fund;
2. If, in contravention of the provisions of laws or ordinance or of the company contract, they amortize the foundation fund, pay interest thereon or distribute any surplus;
3. If they dispose of the property of the company for the purposes of speculative trans-

sactions outside the scope of its business.

The provisions of the preceding paragraph do not apply when there is a relevant provision in the Criminal Code.

[Arts. 99-100 have also been omitted by Dr. Lonholm as relating to mutual insurance companies only.]

Art. 99. Promoters, directors, inspectors or liquidators of a mutual company are liable to a fine of from five *yen* to five hundred *yen* :

1. If they omit to make any registration prescribed in this law;
2. If they omit to make any public notification or any notice prescribed in this law; if they make a false public notification or notice;
3. If in contravention of the provisions of Art. 30, 2 they do not make out instruments of subscription for membership, do not enter therein particulars which should be entered or make false entries;
4. If they do not keep at the places of business the company contract, the list of members, the minutes of resolutions passed at general meetings, the inventory, the balance-sheet, the business report, the accounts of the profits and losses and the proposal concerning the amortization of the foundation fund, payment of the interest thereon, reserve fund and distribution of surplus, if they do not enter therein particulars which should be entered, or if they make false entries;
5. If they obstruct any examination of the inspectors under the provisions of Art. 181 of the Commercial Code.

Art. 100. Promoters, directors, inspectors or liquidators of a mutual company are liable to a fine of from ten *yen* to one thousand *yen* :

1. If they make false statements to the public authorities or to a general meeting or conceal facts from them;
2. If in contravention of the provisions of Arts. 56-60 they amortize the foundation-fund, pay interest thereon or distribute any surplus;
3. If they dispose of the property of the company contrary to the provisions of Art. 79, 1;
4. If in contravention of Arts. 78-80 they reduce the liability of the members or proceed with a consolidation;
5. If in contravention of the provisions of Art. 174, 2 of the Commercial Code or Art. 81 of the Civil Code they omit to apply for an adjudication in bankruptcy.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 105. If an insurance company which has been formed before the taking effect of this law and has not received permission for carrying on insurance business acts in contravention of an order of the competent authorities, the court may on application of the public procurator or *ex officio* order the dissolution of the company.

(In place of the words "are liable to a fine." . . . the words "are punishable with a fine, . . . except where a criminal penalty is to be imposed for the act" are to be inserted; and No. 2 being struck out and No. 3 turned into No. 2, the following numbers are to be brought up in successive order; and the following number is to be added;

5. If they without just reason do not allow any inspection of the documents which they are bound to allow according to Art. 50, 2.)

(In place of "are liable to a fine. . . ." the words "are punishable with a fine . . . , except where a Criminal penalty is to be imposed for the act" are to be inserted; and No. 2 being struck out and No. 3 turned into No. 2 the following numbers are to be brought up in successive order; and the following two numbers are to be inserted:—

5. If in order to delay the termination of the liquidation they fix the period mentioned in Art. 79 of the Civil Code in an improper manner;
6. If they make performance to a creditor within the period mentioned in Art. 79 of the Civil Code, or if in contravention of the provisions of Art. 80 (of this law) or of the company contract they distribute the remaining property.)

Art. 100 (2). The provisions of Law No. 52, 1900, apply correspondingly to the offences under this law.

(In place of the words "the court may on application of the public procurator or *ex officio* order the dissolution of the company" the words "the competent public authorities may forbid the prosecution of the business" are to be inserted.)

In such case the provisions of Arts. 126, 1, 135 and 145, 2 of the Law concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters apply correspondingly.

(This is a new article.)

Art. 108. The provisions of Arts. 3, 4, 8-13, 73, 2 and 74 apply correspondingly to insurance companies formed before the taking effect of this law.

Art. 111. The provisions of Arts. 92 and 93 apply correspondingly to limited partnerships or joint-stock companies carrying on insurance business which have been formed before the taking effect of this law.

Art. 112. The provisions of Arts. 20-22 and 77 apply correspondingly to joint-stock companies carrying on insurance business which have been formed before the taking effect of this law.

(This is a new article.)

(This is a new article.)

Art. 113. The provisions of Art. 98 apply correspondingly to managing partners, inspectors, and liquidators of insurance companies formed before the taking effect of this law.

(This is all new.)

If an insurance company is illegally forbidden to prosecute its business, it may bring an action to the Court of Administrative Litigation.

Art. 105 (2). A company which is forbidden to prosecute its business is *ipso facto* dissolved.

In such case the provisions of Arts. 13 (2), 1 and 3, 13 (3), 78, 87 and 98, No. 6 apply correspondingly.

(In place of "13" the figures "13 (3)" are to be inserted.)

(In place of "92 and 93" the figures "92-96" are to be inserted.)

(In place of "77" the figures "25" are to be inserted.)

Art. 112 (2). The provisions of Arts. 20 (2)-20 (12), 22 and 25 apply correspondingly in case a limited partnership carrying on the business of insurance transfers its contracts of insurance to a limited partnership or to a joint-stock company or is consolidated with a joint-stock company; but the resolution for the transfer of contracts of insurance must be passed in accordance with the provisions of Art. 151, 2 of the old Commercial Code.

Art. 112 (3). The provisions of Arts. 22, 25 and 73, 2 (of this law), Arts. 78, 79, 1 and 2 and 83 (3) of the Commercial Code and Art. 201, 1 and 2 of the Law concerning Procedure in Non-Contentious Matters apply correspondingly to the case of a limited partnership carrying on the business of insurance which alters its organization and is made a joint-stock company.

(In place of "Arts. 98" the words "Arts. 98 and 98 (2)" are to be inserted.)

Additional Provisions (to Law No. 18, April 6th 1912.)

Art. 1. The date upon which this law comes into operation shall be determined by Imperial Ordinance.

Art. 2. As from the date on which this law comes into operation the provisions of this law apply even to facts which have taken place before the coming into operation thereof, but without prejudice to the effect produced in accordance with the old provisions.

Art. 3. In case a company formed before the coming into operation of this law has not obtained authorization as to matters which are provided by ordinance to be determined in the document specified in Art. 5, No. 2 or 5, application for such authorization must be made within six months after the coming into operation of this law.

As regards property which is actually invested at the time when the authorization of the preceding paragraph is obtained, the method as to which the authorization has

been obtained may be varied, so long as the method by which the said property is invested is not altered.

Art. 4. When a company has passed a resolution for consolidation before the coming into operation of this law, the old provisions may be followed as regards such consolidation.

Art. 5. The provisions of Art. 38 (2) do not apply to companies formed before the coming into operation of this law.

Art. 6. The provisions of Arts. 4, 5, 7, 9-13, 20 and 21 of the supplementary provisions to Law No. 73, 1911, apply correspondingly to mutual companies.

Art. 7.—As to acts falling under the old penal provisions which have been committed before the coming into operation of this law, such penal provisions are to govern even after the coming into operation of this law.

Art. 8.—As to cases relating to the appointment or removal of liquidators accepted by the court before the coming into operation of this law, the old provisions are still to be followed.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE CURRENT LITERATURE.

ENERGY—HOW TO PRODUCE IT AND HOW TO PRESERVE IT.

In an extra number of the *Jitsugyō no Nihon* published in April, no less than 25 well known writers expressed their views on the above subject. As far as space permits we will reproduce some of the articles in an abbreviated form.

I. *Count Ōkuma*.—To me it seems that life without energy is unworthy of the name of life. Only the energetic really live. Every energetic man has three distinct characteristics. (1) He is dissatisfied with existing circumstances and present attainments; (2) he puts no limit on the amount of work he shall do; (3) he puts no limit on his future activity, determining that death only shall avail for stopping his work. . . . It goes without saying that all mental energy depends on the state of the body. Now in the ordinary course of things as men get older their limbs grow stiff, their muscles hard, and the circulation of the blood is bad. But I have never suffered from any of these inconveniences, perhaps because I have observed the laws of health so carefully. All my blood-vessels are just as they were when I was young.* This keeps my brain and every organ and limb in a state of efficiency.

II. *Mr. Morimura Ichisacemon*.—According to my ideas, for the full development of energy at least seven factors must co-operate with each other. These I will now proceed to discuss. (1) *Parental influence, physical and mental*.—A considerable amount of energy is inherited. In my long business career (Mr. Morimura is now 73 and no Japanese knows the business world better than he), I have come across numerous instances of the display of remarkable energy by men who have been physically weak, and I have found in every instance that either the fathers or the mothers of these men have been noted for their activity.

(2) *Environment and Associates*.—These play a very important part in the development of energy. It is observable that while some children inherit a parent's energy, others, though blessed with energetic parents, grow up idle and spiritless. The fact is that this is often the result of the favourable circumstances in which they are placed when young. They have too good a time. When

everything is provided and everything done for young men, they see little cause for self-exertion. Adversity, difficulties and disappointments often prove most conducive to the development of energy. To be on intimate terms with a few pushing men is also a great advantage. Energy is infectious. One man has the power of making another move up.

(3) *Ambition*.—Without this it is next to impossible for any man to grow energetic. A purposeless life must necessarily be a spiritless life. A man's feelings are always influenced by the object he has in view. It is the hope of realizing that object that sustains him in the midst of his most arduous labours.

(4) *Great Events*.—Most men at one time or other during their lives find themselves in critical situations, when their whole future depends on personal efforts. At such times they often develop such energy as they have never displayed before. I had a striking illustration of this in connection with a business that I was carrying on in New York some time ago. We had a big law case on and the whole future of our business depended on our winning it. Thanks to the tremendous energy displayed by a member of our firm, we won. I had never supposed that this man was capable of putting forth such efforts as he did then. And what was remarkable was the fact that the energy developed at that time continued to be shown subsequently. That great occasions have created great men has been repeatedly demonstrated in the history of the world. Honda Masanobu, one of Ieyasu's chief retainers, was originally so timid that he feared to go into battle. Ieyasu had him strapped to a horse and taken into the midst of a fight. This converted him into one of the boldest warriors of his time.

(5) *Habit*.—Energy has to grow into a habit in order to be very strong. When it has done this, old age does not affect it. In Okayama Prefecture there lives an old man of 80 called Kagawa Shinitsu, who is known to be one of the most energetic men in the Prefecture. Though he is connected with a number of societies and companies and attends all the meetings held, he walks everywhere. He is the first to rise in the house; and though he has six or seven servants, he sweeps the house himself every morning before they are up.

(6) *Convictions*.—In order to be energetic a man must have a fixed belief. I don't mean religious belief, but a belief in certain principles. Energy is earnestness, and earnestness can not

continue for any length of time unless a man has convictions of some kind or other.

(7) *Self-sacrifice and devotion to duty*.—It is true to say that the great zeal of religionists is to be traced to their self-forgetfulness and readiness to sacrifice themselves for others. This same spirit is displayed constantly by people who are not religious and it enables them to accomplish feats which are quite beyond the strength of people who are living lives of selfishness and who are lacking in the altruistic spirit.

III. *Mr. Masuda Kō*.—For the development of energy, health and ambition or avarice are necessary. In the case of persons strong enough to work, the desire to make money suffices to produce perpetual activity. In regard to the possession of ambition or avarice, we Japanese are not behind foreigners, but in the possession of physical strength they surpass us. Work that one of their artisans can do requires two Japanese mechanics. We need to pay more attention to food and to sanitary conditions of all sorts. The Chinese workmen used formerly to be much less energetic than Japanese, but they are gradually developing more spirit and are beginning to prove formidable rivals to our labourers.

IV. *Dr. Inoue Tetsujirō*.—It seems to me that men take far more precautions against the loss of capital than they do against the loss of energy. There is nothing more important than the concentration of energy on certain important undertakings and its conservation at all times. Many young men dissipate the energy they possess in a very foolish way. Instead of concentrating all their strength on the prosecution of one special thing, they dabble in a number of different things that have no relation to each other. . . . Another destroyer of energy is the luxurious life which some people lead—over-eating and excessive drinking are necessarily debilitating. In nature the finest shrubs and trees reach perfection by the conservation of all the strength that they derive from the earth, the sun and the air. There is no waste of any kind. It is the same with human beings: if they live frugal, temperate lives, even at the age of 80 or 90 they can act energetically. The late Dr. Itō Keisuke, the Botanist, who died at the age of 98, displayed great activity up to the last.

THE SHIVUKAI'S SUCCESS AT THE POLLS.

In the pages of the June *Tsūjō* Mr. Asada Kōson has much to say on the position now occupied by the Seiyūkai. Some people are inclined to attribute the success of the Party to the skilful leadership of Marquis Saionji, but Mr. Asada contends that this is a mistake. The control of the Party by its present President is no more effective than that exercised by the late Prince Itō when he was its head. Prince Itō flattered himself that he had founded an ideal party. This Marquis Saionji soon perceived to be a myth, and he set about trying to adapt the Party to the existing political situation in this country, and in this he has succeeded. At heart Marquis Saionji is doubtless a political idealist. He began his career as such when on his return from Paris he contributed articles to the *Tōyō Jiyū Shimbun*; but he perceives plainly enough that in Japan the time is not ripe for the realization of his ideal. What he has done for the Seiyūkai is to nationalize it, to render it a better representative of the state of public opinion in the country, and though there is every reason to think that personally he is as much of an idealist as he ever was, in his management of the Seiyūkai to attempt to realize that ideal is a folly that he would never commit (*Kō wa dōji ni sono risō wo motte tadachi ni Seiyūkai ni okomawan to suru gu uo satoreru ga yue ni, ikka no risō to seidō tōtoku no jishu-teki jigō no aida ni kwakuzen taru kubetu wo tateari*). [He draws a distinct line between his own personal ideal and the practical work of leading the Party.] So we witness the spectacle of a President cherishing his own ideals while his Party jogs along without any ideals at all.

As regards the way the last election was conducted, so far as the Seiyūkai was concerned,

* It is stated by the editor of the *Jitsugyō no Nihon* that Dr. Aoyama, after examining Count Ōkuma, observed that his blood-vessels showed no signs of age at all.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

there was no change. The methods that have been successfully followed in past years were adopted by the Party last month. Though the Nationalists (Kokumin-tō) professed to be actuated by noble principles, to be guided by ideals, to be prompted by a sense of justice and the like, the Seiyūkai candidates made no such professions, but simply employed the means of obtaining votes which experience has shown to be most effective. As regards Government interference with the election, even the greatest enemies of the Government acknowledge that officials acted most impartially. In respect to resort to bribery, all political parties are pretty much on a level. If asked to account for the success of the Seiyūkai at the polls, we can only say that it is to be attributed to the state of opinion on politics among the constituents. It can not be affirmed that the Party has the qualities which deserve the wide support it has received. Yet without those qualities it obtains this support. As things are now situated in this country, the dominance of the Seiyūkai means the dominance of bureaucracy, for the Party is so closely allied to officialdom that the fall of bureaucracy would mean the destruction of the Party. (*Nishia (二) was tsuno ni ryōritsu, kyōron subeki ummai ni aru. Ippō tōmei shite, ippō hitori seison suru wo ozu.*) There was a time when political parties in this country were always opposed to the Government, but that day has gone by and as a result of conferences between Marquis Saionji and Prince Katsura, the Seiyūkai has been converted into a Government organ. The satisfaction with the Seiyūkai shown by the general election held last month can only be regarded as a proof that the bureaucratic form of government now prevailing meets with general approval.

COMMENTS ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The *Taiyō* expresses disappointment at the same way in which the new Minister of Education has endorsed the conservative policy of the late Katsura Government. The observations on the teaching of morality made by the Minister last month seemed to imply that there is some radical difference between Japanese morality and Western morality. The propagation of such narrow-minded views among students can only do harm, says the *Taiyō*. The highest virtue is the same in all countries. To base morality on mere national traditions or notions in this enlightened age is an entire mistake.

Dr. Kikuchi's proposal that the examination system be abolished in all State Schools has not met with much support anywhere. The *Taiyō's* comment on it is that with the class of teachers that are now employed the holding of periodical examinations is a necessity. Moreover, students who love idleness would do little if not spurred on by the necessity of passing examinations.

AN ADDRESS TO YOUNG MEN BY MR. OZAKI YUKIO.

Amid all his multitudinous duties as Mayor of Tōkyō, for many years past Mr. Ozaki has always found time to deliver platform speeches in various parts of the country. He always has something pointed to ray. No man knows the country's ills better than he and no one is more earnest in urging reforms of sundry kinds. In the April Yūden we find a report of a long address delivered by Mr. Ozaki at a meeting of the Ekiyūkai* held in the Saitama-ken on February 11th. It seems to us that considerable interest is attached to certain remarks made by the Mayor of Tōkyō on that occasion. In the course of his speech he had a good deal to say respecting the real character of Saigō Takamori that deserves attention. For quite 20 years, said Mr. Ozaki, I have been puzzling my head over the secret of Saigō's wonderful popularity in this country. We have had any number of remarkable men in Japan, but perhaps it is true to say that taken altogether no one has been so popular as Saigō. Wherein did he so surpass other men? That is a question I

asked myself in vain when a young man. In intelligence and aspiration he was eclipsed by his younger brother Tsugumichi and by other contemporaries of his. In book learning and general scholarship he never reached a very high standard. Was he remarkable as a statesman? In statesmanship he was certainly surpassed by Ōkubo Ich-i-ō. In generalship he had his equals, perhaps even his superiors. Yet so great was his power to attract people that no sooner did he decide to appeal to arms than men who had never seen him in their lives flocked to his standard by the thousand and were all ready to die for him or with him. These men had received no benefits from him and were not connected with him in any way and many of them hailed from remote parts of the country. Had the cause for which he was fighting been one that was calculated to enlist the sympathy of everybody, the case would have been different, but it was in no sense so. Hardly anybody knew why he raised the standard of rebellion. They knew that he regarded Ōkubo as a rival, that was all. Four ideographs were inscribed on his flag. They were 新政厚德 (*Shinsei kōtoku*, "New Government and Great Virtue.") Nothing could exceed the vagueness of this declaration. Nobody would lay down his life for the realization of so indefinite an object as this. Why Saigō took up arms against the Government nobody knew, not even the Government troops who took the field against him. The whole thing was a mystery.* Nothing like it is recorded in the whole of our history. Men flocked to his standard by the thousand and in all parts of the country the enthusiasm felt on his behalf was so great that the Government was at one time greatly alarmed by the proportions the rising was assuming. Though doubtless there have been many men in the country as great as Saigō, it is certain that no man has ever been so universally popular. What was the secret of it? When quite young I thought that if I could only discover this, I could perhaps attain to the same amount of popularity. But all my early endeavours to find out the cause of his popularity failed. If I could say then was that there was a species of magnetism about him that enabled him to exercise a spell over his fellow-men, even though they lived at a distance from him and had never set eyes on him. About the year 1903, I gave up the subject in despair of finding a solution to the problem.

But during the nine years I have been Mayor of Tōkyō it has been my duty to visit all sorts of institutions and to study human nature under a great variety of circumstances. Some truths are discovered by contrast. Constant visits to the Tōkyō Poorhouse and conversations with the Superintendent of the Home as to the class of people who frequent such places, convinced me that the qualities which landed these people in a poorhouse were the exact opposite of those which converted Saigō into the greatest hero Japan has ever had. I was told by the Superintendent of the Poorhouse that great waywardness was the chief cause of the poverty of the inmates. (*Oyoso kono tokoro ni haitta kuru nani, waga mama de nai yatsu wa hotondo tehinin mo arimasenu. Jibun sae yokereba hito wa dō natte mo kamawanai to iu renjū bakari ga mina atsumatte oru.*) It came to this then, that want of sympathy with others landed people in the workhouse. So I argued thus: if lack of sympathy with others is the cause of the descent of certain persons to the lowest state of degradation, it is certainly true that intense devotion to his fellow-men will suffice to exalt man to the very highest position it is possible for a human being to occupy. This devotion Saigō was known to possess, so on the principle that like begets like, he became the darling of the nation. It is stated that in his private life Saigō was one of the most

unselfish men that has ever lived. It was this that brought him so much honour.

I have come to the conclusion that what we Japanese most need to-day is more of the spirit of Saigō, more sympathy with the rest of the world. Japanese no doubt show a great deal of sympathy towards each other, but at the same time they have much antipathy to foreigners. They despise the Chinese and the Koreans far more than Occidentals do, and in America much of the hostility felt towards us is to be traced to the narrow-minded nationalism of the Japanese settled there. Now, the whole future of the nation will depend on our possessing fellow-feeling with foreigners. A nation that does nothing but push its own interests and shows an utter disregard for the welfare and interests of other countries is bound to be disliked and ostracized. The cosmopolitan spirit and broad human sympathy have become one of the necessities of the time. What made Saigō so popular among his fellow countrymen,—the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to others—that will suffice to render us popular as a nation, if we can only cultivate it.

There is something in the mind of a Japanese that renders it very hard for him to act in a manner that pleases aliens. Twice have we established a post bellum benevolent form of Government in Manchuria. It is natural to suppose that that would render us popular among the Chinese, but the reverse is the case. We are more unpopular to-day than ever we were; whereas, on the contrary, the Russians, who have repeatedly oppressed the Chinese, are now much sought after by them. What is the cause of this? There are probably several causes; one is alleged to be that the Russians are freer with their money than Japanese, another that individual Japanese have shown great incapacity. Whatever be the cause, the fact remains that whether they have gone to the East or gone to the West our people have acted in a way that has rendered them unpopular, they have shown a great want of fellow-feeling towards the natives of the countries where they have settled. Unless this can be righted, it is idle to talk about Japan's having a great colonial future before her.

THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER IN SCHOOLS.

Perhaps there is not much that is new to be said on this subject. In an address delivered to the students of the Keiōgijuku a few months ago, Mr. Kamada Eikichi, the President of the University, dwelt on the fact that the character forming influences in State schools to-day are very few and very ineffectual. The authorities are on the horns of a dilemma. School teachers have lost faith in the old system of morals and there is nothing to take its place. The Confucian morality is practically dead. What killed it was the introduction of foreign literature, constitutional government and Western law. Confucian morality is essentially a system of personal despotism. The master or the father possesses supreme authority whether he be good or bad. In case he is bad, the servant or son has no redress against him. This despotic form of government is something that modern Japanese will no longer stand. According to our traditional system of morals, persons in office must be obeyed whether they are good or bad. (*Sono hito ga warukatta naraba hitobito no seimei nasian to iu mono wa tachi-machi kiken wo obayuru.*) If the ruler is good, enormous benefits may come from his rule, but if he is bad, subjects have no redress of any kind.* In modern Japan, law reigns supreme and men can appeal to just laws against the arbitrariness and caprice even of people high in office. Blind, unquestioning obedience is neither given by nor expected from anybody but soldiers. In our modern world the silly old Chinese system of

* A Society whose object it is to give pecuniary and other aid to young men starting out in life, literally "A Guiding and Aiding Society."—(WALTER OR SUMMARY).

* The truth seems to have been that he did it solely for the purpose of pleasing his followers. They had gone far enough to compromise themselves, and to them there seemed no other feasible course to follow than an appeal to the sword.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

* This objection to Confucian morality has never been answered, it seems to us. It is its extreme despotism that has led to its quiet rejection by Japanese young men to-day, very few of whom ever quote Confucian sayings or show any signs of respect for the Confucian code of morals.—(WRITER OR SUMMARY.)

morality can no longer be practised.* But the trouble is that as yet we have no adequate substitute for the Confucian teaching. There is no denying that in pre-Meiji days it did contribute much to the formation of character, and the present lack of faith in it accounts for the fact that most of the young men produced by the present system of education are without many of the good moral qualities of the young men of the first decades of the present era or those of a still earlier period.

BUREAUCRACY, OR PARTY GOVERNMENT?

This subject was treated in five articles published in the *Shin Nihon* a few months ago. The writers were Mr. Shimada Saburō, Mr. Takekoshi Yosaburo, Dr. Uzawa Sōmei, Dr. Takata Sanae and Count Ōki, and they are all opposed to bureaucracy as it is practised in this country to day. The following epitomes will suffice to show the line adopted.

I. *Mr. Takekoshi Yosaburo.* To ask which is preferable, bureaucracy or party government, in a country like ours seems to me to be unallowable. We have a constitution and our people have had the franchise granted to them, and this means that we are committed to party government. If political power is monopolized by the bureaucrats to day, it is because the people do not assert their rights. There are those who argue that the government is better administered when it is in the hands of officials who have no connection with political parties. This has never been proved to be the case, but even if it were so, no such form of government can be established here without the people's consent. Their right to participate in government is unalienable. Bureaucratic government in this country, then, is logically indefensible (*Waga kokujō ni arite wa ite kwanryō seiji wa giron to narazu*). What has given birth to the question of the respective merits of the two forms of government—the bureaucratic and the political party? Nothing else but the backward condition of our political parties. But this state of things is only temporary. These parties have only been in existence a few decades, and what are these in the life of a nation? To say that party government is not feasible because as yet the right kind of party has not made its appearance is very short-sighted.

II. *Uzawa Sōmei.*—To be wrangling over the question whether in the abstract a bureaucratic form of government is not superior to government by political parties, seems to me to be a waste of time. It is undesirable that the country should be governed by cliques of any kind. The bureaucrats in this country owe their position to the Clan leaders. Clannism and bureaucracy are practically the same thing. It is undesirable that political power should be monopolized by one set of officials. But it is equally undesirable that one political party should administer public affairs. It is plain to me that good government depends on the employment of able men whether they are found in the ranks of the bureaucrats or among political parties. We have the constitution and it is the duty of all politicians to try and make it a success. For some time to come the bureaucrats and the leaders of political parties will have to work together. In times past they have occasionally come into collision with each other, but the friction has not lasted long. It has ended in mutual concessions being made. This kind of thing is likely to continue for many years to come. The executive is controlled by the bureaucrats and the legislature by political parties. Neither set of statesmen can act without the other in a great many things. Mutual hostility would be senseless; hence I expect to see the wheels of government made to go smoothly by means of compromise in the future as in the past.

III. *Dr. Takata Sanae.*—There are many kinds of party government, and so it is necessary to distinguish between what is good and what is bad. The American system is certainly bad. In the

United States a change of Government involves the dismissal of most of the officials administering public affairs, down to the most insignificant personages and the employment of novices. This plan is very uneconomical, to say the least of it. The party government that is good is that which makes the Cabinet responsible to the nation and where every change of Cabinet is brought about by public opinion. That this form of government is superior to bureaucracy must be plain to everybody. Bureaucracy means stagnancy and general unprogressiveness. Men receive appointments from favouritism and not because they are well qualified for the posts they occupy. Inefficient men are kept on from personal considerations and some posts are retained by the same families, generation after generation. Though in countries where party government is most successful it is found necessary to keep a number of permanent officials in all Government offices, with each change of Cabinet some new appointments are made which tend to improve the business methods followed by Government employees.

Though political parties in this country do not directly cause changes of Cabinet in the way they do in England, yet in recent years every change of Cabinet has been more or less connected with the attitude of the House of Representatives to the men in power. The late Prince Ito, when at the zenith of his power, boasted that he had formed a Government that was on a level with that of Prince Bismarck in being thoroughly independent of political parties. But he soon found out his mistake, and decided to form the Seiyūkai, with a view to helping bureaucrats to govern the country. This showed the power of political parties in this country. But unfortunately, instead of keeping independent, sticking to principles through thick and thin and refusing to be used as a mere tool for the carrying out of bureaucratic schemes and policies, for enabling despotic Ministers to govern as they please, the Seiyūkai has become a bureaucratic organ or agent. Thus has political party government for the time being been rendered impossible. If what the Constitution has given us has not been realized, the fault lies with political parties themselves. If they remained firm and insisted on controlling the formation of Cabinets and the home and foreign policy of the country, the bureaucrats would have no alternative but to go with the tide and shape their course in accordance with the unalterable traditions of constitutional government.*

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their report of June 14th, state:—

The morning market opened dull and inactive owing to pessimistic rumours on the outcome of the large number of commitments for June delivery still on the books of the Exchange. The only noteworthy rise was Goto Woollens 95 *sen*; the rest fluctuated 5/50 *sen*. Exchange shares Old rose 25 *sen*, but New remained unchanged. The afternoon Session was much better in tone, although business was small; Goto Woollens boomed 5.85 *yen* owing to bullish manipulation, combined with increasing capital. The other notable rises were Specie Bank 75 *sen*, Kanegafuchi Old and New 60 and 45 *sen*, Toyo Mustins 60 *sen* and Nippon Oils 80 *sen*. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 65 and 50 *sen*.

Yesterday, 23,800 shares changed hands.

June 15.

The morning market opened somewhat active in tone and business increased in volume, prices advancing slightly all round, particularly Toyo Mustins 1.85 *yen*. Oils also were firm and rose 10/40 *sen*; Goto Woollens fell 70 *sen* in reaction

* *Seitō seiji wa rikken seiji hitsuzen no hekkwa de ari; mata kaku arubeki hazu de aru. Shikaru ni sono shikarazaru wa mottaku atawazaru ni arazu shite, nasazaru nari to kotauru no hoka wa nai no de aru.*

to yesterday's boom; Exchange shares Old and New rose 35 and 20 *sen*, the undertone being firm. Activity continued in the afternoon session, particularly in Tokyo Woollens which rose 1.20 *yen*, and Toyo Mustins 1 *yen*; Oils were in demand; Hoden, rose 65 and 35 *sen* for Old and New, and Nippon 40 *sen*. Exchange shares were weak and declined 30 and 75 *sen* for Old and New.

Yesterday 17,110 shares changed hands.

June 17.

The tone of the morning market was very irregular, there were many ups and downs. The principal fall was Fuji Paper Old 1.30 *yen*, owing to pessimistic rumours of the state of the Company's affairs, and the principal rises were Tokyo Woollens 1.00 *yen* and Toyo Mustins 1.20 *yen*. The others fluctuated fractionally. Exchange shares Old declined 55 *sen*, and New were unchanged.

The afternoon session was similar in tone. Fuji Paper again fell 45 *sen*, Goto Woollens advanced 85 *sen*, the others fluctuated a few *sen* either way. There were no transactions for Old Exchange shares for the two forward months, but the New declined 10 *sen* only.

On Saturday 30,770 shares changed hands.

June 18.

The activity on the Scrip Market for the past few days, has at last overspread to the Share Market and prices advanced all round this morning; the principal rises were Ina Trams 3.15 *yen*, Ishikari Collieries 2.60 *yen*, Kankoku Gas 2.15 *yen*. Fuji Paper regained 90 *sen*, Tokyo Spinnings 85 *sen*, Fertilisers New 1.40 *yen*, Yokohama Exchange 1.00 *yen* and others 5/55 *sen*. Exchange shares Old and New rose 70 *sen* and 110 respectively.

Activity continued in the afternoon session; there were some falls owing to profit taking; the principal were Keihin Trams 1.65 *yen*, Ina Trams 90 *sen*, Kyushu Collieries 1.00 *yen*, Kankoku Gas 1.90 *yen*. The principal rises were Kanegafuchi Spinnings 1.00 *yen* and other spinings 5/40 *sen*, Sugar 10/65 *sen*, Fertilisers 65 *sen*, Oil 30/45 *sen*; Yokohama Exchange 65 *sen*, and Tokyo Stock Exchange shares again advanced 1.45 *yen* and 1.00 *yen* for Old and New.

Yesterday, 35,590 shares changed hands.

June 19.

The morning market was very active in tone, and lasted over 3 hours. Prices improved all round, especially the following stocks: Yusen 70 *sen*, Toyo Kisen 60 *sen*, Yokohama Specie Bank Old and New 90 *sen* and 1.10 *yen*, Tokyo Trust Co. 1.60 *yen*, Tokyo Electric Lights Old and New 1.25 *yen* and 1.05 *yen*, Fuji Paper 50 *sen*, Fuji Gas Spinnings Old and New 1.55 *yen* and 75 *sen*, Tokyo Spinnings 1.00 *yen* and 60 *sen*, Kanegafuchi 1.45 *yen* and 30 *sen*, Dai Nippon Beer 1.10 *yen*, the rest 5/50 *sen*. Exchange shares Old advanced 85 *sen*, but New declined 15 *sen*.

In the afternoon then was a reaction, owing to profit taking, and all shares declined more or less. Exchange shares Old fell 1.35 *yen* but New rose 55 *sen*.

Yesterday, 55,990 shares changed hands.

June 20.

Although business is gradually increasing in volume, prices were irregular and somewhat weak in tone this morning, owing to carrying over operations, with the following exceptions: Specie Bank New advanced 40 *sen*, Kyushu Collieries 80 *sen*, Spinnings from 15/60 *sen*, and Yokohama Exchange 80 *sen*; the rest of the shares fluctuated 5/30 *sen*. Exchange shares Old declined 15 *sen*, and New 1.05 *yen*. Owing to rumours of riots in Mukden, the tone of the market this afternoon was very pessimistic with regard to the Syndicate Loan, now approaching completion; in consequence shares declined all round with the sole exception of the Specie Bank Old, which advanced 1.10 *yen*. Exchange shares fell 2.20 *yen* and 1.05 *yen* for Old and New.

Yesterday, 66,560 shares changed hands.

* *Konnichi wa mattaku yo no naka ga haratte shimatte oru. Kō in mukashi no Shina-ryū no bakakashi koto wa konnichi de wa okonawarenai.*

LAWN TENNIS.

SATURDAY'S INTER-TOWN MATCHES.

The result of the Ladies' Inter-town Tennis Matches played on Saturday at the Bluff Gardens was as follows:—

DOUBLES.	
Tokyo.	Yokohama.
Miss Hale v. Mrs. Coutts	won by Yokohama, 6.0; 6.1.
Miss Swift v. Mrs. Thomas	
Mme. Clausse v. Mrs. Read	won by Yokohama, 6.3; 6.2.
Mrs. Piggott v. Mrs. Hayward	

SINGLES.	
Mme. Clausse v. Mrs. Read, won by Yokohama,	6.3; 10.8.
Miss K. Hale v. Mrs. Thomas, won by Yokohama,	6.4; 6.1.
Mrs. Kindersley v. Mrs. Clarke, won by Yokohama,	7.5; 6.0.
Miss Swift v. Mrs. Hayward, won by Tokyo,	6.4; 6.0.
Mrs. Piggott v. Mrs. Coutts, won by Yokohama,	6.2; 6.4.

THE TOKYO CHAMPIONSHIP.

The finals in the Tokyo Lawn Tennis championship were played on Saturday the 15th inst., and resulted in a win for Mr. John R. Brinkley. The following is the score:

SINGLES.—(GENTLEMEN).

FIRST HEAT.

Baron Franckenstein v. Asabuki; won by Asabuki,	6.4; 6.4.
Sherbatsky v. Yamasaki; won by Yamasaki,	6.2; 6.1.
Kindersley v. Irwin; won by Irwin,	6.0; 6.2.
Condict v. Kawasaki; won by Kawasaki,	6.2; 6.3.
T. Tanaka v. Crackenthorpe; won by Tanaka,	w.o.
Kuroda v. Yahagi; won by Kuroda,	6.2; 6.3.
Brinkley v. Piggott; won by Brinkley,	6.1; 6.4.

SECOND HEAT.

Asabuki v. Yamasaki; won by Yamasaki,	6.3; 2.6; 6.3.
Irwin v. Kawasaki; won by Kawasaki,	6.1; 7.5.
Tanaka v. Kuroda; won by Kuroda,	6.8; 6.2; 6.4.
Mitchell v. Brinkley; won by Brinkley,	6.4; 6.3.

THIRD HEAT.

Yamasaki v. Kawasaki; won by Kawasaki,	1.9; 6.1; 6.4.
Kuroda v. Brinkley; won by Brinkley,	3.9; 6.0; 6.4.

FINAL.

Kawasaki v. Brinkley; won by Brinkley,	7.9; 4.6; 6.0; 6.3; 6.3.
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DOUBLES (GENTLEMEN).

FIRST HEAT.

The Gentlemen's doubles resulted as follow:—	
Piggott and Kindersley v. Kuroda and Kawasaki;	won by Kuroda and Kawasaki, 6.2; 6.2.
Yamasaki and Asabuki v. Tanaka and Takagi;	won by Yamasaki and Asabuki, 6.3; 6.2.
Bye:—Condict and Brinkley.	

SECOND HEAT.

Mitchell and Franckenstein v. Kuroda and Kawasaki;	won by Mitchell and Franckenstein, 6.6; 6.0; 6.4.
Condict and Brinkley v. Yamasaki and Asabuki;	won by Condict and Brinkley, 6.4; 6.1.

FINAL.

Mitchell and Franckenstein v. Condict and Brinkley;	won by Condict and Brinkley, 5.7; 6.2; 6.1; 6.1.
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LADIES (SINGLES.)

The Ladies Singles resulted in a Victory for Miss K. G. Hall. The score was as follows:—

Miss N. W. Hall v. Miss Swift; won by Miss Swift,	6.1; 6.3.
Bye:—Mrs. Kindersley v. Mrs. Piggott; won by Mrs. Kindersley,	4.6; 6.1; 10.8.
Miss K. G. Hall v. Miss Swift; won by Miss K. G. Hall,	6.4; 7.5.

FINAL.

Miss K. G. Hall v. Mrs. Kindersley; won by Miss K. G. Hall,	6.4; 7.5.
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THE GREAT RAYMOND.

OPENING NIGHT IN YOKOHAMA.

Before a very representative audience "The Great Raymond" made his initial appearance at the Gaiety Theatre last night and proved himself all that the European and Eastern Press have described him to be. He is an entertainer of a very high order and from start to finish succeeded in most effectively mystifying his audience. His tricks are carried out with a skill that deserves the highest praise and are characterised with a cleanness and ease that is very pleasing to the eye. Some of them appear really marvellous, while the majority are quite new to us. His stage equipment is excellent and his personality is one that distinctly appeals.

The entertainment deserves to be well patronised and we would remind our readers that there is a matinee this afternoon and also a performance this evening.

HIS PERFORMANCES IN YOKOHAMA.

It is a pleasure to record the fact that the performances given by "The Great Raymond" at the Gaiety Theatre on Friday and Saturday were most excellent. He proved himself to be an artist in his own line of the first-class; and though one regrets that the attendance at the performances were not larger than they were, Mr. Raymond has the pleasure of knowing that his many presentations of extraordinary illusions and tricks were heartily and deeply appreciated. It may be that the rather small audiences were due to the fact that in the past month we have had so many entertainments at the Gaiety, and we feel certain that that is the only cause; for not from anyone who has seen him, have we heard anything but what was good.

This stage equipments are undoubtedly the most effective and handsome that have been presented in this Port. The company is alert and artistic, whilst he himself has a charm of personality that is almost irresistible.

We feel confident that his visit to Tokyo will be a success; for his wonderful illusions are sure to be appreciated to their full by a Japanese audience; perhaps even more than they are by a European audience.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

DISTRESS AMONG THE POORER CLASSES.

At Yokohama the price of rice has increased to 3 *sho* 5 *go* per *yen*, reckoning in accordance with trade practice obtaining till quite a few years ago, of computing the price of rice by measure against the unit of *yen*. The poorer people are finding it more and more difficult to live, and in consequence of this the number of thefts have been gradually increasing these few months as will be seen from the following figures:—January, 431, February, 425, March, 468, and May 527. The pawnbrokers have an equally dismal tale to tell. Formerly a man would visit his "uncle" five or seven times a month, but now he has nothing left to pledge. His last asset is his rice pot, often with some boiled rice adhering to it. Occasionally he brings in a couple of *tenugui* (handkerchiefs) for which he will demand a loan of ten *sen* or so. One can easily imagine the distress of the poorer classes. The local authorities are of opinion that Negishi jail will very soon be found to have no more room for new arrivals.

THE BANKERS' SYNDICATE.

The third conference of the Bankers' Syndicate was to have been held on Tuesday, according to a telegram received by the Bank of Japan, but in view of the circumstances it was generally felt that a further postponement would be made.

PROFESSOR AUGUST JUNKER.

Professor August Junker of the Tokyo Academy of Music has been granted the honours accorded to officials of the *chokunin* rank, or those appointed by the express command of H.M. the Emperor. The Japanese Government officials are divided into *shinnin* (personally appointed by the Emperor), *chokunin* (by the Emperor's command) *sonin* (after representation to the Emperor), and last of all *hannin* (appointed at the discretion of their seniors.) To the first category belong Ministers of State and other high functionaries. For professors in the Universities to be admitted to the rank of *chokunin*—a rare occurrence—requires a career of special distinction and must presuppose some signal service to the State. Professor Junker is the first foreign musician who has been accorded this distinction. Mr. Tomiogi, acting Principal of the Academy, is reported by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* to have remarked that Mr. Junker, who first entered the service of the Academy in 1899, has constituted himself the leader of the Japanese musical world and especially noteworthy is the service he has rendered the country by developing her flute and string music. Almost all young musicians of the day are his disciples. Another fact worthy of mention that must be ascribed to his credit is that he has formed of the old Naval Band the perfect orchestra that is now. He can count many original compositions on the violin, and is also the author of the music set to the opera *Yaya* which was recently played at the Imperial Theatre. The Professor, in the opinion of the same authority, certainly deserves a page in the musical history of Japan. There is talk of his returning home early next year, but nothing has yet been definitely settled, it being, it is stated, his desire to stay here as long as circumstances will allow.

PATENT MEDICINES.

The Metropolitan Police Bureau has decided to exercise strict surveillance over the advertisements of patent medicines in order to prevent the public being deceived by exaggerated statements as to their virtues. For some time past the authorities have been endeavouring to check the issue of misleading statements as to the power of these patent medicines to cure all diseases, and considerable success has been attained; but in view of the failure of some of the vendors to accept the warnings given by the authorities, steps are now to be taken to deal with them rigorously. For the time being, however, it is not intended to interfere with the advertisements exhibited out of doors on telegraph poles, etc. as reconstruction of these would be expensive. Their renewal, however, will not be allowed.

The Tokyo journal, from which we quote, draws attention to the advertisements of patent medicines warranted to completely cure cancer or tuberculosis, which are constantly appearing, not only in the provincial journals but also in the Tokyo papers. Cancer and tuberculosis are at present incurable diseases, but as drowning people clutch at straws, so those suffering from these diseases are apt to be deceived by the false statements of the vendors. The action of the Metropolitan Police authorities is therefore very timely.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE JAPAN WOODWORK COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—In this morning's issue of the *Mail* you have a paragraph referring to the fire at The Japan Woodwork Company's factory which might lead a casual reader to the conclusion that we had some interest in this Company. We should like to state that we have no interest of any nature in this factory or the Company concerned.

We are Sir, Faithfully Yours,

CHAS. THWAITES & Co.

June 18, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

London, June 13.

Colonel Roosevelt has announced that the platform he will submit to the Chicago Convention will contain an unequivocal declaration in favour of woman's suffrage.

President Taft has now secured 128 out of the 262 contested delegates, only a solitary one being recognised for Colonel Roosevelt.

The mutterings of Colonel Roosevelt's supporters are becoming violent.

Governor Johnson of California has refused to appear before the National Committee, declaring that he will not submit to a trial of his title to property by the thief of it.

Mr. Flynn of Pennsylvania when interviewed stated that if President Taft was fraudulently nominated it would still be possible for Colonel Roosevelt's supporters to divide the Republican vote in the National College, thus throwing the election to a Democrat.

London, June 15.

The National Committee has awarded President Taft all the contested delegates for Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Colonel Roosevelt has left New York for Chicago.

Later.

Colonel Roosevelt has issued a statement that he is going to Chicago in obedience to the unanimous demands of the delegates, and denouncing the knot of professional politicians at the National Committee who are stealing the people's right to make the nomination.

London, June 16.

Owing to the National Committee deciding almost every contested delegation in favour of President Taft, fraudulently as the supporters of Colonel Roosevelt declare, Colonel Roosevelt has gone to Chicago on the very eve of the Convention.

His visit is denounced by his opponents as improper and unparalleled, but Colonel Roosevelt's followers are rejoicing, and are convinced that his presence will not only destroy President Taft's chances but also prevent the selection of a compromise candidate.

The Taftites control the Convention thoroughly, but it is claimed that President Taft has now little chance of election.

Meanwhile the political heat at Chicago is prodigious, even going to the length of fistcuffs between the delegates.

ON THE EVE OF THE CONVENTION.

London, June 18.

Colonel Roosevelt's supporters claim they have secured the secession of 12 supporters of President Taft.

A feature of the situation is the frank declaration of Colonel Roosevelt that he will leave Chicago a Presidential Candidate.

The supporters of Colonel Roosevelt, immediately the Republican Convention meets will move that the National Committee roll be rejected and a Rooseveltite roll be constituted. This includes some eighty alleged stolen delegates and if adopted will

give Colonel Roosevelt control of the Convention.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 17.

The arrival of Colonel Roosevelt at Chicago has brought cohesion into the leadership of his followers, and his wonderful personality is expected to have a strong effect on the handful of wavering delegates who may decide the Convention.

Every doubtful delegate, especially the negroes, is watched outrageously and flattered by the emissaries of both parties.

The hotels and headquarters are packed with gesticulating, wrangling, cigarette smoking crowds.

It is tolerably certain that if Colonel Roosevelt cannot dominate the regular Convention his followers will "bolt" and try to establish a new party.

The question for Republican decision is whether the party is content with the old organisation or is prepared to become a people's party with radical tendencies.

There is little enthusiasm for President Taft, who is merely titular commander-in-chief.

Colonel Roosevelt, on the other hand, is the organiser and leader of the crusade.

To-night there are signs of President Taft's negro delegates wavering.

OPENING OF THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

EXCITING SCENES.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE)

New York, June 18.

The Republican Convention for the nomination of the Presidential candidate has opened at Chicago.

Both President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt are claiming victory and the most exciting scenes are witnessed.

Colonel Roosevelt, at a mass-meeting of his followers yesterday evening, said that if their opponents wanted a sword they should have it.

New York, June 19.

By the election of Mr. Root as the temporary Chairman of the Convention, the adherents of President Taft have won a victory over Colonel Roosevelt's forces.

(REUTER'S SERVICE).

London, June 18.

The excitement at Chicago is intense on the eve of the battle in the Convention, where it is expected that pandemonium will reign.

The supporters of President Taft do not conceal their alarm at the growing desertions from their ranks and the coolness of Colonel Roosevelt's intimates.

The police are drilling specially with a view to emergencies.

The English correspondents, describing the topsy-turvy nature of the situation, compare it with a contest between Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd-George for the Kingship, with the National Liberal Club crammed with rival delegates of the Empire, and the balance of votes controlled by fifty South African negroes.

Colonel Roosevelt, addressing a vast audience in the Auditorium, said: "We are fighting for honesty against naked robbery. It is a great moral and not merely a political issue. President Taft has surrendered himself to the political bosses and the privileged

interests." The working of the Taft principle in the present contest has enabled the professional politicians, through the State Convention, to give President Taft the delegates of Ohio; though Colonel Roosevelt carried the Ohio primaries by 47,000 votes. Also the National Committee chose two Taftites from California, though 250,000 Californians voted for Colonel Roosevelt. These transactions were tantamount to burglary from the people.

GOVERNOR HADLEY'S MOTION.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR TAFT.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE)

New York, June 19.

The supporters of Colonel Roosevelt argue that the election of Senator Root as temporary Chairman of the National Republican Convention was not a conclusive victory for President Taft, since many who are in favour of Colonel Roosevelt as Presidential nominee voted for Senator Root for personal reasons. A better test of the feeling of the delegates will be made to-day, when Governor H. S. Hadley will bring forward his motion to substitute 92 supporters of Roosevelt for Taftites, who are alleged to be sitting fraudulently.

New York, June 20.

The supporters of President Taft have won another victory in the Convention relative to the disposal of the contested seats.

The vote was 564 to 510 in favour of the Committee's decisions.

The session was marked by uproarious demonstrations in favour of Governor Herbert Spencer Hadley of Missouri, which may prove significant.

London, June 20.

The Republican Convention will be occupied with preliminaries until Friday, when the Republican candidate will be nominated.

Colonel Roosevelt's Chief lieutenant has notified the Colonel's supporters that a "bolt" will not be sanctioned under any circumstances.

Both parties are displaying the utmost activity.

The Taftites are putting forth every effort to maintain their majority, but there is greater uncertainty as to the ultimate result.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 19.

President Taft's party has scored the first success in the election of Senator Root as temporary chairman of the Republican Convention by 564 votes to 510 for Mr. McGovern, the candidate of Colonel Roosevelt's party.

The news of the election stirred the Convention tremendously, the hall being filled with raucous and restless shouting.

The supporters of Colonel Roosevelt are evidently furious.

It is unfortunate that the scale was turned by the vote of Washington State, where Colonel Roosevelt was not treated very gently.

Senator Root then took the chair amidst tremendous cheering.

It is evident that Colonel Roosevelt does not monopolise all the popularity.

London, June 20.

President Taft has scored another success in a critical vote taken on the motion introduced by Governor Deneen, a Rooseveltian,

on the question of the contested delegates being rejected by a small majority.

The proceedings generally are conducted in an unparliamentary manner.

Presumably the next business will be to appoint committees responsible for the permanent organisation.

The time spent in discussing technicalities is due to the fact that Colonel Roosevelt is making a fight on the bosses and the maleficent political organisations, rather than on policies.

It is rumoured that Governor Hadley will be the compromise candidate.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE BRITISH CABINET CHANGES.

London, June 13.

Colonel Seely's appointment to the War Office is officially announced.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 13.

It is semi-officially announced at Rome that the Turks lost a thousand killed in the fight on Saturday at Zanzur.

London, June 14.

The Turks and the Arabs yesterday surprised the Italians at Homs, whereupon all the available Italians made a counter-attack on the enemy's flanks and rear, cutting the Turks into two bodies, routing one and surrounding and annihilating the other in the oasis, where 421 bodies were found. Many other Turkish dead were also found along the line of flight.

The Italian losses were two officers and 29 men killed and 297 wounded.

TROUBLE AT TIENTSIN.

London, June 13.

Yesterday evening at Tientsin, Roche, a French bar-tender, shot and killed a private of the Inniskillings and dangerously wounded another in a brawl.

The American soldiers were with difficulty prevented from demolishing the bar.

Roche surrendered to the French police.

THE TRANSPORT WORKERS' STRIKE.

London, June 13.

The national strike of transport workers is making no progress and at the vast majority of ports normal conditions prevail.

The Port of London is busier than hitherto.

London, June 14.

The strike appears to be collapsing.

The Shipping Federation declares that the strike at the Port of London is at an end.

The Strike Committee announces the withdrawal of permits and says the engineers will be called out to-morrow.

PERSIAN RAILWAYS.

London, June 14.

Great Britain is seeking to obtain an option on the railway from Khormusa near Mohammeras to Khoramabad in Persia for a strong English syndicate.

MUTINY OF CHINESE TROOPS.

London, June 14.

It is semi-officially reported from Tsinanfu that Ying's infantry, one regiment of cavalry and one of artillery, mutinied yesterday evening owing to non-payment of salaries for two months.

They have begun looting and burning the city.

The mutineers are old-style soldiers.

It is feared that the Fifth Division will join them and even if they do not it is

doubtful whether they will undertake to suppress the disturbance.

It appears the soldiers and police at Tsinanfu have been troublesome for some weeks.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 14.

It is understood the loan made by the international group will not exceed 10 millions sterling, after which there will be open competition for loan contracts.

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY BILL.

London, June 15.

Despite urgent appeals of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the Reichsrath to pass the Army Bill, the Opposition deputies are obstructing to their utmost.

One deputy spoke for five and a half hours and another for thirteen hours.

THE TSINANFU MUTINY.

London, June 15.

The mutineers at Tsinanfu are conveying their loot homewards and order has been restored.

Later.

After a thousand soldiers had departed from Tsinanfu in the afternoon, the Fifth Division attacked the bands of looters and killed many of them.

London, June 16.

The mutineers on Friday night shot and killed two of their officers.

MUTINY AT MUKDEN.

London, June 15.

A minor mutiny of the soldiers at Mukden is reported.

TROUBLE AT CANTON.

London, June 15.

A report from the Shamien, the foreign settlement at Canton, states that yesterday evening there was rifle-firing opposite the foreign concession, soldiers pursuing the rebels, who kept up an erratic fusillade for ten minutes.

Several passers-by were killed and wounded.

GUN-RUNNING IN CHINA.

London, June 15.

Chinese reports received in Peking says that the Chinese soldiers at Kungchuling discovered a party of Japanese gun-runners.

A conflict ensued, when three Japanese and fourteen Hunghutzes were killed and ten Japanese taken prisoners.

The Japanese Consul-General at Changchun has stated that he will not give protection to Japanese engaged in illegal traffic.

The officials at the Japanese Legation state they have no knowledge of the affair but endorse the Consul-General's policy.

THE CHINESE PRIME MINISTER.

London, June 16.

The Peking Cabinet is considerably concerned at the sudden and unexpected departure of Tang Shao-i for Tientsin by Saturday morning's train, for reasons unknown.

Rumours are plentiful.

THE CANADIAN WHEAT CROP.

London, June 16.

The Canadian Department of Agriculture estimates the western wheat crop at 2,500 million bushels, exceeding that of 1911 by 17,000 bushels.

CHINA CRISIS.

London, June 17.

One of the most critical phases in the history of China has undoubtedly arrived.

Tang Shao-i has not returned to Peking.

The Administration at Canton has telegraphed to the Central Government practically forecasting the complete and permanent independence of Canton.

The cause is apparently dissatisfaction at the Government appointment of Canton officials.

Reports from Shensi, Kwantung and Szchuan disclose considerable unrest.

The Government urgently requires funds before the 19th, the receipt of which would enable it to quell all discontent.

The loan group is meeting with great difficulty owing to the firm attitude of Russia, who appears likely to influence the Paris Bourse against the quotation of the Chinese loan.

The Imperial Guard at the Summer Palace moved towards Peking yesterday night with the avowed intention of demanding payment of the Empress Dowager's allowance.

Yuan Shih-kai's soldiers intercepted them promptly and quelled the disturbance, arresting the leaders, who, it is understood, were executed this morning.

London, June 18.

The financial group, acting on the advice of the Foreign Ministers, is advancing three millions *taels* to the Chinese Government to-day.

Two further advances will be made independently of the European advances, thus averting an immediate crisis.

It appears the Russian and Japanese stipulations include that the proceeds of the forthcoming loan shall not be expended in the development of Manchuria and Mongolia, the two Powers undertaking the neutralisation of those territories.

Russia also demands the right to float a third of her share of the loan in Belgium, to which the French financiers do not agree, in view of Russia's financial obligations to them.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT.

London, June 17.

Colonel Roosevelt has arrived at Chicago and has received an ovation from the concourse. He was met by a brass band at the station and drove to his hotel amid the cheers of the crowd.

TANG SHAO-I.

London, June 18.

Tang Shao-i has informed Liang Shih-i that he intends to retire because he has lost the confidence of the foreigners and of his own party.

Liu Tseng-hsiang has been appointed temporary Premier.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 18.

Notwithstanding the disabilities before it, it is believed that the Paris Conference will result in the inclusion of the Russian and Japanese Bankers.

CANADIAN WHEAT.

London, June 19.

The Canadian wheat crop is estimated at 250 million bushels.

THE KAISER AND THE TSAR.

London, June 19.

The Kaiser and the Tsar will meet in Finnish waters early in July.

Herr Bethmann-Holwegg will be present.

CHINESE CABINET CRISIS.

London, June 19.

Tsai Yuen-pei went quietly to Tientsin yesterday evening.

In official circles it is suspected that he is

following Tang Shao-i, but this is uncertain.

The Legations consider the retirement of Tsai Yuen-pei would be most important, as they fear it would presage a general exit of Tang Shao-i's Cantonese followers, thus depleting the Ministry of the ablest part of its executive officials.

A section of the Assembly is advocating that Wu Ting-fang be made Premier, believing that it would not cause any danger of a partition of North and South China.

Meanwhile the official position is easier.

London, June 19.

The National Assembly yesterday, in special session, approved of the appointment of Liu Tseng-hsiang as temporary Premier.

In the belief that Tang Shao-i has permanently retired, the question of his successor is an absorbing topic.

Many favour Liu Tseng-hsiang because he does not belong to any party.

Hsu Shih-chang's name is also mentioned, while another faction urges the appointment of Li Yuan-hung, with Hsiung Hsi-ling as an alternative.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 19.

The International group met yesterday in Paris.

According to an excellent authority a form of agreement was practically reached.

SOUTHAMPTON STRIKE.

London, June 20.

The Southampton strike has ended and the men are returning to work unconditionally.

AEROPLANE COLLISION.

London, June 20.

The aviators Lieut. Peignian and Captain Dubois collided on their aeroplanes at Douais at a height of 80 feet and fell to the ground a tangled mass.

Both were killed.

By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN."

TURKISH WAR EXPENSES.

London, June 14.

The Turkish Government proposes to raise 1½ to 2 millions new revenue to meet the war expenses.

STRIKE RIOTS AT NEW JERSEY.

London, June 14.

Strike rioters at New Jersey attempted to storm the smelting works and were repulsed after a desperate battle, in which the police were victorious.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, June 14.

Japanese and Chinese Stocks are supported.

THE EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.

London, June 14.

The Emperor Francis Joseph, who is 82 years of age, has resumed his riding exercises after ten months' interruption.

THE WAR IN TRIPOLI.

London, June 14.

The Turkish journals publish a list of a hundred Arabs, including many women and girls, in Tripoli and the districts of Sahel and Meneshe, who have been killed and wounded by the Italians.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

London, June 15.

The present chances are that President Taft will enter the Convention by a bare majority.

The supporters of Colonel Roosevelt, how-

ever, do not expect defeat, relying on his strength in the Northern and Western States.

Their cue is violently to abuse the National Committee which has seated 159 delegates for President Taft and 9 for Colonel Roosevelt.

Bribery is alleged on both sides.

COPPER.

London, June 15.

Copper is quoted at 78¼-78¾. The tone is steady.

THE FRENCH EMBASSY AT ROME.

London, June 17.

M. Legrand, who had charge of the French Embassy at Rome when it acquiesced in the Italian seizure of the Turkish Red Crescent Mission at Cagliari, has been placed on the unattached list.

TURKISH TROOPS AT SMYRNA.

London, June 17.

A special despatch from Smyrna says that 41,000 Turkish troops have arrived and 15,000 more are due shortly.

Abdullah Pasha is in supreme command.

FRANCHISE REFORM.

London, June 18.

The new Government Franchise Registration Bill will abolish over half a million existing votes, mainly opponents of the Government, and also the University Franchise.

Only the vaguest hint is thrown out that the Government may ultimately deal with the redistribution of seats, which is full of anomalies.

The Times describes the Bill as an attempt to jerry-mander the constituencies in the Liberal interests.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 18.

The Italian occupation of Busceifa, it is thought, is probably preliminary to the capture of the important commercial town of Misurata.

Italian susceptibilities are much upset at the attitude of the French Government, which is thought to be unsympathetic and not strictly neutral.

CHOLERA AT BOMBAY.

London, June 19.

A cholera epidemic of a serious character has broken out at Bombay, where there have been 518 cases within a week, with 428 deaths.

AERONAUTICS IN FRANCE.

London, June 19.

The dirigible airship "Conte," with a crew of six, flew for 3½ hours over the city of Paris, rising to a height of 3,025 metres.

THE TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

London, June 20.

The latest dispatch received from Tripoli states that the troops handed at Busceifa are still strengthening their position at Cape Yornig, the advance on Misurata not yet being started.

It is doubtful whether these tactics are wise, as they permit of the gathering of larger forces of Arabs.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

A PLOT AT CANTON.

Canton, June 13.

Wang Ho-shun and other leaders of the Tungminghai party, in conspiracy with Lu Lan-king and other generals of the old insurgent force, and clandestinely backed

by Ming Chi and other officials of the old Government, have been plotting against the Canton Military Government. Consequently the Authorities confiscated 3,000 rifles belonging to the intriguers, and at the same time deprived the troops of the 4th and 5th regiments of the new Army of their arms, as there were reasons to suspect their secret connection with the conspirators. The conspiracy having thus been nipped in the bud, nothing serious is likely to occur.

THE TSINAN DISTURBANCE.

Peking, June 15.

The bulk of the mutineers in Tsinan were practically suppressed by 8 a.m. on Friday last, but the district is still infested with plunderers. Six Japanese shops were looted, but none of the inmates were injured. The conflagration lasted well nigh an hour, from about Friday noon, but was completely suppressed towards evening on account of a heavy rainfall. The situation to-night is still very grave.

Peking, June 16.

Contrary to general expectation the night of the 14th instant passed calmly at Tsinan. Commander Ma, with his men, did his best in maintaining peace and order. Almost all the leading shops and banks within the city suffered; the houses burnt down numbering 105 while the casualties to the insurgents are reported to have been twenty. Judging from the conditions observable on Saturday morning last, there is little prospect of a speedy restoration of peace.

As regards the reports that a company of German troops arrived at Tsinan on the 14th instant on account of the riot in the city, but refrained from entering the streets at the request of the Chinese authorities, the general belief is that these are rumours fabricated with a view to preventing further outrages.

RIOTS IN ANHUI.

Foochow, June 15.

According to a wire from the commander of the cruiser *Mogami* at Foochow, in view of the growing influence of the rioters in Anhui, the Governor of Foochow ordered the Chief of Chuanchowfu to immediately proceed with his men to the scene of the disturbances, in response to an appeal from the Governor of Anhui.

The battle-cruiser *Tatsuta* left Kure for Shanghai on the 17th instant.

PEKING NEWS.

Peking, June 16.

According to a despatch from Tsinan, the Central Post Office of the city is obliged to close its business for a fortnight on account of the trouble. All commercial organs are also in a state of suspension.

An advice from another source reports that General Sung, Governor of the Amur province, is opposed to the establishment of a Republican Government, and captured members of the Tung-minghui and Tung-i-Tang factions and put some of them to death.

As to the proposed censure of Governor Chon decided upon by the Assembly of Kirin province, the State Affairs Bureau instructed the Assembly to effect a compromise. Later the Kirin Assembly drafted a law specifying its rights, and submitted it to the consideration of the Governor who, considering it gave undue weight to the rights of the Assembly, reserved his sanction. The Assembly deems this a slight, and appealed to President Yuan Shih-kai on the

14th instant to give proper instructions to the Governor.

THE TROUBLE AT TSINAN.

Peking, June 17.

Later despatches from Tsinan report that those soldiers of the old Government who refrained from joining the rioters were substantially awarded, while the troops of the 5th Division who fought bravely for the suppression of the mutineers, were duly consoled. At the same time efforts are being made for the capture of the insurgents, about one hundred of whom have already been put to death. Endeavours are also being made for the restoration of the money market to its normal condition.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Hongkong, June 17.

According to a despatch received in a certain quarter, Dr. Sun Yat-sen has been trying, since the 15th instant, to persuade, the leading Chinese merchants of Canton to invest one million dollars in the Bank of Canton, but the latter are said to have declined, pleading the unsteady condition of the money market.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen is expected to leave Hongkong on the 18th instant on board the *Korea*, to meet Hwang Hsing before returning to Peking.

THE DISTURBANCES IN SHANTUNG.

Tientsin, June 18.

On account of the outbreak of disturbances in the vicinity of Yangchiaokon and Hsiastsinghokao in Shantung province, the Magistrate has been requested by the local authorities in the district to immediately dispatch warships.

TANG SHAO-I.

Peking, June 17.

Premier Tang Shao-i has applied for leave on account of ill health, and has been granted five days' furlough. In the meantime, Lu Cheng-hsiang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will act as Premier *ad interim*.

THE TSINAN TROUBLE.

Tientsin, June 18.

A battalion of the 18th Regiment, which had been despatched to the scene of the disturbance, returned to Tsinan on the 16th instant, peace having been gradually restored in all parts. The authorities made a roll-call of the Flying Company on the 16th instant, and kept in the barracks those who were present, regarding those who were absent as having joined the mutineers. The number of the absentees aggregated 430, of whom 300 belonged to the First and Sixth Battalions, and the remaining 130 to the new army under direct control of the Magistrate. The troops now engaged in the restoration of peace are three battalions of Infantry belonging to the 5th Division, one Company of Cavalry, Artillery and Sappers of the same Division, besides a force of constables.

THE UNREST AMONG THE CHINESE TROOPS.

Peking, June 19.

With regard to the rumour circulated that the troops of the Sixth Division at Paoting-fu threaten to rise in mutiny, the facts seem to be that the military authorities purposely invented the rumour in order to give vent to their dissatisfaction in regard to the appointment of Wang Chi-hsiang to the Governorship of Chilin province, the proposed Patriotic

Loan scheme, and the Government's project of disbanding the old Army.

The signs of unrest which the Imperial Bodyguard have been showing for some time past have now practically disappeared, General Tuan Chi-jui having done his utmost to conciliate them.

THE RESTORATION OF ORDER IN SOUTH CHINA.

Shanghai, June 19.

Chiang Tso-pin, Vice-Minister of War, who was to assist Chang Te chuan in the restoration of peace and order in the South, suddenly proceeded to Peking on the 19th instant, *via* Shanghai, under instructions from the Department of War, and Wang Chi-hsiang, ex-Commander of the Third Military Corps, is expected to arrive from Peking in a few days to replace him.

THE HANKOW LOAN.

Hankow, June 20.

There is no prospect of the Hankow loan being successfully concluded with Messrs. Robert Dollar & Co.

FIGHTING AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, June 20.

The local authorities tried to disband the troops, about one hundred strong, stationed within the Huichow Association Hall near Shanghai, by paying each of them a month's salary. The men, however, demanded two months' pay, and rose in mutiny. They were finally suppressed by the troops despatched by the Governor, after a fight in which two of the mutineers were killed and several others wounded.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

CHINESE REPUBLIC.

Berlin, June 13.

The President of the Board of Directors of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, speaking at the general meeting held at Berlin, stated that the situation in China was still unsettled and that the negotiations as to the conclusion of the Syndicate's loan were still pending. It was absolutely justifiable and natural that at such a time of transition effective guarantees and international control of the loan should be demanded.

TURCO ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Government declares that a further occupation of various islands in the Aegean Seas is not intended for the present.

MEXICAN INQUIRY DEMANDED.

The German Minister has demanded that the Mexican Government order a full and reliable investigation into the circumstances which led to the murder of the German Beil at Zakanteras.

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

A new Cabinet has been formed in Portugal, the President of which is Senhor Vasconcellos.

THE MOROCCO TROUBLE.

A Franco-German Commission has been formed for the purpose of investigating the incident which resulted in the destruction of the Renschhausen-farming settlement at Larrasch in Morocco.

AMBASSADORIAL CHANGE.

Berlin, Jun 14.

Prince Heinrich Reuss XXXI, the present Consul-General at Calcutta, has been appointed German Minister to Teheran.

THE CRUISER SQUADRON IN NEW YORK.

The Mayors of New York and the Chief

Burgomaster of Berlin have exchanged telegrams of a very cordial nature on the occasion of the visit of the German Cruiser Squadron to New York.

KAISER AND TSAR.

Either the Prime Minister, M. Kokoffitoff, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Sazanoff, will be present at the meeting between the Kaiser and the Tsar in July.

COWES REGATTA.

Prince Heinrich of Prussia will attend the English sailing regatta at Cowes.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian troops have again fought a victorious battle against the Turks near Lebda, to the East of Tripoli.

ANGLO GERMAN RELATIONS.

Berlin, June 15.

Important conferences between the leading German statesmen have been held at Berlin before the departure of Freiherr von Marschall to his new post in London.

FREEMASONRY ENTENTE.

The Prussian Lodges of Freemasonry have accepted an invitation from the English Grand Lodge to visit England, by which the relations of both countries are expected to be much improved.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Italian Government has decided to carry out a new attack on the Dardanelles after the expiration of the date given by Turkey for the departure of Italian nationals from Turkish Territory.

THE MOROCCAN SULTAN.

Sultan Muley Hafid will remain at Rabat, as a result of the projected journey to Paris via Tangiers having been declined by France.

THE LAWS OF EXCHANGE.

Berlin, June 16.

The international conference on the laws of exchange has been opened at the Hague, 33 States being represented.

RUSSIAN ARMAMENTS.

The Duma has passed a bill providing for the further increase of the Baltic Fleet at an extra cost of 1,000,000,000 roubles.

KING'S PARIS VISIT ABANDONED.

"Political Correspondence" reports that the projected visit of King George V. to Paris has been abandoned.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails up to June 3rd, ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on June 16.

LIGHTERMEN'S STRIKE ENDED.

Berlin, June 17.

The strike of English lightermen must now be regarded as ended.

HAMBURG RACES.

The two year old "Gulliver" from the Graditz stud has won the Hausa grand prize at the races at Hamburg.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENT.

Count Luxburg, the First Secretary of the German Legation at Peking, has been designated as Consul-General at Calcutta.

KAISER AND TSAR.

It is now confirmed that the German Chancellor and the Russian Premier will be present during the interview between the Kaiser and the Tsar which will take place in July at the Schaeren Islands.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN SWEDEN.

The Berlin-Stockholm express has met

with a severe accident in collision with another train near Linköping, South of Stockholm. Three sleeping cars were demolished, 21 persons were killed and many others more or less severely injured.

PORTUGUESE POLITICS.

Signor Vasconcellos, who was commissioned to form a new Portuguese Cabinet, has failed to find candidates for the portfolios.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

A part of the Italian battle fleet has left Tripoli, its destination being, it is supposed, the Aegean Sea.

LIGHTERMEN'S STRIKE ENDED.

Berlin, June 18.

The universal strike of all lightermen outside the London district has to be regarded as having failed. Work has been reopened at Plymouth, Bristol and Swansea. Increasing numbers of lightermen are also returning to work in London, where the strike committee continues, however, to maintain its defiant attitude.

STRIKE IN FRANCE.

The French workmen's union has ordered a universal strike of all French harbour workmen for the 19th of June.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

The *Koelnische Zeitung*, in a leader on Anglo-German relations on the occasion of the departure of the new German Ambassador to London, says that the removal of the distrust between both nations can only be carried out by determined and patient efforts. If an agreement satisfactory to both parties could be found, a peaceful solution of the whole Anglo-German question is certain.

GERMAN-ITALIAN ALLIANCE.

Sign. Giolitti, the Italian Premier, in an interview with a German journalist, emphasized the fact that he had supported, on the strength of his own full conviction, for the past 30 years, the German Italian alliance. He further contradicted the complaints raised against the German Consul at Smyrna, to the effect that he had not protected Italian nationals in a satisfactory manner. He concluded the interview with a statement concerning the soundness of Italian finances.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

An Italian torpedo boat carried out a reconnoitring cruise as far as the Marmora Sea, after having passed the Dardanelles without being checked.

MONGOLIAN RECONCILIATION.

Berlin, June 19.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Mongolian Princes, as a result of a difference with the Russian Agent, Chutukow, have entered into negotiations with China with the object of joining the Republic.

GERMANY.

At the international regatta of the Norddeutsche Regatta Verein, held at the mouth of the River Elbe, 30 yachts are taking part, amongst which is the Kaiser's yacht *Meteor IV*. His Majesty himself being on board. In the large schooner class, Herr von Krupp-Bohlen's *Germania* was first, the Kaiser's yacht being second.

VICE-PRESIDENTS WORLD TOUR.

Herr Paasche, the Vice-President of the German Reichstag, will carry out a tour in Canada, Japan, China and other Far Eastern countries, from whence he will return *via* Suez.

ANGLO GERMAN RELATIONS.

Freiherr Marschall von Biebrstein has

arrived at his post in London. However, he declined to receive any reporters or to give any information as to his mission.

AEGEAN ISLANDS PETITION ITALY.

Representatives of the islands in the Aegean Sea, which have been occupied by the Italians, have directed a petition to Italy asking that they may either be permitted to ally themselves with Greece, or be granted autonomy.

MEDIATION AGAIN REFUSED.

The Sublime Porte has refused a new proposal for mediation, which was tendered by Montenegro.

PRINCE CHIRAS OF SIAM.

Prince Chiras of Siam has had to undergo an abdominal operation at Jena, which was carried out by the well known surgeon Dr. Seker. The Prince is now convalescent at a sanatorium of Professor Binswanger at Jena.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails with dates up to June 4th ex Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on June 18th.

SHIPBUILDING IN JAPAN.

The Mitsubishi Dockyard at Nagasaki and the Kawasaki Dockyard at Kobe are now fully occupied building warships of large dimensions for the Japanese Government, but there are still several ships building for shipping companies, for which the dockyards have received subsidies from the Government. The following is a list of such vessels:—

Builder.	Tonnage.	Owners.
Mitsubishi	10,000.....	Nippon Yusen
Mitsubishi	9,000.....	Toyo Kisen
Mitsubishi	6,000.....	Nippon Yusen
Kawasaki.....	10,000.....	Nippon Yusen
Kawasaki.....	6,000.....	Nippon Yusen
Kawasaki.....	3,000.....	Volunteer Fleet
Kawasaki.....	3,000 (two)...	Railway Board
Kawasaki.....	3,000.....	—
Kawasaki.....	2,000.....	—
Uraga	1,000...	Home Affairs Dep't.

The two ships of the Nippon Yusen of the ten-thousand ton class will be named *Katori Maru* and *Kashima Maru* and will be detailed for service on the European line, and the two others of the 6,000 ton class, named *Yokohama Maru* and *Shidzuoka Maru*, are for the North American line. The Toyo Kisen's boat is for the South American line, the Railway Board for the Shimonoseki-Fusan connection, and the Home Department's (to be named *Noda Maru*) is a dredger for use in the Straits.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A railway collision occurred at Chiba station on Wednesday evening, with the result that two freight cars were capsized and one passenger car derailed. Fortunately there were no casualties.

Support wires that on Wednesday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, a passenger train from Yubari was suddenly overturned while passing through the tunnel between Shikanotani and Shimizu Stations. A large number of passengers were injured, some very severely.

A train which left Nagoya on the 17th inst. conveying reliefs for the troops of the Third Regiment in China, collided with a goods train at Ogaki shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon. A number of the soldiers sustained serious injuries.

CHINESE AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

According to the passengers on board the *Tategami Maru*, which arrived at Nagasaki on the 18th inst. from Vladivostok, the attitude of the Governor of the Coast Province towards the Chinese grows more and more high-handed every

day, the policy of exclusion being still vigorously pursued, and the tolls levied increased from 30 kopeks to 7 roubles 45 kopeks. In place of Chinese workers, who are fast decreasing, the Governor is now employing Russians, who are unaccustomed to much labour and who have shorter working-hours. In these circumstances it is said to take well nigh three days to handle 1,500 tons of cargo. Whether such a policy can be maintained for any length of time is a question, more especially from the economic standpoint.

THE RISING SUN PETROLEUM CO.

A PRESENTATION IN YOKOHAMA.

A very handsome presentation was made on Monday to Mr. M. Spencer Smith on his resignation of his position as Managing Director of the Rising Sun Petroleum Co., Ltd. to take up the position of Director of Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co., Ltd.

A little gift in memory by the staff, consisting of a charming coffee service, was presented to him by Mr. A. P. Scott.

Interesting speeches were made by many of those present, showing that Mr. Spencer Smith carried with him the sincere affection of his numerous friends.

THE "SOSHU MARU" ROBBERY.

NINE PERSONS CHARGED.

Nine Chinese, including a woman, were charged before Mr. Melbourne at the Hongkong Magistracy on the 11th inst. with having, on the morning of May 29th, boarded the steamer *Soshu Maru* of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, and stolen six chests of opium and nine cases of Chinese medicine, valued at \$21,960, and also with having used personal violence toward the mate and other members of the ship's crew.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Company, Mr. Lewis (Johnson, Stokes & Master) represented the male defendants, and Mr. d'Almada Castro represented the female defendant.

Mr. Bowley explained that the *Soshu Maru* was a small steamer belonging to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, plying between Hongkong, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, and Formosa. She was in the harbour on May 28th, made fast to the Company's buoy, and was loading cargo, for her trip up the coast. At about 5.45 p.m. six chests of opium were brought alongside, consigned to one of the coast ports. They were received and weighed by the second officer and were locked up by him in the ship's strong-room. The working of cargo was concluded at about six o'clock that evening and the hatches were battened down and the cargo ports screwed up, and from that time the ship was in charge of a quartermaster. The ship carried seven Japanese officers, including the engineers, but the remainder of the crew were Chinese. Three of the deck cabins on the upper deck stern were occupied by the officers, one by the comradore, another by the quartermasters and some others, and yet another by the ship's boys. The strong-room was in the stern part of the ship on the port side, almost immediately aft of the quartermasters' cabin. When the hatches were battened down there was no means of access to the strong-room except by a door which was always kept locked. At about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, a quartermaster was on duty and the rest of the crew had either turned in or were on shore leave. It appeared that at about that hour a boat came alongside the ship and a number of men clambered on deck. They were armed with revolvers, and they must have divided into two parties. One set entered the comradore's cabin, on the starboard side, and the other set went to the quartermasters' cabin on the port side. They threatened the occupants with revolvers and made them get up, and then tied them to stanchions in the cabins,

The whole affair must have been carried out with celerity and quietness, for the three officers did not hear anything. It appeared that the robbers must then have taken off one of the after hatches, and let themselves down to the 'tween deck. They then opened the port side cargo port, and forced the strong-room door, removing from the strong-room six chests of opium and a number of packages of Chinese medicine. They then vanished. The quartermaster also vanished, but there was no evidence to prove whether he was kidnapped or not. After a time the tallymen or one of the quartermasters recovered sufficiently to waken the officers, who found the men referred to all tied up in their cabins. The boys seemed to have slept through it all. The strong-room had, unfortunately, been repaired, so he was not able to produce anything to show that tools had been used to open the door. The ship left for Swatow on the following day, and on arrival there, one of the lower deck watchmen found a number of tools close to the strong-room door. Those tools did not belong to the ship. Mr. Bowley added that he would produce evidence to show that the stolen cargo was subsequently loaded, either directly, or transhipped, into a two-masted cargo boat, which sailed away through Cap sui mun Pass. Evidence would be also called to show that the steam launch *Hop Fui*, to which five of the defendants belonging, picked up the cargo boat, and towed her away past Lantau, in the direction of Macao. That evidence would connect the steam launch and the defendants with the robbery.

Evidence having been tendered by the Captain and officers of the steamer, the defendants were remanded.

COAL IN CHINA.

WEALTH OF THE FUSHUN FIELD.

A Times correspondent writes:—

The potential wealth of China is so enormous and her people are so industrious that now, with better education and a new Government, up-to-date ideas are permeating her ranks, she must become a most important factor in the economy of the world. As a business man, a mechanic or labourer, the Chinese can quickly learn and soon hold his own with the best. The newly-awakened Chinamen will soon open up and develop the well-known mineral wealth and other resources of their highly-favoured land. Especially abundant are the supplies of all kinds of coal and anthracite. The Far East must very soon have such quantities of coal as will swamp the European and American markets that are in any way open to competition. Considering their respective needs and the cost of living, the modern miners are by no means unjustly treated, and they will improve more and more as their markets increase.

Not only is labour good, reliable, and abundant, but to the natural advantages of coal and iron being found close together and near to either convenient sea ports or to the great inland waterways, should be added the zest with which electricity and labour-saving devices are being introduced. I could write much on the coal mines near Hankow or the even richer ones in Chihli Province near Tientsin—or the great anthracite beds in Honan, or the fine steam coal of Anhui—but I will merely give a brief description of the now famous coal mines which are worked by the South Manchuria Railway Company near Fushun in Manchuria.

This coalfield seems to have been known and worked with quite scientific means, ages ago, by some prehistoric and non-Mongolian race, and then, when this region came into Chinese possession, owing to superstitious fears, it was not touched until the Russians, for a considerable sum, obtained a concession, which later, reverted with the railway to Japan. Here we have, lying from 800 ft. to 1,000 ft. below the surface, an almost solid bed of splendid coal, varying from 120 ft. to 175 ft. in thickness, which is known to

thus extend, with but a few trivial faults or partings, for 10 square miles. The workings below are like huge railway tunnels, or great avenues, with branches in all directions brilliantly illuminated with electric light, and electric trolley lines quietly and swiftly bringing the tubs to the shafts, of which there are five pairs. The air below is fresh and cool, as the ventilation is almost perfect. Fire damp is unknown, and yet all the miners wear Clanny or any Davy safety lamps. Most of the pumping and other machinery is, I am glad to say, of British make. Water gives no trouble, and is always kept well in hand.

Last year the output was about 5,000 to 6,000 tons per day of good coal, which was all quickly sorted and sifted by machinery and divided into different grades within a very few minutes after reaching the surface. Heavy American locomotives haul trucks, each with a capacity of 50 tons, away to the local markets or for export. It is estimated that at 5,000 tons per day this one bed of coal alone will take 500 years before it is worked out. There are other seams below, not so thick or of the same quality, but these are not, as yet worked.

The following is an analysis of the coal, which is practically of one even quality throughout:—Water, 7 per cent.; volatile matter, 40 per cent.; fixed carbon, 48 per cent.; ash, 4 per cent.; sulphur only .8 per cent.; specific gravity, 1.28; calorific power, 6,800.

The miners and helpers, all Chinese, are well paid, as wages go in China, and well cared for, and seem to be contented and happy. The foremen, general superintendents, and clerical staff are all well-educated and highly-paid Japanese.

It is said that the company assesses the cost of coal, unscreened, at the pit mouth at about 3s. to 4s. per ton. The freight to Dairen (Dalny) or Newchwang is not heavy, hence it can place this good gas and steam fuel on board ship at a very low rate.

In Manchuria alone there are great varieties of coal and anthracite awaiting to be exploited, and quite near the Fushun mines is a peculiar kind of almost pure anthracite which resembles coke, having been baked under enormous pressure and then steamed. This is found in an old volcanic region where the strata are broken, but the seams are difficult to work. It is smokeless, and, under a strong draught, has enormous heating powers.

In Korea, quite near a seaport, are rich beds of very hard, bright and almost smokeless coal. In the island of Saghalien, especially the section ceded to Japan, are coal and oil fields, and the whole central regions of China north and south of the Yangtze River are known to have abundance of coal.

THE CHINESE AS MINERS

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Geological and Mining Society, Mr. George S. Caldwell, of Westhoughton, read a paper on the Chinese coalfields, in the course of which he stated:—

The province of Shansi was nearly all one large coalfield, the estimated quantity of coal in this province being 630,000 millions of tons, "or many times the quantity of ungotten coal in Great Britain." Special attention was directed to the Lia New Ho coalfield in the province of Honan. During recent years, boring had been carried out in a thorough and systematic manner by Europeans under European management, and the coalfield had been proved for many square miles, with seams of coal varying from 10 to 40 feet in thickness. The sinking was not such a formidable operation as it was in this country, there being no very hard strata to pierce. The water was the real obstacle, and this was encountered in very large volumes.

"That a system of ventilation was necessary in the mine," Mr. Caldwell went on, "was one of the most difficult things to impress upon the Chinese mind. Separation doors and brattice cloths were erected under the instruction of a European, but when he was absent the door would be propped open, or the brattice cloths nailed on one side, or torn down, because the workmen

thought that they interfered with the drawing of coal, or with the men shouting to one another. They also could not see the approach of a deputy. Another solution lay in the fact that often the missing brattice cloths had been converted into wearing apparel. . . . It is fortunate that no gas been found in these mines, because the Chinaman likes to indulge in a short but very frequent smoke with a pipe made from a short piece of bamboo, and if there are no lamps or torches he uses his flint and steel to light up. If it were necessary to prohibit smoking in the mines some very efficient system would have to be adopted to overcome their extreme craftiness, and it would be necessary to make them strip on entering the mine and use clothes provided for them without pockets."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE late Mr. W. T. Stead, who was drowned in the sinking of the *Titanic*, left £13,000.

KING NICOLAS of Montenegro arrived at Vienna on the 8th inst. and received a cordial welcome.

BUNYAN's copy of Fox's "Book of Martyrs," 1641, has been sold to Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan for £2,000.

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, who, a fortnight ago, was reported to be dangerously ill, is slightly better.

THE Authorities have decided to establish a new military band, which is to be attached to the Third Division in Nagoya.

THE Bank of England has issued New Zealand debentures at 2½ per cent. for two years, at 99, to the extent of £4,500,000.

ONLY one third of the usual number of horses has been purchased by the military authorities at Nemuro, in Hokkaido, this year.

At the International Flower Show at Chelsea the Horticultural Club's cup has been awarded to Messrs. Carter for their Japanese garden.

Two army Lieutenants named Hazlehurst and Walsh have been killed while flying at the Army Aviation School, College Park, Maryland.

THE House of Commons has passed the Second Reading of a Bill to strengthen considerably the laws with regard to the white slave traffic.

THE Commission on the Trade and Commerce of the British Empire met on the 13th inst. and decided that the proceedings should be in private.

COUNT SHIGENOL, who has been on trial at the Tokyo District Court on a charge of fraud, was sentenced on Saturday to penal servitude for one year.

A GENERAL meeting of the Kyushu Hydro-Electric Company took place on the 15th instant at the Bankers' Club, when a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared.

THE Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company held its general meeting of shareholders on the 15th instant, when a dividend of 6 per cent. was declared.

THE N.Y.K. steamer *Higo Maru*, of 1419 tons, has run ashore off Fukuyama on her way to Hakodate from Otaru. The passengers were all landed safely.

A GENERAL meeting of the shareholders of the Tokyo Steel Manufacturing Company took place on the 13th instant, when a dividend of 16 per cent. was declared.

THE unveiling ceremony of the bronze statue erected at Anshindzuka, near Yokosuka, in memory of Will Adams, was duly conducted on Sunday morning in the presence of Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Ambassador, Baron Sufo,

ex Governor of Kanagawa, Marquis Inouye and a number of other dignitaries and Government officials.

THE *Daily Chronicle* states that the Tsar of Russia has pardoned Miss Malecka, who was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for consorting with revolutionaries.

AN official telegram from Shanghai reports that General Hwang-Hsing arrived at Shanghai on Saturday morning last at nine o'clock, accompanied by Wang Chao-ming.

THE Russian Government has asked the Duma to sanction the defrayment of the expenditure required for the construction of 200 locomotives for service on the Amur Railway.

SIR JOSEPH WARD, the Premier of New Zealand, has resigned his seat on the Imperial Trade Commission, as the alteration in its itinerary would hamper him in his Parliamentary duties.

AN aviator named Kimmerring and a passenger have been killed in a fall of 300 ft. at Mourmelon. Du Breuil also fell 200 ft. at Rheims and was seriously injured, while his passenger was killed.

It is understood that Col Seely will be succeeded as Under-Secretary for War by Mr. Mennay, Financial Secretary to the War Office, whom Mr. Harold Baker will replace in the latter position.

MR. YOSHIDA, Minister to Siam, who has returned to Tokyo on furlough, was received in audience by H.M. the Emperor on Friday morning, when he reported to the Throne on conditions in Siam.

ON the 15th inst. a discovery was made of 170 *koban* of the Bunji period, valued at yen 3,000, while work was being done on the proposed tramway line through Utsubo-Minamidori, Osaka.

MR. HATTORI SHOKYOKU, better known by his professional name of Ten-ichi, who travelled thrice round the world exhibiting his wonderful feats of juggling and conjuring, died on the 14th instant.

THE Kishiwada Spinning Company will hold a general meeting of shareholders early next month, when, among other things, the increase of the capital by 1,200,000 yen will be taken up for discussion.

MR. IVANOFF, Professor of the Russian University at St. Petersburg, arrived at Tsuruga on the 13th instant on board the *Hosan Maru*. The Professor will immediately come up to Tokyo to see Baron Goto.

LORD DENHAM, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, in opening the Commonwealth Small Arms Factory at Lithgow, emphasized the fact that strength was the only guarantee against aggression.

MR. KONOSHITA TOMOSABURO, Sectional Chief of the Court of Administrative Litigation, will shortly be appointed President of Meiji University, which position has been vacated by the recent death of Mr. Kishimoto.

AN aviation meeting will be held for a week from the 15th instant at Tokorozawa under the auspices of the Japan Aeroplane Corps. Captain Tokugawa, Lieutenant Ito and other military and private aviators will participate.

AN exhibition of old Japanese and Chinese books, prints, *kakemono*, and other objects of art of diverse descriptions will be held on the 21st and 22nd inst. at the Bijutsu Club at Ryogoku, Tokyo, the promoters being the Booksellers' Association of Tokyo.

THE experimental borings carried out by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha at the gold mines at Kushiki, Kagoshima Prefecture, have resulted in the investment of one million yen by the firm for the purpose of working the mines. Out of the 400 tons of machinery ordered from England,

besides a similar amount from the United States, a small part has already arrived at Nagasaki. The plant, when completed, will turn out 200 *kwan* of gold and 150 *kwan* of silver per annum.

FOURTEEN thousand workwomen were transported by rail on the 15th, 16th, and 17th inst. from Yamanashi Prefecture to Okaya, Shimotsuwa, and other points of Shinano where silk reeling operations are carried on.

THE number of whales caught by the Oriental Whaling Company during the current season was only 130, presumably on account of the increase in trawlers. The Company will nevertheless be able to declare a dividend of ten per cent.

MR. KANO, President of the Tokyo Higher Normal School, who is going to Sweden to attend the Olympic Games, arrived at Vladivostok on the 13th inst. and after delivering a speech at the Japanese Club, left by the 5 p.m. train.

THE *Kainan Maru*, the South Pole exploration ship, anchored in safety at Takayama, Awa, on Tuesday afternoon. All on board were in excellent health, and will be present at the reception prepared for them at Shibaura, Tokyo on Thursday.

Two residents of Nagaoka, Niigata Prefecture, have been prosecuted for breach of the law relating to the election of members of the Prefectural Assembly, being charged with receiving 50 *sen* each for voting for a certain candidate.

A RARE find of *magatama* and other antiquities, excelling in dimensions and colour any others yet unearthed, is reported from Sakai, Izumi. Dr. Tsuboi, and other anthropologists, who conducted the excavations, declare them to be unique.

THE electric locomotive to be used on the Usui tunnel, as to the working efficiency of which some misgivings were entertained, has stood the repeated tests it has been subjected to, and will run on its first trial trip at the end of this month.

THE foundation stone of the Teikoku Bakushu Kaisha (Empire Brewery) was laid on Tuesday at Ozato, Moji. The new building is to be completed in November next, and its products will be placed on the market by June next year.

THE Tsar has commuted the sentence of four years' imprisonment passed upon Miss Malecka for consorting with the revolutionaries, to one of life-long expulsion from Russian dominions. Miss Malecka was conveyed to the frontier under police escort.

THE Royal Colonial Institute has prepared a memorandum for presentation to the Royal Commission on the trade and resources of the Empire, urging the reconsideration of the idea of establishing a joint fund for the purposes of development of the Empire.

M. KOVACS, the deputy who fired four times at a range of nine yards at the President of the Hungarian Chamber of Deputies, has denied any intention of killing Count Tisza, but says that he desired to frighten him into a change of policy. Count Tisza has been overwhelmed with congratulations.

IN an aviation race round London on the 8th inst. for a *Daily Mail* trophy, there were seven starters. Mr. Sopwith, who was first, covered the distance of eighty-one miles in 84 min., but was disqualified for passing four miles inside the turning point at Purley. Mr. Hamel, whose time was 1 hr. 40 min., was therefore given the trophy.

FIRE broke out at the Japan Woodwork Company, (Thwaites & Co.) at Nakamura, Yokohama, early on the morning of the 17th inst., and the flames were not brought under control before four workshops and the workshops of the neighbouring Empire Wood Manufacturing Company, were entirely destroyed. The first factory were engaged

in the manufacture of organs, pianos and other musical instruments, and the total loss is estimated at one hundred thousand yen. Incendiarism is considered the probable cause. We understand the former Company was fully insured.

THE export of timber to China, which suffered a temporary decline during the latter half of last year, owing to the Revolutionary movement, has again assumed its normal condition, 2,350,000 yen worth of Japanese timber having been shipped since January last.

THE examination of 450,000 eligible conscripts, which was started at the various Regimental districts a few days ago, will continue to the end of August. The number is an excess of 50,000 over that of last year. A high standard of health is to be maintained.

THE new bridge across the Sumida river, from Hama-cho in Kyobashi to Ataka-machi in Fukagawa, which has been in course of construction at an estimated cost of 600,000 yen, is all but completed. The opening ceremony will take place about the 10th proximo.

MR. YOSHIKAWA MASATARO, a broker on the Osaka Stock Exchange, was declared a defaulter on the 17th inst., his liabilities amounting nearly to one hundred thousand yen. It is believed that two or three more brokers of the same Exchange are on the point of bankruptcy.

A TELEGRAM received in Tokyo states that the Royal Mail Company has floated on the market at a ten pound premium £105,000 worth of its one million sterling increase of capital in order to carry out the scheme of expansion, which is timed with the completion of the Panama Canal.

THE first official list of approved societies under the British Insurance Act numbers 151, including most of the unions, with a membership of five millions. The general federation of trade unions has formed a society, with which 117 unions are associated, for the purpose of working the Act.

AN, the counsel for the assassin of the late Prince Ito, and eight others, who have been in custody on a charge of complicity in the plot against the life of the Governor-General, have been acquitted, but placed under police supervision according to the Law for the Preservation of Peace.

A TELEPHONE advice from Shidzuoka says that a farmer, by name Suzuki Toyojiro, living at Fujinamura of that Prefecture, who had a great dislike for crows, was attacked on the 14th inst. by a swarm of these birds while employed on the Imperial reserve situated there, and sustained injuries which are likely to prove fatal.

KING GEORGE sent a telegram to President Fallières expressing his deep grief at the loss of the French submarine *Vendémiaire* and his profound sympathy with the French navy and with the families of the victims. Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, sent a similar message to M. Delcassé, French Minister of Marine.

At the King's Levée at St. James's Palace on the 30th ult. the Japanese Ambassador attended and presented Mr. C. Kioke (Councillor), Mr. K. Yamasaki (Third Secretary), and Mr. S. Sawada (Attaché). Sir Matthew Nathan, G.C.M.G., was also presented on appointment as Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, by the Secretary of State.

OWING to the dearth of rice, says the *Niroku*, the lower public officials and wage-earners are being subjected to indescribable misery. At the same time, rice dealers are being driven to the wall one after another. During the past two months no fewer than 160 dealers have been declared defaulters, beside 80 more who are on the brink of bankruptcy. Shitaya, Honjo and Fukagawa, the abodes of the poor, have the largest percentage of these bankrupts, whose

limited capital does not allow of their purchasing from wholesale dealers on any extended credit, but who at the same time have to suffer the consequence of non-payment by their still poorer customers.

MR. R. MCKENNA, Home Secretary, has announced in the House of Commons that Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, who were condemned to nine months' imprisonment in the Second Division for conspiracy and incitement to break windows, will be put in the First Division on assurance of their good behaviour in prison.

THE N.D.L. steamer *Derfflinger*, of 9,200 tons, came into collision in Yokohama harbour on Saturday morning about 11 o'clock with the T.K.K. steamer *Tenyo Maru*, of 12,000 tons. A gangway was broken on the latter vessel, which also sustained some slight injury to her propeller, but the German vessel sustained no damage. Both were able to sail at the scheduled hour.

THE Chief of the Aoyama Police Station on the 16th inst. caused a thorough investigation to be made of the measures used by the rice retailers in his division. Out of 69 rice dealers examined, 17 turned out to be infringers of the rules relating to measures, the motive ascribed to them being to rob their customers, who are mostly poor working people, of part of their daily earnings. The offenders will be prosecuted.

THE Department of Agriculture and Commerce will despatch an expert in August next to India to inquire into the business conditions there, special regard being given to the export thither of *habutae*, cotton knitted goods, shirts, matches, silk fabrics, and porcelain. Where there exists any competition with foreign countries, as with Italy, in the case of silk goods all available means will be considered to push Japanese goods ahead.

THE latest motor novelty in Paris, the *Express* says, is a taxicab woman of an unusual kind. She is a pretty little Japanese, who drives as well as any man, and her cab is never empty from morning till night. There was a crowd round her in the Place de l'Opera recently, for her "fare," not content with giving her a comfortable tip, bought a large bunch of roses from a passing hawker and gave them to the pretty driver. The crowd cheered.

DURING last month a vessel arrived in the Victoria Dock from China bringing 50 pig carcasses from Shanghai. Four were found to be diseased, and were seized and destroyed. There were also on board 40 carcasses of pigs from Harbin, in Manchuria, which have not yet been examined. Besides, there were 56 packages from Manchuria, which contained pigs' carcasses. These latter were not allowed to be imported, as the foreign meat regulations had not been complied with.

As a result of the demand for telephones the Authorities of the Communications Department have decided to investigate the present condition of the telephone service, with a view to a third expansion scheme. It will be remembered that the authorities last year drafted the general outlines of the scheme in order to submit it to the 28th session of the Imperial Diet, but were obliged to postpone it for financial reasons. The third expansion scheme will be spread over a period of six years, from 1912 to 1917, and the expenditure is estimated at 50,000,000 yen.

THE Estimates of the Department of Justice of expenditures for the current fiscal year under the heading of "rations supplied to convicts" were based on the assumption that the price of rice (almost entirely foreign) would not exceed yen 12 per *koku* and that of barley yen 8.00, the total quantity required for over 70,000 convicts being 140,000 *koku* and 200,000 *koku* respectively. The recent steady rise in the price of rice has compelled the authorities to inquire into all possible means of procuring these cereals at the lowest possible

figures, which has resulted in the discovery that rice could only be procured for yen 18 and barley for yen 14, showing as against the estimates a deficit of a little over two million yen which will have to be itemized on the next year's Budget.

THE *Daiokaya Okraina*, published at Vladivostok, says that the influx of emigrants from European Russia into Siberia has been unprecedented during these few last months. According to the information received by the paper from Western Siberia, every day about 2,000 emigrants pass through that country on their way to Eastern Siberia. Among them are many labourers who are traveling under the same conditions as the emigrants, for whom passages are greatly facilitated.

FROM Oate in Akita prefecture it is reported that on Wednesday afternoon a fire broke out at the Ore Refining Laboratory of the Hanaoka Copper Mine. The flames were brought under control in two hours, after they had destroyed many accessory buildings, besides the factory. The loss is estimated at 70,000 yen. The reconstruction work was at once taken in hand and is expected to be completed in a couple of months. The cause of the outbreak is under investigation.

ACCORDING to the latest investigations instituted by the Department of Communications, the actual number of electric lights installed in this country at the end of last year was 2,765,169, which, reduced to the 10-candle-power scale, is equal to 2,657,864, or an increase of 1,160,295 within the space of only one year.

The number of the electric motors in use was 10,419 representing 47,188 horse-power, being an increase of 17,548 horse-power compared with the end of the preceding year.

It is a matter of congratulation that zymotic diseases this year appear to show a downward tendency, compared with the preceding year, as will be seen by the following table:—

	1911. Up to June 12th.	1912. Up to June 12th.
Dysentery.....	51	42
Cholera.....	28	41
Typhoid Fever	867	564
Scarlet Fever	274	194
Diphtheria	614	445

THE demand for cement has been steadily increasing since the beginning of this year owing to the improvements in Tokyo and the building of hydraulic electric power works and other enterprises requiring the use of reinforced concrete. The price has accordingly increased from 10 to 15 per cent. compared with last year, 5 yen to 5.50 yen per barrel being the average quotation. The various manufactories of cement have in contemplation the extension of their businesses by making calls on their shares or increasing their capital.

A CHINESE comrade on board the British steamer *Cheong Shing*, which recently arrived at Tientsin, was taken ill on the 5th inst. and received treatment at the local French hospital. He showed symptoms of pulmonary inflammation, and after death his body was subjected to close examination, when it was found beyond doubt that he had been suffering from lung pest. Thereupon the Customs Authorities, with the consent of the Consular Corps, decided to establish a quarantine against all vessels entering Tientsin from Hongkong.

THE estimated output of Formosan sugar last year was 4,300,000 piculs, while the actual yield fell to 2,600,000 piculs owing to damage caused to the sugar plantations by inundations, which fact necessitated the import of Java sugar. Keen interest is naturally felt in the sugar crop in the island this year. The scarcity of young shoots consequent upon the bad crop of the preceding year and the high price of rice have dissuaded the farmers of the central regions from devoting their attention to sugar, and this fact, coupled

with the long drought that occurred during the season for transplanting the young shoots, and the sudden deluge of the 13th and 14th inst. which washed away practically all the shoots that had been planted a short time before, have caused grave doubts to be entertained as to the results of this year's crop.

THE recent activities of the carrying trade, intensified by the approach of the fishing and timber-felling season in Hokkaido, have caused a scarcity of vessels. Almost all available ships have been chartered, and hiring charges have advanced to unprecedented rates; 400 yen per diem having been registered for a ship of 3,000 tons displacement. Influenced by this state of affairs, inquiries have constantly been made and have culminated in the purchase of more than ten foreign ships of the aggregate tonnage of 43,578 tons of which the Nippon Yusen share two (16,000 tons), and the Osaka Shosen two (7,820 tons).

DISTRESSING ECZEMAS And Other Itching Skin Troubles



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When all else fails. No other emollients afford such comfort to skin-tortured and disfigured sufferers, young and old, and do it so economically because so speedily.

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LATEST COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS.

Saturday, June 22.

In Raw Cotton, Local quotations for stock parcels remain weak, partly due to the dulness of the export of yarns to China. In Cotton yarn, business has been done in 100/2 s. and 120/2 s. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains very quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the season for sales for wholesale dealers, being now closed, more attention is being paid to spring requirement.

RAW COTTON.		PER PICUL.
American Middling	...	35.50
Indian Broach	...	32.00 to 32.50
Chinese (Old crop)	...	34.00
Chinese (New crop)	...	34.50

COTTON YARN.		PER BALL.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in...	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings—	
A. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.30 to 5.50
B. 43 1/2" x 45 yards	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	5.85 to 6.20
Pure Grey Shirtings—	
A. 44" x 46 yards	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	7.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics—	
44" x 46 yards	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/2" x 47 yards	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	11.00 to 12.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	0.35 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	0.35 to 0.70

Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards	10.30 to 13.75
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.	
Flannels—	
Union Italians	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Common to Medium	0.27 to 0.39
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards, 30-32 inches Good to Best	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilots, Presidents, and Union, 54 to 56 inches	—

METALS.

The spot market shows some weakness, owing to the recent large arrivals.

Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	Y. 4.60 to 4.65
Sheet Iron	5.35 to 6.40
Sheet Mild Steel	6.15 to 6.25
Galvanized Iron Sheets Corrugated	10.90 to 11.05
Flat	11.50 to 11.60
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	7.20 to 7.25
Tin Plates, 30 lbs. I.C.W.	7.55 to 7.65
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	3.45 to 2.50

KEROSENE.

The market maintains quiet tone.	
Chester	Y. 4.26
Victory	3.94
Nonpareil	4.90
Sumatra	3.10 to 3.20
Hurneo	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	3.77
Todai	—

SUGAR.

Bulk business is expected after the rainy season.	
PER PICUL.	
Brown Manila	Y. 12.50
Brown China	11.50
Brown Java	16.00 to 16.10
White Java	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.

No change in the market. Some transactions have been done all round.

Calcutta first	Y. 240.00
" second	200.00
Java, first	320.00
" second	280.00
Madras, first	—
" second	—
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	2.00
Artificial "Kenstin" brand	2.00

FLOUR.

The market steady.	
Gold Drop	4 sacks 11.47 to 11.57
Flag	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks 11.75 to 11.85
Red Seal	11.15 to 11.25
Lion	11.95 to 12.05
Portland	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	11.75 to 11.85
Japanese:	
Rising Sun	6 bushels 2.70
Takasago	6 " 2.75
Fuji	6 " 2.85
Pine	6 " 2.70

WHEAT.

The market generally active.	
White Walla Walla, 100 lbs	6.00 to 6.10
Red "	5.90 to 6.00
Blue Stem	6.00 to 6.10

EXPORTS.

Transactions have been upon a limited scale. On June 14th stocks were: Filatures 4,000 piculs, Re-reels, 50 piculs; Kakeda, 30 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	Yen. 980
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	885
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 9-11den	980
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 10-12den	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2, 13-15den	880
Filature—No. 1 1/2-2, 11-13den	885
Filature—No. 1 1/2 Shinyeisha	885
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2	850
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakeda—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakeda—Veiled Woman Chop	840
Kakeda—One Horsehead Chop	830
Kakeda—Two Horseheads Chop	830

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

June.	June delivery.	July delivery.	August delivery.
15th	82.30	85.50	85.50
17th	82.00	85.40	85.50
18th	81.80	84.80	84.90
19th	81.60	84.70	84.80
20th	81.60	84.80	84.80
21st	81.40	84.40	84.30

WASTE SILK.

Quiet, business being restricted owing to a small stock. On May 31st stocks were: Noshi, 3.0 piculs; Kibiso, 1,800 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Yen. —
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	50 to 60
Noshi—Bushiin, (or Joshu) Good	—
Noshi—Bushiin, (or Joshu) Medium	—
Noshi—Bushiin, (or Joshu) Inferior	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	95 to 105

HAIRUTAE.

Kaga:—There is no actual change to report. Echizen:—The general tendency is still toward a lower level of prices.

Kawamata:—The prices are now declining.	
"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)	
6 me. 6 1/2 me. 7 me. 7 1/2 me. 8 me.	
Inches.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2"	7.55 7.35 7.25 7.15 7.30
27"	7.40 7.35 7.35 7.40 7.35
36"	7.45 7.30 7.30 7.35 7.30
"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)	
4 1/2 me. 4 1/4 me. 4 1/2 me. 5 me. 5 1/2 me.	
Inches.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
22 1/2"	7.55 7.40 7.30 7.35 7.50
27"	7.45 7.35 7.35 7.40 7.25
36"	7.50 7.40 7.25 7.30 7.25

KAWAMATA.

3 me. 3 1/2 me. 4 me. 4 1/2 me.	
Inches.	Yen. Yen. Yen. Yen.
20"	7.00 7.80 8.50 9.30
23"	7.70 8.40 9.40 10.40
27"	8.80 10.10 11.00 —
36"	11.90 12.90 14.60 —

COPPER.

According to the latest London telegram the quotation was £79.15

Refined per 100 kin	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 kin	" 38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 kin	" 47.00—50.00
Ore	" 29.50—33.00

RICE.

The tendency is still upward.	
Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags. 568.335
Foreign rice in Fukagawa	139.662
Delivery.	Closing Price.
June	21.12
July	21.55
August	20.45
(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
June	21.05
July	21.72
August	19.85
June	21.30
July	21.14
August	19.83

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.

(Tokyo.)	per koku.
Superior	Yen 23.80
Medium	21.80
Common	20.20
Average	21.40

TEA.

The season is dragging; the best of the early teas have been sold.

QUOTATIONS.

Cheapest	nominal.
Choice	¥. 48 & upward
Finest	44 to 48
Fine	40 to 44
Good Medium	—
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The closing market is rather inactive, owing to troubles in China.

Delivery.	Yen.
June	145.45
July	144.55
August	143.95

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 21. London silver 1/4 higher for spot and 1/2 higher for forward, China sterling quotations not yet received but local rates on China are easier and all others unchanged.

London—Bank T.T.	2/0 1/2
— Sight	2/0 1/2 @ 1/2
— 60 days	2/0 1/2
— 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight	256 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	261
America—Bank sight	49 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	50 1/2
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 1/2
India—Bank sight	152 1/2
— Private 30 days' sight	154 1/2
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 100
— Private 10 days' sight	98
Shanghai—Bank sight	73
— Private 10 days' sight	74 1/2
Bar Silver (London)	28 1/2 @ 28 1/2
	Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer	Date.
Europe	N.D.L.	P. E. Friedrich	Su. June 23
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	Tu. June 25
Europe	M. M.	Oceanien	W. June 25
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan 1	W. June 26
America	P. M.	Manchuria 2	Su. June 23
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	M. June 24
Hongkong	B. L.	Orteric	Th. June 27
Hongkong	P. M.	Korea 3	Th. June 27
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. July 2
America	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Tu. July 2
Seattle	G. N.	Minnesota	Tu. July 2
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th. July 4
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Sa-o Maru	F. July 5

- 1 Left Vancouver on the 13th inst.
- 2 Left Honolulu on the 12th inst.
- 3 Left Hongkong on the 18th inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer	Date.
Europe	M. M.	Salazie	Sa. June 23
America	P. M.	Persia	Sa. June 23
Tacoma	B. & S.	Antiochus	Sa. June 23
Australia	N. Y. K.	Kumano Maru	Th. June 22
Shanghai	N. Y. K.	Hakui Maru	Su. June 23
Hongkong	P. M.	Manchuria	M. June 24
Hongkong	N. Y. K.	Awa Maru	M. June 24
Tacoma	O. S. S.	Chicago Maru	W. June 26
Hongkong	C. P. R.	Em. of Japan	W. June 26
Hongkong	O. S. S.	Tacoma Maru	W. June 26
Seattle	B. L.	Orteric	F. June 28
Europe	N.D.L.	P. E. Friedrich	Sa. June 29
Vancouver	C. P. R.	Em. of India	Tu. July 2
Seattle	N. Y. K.	Shidzuoka Maru	Th. July 3
Europe	N. Y. K.	Tango Maru	W. July 3
America	T. K. K.	Shinyo Maru	Th. July 4
Hongkong	T. K. K.	Chiyo Maru	Th. July 4
Hongkong	G. N.	Minnesota	F. July 5

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international assembly of nurses to be held in Germany in August next.

It has been definitely settled that Prince Katsura and party will leave for Europe on the 6th of next month.

Two Japanese Naval Lieutenants have been ordered to France and three to the United States to study aviation.

H.I.H. THE CROWN PRINCE has signified his intention of visiting the Tokyo City Technological School on the 26th instant.

A HAILSTORM is reported to have occurred at Akumi-gori, Yamagata, on the 25th instant. Hail, over six-tenths of an inch in diameter, fell to a depth of more than one inch.

BARON ISHII, the newly appointed Ambassador to Paris, will leave Shimbashi on the 23rd instant by the 9. p.m. train for Tsuruga, and will proceed to his post via the Siberian Railway.

THE Tokyo Rice Exchange has declared a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum for the first half of the current year, and has resolved to apply for the prolongation of its charter for another ten years.

THE *Empress of China*, which was wrecked off Shirahama, and after undergoing repair at Uruga was sold by tender to Mr. Sasawo Yoshitaro of Yokohama for 130,000 yen, was taken to Kanagawa on the 23rd instant.

THE O-Yubari Coal-mining Company at Hokkaido has virtually passed into the hand of the Mitsubishi Company, the necessary proceedings having been gone through at the general meeting of its shareholders on the 24th instant.

THEIR Majesties the King and Queen visited Harrow on the 15th inst. The King, in reply to an address, said that he was confident that the school would continue to furnish men to serve in the great work of governing and defending the Empire.

HER MAJESTY the Empress will repair to the shores of Nakanishiura, Miura-gori, Kanagawa Prefecture, on the 27th instant, to view fishing by the local fishermen, who are making preparations to make the occasion an enjoyable one for Her Majesty.

THE Shoyu Experimental Brewery at Oji, Tokyo, which was destroyed by fire last autumn and reconstructed at a cost of 80,000 yen, will be in working order in July next, when Mr. Nishimura, an expert of the Finance Department, will take charge of it.

QUITE a boom is reported to have come over exchange business in Shanghai, the Chinese merchants in general engaging in active speculation, owing to the stagnation of foreign trade. In the event of the loan negotiations failing, accompanied by a fall of silver, a fearful panic will overtake Shanghai. The objects of speculative dealings are mostly exchange rates on Japan and Hongkong.

A PROJECT is on foot to establish a charity hospital in Kyoto at a cost of one hundred thousand yen. Mr. Amaya of Juzuyamachi recently announced to the Seiwai-kwai a ladies' religious society attached to the Hongwanji of Otani sect, his intention of endowing the society with a sum of 10,000 yen. This has been made

the nucleus of the proposed undertaking and the remaining expense will be raised from among the female members of the society residing in all part of the country.

IN the first three months of this year the births registered in England and Wales were in the proportion of 24.4 annually per 1,000 of the population, the lowest birth-rate on record for the period; the death-rate was 15.9 per 1,000, the lowest on record for the period.

A PARTY of Japanese musicians playing on European instruments, known as the Teikoku Ongaku-kwai, who every year during the summer months travel in the interior giving performances, has decided to visit Shanghai, Tairen, Chosen, and Formosa this year, being the first group of Japanese musicians to travel abroad.

AT the instance of the Nippon Boeki Kyokai (an association of Japanese merchants engaged in foreign trade) a party of from twenty to thirty business men will start on a tour of inspection through a part of Russia and Korea having railway communication with the main land. The estimated expense is 350 yen and the time required one month. They will land at Vladivostok and return by way of Fusan.

A PROJECT is on foot to erect a monument in memory of the late Dr. Koch, the great bacteriologist, at Inamuraga-saki, Kamakura, where he used to saunter during his stay at the popular seaside resort. The Mayor of Kamakura and the President of the Kamakura Bank, with the approval of Dr. Kitazato, are at the head of the Executive Committee, and the ceremony of unveiling the monument is to be conducted while Mrs. Koch is staying in the country.

ACCORDING to the *Jiji Shimpō* the resignation of Mr. Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo, was transmitted to the Minister of Home Affairs through the Governor of the city on the 26th instant. The Tokiwa kwa, a powerful clique of the Councillors of the City, has been conducting preliminary inquiries as to the opinion of Mr. Hara with regard to the prospective appointment of Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, besides sounding Mr. Tokonami's personal predilections. The results of these investigations seem to point to the ultimate appointment of Mr. Tokonami.

THE foreign life insurance companies doing business in Japan, says the *Hochi Shimbun*, are five for life insurance and nearly thirty for other kinds of insurance, the former having paid in 150,000 yen each as security to the Government and the latter also 150,000 yen according to the regulations issued in 1900. More than ten years having elapsed since then, and the rules relating to Japanese insurance companies having undergone various changes in the meantime, it is now proposed to improve those relating to foreign firms in order to meet the altered conditions of things.

THE paper produced for newspaper use by the Fuji, Oji, Chuwo, Kyushu and Yokkaichi paper mills amounts to 7,000,000 pounds per month, of which 6,500,000 pounds is for domestic consumption. As regards the remaining 500,000 pounds, the Fuji and Oji Paper Manufacturing Companies are endeavouring, in co-operation, to export it to China. It is said, however, that owing to the severe competition with the European product, the companies find no small deficiency every month, despite the amount of the export reaching from three to five hundred thousand pounds.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER, and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR. Correspondence intended for publication in the "JAPAN MAIL" must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH, 1912.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

THREE nurses attached to the Japan Red Cross Society's Hospital, Misses Hagiwara, Yamamoto, and Nishikiya, have been detailed to attend the

THE CHINESE CABINET.

The present moment seems to be the time of the greatest political confusion in China. A few weeks have sufficed to distinguish three political parties, who are evidently strongly pledged to support their respective views. At the head of these parties stand the *Tungming-hui*, which may be distinguished as the Cantonese party. They insist that the former Governor-General of the Yangtze provinces, namely, Mr. Hwang Hsing, shall take the place of Mr. Tang Shao-i as Prime Minister and they base this contention mainly on the fact of his Cantonese origin. The second party, calling itself the *Kungho-hui*, stands for political independence, and insists that the new Premier shall be Hsu Shih-chang, who was at one time Viceroy of Manchuria and is now Grand Tutor to the former Prince Imperial. The third party, namely, the *Tungi-hui*, which has always worked in co-operation with President Yuan, now declares itself quite content to have Cabinet under an independent Premier but insists that that Premier shall be a politician who enjoys and deserves to enjoy the respect of the whole nation. There can be no doubt that the Premier indicated by this third Party is President Yuan, and thus, in short, the *Tungi-hui* advocate the tenure by President Yuan of the two highest offices simultaneously. It appears to be thought, however, that Mr. Hsu Shih-chang will ultimately be chosen to succeed Mr. Tang Shao-i, since his qualifications for the post are more clearly defined than those of any of his competitors. Of course so long as the Cabinet is not reorganized, foreign money cannot become available, and we may therefore expect that the President will lose no time in bringing about an agreement. It is certainly remarkable that at this very early stage of Chinese Republican politics the influence of political parties should be making itself so palpably felt.

The reconstruction of the Chinese Cabinet has not yet been effected. It would seem, however, that the inclination of the leading politicians is to have a Premier who shall be entirely independent of party connections. In other words, the Prime Minister will not have any affiliations with other members of the Cabinet, but will occupy the same position as that held by the elder statesmen in the Japanese Ministry. Of course no one can question the expediency of such an arrangement, but the difficulty of carrying it out is evident. President Yuan will have to deal with this problem, and as some time may be required, it is expected that the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lu, will be entrusted with the duty of Premier *ad interim*. As for Mr. Tang Shao-i, his resignation from office is beyond all question; but President Yuan is said to have asserted that the withdrawal of Tang from the Ministry does not necessarily signify Cabinet reconstruction. In short the President thinks that the incident may be dealt with by a minor reconstruction. On all sides there appears to be full appreciation of the imperative necessity of remodelling the Cabinet without loss of time, inasmuch as every day's delay threatens to disturb the Republic's foreign relations.

Japanese readers of Chinese intelligence find it very perplexing to follow the names

of the Peking statesmen and to differentiate their motives. Nor indeed is it necessary for outsiders to pursue the course of events with absolute accuracy. It will suffice to say that although there are three political parties in the field, two only need be clearly distinguished. Those two are, first, the *Tungming-hui*, which supplies five members to the present Cabinet with Tang Shao-i at their head; secondly, the *Kungho-hui*, and thirdly, the *Tungi-hui*, which may be regarded as synonymous with the second. The second and the third may be counted as working together, and as being in concord in all matters of grave importance. The *Tungming-hui* has its headquarters in the south; the *Kungho-hui* is located in the centre of the Yangtze Valley, its headquarters being in Kiangsu and Chekiang; and the third, namely the *Tungi-hui*, derives most of its political strength from Mukden, Kilin, Shanghai, Hunan and Chikiang.

In spite of the statement attributed to President Yuan, a telegram from Peking, dated the 23rd instant, alleges that the whole Cabinet has resigned *en bloc*. This does not suggest any successful forecast as to reconstruction. It points rather to complete dissolution.

Serious politicians of all nationalities must sympathise with President Yuan's resolve to avoid party politics at this early stage of the Chinese Cabinet's construction. It is not credible that with the materials at her disposal, China can form a Ministry representing one section only of her statesmen. All the intelligence and experience that she can command are required to carry out this difficult task of ministry manufacture, and if in addition to employing one political party only, she is to divide her own house against itself, insuperable difficulties will confront her. President Yuan shows unerring sagacity in appreciating this feature of the situation, and in refusing to have recourse to party politicians in the face of a crisis like the present. He justly reminds his followers that they have not yet obtained even the recognition of foreign nations for their republican platform, and they must at least show themselves capable of union at home before they seek recognition abroad. Doubtless these arguments will prevail in the end. Indeed it is already affirmed that Premier Tang's successor will be Mr. Hsu Shih-chang, who holds the high post of tutor to the ex-Emperor, and who is recognized as a non-party leader. Ex-Premier Tang Shao-i does not seem to have many sympathisers. He bungled the loan business so badly by trying to play off one nation against another that his reputation for tact and practical shrewdness was completely compromised. Mr. Hsu is the foster-brother of President Yuan and is expected to carry into political life all the ability and statesmanship that he has hitherto shown in his intimate association with the President. Moreover Mr. Hsu is universally recognized as not only a leader of reform but also a profound student of classical learning. His name would have been among the first selected for a Cabinet post, but his relations with the throne were so intimate that he did not appear eligible for a portfolio. Now that a crisis has arisen, however, such considerations lose much of their force, and it is thought certain that Hsu will come forward without reserve to assist his old friend President Yuan. Mr. Hsu's record shows that ever

since September 1903 he has held offices of constantly increasing importance, and that he has been identified with the reform party as conspicuously as with the conservatives.

Meanwhile an incident lending itself to various interpretations has occurred. Ex-President Sun Yat-sen has proceeded from Canton to Shanghai and is holding a conference with the leaders of the so-called republican party. By some onlookers this action on Sun's part signifies organization against President Yuan, but by others it is spoken of as a conference for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear upon Yuan's opponents.

In spite of the very confident assertions telegraphed yesterday from Peking, we are now informed that Mr. Hsu has definitely refused to accept the Premiership of the Cabinet in succession to Mr. Tang. He has announced his intention of spending some months in visiting foreign countries and investigating their conditions. Of course this is only another way of saying that he wishes to stand aside from the political arena for the present at all events. But Chinese statesmen are prone to require more persuasion than their Occidental colleagues before accepting important administrative posts, and it may well be that in spite of his display of reluctance, Mr. Hsu may consent to serve as Premier after all. Perhaps the easiest way of describing Chinese political habits is to say that great pains are taken not to make oneself cheap, and it may turn out that Mr. Hsu is simply following that rule.

It has been more than once observed that a good deal of obscurity envelops the resignation of Premier Tang. The most confidently advanced assertion is that he bungled the foreign loan affair so egregiously that his retirement from office became inevitable. Efforts are now being made, however, to convert this mystery into a factor injurious to President Yuan's reputation. Rumours are diligently spread to the effect that Tang's retirement was contrived by President Yuan, the latter finding the former in his way towards the sovereignty which he hopes to acquire for himself in the final outcome of the situation. President Yuan evidently attaches some importance to these rumours, for he has been at the pains of publishing an explicit denial, addressed to the Governors General throughout the country. In this document he declares that the peace and prosperity of the nation are the sole objects he has in view; that he will never be found acting the role of a second Napoleon; and that the persons who spread such rumours at this critical stage of the country's existence deserve to be denounced for conspicuous lack of patriotism. Whether this means that ex-Premier Tang himself is endeavouring to impair the President's reputation, or simply that the newsmongers have seized a patent opportunity for fomenting trouble, it is not possible to say with confidence. Either hypothesis is not very reassuring.

In some well informed quarters of Tokyo it is confidently alleged that the present crisis will be easily arranged after all. These analysts of the situation base their prediction on the attitude of ex-President Sun Yat-sen. They say that Sun has proceeded to the North expressly for the purpose of reconciling the dissident statesmen in Peking, and that if there were any risk of his failing to accomplish that feat he would never have left Canton.

THE PRICE OF RICE.

There appears to be no limit to the appreciation of rice in the market. The figures tend steadily upward, and no one is prepared with any device to check the rise. Opinions vary within very wide limits. Not a few economists hold that the appreciation is due to increased luxury of living. In other words, rice which a few years ago was regarded as a luxury, is now counted as an essential article of diet. Other onlookers allege that the trouble is to be sought in an inflated currency. Too much paper money is in circulation and the result operates to increase the price of the principal staple of diet. Others again affirm that there are large stores of rice held throughout the country, but the farmers are unwilling to part with them, their conviction being that the cereal will rise still higher. In short, a belief has gained currency that an abnormal state of affairs exists in the rice market, and that to derive benefit from it the only method is to abstain from selling. Other reasons are assigned with equal confidence, but the only feature of the phenomenon which admits of no doubt is that the price of rice tends steadily upwards.

Meanwhile rumour daily attributes to the Government a determination to abolish the import duty on Korean rice. It is true that such a measure would probably have the effect of diverting foreign rice to the Japanese market by Korean channels and there would result a substantial loss of revenue to the Japanese Customs. But this objection is met by pointing out that one cannot have one's cake and at the same time eat it. If rice has to be cheapened in the interest of the consuming classes, it is inevitable that the producers should suffer more or less.

The increase in the price of rice naturally continues to form a subject of earnest discussion, the remedial measure which apparently meets with the widest approval being the abolition of the import duty on the cereal. A Bill to this effect will probably be introduced in the next session of the Diet. The political parties are apparently favourable to the change. No vote of the *Seiyukai* has been taken on the matter, but individual members have expressed their approval, while the *Kokuminto* will naturally support such a popular measure even in the face of the landowners. Now that Chosen rice has been admitted as a substitute for Japanese rice on the Rice Exchange, the abolition of the import duty on rice from the peninsula is looked upon by the authorities of the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce as a necessity. The consumers of Korean rice in Japan are now paying a tax of two million *yen* every year in the form of duty. Some new source of revenue will have to be found to cover this. The Chosen Government is naturally strongly in favour of the abolition of the import duty.

An interesting discussion on the question took place at a meeting of the Tokyo Keizai-gaku Kyokai on the 22nd inst., the debate being attended not only by members of the Society, but also by over one hundred non-members, including a large number of rice-merchants. The consensus of opinion seems to have been that any interference with the legitimate business of the rice-trade, for the purpose of reducing the price of the cereal,

was to be deprecated. Only one suggestion was made as to how the price of rice was to be reduced, and that was a rather vague proposal introduced by Dr. Kobayashi that the official rate of interest should be raised. Baron Sakatani raised the question whether the present prices were likely to be permanent, and was answered by Mr. Kuriu Buemon, a well known rice-dealer, in the affirmative. Mr. Kuriu pointed out that although last year's harvest was good, the failure of the preceding harvest had necessitated an earlier consumption than usual. He also enumerated several causes for an increased demand for rice, among which were the preference for well cleaned rice, which naturally meant loss of weight; the increased consumption in the mining districts and among factory hands; and the growing distaste for barley, which was now largely used as fodder. Mr. Kuriu ventured the opinion that the supply of rice in Tokyo will be found one million *koku* short before the new rice is on the market, and that even if there is an abundant harvest, the new rice is not likely to fall below 20 *yen* per *koku*.

According to the *Fiji Shimpō* an official inspection of the Osaka and Kyoto districts does not reveal any great suffering among factory hands through the increase in the price of rice, extra pay being granted and all industries being now in a very flourishing condition.

The Department of Education has issued instructions to the various cities and prefectures to grant all assistance possible to poor children who are unable to attend school on account of the increasing price of rice, by obtaining donations from charitable persons or by levying special taxes. It is also recommended that special work should be found for the children outside the schools to pay for their tuition. Mr. Tadokoro, the Chief of the Bureau of Primary Education, says the 150,000 *yen* that is appropriated for purposes of primary education out of the educational funds is scarcely enough to meet the urgent needs of the case.

In regard to the abolition of the import duty on Chosen rice, the authorities state that the law relating to this duty was promulgated in view of the necessity of building up a tariff wall between Japan and Chosen as a result of the Imperial Ordinance providing that the Chosen Customs Tariff should be left unrevised for a period of ten years. Now that circumstances have altered, however, its further maintenance is not necessary, though it will still be some time before the decision can be carried into practice, since it has to be sanctioned by the Imperial Diet. Inasmuch as the abolition means a decrease of the customs revenue by some two million *yen*, investigations will be started to find other financial sources to make good the deficiency.

Rice continues to rise in price. The market quotation is now 21.80 *yen* per *koku* for immediate delivery; 22.06 *yen* for delivery during this month and 20 *yen* for forwards. The principal rice exchange in the Empire, namely that at Dojima in Osaka, has suspended operations, and people are wondering what the next development will be.

Of course there is a certain amount of prejudice connected with the unwillingness of the Japanese to eat foreign rice. But on the other hand there is no denying that a very marked difference exists between the imported and the home-grown staple. Some

people are found who declare that this difference is so small as to be easily forgotten in the sequel of brief use, but that is scarcely credible when we consider the price that consumers are willing to pay for the home product. At the present moment people are beginning to talk resolutely of eating rice from abroad, but it must be confessed that their statement does not command much conviction.

THE JAPANESE COASTING TRADE.

Mr. Acland, the British Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, was recently reported by Reuter as stating the Government had under consideration a representation in regard to the exclusion of British ships from the Japanese coasting trade. Apparently this merely means that a representation on the matter has been submitted to the British Government, but from whom does not appear.

The *Fiji Shimpō*, commenting upon the telegram, finds it quite unintelligible. Our contemporary points out that the laws of Japan now exclude from the coasting trade not only British ships, but the ships of all other nations, and that as the matter was discussed at the time the Anglo-Japanese treaty was revised and the British Government fully informed of the situation, the matter can hardly now become the subject of diplomatic negotiation.

Mr. Acland's statement seems to have had special reference to India, since he mentioned that the coasting trade of India was open to all nations, but as the treaties expressly leave the question of the coasting trade to the municipal laws of each country, it would not be necessary for Great Britain to enter into any diplomatic negotiations on the matter with any other Power should she decide to exclude foreign vessels from the coasting trade of India or any of the Crown Colonies. The Dominions, of course, enact their own laws in regard to the coasting trade, many of them excluding foreign steamers, so that they cannot be affected by any action of the British Government in this matter. The exclusion of foreign ships from the coasting trade of India is, however, a very remote contingency.

A NEW ETHICAL SOCIETY IN JAPAN.

Under the auspices of a number of very distinguished students of Japanese ethics, including, on the foreign side, Dr. Greene and Dr. Gulick, there has been formed in Tokyo a society having for its avowed object the discussion of a basis of morality which shall embrace all the best ethical doctrines. Meetings are to be held from time to time for the purpose of discussing this great question, and books will be written to propagate the Society's views. The originator of this association appears to be Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Minister of Home Affairs, and the inaugural ceremony took place on the 20th instant in the Seiyoken at Ueno. Doubtless this action will provoke a great deal of controversy and excite much opposition. But we can scarcely believe that success will fail to attend the efforts of publicists so eminent as Baron Shibusawa, Mr. Morimura, Mr. Shoda, Mr. Nakano Buei, Professors Inoue, Nakase and others.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

Some details of the proceedings at the Bankers' Conference in Paris on the 18th now appear in Japanese despatches. As before stated, the progress of the negotiations has been so far hindered by the attitude of Japan and Russia in regard to their interests in Manchuria and Mongolia. Japan desired to have her claim to special rights in Manchuria entered on the proceedings, and this has apparently been agreed to. Russia's claim to have her rights in Mongolia specially recognised by the Conference is not referred to, but her proposal that any decision as to the use to be made of the loan should be nullified in the event of any one of the six Powers taking part raising an objection, was discussed, and a compromise arranged, by which the proposal will not be embodied in the loan regulations but will be accepted tacitly by the other five Powers. The Russian delegates expressed their satisfaction with the compromise, but as they could not officially accept it without reference to their Home Government, the Conference was adjourned to allow this to be done.

Further conferences are said to have been held on the 19th and 20th, but as to the results there is yet no information to hand.

The London *Times* very shrewdly observes that England has been somewhat premature in agreeing to lend money to China at this early stage of the negotiations. The great journal observes that whatever securities the Peking Government may put up, those securities cannot be regarded with confidence inasmuch as the Peking Government itself is not in a position to enforce its financial mandates. But after all what was to be done? So long as England stood aloof none of the world's capitalists could have been expected to accommodate China. Some Power had to take its courage in its hands, and obviously England is the only Power competent to essay such an enterprise. It is not to be denied that the risk is very considerable. At any moment a situation may present itself necessitating administrative interference on the part of China's creditors, and in that event the Boxer trouble would recur with greatly intensified phases. As things stand now the loan has developed two distinct features. One is the purely financial; the other the political. The Chinese nation will be subjected to foreign supervision with regard to the nature of its enterprises, and will be obliged to admit foreign interference for the collection of the debts in question. The shrewdest financiers that the world possesses have put their hands to this problem, and that they will succeed in solving it we cannot doubt. But had any one deliberately mapped out a year ago the situation into which the allied Powers now find themselves drifting, the world would have undoubtedly raised a great cry.

We are again perplexed about the conditions of the Chinese loan. The only thing that seems to be absolutely certain is a necessity for finding money as speedily as possible. In yesterday's telegrams it was alleged that the preliminary loan would be made immediately and that the large investment of foreign capital would be deferred until the purposes of its application were definitely settled. Today, however, the intelligence is diametrically opposed to the above view. It is now alleged that to

pledge a large loan without definitely fixing the purposes of its application would be obviously at variance with the dictates of prudence. Careful analysis of the objects of the loan must therefore precede any engagement as to its dimensions or securities. Hence a considerable time may still be needed before any final decision is reached. It must be confessed that the latter course seems the more rational. Nevertheless the situation depends so completely on the possibility of China obtaining funds that some abnormal solution of the problem may be reached after all.

A very curious state of affairs appears to exist in China at present. Hitherto, from every responsible quarter, the world has been informed that to contract a substantial foreign loan was absolutely essential to the political existence of China, and it was proclaimed again and again that unless money was speedily furnished the whole country would fall into a state of hopeless confusion. But now, suddenly, we learn that Peking is not in any such severe straits for funds, and that unless the irksome proviso with regard to foreign supervision be dispensed with, the question of a foreign loan must be put upon the shelf. What to believe amid such a welter of contradictory reports it is difficult indeed to discern. The most circumstantial account hitherto given of the meeting held in Peking on the 24th instant, when the representatives of the Six Power Syndicate conferred formally with the Acting Premier and the Minister of Finance on China's side, indicated that an agreement had been come to and that the Chinese statesmen had consented tacitly, if not explicitly, to lay aside their objection to a foreign loan. Now, however, these Chinese Ministers are said to have reverted to their original position, and to maintain that anything like official supervision of the dispensing of the loan would be intolerable. The fact appears to be that neither President Yuan nor any of the statesmen acting in concert with him are willing to incur the risk of endorsing the supervisory clause. They all recognise fully that whatever officials accept the responsibility of concluding an agreement embodying such a condition, will be obliged to sacrifice themselves completely on the altar of political and popular resentment, and no one appears prepared to accept such a responsibility. In short, the country wants a leader just as much to-day as it wanted one a year ago when President Tang appeared to be the only possible saviour of the situation. Meanwhile, the leading English financiers are evidently beginning to question the expediency of trusting China to fulfil new obligations in the face of her incompetence to discharge the old. The *Times* is taking a very strong attitude towards this question, and its latest leading article on the subject cannot be too closely studied. We therefore reproduce it with little abbreviation:—

The opium question in China has reached an extraordinary stage, as was shown in the news we published on Saturday from Shanghai and Bombay. The Indian merchants have accumulated stocks of opium at Shanghai valued at £6,000,000. They have a right, under the Opium Agreement of May, 1911, to dispose of these stocks in certain provinces of China, but are improperly stopped or obstructed by local mandarins. In the meantime the famous Anti-Opium Edict of the Manchu dynasty has ceased to be operative, and all through China land is once more coming under poppy. India relied on the good faith of the Chinese Government, but the Chinese central authorities have lost control of their provinces. As the Chinese Gov-

ernment have been unable to fulfil their pledges to stop poppy cultivation, the two Opium Agreements of 1907 and 1911 are practically dead letters also. But the Indian opium merchants have raised a new issue, most embarrassing to the Indian Government, by their urgent telegraphic appeal to Simla on Friday last. They do not ask the Indian Government to compel China to fulfil her Agreements. They know the situation in China far too well to prefer any such impossible request. They ask rather that the Indian authorities shall stop the opium traffic to China at once and for ever by making no more sales. They would thus be able, they doubtless hope, gradually to clear their stocks in China, and would in any case not become involved in further ruinous losses. The Government of India are therefore in the remarkable position of being confronted with united demands from the Chinese Government, the anti-opium societies in England, and the Indian opium merchants themselves to sell no more opium for export to China. The reasons which have prompted these demands admittedly differ widely, yet jointly they constitute a formidable request. But the Government of India have budgeted for a revenue of over £2,500,000 from opium during the current year, and a good portion of that sum represents anticipated sales for China. They have further calculated upon a surplus sum of £1,500,000 on their whole budget for the year. If they stop selling opium for export to China, this year's expected surplus may be converted into a deficit. What is the Indian Finance Minister to do?

It will be remembered that at the end of 1907 China astonished the world by announcing that the cultivation of poppy and the consumption of opium within her borders were to be suppressed by Imperial Edict. India simultaneously agreed to reduce her exports of opium to China by one-tenth annually, so that in a decade the Indian traffic would have disappeared. The rate of reduction was not rapid enough to please China, and a request was made for its acceleration. Consular officers and independent observers joined in testifying that, although poppy cultivation had not entirely disappeared, it had undergone enormous restriction. Accordingly, in May 1911, Great Britain agreed that India should cease to send opium to China in less than a decade, if the Chinese showed that they had completely ceased to produce "native opium." It was further agreed that Indian opium should not be conveyed meanwhile into any Chinese province which had ceased to cultivate or to import "native opium." The ports of Shanghai and Canton were expressly exempted from this provision, because they are the chief ports of entry for Indian opium. In pursuance of this Agreement, the great province of Szechuan, which formerly grew more poppy and consumed more opium than any other province in China, was closed to Indian opium so recently as September last. Then came the Chinese Revolution, with its resultant chaos and the general relaxation of authority. Within two months Szechuan was being planted with poppy again, and other "closed" provinces followed suit. To-day, judging from reports in the Indian papers, China is growing as much poppy as ever she did. Few people familiar with Chinese conditions expected anything else. The moment Imperial Edicts ceased to carry weight, and each province became a law unto itself, the temptation to grow so lucrative a crop proved irresistible. In Chekiang the local military governor says that he is afraid to interfere with the farmers. We fancy that many local officials do not want to interfere, because in the old days they always "squeezed" a large share of the profits. For the present, it is clear, the great moral revolution in the Middle Kingdom has suffered an ignominious eclipse.

Upon one point we think the public in India and in England will be in full agreement. Although the Chinese Government have been unable to fulfil their part of the undertaking, the Indian opium traffic must stop. The question is—When is it to stop? At this stage it seems to us that the Indian opium merchants have some right to be heard. They have been engaged for many years in a traffic legalized by Governments, sanctioned by Treaties, even enforced by war. The high prices they have paid for Government opium in recent years were based upon the expectations produced by the two Agreements. It was an ordinary business calculation to assume that as Indian opium grew scarce in China its value would rise. The Government of India have had the benefit of huge surpluses, which they have spent in the extinction of temporary debt and in extending schemes of education and sanitation. The prices were paid in the natural belief that last year's Agreement would be fulfilled. China has broken it twice over, for while closed provinces are now aflame with poppy, Indian opium is even being excluded from provinces which were never closed. If Great Britain could insist on the right of entry of Indian opium, the

merchants would have no cause of complaint. Great Britain cannot do so, because there is no central authority left in China capable of enforcing the right.

The merchants, in despair, now ask the Government of India to stop selling more opium for export to China. Their point of view is obvious. Further sales will bring values down with a run. If the traffic is stopped forthwith, they may at least in course of time hope to dispose of their already immense accumulations in China. If sales continue in Calcutta, they will be ruined. The request of the merchants should find its strongest supporters in the anti-opium societies of this country. We recognize that the interests to be considered first are not those of the merchants, but those of India as a whole. If, however, a continuance of sales causes a collapse of prices, India will have received little benefit, while the merchants will be crushed. The Government of India should a Government product at enormously enhanced prices, on the strength of an Agreement, the fulfilment of which they cannot now procure. They pocketed their profits gleefully, and in common fairness cannot now proceed to ruin those who trusted them.

The fact is that the Chinese Authorities are not competent to administer affairs on the new Republican basis, and Occidental Financiers are beginning to think seriously whether it will be wise to add to the burden of Chinese responsibilities. We do not, for our own part, believe that there is any real room for choice. To save the money already sunk in China, it is absolutely essential that more money should be sunk, and Occidental Governments will presently find themselves confronted by the imperative necessity of taking a step which their better judgment condemns.

THE DISTURBANCES AT MUKDEN.

The disturbances at Mukden seem to have been of a very violent nature while they lasted. They began on the evening of the 19th, when the Second Mixed Brigade mutinied and commenced firing indiscriminately in all directions, presumably to intimidate the people and enable them to carry out their looting operations unhindered. The banks and jewellers' shops seem to have suffered most, the looting of their contents being followed by the firing of the buildings. Among the buildings which suffered Reuter mentions the Bank of Communications. There was some loss of life among the Chinese, but foreigners were not interfered with.

Japanese despatches say that the buildings were first set on fire and then entrance obtained. The trouble began outside the North Gate, and continued till the following morning, when the looters commenced to retreat. It is stated that the guards did not take action until this retreat had begun, the mutinous soldiers being allowed to continue their depredations unmolested throughout the night. The soldiers taking part consisted of about one thousand men. They retreated towards Hsinmintun towards three o'clock in the morning, the conflagration they had started being finally quenched by a heavy fall of rain. No Japanese suffered in the episode, owing, it is reported, to the prompt action of the Japanese Police guards. At the request of the Consul General a battalion of Japanese troops has been despatched to Mukden.

The cause of the trouble is variously reported, but rests mainly on the question of pay, and the pressure brought upon them to contribute to the Patriotic Fund. It is feared that the disturbances may lead the Royalists to rise in rebellion, as a good opportunity offers through the disaffection of the troops. Japan's Manchurian policy may also suffer.

A JAPANESE REPORT.

Professor Shida, an eminent Japanese barrister who has just returned from Peking where he was engaged in codifying the laws of China, is reported as saying that the scarcity of funds in the Chinese capital has reached an almost inconceivable degree. Officials who were hitherto in receipt of large emoluments, and who drove to and from their offices daily in handsome carriages, are now obliged to eke out a precarious existence on salaries of 40 or 50 yen per month, and to find their way to their places of duty either on foot or by *jimikisha*. The President himself looks so careworn and emaciated that the mental troubles he encounters daily and nightly may be read plainly on his face, where emaciation and pallor are the most conspicuous features. Other Peking statesmen show almost equal traces of distress, and if, on the one hand, the veteran statesmen are exhausted, on the other, there are no strong and youthful men to replace them. Lack of money is the great difficulty, and some means of finding it must be discovered without delay.

On the other hand General Lan, who has just left Chefoo for Europe via Shanghai, is quoted as saying that the trouble in China at present is an iconoclastic tendency. Most of the leading statesmen, notably ex-President Sun Yat-sen, pursue a destructive policy, and have no conception of constructive statesmanship. General Lan himself studied military tactics and strategy in Japan, but he did not there learn that to pull down the edifices of state must necessarily precede their erection. He himself and his fellow-thinkers are not seriously concerned about the state of China at present. They do not find it strange that in such an immense expanse of territory as the Chinese realm represents, there should be political disputes and differences of opinion. These divergencies of views are inevitable, and it will be some years before they can be thoroughly reconciled. Finally, as to the policy that China will adopt, General Lan does not venture to make any prediction. He evidently belongs to the independent party, namely, the *Kungho-hui*.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATIONS IN JAPAN.

It was announced a few days ago that great improvements had been effected on the railway between Shimbashi and Peking, the best style of modern car, and all the most recent appurtenances for comfort having been supplied. Immediately on the publication of this official intelligence, the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* despatched a reporter to travel over the road and describe its condition. The record ran as follows:—

	Miles.	Time.
Shimbashi to Bakan	704.5	24h. 37m.
Bakan to Fusan	150	8h. 40m.
Fusan to Mukden	715.6	26h. 05m.
Mukden to Peking	549	20h. 25m.
Total.....	2,129	79h. 47m.

It has to be noted, however, that in addition to the above, one hour and two minutes were occupied in effecting a junction at Bakan, 40 minutes for the same purpose at Fusan and one hour 55 minutes at Mukden. If these figures be added the total time from Tokyo to Peking becomes 83 hours 24 minutes. This is certainly record time.

THE CHINESE SITUATION.

It appears to be now beyond the reach of doubt that the Six Powers Syndicate has come to a satisfactory agreement with regard to the loan question. Nothing novel was introduced in the last two conferences, if we except the fact that Mongolia is described as being within the sphere of Japanese influence. As for Russia, she has shown considerable moderation at the eleventh hour by simply placing on record the pledge that all the interested Powers shall work together to prevent any specialized application of the Syndicate's funds. For the rest it is definitely recognized that the methods of utilizing the proceeds of the loan shall be regarded as diplomatic questions with which the foreign capitalists have no concern.

As for the amount of the loan to be made by the Syndicate, it appears that the sum of 12,100,000 taels, which represents the money already advanced, will be divided into equal portions for distribution among the representatives of the Syndicate, and thereafter a further sum will be lent, bringing the total to 80 million taels. This is called the preliminary loan, and will be handed over to China with all possible expedition; the rate of interest being at least 5½ per cent. and the net receipts from 94 to 95. Inasmuch as this money is required immediately for State purposes, there will be as little delay as possible in paying it out, but as for the much larger loan ultimately contemplated, the purposes to which it is to be applied will require careful consideration, and a certain amount of delay will therefore be necessary.

It may now be confidently asserted that China has emerged from her most serious difficulties. We have never doubted that foreign money would be ultimately available to meet her exigencies, for the foreign Powers were vitally interested in helping her to emerge from the difficult situation into which she had fallen.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS' SERVICE.

Doubtless during many years back, the Chinese Government has been desirous of getting the management of the customs into its own hands. Splendidly as the service has been performed by its foreign employees, and eminently as the organization has been utilized for Chinese purposes, it has after all been an alien affair from a Chinese point of view, and that its existence was tamely permitted for so many years has always been a matter for surprise. Accordingly, we read without wonder that the Chinese Authorities are taking steps to largely reduce the foreign elements of the customs staff, by way of preliminary to their total abolition. Of course this cannot be accomplished in a moment. The revenue derived from the customs has long been pledged as security for money borrowed by China abroad, and unless some satisfactory substitute can be found, the present arrangement will have to stand undisturbed. Japanese subjects are also affected by the proposed change. Something like thirty members of the Chinese staff are Japanese. But that will not materially affect the situation. If Occidentals have to go, Japanese will have to submit to the same clearance. For China's sake, however, it is to be sincerely hoped that this measure will be deferred as long as possible.

THE COUNTRY ATHLETIC CLUB.

In reporting the remarks of Mr. Isaacs at the extraordinary general meeting of the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club in regard to the new site for the Club we fell into an error in supposing that the further piece of land offered to the Club was an addition to that already decided upon. We are informed that the land was offered as an alternative lot, but that after inspection the Committee decided it had no advantages over the plot already selected.

In this context we may congratulate the Club on the handsome response to their appeal for support. When they issued it, they expressed the modest hope that at least half of the 65,000 yen it was estimated would be required to start the club on a proper footing would be raised, and we ventured, in commending the proposal to our readers, to express the opinion that the committee would receive greater support than they expected. This opinion has been justified, already more than half of the total amount having been raised, mainly, if not wholly, through the exertions of the Committee. With such a good beginning, Mr. Isaacs's desire that the fund should reach 50,000 yen before it is closed is not at all too sanguine.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA'S INDIA LINE.

The competition between the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's India line and those of the British line is evidently becoming very keen. Two large vessels aggregating 16,000 tons have been purchased for the service by the Japanese Company, and arrangements have been made for working on a large scale. Tokyo journals speak of this affair as though the Nippon Yusen Kaisha were determined not to be driven from the field, and describe at some length the measures that have been taken for cheaper freights and passenger rates. Evidently we are likely to hear a good deal about this competition.

AMUR.

London sends a strange rumour to the effect that the people in the Amur region have been practically driven out, and that the independence of the province is secured. Whether the people described in this telegram as having been driven out are Chinese citizens or Russian subjects the telegram does not say, nor does it offer any explanation of the causes of the turmoil. It merely says that Russia will benefit largely by the occurrence, from which we infer that the persons expelled are Chinese settlers, and that a large addition to the Russian Empire in the Far East is in process of being made.

TROUBLE AT JEHOI.

A telegram from Jehoi says that the Government troops in that district have joined the bandits, and have pillaged a gold mine carried on there by British subjects. The British Authorities have demanded immediate redress, and have accompanied their demand with a note saying that unless public peace and order can be at once restored, the situation will be taken in hand by the British themselves.

CHINESE FINANCES.

The Chinese financial crisis which was believed to be imminent at the advent of the May festival, seems to have been averted by the payment through the Chartered Bank of the three or four million taels—(there is some doubt as to the exact amount)—advanced by the Four Powers Syndicate. According to a Peking despatch to the Japanese Press, Yuan Shih-kai has encouraged the Finance Minister Hsiung Hsiung to do his best for the sake of the Republic on condition that he would ratify the seven items proposed by the Finance Minister. The President also stated that he could not allow Hsiung to resign at this juncture. Accordingly, the latter, despite his illness, concluded the negotiations as to the advance.

KUROKAWA EISHO.

Another arrest has been effected by the police. Mr. Kurokawa Eisho, a well known chiseller of gold and silver ornaments, has been arrested in Tokyo on a charge of fraudulent dealing. This artist has long enjoyed a high reputation, and his signature on a work of art always commanded respect. But he has now joined the ranks of the forgers, and it is said to have been proved that a very large number of spurious works of art have been found among his productions. He enjoys the patronage of many persons in high places, and there is much curiosity to discover the fraudulent works done by him.

THE TERMS OF THE LOAN.

It appears that China is not to be let down very easily as to her new loan. No official statement has yet been made of the terms, but one generally well-informed journal, namely the *Asahi Shimbun*, says that the rate of interest is to be six per cent; the price per bond, 94; the fees to be paid by the Chinese Government, and the same course to be adopted with regard to the taxes. Nobody expected that any very liberal concession would be made to China, and on the whole these terms seem to be about as good as she has any title to anticipate.

INSURANCE IN JAPAN.

The number of life insurance companies in Japan is only five and the number of fire insurance companies is thirty. We are speaking here of foreign companies having agencies in Japan. It appears that these 35 companies have been operating since the 33rd year of Meiji, and fees paid by them are now considered too small, so that steps are about to be taken to collect heavier payments. The exact figures are not given, but the results will not be inconsiderable.

THE NEW CHINESE CABINET.

It is now apparent that the retirement of Tang Shao-i from the Premiership will not involve any wholesale recasting of the Cabinet. President Yuan has induced Mr. Lu, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, to accept the portfolio of Premier *ad interim*, and Mr. Hsu's objections have been allowed to prevail, so far as he himself is concerned. There may be other changes also, but they are not expected to be of a radical character.

AN ANGLO-JAPANESE SCHOOL.

We read in Tokyo journals that there is to be formed in Tokyo an English-Japanese School, which will have for its principal object the teaching of the Japanese language to American citizens. Mr. Frazar of Messrs. Sale, Frazar and Company, is the principal promoter of this project, and associated with him are Baron Sakatani and a number of eminent educationists both Foreigners and Japanese. We gather that this school is to have its headquarters in Tokyo.

JAPANESE SILK COMPANY AT SEATTLE.

Baron Shibusawa, Mr. Nakano Buei and other gentlemen, acting on the suggestion of the President of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, have decided to establish at Seattle a company for the manufacture of Japanese silk fabrics with a capital of three million yen, to be subscribed by both Japanese and American capitalists, the business to be placed under their joint management. The object in view is to turn out silk goods that will suit the taste of the American public.

A meeting of the Japanese promoters was held on the 22nd inst. at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce rooms, and a definite arrangement, it is expected, will soon be arrived at.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday, June 21.

The morning market started a little active but slackened towards the end, a weak tone being maintained throughout the afternoon session.

Monday, June 24.

The market maintained a firm tone throughout both the morning and afternoon session, though some shares witnessed a little decline.

Tuesday, June 25.

The morning market started slightly active, but slackened towards the end, while the afternoon session maintained a weak tone throughout, though with a little upward tendency toward the close.

Wednesday, June 26.

The market still maintained a dull tone throughout the morning session in the absence of new transactions. The tone somewhat improved in the afternoon, but all shares underwent a fractional decline towards the end.

Thursday, June 27.

The market started quite active, and improved towards the end, shares witnessing a phenomenal rise all round, headed by the Nippon Yusen. The afternoon session was closed to make preparations for tomorrow's transfers. The closing prices for forwards were:—

June 26th. June 27th.

Kei-Hin Railway.....	45.00	44.90	—	.10
Yusen Kaisha.....	116.55	117.80	+	1.25
Toyo Kisen.....	48.00	48.50	+	.50
Specie Bank.....	219.90	220.00	+	.10
Tanko Kisen.....	20.55	20.75	+	.20
Tokyo Gas.....	71.20	71.40	+	.20
Tokyo Dento.....	69.00	70.00	+	1.00
Fuji Gas Spinning.....	87.65	88.80	+	1.15
Tokyo Spinning.....	52.55	53.50	+	.95
Kanagafuchi Spinning.....	114.50	115.15	+	.65
Beer.....	85.35	86.00	+	.65
Hoden (Takarada Oil).....	66.50	66.85	+	.35
Nippon Oil.....	72.85	73.50	+	.65
Rice Exchange.....	106.50	106.50	—	1.00
Stock Exchange.....	154.69	154.95	+	.25

JAPAN AND THE CHINESE LOAN.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 26.)

IN several of the telegrams recently received from Europe we find an expression of gratitude towards Japan for the moderation shewn by her in the matter of the Chinese loan. Originally the Tokyo Government distinctly formulated the condition that no part of the Chinese loan should be employed for the purpose of conducting enterprises in Manchuria. But after some conference this clause was greatly modified in the sense that no part of the proceeds of the loan should be devoted to purposes interfering with Japan's already acquired rights and privileges in Manchuria and Mongolia. This moderation on Japan's side seems to have been highly appreciated. It elicited an expression of thanks from the representatives of the Syndicate and it evidently produced an excellent impression in Europe and America. Japan showed much wisdom in this matter, and we observe with satisfaction that none of the principal newspapers of Tokyo have taken any exception to her action. She showed herself prepared to accept any promise made by her Occidental *conféres*, and we are confident that she will lose nothing eventually by that magnanimity. Meanwhile we note that Mongolia has been included in this clause of Japan's note. Originally Manchuria alone was spoken of in connection with the proceeds of the loan, but now Mongolia also is included. That may probably be regarded as in some sense a *quid pro quo*.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

(The Japan Daily Mail, June 26.)

THE first battle in the war between Mr. WILLIAM TAFT and Colonel ROOSEVELT in the struggle for the Presidency of the United States has taken place and first blood must undoubtedly be accredited to the present President. The Republican Convention has officially nominated him for the post, 561 delegates registering their votes in his favour. The supporters of Colonel ROOSEVELT at the Convention only numbering 344, declined to vote and left the hall in a body in a building adjacent, where they proceeded to nominate the Colonel as a Republican, but on an Independent ticket. This was duly done and there are thus two "Richmonds" in the Republican field. Today (Wednesday), the Democratic Convention for the nomination of their candidate opens at Baltimore and owing to the split in the Republican Party, there is a strong possibility that on Wednesday morning, November 6th of this year, Americans may find that for the first time in sixteen years, they have a Democratic President. The chief favourites for the high position on the Democratic side are undoubtedly Governor WOODROW WILSON and

SPEAKER CLARK. Both claim an equal following of delegates, but it is the opinion of the more thoughtful students of Democratic politics, that Governor WILSON will eventually be nominated. There are of course a few other politicians who have talked of entering the running, whilst there have long been rumours of a dark horse appearing on the scene who will sweep all before him. This mysterious individual, however, has up to now failed to materialize. The most notable feature in the Democratic Party is that they have no candidate of anything approaching the personalities of the two great Republican antagonists; they have no man to put up who can practically command votes as can TAFT and ROOSEVELT. It may be, however, that this is an advantage to the Party; for not being swayed by a magnetic personality, the very best man standing may be nominated.

It is not wise to put too much confidence in the election of either President TAFT or Colonel ROOSEVELT. That both men will go to the polls in November is practically certain. There is hardly a shadow of possibility that either one will retire; for they have their backs against the wall, and, in sporting parlance, it is fairly certain to be a fight to the finish. When two old and dear personal friends quarrel and cutting bitter words are exchanged, and especially when politics or religion is the cause of the estrangement, the bad feeling engendered is invariably of a grim and lasting character. Consequently it is fairly safe to assert that both statesmen will go through with the struggle to the bitter end. This is of course the great chance of the Democrats, for with the Republican vote split as it will be, they have a chance of putting their nominee at the head of the poll. Something more, too, can be said of the uncertainty of the coming election. It must be remembered that the two Conventions, viz.—that of last week and this, are purely the work of the Party machines. With those remarkable gifts possessed by the American professional politicians, anything is possible; as was evidenced by the Republican Convention. Fair-play is not strenuously insisted upon. The game is to win. As the old Quaker sagely said—"Honestly if thou canst, my son; but win." The great test comes in the November election when the "man in the street" decides; for he is infinitely less obsessed by the Party machine than are the delegates at the Conventions. At the same time, to prove the complexity of the coming election, it must not by any means be assumed that because a man is a Democrat, he will therefore vote for the Democratic candidate. It so happens that there is an enormous number of voters who call themselves "Progressive Democrats"; and, that unless the Baltimore Convention nominates as its candidate one of strong Progressive tendencies, this large body of voters are almost certain to cast their votes for one of

the Republican nominees; and it is the firm opinion of American students of politics that they would practically 'all be in favour of Colonel ROOSEVELT. It will thus be readily seen that the contest will be one of singular complexity and that a very great deal depends upon the selection made by the Democratic Convention this week.

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

In view of the conclusion of the Foreign Bankers' conference, Sir John Jordan, British Minister at Peking, is said to have approached President Yuan Shih-kai, with the advice that, while he desired sincerely the success of the attempted flotation of a Patriotic Loan or the contemplated plan of a national contribution, which was the best means for the renovation of China, he was anxious to remind the President of the fact that if China had recourse to foreign loans, the necessary condition would be the transfer of the supervisory rights over the finances to the heads of the Foreign Syndicate. He was therefore anxious to know if the President was confident of success in pacifying any patriotic reaction against the transfer of such supervisory rights.

The President, who has not yet replied, is expected to despatch the Finance Minister to the British Minister in regard to the latter's suggestions. It is also believed that the principle of this private suggestion from the British Minister will before long be embodied in a formal memorandum and will be presented by the Foreign Syndicate to the President.

A despatch from Tientsin reports that Tang Shao-i has left his hotel in the British settlement and is now stopping at his villa in Hupeh. He is busily occupied with communications with the Ministers of Communications and Education and the members of the Tungmin-hui party. Tang seems to be convinced that his resignation will lead to the resignation of the Cabinet members as a whole and that this will facilitate the renovation of political circles.

The Cantonese have met in conference at the Association Hall and passed a resolution to urge Sun Yat-sen to go up to Peking.

Rumour has it, says a Peking special to the *Chuwo*, that the Imperialists have in contemplation the creation of a political party under the name of the Popular Constitutional Party, with Mr. Liang Chi-chao as leader, and will publish a newspaper in both foreign and vernacular editions. President Yuan Shih-kai is said to be secretly favouring the attempt.

The Huai troops at Nanyuan have purchased a considerable amount of explosives from foreign traders. The people in the district sat in conference to discuss the means of escaping from the looting by the riotous soldiers apparently imminent when it was decided that they would each contribute toward the fund necessary for taking measures for self protection.

Yuan Shih-kai is endeavouring to pacify the National Assembly in order to appoint Hsu Shih-chang to the post of Premier. Thus the Cabinet may apparently maintain a peaceful condition for a time, but such a step will, it is believed, only serve to more than ever jeopardize the foundation of the Cabinet.

The Finance Minister Hsiung, having been formally informed by the Chartered Bank representing the Six Powers Syndicate, will commence on the 25th instant the negotiations as to the conclusion of the large loan. As the Minister is invested with full powers, he will not be restrained in any way by the National Assembly.

A telegraphic despatch from the Magistrate of Chekiang reports the pitiful condition of the province on account of famine. All the stock of cereals is exhausted, and importation from other provinces is practically impossible. People in Hanghsien are reducing their meals to one a day, while thirty-five men and children perished in one day from hunger.

THE CHINESE CABINET CRISIS.

The National Assembly seems to have been thrown into further disorder, Premier Tang Shao-i again tendering his resignation on the 20th. Sung Chao-jen, Chen Chi-mei and Wang Shih-chang are also said to have decided to follow Tang's example. The Kuogho-hui faction is striving to create a political party Cabinet with Hsu Shih-chang as Premier.

A later dispatch to the *Tokyo Asahi* reports that simultaneously with Tang's resignation all the Ministers of State belonging to the Tungmin-hui resigned. Yuan Shih-kai met in conference the representatives of the political party on the 20th, when the President is said to have stated that in view of the difficulties attendant on the creation of either a political party Cabinet or an independent Cabinet, the safest course for the present was the formation of a combined Ministry so as to allow wide scope in the selection of the personnel.

Later news says the struggle between the Tungmin-hui and the Kuogho-hui parties is daily growing in intensity, the former favouring a Hwang Hsing Cabinet, and the latter a Hsu Shih-chang Ministry. On the 23rd instant the three leading political parties sat in conference, when the representatives of the Tungmin-hui stated that they did not insist upon the formation of a second Cabinet with their own Party members, but that on the contrary they were prepared to support any Cabinet properly constituted. The Kuogho-hui advocated the creation of an independent Cabinet consisting of neutral members with whoever the President might please to select as Premier. The Tungmin-hui faction endorsed the proposal of the Kuogho-hui, laying stress upon the importance of selecting for the Premiership such a person only as commanded the respect of all. The conference will be resumed before long for further discussion of the subject.

According to a Peking special to the *Chuwu*, dated the 23rd instant, the Chinese Cabinet has resigned *in toto*.

Yuan Shih-kai is said to have decided to despatch an emissary to the United States in order to conclude an American-Chinese Alliance Treaty.

Mukden wires that the soldiers at Kirin have risen in mutiny and apprehension is general that the riot will spread before it can be suppressed.

An official despatch from Dalny says that the representatives of the members of the National Assembly belonging to the Tungmin-hui faction, approached President Yuan Shih-kai on the 20th instant with a Resolution passed by the party. In the course of the interview the representatives stated that now that all the Cabinet members belonging to the Tungmin-hui had resigned, following the example of their leader Tang Shao-i, the present Ministry ought to be regarded as having collapsed. As regards the formation of a second Cabinet, they would prefer either an independent or a political party Cabinet, but took exception to a coalition Ministry.

In response Yuan Shih-kai expressed himself as opposed to both an independent and a political party Cabinet. "The present difficulty lies in the selection of the personnel," explained the President. "It would therefore be safer to create a coalition Cabinet, so as to allow a wider scope of selection. You desire to form a political party Cabinet, but I beg to call your attention to the fact that unfortunately for China there is no man of such capacity as may be able to create and maintain a Ministry with one political party. There is every reason to believe a political party Cabinet can not be considered as possible under present circumstances. When I selected the Cabinet members from among the constituents of the Tungmin-hui, it was not as members of a political party but as men of ability that I chose them. In future when any solid and sound political party forms itself, I shall

retire from the public service to leave State affairs to such a political party Cabinet.

"But the fact should not be lost sight of that at present things are still in an embryonic stage. The establishment of the Republic is no better than nominal, the Powers around having not yet so much as given their formal recognition to its establishment, while the National Assembly is quite ignorant of the world's diplomatic conditions. Believe me when I declare therefore that no idea can be more fatal than believing it possible to form anything like a political party Cabinet at this juncture. According to our provisional Constitution the President is not to be held responsible, but I for one, am of opinion that the President is like the manager of a shop, and the State Ministers like clerks, the former being naturally and justly held responsible for the failures or faults of the latter. It is in this sense that I am now obliged to ask you to devote yourselves to the control of State affairs with a spirit of union."

The representatives left Yuan Shih-kai apparently persuaded by the President's theory.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, General Hwang Hsing and other leaders of the Tungmin-hui are sitting in secret conference at Shanghai, reports a Shanghai special to the *Chuo*. Wang Chi-hsiang has also come up from Nanking to participate in the conference.

It is said that Liang Chi-chow, who is enjoining in Japan now, will shortly leave for Peking to meet Yuan Shih-kai. The Tungmin-hui faction regard Liang as the leader of the Imperialists and have passed a resolution for his arrest: the movement he sets foot on the capital and his expulsion from the country. As the fact is that Liang will go to Peking at the request of Yuan, the resolution seems to be intended as a demonstration against the President.

According to a telegram from Tsingto, received at the German Consulate, there is again every sign of disturbances breaking out in different districts in Shantung. General Ma has despatched contingents to Weihien and Hsuechow.

THE CHINA LOAN.

The Six Powers Bankers' Conference at Paris was successfully concluded on the 20th inst. In view of the importance attaching to the conference we give below the particulars of proceedings since the 18th instant. The main features of the Conference on the 18th seem to have been the Japanese and Russian proposals that the advance should be invested in such directions as would not clash with their special interests in Manchuria and Mongolia. The Syndicate in response, pointed out that the question would be referred to their different Governments, as it was not a subject to be discussed by the Conference. It was agreed, however, to place the demand on the record of the proceedings. The Russian proposal that any decision concerning the investment of the advances should be nullified if one of the Six Powers took exception, met with opposition, and finally a compromise was proposed by which the Russian demands would be observed in principle but should not be embodied in any open regulations. At the conference of the following day Russia gave her consent to the proposed compromise, when the Four Powers in turn applied for a day's adjournment to inform their respective Governments, for instructions on the subject. The Conference was resumed on the 20th inst. when the proposed compromise was formally effected, the negotiations as to the advances being concluded in the sense that the Six Powers would confer mutually in deciding the method of investment. The Powers participating also agreed to the Russian proposal that the investment of the advance shall be investigated with as much care as possible.

The contract for the advances are said to consist of five articles. Its contents are not yet published, but it is clear it refers to the amount of each Power's share, the means of flotation of the loans, the issue value, etc.

In regard to this, the *Tokyo Asahi* in its Sun-

day's issue, publishes more detailed information. According to our contemporary it seems that the Six Powers have determined to accede to China's request for an advance on most liberal conditions. That is, they will share equally among themselves the sum of 12,100,000 taels thus far advanced by the Four Powers' Syndicate, and will consent to further advances if required up to 80,000,000 taels as a maximum, in the shape of discounted Treasury Bills.

As regards the large loan, there seems to be little prospect of its speedy conclusion, inasmuch as the method of its investment requires thorough investigation and strict supervision. It may, however, be noted that the negotiations as to the loan in question now being carried on by the Six Powers seem to be based on the conditions that the loan will bear interest of not less than 5.5 per cent., with an issue price of 94 to 95, the taxes being the security.

It may be added that in closing the conference on the 20th, the Powers are said to have expressed their thanks for the judicious attitude of mediation that Japan has maintained throughout the negotiations.

Mr. Tuan Chi-jui, Minister of War, has presented a memorandum to Mr. Hsiung, Minister of Finance, urging the latter to make a special endeavour for the conclusion of the big loan. The War Minister says:—

While it is quite natural to some extent that the Finance Minister should find himself led to decide on the postponement of the contract of the once contemplated large loan, in view of the public opposition, the fact should be noted that opposition, however persistent, is raised by but a small portion of the people. On the other hand, the actual condition of the country is such as to admit of not a moment's hesitation in attending to the removal of the imminent financial crisis. All the troops and the people are now on the verge of starvation. The failure in the conclusion of the loan will entail a national disturbance from which horrible consequences might result. Those who oppose the Powers' Syndicate loan at this juncture, are madmen or unpardonable traitors. Even if the Government shed further blood for the suppression of such a blind and fatal theory, the safety of the Republic would not be bought too dearly. All the military-men in Peking and other districts now consider the loan as the only guiding national policy for the present. Why then should the Government hesitate in pursuing the national policy of a foreign loan?

In this context, the interesting feature of the situation is that there appears to be no hope of the Power's loan being speedily concluded.

The negotiations as to the big loan have been formally commenced, says a Peking special to the *Chuwu*, on the understanding that strict secrecy will be observed on both sides concerning the proceedings. Upon entering into a discussion of the Powers' right of financial supervision, the Finance Minister refused to give any definite opinion, and instead, emphasized his desire to obtain a preliminary advance of 20,000,000 yen. In consequence the negotiations are making very tardy progress. According to advice from a Chinese source, the conditions of the big loan proposed by the Powers' syndicate are said to be so extremely strict that no Government could accept them. The Finance Minister was to meet the Representatives of the syndicate again on the 27th instant but it is believed that nothing conclusive will result.

BASEBALL.

The baseball game between "The Tigers" of Yokohama and the Ibaraki team resulted in a win for the latter by five to one. The attendance was excellent and considerable enthusiasm was displayed. The score was as follows:—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
Ibaraki	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Tigers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Umpire, J. F. Da Costa.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

The Franco-Japanese Bank may now be regarded as practically established. As already reported, the conference between the representatives of Japan and France held at Paris on the 18th instant to discuss the Bank's regulations, made such satisfactory progress that an agreement was arrived at. The authorities of the Department of Finance and of the banks concerned, as well as those connected with the Société Générale, sat in conference in Tokyo and Paris on the 21st instant with satisfactory results. In consequence the first general meeting will be held on the 24th instant, when the first instalment of the capital will be paid in and the regulations registered at the Public Notary Office, thereby formally deciding the share of France at six million yen and that of Japan at four million yen. The second general meeting will be held on July 3rd when officers will be elected to complete the organization of the Bank.

The Bank's sphere of activity is quite extensive, comprising besides the ordinary banking business, the discount of commercial bills, advances on the security of both movable and immovable property, the issue of loan bonds, and the acceptance of shares, debentures, etc. in all parts of the East. The Bank will not draw any line between the business sphere of itself and of the Indo China Bank though it will strictly refrain from entering into competition with either the above bank or the Six Powers' Syndicate.

The number of Directors will be fixed at either 12 or 15, and divided into two groups, one part to be stationed at the Head Office in Paris and the other at the Branch in Tokyo. The President of the Bank will be selected from among the chief officers of the Société Générale, while to the post of Vice-President either the President or the Vice-President of the Japan Industrial Bank will be appointed. The number of chief officers for the first term, which is to be decided at the second general conference to be held on July 3rd will presumably be fixed at 12, of whom 7 will be stationed in Paris and the remaining 5 in Tokyo, the division to be made in such a way as to include in the former group one Japanese and in the latter one Frenchman.

The banks to participate in the organization are to be selected by the Industrial Bank on the part of Japan, and by the Société Générale, as well as the Paris and Dutch Banks, on the part of France. In France it is said that except the Indo-China Bank, the banks that will participate are not yet decided so that whether their number will be seven as at first believed is still uncertain. In Japan the banks to participate in the formation of the Syndicate are already fixed, these being the Industrial, the First, the Mitsu, the Mitsubishi, and the Specie Bank. So far as the last named bank is concerned, however, specialists are now investigating whether it is legally entitled to become a shareholder, in view of its peculiar nature. Meanwhile it has been decided that the Specie Bank will afford every convenience to the Franco-Japanese Bank, even if it fails to become one of the legal shareholders, inasmuch as it has thus far done much for the establishment of the Bank. Japan's share of four million yen will be distributed among the above five participating banks, 500,000 yen each, except the Industrial Bank, which will take 2,000,000 yen and also 500,000 yen in case the Specie Bank is found unqualified for participation.

The Franco-Japanese Bank will also be invested with the right of issuing both ordinary and special debentures. The issue of the former will be limited in amount, the maximum being three times the capital paid up, while that of the latter is unlimited, provided a security corresponding in value to ten per cent. of the amount of issue is offered. The sphere of the utilization, however, of the special debentures being confined to local public bodies, the present capital of the Bank may prove inadequate to attain the above aim in any satisfactory manner. The Bank's influence

as a monetary organ must nevertheless be great, inasmuch as it is entitled to act as the agent for the issue of every description of debentures.

The Bank will open its business in the early part of July, though the date cannot be predicted definitely prior to the general meeting on July 3rd.

One of the numerous benefits the Franco-Japanese Bank, which is now on the point of inauguration, is calculated to afford to economic circles in Japan, according to an authority quoted by the *Tokyo Asahi*, will be the greater facility with which local enterprises will be enabled to gain access to capital. As a matter of fact, not a few local enterprises have hitherto been abandoned for want of capital as soon as they were launched, and despite the efforts of the authorities, little has been accomplished in the way of remedying this regrettable state of affairs. The establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank at this juncture, therefore, is certainly a blessing. According to the regulations of the Bank, while it is only invested with the right to issue ordinary debentures to an amount three times as much as the paid-up capital, it is entitled to issue without any limitation special debentures, such as may be intended for subscription to local bonds, provided that a security corresponding in value to ten per cent. of the issue is offered. It is obvious that this clause has been inserted in the regulations with a view to facilitating investment in Japanese local undertakings, since there is little necessity for such specification for France, where, unlike in Japan, no local enterprises suffer from want of capital, every bank and capitalist being ready to make investments at a moment's notice for such purposes. In view of these considerations the benefits the various local enterprises of this country will enjoy in consequence of the establishment of the Bank, in particular the convenience in raising capital required, will certainly be great and permanent.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The China Merchants S. N. Company has just published its annual report on its business returns for the last fiscal year. According to the report, the Company, which has hitherto been of a semi-official nature, being placed under the direct control of the Communications Department, has now been converted into a purely private undertaking. It is the enormous loss the Company suffered last year, however, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, rather than the alteration of its constitution, that arrests public attention. As stated in the report its revenue last year amounted to 2,100,000 taels as against an expenditure of 2,330,000 taels, thereby creating a deficiency of some 230,000 taels. This is the greatest loss sustained since the establishment of the Company. It will be remembered that throughout last year the commerce of the country remained in a most depressed condition owing to the frequent and disastrous inundations in different districts in the summer and autumn, and also the suspension for over a quarter of the year of the shipping services in the Yangtze Valley in consequence of the Revolutionary disturbance in Wuchang and Hankow. On the other hand, during the civil commotion, the Company was compelled to advance some 300,000 taels to the Magistrate of Shanghai and 100,000 taels to the Revolutionaries, all of which, however, must now be abandoned, judging from the present situation of the country. In these circumstances we cannot be far wrong in concluding that the loss sustained by the company during the last fiscal year must have been far greater than the figures published in its business report. Another feature of the report which confirms this inference is that the Company appears to have more or less overestimated the value of the ships, land, and every other item of its property as compared with the estimation made in the preceding reports.

Despite this colossal loss, the Company has

followed its usual custom and declared a dividend of ten per cent. It is the rule for the Company to declare a dividend of ten per cent. every year, regardless of its business operations, and consequently it frequently has to dispose of part of its property for the sake of paying the dividend whenever any deficiency is found in its account. The effect of this upon the Company scarcely needs pointing out, and in the circumstances it is not surprising that despite the over estimation every year of the company's property, it shows a gradual decrease.

The maintenance of the Company is made still more difficult by the fact that it has to pay annually to the Government an amount of 80,000 taels, and this in the face of every difficulty and disadvantage under which it has to compete with British, German, Japanese and French rivals. Moreover, those in charge of the Company are either Government officials or ex-officials who are scarcely equal to the task, and who aim only at "feathering their own nests," while the majority of the higher officers and engineers employed on the vessels are very high-salaried foreigners. It is therefore natural that the company suffers an annual loss. Last year the Company obtained 1,500,000 taels from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to meet its deficiency. How to supply the deficiency this year, is a question that taxes the brains of the Directors.

THE BOOM IN INSURANCE SHARES.

A POSSIBLE CAUSE.

While the general share market is in a stagnant state, it is surprising, says the *Niroku Shimbum*, to note that the shares of insurance companies alone are advancing to nobody knows where. A financial authority is credited with the statement that when the profits of sound insurance companies for the coming ten years and more are taken into consideration, one cannot but be struck by the amount of the possible contracts and reserves that will be out of all proportion to the amount of their capitals. There is little wonder that some people could buy the shares of certain companies at prices that would reduce their dividends to two or even one per cent. It is altogether a different question, however, whether the present buyers are really actuated by similar considerations. There are a class of speculators who are dreaming of large returns obtainable in the event of the insurance business becoming a Government monopoly. It is quite possible that the promoters of some fresh enterprises are trying to enhance the shares of old concerns in the hope of dumping the new ones on a credulous public. These and various other factors are evidently responsible for the appreciation of insurance shares.

EXPANSION OF LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS.

The results of the life insurance business so far are very satisfactory, the fresh contracts from January to April amounting to 66,610,000 yen, making, with the contract cancelled but afterwards reinstated, a total of 75,780,000 yen.

Minus the insurances payable through deaths and expiration of terms, and the sums written off for discontinuance of contracts, this makes a net increase of 41,180,000 yen, or forty per cent. over the corresponding period of last year. The premiums received during the period under review were 798,400 yen, the policies paid 2,301,000 and the contracts discontinued 323,000 yen. Subjoined in the table of contracts:—

Fresh contracts.		Total amount at the end of the month.	
Yen.		Yen.	
January	11,384,284		686,438,696
February	16,494,532		696,828,992
March	20,105,560		710,207,139
April	18,626,714		721,947,883

THE INCREASE OF SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES.

In view of the progress thus far made in the negotiations between the Japanese steamship companies and the foreign Shipping Conference, the pending question of the increase of freight rates promises to be settled before long in the form of a compromise. It may be noted that for some time past the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in accordance with instructions from the Department of Communications, has been carrying on negotiations as to the subject with the Shipping Conference both at Kobe and London. In consequence the representatives of the foreign Shipping Conference met in conference at Hamburg on the 10th instant, when it was decided that the demands of the Japanese Company, although against the general tendency of the world's shipping circles, should be accepted, in part if not entirely, for the present in view of the special circumstances under which they are proposed. With this decision as a stepping stone, negotiations have been carried further with the Kobe Shipping Conference until they have been concluded by stipulating that the freight rates shall be raised by five per cent. instead of ten per cent. as was at first proposed by the Shipping Conference, while on raw silk, filatures, silk tissues, camphor, rice and others goods subject to duties *ad valorem*, as well as bamboo ware, straw-braid, oil and others liable to dues according to weight, the rates should be left as at present. Accordingly the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has made a formal application to the Department of Communications for the raising, on the above basis, of the freight rates, and an agreement having already been arrived at between the Departments of Communications and of Agriculture and Commerce, sanction will be granted, it is expected, not later than the 24th instant.

COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

As already reported, the negotiations between the Shipping Conference and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha as to the raising of the European freight rates, have been concluded by a compromise, that is by deciding on an increase by five per cent. instead of ten per cent. as was at first proposed, in accordance with the suggestions of the Communications Department. Consequently, official sanction was duly given on the 24th instant to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's application for an increase, upon the above basis, of the freight rates to Europe. In this connexion Mr. Yagawa, Chief of the Bureau of Superintendence, gives a full account of the proceedings in the negotiations. Mr. Yagawa says:—

Some time ago the Shipping Conference decided to increase the transport rates from the Orient to Europe by ten per cent., besides charging one shilling per ton as a fee for handling freight as far as goods destined for London are concerned; and from Europe to the Orient by from 2s. 6d. to 5s. and also from Europe to intermediate ports by ten per cent., the decision to be brought into force on and after the 1st of April this year. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, being a member of the Conference, applied to the Communications Department for increasing the freight rates in accordance with the above decision.

The authorities did not object to sanctioning an increase in the freight rates between Europe and intermediate ports inasmuch as it was not calculated to affect the development of domestic industries. But the raising of the transport rates on exports the authorities deemed to be a question which required thorough investigation. Accordingly the Government at once started the necessary investigations and at the same time sought the opinion of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Meanwhile the question elicited so much public interest that many suggestions were made by the Chambers of Commerce, Industrial Guilds, etc., which all concurred in concluding that an increase by ten per cent. of the transport rates on exports, of which cheap

goods form the majority, would operate to destroy the export trade of the country.

The authorities of the Communications Department finally concluded from these suggestions, as well as by their own investigations, that while the growing prosperity of the world's general shipping circles, coupled with the insufficiency of the number of liners on the European service, would naturally tend to increase the freight rates, it was nevertheless necessary to place a limit to the growth of the tendency, in the spirit which gave birth to the policy of shipping subsidies as well as trade protection. Acting on this conviction the authorities instructed the Nippon Yusen Kaisha to negotiate with the shipping conference on the basis of the condition that transport rates on such exports as bamboo ware, ginger, copper, pepper, oil, porcelain, canned goods, bamboo blinds, screens, straw braid, tea, vegetable wax, toys, beans and other low priced articles, numbering fifty-two in all, should be left as hitherto, those on other items should be raised by five per cent. instead of ten per cent.; and that the decision to charge one shilling per ton on freights destined for London should be cancelled.

In view of the fact that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is the only Japanese Steamship Company that runs a fortnightly service on the European route, and therefore any discord between the company and the other members of the Conference would produce a bad effect on the trade between Asia and Europe, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha approached the Conference with the above proposals in a spirit of conciliation. The Conference maintained a very firm attitude, however, and for a time it appeared impossible for the Nippon Yusen to insist upon the revised conditions. In the meantime the Shipping Company applied for a postponement of the date for the enforcement of the Conference's decision, which was finally accepted by the latter after consultation with the Head Office in London, the date having been postponed until July 1st. The Nippon Yusen then directly approached the Shipping Conference in London through its branch office there with the same proposals, which were finally accepted in view of the special circumstances under which they were made.

DR. ELIOT'S VISIT.

Dr. Eliot, Professor of Harvard University, accompanied by Mrs. Eliot, their grand daughter Miss Ruth Eliot, and Mr. Pierce, the Professor's secretary, arrived at Shimbashi on the 24th instant and were received on the platform by a large crowd of distinguished ladies and gentlemen both Japanese and foreign, among them being Colonel Bryan, the American Ambassador, Viscount Kaneko, Baron Megata, Prof. Uchigasaki of Waseda University, Mr. Fisher of the Tokyo Y. M. C. A. and Mr. Naruse, President of the Women's University.

Dr. Eliot invited his friends and the journalists to a dinner at the Imperial Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, when he made the following speech:—

"The Carnegie Peace Forum was brought into existence about a year and a half ago with the ten million dollars of the foundation fund contributed by Mr. Carnegie. The fact should be placed on record that unlike the other peace associations, this organization does not necessarily aim directly at the extirpation of war. War may be necessary in some cases, inasmuch as even ill started or wrong wars sometimes bring good results.

"The measures the Peace Forum is taking for the attainment of its objects are multifarious, but they may be divided into three, firstly investigations into the effects the causes and results of War are calculated to produce upon the world's economics; secondly the prosecution of the study of international law with a view to the settlement of future international troubles by arbitration; and lastly inquiries into the means for the promotion of general education as well as of the sound development of international intercourse. The leading members of the Forum

are of opinion that the world is gradually but steadily advancing along the lines of peace, and therefore that it will not be a matter of insurmountable difficulty to convert the nations into one grand union of human beings by establishing stable commercial intercourse among them, and also by enhancing the intellectual development of the peoples.

"The Carnegie Peace Forum aims at the same time at the promotion of medical science. Japan had attained a marked progress in this field of scientific study, as was proved by the Russo-Japanese War. In fact it would be more precise and proper to confess that I have come to Japan in order to learn about Japan and not to teach the Japanese."

Dr. Eliot paid a formal visit on the same day to the American Ambassador and thence attended a grand reception given in his honour at the Peers' Club by the Members of the Harvard Club.

As previously announced, the Doctor will, at the request of the Japan Peace Association, and other Peace bodies, deliver a lecture on Peace at the Chuwa University on the 28th instant at 7 p.m. On this occasion Baron Sakatani, Count Okuma and Mr. Frezar, the former two representing the Japan Peace Association, and the latter the American Peace Forum, will also deliver speeches.

Dr. Eliot visited Keio University on the 26th inst., where he addressed the students.

COMPANIES BALANCE-SHEETS.

The *Official Gazette* contains an announcement that Banks and Companies may hereafter utilize the medium of the *Official Gazette* for advertisement of their balance-sheets. This is a novel departure from the somewhat stiff attitude hitherto assumed by the authorities entrusted with the task of editing the *Gazette* towards anything in the line of advertisements purporting to emanate from business circles.

The officials, it is suggested, might have gone a step farther and undertaken to publish reports of proceedings at general meetings of companies. The Japanese Press rarely takes notice of such meetings, nor do the companies try to give publicity to the discussions that take place.

In the absence of any recognized medium through which to publish similar accounts, such as the London *Times*' financial supplement is to the British public, this latest means of advertisement afforded by the *Kwanpo* may be extensively resorted to by private companies and banks with advantage. The bare fact of the Japanese *Official Gazette* having undertaken such a matter speaks for the spirit of improvement that is in the air.

THE SAGHALIEN COAL MINES.

The latest issue of the *Official Gazette* announces the promulgation of a law for the working of the coal mines in Saghalien. There are three great coal fields in the island, one lying to the north, another in the centre, and the other to the south, each extending over ten *ri*. The quality of the coal is as excellent as that of the Yubari mine. It must be noted in this connexion that while in Japan the discoverer of a mine is entitled to work it, this is not so in Saghalien. According to the law there, those who work mines have to pay mining duties and the right of mining is granted to the highest bidder. The qualifications of the applicants to tender for such mining rights are specified in the Imperial Ordinance issued simultaneously with the above law, according to which applicants must be fully qualified miners in the eyes of the Mining Law, and at the same time must be those who pay direct national taxes to the annual amount of not less than one thousand *yen*, and who also have for over two years worked coal mines which possess an annual productive capacity of above 50,000 tons. In these circumstances, in the case of Saghalien the evils so often associated with actions of this kind will be avoided.

THE TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE
REGULATIONS.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Tokyo Stock Exchange was held on the 24th instant in response to a demand preferred by seventy-five members, five above the legal requirement. The proposed increase of the security of members of the Exchange from 12,000 yen to 30,000 yen was debated and a vote was given against it. Another proposal to prohibit the transfer or hypothecation of the security was also negatived, and the existing regulation prohibiting the establishment by the members of any gold or firm having for its object transactions in negotiable documents was pronounced a hindrance to the business operations of the brokers. The Executive Committee was requested to submit the decisions to the consideration of the Directors the following day.

A Tokyo paper thinks the members are simply courting disgrace by taking exception to measures apparently intended to raise them in the estimation of the general public.

The Executive Committee of the brokers of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, offended at the remarks made at the extraordinary meeting of the brokers held lately, that they had purposely acted against the interests of their fellow-brokers by consenting to the proposed increase in securities, have resigned in a body. Their successors are to be elected on the 29th instant. Considerable interest is aroused as to who will take their places.

A general meeting of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Brokers took place on the 26th instant with Baron Go in the chair.

After the general report and accounts had been laid before the gathering, the proposed revision of the regulations was taken up for discussion. Mr. Sugihara and others proposed a partial alteration of the wording of the regulations and Mr. Matsumita Gonji moved that in view of the paramount importance attaching to the revision of the regulations from the standpoint not only of the shareholders and brokers, but of the Tokyo Stock Exchange itself, the matter should be submitted to an extraordinary general meeting to be held later after careful investigation by a Committee of ten, consisting of five shareholders and five brokers, with Baron Shibusawa, Messrs. Okura Kihachiro, Maeda Ko, and Nakano Buei, ex-Managing Director, as Conciliators.

The motion was, however, rejected, and the revisions were passed with sweeping rapidity, no members, contrary to the general expectation, raising any opposition or even asking a question. The sitting was thus smoothly brought to a close about five o'clock in the afternoon after the following profit and loss account had been passed :—

Profit for Current Term.....	585,638.081
Brought over from last account	254 182

Total	585,892.263
Reserve Fund	29,290.000
Redemption Fund	4,000.000
Dividends (13 7 per cent)	550,400.000
Carried forward	2,212.263

As already reported the salient points of the proposed revision of the Stock Exchange Regulations, submitted for consideration to the members at the general meeting held on the 26th instant, are, firstly, to increase the security of the Stock Exchange brokers from 12,000 yen to 30,000 yen; secondly, to prohibit the transfer or the mortgage of the security; and lastly not to allow the formation of any other independent body of brokers other than the present corporation. That these are the conditions absolutely necessary for the re-establishment of the credit of the Exchange there can be no doubt, but they are nevertheless very objectionable to the brokers who, as already reported, held an extraordinary general meeting on the 24th instant and moved that the three conditions proposed should be discarded as they would entail a great deal of

inconvenience in business transactions. The motion was passed by a majority of 36 against 20, and in consequence, Messrs. Watanabe, Murakami, Koike, Tachibana and a number of other leading stockbrokers, constituting the Committee, tendered their resignations on the 25th instant. That this resignation of the competent and popular Committee signifies the future decline of the Stock Exchange business is a fact not to be denied. The Directors and other right-minded brokers therefore are now endeavouring to persuade them to remain at their posts, but thus far apparently without success. It is believed that although the motion against the revision of the regulations was supported by fifty-six members, the majority of them were holding proxies given by absent members without the least knowledge of the motion. Of the brokers, numbering 140 in all, only fourteen or fifteen, it is said, will suffer from the increase of the security. The fact seems to be that the petty brokers at first took exception to the Committee's decision only with a view to obtaining the latter's assistance in enabling them to raise the funds required for the payment of the increased security.

The general opinion is that of the total 240,000 shares possessed by the Tokyo Stock Exchange brokers, those held by the above mentioned inadequately qualified members number no more than a few hundreds.

LOCAL LOANS.

In reply to an inquiry from the Nationalist Party concerning local loan bonds, the Bureau of State Bonds attached to the Finance Department, is reported to have stated that the sum total of the prefectural, municipal and other bonds floated by local bodies up to the end of April this year, amounted to 282,936,032 yen as detailed in the following table:—

	Yen.
Education	8,777,369
Sanitation	18,168,314
Industrial enterprises.....	106,994,895
Engineering work (incidental).....	21,212,612
Engineering work (ordinary).....	44,745,081
Redemption fund	81,923,076
Miscellaneous	1,864,638

Total 282,986,032

As compared with the amount recorded at the end of the preceding fiscal year, 175,412,214 yen, the above figures show a great increase. This, however, is mainly due to the municipal loans floated abroad by Tokyo, Kyoto and Yokohama since January, which amount to 32,000,000 yen, as shown in the following table:—

	Yen.
Tokyo	89,564,085
Kyoto	1,950,000
Yokohama	1,200,000
Total	92,714,085

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

An official telegram received in Tokyo states that in reply to a question in the House of Commons as to the conditions of the Opium trade in India, the British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated that in view of the weighty importance attaching to the subject, the Government had instructed the British Minister to Peking to conduct drastic negotiations with the Chinese Government. The British Government would hesitate to give a formal recognition to the Chinese Republic until the latter's foundation was consolidated to such an extent that it could discharge its duties concerning the opium question and all other matters stipulated in the treaties.

In this connexion *The Times* calls the public attention to the fact that Britain has to face a still greater problem than the opium question, namely the Powers' China loan. The paper concludes that in view of the present condition of China, it would be safe not to participate in the loan.

THE MONEY MARKET.

The money market has considerably tightened of late, on account of the funds required for the silk and general foreign trade, the discount rate having increased to 1 sen 9 rin per 100 yen per diem with practically no calls. The proceeds of the Railway Bonds, to the amount of forty million yen, are still left intact, but applications are received for the re-purchase of Exchequer Bonds. The deposits of the Bank of Japan have therefore shown a signal decrease. Its loans, on the other hand, increased by three million yen at a single jump on the 18th instant, bringing the total to sixty million yen.

According to a statement issued by the Tokyo Bankers' Association their accounts stood as follows on the 15th inst. :—

	Yen.	Compared with last week.
Deposits	312,030,654	+3,413,643
Loans	289,620,216	+6,565,889
Cash on hand...	25,464,178	— 73,743

It may be mentioned in this context that the Exchequer Bonds to the amount of twenty million yen, repayment of which is due on the 25th inst., instead of being redeemed, will be re-issued in their entirety at the daily interest of 1 sen 4 rin per 100 yen, on condition that they be redeemed after three months.

The money market, which has so far remained rather quiet, has shown signs of increasing activity since the beginning of this week. In view of the approaching settlement of the half year's accounts and the increasing payments on account of imported goods, the rate for call money has increased to *1 sen 6 rin*, and the deposits at the Nippon Ginko, other than those of the Government, have been withdrawn to the last *yen*. Compared with the preceding week, the Bank's loans have increased by 3,000,000 *yen*, while the amount of the convertible notes issued and that of the over-issues have increased by nearly 6,000,000 *yen* each. The Exchange Bonds which were re-issued on the 25th instant to the amount of twenty million *yen*, have practically found no buyers.

BAD CASE OF FRAUD.

A case of fraud and embezzlement involving the loss of half a million yen has just come to light. Takekami Zenkuro, living at Honkokucho, Tokyo, together with four associates, established in December 1910, a company with a capital announced to be 400,000 yen, the professed business of which was to sell the debentures of the Hypothec Bank against payment made in monthly instalments. They succeeded in securing applicants in all parts of the country from whom they collected more than 300,000 yen as advance payments for debentures, of which the latter have so far received not a single sheet. The money thus collected was divided among the promoters. As complaints began to come in Takekami purchased the right of ownership in a now almost defunct bank in Ota Prefecture and removing it to Tokyo under the new imposing name of Teikoku Ginko, by employing over thirty agents, he induced the credulous public to deposit in the bank sums amounting to 20,000 yen, against which the Directors issued fixed deposit certificates for 100,000 yen which they caused to be hypothecated in various quarters. All concerned in the fraud were arrested on the 23rd instant.

YOKOHAMA YACHT CLUB.

The Club held sailing races on Saturday afternoon last for the Cruising Class and 22-raters. In the first races there were six starters. *Asagao* won easily, *Naniwa* being second and *Cygnel* third. The other starters were *Kathleen*, *Seabird* and *Wanderer*.

There were seven competed in the 22-raters, which was won by *Valkyrien*, *Greil* and *Winsome* being second and third. The other starters were *Pele*, *Elsa*, *Wee McGregor* and *Sunbeam*.

SHARE REPORT.

The Yamakuri Shoten, stockbrokers, in their daily report of June 28st, state:—

Owing to carrying over operations, combined with the uneasiness of Operators at the disturbances in China, the morning market opened somewhat weak in tone and prices ruled irregular. Specie Bank Old rose 60 sen, but New fell 1.20 yen, and Kynshu 70 sen; Tokyo Gas Old and New rose 40 and 35 sen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old and New 45 and 30 sen, Goto Woollens 45 sen, and Fertilisers 25/50 sen. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 70 sen and 1.50 yen respectively.

The afternoon session was somewhat active in tone, in spite of the excess of Imports by some 6,240,000 yen for the second 10 days of this month. The only noteworthy changes were Yusen which rose 55 sen, Fuji Paper 35 sen, and Goto Woollens 75 sen. Exchange shares remained stationary.

Yesterday, 43,930 shares changed hands.

June 22.

The market was stimulated this morning by the news of the simultaneous completion of negotiations of the dual undertakings—the Franco-Japanese Bank and the Syndicate Loan to China. Prices went up all round, with a few minor exceptions. The principal rises were Yusen 60 sen, Specie Bank Old and New 1.95 yen and 81 sen, Tokyo Gas Old 65 sen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old and New 1.75 yen and 35 sen, Tokyo Woollens and Toyo Muslins each 60 sen, Sugars 15/60 sen, Fertilisers old and new 1.10 yen and 85 sen, and Hoden Oils 50 sen. Exchange shares old and new advanced 1.35 yen and 50 sen.

The Afternoon Session continued firm, although there were some falls owing to profit taking; the principal were Yokohama Trams old 2 yen, Specie Bank old 85 sen; the rest rose and fell fractionally. Exchange shares were freely dealt in owing to increase in number of daily transactions; the Old advanced 85 sen, and New 40 sen.

Yesterday, 49,970 shares changed hands.

June 24.

The morning market opened somewhat irregular in tone, although the number of transactions are increasing daily. The principal rises were Tobu Railway Old 65 sen, Yokohama Trams Old 1.00 yen, Yokohama Specie Bank New 40 sen, Tokyo Woollens 65 sen, and others 5/45 sen; the falls were Kinugawa W. Power 1.40 yen owing to rumours of a call being made in the near future, Sugars 10/65 sen and Oil 5/50 sen. Exchange shares Old declined 1.40 yen and New 20 sen.

The Afternoon Session was somewhat weak in tone, and prices declined fractionally. Kinugawa W. Power 28 in fell 60 sen, and others 5/50 sen. Exchange shares Old and New fell and rose fractionally.

On Saturday, 66,420 shares changed hands.

June 25.

Owing to closing date for this month's delivery being near at hand, the morning market consisted mainly of carrying over transactions and lasted over 3 hours. Prices fluctuated all round. The principal rises were Yokohama Trams Old, 80 sen; Fuji Paper Old, 20 sen; Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old, 60 sen; the falls were Goto Woollens 6.80 yen owing to reaction; Tokyo Woollens 75 sen, Toyo Muslins 60 sen, Taiwan Sugars Old, 90 sen; the rest fluctuated 5/50 sen. Exchange shares Old, advanced 45 sen, but New, declined 55 sen. The afternoon market was somewhat weak in tone, and prices declined fractionally all round, and with the exception of Goto Woollens which regained 2.60 yen, there were no other noteworthy changes. Exchange shares Old, fell 55 sen; but New, rose 5 sen.

Yesterday, 70,650 shares changed hands.

June 26.

The morning market was somewhat weak in tone owing to carrying over operations, and was 3½ hours in duration, the principal declines (with the exception of Kinugawa W.

Power, which rose 65 sen) were Keihin Trams 65 sen, Kogyo Bank 55 sen, Kyushu Collieries 65 sen, Yokohama Godowns 50 sen, Kankoku Gas 70 sen, Fuji Paper Old 65 sen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings New 50 sen, Fertilisers 75 sen, Hoden Oil 30/65 sen and Tokyo Rice Exchange 1.90 yen. Exchange shares Old and New 60 and 45 sen, respectively.

The afternoon session was active and improved towards the end, as it is expected that the balance of the month's commitments will be taken up without any difficulty. The most conspicuous rises were Yusen 45 sen, Fuji Paper 25 sen, Goto Woollens 40 yen, Toyo Muslins 80 sen, Venaiko Sugar 60 sen, Fertilisers 40/90 sen. Oils 45/85 sen. Exchange shares Old and New advanced 80 sen and 1.35 yen.

Yesterday, 75,900 shares changed hands.

June 27.

This morning the market opened active in tone and took 3¾ hours to dispatch the business. Prices generally advanced, with the exception of a small number of commitments for this month's delivery, which operators were unable to take up and threw back on the market, with the result that they were badly hammered, such as the Yokohama Trams Old and New which fell 1.30 yen and 75 sen, Inland Express Co. Old 1.05 yen, Yokohama Electric 4.90 yen. The principal rises were Yusen 1.30 yen, Tokyo Electric Lights Old and New 1.00 yen and 55 sen, Kinugawa D. Power 70 sen, Tokyo Spinnings Old and New 1.00 yen and 30 sen, Kanegafuchi Spinnings Old and New 40 and 81 sen, Taiwan Sugars Old 95 sen. Exchange shares Old fell 45 sen, but New rose 15 sen.

Owing to preparations for tomorrow's settlements there was no afternoon market.

Yesterday 95,330 shares changed hands.

THE BANDMANN OPERA CO.

UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS IN TOKYO.

The opening night of the Bandmann Opera Company in Tokyo on Monday evening was an unqualified success. The Company opened with "Peggy" and carried all before it. A splendid and brilliant house welcomed the actors and actresses, and encores were the order of the evening. Practically the whole of the foreign community were present, the many foreign Embassies being exceedingly well represented. Great expectation is felt in theatre-going circles in the capital as to Saturday's production, when "The Mousme" will be presented.

We learn that the Bandmann Opera Co. is doing exceedingly well in Tokyo at the Imperial Theatre. Excellent audiences have attended the three productions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Peggy, The Belle of New York, and The Quaker Girl. The Company of London actors and actresses have evidently proved their prowess in the capital, which should go far to ensure their success in Yokohama (where they are so well known) when they open at the premier port of Japan on Monday next.

THE FREIGHT RATES ON TEA.

The question of the reduction of the freight rates on tea still remains unsolved. The proposal is to decrease the duties from six dollars fifty cents to five dollars fifty cents. The Nippon Yusen, Toyo Kisen and Osaka Shosen Kaisha show no sign of yielding in their demand for a reduction of the freight, but the Shipping Conference insist with equal obstinacy that there is no necessity for such a decrease, when the general tendency of freights is upward. It appears that the authorities of the Japanese companies are confident that their severance from the Shipping Conference will lead to the latter's dissolution, and therefore that the Conference will not stand against their proposal at the cost of its existence. On the other hand

the Shipping Conference consider it a matter of great doubt if the Japan companies will insist on a proposal meaning the dissolution of the Conference, seeing all they have to lose. Moreover, the Conference is strongly supported by the foreign shippers, who form well nigh seventy per cent. of the tea traders in this country. It is due to these circumstances that both parties maintain an unyielding attitude. The last conference, it is reported, will be held to-day, when the question will be settled one way or the other.

CORRESPONDENCE.

STRAY DOGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Regarding the paragraph contained in the issue of this morning headed "Dogs in Yokohama" I presume that this should read "Dogs in Tokyo," as Mr. Hiroi is director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the capital. The Yokohama Society has not lately had any communication with the authorities in regard to the capture of stray dogs.

Yours faithfully,

J. CURJEL, Hon. Sec.
Yokohama S.P.C.A.

Yokohama, June 21, 1912.

[Our correspondent is correct. The paragraph should have been headed "Dogs in Tokyo," not "Dogs in Yokohama."—Ed. J.M.]

YOKOHAMA SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR—I am instructed to request you to be good enough to allow the Committee of the Library to publicly express through your columns their deep appreciation of the great kindness shown by all those responsible for the preparation and the presentation of "The Bishop's Candelsticks" and "Chiselling," given as a "Benefit" for the Funds of the Library on 6th June last. They especially appreciate the interest evinced by those not personally connected with the Institution and to the general public for their kind support they tender grateful thanks. It is difficult to adequately record the Committee's appreciation of the kind efforts of Mr. G. G. Brady, who was solely responsible for the presentation, and to whom the great dramatic success attained is so largely due; also those of Mr. Charles Thorn, without whose supervising care the music, which added so greatly to the enjoyment of the evening, could not have reached the same pitch of excellence. To the Press of Yokohama and Tokyo the Committee are most grateful for devoting so much of their valuable space to the "Benefit Performance" both before and after the Entertainment, as well as for the generous treatment accorded in respect of advertisements. The substantial sum realised for the Library by this entertainment—about 660 yen,—will, it is felt, enable a very useful and deserving Institution to continue its work on a more substantial footing than has been the case for many years. Arrangements have now been made for obtaining a constant supply of the latest books published in England and America and it is hoped by the Committee that the improvement will result in an influx of new members sufficient to place the Library upon an entirely self-supporting basis in the future.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your columns, I am Sir, yours faithfully,

HAROLD BELL, Hon. Secretary,
Yokohama Sub-Library.

THE CHARTERED BANK IN NORTH CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—We notice a paragraph in your newspaper of to-day's date to the effect that the Chartered Bank's notes had been temporarily suspended owing to the trouble at Mukden and that their value had undergone a slight decline, etc., etc. The information therein conveyed is of a misleading nature, and we can only surmise that the report in question has come into print owing to a misapprehension. The only issuing centre for our Bank's notes in North China is in Tientsin. We have no Agency at Mukden and we would therefore ask you to be good enough to insert this correction in your next issue.

I am, yours faithfully,

G. MILLER,
MANAGER: CHARTERED
BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

June 26, 1912.

TELEGRAMS.

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

THREAT OF MINORITY OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

THE QUESTION OF "BOLTING" THE CONVENTION.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE)

New York, June 20.

The Roosevelt minority in the Committee on credentials, to which the contest in regard to the disputed delegates was referred, has "bolted," the opposition refusing to give a full hearing to each case.

This is interpreted as foreshadowing a bolt of the Convention.

Later.

Colonel Roosevelt has released the disputed delegates.

Apparently the boom has collapsed.

New York, June 21.

Colonel Roosevelt has later denied that he has released the disputed delegates.

The Colonel has conferred with the leaders of his following, reading a statement promising to accept nomination from the honest portion of the Convention or run on a progressive ticket.

London, June 22.

The Credentials Committee elected a Taftite as Chairman, whereupon the Rooseveltians declared that if the Committee retained the contested delegates they would hold a Convention of their own inside the Coliseum, with two Republican candidates for the Presidency, two Governors for every State, and two Congressmen for every district.

The Convention has adjourned till tomorrow to enable the leaders to discuss the situation.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 22.

The main questions is whether Colonel Roosevelt will, "bolt" the Convention.

Many of his progressive supporters are unwilling to break the rule.

Later.

It is reported only 114 delegates will take the extreme step of "bolting" the Convention.

MR. TAFT NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT.

ROOSEVELTIANS DECLINE TO VOTE.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

Chicago, June 23.

President Taft has been nominated at the Chicago Republican Convention as candidate for the Presidency of the United States. He received 561 votes, 344 delegates (supporters of Colonel Roosevelt) not voting, the ex-President having requested in advance that they should not vote in the case of the certain non-acceptance of his nomination.

Later.

The Rooseveltians left the hall in a body for another hall adjacent to propose a candi-

date as President on an Independent ticket. The proposal to form a new party failed. Colonel Roosevelt was duly nominated and accepting the nomination, declared that his motto for the coming election would be—"Thou shalt not steal!"

Previously, the Colonel had announced that he would not lead a new Independent Party.

London, June 21.

It is regarded as doubtful whether Colonel Roosevelt will secure much support from his followers if he "bolts."

As an instance the Illinois delegation decided yesterday by 56 votes to 2 not to participate in the "bolt" if there be one.

All arrangements having been completed in connexion with the organization of the new Party, Colonel Roosevelt has announced his severance of all relations with the Chicago Convention.

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

London, June 21.

Judge Parker has been selected as temporary chairman of the National Democratic Convention.

This is regarded as a slight on Mr. Bryan, who recently expressed himself as in opposition to the choice of Judge Parker.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 22.

The control of the White House Republicans over the Convention is strong and the chances of a Rooseveltian "bolt" remote.

The proceedings are confined to votes on the piecemeal reports of the Credentials Committee which are adopted by increased Taft majorities.

The Wisconsin followers of Senator La Follette are voting against the Rooseveltians in the divisions.

(FROM THE N.C. DAILY NEWS.)

Chicago, June 17.

It is expected that Col. Roosevelt will appear at the Republican Convention and plead his cause personally and that this will lead to a lively scene. Col. Roosevelt's supporters declare that unless Mr. Taft is nominated on the first ballot he never will be nominated, because the boom in favour of Col. Roosevelt is waxing more strong hourly and the first sign of defection amongst the supporters of Mr. Taft will be the signal for a stampede in favour of Col. Roosevelt. A split has already arisen in the New York delegation, which minimizes its pro-Taft influence.

One newspaper in Chicago which has supported Mr. Taft has gone over to Col. Roosevelt's party. It is also significant that a delegate supporting the Insurgent Republican Mr. La Follette, has declared that directly it is evident that the latter cannot be nominated the whole of Mr. Follette's delegates will go over to Col. Roosevelt.

The supporters of Col. Roosevelt are becoming more confident hourly, but those persons who maintain an impartial attitude still consider that the balance is in the hands of the independent southern delegates, many of whom are negroes. Predictions as to the issue are hazardous.

FEELING IN THE COUNTRY.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 24.

There is a strong tendency to discount the new Republican progressive movement as the creation of a comparatively small body of enthusiasts.

A number of moderate Progressives, while hostile to President Taft, have refused to

join Colonel Roosevelt, arguing that it is premature to leave the party.

The movement will be vitally affected by the result of the Democratic Convention at Baltimore, where the Conservatives and Progressives are wrangling over the question of a temporary Chairman.

The country is probably impressed by the fact that President Taft owes his renomination to the bosses and that it was only got by splitting the party.

POSITION OF THE DEMOCRATS.

OVATION FOR MR. BRYAN.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, June 24.

The Republican split has been rendered irrevocable by the dual nomination.

This intensifies interest in to-morrow's Democratic Convention at Baltimore, especially in view of a similar split between the Conservative and Progressive wings of the Democrats. The latter promise to carry the day with Governor Woodrow Wilson, one of the likeliest candidates, who has received pledges of 300 votes.

One of the most remarkable scenes in the Republican Convention was the ovation given to Mr. Bryan, who had been acting as reporter for a syndicate of newspapers and had to leave before the close in order to make his own anti Conservative fight at Baltimore.

As Mr. Bryan rose to leave the Rooseveltians cheered again and again, shouting "Good luck to Fighting Bill."

OPENING OF DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

PARKER ELECTED CHAIRMAN.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

Baltimore, June 25.

The Democratic National Convention opened at noon.

There is every prospect of a fight like that at Chicago between the Progressist and the Conservative elements of the party.

Mr. Bryan, representing the former, is opposed to the selection of Judge Parker to the temporary chairmanship, calling him the representative of the predatory interest.

Later.

Judge Parker has defeated Mr. Bryan for the temporary chairmanship by 579 to 506.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 26.

Although the Conservatives in the Democratic Convention have elected Judge Parker instead of Mr. Bryan as temporary chairman it is obvious they do not control the Convention as thoroughly as they hoped.

The Democrats are even in a more confused plight than the Republicans.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

BRYAN'S CHANCES.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

London, June 27.

On the resumption of the Democratic Convention at Baltimore, Judge Parker referred to Mr. Bryan's great struggle for the Democrats and said it was the duty of all to stand with him. He advocated Mr. Bryan's selection as candidate.

The Chairman of the Resolution Committee and two of Mr. Roosevelt's lieutenants

nants have been in consultation with Mr. Bryan.

In Chicago many people in the streets are wearing Roosevelt's and Bryan's badges.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, June 27.

The Democratic Convention proceedings are confined to rhetorical display, while the Committees on credentials and resolutions are occupied with more serious business.

The situation is very obscure, but it appears that Mr. Bryan has little chance of nomination, though he is still powerful as an Opposition force.

(REUTER'S SERVICE.)

THE DISTURBANCE AT MUKDEN.

London, June 20.

The Second Mixed Brigade at Mukden mutinied at ten o'clock yesterday evening and commenced a desultory and indiscriminate firing in all directions till daylight.

The Bank of Communications outside the city and other Chinese banks and jewellers' shops were looted and burned.

There was a slight loss of life among the Chinese, but foreigners were not interfered with.

The city inside the wall is quiet, but the shops are closed and strong Chinese guards are placed at all the gates.

THE JAPANESE COASTING TRADE.

London, June 12.

Mr. Acland, under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to Sir J. D. Rees said the Government was considering a representation with reference to the exclusion of British ships from the Japanese coasting trade while the Japanese were admitted to the Indian coasting trade.

SITUATION AT CANTON.

London, June 22.

One hundred and seventy Baluchis have proceeded from Hongkong to Canton in anticipation of apprehended trouble.

FRANCO-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS.

London, June 22.

Pessimistic feelings as to the Franco-Spanish negotiations have been renewed owing to fresh differences having arisen.

STRIKE OF FRENCH SEAMEN.

London, June 22.

The seamen at Havre and other principal ports of France have gone on strike for a fortnight.

This action is delaying the departure of the mail boats, whereof several have sailed, manned by naval bluejackets.

The strike has now extended to Marseilles, where steamers are delayed and business is dislocated.

The shipowners are firm.

The Government is recognising the gravity of the situation and is concerting measures for relief.

Forty ships are at present held up at Marseilles, where four destroyers have arrived to carry the mails to Corsica, Algeria and Tunis.

Work is also at a standstill at Bordeaux, where the strikers are endeavouring to persuade the seamen on incoming vessels to join the strike.

London, June 23.

All ships are layed up at Marseilles and business is at a standstill. Owing to the

strike, the *Compagnie Transatlantique* has decided to lay up all its vessels.

BOMB EXPLOSION IN BRUSSELS.

London, June 23.

On the evening of the 22nd, a terrific explosion took place in a letter box at the official residence of the German Minister. A bomb had been evidently placed in the box. Fortunately there were no casualties.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 23.

Further meetings will be held by the heads of the Six Powers Banks to discuss future arrangements as necessity arises, but it is uncertain whether the meetings will be at London, Paris, or Berlin. In the meantime, further conversations are now probable at Peking to ascertain the views and requirements of China.

Although as a general principle each Power will have to find the money in its own market, each has the right, under certain conditions, to find a part of it in other countries.

THE FRENCH SHIPPING STRIKE.

London, June 24.

Owing to the shipping strike in France the Government is providing bluejackets to man the steamers that run weekly between Marseilles, Corsica and Algeria.

ACCIDENT AT TRIPOLI.

London, June 24.

While a waggon load of shells was being unloaded at Tripoli one exploded and killed one officer and seven bluejackets, three bluejackets being wounded.

ARREST OF RUSSIAN AT BERLIN.

London, June 24.

A sensation has been caused by the arrest at Berlin of a Russian captain named Kostevitch, who is charged with espionage.

He has been living at Berlin for some months, ostensibly to study aviation in the interests of the Russian War Ministry.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 25.

The *London Times* in an article on the conditions in China and the proposed loan, asks what can be the value of any safeguard for the legitimate expenditure of the loan when the Central Government is inadequate to enforce the most solemn treaty obligation upon the provinces.

The *Times* deprecates any hasty action hazarding British money on the mere chance of things ultimately coming right and adds: "Still less do we wish to see British financial interests further involved at the risk of finding ourselves ultimately drawn into active intervention for their protection."

BRITAIN AND THIBET.

London, June 25.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, the Under Secretary of State for the India Office, replying in the House of Commons to Sir J. Rees, who asked whether he proposed to adopt any measure to bring the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in Thibet into order, stated that it was not proposed to take any steps of the kind suggested.

There would be no change in the policy of His Majesty's Government in Thibet.

It is reported from Simla that the Dalai Lama has left Kalimpong for Thibet.

FALL IN THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY.

London, June 26.

In the House of Commons, on the report

stage of the resolution in regard to the tea duty, Mr. Cooper, a Unionist, moved a reduction by a penny on tea grown in the Empire.

The amendment was rejected by 199 to 177, the announcement of the figures being greeted with cheers and cries of "Resign."

The smallness of the majority was due to the slackness of the attendance of the Ministerialists. There were few Unionists about the House, but when the division was called they suddenly mustered in force, nearly bringing about a Government disaster.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, June 26.

As a result of the care taken to eliminate everything of a political character from the Chinese loan, the agreement contains no reference to the special interests of Russia in China, but it is unascertainable whether the Russo-Japanese reservations in this respect are still maintained or withdrawn.

London, June 26.

The U. S. State Department learns that China has rejected the Six Power loan, probably owing to the proposed foreign supervision over the expenditure. At Peking it is stated that it is untrue that the negotiations have been either completed or broken off by the Chinese Government, which is not in urgent need of funds and therefore able to bargain.

THE LABOUR TROUBLE.

London, June 27.

The ships working at the London Docks are 154, with 13,980 workers, who are daily increasing.

The strike is continuing, however, and everything is terribly behind-hand.

At Montreal three million bushels of grain are held up owing to the London strike, and vessels are refusing to take the grain.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

FRANCE IN MOROCCO.

London, June 22.

As the only way of securing the submission of the refractory Moorish rebels, General Gouraud has ordered the village crops to be burnt.

COPPER.

London, June 22.

Copper is quoted at 78½-79½.

The market is fairly easy.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, June 22.

On the Stock Exchange eight Chinese loans fell by a quarter to half.

Tokyo 1912 strip is half a point lower.

RIFLES FOR ALBANIA.

London, June 22.

It is reported from Athens that during the past few months the Albanians have mysteriously acquired 10,000 rifles,—it is alleged from Italy.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 24.

The *Times* emphasizes the critical situation in China and strongly advocates British participation in the proposed international Bankers' loan without fuller information as to conditions.

The paper asks what is the value of any safeguard when the Central Government is unable to impose most solemn treaty obligations upon the provinces.

RIOTING AT LISBON.

London, June 24.

There has been more fighting at Lisbon

between the tramway strikers and the troops. Eight bombs have been exploded since Friday and a railway strike is threatened. The Station is guarded by troops.

THE TURKISH ARMY.

London, June 25.

The deserters from the Turkish Army are increasing daily.

It is reported from Athens that the total since Saturday is 510.

STOCK EXCHANGE.

London, June 25.

On the Stock Exchange, Japanese bonds have declined an eighth and a quarter.

Osaka and Tokyo Five-per-cents are being sold. The latter have fallen one point. Chinese bonds are lower.

SUPPLEMENTARY NAVAL ESTIMATES.

London, June 25.

The public is somewhat disappointed at only a million of the 6½ million surplus having been allotted, besides probably another million, for the supplementary naval estimates.

The country is uneasy about the naval position in the Mediterranean.

In the meantime most important naval manoeuvres begin in the North Sea in July.

BRITISH NAVAL POWER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

London, June 25.

While declaring the North Sea is now the centre of British naval strategy because of German naval expansion, *The Times* insists that British naval power in the Mediterranean must be maintained.

THE BRITISH NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

London, June 25.

The warships taking part in the Naval Manoeuvres will be the First Fleet, a squadron each of the Second and Third Fleets, seven cruiser squadrons, 152 destroyers and torpedo-boats and 46 submarines.

THE TURKISH ARMY.

London, June 26.

The Turkish War admits that nearly a hundred Albanian officers and soldiers have deserted with their arms, and that pursuing detachments have captured but a few of them.

From Vienna it is reported that the Turkish mutineers demand the dissolution of the Chamber and an honest general election.

THE CHINA LOAN.

London, June 27.

Chinese are much affected by the report that the Advisory Committee is very unlikely to accept the condition of foreign supervision of the proposed loan.

THE INSURANCE ACT.

London, June 27.

Public excitement over the Insurance Act is increasing throughout the Kingdom. People are crying out for information, bewailing the hardships, pointing out the absurdities and hurling defiance.

In the House of Lords various Peers characterise the official explanatory leaflet as misleading and mendacious.

Mr. Lloyd George has practically admitted that it is misleading.

The Times regards the excitement as entirely justified.

AFFAIRS IN TURKEY.

London, June 27.

A whole battalion with officers of the

Monastir army corps has mutinied, demanding a fresh election of the Chamber.

The Malisori Albanians have again risen and there has been heavy fighting at Alessio.

The telegraph to Scutari is cut.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE TROUBLE AT MUKDEN.

Mukden, June 20.

In view of the successive advices reporting the imminence of another upheaval at Mukden, the Japanese garrison is on strict guard, in conjunction with the local Chinese authorities, and all the gates are now again closed.

THE MUKDEN RIOTERS.

Mukden, June 21.

Part of the rioters encountered the Flying Column on the 20th at Puho, some thirty Chinese miles off Mukden, but were defeated, leaving behind nineteen dead and wounded. On the side of the Government troops, two were killed. The remnants of the rioters are camping near Tungling, and the mounted Flying Company about two hundred strong has been despatched for their suppression.

CHINESE RAILWAYS.

Tientsin, June 20.

The Tsingpu railways connecting Tientsin and Peking through Hsichow and Tsinan, which has been in course of construction, is now completed, and it takes only three days to cover the distance between the two termini.

THE HSINMIN FU TROOPS.

Hsinmin fu, June 20.

The soldiers of Hsinmin-fu are in no way affected by the disturbances at Mukden, and are now on guard to seize the escaping rioters, at the request of Magistrate Chi-hsien.

ORDER IN THE SOUTH.

Nanking, June 20.

Wang Chi-hsiang arrived here from Hankow on the 20th instant. He is expected to leave for Shanghai to-night to confer with Hwang Hsing and Chang-Tso-pin concerning the restoration of order in the South.

SITUATION AT CANTON.

Canton, June 23.

Canton is now apparently in a peaceful condition. The Government nevertheless maintains a rigid surveillance, from time to time searching for any arms and ammunition that may be concealed, and executing suspicious-looking members of the Wang party. In consequence rumours are incessantly circulated and a spirit of unrest prevails. The Government troops, however, are on such strict watch that there appears to be no chance for Wang and his party. The Shankeen is guarded by the military force despatched from Hongkong.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.

Shanghai, June 23.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived at Shanghai on the 22nd instant. He is expected to leave here for Peking after stopping for a few weeks.

GENERAL HWANG AND DR. SUN.

Shanghai, June 23.

General Hwang Hsing seems to have relaxed his efforts for the maintenance of the principle of the Patriotic Contribution, which he advocated with such devotion while in office. He is expected to visit Hupch and

Peking after taking a rest in Shanghai for some time.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived in Shanghai on the 22nd instant. The Press organ of the Kungho-hui vehemently attacks him and Hwang Hsing.

The distinguished officers and politicians who have thus far arrived at Shanghai, headed by Hwang Hsing and Sun Yat-sen, are said to already number over fifty.

TROUBLE AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, June 24.

In Chefoo some signs of disturbance have been in evidence since the night of the 22nd instant. A couple of British warships entered the port to-day from Weihaiwei. The American Consul is also said to have requested the Home Government to despatch warships.

THE DALAI LAMA.

India, June 24.

The Dalai Lama returned to Lassa on the 24th instant.

THE THREE EASTERN PROVINCES.

Peking, June 24.

Some time ago it was decided that the Three Eastern Provinces, namely Kilin, Amur, and Mukden, should each form local independent governments under their respective Magistrates, instead of as hitherto under the Magistrate of Mukden alone. President Yuan Shih-kai, however, is said to have approached the National Assembly with a proposition that the rights of controlling both the military and diplomatic affairs of Kilin and Amur provinces should be retained as before in the hands of the Mukden Magistrate. The Assembly has submitted the proposal to a Committee of nine.

CHINA AND MONGOLIA.

Mukden, June 24.

According to a telegram from Kulon, the Chinese Authorities intend despatching to Koputo a military force accompanied by a batch of interpreters from Tilmu, while the Mongolian Government is trying to mobilize some 2,000 troops with a view to clearing the district of Chinese officials.

CHIHLI ASSEMBLY.

Tientsin, June 26.

The preliminary election of the members of the Chihli Provincial Assembly took place on the 9th, and the decisive election on the 22nd instant, which resulted in the return of 167 members. The majority of those elected once studied in Japan as school students. The Assembly will be convened early next month at the Assembly Hall.

MORE TROUBLE IN THE PROVINCES.

Foochow, June 26.

Bandits have risen in riot in the vicinity of Anhui, Chuanchow-fu, backed up by the Luying troops belonging to the old Government Army. Contingents were at once despatched to the scene of disturbance from Changchow, but apparently in vain, the mutineers daily growing in influence. In view of the exigencies of the situation, the magistrate of Foochow has ordered the departure of reinforcements consisting of one battalion of Infantry, two Companies of Artillery, and an Ambulance Corps. They left Nantai for Anhui early on Wednesday morning.

("DEUTSCHE JAPAN-POST" SERVICE TO THE "JAPAN HERALD.")

SYNTHETIC RUBBER.

Berlins, June 20.

Professor Perkins, in a lecture given at

Manchester, stated that English chemists have at last succeeded in making synthetic rubber by a much improved process. Considerable technical difficulties are at present, however, encountered in utilising this chemical process. Those interested in natural rubber plantations exhibit few signs of apprehension, despite the fall in shares.

FREIHERR MARSCHALL VON BEBERSTEIN WELCOMED.

Freiherr Marschall von Beberstein, the new German Ambassador to London, on the day of his arrival at his post, June 19th, paid a short visit to Sir Edward Grey, the English Minister for Foreign Affairs, and will shortly be received by the King.

The English Press, and even the organs of the Conservative party, welcome the Ambassador in very complimentary articles. Count Metternich, predecessor of the Ambassador, was elected Honorary LL. D. by the University of Cambridge on June 19th.

SANCTIONED BY DUMA.

The Duma has passed a naval programme providing for the construction of a battle-fleet at an expenditure of 392 million roubles. Two protected cruisers and six submarines will be stationed in the Far East and the harbour of Vladivostok will be further fortified.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The *Popolo Romano* of Rome, commenting on an article of the London *Times* as to Anglo-Franco-Italian policy, lays great stress on the fact that Italy will not enter into any agreement which would be against the spirit of the Triple Alliance.

OLYMPIC GAMES.

Twenty-seven different states and 3,698 athletes, and other sportsmen, have announced their intention of participating in the Olympic Games to be held at Stockholm.

PRINCE HEINRICH HONOURED.

Prince Heinrich of Prussia has been created Honorary Doctor by the university of Kiel in recognition of his effective work on behalf of the scientific utilisation of aircraft.

THE KIEL REGATTA.

In the events which precede the Kieler Woche, at the Kiel Regatta, an English boat has, with three wins, won the French *One Ton Cup*, which for the past six years has been in German possession. A German and Spanish boat, which also competed, had two wins each to their credit before the deciding event.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

The Norddeutsche Lloyd and the Hamburg America Line has demanded from the Prussian Government concessions concerning the transport of emigrants from the new Prussian port of Emden. The freight service to the Far East from Emden will, however, not be participated in by these lines, but will be reserved to other companies. A similar demand for participation in the emigration business by the Fuersten Combine has been declined by the Government.

THE CHINA LOAN.

The *Temps* of Paris states that nothing has been done by Russia to counteract the issue of the big Chinese Loan.

KAISER CONVERSES WITH "TITANIC" OFFICERS.

The Kaiser, while on board the H.A.L. liner *Victoria Louise* at Hamburg, met the chief-constructor and the chief-engineer of the *Titanic*, with whom he entered into a long conversation on the opinions to be

deduced from the loss of the big ship, and how the changed conditions could be utilised for the welfare of passengers.

BREMEN ELECTION LAW.

Berlin, June 21.

The Municipality of Bremen has declined to accept a bill providing for an alteration of the election law now in force to one granting universal suffrage.

RUSSIAN NAVAL PROGRAMME.

The Duma has passed the new naval programme at the second reading by 228 votes against 71.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

The Sublime Porte, as a reply to a new attempt to sound its views on the conclusion of peace with Italy and the conditions thereof, carried out by the Ambassadors of the Powers of the Triple Entente, has again adopted a very unyielding attitude. The Turkish Government is prepared for any attempt of Italy to occupy the island of Chios.

THE CHINESE LOAN.

The report circulated by Reuter to the effect that the Chinese loan contract has already been signed, is to be regarded as premature, Russia having not yet agreed to the loan conditions. The full agreement of Russia is, however, expected by June.

TSAR ENTERTAINS DUMA.

Berlin, June 22.

The Tsar has received in audience and has given a banquet to 240 members of the Duma. He expressed in a special address his gratitude at the solution of the agrarian question and the passing of the naval and the other bills providing for the improved defences of the country.

THE CHINESE REPUBLIC.

The Six Power's Loan has been finally concluded and signed, after satisfactory guarantees had been given by China. An advance to the amount of 60 million taels will be first issued. Absolute agreement prevails amongst the six Powers which are parties to the contract. The negotiations are under the supervision of the six Powers, but with the full agreement of the Chinese Government.

OCEAN SURVEY.

The officers of the German survey boat *Planet*, attached to the Australian Squadron, state that the greatest depth located up to the present is off the Eastern Coast of the Philippines and is 9,780 metres.

THE KIEL REGATTA.

In the first race at the Kieler Woche, Herr von Krupp's *Germania* was first, *Meteor* being second, and the English boat *Waterwitch* third. In the 22 raters class, Prince Heinrich's *Tilly XV* was first across.

BUDGET SURPLUS.

Berlin, June 23.

The final results of last year's financial administration, published by the audit office in the Treasury, show a surplus of 279 million marks.

GREEK CONTRACTS GO TO GERMAN YARDS.

The Naval Commission of the Greek Government, after discussing many offers from foreign dockyards for the construction of new warships, proposes that German yards should receive the bulk of the orders.

INTERNATIONAL WIRELESS CONFERENCE.

At the International Radio-Telegraphic Conference, now being held in London, the

Governments of Great Britain, the United States of America and Italy have joined the Berlin Convention of the year 1911, as a result of which the preferential position of the Marconi system has been suspended.

RUSSIAN MINISTER AT BERLIN.

M. Swerbejew, the Russian Minister at Athens, has been designated Ambassador to Berlin as successor to Count von Osten-Sacken.

PRINCE KATSURA'S TOUR.

The *Koelnische Zeitung*, in a leader on the European tour of Prince Katsura and Baron Goto, welcomes the Japanese statesmen, and gives a short sketch of their lives and a history of the relations between Japan and Germany under the Cabinets of which they were members. It especially emphasizes that both statesmen, by their knowledge of German things and language, were able to form for themselves a clear opinion of modern Germany, and it was to be hoped that their expectations would be fully realised. They certainly would recognise the great interest taken by Germany in the progress of Japan in political and economical respects. The friendly relations between the two Powers would certainly be strengthened by the visits of the two able statesmen.

TURCO-ITALIAN WAR.

Berlin, June 22.

The Italian Chamber has decided to form a Colonial Office for the purpose of effecting a more rapid organisation of the Tripoli administration.

Berlin, June 23.

The Turkish troops in Tripoli are reported to have withdrawn to the mountains. The Italian army of occupation is advancing step by step.

THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

Berlin, June 24.

The British naval manoeuvres will begin on July 9th and will be on a very extensive scale this year. Three-hundred and thirty-five vessels, amongst them being 42 battle-ships, will participate, their complements numbering 88,000 persons. The manoeuvres will be carried out in the North Sea, the programme being the defence of the coast against a hostile invasion of an army covered by a great fleet.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN RELATIONS.

It is repeatedly reported that the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg, M. Louis, and the Russian Ambassador at Paris, M. Iswolski, will resign. The successor to the post at Paris will probably be Count Benckendorff, now Russian Ambassador to London.

PRO-GREEK AGITATION.

The British Government has given satisfactory assurances to Turkey with regard to the integrity of the Sporades islands in the Aegean Sea as a result of a sudden pro-Greek agitation started in European papers.

THE KIEL REGATTA.

Herr von Krupp's *Germania* has won the first prize at the Kiel-Eckernfoerde sailing regatta, the Kaiser's *Meteor* again being second.

HAMBURG RACES.

The two-year-old *Gulliver*, from the Graditzer stables, has won the Derby-prize at the Hamburg races, beating the Austrian favourite.

ALPINE AUTO RACE.

Three Opel-cars have won the team-prize for autos in the German-Austrian Alpine

auto-race, after covering the journey without any breakdown.

BRITISH BUDGET SURPLUS.

Berlin, June 25.

The British Government announces that of the surplus of last year's budget, amounting to six and a half million pounds, one million will be applied for the construction of new warships, which has become necessary as a result of the passage of the new German naval programme. Half a million will be devoted to the further development of the British East-African colonies, and five millions for the amortisation of the National Debt. The last-named allotment has been made as a result of the strong efforts by the Conservative party on behalf of the raising of the value of Consols.

IMPERIAL YACHT CLUB ANNIVERSARY.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Imperial Yacht Club at Kiel, which was attended by the Kaiser and Prince Heinrich, the latter toasted the former as one of the founders of the Club. The Kaiser, replying to this address, announced the inauguration of an endowment fund for the support of incapacitated yacht sailors. He further appreciated the great credit due to English captains and sailors for the part they had played in educating German yachtsmen.

CHANCELLOR'S RUSSIAN VISIT.

The German Chancellor will visit St. Petersburg and Moscow after the meeting between the Tsar and the Kaiser.

AMBASSADORIAL CHANGE.

M. Swerbeff, the Russian Minister at Athens, has been appointed Russian Ambassador to Berlin.

MORE PEACE PROPOSALS.

Berlin, June 25.

The *Tassin* in a semi-official leader, proposes the opening of negotiations with Italy on the basis of recognition of Italy's rights in all places in Tripoli where her sovereignty has already been established.

ALMA TADEMA DEAD.

Alma Tadema, the well-known Dutch painter, born in 1836, now living in England, is dead at Wiesbaden, where he was staying for the benefit of his health.

NEW GOVERNOR OF SAMOA.

Chief Judge Schulz has been appointed Governor of Samoa.

KIEL REGATTA.

The President of the Royal Thames Yacht Club has presented to the Kaiser at Kiel the Cumberland Cup. The Kaiser, in returning thanks, expressed the hope that the Cup might not only be a visible bond of personal friendship between members of both clubs, but also of natural and valued friendship between both states.

Prince Heinrich's *Tilly XV.* has won the Samoa Cup and the English Armour Cup in the Kiel Regatta, at which yachts of all European nations assembled to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Imperial Yacht Club.

KAISER AND TSAR.

The meeting between the Kaiser and the Tsar will take place on July 3rd near Reval and will be followed by a review of the Kaiser's Wyburg Regiment at Baltisch Port.

MAILS VIA SIBERIA.

Siberian Mails, with dates up to June 9th and June 11th, ex-Yokohama, arrived at Berlin on June 25th.

MONGOLIAN AFFAIRS.

(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

The *Novoe Vremya*, commenting on the present state of affairs in Mongolia, holds very pessimistic views. The Russian journal thinks that the best solution of the Mongolian problem would be to place Tibet under British and Mongolia under Russian protection.

After the Huduhta's accession to the throne all Chinese officials were expelled from Urga, and the new ruler of Mongolia organised his government, consisting of the following five ministries: Ministry of Home Affairs, Finance, War, Justice and Foreign Affairs. To these ministerial posts the Huduhta appointed persons from his entourage, who do not, however, enjoy the confidence of the people. The most unpopular are the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Chimdtseiren, the ex-Dalai Lama, and his assistant Mr. Haisan, who has been recently promoted to the rank of prince. The new prince provoked against himself all the other princes of Halkha and retained his post only by the influence of the Minister of Home Affairs, without whose permission none of the State Ministers can do anything. As a matter of fact, they have generally very little to do at present, but possibly in the future, when the Mongolian State is fully organised, their duties will be more complicated. There are now, in Halkha, more than 80 hereditary princes, to whom not so long ago the Huduhta sent a circular letter inviting them to come to Urga in order to discuss the present situation in Mongolia and to declare publicly and officially their recognition of the new Mongolian central power represented by him. In response to this invitation only a few of the princes repaired to the Mongolian capital, as the present Mongolian Government is not so popular among the people, who, according to the Russian paper, do not yet clearly understand its real intentions and even their own interests. Even those Princes who arrived at Urga have begun to leave again without having settled the question for which they came, such an influential prince as Sain-Noion-Tsasaakre-Khan even following the example of the others.

Being in need of good and experienced counsellors the Mongolian Government addressed itself to the Russian Consulate, asking the latter to recommend Buriats and Russians who know Mongolian affairs and the language and are familiar with the State Government of civilized countries. The Russian Consul recommended to the government one of the Russian employees of the Russo-Asiatic Bank at Urga.

At present a great general unrest prevails among the people, most of whom are relying entirely on Russia, as the more sober minded Mongols think that they can not dispense with foreign help to maintain their independence and to introduce the projected reforms, so that if Russia refuses to help Mongolia, the latter will be doomed to be ruined and destroyed and the people more oppressed by the Chinese than before. The Mongols must somehow or other find some outlet from the present rather puzzling situation, which is rendered more awkward by the fact that, while prepared to defend their independence, they are at the same time afraid to miss the opportunity of entering into friendly negotiations with the new Peking Government in order to avert a possible Chinese invasion.

Not so long ago the Mongolian Government received a note from Yuan-Shih-kai, which reads as follows:

"The Chinese people after a long struggle have at last got rid of the yoke of the Manchu dynasty and established the new, long cherished Republican Government. In view of this, the Chinese people call upon the Mongols to unite with China as before and not to listen to evil minded advice. If the Mongols decide to sever their relations with China entirely, in this case the Peking Government asks them to inform the Chinese categorically about their decision.

The Republican Government is ready to pardon the Mongols for all they have done in the past."

The Huduhta summoned all his ministers and prominent princes to discuss what answer should be given to the note, and at the meeting a resolution was passed, which was sent afterwards to Yuan Shih-kai. The gist of the resolution was as follows: "In times past the Mongolian people were a free and independent nation and only about two hundred years ago the Mongols accepted the protectorship of the Manchu dynasty entirely at their own wish. Since that time they have endured hard oppression on the part of the Peking government and this oppression latterly has become quite intolerable. For that reason, on the fall of the Tsin dynasty, the Mongols decided to secede from China and to place Mongolia under the rule of their own Potentate. At present the Mongolian people sincerely desire to maintain friendly relations with China."

What steps have been taken since by the Peking Government concerning Mongolia is unknown and this uncertainty troubles the new Mongolian Government.

The financial conditions of Mongolia are still very bad. The budget in cash amounts at present only to a few hundreds of thousands of roubles. The more important items of revenue undoubtedly will be, in time, the rent from the gold fields and the land and cattle taxes. The total number of troops in Halkha is not more than 4,000 men, consisting of men gathered from the whole country side. They are now about four miles from Urga. The soldiers, who must be supported and supplied with provisions by their respective "hoshuns," are armed with rifles, but these are in a very bad condition and often lack their most important parts, while there are no gunsmiths in the Mongolian army.

Thus the present state of affairs in Mongolia is very pitiable and the Mongols cannot but turn their eyes to Russia, which has no reason to refuse them help, as China, after having subdued Mongolia, will always threaten the safety of Russia. For that reason, the best policy for Russia at present would be to place Tibet under British protection and Mongolia under Russian so as to make the Gobi or Shamo desert a frontier between Russia and China. Only by this measure will the Russian historical mistake made in regard to the Russo-Chinese frontier question be corrected.

PRESENTATION AT KOBE.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY HUGHES.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hughes, who are leaving Kobe for home, after thirty years' residence at the port, received a presentation at the Gymnasium on the 22nd inst. from the foreign community. There was a large assembly of all sections of the community, young and old.

Mr. G. J. Melhuish, who made the presentation, reports the *Kobe Herald*, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen.—It is my privilege today to say a few words on behalf of the boys of Mr. Hughes' school, both past and present, and also their parents and numerous friends which they have gained during their long residence in Kobe of over thirty years. I need hardly say that we regret very much their departure. But, after all, they are going to the Homeland, to take the rest which they have so well deserved. It is a stock phrase to say they are going to a well earned rest, but I think that in their case it is particularly appropriate (Applause). We can only say of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes that they are an Englishman and an Englishwoman, who have done their duty in that state of life to which God has called them. More words from me would be superfluous, and it only remains for me now to wish them "God speed" and a happy home in the old country, and to be surrounded by friends there; but I am sure they will have

none better than those they have left behind here in Japan.

Turning to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. Melhuish said:—"I have now much pleasure in offering you, on behalf of the many friends and the Old Boys of your school this slight token of their esteem, and as the small boys would like to present their gift in person, I will ask their representative to step forward." Mr. Melhuish then handed to Mr. Hughes an envelope containing a cheque for a goodly sum, and Master Jalfats, on behalf of the junior boys, presented to Mr. Hughes their offering.

Mr. Hughes, on rising to reply, was received with long continued applause. Speaking with considerable emotion, he said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not accustomed to public speaking, so I hope you will not look upon what I am going to say as a speech. I am sure we have to thank you very sincerely for all your kindness to us. You have always treated us very kindly, and when we have needed help you have always come forward and given us the help that we have needed. We shall never forget your kindness to us during our stay here in Kobe. We shall make use of part of that which you have given us in getting something to put in our home in the Homeland, which will always remind us of the many kind friends that we have left behind. I am sure I really do not know how to thank you; but perhaps you will kindly give me credit for saying that which I am not able to express in words.

Mr. Hughes at this point was overcome with emotion, and sat down amid a storm of applause.

Mr. M. Ellerton called for three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, upon which the whole audience rose and gave three lusty cheers and a "tiger," making the old "Gym" resound again with their applause. Then, after much hand shaking and many farewells, the meeting dispersed.

TELEPHONE EXPANSION.

In view of the insufficient funds for the expansion of the telephone service to meet the growing demands of the public, it has been suggested that the undertaking should be placed to Special Account, that is, the whole of the profits kept for the work of expansion. The authorities of the Communications Department are credited with observing that while the proposal would be advantageous, it is impossible for the present. As a result of an investigation it was decided to keep the undertaking the Ordinary Account as before, and to continue the six year expansion scheme, which was started last year, with a defrayment of 50,000,000 yen. The Government's policy of administrative readjustment, however, has interfered with this decision, and the scheme will now be temporarily suspended until the results of the administrative readjustment inquiry are known. In these circumstances it is not only unwise, but in fact impossible, to establish a Special Account for the purpose of telephone expansion.

THE UNION CHURCH RECITAL.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENING

At the Union Church on Wednesday evening, a capital musical recital was given under the direction of Mr. S. H. Somerton. Assisting him were many members of the choir and several friends. The whole recital was of a high order and proved to all those present that in our midst, we have vocalists and musicians that are able to render some of the most difficult selections from the great composers.

It is unkind, and unfair, to praise one more of those who delighted those present than the others. Suffice that all were excellent and that special praise is due to Mr. Somerton collecting such a number of amateurs, possessed of fine voices, and rendering their selections in the best style.

A NAVAL VETERAN.

BOATSWAIN WHO TAUGHT TCGO HIS BUSINESS.

In a small house overlooking the broad estuary of the Tamar there dwells a hale and hearty old gentleman, whose head has been silvered by the snow of eighty-six winters, and who yet carries the burden of his years without a stoop. In 1849 he was one of the crew of the galley of the Earl of Dundonald, Commander-in-Chief in the West Indies. The earl, who was then 75 years of age, is better remembered as Lord Cochrane, a captain of Nelson's days, who fought through the French wars, and when in command of the sloop *Speedy*, carrying fourteen 4-pdrs., actually attacked and captured a Spanish frigate. As Mr. Thomas Branton thus forms perhaps the only living link with the days of Nelson and the wars of over a century ago, it occurred to a correspondent of *The Naval and Military Record* that his reminiscences would be of interest. He therefore called on the old gentleman at his home, 11, Brockdown-terrace, Saltash, and was promptly ushered into a spick-and-span parlour, which formed a museum of antiques and curiosities. When the caller explained his wish for an interview, Mr. Branton readily acquiesced, and during the course of an interesting chat said:—

I am a native of Week St. Mary, North Devon. When a youngster I used to envy the sailors whom I saw coming home from their voyages from all parts of the world, and I determined to be a sailor myself. My people were very much against it, and I was put to work on the land at Hartland, near Bideford. However, when I was fifteen years old I drew the balance of twelve months' wages, which amounted to the vast sum of about 15s, and I decided to take French leave. So I turned my back on the life of a farmer's boy, and tramped away to Devonport, 60 miles distant. I started on a Friday afternoon, and arrived on the Saturday evening. I got a waterman's boat, and went along-side the old *San Joseph*, but they would not let me go on board. Someone sung out, "Take the boy ashore, and let him come off on Monday morning." So back I had to go. I did not know where to go in Devonport, so I tramped away and walking all night, got back to my home at Week St. Mary. By the time I got there I was tired out and foot-sore, and my parents tried to persuade me to give up the idea, but I would not, and as soon as I was rested I started off again, and walking to Devonport, was this time successful in joining the flag ship, H.M.S. *Caledonia*, of 120 guns, on the 13th April, 1842, as second class boy.

In the October following I joined the *Salamanca*, paddle-wheel frigate. At that time she was the largest and finest (if not the only) steamer in the British Navy, and was armed with four 32-pounders and two 68-pounder pivot guns. My first sea trip in her was from Portsmouth to Leith, when we were detailed to escort her Majesty Queen Victoria, who made the voyage in George IV's old yacht, a venerable square-rigger, which had no auxiliary steam to help her along in a calm. Another ship in the escort was the *Pique* frigate, and after we had finished this duty we went on foreign stations, the *Salamanca* going to the Pacific and the *Pique* to the West Indies. We went out through the Straits of Magellan, being the first man of war to go through after the Straits were surveyed. Before that sailing ships had to go round Cape Horn, because they could not sail through the tortuous Straits.

BOMBARDING ODESSA.

After returning from the West Indies, I was sent to the rigging house at Devonport Dockyard, and in September, 1852, I joined the *Sans Pareil*, Captain Sidney C. Dacres. She was a two-decker, 74 gun line-of-battle ship. In January, 1854, we went to the Black Sea, and on the following April 22nd we were present at the bombardment of Odessa. The actual bombardment, however, was carried out by eight paddle-wheel steamers, four French and four English. They did not sustain much damage, and they played "old Harry"

with the forts. We did not come under fire at all as all we had to do was to repeat signals to the main fleet, which was lying some seven or eight miles further off. On the 17th of October, however, we took part in the bombardment of Sevastopol, and then we had a far different experience, as the ship was badly damaged, and we had 73 men killed and wounded. We anchored with a kedge anchor off Fort Constantine and engaged at a range of 750 yards. The fort was an immense granite building, with walls as thick as this room (about 12 feet), and armed with three tiers of 44 pounder guns. Our 32-pounders could not make much impression against this, and their shot lulled us through and through, going in one side and out at the other; every now and then a shell would burst on board, and the ship was soon like a slaughter-house. I was standing under the break of the poop, and right before me was the fore-castle guns, which suffered badly, most of their crews being killed or wounded. Mr. Parkinson, our second master, was wounded, so was Mr. Bull, our first lieutenant, and one of the midshipmen, Mr. Madden, had his leg shot off and died during the night. After the fight the dead were put overboard as quickly as possible, and the doctors were busy all that night and the next day amputating and attending to the seriously wounded. A lot of the wounded died, and no account was taken of the slightly hurt, because the doctors were too busy. Next morning we were all ordered to sit down in our messes, and the officers came round and checked off our names. Those who were absent were of course, either dead or in the doctor's hands. The list of casualties was then written out and sent to the flagship. We had an awful job to clean up, and the ship smelt for weeks. Bits of flesh, bone, and brains were carried on to gun tackles and into all sorts of places where we could not get at it to clean it.

TO JAPAN.

In 1879, I again entered the rigging-house at Devonport Dockyard. In the September following I joined the three-decker *Marlborough*, which, at that time, was the flagship in the Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Arthur Fauschaw. On February 7th, 1881, I received a boat-wain's warrant, and was appointed to the famous old troopship *Himalaya*. I served in her until November, 1885, when we paid off. I was then appointed to the *Indus* at Devonport for working parties, and enjoyed a home berth until 1887, when I was appointed to the *Rodney*, flagship, on the China station, for instruction of Japanese naval officers. I and the other instructors were borne on the books of the *Rodney* but we had nothing to do with her really. We were in Japan for nearly two years instructing the Japanese officers. The present Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Wilson was our lieutenant, and our commander was the late Admiral Tracey. We were well paid, and we had a good time at Tokyo, the capital, and afterwards at Yokohama. The plan of the Japanese Government was for us to teach the officers so that they in their turn could teach their men. We worked through interpreters, but they had to learn the names of things and words of command in English. At that time the Japanese Navy consisted of a few old vessels purchased from other nations. One of my pupils was Admiral Togo, then quite a youngster.

THE CIVIL WAR.

Continuing, Mr. Branton said that young Togo gave him two photos of himself, and asked for his (Mr. Branton's) photo, which was, of course, readily given. He then showed the interviewer two old faded photos which depicted a bright, happy-looking young man of the typical Japanese cast of feature. In one Togo looked splendid in native dress with the two swords of the Samurai thrust through his sash. In the other he looked slightly uncomfortable in European clothing. On the backs of them Togo had written or printed some Japanese characters, and also in the uncertain hand of a child of seven, the words "Me" and "Sayonara." Evidently he found the Western alphabet no easy thing to master. The photos are undoubtedly of unique interest, and it is no

wonder that their owner is proud of them. Mr. Branton explained that their engagement was brought to an abrupt termination by the outbreak of civil war, in which the forces of reaction fiercely attacked the Government which was introducing Western ideas. Before the outbreak anti-foreign feeling was very evident, and a large force of native police were specially detailed to protect Mr. Branton and the other English instructors. When the civil war broke out they were sent down to Yokohama for safety, and there they remained for five months doing nothing, but receiving full pay from the Japanese Government. After that they returned to their ordinary duties in the British Navy.

ACCIDENT TO JAPANESE WARSHIP.

A telegram was received at the Naval Department early on the morning of the 27th inst., saying the cruiser *Nanivva* (3,650 tons) stranded while steaming through the Kurile group bound for Nemuro from Shimushu in a dense fog. She is making water, but all on board have been saved and are making preparations to land. The *Mutashi*, which was at Otaru, was immediately ordered to go to the scene of the disaster.

The *Nanivva* was built in England in 1885, and is a second class cruiser of 18 knot speed, mounted with 8 six inch guns. She has the reputation of being the ship which, under the command of Admiral Togo, fired the first shot at the Chinese transport *Kowshing* at the commencement of the war with China.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

THE monsoon in India has burst.

THE number of persons charged with infringement of the Election Law reached 5,813 by the 23rd instant.

MR. CLARENCE WHAITE, president of the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts, died on June 5th, aged eighty-four.

THE Siamese Government is reported to be taking steps to abolish the transit dues levied on goods throughout the country.

AT the Republican Convention at Chicago a solid line of police with revolvers and clubs was stationed in front of the platform in the Coliseum.

MR. WALLACE HARTLEY, of Dewsbury, the leader of the *Titanic* band, who went down with the vessel, left estate of the gross value of £656.

EIGHTEEN persons have been killed and sixteen injured in a collision between the Malmö-Stockholm express and a goods train at Malmstätt station.

A WASHINGTON dispatch states that Mr. Wood, Secretary of War, has ordered the departure of troops for El Paso in anticipation of a battle in Mexico.

THE first reading of the Franchise Bill was carried by 274 votes to fifty. The minority consisted mostly of Unionist suffragists who challenged the division.

LORD RIDLEY has published a letter of appeal for subscription to a fund to promote Tariff Reform to commemorate Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's birthday.

ABOUT 1,000 Italians left Constantinople on the 19th inst. There was no demonstration. The total number of Italians expelled from Constantinople is 10,000.

THE Queensland Government has introduced a Bill against general strikes. It provides for a secret ballot of all concerned and makes a fortnight's notice compulsory.

BARON MARSHAL VON BIERBERSTEIN, the newly-appointed German Ambassador to London, arrived quietly on the 18th inst. He posed for

the photographers, but refused to be interviewed, saying that it was much too early to express opinions.

A LADY aviator named Clarke struck the branches of a tree with her machine at Springfield on the 17th inst., with the result that the machine was turned over and she was killed.

MR. W. W. CAMPBELL, who for the past ten years has represented the P. M. Co. at Kobe, has been appointed Chief Agent of the Company, in the place of the late Mr. B. C. Howard.

PROFESSOR MOORE operated in the early part of this month in Madrid on an abscess in the left ear of the Infante Jaime, King Alfonso's second son. The Prince's condition is satisfactory.

AT the National Sporting Club on the 17th, in the contest for the English welterweight championship and Lord Lonsdale's belt, Summers knocked out Evernden in the thirteenth round.

THE Zeppelin airship *Victoria Louise*, on the 18th inst. flew from Dusseldorf to Hamburg and round the Dutch coast for twelve hours with twenty-five passengers, including naval officers.

TELEGRAPHIC advice has been received at the Naval Department stating that the trial trip made by the battle ship *Settsu* off Iyo was a complete success, a speed of from 20 to 21 knots having been obtained.

AT a suffragist demonstration in the Albert Hall it was announced that the suffragists in prison, including Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, will maintain a hunger strike until all alike are treated as first-class misdemeanants.

MR. R. McKENNA, Home Secretary, has decided that he will not expel a Russian anarchist named Malatesta, who was recently sentenced to three months' imprisonment and deportation for libelling a compatriot in Soho.

THE Mercantile Marine Navigation School's training ship *Saisei Maru* will start on a trip round the world on the 6th of next month. This is the eighth trip of a similar nature undertaken by the students of the School.

A JUDGMENT of the Canada Supreme Court declares that the general Marriage Act for the whole of the Dominion of Canada is *ultra vires*. Parliament, on the other hand, has decided that the laws of Quebec do not render mixed marriages void.

A GRAND charity bazaar will be held at the Kokugikwan, Ryogoku, Tokyo, on the 29th and 30th inst. and the 1st of next month, the proceeds to be applied to the erection of offices for the Society for the Protection of the Blind at Shiba Park.

THE twenty persons who were killed as the result of the collision between the Malmö-Stockholm express and a goods train at Malmstätt station included a London vicar named the Rev. Clibborn; the Rev. Mr. Osborne of Newcastle was seriously injured.

THE mandoline band of the Keiogijuku gave a concert at the V.M.C.A. buildings at Kanda on the 23rd instant, it being the first attempt of the kind in the city. Despite a few irregularities in the performance, the concert was declared to be a fair success.

THROUGH the the National Art Collections Fund the Britain Museum has received from an anonymous donor an illuminated MS. of Persian poetry containing the Mathnawi of Jalal-Uddin Rumi, written in 1295, twenty-two years after the author's death.

THE Chinese living along the Yangtze valley have cut off their queues almost without exception, and the hair dressers are reported to be doing a very prosperous business. The hair cut off is being put to various uses. At Canton it has been successfully used for manuring mulberry

and tea plantations, and European merchants are exporting it for use as false hair. Samples of the hair have also been shipped to Japan by the *Higo Maru*.

THE circulation of the Chartered Bank's notes, which was temporarily suspended owing to the trouble at Mukden, has already been resumed, though it is stated their value has undergone a slight decline as compared with the silver currency.

THE Portuguese Chamber has adopted the scheme for a Jewish colony in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Senhor Duarte Leite has formed a Cabinet representative of all parties. Dr. A. du Vasconcellos Carreira remains Minister of Foreign Affairs.

ADMIRAL LORD CHARLES BERNESFORD, in a two column article to the Press, attacks the Government for abandoning the Mediterranean, which he says is the main link in the defence of the Empire, and injuring national prestige by leaning on France.

MR. KAWAMURA, a Representative of the Diet for Nagoya, was arrested on the 22nd inst. on a charge of infringement of the Election Law. Messrs. Yuasa and Kuwabara, representatives for Hiroshima, charged with the same offence, have been committed for trial.

FOUR men have been arrested on a charge of having stolen telephone wire to the weight of 18 *kuwame* at a village near Kamakura, thus causing an interruption of telephone communication on the 16th inst. At first the break was ascribed to damages done by the heavy rain.

MRS. BABBITT, wife of the American Vice Consul-General Mr. Babbitt, is expected to return from Hayama to her home, No. 13, Bluff, Yokohama, on Saturday last, to enable her to be near her husband, who is now in the General Hospital. Her two little daughters will return with her.

THE promoters of the Japan Paint Company held their first meeting in Tokyo on the 25th instant, when Mr. Seki Kiyoshide was elected president of the Committee of Organization. Out of the forty thousand shares, nearly half have been taken up by subscribers in Kobe and Osaka.

THE Kankoku (Korea) Cotton Company will submit to the general meeting of its shareholders to be held on the 28th inst. the results of its half year's working as follows:—Gross profits, 15,221 *yen*; reserves, 1,500 *yen*. A dividend of 10 per cent. is proposed, leaving 8,721 *yen* to be carried forward.

IN the House of Commons on the 18th inst. when he was asked to state the effective strength of the British garrisons in Egypt and South Africa, Mr. H. J. Tennant, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Army Council, replied that he did not consider that it was expedient to publish the strength of the garrisons abroad.

IF the English and Scottish professional golf international matches at Muirfield the games ended in a tie, each side having five wins in the singles, and three in the foursomes, while five matches were halved. The most exciting game was that played by Braid and Herd against Vardon and Taylor, the former pair winning by one up.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, after opening the Welsh Bazaar at Westminster on the 19th inst., was attacked and hustled towards the door by suffragettes. Attempts were made to knock his hat off and there were shouts of: "When are you going to give facilities to the Women's Bill?" Detectives and the stewards drove the suffragettes off.

THE student-apprentices dispatched to foreign countries by the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce have hitherto been appointed from among any willing candidates, without subjecting them to any examination, but the system has shown unsatisfactory results. This year twenty-five will be dispatched to India, the South Sea

islands and Southern China. They are to be subjected to a rigorous examination as to their general ability, and some measure of success is expected.

A PEKING special to the *Chuwu* reports that according to a telegram from General Ma, Commander of the 5th Division, two battalions of Infantry of the Yantai Garrison, joining the mutinous soldiers fleeing from Taisan, threaten to rite in riot.

ACCORDING to the *Chugai Shogyo* the investigations conducted by the Department of Finance in regard to the adjustment of taxes have been brought to a close. The taxes involved are the income tax, business tax, Exchange tax and the salt monopoly, the total amount of curtailment effected being twenty-five million yen.

MR. YANUMA, of Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, has established an office called the Imperial Standard Time Bureau, whose business it is to loan clocks, connected by electricity with the standard time keeper at the Central Meteorological Observatory, to the various banks, companies and other applicants in Tokyo.

THE Commissioner of Police in Tokyo has been requested by the legal authorities of the city of Brussels to effect the seizure of a Belgian, named Picard Paul (?), who absconded with gold watches valued at 30,000 yen belonging to an industrial company of that city, where he was employed. The man is thought to have come to Japan.

A MONUMENT is to be erected in memory of the late Viscount Inoue Katsu in front of the Central Railway Station in Tokyo at the same time as the latter is completed; viz. March 1914, the object in view being to perpetuate the memory of the meritorious services rendered by the deceased gentleman in the cause of railway expansion in this country.

A NAGASAKI despatch dated the 24th instant says that the *Korea*, which arrived there from Hongkong with 575 tons of rice to be landed at Nagasaki, is loaded to overflowing with cargo destined for San Francisco, leaving no room for the shipment of Japanese tea. In the opinion of the ship's purser, a similar boom will continue for some time to come.

AT the King's birthday reception at the India Office, at which members of the Royal Family were present, Mr. Archibald, who was receiving the guests, was assaulted three times by suffragist guests. One woman hit him on the head with a fan and tried to tear the epaulettes from the shoulders of the Premier's uniform, but she was dragged off by an usher.

MR. IWATSUKI KUTSUTARO, chief of the detective force attached to the Central police station, has just retired after thirty-three years' faithful service. During this period he has received as recognition of his ability, awards amounting to over 1,700 yen, in the shape of presents from the authorities. It is claimed for him that during his long service, he has arrested 312 people connected with murders and 4,256 thieves and incendiaries.

THE proposal to make the 1st of July next the anniversary of the opening of Yokohama to foreign trade, and the two following days general holidays for the entire town, has failed on account of the objection raised that the money is insufficient to cover the expenses required for the preparations, and that the event is altogether too near at hand. Flags and lanterns will be the principal features of the day's celebration.

THE railway revenue for the first three months (up to the 26th of June) of the current fiscal year show the passenger receipts to have been 13,500,312 yen and the goods receipts 11,631,313 yen. This is an increase of 306,544 yen and 1,396,310 yen respectively compared with the corresponding period of last year, and of 507,056 yen and 959,607 yen compared with the estimated

receipts. The indications are that the general movements of merchandise will continue active, and the railway receipts, at least for the first half of the current year, will show an increase by nearly 3,000,000 yen over the estimates.

THE British Board of Trade have arranged for trade commissioners in the Dominions to make collections of samples of foreign-made hardware, hollow-ware, and tools, which compete on a large scale with similar goods of English make. Samples of this kind from South Africa will shortly be exhibited at Sheffield and Birmingham, and later in London.

THE Yokohama Waterworks announce that owing to the difficulty of meeting the increasing demand for water during the summer months it has been decided to cut off the supply on and after the 23rd inst. for three hours between 7.30 and 10.30 in the morning. Residents on the Bluff and other higher ground are cautioned that their supply is liable to fail earlier and be renewed later than in the case of occupants in the lower part of the city.

A FIGHT between the 300 labourers employed on the proposed railway track between Tokushima and Komatsushima, Awa, and the 200 residents of the village, which originated in the question which side should get the larger portion of the contract for labour on the track, was stopped by the police on the 25th inst., but not before several had been fatally wounded on both sides through an explosion of dynamite. Further friction is thought inevitable.

MR. HARUKI YAMAWAKI, ex-Commissioner of the Bureau of Exhibitions of the Department of Communications, and Mr. Goichi Takeda, professor of the Kyoto Higher Technological School, together with another high official of the Department, have been detailed as Preparatory Committee of the San Francisco Exhibition to be held in 1915. They will leave here for the United States early in July and return before October next.

THE Committee of Investigation appointed from among the shareholders of the Fuji Paper Manufacturing Company has returned to Tokyo after inspecting the Company's works at Shizuoka and Osaka, and will submit their report to a general meeting on the 26th inst., when it is expected interesting revelations will be made. The Committee consists of Dr. Haraguchi, and Messrs. Sato Haknui, Machida Tokunosuke, Koike Kunizo and Mogami Kohan.

THE regulations respecting the draught of ships, framed on the same lines as those of England, have been drawn up, but as their actual enforcement entails a considerable expenditure it still remains doubtful whether the authorities will be able to introduce them immediately. A Japanese paper thinks they should be introduced at once, as shipowners are at present liable to jeopardize life by overloading or taking on board certain kinds of cargo unfit for shipment.

A CALCUTTA advice received in Tokyo on the 24th inst. reports that the British India Steamship Company has decided to build seven new steamers to run between Kobe and Calcutta in competition with the ships of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. This will bring the total number of the Company's ships to twelve. The N.Y.K. will, it is reported, add the *Tosa Maru* to the *Ninsen*, *Totomi*, *Ceylon*, *Hirashima*, and the *Chilin*, already plying between the two ports, to provide against the coming competition.

THE first tea season is now practically over, and the general growth of tea is declared to be fair in spite of the damages done by frost in Shizuoka, Ibaraki and a few other localities, the total quantity produced being nearly equal to that of last year. Though for want of reliable figures, no definite result can yet be stated, should the second crop prove favourable the total output will exceed that of last year. The prices asked were at first

considerably higher than last year, the pessimistic view engendered by the frost having swayed the market and foreign buyers having kept away for some time. Now that prices have returned to last year's level, they will eventually fall below. This is the opinion of a Central Tea Guild expert.

It will be remembered that some time ago the discovery was reported of a large quantity of gold dust in the reaches of the Takase river in Fukuoka prefecture. The reports now seem to have been exaggerated. According to the statement of the expert sent to make an inspection, gold-dust certainly exists, but not in the quantity reported at the time of its discovery, while the difficulties of recovering it are very great. In these circumstances it is said that both the Mitsui and Iwasaki firms have decided to abandon the idea of working the gold.

THE construction of the second line of the Siberian railway was started almost immediately after the late war, the first part undertaken being the section from Ural to the Lake of Baikal. Now, according to the *Daiikokyo Okraisa* published at Vladivostok, the construction in Transbaikalia has been started at many points. On account of this, traffic on the section of the railway, which goes by the shores of lake Baikal, will be suspended during this summer and all passengers travelling by the Siberian railway will be taken over the lake by steamers.

THE decisions lately arrived at between the experts of the Railway Board and the Russian Commissioners at Vladivostok relative to the through transit of Japanese silk by the Siberian railway, are now awaiting the sanction of the Governments of the two countries. On the Japanese side, all preparations being now ready, the required rules and freight schedules will be published as soon as Government sanction is obtained, but no news having arrived from Russia in regard to the matter, it will be some time before a definite date can be fixed for the commencement of operations.

ACCORDING to a Peking despatch to the *Chuwu*, the Department of Communications has decided to construct four trunk lines, the first line reaching as far as Kwangcho bay from Peking through Nanking and Hankow, the second the Peking-Chiangkiakow line extended to Kiakhta, the third connecting Hunchuan and Peking through Mukden and Tsitsihar, and the fourth running from Chiating to Ili, via Taiyuan, Tungkwan, Kanas and Hsingkiang. It is further stated that the construction will cost something like 430,000,000 taels and that the money will be raised on the markets in France, America and England.

THE export of lacquer-ware from Yokohama is now valued at only 700,000 yen and shows signs of a decrease owing to the discoloration so much complained of by American customers. Till fifteen years ago lacquer-ware and porcelain were exported to nearly the same amount, but now the annual export of porcelain reaches seven million yen. The Yokohama Merchants' Guild has taken the matter into consideration and is approaching the Department of Agriculture and Commerce with a view to devising methods of amelioration. Mr. Yamada Mohei and six other lacquer dealers have been appointed as a Committee to deal with the matter.

THE police authorities are taking stringent measures to suppress the bogus insurance companies now being operated on a large scale in this country, says the *Niroku*. The progress of modern society and the increase of the population affords unscrupulous sharpers opportunities for fattening on the unwary, who are sheared in one way or other under the plausible pretext of mutual help or protection. One company of this kind has been doing a lucrative business by levying a monthly contribution of 20 sen on each one of its patrons, on the simple pretext that in the event of his or her death the sum of one hundred yen would be paid, whereas as a matter of fact no such promise is ful-

filled even on the occurrence of the event described. Promoters of these bogus insurance companies can be counted by the hundred. The president of one of them was arrested the other day on a charge of fraud and embezzlement.

THE members of the Hongkong Law Society on the 21st inst. presented Sir Francis Piggott, former Chief Justice of Hongkong, with an address.

Sir Francis Piggott, in acknowledging the address said, "I know no appointment in England or abroad, however high, that I would sooner choose than the appointment to the Chinese Government with which rumour credits me. Having accepted that, I should know no more pleasing task than to assist the Republican Government in setting old China on her way to an eminent position among the nations."

IN the House of Commons on the 20th inst. Sir J. D. Rees (U. E. Notts) suggested that in view of the inability of the Central Chinese Government to enforce the anti-opium regulations in the provinces, it would be just to the Indian taxpayer to suspend the Treaty until China was able to carry out her part.

The Hon. E. S. Montagu, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the India Office, said that he was unable to see how any dislocation of the Treaty in these temporary circumstances would benefit the Indian taxpayer.

THE Goto Woollen Fabric Company, whose shares have steadily increased in price during the last three months, is, it is understood, to be managed in future by the Suzuki Shoten of Kobe, which has taken over a large percentage of its shares. There is no doubt that the manufacture of woollen fabrics is highly profitable and will attain greater expansion in the near future, but the Company's workings have not been attended with satisfactory results owing to the imperfection of its internal organization. The Suzuki Shoten proposes to employ all available talent and ability wherever such are wanted and so ensure the success of the concern under its new regime.

THE latest advices from London show the forward quotations for copper to have risen to £80.5s. and for electric copper to £80. The ever increasing progress of the electric industry and the expansion of the Navies of all the Powers are the principal causes of the enhanced value of copper. The limitation of production by the American miners is another factor. The world's total output last year was 803,460 tons. The countries producing the metal according to quantity turned out, were till a short time ago the United States, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and Japan. But Japan, by producing last year 9,000 tons more, bringing her total up to 55,000 tons, now occupies the second place in the list of copper producing countries.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt from the publishers, the Tokyo Koshin-sho, the Bradstreets of Japan, of the issue of the *Ginko Kaisha Yoroku*, or Compendium of Banks and Companies, revised up to date. It is the best book of the kind, and contains full information so far as the scope of a reference book permits. The names of the officers of every bank or company are given, together with a statement of the previous half year's accounts. The names of all the business concerns in the Empire are mentioned according to their location, and the pages are indented to indicate the various cities and prefectures. The names of the officials are also alphabetically arranged, with the names of the firms to which they are attached. The price is 3.00 yen.

THE British Admiralty has provisionally placed a further order for two destroyers with Messrs. Yarrow, of Glasgow. The boilers, which are of the Yarrow type, are to be fitted with superheaters similar to those in the destroyers *Archer* and *Attack*, the superheater being on one side of the boiler only, which arrangement gives exceptional

control. Superheating, which has been introduced throughout stationary engines and to a large extent in locomotive practice, owing to the success of the *Archer* and *Attack*, will undoubtedly become universal in marine practice, as there is an undoubted gain of 10 per cent. By superheating, the condensation of the steam in its passage through the turbine is materially reduced, and when cruising entirely avoidable.

VARYING reports are to hand as to the extent of damage done to the sugar plantations in Formosa by the recent storm. The *Chugai* makes light of the affair, but the *Hochi* is very pessimistic about the possible effect it may have upon the crop. The area under cultivation remains nearly the same as last year, due to the concessions made to the aborigines, but the rain, which destroyed the bridges and cut off communication with the sugar plantations, also inundated the latter and injured the young shoots. The various factories are now hard at work draining the flooded ground, but the rain is still continuing. The sugar belt is mostly in the southern part of the island. Any excessive rainfall at this time of the year has the effect of decomposing the fibres of the young shoots and when they are scarce, as is the case this year, the consequences are serious.

ECZEMA SO BAD HAD TO TIE HIS HANDS

To Prevent Child from Scratching, Running Sore All Over Head and Face. Cuticura Soap and Ointment Quickly Removed Soreness and Proved a Perfect Cure.

"My child suffered with a yellow running sore all over his head and face. I attended two hospitals with him. The doctors told me that it was eczema and they gave me some ointment for it. I used the same day after day which did no good. It was a sort of disease, always keeping my little one very restless both day and night, which forced me to tie his hands down to prevent him from scratching the sores. They used to run very much and form a very filthy looking scab. My child's suffering also prevented me from getting on with my work at home."

"One day I was advised by a neighbour to try Cuticura Soap and Ointment. I sent for a sample of Cuticura Ointment and put it on my child's head and face. Being very pleased about its wonderful work, I bought two tablets of Cuticura Soap. I washed my child with Cuticura Soap and hot water, then applied the Cuticura Ointment. They quickly removed that soreness and left my child a very clear, bright and healthy-looking skin. Cuticura Soap and Ointment put an end to all my misery."

"I had tried all kinds which all failed to cure my child until I tried Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment and they proved a perfect cure." (Signed) H. Quin, 32, Diana St., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Eng., July 12, 1911. Samples with 32-p. book free from nearest depot: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse St., London; R. Towns & Co., Sydney, N.S.W.; Lenson, Ltd., Cape Town; Muller, Maclean & Co., Calcutta and Bombay; Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., sole props., Boston, U. S. A.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

Saturday, June 29.

In Raw Cotton, Local quotations for stock parcels remain weak, partly due to the dulness of the export of yarns to China. In Cotton yarn, business has been done in 100/2 s. and 120/2 s. As to Cotton Piece goods, the market remains very quiet. In Woollens and Woollen Mixtures, the season for sales for wholesale dealers, being now closed, more attention is being paid to spring requirement.

RAW COTTON.		PER PICUL.
American Middling	...	35.50
Indian Broach	...	32.00 to 32.50
Chinese (Old crop)	...	34.00 to 34.50
Chinese (New crop)	...	...

COTTON YARN.		PER BALE.
Nos. 2/60, Gassed	...	260.00 to 295.00
Nos. 2/80, Gassed	...	345.00 to 361.00
Nos. 2/100, Gassed	...	500.00 to 530.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.		
White Shirtings—50 yds. 36 in...	...	5.75 to 11.00
Grey Shirtings:—		
A. 43 1/4" x 45 yards	...	5.20 to 5.50
B. 43 1/4" x 45 yards	...	5.50 to 5.85
C. 44" x 46 yards	...	5.85 to 6.20

Pure Grey Shirtings:—		
A. 44" x 46 yards	...	6.20 to 6.60
B. 44" x 46 yards	...	6.60 to 7.20
C. 44" x 47 yards	...	7.20 to 8.00
Grey Cambrics:—		
44" x 46 yards	...	7.80 to 8.50
44" x 47 yards	...	8.50 to 9.75
44 1/4" x 47 yards	...	9.75 to 11.00
45" x 48 yards	...	11.00 to 12.50
Prints—24 yards, 30 inches	...	3.80 to 4.70
Cotton Italians	...	0.25 to 0.38
Cotton Venetians	...	0.35 to 0.70

PER PIECE.		
Grey Printers—30 1/2" x 120 yards	...	10.30 to 13.75
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	...	14.50 to 17.50
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42 inches	...	1.25 to 2.70

WOOLLENS AND WOOLLEN MIXTURES.		
Flannels	...	...
Union Italians	...	0.44 to 0.70
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,		
30-32 inches Common to Medium	...	0.27 to 0.29
Mouseline de Laine—120-140 yards,		
30-32 inches Good to Best	...	0.31 to 0.33
Cloths—Pilot, Presidents, and Union,		
54 to 56 inches	...	...

INQUIRIES are limited owing to the advent of the busy season.

IRON OR MILD STEEL, BAR, FLAT, ROUND AND SQUARE.		PER PICUL.
Iron or Mild Steel, Bar, flat, round and square	...	Y. 4.60 to 4.65
Iron or Mild Steel, Plate	...	5.35 to 5.40
Sheet Iron	...	6.15 to 6.25
Sheet Mild Steel	...	6.90 to 7.10
Galvanised Iron Sheets Corrugated	...	10.90 to 11.05
Flat	...	11.50 to 11.60
Wire Nails, Ordinary assortments	...	7.20 to 7.25
Tin Plates, 90 lbs. I.C.W.	...	7.55 to 7.65
Pig Iron, No. 3 "Redcar"	...	2.45 to 2.50

KEROSENE.		
The market maintains quiet tone.		
Chester	...	Y. 4.26
Victory	...	3.94
Nonpareil	...	4.90
Sumatra	...	3.10 to 3.20
Burneo	...	3.02 to 3.40
Hokuyetsu	...	3.00 to 3.55
Nippon	...	2.78 to 3.55
Ogura	...	3.77
Todai	...	...

SUGAR.		
Brisk business is expected after the rainy season.		
PER PICUL.		
Brown Manila	...	Y. 12.50
Brown China	...	11.50
Brown Java	...	16.00 to 16.10
White Java	...	14.40 to 22.50
White Refined (German)	...	15.50 to 18.30
" (Hongkong)	...	14.80 to 22.50

INDIGO.		
No change in the market. Some transactions have been done all round.		
Calcutta first	...	Y. 240.00
" second	...	200.00
Java, first	...	320.00
" second	...	280.00
Madras, first	...	...
" second	...	...
Artificial "horse and lion" brand	...	2.00
Artificial "Kenshin"	...	2.00

FLOUR.		
The market steady.		
Yen.		
Gold Drop	4 sacks	11.47 to 11.57
Flag	...	10.95 to 11.00
Royal	...	10.95 to 11.00
Trophy	4 sacks	11.75 to 11.85
Red Seal	...	11.15 to 11.25
Lion	...	11.95 to 12.05
Portland	...	11.15 to 11.20
Premier	...	11.75 to 11.85

Japanese:

Rising Sun.....	6 <i>kwamine</i>	2.70
Takasago.....	6	2.75
Fuji.....	6	2.85
Pine.....	6	2.70

WHEAT.

The market generally active.

White Walla Walla, 100 <i>kin</i> ...	6.00 to 6.10
Red	5.90 to 6.00
Blue Stem.....	6.00 to 6.10

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Transactions have been upon a limited scale.
On June 14th stocks were: Filatures, 4,000 piculs; Re-reels, 50 piculs; Kakeda, 30 piculs.

Filature—Extra No. 1, Coarse	Yen. 980
Filature—Extra No. 2, Coarse	885
Filature—Yajima Class, Coarse	885
Filature—No. 1, 13-15den	885
Filature—No. 1½-2, 9-11den	980
Filature—No. 1½-2, 10-12den	885
Filature—No. 1½-2, 13-15den	885
Filature—No. 1½-2, 11-13den	885
Filature—No. 1½ Shinyeisha.....	885
Re-reels—Extra	—
Re-reels—No. 1	—
Re-reels—No. 1½	850
Re-reels—No. 2	—
Kakedas—Gold Cup Chop Extra	—
Kakedas—Veiled Woman Chop	840
Kakedas—One Horsehead Chop	830
Kakedas—Two Horseheads Chop.....	820

QUOTATIONS ON THE EXCHANGE

June.	July delivery.	July delivery.	August delivery.
22nd	81.26	83.90	84.00
24th	81.10	83.90	84.10
25th	81.10	84.30	84.40
26th	81.00	83.50	83.80
27th	80.90	83.60	84.30
28th	80.40	84.00	84.20

WASTE SILK.

Quiet, business being restricted owing to a small stock.

On May 31st stocks were:—Noshi, 300 piculs; Kibiso, 1,800 piculs; Sundries, 500 piculs.

QUOTATIONS.

Noshi—Filatures, Best	Yen. —
Noshi—Filatures, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Oshiu, Inferior	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Good	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Medium	—
Noshi—Shinshiu, Inferior	50 to 60
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Good	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Medium	—
Noshi—Bushi, (or Joshu) Inferior	50 to 80
Kibiso—Filatures, Best	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Good	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Medium	—
Kibiso—Filatures, Inferior	95 to 105

HABUTAE.

Kaga:—The market continues inactive.
Echizen:—The general tendency is still toward a lower level of prices.

Kawamata:—The prices are now declining.

"PINE-LEAVES" MARK. (FUKUI.)

Inches.	6 <i>me.</i>	6½ <i>me.</i>	7 <i>me.</i>	7½ <i>me.</i>	8 <i>me.</i>
22½"	7.50	7.25	7.20	7.30	7.40
27"	7.35	7.35	7.25	7.20	7.15
36"	7.40	7.35	7.20	7.00	7.00

"GOLD" MARK. (KANAZAWA.)

Inches.	4½ <i>me.</i>	4¾ <i>me.</i>	4¾ <i>me.</i>	5 <i>me.</i>	5½ <i>me.</i>
22½"	7.25	7.15	7.05	7.25	7.25
27"	7.30	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.25
36"	7.45	7.25	7.20	7.20	7.20

KAWAMATA.

Inches.	3 <i>me.</i>	3½ <i>me.</i>	4 <i>me.</i>	4½ <i>me.</i>
20"	7.00	7.80	8.50	9.30
25"	7.70	8.40	9.40	10.40
36"	8.80	10.10	11.00	—
36"	11.90	12.90	14.60	—

COPPER.

According to the latest London telegram the quotation was £79.

Refined per 100 <i>kin</i>	Yen 43.50—45.00
Bessemer per 100 <i>kin</i>	38.50—40.00
Electric refined per 100 <i>kin</i>	47.00—50.00
Ore	29.50—33.00

RICE.

The tendency is still upward.

Domestic rice in Fukagawa	bags. 515.431
Foreign rice in Fukagawa.....	130.263
Delivery.....	Closing Price.
June	22.55
July	22.65
August	21.47

(Osaka.)	(Kobe.)
June	June
July	July
August	August

RICE AT WHOLESALE: STANDARD PRICE.
(Tokyo.)

Superior.....	Yen 24.20
Medium	23.10
Common	21.60
Average.....	22.93

TEA.

The market is dull, transactions being limited to small lots.

Choice	nominal.
Choice	48 & upward
Fine	44 to 48
Good Medium	40 to 44
Medium	—
Good Common	—
Common	—

COTTON YARN. (OSAKA.)

The market is quiet, dealing being deferred till the beginning of the next month.

Delivery.....	Yen.
June	147.90
July	146.65
August	144.50

EXCHANGE.

Yokohama, June 28.
London silver ½ higher, China sterling quotations not yet received but local rates on China are slightly easier and all others unchanged

London—Bank T.T.....	2/0 3/4
— Sight	2/0 3/4 @ 1/4
— 60 days	2/0 3/4
— 4 months' sight	2/0 3/4
— Credits 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
— 6 months' sight	2/1
Australia Docty 30 days.....	2/1 1/2
Paris & Lyons—Bank sight.....	256 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight.....	261
America—Bank sight	49 3/4
— Private 30 days' sight.....	50 3/4
— Private 4 months' sight	51
Germany—Bank sight.....	208
— Private 4 months' sight	212 3/4
India—Bank sight	152
— Private 30 days' sight.....	154
Hongkong—Bank sight	per \$100. 100 ^a
— Private 10 days' sight	98 ^a
Shanghai—Bank sight.....	73 ^a
— Private 10 days' sight	74 3/4 ^a
Bar Silver (London)	28 3/4 @ 28 3/4

^a Nominal.

MAIL STEAMERS.

NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Hongkong...B. L.....	Oteric		Sa. June 29
Hongkong...N. Y. K....	Shidzuoka Maru		Tu. July 2
Hongkong...C. P. R....	Em. of India		Tu. July 2
America.....T. K. K....	Chiyo Maru		Tu. July 2
Seattle	G. S. N.....	Minnesota 1	Tu. July 2
Tacoma.....O. S. S....	Panama Maru		W. July 3
Hongkong...T. K. K....	Shinyo Maru		Th. July 4
Seattle	N. Y. K....	Sado Maru 2	F. July 5
Hongkong...O. S. S....	Canada Maru		M. July 8
America.....P. M.....	Nile 3		M. July 8
Europe	N. D. L....	York	M. July 8
Hongkong...P. M.....	Siberia		F. July 12
Vancouver...C. P. R....	Monteagle		Th. July 18

- 1 Left Seattle on the 18th inst.
- 2 Left Seattle on the 18th inst.
- 3 Left San Francisco on the 22nd inst.

NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	Line	Steamer.	Date.
Europe	N.D.L....	P. E. Friedrich	Sa. June 29
America.....	P. M.....	Korea	Sa. June 29
Seattle	B. L.....	Oteric	Su. June 30
Shanghai	N. Y. K....	Yamaguchi Maru	Su. June 30
Vancouver...C. P. R....	Em. of India	Tu. July 2	
Seattle	N.Y.K....	Shidzuoka Maru	W. July 3
Europe	N.Y.K....	Tango Maru	W. July 3
America.....	T.K.K....	Shinyo Maru	Th. July 4
Hongkong...T.K.K....	Chiyo Maru	Th. July 4	
Hongkong...O. S. S....	Panama Maru	F. July 5	
Hongkong...G. N.....	Minnesota	F. July 5	
Europe	M. M.....	Oceanien	Sa. July 6
Hongkong...N.Y.K....	Sado Maru	M. July 8	
Tacoma.....O. S. S....	Canada Maru	W. July 10	
Hongkong...P. M.....	Nile	W. July 10	
Hongkong...C. P. R....	Montesle	Th. July 18	
Tacoma.....B. & S....	Teucer	Sa. July 20	
Australia	N. Y. K....	Yawata Maru	Sa. July 20

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

<i>Shinmei Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 1,749, K. Nagata, 20th June.—Wakamatsu, General.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
<i>Antiochus</i> , British steamer, 5,796, A. R. Stewart, 20th June.—Glasgow and Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
<i>Persia</i> , British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 21st June.—Nagahama Quarantine Station.—P.M. S.S. Co.
<i>Hakui Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 21st June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Idomenawi</i> , British steamer, 4,299, Batters, 21st June.—Liverpool via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
<i>Sambia</i> , German steamer, 3,011, Buch, 21st June.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
<i>Indraghira</i> , British steamer, 3,460, W. E. Kelway, 21st June.—New York via ports, General.—Jardine Matheson & Co.
<i>Konan Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 858, T. Arachi, 22nd June.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Riojun Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 22nd June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Shinshiku Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 22nd June.—Osaka, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
<i>Baron Polwarth</i> , British steamer, 3,137, D. Cameron, 22nd June.—Port Tampa, Phosphate.—Otto Reimers & Co.
<i>Loval</i> , British steamer, 3,376, R. Glegg, 22nd June.—Antwerp via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.
<i>Prins Eitel Friedrich</i> , German steamer, 5,601, E. Malchow, 22nd June.—Hamburg and Bremen via ports, Mails and General.—H & Co., Nachf.
<i>Manchuria</i> , American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 23rd June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P.M. S.S. Co.
<i>Aeneas Rickmers</i> , German steamer, 2,871, N. Oetting, 23rd June.—Antwerp via ports, General.—Simon Evers & Co.
<i>Segovia</i> , German steamer, 3,796, Lucbke, 23rd June.—Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.
<i>Chikugo Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuru-zumi, 24th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Inako Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 3,939, K. Kaneda, 24th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Tamon Maru No. 12</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,542, A. Kobayashi, 24th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Tacoma Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 24th June.—Tacoma, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)
<i>Banri Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 24th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Chicago Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 25th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd. (Agents, American Line Osaka Shosen Kaisha.)
<i>Kagoshima Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 26th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
<i>Oriental</i> , British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 26th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.
<i>Umi Maru</i> , Japanese steamer, 2,714, S. Nakayama, 26th June.—Taku, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Yechigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, T. Terada, 26th June.—Yokosuka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Monmouthshire, British steamer, 3,296, G. E. Warner, 26th June.—Antwerp and London via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Oceanien, French steamer, 2,104, Mages, 26th June.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, R. Robinson, 26th June.—Vancouver, Mails and General.—C. P. R. Co.

Bellerophon, British steamer, 5,727, J. A. Bebb, 27th June.—Tacoma, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Takenago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,118, S. Nishimura, 27th June.—Newchwang via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kitsurin Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,492, K. Watanabe, 27th June.—Yokosuka, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tencho Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,935, N. Noguchi, 27th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kamakura Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,795, K. Soeda, 27th June.—Garu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

DEPARTURES.

Middleham Castle, British steamer, 2,899, J. Walters, 21st June.—New York via ports, General.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Sultan van Langkat, Dutch steamer, 2,303, C. G. Kuhn, 21st June.—Taketooy, Kerosene Oil.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

Mutira, British steamer, 2,985, Harry Carey, 21st June.—Rangoon via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.

African Prince, British steamer, 3,183, A. E. Thomas, 21st June.—Cebu via Karatsu, Ballast.—American Trading Co.

Bloemfontein, British steamer, 2,958, J. B. Pattison, 21st June.—Mikie, Ballast.—Sale & Frazar, Ltd.

Sakata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,369, J. Noma, 21st June.—Newchwang via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamono Maru No. 8, Japanese steamer, 2,262, Y. Fujita, 21st June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Wakanaura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,556, B. Tsuda, 22nd June.—Takao, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Persia, British steamer, 2,744, J. Hill, 22nd June.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Kumano Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,147, M. Winkler, 22nd June.—Sydney and Melbourne via Manila and ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Salasie, French steamer, 2,089, Lerequier, 22nd June.—Marseilles via ports, Mails and General.—M.M. Co.

Antilochus, British steamer, 5,796, A. R. Stewart, 22nd June.—Victoria, Tacoma, Seattle and Vancouver, Mails and General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Chefoo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,198, M. Deguchi, 22nd June.—Bonin Island, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Hongkong Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,437, H. Hino-kuma, 22nd June.—Valparaiso via Honolulu, Mails and General.—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

Hakui Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,434, Y. Kishi, 23rd June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Manchuria, American steamer, 8,750, A. Dixon, 24th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—P. M. S.S. Co.

Awa Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,912, R. Shimidzu, 24th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Shinshiku Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,938, I. Den, 24th June.—Nagoya, General.—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Sambia, German steamer, 3,011, Buch, 24th June.—Kobe, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Smita, British steamer, 3,828, C. D. Goldsmith, 25th June.—Marseilles, London and Antwerp via ports, General.—P. & O. S.N. Co.

Thesus, British steamer, 4,399, Smallwood, 25th June.—London, Amsterdam and Antwerp via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.

Riojun Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,980, Y. Yamaguchi, 25th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Banri Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,368, Y. Mase, 25th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Tamono Maru No. 12, Japanese steamer, 2,442, A. Kobayashi, 25th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chicago Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,832, Y. Goto, 26th June.—Tacoma and Seattle, Mails and General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Tacoma Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,830, H. Yamamoto, 26th June.—Hongkong via ports, General.—Samuel Samuel & Co., (Agents, American Line O.S.K.)

Konan Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,58, T. Arachi, 26th June.—Wakamatsu, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Rokura Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,610, K. Shito, 26th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Chiltern Range, British steamer, 2,717, A. E. Rea, 26th June.—Moj, Ballast.—Standard Oil Co.

Segovia, German steamer, 3,796, Loeckbe, 26th June.—Havre and Hamburg via ports, General.—C. Illies & Co.

Tiliwong, Dutch steamer, 3,052, J. B. von D. Jalink, 26th June.—Batavia via ports, General.—Ed. L. van Nierop & Co.

Empress of Japan, British steamer, 3,003, S. Robinson, 27th June.—Hongkong via ports, Mails and General.—C.P.R. Co.

Chikugo Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,458, K. Kuruzumi, 27th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Oriental, British steamer, 3,085, A. L. Valentini, 27th June.—Shanghai via ports, Mails and General.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Loual, British steamer, 3,376, R. Glegg, 27th June.—Vladivostok, Ballast.—Dodwell & Co., Ltd.

Inako Maru, Japanese steamer, 3,939, K. Kaneda, 27th June.—Otaru via ports, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Kagoshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 2,731, Y. Minamikawa, 27th June.—Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Ichigo Maru, Japanese steamer, 712, T. Terada, 27th June.—Tokuyama, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Awa Maru* from Seattle, Wash.:—Lieut. Col. Osumi, Mr. Tago, Mrs. Ban, Mr. Adachi, Mr. Ban and Mr. Matsumura in cabin; Mr. Sato, Mr. Enomoto, Mr. Wada, Mr. Kato and Mr. Narisawa in second class; 11 Japanese and 4 Russian in steerage. For Kobe:—Mr. Yamakawa, Mr. M. Sato, Mr. Sato, Mrs. Sato and Miss Sato in second class; 27 Japanese in steerage. For Hongkong:—Mr. E. E. Prowell in cabin; Dr. B. M. Richardson in second class; 9 Chinese in steerage.

Per British steamer *Persia* from Hongkong via ports:—Mr. M. Blanco, Dr. S. D. Hart, Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Howard, Miss Margaret S. Howard, Dr. H. H. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Richards and servant, Mrs. G. H. Richards, Mr. T. de La Rosa, Mrs. L. S. Willis, Mrs. T. S. Wilson, Miss Nancy Wilson, For Honolulu:—Mr. Wm. Loftus, Miss C. McCarthy and Miss M. McCarthy. For San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Abry, Master Joseph E. Abry, Mr. W. S. Boston, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Biddle, Miss Eleanor Biddle, Miss E. M. Chambers, Mrs. H. B. Cameron, Mr. R. Caldicott, Mr. Wong Te Chang, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coombs, Miss Doris Coombs, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Chenault, Master Elmer L. Chenault, Miss Lillian A. Drane, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ekvall, Miss Gertrude Ekvall, Master Henry Ekvall, Miss Grace Ekvall, Miss Irene Ekvall, Miss A. Galbraith, Mr. R. W. Gordon, Mr. F. A. Gustafson, Mrs. F. A. Gustafson, Master Dagny Gustafson, Mr. J. J. Hayes, Dr. W. T. Hefferman, Mr. S. W. Hibberd, Mr. G. H. Holt, Miss E. F. Jones, Mrs. G. L. Lundy, Mr. A. Lowrie, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Mohler, Master Harry Mohler, Master Jack E. Mohler, Mrs. B. Morgan and servant, Master James O. Morgan, Miss L. Morgan, Rev. and Mrs. C. Neussmann, Rev. E. Perez, Mr. V. Plymire, Miss H. P. Robbins, Mrs. A. Rocuant, Mr. F. T. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Snyder, Master Albert Snyder, Mrs. R. C. Sheldon, Mr. Mark Templeton, Mr. Fred. Grant and Miss Ines Woolfe, in cabin.

Per American steamer *Manchuria* from San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. E. Bosshart, Mr. E. H. Dooman, Mrs. R. Fulton, Mr. H. C. Fisher, Mr. A. S. Goldsmith, Mr. M. Hanihara, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hinch, Mr. H. B. Hitchcock, Dr. T. Meness, Mrs. L. F. Miller, Mr. A. De Pautze, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Willey, Mr. T. C. Chu, Mr. K. Kitamura, Mr. N. Kaumanns, Mr. F. Farrar and Mr. A. H. Tait. For Kobe:—Miss M. E. McKean. For Nagasaki:—Mr. A. Kriest and Mr. C. D. Meinhardt. For Manila:—Mr. R. W. Butcher, Mr. W. A. Derham, Miss C. R. Donaldson, Mr. F. Engle, Mrs. P. J. Fitzsimmons, Mrs. W. J. Hamilton and servant, Master J. Hamilton, Master G. Hamilton, Mr. T. R. Hunt, Mr. W. S. McGraw, Mr. G. B.

Mitchell, Mr. A. B. Farham, Mr. and Mrs. O. Smith, Mrs. J. R. White and Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Wolff. For Hongkong:—Miss I. F. Annette, Miss E. Edwards, Mr. A. T. De Forest, Miss C. M. De Forest, Miss V. A. Francis, Master G. J. Halton, Master F. J. Halton Jr., Miss E. M. Hunt, Mrs. J. J. McKeel, Miss June Painter, Miss V. Phillips, Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mrs. C. M. Somers and Miss D. Somers in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Chikugo Maru* from Shanghai via ports:—Mr. and Mrs. S. Narita, Mr. G. Ito, Mrs. H. Ito, Miss H. Ito, Miss T. Ito, Mr. H. Sawa, Mrs. Y. Sawa and Mrs. K. Ishiwata in second class; 15 Japanese and 3 Chinese in steerage.

DEPARTED.

Per French steamer *Salasie* for Marseilles via ports:—Mrs. Marshall and Mr. J. C. Changuex in cabin.

Per British steamer *Persia* for San Francisco via Honolulu:—Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Abry, Master Joseph E. Abry, Mr. Fred. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Biddle, Miss Eleanor Biddle, Mr. W. S. Boston, Mr. H. Caldicott, Mrs. M. B. Cameron, Miss E. M. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Chenault, Master Elmer L. Chenault, Mr. and Mrs. T. Thomas Coombs, Miss Lillian A. Drane, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ekvall, Miss Gertrude Ekvall, Master Henry Ekvall, Miss Irene Ekvall, Miss A. Galbraith, Mr. R. W. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Gustafson, Master Dagny Gustafson, Mr. J. J. Hayes, Dr. W. T. Hefferman, Mr. S. W. Hibberd, Mr. C. H. Holt, Miss Edith F. Jones, Mrs. G. D. Lundy, Mr. Wm. Loftus, Mr. A. E. Lowrie, Miss C. McCarthy, Miss M. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Mohler, Master Harry A. Mohler, Master Jack E. Mohler, Mrs. E. Morgan and servant, Master James O. Morgan, Miss Lady Morgan, Rev. and Mrs. O. Neussmann, Rev. N. Perez Perez, Mr. V. G. Plymire, Miss H. P. Robbins, Mrs. Rocuant, Mr. F. T. Robbins, Mrs. R. C. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Snyder, Master Albert Snyder, Mr. Mark Templeton, Mr. Wong Te Chang, Miss Ines Woolfe, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bakes, Mr. W. H. Dean, Mr. H. B. Dougherty, Mr. A. Gillespie, Mrs. Z. L. Heintzen, Mr. K. Ishikawa, Mr. R. I. Johns, Count H. Keyserling, Mrs. M. Lewis, Prof. D. H. Macgregor, Mr. R. Moreau, Mrs. A. L. Myton, Mrs. G. B. Precott, Mrs. S. Sadayasu, Mr. G. Short, Mr. S. Takano, Mr. A. Tidswell and Mr. M. Yamaki in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per British steamer *Persia* for San Francisco via Honolulu on the 22nd inst.

	S. F.	N. Y.	TEA.						O. City.
			Chicago.	Boston.	Toledo.	Buffalo.	Rochester.	Honolulu.	
Shanghai	3,028	425	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobe	30	320	818	185	552	285	308	—	968
Yokohama	211	—	1,142	115	—	157	277	130	1,465
H'kong.	875	—	—	—	—	—	—	340	10
Total	1,116	3,348	2,385	300	552	472	585	470	2,443

SILK.

	From	S. F.	N. Y.	Holyoke.	O. City.	Total.
Shanghai	—	—	45	—	—	45
Hongkong	—	—	138	—	—	138
Yokohama	—	—	130	—	—	130
Total	—	—	313	—	—	313

SILK SHIPPERS.

Raw & Waste Silk shipped per steamer *Salasie*:—

	RAW.					WASTE.		
	Marseilles Option.	Lyon.	Moscow.	Milan.	France.	India.	Triste.	Peigues.
Hara Yushitsuten	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulzer Rudolph & Co.	106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	85	—	—	—	50	—	—	—
do	—	—	—	—	101	—	—	—
Mitsui Bussan K'sha.	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nabholz & Cie.	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Siber Hegner & Co.	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
E. Zellweger	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
L. Mottet and Barmont	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jewett and Bent	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F. Strahler & Co.	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pila & Co.	—	15	19	—	—	—	—	—
C. Eymard & Co.	—	—	—	—	186	—	—	—
Dell Oro & Co.	—	—	—	—	—	128	—	—
Total	462	15	19	—	246	128	—	—

† Peigues.

The following were the silk shippers by the steamer *Antiochus* sailed on the 22nd inst.

Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	393
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	388
Japan Villa-Stearns Co.	188
Nabholz & Co.	147
P. Dourille	106
Hara Yushutsuten	79
Jewett and Bent	76
Siber Hegner & Co.	31
F. Strahler & Co.	30
Vivanti Bros.	25
L. Motiet and Barmont	25

Total.....1,487

Per Japanese steamer *Chicago Maru* for Tacoma and Seattle, on the 26th inst.

Nabholz & Co.	58
F. Strahler & Co.	40
China and Japan Trading Co.	38
Siber Hegner & Co.	30
Jewett & Bent	20
P. Dourille & Co.	5
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	235
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	101

Total 527

VESSLS TO ARRIVE.

STEAMERS.

NAME.	REPORTED.
Aki Maru	Left Colombo June 20
Ambria	Passed Canal June 2
Atholl	Passed Canal June 10
Atrous	Passed Canal June 6
Atsuta Maru	Leaves London ... July 6
Benlawers	Left Hongkong ... June 20
Brisgavia	Passed Canal June 17
Canton	Passed Canal May 28
Ceylon Maru	Left Rangoon June 24
Chiyo Maru	Left San Francisco June 16
Dacre Dastle	Arrived at Suez ... May 30
Elisabeth Rickmers	Left Antwerp May 5
Empress of India	Left Hongkong ... June 17
Fuerst Buelow	Passed Canal June 4
Glenlogan	Passed Canal June 10
Glenroy	Left Hongkong ... June 19
Goldenfels	Left Hamburg..... June 5
Hakata Maru	Left Chutsikolin ... June 21
Havildar	Arrived at Kobe... June 24
Hiroshima Maru	Leaves Calcutta ... June 27
Hitachi Maru	Leaves London ... July 20
Indradeo	Passed Canal June 10
Indravelli	Left Shanghai..... June 21
Induna	Passed Canal May 21
Kaga Maru	Leaves London ... June 22
Kamo Maru	Leaves Kobe June 30
Kansas	Arrived at S'hai ... June 18
Kawachi Maru	Leaves Bombay ... June 28
Kioto	Leaves New York... June 5
Knight Templar	Left New York ... Apr. 26
Korea	Left Shanghai ... June 22
Kouangsi	Passed Canal May 24
Minnesota	Due here July 2
Mishima Maru	Left Suez June 22
Moyune	Passed Canal May 24
Myrmidon	Arrived at S'hai ... June 19
Nile	Left San F'cisco ... June 21
Orieric	Left Hongkong ... June 9
Palroclus	Left Singapore ... June 19
Peleus	Left Shanghai..... May 23
Pembroke-shire	Passed Canal May 28
Pera	Passed Canal June 6
Polynesian	Passed Canal June 6
Polphemus	Passed Canal June 17
Poona	Arrived at S'hai ... June 20
Preussen	Left Hamburg..... June 13
Prinzess	Passed Canal June 17
Rioz Waldemar	Due at Kobe June 30
Rhesus	Left Hongkong ... June 18
Sabine Rickmers	Due at Durban ... May 20
Sado Maru	Due here July 4
Sanuki Maru	Leaves Hongkong. July 2
Shidzuoka Maru	Leaves Kobe June 29

Shinano Maru	Left Hongkong ... June 25
Siam	Arrived at H'kong. June 18
Silesia	Passed Canal June 3
Silesia	Passed Canal June 1
Sophie Rickmers	Due at Hakodate.. June 4
Strathclyde	Left New York ... Apr. 10
Suevia	Left Hamburg..... June 18
Tamba Maru	Due at Kobe June 26
Teucer	Passed Canal June 11
Tosa Maru	Left Hongkong ... June 21
Totomi Maru	Left Hongkong ... June 25
Yawata Maru	Left Thursday Is... June 22
Yokohama Maru	Leaves Seattle..... July 2
York	Left Colombo June 16

VESSLS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON, and Continent, June 29th, the "MONMOUTHSHIRE,"—Samuel Samuel & Co, Ltd.
For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, June 29th, at 3 p.m., the "KORRA,"—P. M. S.S. Co.
For SEATTLE and Portland via Vancouver, B.C., June 30th the "ORTERIC,"—American Trading Co.
For SHANGHAI, via Kobe, Moji, and Nagasaki, June 30th, at 10 a.m., the "YAMAGUCHI MARU,"—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
For CANADA, United States, and Europe, via Vancouver, B.C., July 2nd, the "EMPRESS OF INDIA,"—C.P.R. S.S. Co.
For RANGOON, Calcutta, Madras and Malabar Coast, Singapore and Penang, about July 2nd, the "ITINDA,"—Samuel Samuel & Co, Ltd.
For LONDON, Antwerp and Middlesboro, via Kobe, Moji, Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Suez, Port Said and Marseilles, July 3rd, at Noon, the "TANGO MARU,"—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
For SEATTLE, via Victoria, B.C., July 3rd, at 2 p.m., the "SHIDZOKA MARU,"—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
For HONGKONG, via Kobe, (Inland Sea), Nagasaki and Shanghai, about the July 4th, the "CHIYO MARU,"—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Nagasaki, Shanghai and Manila, July 5th, at 6 a.m., the "MINNE-OTA,"—S.N. S.S. Co.
For HONGKONG and Manila, via Kobe and Nagasaki, July 5th, at Daylight, the "PANAMA MARU,"—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
For MARSEILLES via ports, July 6th, at Noon, the "OCEANIAN,"—M.M. Cie.
For GENOA, Marseilles and Liverpool, July 6th, at Daylight, the "IDOMENEUS,"—Butterfield & Swire.
For SAN FRANCISCO, via Honolulu, July 6th, the "SHINYO MARU,"—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
For SHANGHAI and Hongkong via ports, July 8th at 10 a.m., the "SADO MARU,"—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
For LONDON, Amsterdam and Antwerp, July 9th, at Daylight, the "RHEUS,"—Butterfield & Swire.
For MARSEILLES, London and Antwerp, via Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Straits Port, and Colombo, about July 9th, at Daylight, the "POONA,"—P. & O. S.N. Co.
For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Nagasaki and Shanghai, July 10th, at 10 a.m., the "NILE,"—P.M. S.S. Co.
For TACOMA and Seattle, July 10th, at Noon, the "CANADA MARU,"—Osaka Shosen Kaisha.
For SHANGHAI Direct, July 11th, at 1 p.m., the "ORIENTAL,"—P. & O. S.N. Co.
For TRIESTE, via Kobe, Moji, Shanghai, Hongkong, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Suez, Port Said and Fiume, July 11th, the "SILESIA,"—Samuel Samuel & Co., Ltd.
For MARSEILLES, Havre and Liverpool, July 14th, at Daylight, the "PATROCLUS,"—Butterfield & Swire.
For HONGKONG via Kobe, and Moji, about July 14th, the "KIYO MARU,"—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.
For HONGKONG, via Kobe, Inland Sea, Nagasaki, & Shanghai, July 19th, the "MONTEAGLE,"—Canadian Pacific Railway Co.
For SYDNEY, and Melbourne, via Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki, Hongkong, Thursday Island, Townsville, and Brisbane, July 20th, at Noon, the "YAWATA MARU,"—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
For TACOMA, July 20th, at 2 p.m., the "TEUCER,"—Butterfield & Swire.
For SEATTLE, Direct, July 17th, at 3 p.m., the "MINNESOTA,"—G.N. S.S. Co.
For MANZANILLO, Salina Cruz, Callao, Iquique, and Valparaiso, Aug. 21st, the "KIYO MARU,"—Toyo Kisen Kaisha.

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THREE NEW BOOKS.

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.)

PETER AND WENDY.

Nobody who has seen the heroic and justly renowned drama of *Peter Pan* will be able to forget the lurid episode (in the third act, I believe) in which the black villain and nefarious pirate, Captain Jas. Hook, strives to bring about Peter's undoing by putting poison in the hero's medicine. Perhaps it is the most hair-raising moment of the evening. When Peter actually lifts the poisoned cup to his lips the atmosphere becomes so tense that you grasp the arms of your chair in an ecstasy of horror. Indeed, when I saw this done, a little girl in front of me was entirely carried away and unable to control her feelings. With scarlet cheeks she rose to her feet, and cried out in a voice shrill but portentous with its note of warning, "Take care, Peter Pan! Take care, Peter Pan!" And who saved Peter from his perilous plight? Why it was Tinker Bell, the fairy, of course, who drank up the poisoned medicine and almost died in Peter's stead. "It was poisoned, Peter," she told him softly; "and now I am going to be dead."

"O Tink," said Peter, "did you drink it to save me?"

"Yes."

"But why, Tink?"

Her wings would scarcely carry her now, but in reply she lighted on his shoulders and gave him a loving bite. She whispered in his ear, "You silly ass," then tottering to her chamber, lay down on the bed.

His head almost filled the fourth wall of her little room as he knelt near her in distress. Every moment her light was growing fainter; and he knew that if it went out she would be no more. She liked his tears so much that she put out her beautiful finger and let them run over it.

Her voice was so low that at first he could not make out what she said. Then he made it out. She was saying that she thought she could get well again if children believed in fairies.

Peter flung out his arms . . .

"Do you believe?" he cried . . .

"If you believe," he shouted, "clap your hands, don't let Tink die."

Then what a fluttering and a clapping there was of eager little hands! And Tinker Bell was saved.

Now Mr. Barrie has written a book called *Peter and Wendy*, and it is indeed good to hear that *Peter and Wendy* has had the greatest sale of any book published this season. This means that Tinker Bell is alive and like to live jolly and hearty, because evidently many and many a child believes in fairies, and not only children, but Mothers and Fathers and Aunts and Uncles, and even those most hardened sceptics, grown up brothers and sisters. In *Peter and Wendy* Mr. Barrie has told the same old delightful story of Peter Pan, the boy who refused to grow up. It is just the play of *Peter Pan*, with the gaps filled in. Necessarily, there are gaps in all plays, and the better the play, the more one wonders what came afterwards, and what came in between, and what happened before. This is what Mr. Barrie tells us now. People who have not seen the play are given a charming new story or fantasy, perfect in construction and completeness.

Those who have seen the play are doubly blessed in *Peter and Wendy*; they learn all sorts of things that they wanted to know; for them especially are the delicious thumbnail character sketches, and the thimblefuls of whimsical moral reflection. I believe there are persons who have been disappointed because the book does not contain further developments and more adventures. Except for an incident at the very end, *Peter and Wendy* is in no sense a sequel to *Peter Pan*. The alteration of the title is therefore hardly necessary, and is a little misleading. But this is indeed a small matter for criticism.

Here we have the story of Peter Pan's visit to the Darlings' Nursery, of the Darling children's

flight to the Never Land; then adventures by sea, sky, land and underground, with the brave Peter, with fairies, pirates, mermaids and Red Indians; of their final return to their parents and home. Lastly, and this is new in part, there is a glimpse of the children's after-life and of Peter's relations with his little "mother," Wendy Darling.

The well known characters are here drawn with the well known humorous distinctness and charm.

Mrs. Darling "was a lovely lady with a romantic mind and such a sweet mocking mouth. Her romantic mind was like the tiny boxes one within the other that come from the puzzling East; however many you discover there is always one more, and her sweet mocking mouth had one kiss on it that Wendy could never get, though there it was, perfectly conspicuous in the right hand corner. . . . Mrs. Darling was married in white and at first she kept the books perfectly, almost gleefully, as if it were a game. Not so much as a brussels sprout was missing, but by and by whole cauliflowers dropped out, and instead of them were pictures of babies without faces. She drew them when she should have been totting up. They were Mrs. Darling's guesses."

Mr. and Mrs. Darling differed from their neighbours in that they had a Newfoundland dog for a nurse instead of one of the ordinary sort. This dog was called Nana. "She proved to be quite a treasure of a nurse. How thorough she was at bath time. . . . Of course her kennel was in the nursery. She had a genius for knowing when a cough is a thing to have no patience with, and when it needs a stocking round your throat. She believed to her last day in old fashioned remedies like rhubarb leaf, and made sounds of contempt over all this new fangled talk about germs and so on."

Nevertheless Mr. Darling had his misgivings. He was rather a conventional man and wondered if the neighbours talked.

Nana also troubled him in another way. He had sometimes a feeling that she did not admire him. "I know she admires you tremendously George," Mrs. Darling would assure him, and then she would sign to the children to be particularly nice to Father."

The children were Wendy, John and Michael.

Wendy is drawn with an exquisitely tender touch, with the author's sweetest insight and his most delicate humour. She is all feminine, the little girl, the little mother, the little woman. The most unselfish of all the children, the most exquisitely sensible, endowed with an elfin grand-motherliness, a fairylike common sense, she is yet jealous, sometimes unreasonable and capricious. In flashes, the grown up woman is visible in Wendy.

John and Michael, though their characters are very distinct, never behave like men. Here the author follows a perfectly true intuition. A woman is never entirely a child, however young she may be, a man is always something of a child. And what shall be said of Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up, the children's chief, the baby, the fairy, the hero of this bright airy fantasy? He is a little being made of snow and fire, boyish, yet not human, loving, yet cold, elfin and aloof, beautiful as the morning dew and as elusive, sad as yesterday, mysterious as to-morrow, vain and chivalrous, mischievous and sublime, a baby god. Perhaps the story rises to its greatest height at the point when Peter is left alone upon a rock in the "Mermaids' Lagoon" facing death and the pirates.

"Peter was not quite like other boys, but he was afraid at last. A tremor ran through him, like a shudder passing over the sea, but on the sea one shudder follows another, till there are hundreds of them and Peter felt just the one. Next moment he was standing erect on the rock again, with that smile on his face and a drum beating within him. It was saying, 'To die will be an awfully big adventure.'"

To conclude, here is a picture of the Neverland, or Mr. Barrie's idea of the child mind:

"There are zigzag lines on it, just like your

temperature on a card, and these are probably roads in the island; for the Neverland is always more or less an island with astonishing splashes of colour here and there, of coral reefs and rakish looking craft in the offing, and savages and lonely lairs and gnomes who are mostly tailors, and caves through which a river runs, and princes with six elder brothers, and a hut fast going to decay, and one very small old lady with a hooked nose. It would be an easy map if that were all, but there is also the first day at school, religion, fathers, the round pond, needle-work, murders, hangings, verbs that take the dative, chocolate pudding, threepence for pulling out your tooth yourself, and so on. . . ."

"THE SONG OF RENNY."

Rumour and delicacy of touch, an art so sure and so refined that it cannot offend, an exquisite good taste; these are the prominent and charming features of Mr. Barrie's *Peter and Wendy*. They are not present in the book we have now to consider. Not that *The Song of Renny* by Maurice Hewlett is uninteresting, or indeed unbeautiful; in its way it is interesting and beautiful, but its way is very different from *Peter Pan's* way. Yet it is a romantic work. For the moment, Mr. Hewlett has deserted his manner of *Open Country*, *The Halfway House* and *Rest Harrow*, and returned to the earlier style of *Richard Yea and Nay* and *The Forest Lovers*. It must remain an open question whether this is matter for congratulation or regret. Mr. Hewlett's many admirers are divided. Some say "Give us Hewlett, but not the mediaeval things," while others sigh "Why doesn't he write something as good as the *Forest Lovers*?" It is to be feared that the former type of reader will be somewhat disgusted by *The Song of Renny*; presumably it will please the latter, although perhaps, after all, it is not so good as the *Forest Lovers*.

The Song of Renny is a romantic work, and here we have all the machinery, the adjuncts of romance in an almost ingenious profusion. We have a family curse, a high unhappy line, a villainous Red Earl, a lovely lady, a young ardent lover, a troubadour with his lute and his song, a marriage which is no marriage, wanderings, armies, plots and adventures. The very names, both of places and of people, have the romantic ring. Joyeux, Sabine, Renny of Coldscaur, Lancelhot the Troubadour, Mabilla de Renny, Blanchmains, Marvillion, Campfloss, Father Sorges the priest; all these are chosen with discretion and a wonderful sense of the picturesque. The same sense colours the descriptive passages. Such a passage as the following, for example, shows a mastery of words, their colour and their music, which is most rare. It is like a picture brilliantly painted, a song softly sung:

"Over all the province (of Campfloss) love was vocal, ran sighing through the trees, upon the sea, lay laughing softly, in the shady corners of streets, under carved balconies, in thickets of flowering thorn, by starry night or at hush of noon came open vowelled from the throats of patient men who plucked at lute strings as it they were hearts."

With all this (and here of course lies the weakness of the book) the author is not whole-hearted in his romance. He seems to be beset by a curious idea of its insufficiency, and seeks to combine it with a realism which is not romantic realism, but cold, hard photographic realism. The use of romantic realism could here have been perfectly legitimate, but Mr. Hewlett is clear sighted, brutal, vulgar, almost modern and inartistic. The book has glamour, colour, poetry in abundance, but it is blotted, mutilated, spoiled on almost every page. This is inevitable.

Kubla Khan itself could not well support interpolations from the Police Court columns of the daily newspapers.

It is indeed most lamentable that Mr. Hewlett thus halts between two opinions. His indecision ruins his work, whilst he shifts and shuffles, something bright, something delicate, something unutterably precious melts out of the writing and is for ever lost. The true spirit of romance takes wings and flies away.

The Song of Renny is not devoid of minor

faults. It is ill-constructed, ill-balanced and somewhat incoherent. The story boasts three heroines all told, three cousins all of the ill-starred House of Renny.—Sabine, Mabilla and Hold. The interest of the tale skips capriciously and unceremoniously from Sabine to Mabilla, and from Mabilla back to Sabine, without much rhyme or reason assigned for the quick and sudden changes. As for poor Donna Hold, one wonders why she was introduced at all, so minor a part does she sustain. But this is not so serious as the errors in taste which again and again Mr. Hewlett permits himself to make. It is a thousand pities that he does so, and very difficult to guess why he does it. Boldness of imagery is very well, but lack of restraint never added a single beauty to style. Mr. Hewlett cannot prevent himself from saying just too much. Here is a very simple instance of it in a passage describing Lanceliot Paulet's gratitude to the faithful maid of his dear Mistress Mabilla:—

"Presently came Nittides to him, asking the whereabouts of her mistress. The honest girl had come direct to Coldeaur of her own notion. Lanceliot could have kissed her"—(so far this is quite a pretty idea, but the author must needs go and spoil it)—"indeed, I fancy that he did."

Mabilla de Renny is not a convincing character though her beauty is made living and perfectly realisable, this, in itself, being something of a feat:

"Outwardly frank to the point of daring, masking thus a reserve more deliberate than a black frost; in face and form at once sumptuous and fine, at once delicate and hardy, showing at once the tender oval and frail lips of the Madonna, the dauntless eyes . . . of the Nike of the Greeks; a blend of judgment and innocence, a woman with the notions of a child, with a woman's discretion, fire and snow, a heart whose antechamber set open invites you to a sealed door, a golden cage to hold ice, such was the young Lady Mabilla."

"She was not very tall, and her colouring was pale, sometimes over pallid; she was never more than delicately flushed. Her very lips were pale carnation and always dry. Her hair, very long and lustrous, was of sable brown and up to her sixteenth year she wore it loose. She had dark blue eyes (which changed with her moods), black lashes to them; a neck like a shaft, a shape audacious in so young a girl, an upper lip too short for kindness and a chin too full for humility."

For the other characters, Lanceliot Paulet, boy lover, poet lover, is charmingly drawn, and Sabine, most unfortunate of Rennys, is by far the most striking figure in the book. Only doubtfully sympathetic, she is enigmatic, interesting, arresting. Where Sabine is concerned, there is noticeable a certain severity of manner which is rare enough in Mr. Hewlett's writing and it is a pity that it should be so rare.

The book has splendid vitality; it is full of movement, life and colour; the style is exuberant, brilliantly picturesque, eloquent and wide in its vocabulary, and from time to time it affects a faint obscurity which is extremely telling of mystery and a sense of impending doom.

"HURDCOTT."

It would be very easy to pick holes in *Hurdcott*, Mr. John Ayscough's new novel, but it would be very ungrateful. The book utterly disarms criticism, because it is so single minded, so pure in its conception, so high in its ideals. In writing *Hurdcott*, we do not think Mr. Ayscough has exactly accomplished what he set out to do, therefore from this standpoint the book cannot be called a complete artistic success. But if he has failed, his failure is so brave, and so beautiful, that we cannot but be thankful for it, and wonder that it has attracted comparatively little notice, whilst cheap and vulgar "masterpieces" crowd the bookstalls and the shelves of lending libraries.

Perhaps the most striking thing about *Hurdcott* (by the way, the title is unfortunately rather undistinguished), is the feeling of acquisition which it imparts to the reader. This is due, to a certain extent, to the writer's singular charm of manner. We all know persons whom it

is a sheer delight to please, whose slightest expression of approval gives pleasure, whose most casual word is a charming compliment. Often enough these are reticent persons, and Mr. Ayscough is a reticent writer, his good things have the value of precious gifts.

It would scarcely be fair to anticipate by description the pleasure that awaits the reader of this beautiful and touching romance. We will but notice in passing the bold yet whimsical fancy that introduces Charles and Mary Lamb and Hazlitt as minor characters in the early part of the story, and conclude with an exquisitely delicate piece of descriptive writing which tells of the heroine's early morning walk to a meet of fox hounds:

"Next morning Consuelo was up by half past seven, and soon after eight was on her way. She need not have started for an hour or more. When she left the house, all the world was grey-white or grey-black; the trees along the valley stood out in naked blackness against the dove-grey of the downs behind, but their beauty seemed to her more wonderful than it could have been had all their exquisite tracery been hidden in summer green. Each one now had an individual character; they were not clashed together into mere bulks and masses of colour. Every twig could hang its lovely dark lace out against the white sky. . . . It was scarcely cold, for there was but a breath out of the south; and the touch of the morning air on the girl's face was like a pure caress. As she walked eastward the glow of the winter dawn gave to her beauty the only thing it lacked. The sun like a red harvest moon lay soon on the lip of the down, waiting to shake himself free of the mist. To her it seemed divinely still, as if the rested world were listening for the voice of God to bid it turn to its daily task. . . . The trees beside the river stood as ready for the signal for a great procession:—

"I see men — trees walking"—for the first time Consuelo realised the serene splendour of the image. At home she had said her prayers—not carelessly, for carelessness was not her way—but with the half sense of meaning in a habitual form of words. Now she worshipped, not out of obedience, but because she must. Words were no longer on her lips, but that which speech tries to catch in its net of expression had broken the net and made itself free. Not her knees bowed but all herself. Had she stopped to kiss the frosty grass, it would have been only touching the hem of His garment."

JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

I am writing from Gambier, Ohio, where stands Kenyon College, and in which is one Japanese student from Sendai. It is the Alma Mater of President Benjamin Harrison, of Edwin U. Stanton, and of other eminent Americans, and among the first of those west of Pennsylvania, in what was once "the Nor'-West." Both college and town are named after British friends of America.

As preparations are now being made in the United States and Canada to celebrate the hundred years of unbroken peace between the two Great English-speaking nations, it is well to look at these two names, and also at a third.

The treaty of Ghent, ratified in 1814, concluded the "War of 1812," though there being then no Atlantic cables, or "wireless," the battle of New Orleans was fought between Wellington's veterans and Jackson's riflemen. To the treaty place in Flanders, however, Great Britain sent three men, not her strongest, while the Washington Government was represented by five of the ablest statesmen in America. Napoleon had been banished to Elba and his problem, supposedly, had been solved. Europe breathed easily. It was presumed that a powerful British force at New Orleans, holding the mouth of America's greatest river, would secure, in preparation for peace negotiations, a large indemnity and possession of

a vast area in America. The London war-party clamored for the exile of President Madison to be a comrade with Bonaparte. Meanwhile the Ghent negotiations dragged. There was much wrangling, not only between the two sets of diplomatists, but among themselves, on both sides.

Suddenly Napoleon returned, and Wellington whistled for his veterans. At the European congress, Prussia and Russia showed such a defiant and unfriendly attitude towards certain phases of British statecraft as previously practised, that with the Napoleonic problem confronting her and still unsolved, Great Britain, evidently desirous of getting the American quarrel off her hands in order to concentrate her energies for Waterloo, yielded much to the Ghent commissioners from America. A treaty was made which has secured a hundred years of peace and a constantly increasing friendship between the

"Two empires by these seas,
Two nations strong and free,"

whose Canadian frontier of three thousand miles has not one fort or mounted gun from ocean to ocean.

The sequel is interesting. When, in 1823, the American Bishop Chase went over to England to get money for a church college to be built in the forests of Ohio, Henry Clay gave him a letter of introduction to his former seat-mate at the green baize table in Ghent. Lord Gambier interested Kenyon, a man of wealth, and also Lords Bexley and Harcourt. The charter for Kenyon college was granted by the Ohio legislature in 1824. The village of Gambier was laid out and the Bexley Divinity School, built in Elizabethan style of architecture, and, later the Harcourt School for girls, established.

So to-day, Kenyon, eschewing the fashionable and often too pretentious title of "University," too common in America, holds to the style of a "college" and one sees here many an architectural and ecclesiastical touch reminding him of England, and even of Oxford and Cambridge.

Last week, several hundred miles eastward, at Clark University Worcester, Mass., there was held the annual conference on Modern History in the Making. Last year, the general subject was, "The Near East and Africa." This year, from November 22nd to 25th, the themes treated related to Japan and Japanese-American relations. Seven Japanese speakers took part with creditable mastery of spoken and written English, and many others were present. Twenty American speakers or readers of papers also were prominent in the proceedings. The first was Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard University, who told of the foreigners in Japan, business, trade, &c. from 1859 to 1917. Dr. J. Takamine gave a vivid description of the Japanese in the United States, their chief locations and occupations, etc. In the afternoon, Professor Ladd of Yale presented Prince Ito as a Man, and Dr. Inazo Nitobe spoke of Japan as a Colonizing Power, and her methods in Formosa. Many people crowded the auditorium to hear the author of *Bushido*, some travelling a considerable distance to do so.

In the evening, Hon. Wallace C. Redfield of the U.S. House of Representatives, member from New York State, fresh from Japan, gave an optimistic account of the rise of Japanese industry. At the social reception in the evening, at the house of President Hall, many writers and speakers who had hitherto known each other only in print, and were acquainted only by mutual reputation, met face to face. President David Starr Jordan was present, just returned from Japan.

On Tuesday, with remarkable command of language and a clear, strong voice, Dr. Yokokichi Iyemasa set forth the situation in Southern Manchuria, and Professor Edwin Maxey's paper on "Some Questions of Larger Politics" was read. In the afternoon, Mr. Frederick McCormick, author of "The Tragedy of Russia in Pacific Asia," in treating of Japan and the Chinese Revolution intimated that Japan had a direct and purposeful hand in stirring

up the movement that has resulted in "changing China's glacier into boiling water," as said Dr. Arthur Smith, author of "Chinese characteristics," who was present during the conference. Mr. McCormick's paper, not wholly uninfluenced by the imaginative, as well as scientific spirit, was combated by Dr. Iyenaga, who denied that the revolution in China was in any way the result of Japanese intrigue, or was the result of Japan's aggressive aims and influences. On the contrary, this Chinese revolution is really injurious to Japan, for it may result in international complications, which Japan dislikes.

All the speakers showed the absurdity and wickedness of the war talk, and exposed the folly and covetousness of those who secretly ferment it. In the Thursday evening session, Mr. Edwin O. Mead of the World Peace Foundation, Boston, presided, while Professor S. G. Wilson of Harvard discussed "The Family of Nations and Japan," showing how fully Dai Nippon conformed to the best ideals of a modern state. Prof. D. S. Jordan, followed with an address on "The Relations between Japan and the United States."

On Friday, the notable paper was by Mr. R. Ichinomiya of the New York Branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank, who gave a most illuminating statement on "The Foreign Trade of Japan." Delightful was Dr. Thomas C. Underhill's account of "Japan Revisited after Thirty Years." It was as picturesque as a cinematograph, or "photo-play."

One might know what to expect from Professor Edward S. Morse, whose museum of Things Japanese at Salem, Mass., is probably unique in its setting forth in scientific classification of all the phases of life in the Empire of Japan.

In fact, one of the presiding officers, himself a notorious Japanophile, declared there was too much honey, sugar and molasses at the feast, and called for more salt and pepper. Nevertheless, the men most in praise of the islanders of Nippon were, as a rule, the longest residents, the keenest observers and, perhaps, the profoundest students of the general theme.

For a hot discussion and the kicking of arena dust, commend us to a purely academic theme. When Professor Alexander N. Chamberlain, of Clark University, who holds the chair of anthropology, presented and illustrated his subject, the "Japanese Race," deciding that the Aino were only an interesting "variety" of the human race and that Japan's racial basis and civilization were almost wholly "Mongol," with slight Malay infusion, with nothing of the Semitic influence, a speaker with views and data well digested, greatly modifying this view, rose and with map and argument, showed the Aryan and Malay elements and influences. The discussion was warm and, let us hope, illuminating.

Mr. George Kennan, author of "Siberia and the Exile System," in the larger hall, spoke over an hour on "Certain Misconceptions in regard to the Japanese." Dr. Masujiro Honda, editor of the *Oriental Review*, in New York, presented "Japanese Diplomacy: Past and Present," and Rev. Dr. Arthur Brown summed up "The Results of the Russo-Japanese War." He arraigned Russia severely for her arbitrary measures.

All the speakers, with hardly an exception, treated their subjects with first hand acquaintance and firmness of touch. Prof. Garret Droppers, of Williams College, presided on Saturday morning, at which session the Rev. Charles M. Warrar and Rev. George U. Rowland spoke of Christian Work in Japan and the Japanese church. Mr. Theodore Richards, editor of the *Friend* in Honolulu, treated of the Japanese in Hawaii.

In the afternoon, Professor Kanichi Asakawa, of Yale University, gave, in graphic analysis, "Some of the Contributions of Feudal Japan to New Japan," and Dr. Droppers revealed "The Secrets of Japanese Success." A Worcester physician who, when in Japan, was medical director of the Doshisha University Hospital at Kyoto, and who initiated prison reform and the training of women nurses, read a very entertaining paper on

"Medicine in Japan: some notes on its History and Present Condition."

The sessions were closed with an address on "A Literary Legend: The Oriental," by Dr. W. Elliot Griffiths, Mr. George Kennan presiding.

Among the most striking addresses were those of Mr. Langdon Warner, of the Boston Museum of Art, fresh from a three years' study of Art in Nippon, who, among other illustrations, gave those from the early sculptures in the caves and on the rocks in China of the Han dynasty, showing the Hindoo elements in Buddhist art as first developed in China. "The Relations of Geographical Environment to Japanese History" was an illuminating commentary upon the physical causes of Japan's development. The great efficiency of storms and irregular climatic phenomena, in saving a people from apathy and in stimulating them to physical and mental energy was most evident in Japanese history.

Nearly all these papers were of scientific interest, and after publication in the *Journal of Race Development*, will be gathered into a book, to be edited by Professor George H. Blakeslee, the soul of the Conference.

Such gatherings and publications must in the long run conquer ignorance, subdue prejudice and hasten the day, when, with no East, no West, the nations will form one family, in mutual brotherhood. W.E.G.

KOREAN NEW YEAR.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT)

Gregory XIII. probably, even in moments of profoundest pontifical meditation, never dreamt how widely the division of time he arrived at would one day encompass the earth. Not only, holy Father of the Church has he become, but a representative of Father Time, bigger than any pope and wider in his influence than the sea. It was in 1582 A.D. that his calendar was announced by an Ecclesiastical bull, and little by little the nations saw its wisdom and adopted it. England, regarding it with suspicion as having a popish flavour, refused, and was put to no end of confusion for nearly two hundred years—ten or eleven days always to be accounted for between her and the continent. At last she yielded. Russia, doubtless due to the proximity of the Medes and Persians, changes not and still adheres to the Julian Calendar having twelve days of confusion constantly on hand.

Still, even though Gregory's Bull has not been able to push its way into the forbidden steppes of Siberia, it has crossed the Atlantic and Pacific and has now got a firm footing on this Eastern outskirts of Asia. Yesterday, the Gregorian New Year was celebrated by Korea. Frocks coats and top-hats abounded. Various congratulations were evident and voluminous laughter at every turn. Uncertain wavering footsteps marked the evening hour. Another year had truly come and all were happy.

A shade of sadness, however, accompanies the pencil of the writer as he records this. The old calendar of *Yo*, which was hoary with two thousand years of age before Julius Caesar was born, and had seen three milleniums and a half before the famous Bull was drafted; which had kept time for countless millions B.C. and had gathered no end of association, picturesque and full of meaning, carrying one off into regions of history, poetry and mythical illusion,—this ancient calendar, as far as Korea is concerned, is all but dead. With its demise go some of the prettiest ceremonies of the ancients. All the flocks of children like blue birds, robins and orioles, that occupied the streets and fluttered from door to door, will be but a vision of the past. The bowing of the advancing generation to the patriarchal generation is on the wane and will be forgotten. And we shall have only a brusque "Happy New Year!" and then an end of it.

We do still have a trace of the Cycle year for which we are grateful. The original Cycle of sixty years is supposed to have been formed even

before the days of *Yo* 2300 B.C. Long after,—yes, thousands of years,—there came in and attached itself to the Cycle names, a procession of animals, symbolic beasts of the East. They are said to have come not from China, however, but from the Kirghis Mongols. The rat, the ox, the tiger, the bear, the dragon, the serpent, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the cock, the dog, the pig, twelve of them, beginning with the Mongolian rat or marmot and ending, we judge, with the Chinese pig. They are supposed to exercise some sort of corresponding influence over the year—as also they do over the twelve hours of the day. We might say anyone arising before 5 a.m. will have monkey influences as companion for the day, and anyone sleeping after 7 p.m., will be under the influence of the dog, while between the hours of five and seven the hilarious rooster will be their accompanying genius, etc.

This present year 1912 is the year of the Rat. He is an unsavoury animal when alive and suggests plague, but pictorially he is quite a success. His lines are so wavy, even to the tail, his ears beautifully rounded, his nose sharp, suggesting perspicacity. He has found his way into the New Year post-card world, where we behold him in consultation with other rats busy posting letters, hurrying off to bury the pig of the year gone by, pulling his companions round by the tail, etc.

He is about the only mark left of the past system of measuring time so rapidly now receding into the dim distance. Even China seems inclined to cut loose *Yo's* calendar and its settled conditions of the past,—to launch out whither? Probably where Gregory XIII. would never have advised them to go. SPECTATOR.

CHANGES IN FOREIGN FIRMS.

Amongst the New Year changes in foreign firms in Yokohama we note that Mr. S. Watanabe, Barrister and Patent Agent, has joined the staff of Messrs. Crosse, Heath & Vogt, the well known firm of barristers of Yokohama and Kobe.

Mr. Watanabe, after graduating in the Tokyo Imperial University with higher honours, entered the Imperial Japanese Consular Service, and was stationed successively at Hongkong, Antung, Hankow and Shanghai, in the latter two for a time as acting Consul-General. He severed his connection with the Consular Service in November last to take up his new appointment.

We also note that from the 1st inst. Mr. J. E. de Becker's law business will be conducted under the firm name of "De Becker, Gadsby & Nakamura." Mr. John Gadsby, of the Inner Temple and Midland Circuit, Barrister at-Law, is a nephew of the late Mr. H. C. Litchfield (also of the Inner Temple and Midland Circuit, Barrister-at-law), who was long and favourably known in Japan.

The other member of the firm—Mr. Hiromu Nakamura—is an experienced Barrister of the Tokyo Bar, who has been successfully associated with Mr. de Becker for the last ten years.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

Among the New Year honours not already reported are a C.M.G. for Mr. G. A. Hewett, member of the Executive Council of Hongkong, and Peerages for Sir Charles Lucas, C.B. head of the Dominions Department at the Colonial Office; Sir Alfred Thomas, Chairman of the Welsh Liberal Parliamentary Party; Mr. Samuel Morley, Governor of the Bank of England from 1903 to 1905; and Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, Governor of Madras.

Mr. Ralli, head of the firm of Ralli Bros., was granted a baronetcy, and Mr. Joseph Beecham and Mr. H. Rider Haggard, the well known novelist, were created knights.

The following were appointed Privy Counsellors:—Mr. R. Borden, K.C., the Canadian Premier; Lord Lucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture; and Sir Francis John Stephens Hopwood, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL SITUATION.

BY PROF. S. HONDA.

(TRANSLATED FROM THE "TAIYŌ" FOR THE
"JAPAN MAIL.")

The improvement of administration, curtailment of the State expenditure, perfection of the defensive equipment, alleviation of the burden of taxation, readjustment of loan bonds, encouragement of industries, construction of railways, and repair of harbours, are without doubt the needs of the times in Japan. But in every country there is a limit to financial capacity, and no Government can successfully meet all these demands at once. Even with all her wealth, for instance, England finds it hard to entirely satisfy that section of the people who advocate naval expansion, as she has had to defray of late years no small sums for labour insurance, old-age pensions and many other such like social measures. In our country, despite far more limited means, the Government has almost as many schemes in contemplation as England. The authorities are, therefore, in the absence of sufficient funds, obliged to constantly resort to make-shift measures, even for the improvement and extension of the nationalized railways, which head the list of the government's contemplated schemes. The further expansion of the navy, establishment of Chōsen military divisions, continuation of debt redemption policy and the reduction of taxes, are by no means less necessary. That the authorities find it a plain impossibility to meet at once all these demands is not surprising, since the country, as the *London Times* well said, has long been living above its income, as a glance over the figures in the budget* will readily convince us. Those in charge of State finances, therefore, should be equipped both with wisdom and courage,—wisdom to properly judge what is the highest and greatest of all these demands, and make it the governing policy of the State finance, and courage to put aside all considerations of political parties, and all demands not within the range of immediate necessity. People often talk of the difficult position in which every Finance Minister of a country is condemned to stand. Even the veteran Gladstone once had occasion to give expression to his bitter experiences as Chancellor of the Exchequer, remarking that the Minister of Finance is beset by robbers once he steps outside the door. It is not to be gainsaid of course that the Minister of Finance stands in no easy position in any country. But it is also true that if the Cabinet decides to make the greatest need of the times its leading policy and to discard all selfish and strategical demands of political parties or different Departments, there will be no conflict between the Minister of Finance and the other members of the Cabinet. Vis à vis the one leading policy, there ought to be no two incompatible principles of administration. If there are, it shows that the Ministry does not possess this governing policy, which constitutes its very life. The absence of any governing policy argues a failure to find and grasp the highest demands of the times, and under such circumstances it is a matter of course that, though all the members of the Ministry may, each as Chief of his respective Department, make the utmost efforts for the development of undertakings in their charge, once at the Cabinet Council, with no highest governing policy to unite them, they will turn out "robbers" and beset the Finance Minister each with his own selfish and arbitrary demands. In these conditions the Minister of Finance can only resign or throw in his lot with them and consciously commit every financial evil. This is just the state in which most of our Finance Ministers have found themselves, and it therefore ought to be regarded as a chronic malady of the State finances. Certainly in our country the Cabinet is no Cabinet in fact, but merely a place for the chiefs of the different Departments to assemble, because every Cabinet fails to maintain

what it ought to cling to as its highest governing policy of administration. No wonder, therefore, if every Member of the Ministry in our country presses selfish or arbitrary demands on the Minister of Finance in formulating the State Budget. The new Saionji Cabinet is now created, and it is time to consider what the new Ministry ought to make its highest governing policy.

It is clear even to the man in the street that under the present economic and financial conditions in our country, nothing can be of more urgent necessity than to formulate a policy calculated to insure the prevention, on the one hand, of the panic which may overtake economic circles at home, and the loss, on the other, of confidence in our finances abroad. The first Saionji Cabinet stumbled and fell on its financial policy, and was succeeded by the late Katsura Cabinet, which rose with a public profession of financial readjustment. But as all people are well aware the latter Cabinet has done more evil than good to the State finances by means of its vain, showy policy. It increased the issue of convertible notes by floating unnecessary foreign loan bonds with a view to pretending there was a thriving prosperity in the economic world at home, and at the same time it augmented foreign debts with a view to carrying out the untimely State-bond redemption on a plea of consolidating financial confidence abroad. The late Cabinet sacrificed the State finances to its political vanity. Its three years' efforts for what it called financial readjustment, therefore, gained in reality nothing,—nothing but an increased issue of convertible notes and an increased foreign debt. The Katsura Cabinet has fallen, but from the evil effects of its bad administration the country is still suffering. The increase, for instance, of the issue of convertible bank notes has given rise to a general appreciation in the price of commodities and thus enhanced the tendency to over-import, which was already beginning to show itself in our foreign trade. Further, the increase of foreign loan bonds necessitated a makeshift policy and thus jeopardized the foundations of our conversion system. No matter what Cabinet is formed, the government authorities always talk of the consolidated state of our financial basis. They had better make an honest confession rather than clumsily draw over facts such a transparently thin veil. For whatever their public declaration or profession, the fact is clear to every one that so long as our foreign loans alone aggregate an annual amount of from seventy-five to even eighty million yen, our finances can by no means be regarded as on a solid basis. The loose basis of the State finances naturally operates to weaken the economic basis also. Once therefore the Government fails in the flotation of State bonds abroad, and in consequence finds it necessary to pay the interest due on foreign loans out of the Bank of Japan's specie reserve abroad, the Bank will have to minimise the issue of its convertible notes, and then the inevitable and immediate result will be a terrible panic in all the economic circles in our country. For the prevention of such a tragedy, some of our people and authorities seem inclined to depend upon foreign capitalists, and declare that there is nothing in our state finances that justifies anxiety. This is a fatal idea, which whoever has the real good of the country at heart should peremptorily discard. Some people pronounce our views decidedly pessimistic. It is no time now, however, to indulge in discussion on the application of terms. The ultimate question is in what way we are to hear what the figures honestly tell us, or, rather, whether we will or will not listen to them. We do not want to turn those who profess themselves optimists into what they call pessimists, but we must remind them of their bounden duty to sincerely listen to what the figures honestly proclaim. Our views may be pessimistic, yet it is not for the sake of pessimistic views, but for the inspiration of ourselves with a fighting spirit for the remedy of the situation, that we entertain such opinions of the present and future of our state finances. Japan

has fought with China, and with Russia, but has to fight another and last "war," peaceful, but nevertheless hard, for the declaration of her economic independence. A superior army and navy is of little account without economic independence. Financial and economic independence is to be attained, not by closing the country to foreign people, nor by setting up high tariff walls, but by expanding our financial capacity to redeem foreign loans, and by solidifying the foundations of our conversion system so as to maintain and enhance the credit of the country abroad. This is what the times demand most urgently and therefore it ought to be made the new Cabinet's governing policy in the financial administration.

The recent sudden appreciation in the prices of commodities, as well as the cost of living, have attracted not a little public attention. If this trend maintains itself still longer, that is, if these practical problems continue to be further studied by our people at large, certainly the time will come when the public will be awakened, as from a slumber, to the exigencies of our financial situation and policy. In England, too, the poor crops of wheat and potatoes in the year 1845, operated to foster a public movement for the abolition of the Corn Laws, until the then Premier, Sir Robert Peel, found their cancellation an imperative necessity. No matter how many Cobdens and Brights there may have been, it would have been impossible to move the Government but for the national awakening. Nothing can prove a more powerful impetus to the awakening of a nation than the difficulty of living or a death blow to general business. Viewed in this light, it is a matter of congratulation that the general public are now beginning to pay attention to the causes of the recent appreciation in prices and to the study of remedial and preventive measures. In our opinion the question of the rise of prices is a question at once both economic and financial. As an economic problem, the causes of the appreciation must lie partly in the increase in the output of the world's gold, and partly in the promotion of the standard of living, together with the deficit in the supply of agricultural products inevitably attendant on the growing increase of the populace. As a financial problem, however, the fact is undeniable and worth attention, since the abnormal expansion of currency as a necessary result of the system of taxation, monopolisation, and other ill-formulated financial measures, has done much in the way of causing the rise in the price of commodities.

The above tendency began to show itself as early as at the time of the late Russo-Japanese War. Upon and after the outbreak of the War, besides the initiation of the salt monopoly, many new taxes was imposed one after another, while on the other hand a great deal of capital was expended for several government undertakings, in particular for the war, and the consequence was, as a matter of course, an almost abnormal expansion of currency. During the war, however, this did not cause a rise in prices, since on the one side public bonds were successfully floated and on the other both the central and local governments and the people at large, in consideration of the country's belligerent condition, followed a negative policy as far as possible in regard to enterprises both already started and still in contemplation. But upon the termination of the war, as a reaction, the government's financial policy tended in a positive, instead of a negative, direction, and the authorities launched out upon a series of enterprises beginning with the nationalization of the railways and the expansion of the military as well as naval equipment. Among the people, too, a mania for enterprises prevailed for a time, evanescent undertakings of various kinds rising like mushrooms. Abroad, loans on loans were floated under various pretexts by the Government, while at home the convertible notes of the Bank of Japan were issued more and more unrestrictedly, with the so-called specie abroad as a reserve. Under these circumstances the volume of specie abroad has continuously expanded ever since the Russo-Japanese war, instead of decreas-

* This refers to the Budget for 1911-12.—Tr.

jag. To foster this deplorable tendency still further for a time, the rate of interest of the Bank of Japan was considerably lowered and the advance of money by the Bank was freely encouraged, until this state of things reacted upon the foreign trade and encouraged an excess of imports over exports to an almost abnormal degree. Besides, whenever any deficiency was caused in the amount of the specie abroad, recourse was always taken to the issue, on all possible pleas and pretexts, of further foreign loan bonds with a view to supplying that deficiency,—this, in spite of the fact that the Government has already to pay annually no small amount of interest on foreign loans. As a consequence the specie reserve of the Bank of Japan has always been on the decrease and the convertible notes in circulation have never been contracted. This fact shows that our conversion system has already lost its automatic power. Without this power the convertible system is in substance nothing better than an inconvertible system. In this way the tendency towards an appreciation in the prices of commodities goes on unchecked. The rise in prices naturally necessitates an increase in the issue of convertible notes and this in turn must give rise to an excess of imports over exports, which causes a deficiency in the specie abroad in balancing our debts with foreign countries, and for the supply of that deficiency the Government is obliged to further resort to the flotation of foreign bonds. There is no gainsaying that in such circumstances if things are left to take their own course, the above fatal tendency will go on until it completely overturns at length the very foundations of our conversion system.

Those who entertain optimistic views about the situation, hold that the Government, under such conditions, is well advised to continue on the one hand to raise foreign loans on every possible chance for the purpose of supplying the annual deficiency in the amount of our specie abroad, and on the other, to make the utmost efforts for the encouragement of national industry until our foreign trade comes to show an excess of exports over imports, when the Government will by that natural agency be gradually enabled to balance the debt account with foreign countries. So far so good. But who in the world, let us first demand, can guarantee that the flotation of our loan bonds abroad can in future be successfully repeated as often as we like? Those who advocate the policy of bond issue believe that if the money markets abroad are slack, Japan can always issue foreign bonds with satisfactory results, and that the Government Authorities will therefore be well advised to endeavour to maintain foreign confidence in our loan bonds by constantly replenishing our sinking fund; that is, by pretending that the State finances are in a normal condition. That such a dishonest measure will never insure permanent success none will hesitate to admit. Bankers subscribing to our foreign bonds may speak much of Japan's sinking fund and advertise in exaggerated terms the stability of our financial basis, in consideration of their own interests. Yet their success in such an attempt will be possible only while the majority of foreigners retain, through ignorance, their optimistic views as to the present and future of our finances. Once public opinion abroad has penetrated the real situation of our State finances, hundreds of such guarantees will avail nothing. We do not know how far the foreign public are informed of the true conditions of our finances, but in view of the fact that the *London Times* gave, on the occasion of the fall of the late Katsura Cabinet, a rather unfavourable, but nevertheless honest, expression of its opinion about Japan's financial condition, it is undeniable that some sections among the foreign public are already beginning to become aware of the real situation. Should the English public come to endorse *The Times'* opinion as to our financial capacity,—and it is not an unnecessary anxiety to anticipate the advent of such an occasion—the flotation in future of our foreign bonds will prove next to impossible. Even granting that Japan can as successfully raise

loans abroad in future as hitherto, that fact alone is insufficient to ensure, as those advocating a bond-issue policy believe, an excess of exports over imports. On the contrary, the incessant flotation, however successful, of foreign loans will only enhance the tendency of our foreign trade towards an excess of imports over exports, because, as scarcely needs pointing out, the raising of loans abroad gives rise to an increase in the issue of convertible notes at home, which in turn will cause an appreciation in the general price of commodities, and the rise in prices cannot but encourage imports. Japan has learned this from her own past experience. As in the past so in the future. The same causes will always produce the same effects. To issue foreign bonds therefore, is no way to improve the financial situation in the present circumstances, but, on the contrary, will only jeopardise the financial basis.

In considering the so-called specie kept abroad, it is necessary to draw a distinct line between the specie reserve of the Bank of Japan and the other specie in possession of the Government and the Bank. In foreign countries,—even in Russia—the Government always makes public the actual condition of the specie existing abroad. In our country, however, this sort of thing is kept secret from the general public, thereby often throwing the people into unnecessary anxiety. In estimating the real amount of our specie abroad we must put aside the specie reserve of the Bank of Japan, because although over two-thirds of the above Bank's specie reserve, amounting in all to some 210,000,000 yen, is in effect what might be regarded as specie kept abroad, it ought to be considered from a legal point of view as kept in the safes of the Bank at home. Accordingly the real amount of our specie abroad in a strict sense should be thirty million yen belonging to the Bank, if we are correctly informed, and about one hundred million yen possessed by the Government, or one hundred and thirty million yen, in all. Proceeding thus far with our observations, the next question that naturally suggests itself to our minds, is how long this amount of specie abroad will enable the Government to meet the payment of the interest due on our foreign loans. Before we enter into particulars of this problem, however, it must be first seen in what state or form the above mentioned one hundred and thirty million yen is kept, and also whether this amount of specie can be exchanged for gold coin at a moment's notice. We were once informed that some portion of our specie abroad was in the shape of our state loan bonds, held by foreign investors. If this be true, the amount of our specie abroad in the real sense of the term must be less than the above calculated 130,000,000 yen, since the foreign bonds themselves are not specie, though the sale abroad of our State loan bonds can be calculated to produce specie. Then again the fact is quite obvious that our State loan bonds existing abroad cannot be exchanged for specie at any moment's notice. Under these conditions the so-called specie abroad will enable the Government to balance the foreign debt account only for a short period. In fact even if we consider that the 130,000,000 yen estimated as existing abroad is all in the shape of specie or can be exchanged for specie at any moment, it will disappear within but a year and a half from now. For Japan has to pay about 75,000,000 yen per annum as interest due on her foreign loans, while there is a constant excess of imports over exports amounting on an average to something like 20,000,000 yen per annum. Thus she has to pay out well nigh one hundred million yen every year in balancing her foreign debt account. In view of these facts it seems not entirely improbable that our specie abroad will disappear even before the first half of the next fiscal year passes away. It may be possible that the contemplated Tokyo municipal loan bonds, will be successfully floated. Yet that will enable us to pay only one year's interest on our foreign loans. Such being the case, unless, our foreign trade shows a sudden tendency towards an excess of exports over imports the specie now

in existence abroad will be sufficient to meet the necessary payment of interest for only one or, at most, two years. Those who advocate the issue of foreign bonds insist, with the above considerations in view, that before the disappearance of our specie abroad, the Government should try to float as many foreign loans as possible. Whether our authorities are of such an opinion or not we do not know, but anyhow they are said to contemplate another flotation of railway bonds abroad. That a further flotation of foreign bonds will only jeopardise our financial basis instead of strengthening it, I have pointed out above. Hence we cannot but hope that the Government Authorities will make the flotation of the Tokyo Municipal loan the last of our foreign bond issues for the time being. Let it be suggested as the best means of improving our financial situation, first, that the Government decide in future not to resort to the issue of foreign bonds, and, secondly, that the authorities see that the specie reserve of the Bank of Japan is not further increased. We also wish that they would be courageous enough to go so far as to suspend conversion for a certain prescribed period when the present specie abroad disappears. This may seem rather a drastic measure, and yet it is nevertheless necessary for effecting a thorough readjustment of the State finances. We may take it for granted that the specie now existing abroad, together with the specie to be created abroad by means of the issue of the Tokyo Municipal loan bonds, will be enough to enable the Government to pay interest on the foreign loans for a period of two years, and also that the specie reserve of the Bank of Japan will be sufficient to meet the payment of interest for another period of two years to come. It is not therefore a matter of impossibility for Japan to improve her financial conditions within a period of four or five years, that is, before the specie in existence abroad disappears. The suspension of conversion is a very serious economic question, and, of course, is a measure to be avoided as far as possible. But for a greater good, a minor good must often be sacrificed. Besides, the suspension of conversion will not necessarily introduce any radical change into the economic world, provided that there is a sure hope of recovery after a certain length of time, and also that the Government authorities and the people unite their sincere efforts for the positive readjustment of our State finances, strictly refraining from any further issue of convertible notes.

FIRES.

About eight o'clock on Thursday evening last a fire occurred at the Electric Power-house situated at Takahashi-cho, Yokohama, formerly belonging to the Yokohama Electric Tramway Company. One building and an adjacent dwelling house were reduced to ashes. The loss sustained is estimated at some 5,000 yen.

Early on Saturday morning last a fire occurred at Utsushi-mura, Fukushima prefecture, resulting in the destruction of over 70 of the hundred houses of the village.

On Saturday night last fire broke out in a bath-house situated at Hatago-cho, Hakodate. Owing to the strong wind prevailing the flames spread in all directions and were only got under control after they had destroyed over forty houses and other buildings.

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended January 7th are as follows:—

Yokohama—	Small	Dysen-	Ty-	Diph-	Scarlet	Par-
New cases...	Pox.	tary.	phoid.	theria.	Fever.	Typhus
1	1	1	3	3	1	1
Died	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Districts:						
New cases...	1	2	1	2	1	1
Died	1	1	1	1	1	1

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

INSTALLATION OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT.

THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

(REUTER'S SERVICE)

Harbin, January 4.

The Commander of the troops at Zhikhi has received a hundred thousand *tads* to prepare a residence for the Chinese Emperor and his family.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

SAFETY OF FOREIGN REFUGEES.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, January 5.

The Swedish Minister states that a letter has been received from Chingtzukwan intimating that sixty-five refugees, including twenty-two Japanese from Hsian, safely arrived there on the 17th ult. Chingtzukwan lies on the frontier of Honan and Hupeh provinces.

CHANGE OF CALENDAR.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL SEGAWA.

Canton, January 3.

The Revolutionary Government has adopted the solar calendar, converting November 13th (lunar calendar) into January 1st of the first year of the Chinese Republic, on which date Dr. Sun Yat-sen was elected the first President at Nanking. A notification has been issued by the Magistracy informing the people that business accounts should be settled at the end of December of the lunar calendar as before.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR WUCHANG.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, January 3.

About 1,000 soldiers were dispatched up the river under the command of Li Tien-tsai on the 2nd instant to reinforce the Wuchang garrison. Further reinforcements are to be dispatched.

NEWS FROM FUCHOW.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL.

Fuchow, January 3.

Since last month riots have taken place in Tingchow, Yingting, Wuping, Yinan and other districts. The rioters are plundering the people with impunity. The prefects of Yining and Wuping have been killed. The rioters number some 1,500 and are fully armed. They are repeatedly coming into conflict with the guards, with casualties on both sides. Fuchow is pacific. The popular spirit has revived since the election of the president, and both officials and citizens held a lantern procession on November 30th last. It has been decided to adopt the solar calendar in place of the lunar calendar.

PRESIDENT SUN YAT-SEN.

FROM CONSUL SUDZUKI.

Nanking, January 2.

The ceremony of the declaration of the President was held at the old Viceregal *yamen* at one o'clock on the 1st instant. Dr. Sun Yat-sen entered the city to the music of a military band and was welcomed by the representatives of the various provinces. Ching Yao-yueh, representative of Shansi province, said that it gave those present great satisfaction to see a Republican Government constituted on the overthrow of the despotic Manchu Government. Before attaining his object Dr. Sun had for many years led a wandering life and often exposed himself to peril, but his undaunted

courage had enabled him to reach his final goal. He thus had the foremost claim for credit in the achievement.

Dr. Sun then rose and read a brief address, which was to the effect that they thanked Heaven for the Divine help which enabled them to gain a signal success and to overthrow the Manchu Government. It would be his desire to administer the state affairs in conformity with the popular wishes of the nation.

It was 11.40 p.m. when the oath was taken. Twenty-one guns were fired from the Shih tszshan batteries. The popular welcome then followed, when Ching Yao-yueh again delivered a congratulatory address, and handed the Presidential Seal over to Dr. Sun, who received it and signed the Presidential Oath prepared by Wang Chao-min, and then caused it to be read aloud by Hu Han-min. After the oath was read, General Hsu, representing the united military and naval forces, read a congratulatory address, to which Dr. Sun suitably responded. Afterwards a brief council was held regarding the organization of the provisional government. The ceremony came to a close at 2 a.m. on the 2nd instant amidst loud cheers.

It is stated that the new government will come into existence within two days. National flags are flying all over the city and all the people have cut their queues. The solar calendar has been adopted since the 1st instant. Dr. Sun refuses to receive interviewers, and is sitting in consultation with Hwang Hsing and others in regard to the organization of the new government. Messrs. Iwasaki, Koyano, Yamada and other Japanese in the suite of Dr. Sun are also staying in the city.

Later.

The gist of the speech made by President Sun referred to in the previous telegram is to the effect that three months have scarcely elapsed since the revolutionists rose in Wuchang in October last, but they had succeeded in taking possession of all the provinces lying to the south of the Yangtze river. Over ten provinces had joined hands with the revolutionary government. This was very satisfactory. He would do his best to promote the happiness of the nation. The true Republican spirit was to conduct the administration in conformity with the wishes of the people. "We have now succeeded in overthrowing the despotic yoke of the Manchu government and in laying the foundation of a republican government for and by the people. No efforts shall be spared to consolidate the foundation thus laid and when a stable government comes into existence I will consider my mission to be at an end and retire to my native home."

IMPERIALISTS WITHDRAW FROM HANYANG.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 4.

The Imperialists are withdrawing their troops from Hanyang, using about eighty goods cars. The people who were burnt out in the recent conflagration in Hankow, are on the verge of starvation with the advent of the winter season. The foreign residents are holding a conference to devise measures of relief.

THE FAILURE OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Shanghai, January 4.

Wu Ting-fang has just sent to the consuls

of the various Powers a circular note intimating that despite the best efforts made to bring the peace negotiations to a successful conclusion, the negotiations have fallen through because the Peking Government has refused to accept their proposals. The Peking Government must be held responsible for the consequences. The note also requests the Consuls to transmit the fact to their respective home governments.

THE MUTINY AT LANCHOW.

Peking, January 8.

Two infantry regiments of the Third Division stationed at Shihkiachuang and a regiment in Paoting are being transported to Kaiping for the suppression of the mutinous soldiers in Lanchow. General Tsao, Commander of the Third Division, will also be dispatched thither.

According to information emanating from Chinese sources the mutiny at Lanchow was due to dissatisfaction at the salaries remaining unpaid. The Peking Government is trying to buy the soldiers off, and in consequence the mutinous soldiers have decreased to about 400.

THE FIGHTING AT HANKOW.

Hankow, January 4.

A detachment of the revolutionary army crossed the river at a point thirty Chinese *li* above Hanyang and opened fire on the Imperialists. The withdrawal of the Imperial army has, therefore, been suspended to prepare for war. A portion of the Sixth Division who withdrew to Hsiaokan-hsien returned to Hankow on the 4th instant.

VIEWS OF LI YUAN-HUNG.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chinavo* says that it is telegraphed from Wuchang that Li Yuan-hung sent to Wu Ting-fang in Shanghai a telegram stating that Yuan's proposals for the mutual withdrawal of the troops for 100 *li* and the extension of the armistice for fifteen days are not wholly unreasonable, and the proposal of convening a National Assembly in Peking is also proper, but in that case Great Britain should be asked to act as guarantor of good faith in order to preserve the sacredness of the assembly. Li also reports the movements of the Imperial army in Hankow and says that they have not assumed the offensive, whilst their headquarters have been removed to Hsiaokanhsien, this intimating a retreat.

YUAN AND THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES AND A CHINESE REPUBLIC.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

FROM THE ACTING JAPANESE CONSUL.

New York, January 5.

The motion introduced to Congress by the chairman of the Diplomatic Committee, regarding an expression of congratulation on the establishment of a republican government in China and its speedy recognition by the United States Government, was originally drawn up by the local paper *America* and introduced through the Chairman, who belongs to the Hearst party. The same paper reports that the Senators Clarke, Underwood and Brand(?) are all in favour of a republican government and argue that the United States should take the lead in giving official recognition to the Chinese Republic, as France did in reference to the United States. Other local papers do not pay any attention

to the motion, but the *Sun* and the *Times* alluded to the fact that Yuan has succeeded in obtaining funds from the Imperial Household and point out the weakness of the revolutionists. They also predict a revival of Yuan's influence. The *Times* says that if China calls down on herself any cause for interference, it will be impossible to maintain her territorial integrity, but so long as Yuan is faithful to the cause of the constitutional monarchy, the sympathy of the western Powers will naturally rest with him.

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ARMISTICE.

Hankow, January 5.

The Imperialists, through the British Consul, asked for the extension of the period of armistice for fifteen days, but the proposal was rejected by Li Yuan-hung.

BRITISH TROOPS FOR CANTON.

Hongkong, January 5.

The British Government has decided to dispatch to Canton from Hongkong reinforcements consisting of 150 foot soldiers with two guns.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, January 4.

An Imperial Edict was issued to day, directing Chang Chin-fang, Superintendent of the salt administration in Chili province, to assume the duties of the financial office in charge of national bonds. The resignation tendered by Yang Tsz-chi on account of ill-health, has been accepted and Liao Tsz-i has been appointed Acting Minister for Posts and Telegraphs.

WITHDRAWAL OF IMPERIAL ARMY.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWAKAMI.

Hankow, January 5.

The withdrawal of the Imperial troops continues to take place, and General Tuan announces that the Imperial army will be withdrawn to Hsiaokanhsien. General Tuan himself will withdraw in the course of a day or two.

NEWS FROM CHINWANGTAO.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "TOKIWA."

Chinwangtao, January.

The iron railway bridge near Lanchow has been destroyed. Fighting is said to have taken place near there on the 4th.

The postal service between Chinwangtao and Shanhaikwan is considered dangerous unless protected by guards. Railway traffic to the north of Shanhaikwan is safe.

QUEUE CUTTING AT NANKING.

Nanking, January 5.

The queue-cutting order has been vigorously enforced in the town since about the 29th ult. A party of soldiers armed with scissors is posted at the town gate and every passenger is stopped and his queue cut off. A comical scene is presented, some laughing and some weeping over the operation.

REDUCTION OF TAXES.

FROM CONSUL MATSUBARA.

Changchung, January 5.

According to a report of the Japanese Consul in Kilin the Deputy Viceroy in Kilin has issued a notification announcing the reduction of taxes and curtailment of administrative expenditure in that prefecture to relieve the situation.

THE REPUBLICAN MINISTRY.

FROM CONSUL SUZUKI.

Nanking, January 6.

Dr. Sun proceeded to the provincial as-

sembly on the 3rd instant accompanied by Hwang Hsing, when the following appointments were decided.

Minister of War	Hwang Hsing
Minister of Navy	Hwang Chung-ying
Minister of Home Affairs	Cheng Te-chuan
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Wang Chung-kuei
Minister of Justice	Wu Ting-fang
Minister of Education	Tsai Yuan-pai
Minister of Finance	Chen Kin-tao
Minister of Communications	Tang Shan-chien
Minister of Commerce and Industry	Chang Chien

Li Yuan-hung has been elected vice-president by seventeen votes.

GENERAL FENG.

Peking, January 5.

General Feng, commander of the Imperial Guards, announces that in the event of the peace negotiations ending in failure, he will organize a large army of the Shantung, Kansu and Chihli troops, and will march down southward *via* Hanchi kwan by the Tun-Pu railway, and recover Nanking by a single stroke.

RECAPTURE OF LANCHOW.

Peking, January 5.

The Imperialists recaptured Lanchow town and the railway station at 8 a. m. this morning.

IMPERIAL TREASURE.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJ.

Peking, January 5.

The Peking Government has decided to sell the treasures hoarded in the Peking and Mukden Palaces to relieve the financial distress of the Imperial army and an order has been issued to the Viceroy to investigate the matter. It is presumed that the treasures in the Peking Palace alone will fetch about twenty million *taels*.

MEETING OF THE SENATE.

FROM MINISTER IJUN.

Peking, January 4.

The Senate has of late begun to show renewed activity in sympathy with the strong attitude assumed by Yuan's Ministry, coupled with the growing feeling of opposition amongst the army and a section of the northerners. The Senate has met several times since the end of last year to consider the issue of a short-term loan instead of patriotic loan bonds, and to invite subscriptions from the Imperial Princes, but each time has failed to secure the attendance of members sufficient to form a quorum. On the 3rd instant forty-three members attended and official business was conducted, when a motion for the issue of a short-term loan was approved. The members responsible for the introduction of the motion explained that the Imperial princes would be invited to subscribe, and a memorial to be submitted to the Throne in that sense was approved. The Manchu members then introduced to the House a series of violent motions that the war should at once be resumed; that example should be set by the Emperor of intermarriage between Manchus and Chinese; that the Imperial Edict ordering the convocation of a national assembly should be revoked; that the indictment of the crimes committed by the revolutionists should be made public and the army ordered to forthwith proceed southward. An animated discussion ensued and wild scenes were witnessed in the House. Finally it was decided to present the last motion to the Cabinet on the expiration of the period fixed for the withdrawal of the troops. The above cannot be taken as representative of the view of

northerners in general, but it indicates the turn of public feeling in North China.

WAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Peking, January 8.

The Imperial Princes have at last decided to contribute towards the war fund. It is expected that ten million *taels* are obtainable from this source, which is sufficient to support the Imperial army for about four months, with a monthly war expenditure calculated at about two million *taels*.

The Manchus are in high spirits and announce the continuation of the war should the revolutionists oppose the convening of the National Assembly in Peking.

MR. HOMER LEA.

Shanghai, January 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Lea left for Nanking at one o'clock this afternoon in response to a telegraphic invitation of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. They were escorted by a guard of honour.

WITHDRAWAL FROM HANKOW.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 6.

The withdrawal of the Imperial troops is to be completed to-day. General Tuan left for Hsiaokanhsien early this morning. The town is guarded by 200 policemen and there are 120 policemen at Hanyang. More constables are being enlisted. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce is giving assistance to Taotai Hwang in the restoration of peace and order in the town. No attempt has so far been made by the revolutionists to cross the river.

MEMORIAL TO WU TING-FANG.

Peking, January 6.

Tuan Chi-jui, Tuan Chi-kuei, Chang Hsun and several other army men in Peking sent to Wu Ting-fang a joint telegram on the 4th instant, intimating to him their determination to make a stubborn resistance if any attempt be made to adopt a republican government in accordance with the opinion of the minority.

A VICEROY DECAPITATED.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL MATSUMURA.

Hankow, January 5.

Acting Consul Hashiguchi in Shansi wires that a telegraphic advice has been received from Acting Consul Kawanishi in Chungking stating that about forty Japanese and 100 foreign refugees from Changtu left Chungking yesterday and are expected to arrive at Ichang on or about the 12th instant. The town of Ichang is now quiet, but rioters are still rampant in Kueichow. According to Mr. Kawanishi's dispatch, dated December 25th, disorder prevails in Chengtu and the people are being plundered with impunity. The flying columns of local guards were defeated by the revolutionists and their commander Tien Chen pang arrived at Chungking from Changlingkiang with about 100 men under his command, and there surrendered to the revolutionists. The remaining guards continue to arrive there and surrender themselves to the revolutionists.

A wireless telegraph message received from the warship *Otowa* in Shansi states that according to Acting Consul Kawanishi, the military government in Chengtu arrested the former Viceroy and decapitated him on December 22nd last, charging him with instigating the disturbances that occurred in that town on November 8th last and also with a plot to recapture the town by inviting there the Thibetan army. The

commander of the local garrison was also beheaded on a similar charge.

THE OUTBREAK AT LANCHOW. FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL.

Tientsin, January 4.
Later intelligence has it that 3,000 Imperialists besieged the mutinous soldiers at Lanchow on the 3rd instant and threatened them with bombardment unless they surrendered by the 4th, at the same time offering five taels reward for each man surrendering with his rifle and two taels for those surrendering without rifles. Over 100 insurgents surrendered up to this morning and a total suppression will be effected before to-morrow morning. The ringleader Wang and nine other officers also notified their intention of surrendering by the 4th. The Imperialists are making efforts for a peaceful settlement without appealing to armed force.

THE RAILWAY LINES.

FROM VICE-ADMIRAL YOSHIMATSU, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND SQUADRON.

Chinwangtao, January 6.
Three thousand revolutionists are on their way here from Shanghai by two merchant steamships and are expected to arrive on or about the 7th. The rumour of the destruction of an iron bridge on the Peking-Mukden line has turned out erroneous and the damage seems immaterial. The Peking-Mukden railway is guarded by foreign troops, the Shanhaikwan-Lanchow section being allotted to Japanese. Telegraphic communication between Chinwangtao and Peking has been restored, and communication is also being kept intact between Peking and Shanhaikwan.

DEFENDING CANTON.

Canton, January 6.
The British guards in Canton settlement have been reinforced by 170 native soldiers and 28 English soldiers with two Maxim guns and four machine guns. Wire entanglement is stretched to the north of the settlement and breast works are constructed, on which machine guns are mounted. Another thirty native soldiers are also expected to arrive. The situation in Canton is unsafe, but the defence work is considered excessive.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

Nanking, January 5.
The revolutionary army has been largely reinforced during the armistice, but they lack a supply of arms and other war necessities, and betray a lack of ability to organize any large expeditionary force. It seems that they neglect training the troops, placing undue importance on outward appearance.

THE REPUBLICANS AT NANKING.

Nanking, January 5.
A close study of the composition of the united meeting of the Chinese Republic, shows that the members for Chekiang and Kiangsu provinces are ill disposed towards Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and it also seems doubtful whether Cheng Te-chu and Chang Chien will accept portfolios. A rumour has it that Chin Chi-mei has disappeared. Internal strife is being aggravated. The meeting is mainly composed of officials and city notables and pure revolutionists are conspicuous by their absence. The expeditionary force arriving from Canton is getting ready to start for the north.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chicago States*

that a Shanghai telegram asserts that President Taft, not being satisfied with the lukewarm mediation hitherto attempted by various Powers, is prepared to try more effective arbitration. The frequent interchange of visits between Yuan Shih-kai and the United States Minister in Peking since yesterday is supposed to be connected with this. The report still lacks confirmation.

THE REPUBLIC AND THE POWERS.

According to a report from the various Legations, it seems that the revolutionary government is expected to enter into official communication to-day with the governments of the various Powers, claiming formal recognition of belligerent rights. A belief obtains that the claim will be quashed by the foreign Governments on the ground that the time is not yet sufficiently advanced to grant official recognition.

TROOPS AT NIUCHWANG. (OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL.

Niuchwang, January 6.
About 150 soldiers belonging to the 78th regiment of Mukden arrived at the northern side of the river at this town on the 4th inst. as a garrison of the town. It is rumoured that another detachment of 1,500 men is expected to arrive. The detachment was sent here in response to the demand of the Taotai to prepare for emergencies in view of the meeting of the Lanchow army. The Taotai is nevertheless reticent as to the motive necessitating the garrison.

FAMINE THREATENS KILIN.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL.

Kilin, January 6.
A famine is threatening here this Spring, owing to the failure of crops last year. An order has therefore been issued prohibiting the export of millet and corn for about one month commencing from November 16th (Chinese calendar).

REFUGEES FROM HSIAO.

FROM CONSUL GENERAL MATSUMURA.

Hankow, January 7.
Eighteen Japanese refugees from Hsiao arrived here safely on the 6th instant. According to the refugees a Mr. Fukuchi and his wife are still staying in Hsiao, as Mrs. Fukuchi is unable to travel.

THE MUTINY AT LANCHOW.

FROM MINISTER IJIN.

Peking, January 7.
The mutiny at Lanchow has been suppressed and a train leaving Shanhaikwan on the 6th instant arrived there safely.

THE WITHDRAWAL FROM HANKOW.

FROM REAR ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 8.
The withdrawal of the Imperial army was completed on the 6th instant. The warehouses of the Toa Flour Mill have been set on fire and plundered. Chinese refugees have commenced to return to the town in batches.

TRAFFIC ON PEKING-MUKDEN RAILWAY.

Post Arthur, January 7.

The portion of the 77th infantry regiment left in Mukden, the third battalion of the 20th cavalry regiment and a battalion of the flying column in Changtan, have been removed to Hsinmintun. Traffic was resumed

yesterday to the south of Shanhaikwan on the Peking-Mukden railway.

REVOLUTIONISTS AT CHINWANGTAO.

Tientsin, January 6.

The insurrection in Lanchow has been suppressed. A portion of the mutinous soldiers has surrendered and the others dispersed. It is reported that three steamers carrying revolutionary troops are expected to arrive at Chinwangtao to-day or to-morrow.

HANKOW EVACUATED.

Hankow, January 6.

The Imperial troops stationed in and near the town were withdrawn by about a dozen trains last night, and only two or three hundred men were left in Hankow this morning. These soldiers were also transported to the north by a train this afternoon and the evacuation has thus been completed. The Chinese town is being guarded by a police force.

TROOPS FOR LANCHOW.

Mukden, January 7.

The Viceroy of the Three Eastern provinces has issued to the 20th Division an order to march down to Lanchow, and two battalions of the 77th infantry regiment, which were in Mukden, left for Hsinmintun yesterday. A mixed brigade is now in Mukden. A mixed corps and a portion of the artillery corps stationed in Beuhilu will be withdrawn to Mukden to-morrow.

KILIN DECLARES INDEPENDENCE.

Dairen, January 8.

The Kilin Provincial Assembly declared its independence on the 5th instant without divisions.

RIOTERS PLUNDER SALT BUREAU.

Tientsin, January 6.

Rioters have risen in Changliokau district and attacked and plundered the Salt Bureau.

FOREIGN FEELING.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chicago States* that the foreign residents now begin to look on the action of the two armies with contempt. A belief generally obtains that chronic disturbances will continue for some time until both sides are reduced to extremes from lack of money. It will then be the time for peace to be brought about.

NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

SUN YAT-S' N'S MANIFESTO.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 8.

The *Times* declares that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's manifesto does not suggest a practical settlement of the Chinese difficulty, since it apparently excludes the pacific compromise everywhere desired.

The manifesto is obviously manufactured for foreign consumption.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

BRITISH TROOPS AT CANTON.

FROM CONSUL GENERAL SEGAWA.

Canton, January 6.

The British landing troops that arrived here from Hongkong consist of 170 Sepoys and 28 English gunners, carrying with them two 15-pounders and four Maxim guns. They are to be placed on guard in the settlement jointly with 87 soldiers of the Yorkshire Regiment who arrived here on December 29th

last. The soldiers have been hastily setting up defense work since the 3rd instant to prepare for emergencies, in view of the rumour current that the revolutionists in the town are planning to enter and plunder the settlement at the close of the Chinese calendar year.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI HONGWANJI. ACTIVITY AT WUCHANG.

Hankow, January 7.
Reinforcements continue to arrive at Wuchang, and machine guns and shrapnel, of which the revolutionists felt the lack, have also arrived. The martial spirit runs high in the ranks and they declare they will recapture Hanyang at a single stroke. A light railway has been laid between Wuchang and Tainshan, and transportation of arms and ammunition is taking place.

HANKOW QUIET.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 9.
The two armies no longer stand face to face in the neighbourhood of the town, which is now quiet, and inasmuch as each foreign settlement can be adequately guarded by its own troops, which obviates the necessity of having the united forces under one commander, I propose to relinquish the command of the settlement guards to-morrow and shift my flag on board the *Totsuta* and then move to the lower course of the river.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Shanghai, January 8.
Although it would seem that the peace conference has ended in failure since the note was received on the 4th instant, the negotiations are being continued between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang. The Imperialists have effected the withdrawal of their troops from Hankow, and the revolutionists do not show any offensive attitude towards the Imperial army. They demand the abdication of the Throne by the Emperor. The two armies now stand in a peculiar state of truce.

THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

Nanking, January 8.
The appointments of Vice-Minister of War and downwards were officially announced on the 7th instant. They are all officers who studied in Japan.
The plan of the Northern expedition is making tardy progress owing to the lack of guns, but the Hupai soldiers have already left for Honan. Detachments of troops will be dispatched from Nanking to Shantung and Anhui provinces. Li Yuan hung will probably command the Northern expedition.

NEWS FROM TSITSIHAR.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL.

Tsitsihar, January 8.
The local authorities evidently have in mind spying out and arresting revolutionists, and the hotels are being officially searched for queue-less Chinese. This caused a great panic amongst the Chinese, and the situation was for a time, grave. The agitation afterwards subsided through efforts made by the local authorities. A notice was issued in Lunkiangfu yesterday, intimating to the people that they are at liberty to cut off their queues.

THE PARTITION OF CHINA.

FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

Washington, January 8.
The *New York Herald's* Peking correspondent wires under the date of the 6th

instant that a belief is gradually obtaining in official circles in Peking that British and Japanese diplomatic policy tends towards the partition of the Empire into North and South China. A certain Chinese official said that Great Britain is assisting the revolutionists under the pretext of mediation, or neutrality, and is checking the efforts of the Peking Government. Great Britain insisted on the necessity of an armistice, which impeded the recapture of Wuchang and Taiyuan. Great Britain is also responsible for having rendered the negotiations for loans with the United States and other governments abortive.

The Japanese Government, while giving countenance to the revolutionists, professes to support the Peking Government.

Its action is interpreted as part of a policy for bringing about the partition of China in order to remove the cause of danger resulting from the awakening of China.

The journal, quoting the correspondence, asks what profit Great Britain can gain by taking up a policy which must result in the weakening of China and the ascendancy of Japanese and Russian influence in Asia, and concludes with the remark that Great Britain would be better advised to support the Manchu Government.

JAPANESE TROOPS IN CHINA.

FROM MAJOR-GENERAL ABE, COMMANDER OF THE JAPANESE TROOPS IN CHINA.

Shanghai, January 6.
An infantry battalion (minus two companies) and a machine gun party have been detailed to-day, between Lanchow and Shanhai-kwan to guard the railway.

PEACE AT HANKOW.

Hankow, January 8.
The troops have all been withdrawn and the town is guarded by police. The revolutionists are engaged in drill and replenishment of their arms. There are no signs of immediate action.

THE RAILWAYS AND THE INSURGENTS.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that according to a Shanghai dispatch, the revolutionists have under consideration the putting forward before the governments of the various Powers a proposal for throwing open the Peking-Shanhai-kwan railway for the transportation of the Northern Expeditionary troops and are making efforts to obtain official consent to the proposal. They argue that the railway is now guarded by foreign troops because the Peking Government is unable to protect it and that when the revolutionary troops are landed at Chinwangtao and expel the Imperialists, they can protect the railway unaided. Besides, as the belligerent rights of the revolutionists are now tacitly recognized by foreign Powers, it is improper to place the railway under the exclusive use of the Imperialists, and there is no reason why the railway should be declared neutral. In view of the fact that the Shanghai-Nanking railway is now used for the transportation of revolutionary troops, great anxiety is felt in Peking as to the success of the proposal.

THE WITHDRAWAL FROM HANKOW.

The Peking Government consented to the withdrawal of the troops for Hankow because Yuan Shih-kai does not consider Hanyang and Hankow strategically important, and also

because he believes Hankow will be declared neutral on the initiative of Great Britain. A portion of the troops withdrawn will be placed on guard in Peking and the remainder used for the protection of the Pan-Pu railway.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

TO PROTECT PEKING.

Tientsin, January 8.
In view of the rumour current of a contemplated attack on Peking by the revolutionists, the Government has detached a large force to the vicinity of Chinwangtao. Already twenty thousand men are placed on the coast defence.

TRADE IN HANKOW.

Hankow, January 8.
The market remains as depressed as ever. Paper currency is not in circulation and the prices of commodities continue to rise. Many merchants have failed. Such an economic depression is unprecedented in Hankow.

THE HANKOW SETTLEMENT.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Hankow, January 9.
I have resigned the command of the settlement guard. The Consular Body wrote me a note expressing their thanks for the services rendered by me. It gives me great pleasure to report that while in command, the commander of the warships and the Consuls of the various countries have invariably manifested towards me their good will and have always received my suggestions and orders with cordiality.

PREPARING FOR REBELS.

FROM THE ACTING JAPANESE CONSUL.

Hsinmiatun, January 9.
In anticipation of the landing of revolutionary troops at Lienshan Bay, the Chinese authorities have removed the telegraph office from Mukden, and also troops from Kinchow.

GENERAL STAFF OFFICE.

FROM CONSUL SUZUKI.

Nanking, January 9.
A Cabinet Council has been in session since last evening, when it was decided to appoint Hwang Hsing as the Chief of General Staff, and Mr. Yung-chien as Vice-Chief. The General Staff Office is to be established in the Government House.

MOVEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

Tientsin, January 9.
The Peking Government is now transporting an infantry brigade, two cavalry battalions, an artillery battalion and two pioneer companies of the Third Division in the direction of Chinwangtao. These troops were collected from Linshanyang, Changti and Lanchow on the 7th instant. An infantry regiment of the twentieth Division is now stationed in Tanglio and a cavalry battalion and a pioneer company of the same Division in the neighbourhood of Shanhai-kwan.

MUTINY OF ILI ARMY.

Peking, January 9.
The new Ili army mutinied on the 1st instant and set fire to the Viceregal yamen and barracks.

ALLEGED GERMAN PROPOSAL.

Peking, January 9.
A rumour is current that in view of the inevitable failure of the peace negotiations in Shanghai, Germany is now contriving to

Induce Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang to meet at Tsingtao to discuss the terms of peace.

ARRESTS AT PEKING.

Peking, January 9.
Over sixty men were arrested outside the East gate of Peking on the 8th instant on suspicion of being revolutionists. It is rumoured that the men are a band of the "Dare-to-die" party.

MANCHU PRINCES AND THE WAR FUND.

YUAN AND THE POWERS.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Peking, January 9.
Yuan Shih-kai stated to an interviewer that in view of the presence of British, American, German, French and Japanese army officers in the ranks of the revolutionary army, it is rather difficult for the Imperialists to enlist the sympathy of the various foreign Powers. This is taken as a complaint against the foreign Powers.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hongkong, January 9.
The Northern expeditionary force recently organized in Canton has already set out under the escort of the revolutionary warships *Haiyan* and two others, its object being to attack and land at Chinwantao. The troops are composed of two infantry regiments (armed with the newest repeating rifles), an artillery regiment (with 18 mountain and 8 field guns), a pioneer regiment, one commissariat regiment, an explosive shell regiment, a cavalry regiment, a machine gun regiment (with 48 machine guns), and an ambulance corps.

CHARGE AGAINST IMPERIALISTS.

Hankow, January 9.
The Imperialists at Hanyang have of late been committing indescribable excesses. They have plundered and massacred the inhabitants in cold blood, while the women, young and old, have been violated. The town thus presents a most pitiable aspect.

REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

Fuchow, January 8.
It is rumoured that the revolutionists contemplate raising a loan from the United States, offering Hankow and Wuchang for security.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY.

Hankow, January 10.
The revolutionary army in and near Wuchang is divided into three army corps and is detailed on both banks of the Yangtze river. The first army corps consists of a Kiangsi brigade and 2,000 Anhui men and is stationed between Hwangpei and Yanglu on the left bank, while the second army corps consists of two Hupeh brigades and two Kiangsi brigades, and is stationed in the vicinity of Changkiang, Tsing-shan, Wuchang and Kinkan. The third army corps, composed of one Hupeh Division and two Kwansi brigades, is taking its position on the line starting from Kinkan and stretching to Tsaitien on the right bank of the river. There is also a reserve army corps. The Imperial army consists of 6,000 men in Hsiaokan and 6,000 men in Hsiyang.

ATTACK ON FENGHSIEN.

Peking, January 9.
According to intelligence a party consisting of about 3,000 revolutionists and rioters

attacked Fenghsien (a town lying to the North-west of Hsuehow) a few days ago. They premeditated an attack on the troops under Chang Hsun and, if unopposed, will proceed to destroy the Peking-Hankow railway.

REVOLUTIONARY APPOINTMENTS.

Nanking, January 10.
Hsu Shao-chen has been appointed commander of the Nanking garrison and Hwang Hsing, chief of the general staff. The appointments are to be made public shortly.

DEFENCE OF CHINWANTAO.

FROM THE JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL.

Mukden, January 11.
In accordance with telegraphic instructions from Peking, Viceroy Chao has appointed General Feng Lin-kuo as commander of the flying columns of the coast defence of Chinwantao. The commander left for Chinwantao by special train on the 9th instant in company with his staff officers.

DECISIVE BATTLE EXPECTED.

Hankow, January 10.
A decisive battle is anticipated to follow the armistice. The Imperial troops are being mustered in the direction of Hwangpei. The revolutionists have massed a large Kiangsi force outside the town of Hwangpei ready for action.

MANCHU FEELING.

A Peking despatch to the *Chuwo* reports that the Imperial Princes and other dignitaries who decided to contribute to the war fund for the conservation of the Manchu dynasty against the insurgents, have begun to change their minds, feeling concerned at the makeshift policy pursued by Yuan Shih-kai and also being allured by the cordial treatment promised by the revolutionists. They are pressing Yuan Shih-kai for a renewal of the peace negotiations.

REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

It is telegraphed from Shanghai that the Revolutionary Government has issued an announcement of the flotation of a loan of 100 million taels. The bonds bear 8 per cent. interest and are redeemable in ten years, the unredeemed period being presented at four years following the downfall of the Peking Government. The Government intends to adopt the gold standard at the first opportunity. A belief obtains that the Government will find it rather difficult to raise the desired money.

RIVER STEAMER DESTROYED.

BURNING OF THE "KWONG YUEN."

A party of Hongkong residents who returned early on the 3rd inst. from a shooting trip at Kongmoon brought news of a shipping disaster which occurred within a few miles of Hongkong. The three members of the party were returning in the launch *Kan-kai*, and when between Tong Ku Island and Lan-Tau, they passed the river steamer *Kwong Yuen*, bound for Wuchow. About a mile of water separated the two vessels, when one of the launch party happened to look back over the stern of the launch. As after events proved, his involuntary action proved fortunate for a large number of Chinese. He noticed tongues of flame shoot suddenly up from the deck of the steamer, and he immediately had the launch put about. About five minutes steaming brought the little vessel close to the river steamer, which by this time was a veritable inferno of flame.

Mr. Davey, who described the scene to a *Daily Press* representative, said the fire was

simply appalling, the flames completely enveloping the ship. Her masts and smokestack were the only portions to be clearly seen, and they stood out sharply defined against the fierce glare. As the launch drew closer, cries for assistance were heard from the water, and fourteen Chinamen were ultimately picked up. In the meantime the steamer *Fausang*, one of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company's ships, coming from Canton to Hongkong, hove in sight. The captain at once lowered three boats, and after cruising round the burning ship for some time, succeeded in rescuing fourteen men and one woman. Both the *Fausang* and the launch steamed about for an hour, but could see no further traces of life. The rescuers watched the burning vessel until she was transformed into a whirlwind of flame. When they left the scene she was drifting away to the west of Lan-Tau.

The *Kwong Yuen*, which was owned by the Wo Shun Steamship Company, cleared from Hongkong at about seven o'clock on the 2nd inst. bound for Wuchow. She carried a crew of 67 and 11 passengers, according to her clearance and had a general cargo in her holds. There is little doubt that she carried a large quantity of kerosene, as the water all round her was covered with oil. Little reliable information could be obtained from the rescued people, as some said she carried 50 passengers and others that her passenger list numbered 100. However the rescuing parties accounted for only 29, so that the list of those who were drowned or who perished in the flames must be a woefully long one. There were no Europeans on board the steamer.

Among the rescued were the *compradore*, chief engineer and second engineer of the *Kwong Yuen*.

PUBLIC NAMES.

WHEN LORD ROSEBERY SUFFERED "SPASMS."

"When my name was Dalmeny I had frequent spasms on hearing how that name was pronounced by people who were not of Scottish extraction." That was the confession of Lord Rosebery made in a Scottish audience. Dalmeny should rhyme with "penny."

General Bethune, too, tells a story about passing through the lines one night and overhearing two troopers discussing his manifold imperfections. "Why, he can't even say his own name," remarked one in tones of disgust. "He calls it Beeton!" Which is what it is. Generals provide a few puzzles for their troops. "Serromoorcray" has to be seen before it can be spelt: Sir O'Moore Creagh, the Commander-in-Chief in India. Pole Carew is Pull-Carey and Baden-Powell is Bayden-Po'el. There are only two syllables in Waldegrave, the middle "e" being dropped.

Though the names of members of the House of Commons are better known than most, they provide a few pitfalls for the uninitiated. Mr. Soames is Mr. Soames, but Sir Ernest Soares, who was a member until recently, is Soahr-er. Mr. Burnyeat, another former member, is Burn'yat. Mr. Higham is Mr. Hy'am, but Lord Mersey, when a member, was Mr. Big'am. The name of Mr. Hemmerde, the Recorder of Liverpool, has three syllables, the accent on the first.

Other members' names, occasionally mispronounced, are:

Agar - Robartes, Ayger-Robarts.	Menzies, Mirjies.
Courthope, Cour-up.	Chiozza-Money.
Dalziel, Dee-ell.	Key-ot-za Munnay.
Eyres - Monsell, Ayr-Munsel.	Peto, Peto.
Faber, Fayer.	Pons-nhy, Punsunhy.
Houston, Hootson.	Rea, Ray.
Lough, Lock.	Verney, Varny.
	Yerburgh, Yarbora.

CAPTAIN LUX, who escaped from the fortress at Glatz, where he was confined for espionage, has been ordered not to attend any fêtes or receptions, and not to accept any fund which may be started in his honour.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.**REVOLUTIONISTS PREPARING TO RENEW CONFLICT.****CHINWANTAO FROZEN IN.**

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Chinwantao, January 11.

According to the commander of the *Kasagi*, the floating ice in the neighbourhood of Chinwantao now reaches over four miles from the shore and communication with the land has been entirely cut off.

REAR-ADMIRAL KAWASHIMA.

Nanking, January 12.

Rear-Admiral Kawashima left Taiyu last evening by the warship *Tatsuta* and is expected to arrive at Kiukiang this morning. The officer will stay in Nanking for some time.

CHINESE WARSHIP AT SWATOW.

Swatow, January 11.

The Commander of the warship *Suma* writes that the Chinese warship *Kokai*, flying the revolutionary flag, arrived at Swatow to-day with revolutionary troops.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Canton, January 11.

The second Northern Expeditionary force, composed of one infantry regiment and one artillery battalion, about 1,800 men all told, is now in course of transportation to Shanghai. An infantry battalion left for the north on the 1st instant and another battalion on the 9th instant. The remainder will leave here very shortly.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PLANS.

FROM CONSUL-GENERAL SUZUKI.

Nanking, January 12.

The war office evidently intends to put the scheme of the Northern Expedition into practice in the near future. According to the plan the troops are to be transported to the north, using the locomotives and other cars of the Shanghai-Nanking railway on the Tsin-Pu railway. The Government is also enforcing in Shanghai and elsewhere forcible collection of war funds. Hwang Hsing will assume the command of the expedition, while Hsu Shao-chen takes the command of the Nanking garrison. It is reported that General Lan left Shanghai on the 11th instant with about 1,000 men on board of three warships, with a view to effecting a landing in Chefoo.

VICEROY CHAO.

Hankow, January 11.

It is generally believed that Viceroy Chao Erh-feng of Szechuan and the General of Chengtu garrison did not commit suicide as reported, but in reality were murdered by their subordinates.

IMPERIALISTS ON GUARD.

Hankow, January 11.

According to a traveller who returned from Kwangpei this morning, sharp rifle reports were heard in that direction on the night of the 10th instant. The Imperialists are keeping a vigilant watch and every passer by is subjected to close scrutiny.

NEWS FROM SZCHUAN.

Hankow, January 11.

According to intelligence from Szechuan the troops withdrawn from Tibet are going over to the revolutionists' side and the local garrison is also surrendering to the revolu-

tionists' camp. Chungking is threatened and a massacre is expected at the close of the year (Chinese calendar).

GREAT BRITAIN AND THIBET.

Reliable intelligence has it that Great Britain is preparing a scheme of restoring the Dalai Lama to Lassa under the escort of several battalions of troops, after the snow on the Himalayas melts, with a view to inducing him to declare the independence of Thibet.

ALLEGED PROMISE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Peking, January 11.

It is reported that the United States Minister in Peking has promised to the Waiwupti that if the Peking Government succeed in restoring peace, the United States will take the initiative in demanding from the various Powers the reduction of the indemnity China has to pay in connexion with the Boxer trouble. The details are not, however, reported.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* states that secret telegrams are being exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Wu Ting-fang regarding the selection of the place for holding the peace conference and of convoking the national assembly. The contents of the notes are kept secret. According to information leaking out from an official source, Yuan has now come to an understanding with Wu Ting-fang and has consented to despatch Liang Shih-yi to Shanghai as plenipotentiary. The report is credible, as it is also published by Yuan's organ and is not contradicted.

PROGRESS OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.**CHINESE PRESS ON MONGOLIA.**

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, January 13.

The Chinese papers regard the Mongolian affair as the beginning of the partition of China and advocate that an envoy should forthwith be sent to Mongolia to convince them of the benefits of a republican government. They also advocate the constitution of a republican government in China, to maintain the unity of the country, and to set the diplomatic machinery in motion to check Russia's ambitious designs.

REVOLUTIONISTS PREPARED.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "NITAKA."

Nanking, January 13.

The revolutionary leaders conducted an official inspection of the Shitszshan battery and also reviewed the fleet on the 12th instant.

ADMIRAL SAH.

Dairen, January 12.

Admiral Sah Ching-fing, who has been staying in Tsingtao since the end of last year, left there by a German steamer on the 3rd instant, arriving at Dairen on the 4th. He is now staying at the Yamato Hotel.

AMERICAN TROOPS FOR CHINA.

Peking, January 12.

A battalion of American soldiers, with 80 horses, dispatched to China from the Philippines, is expected to arrive at Chinwantao on the 19th instant.

RAILWAY BRIDGE DESTROYED.

Peking, January 12.

The revolutionists have destroyed the

iron bridge built across the Hwai river and also the track of the Tsin-Pu railway at Kuchin.

IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Peking, January 12.

The 11th infantry regiment, a cavalry regiment, an artillery battalion, and two pioneer and commissariat companies of the Third Division arrived at Taiyuan at 5 p.m. on the 11th instant.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Nanking, January 10.

A rumour has it that the Northern Expeditionary force, which leaves Shanghai to-day, will be landed at Chefoo or Chinwantao; but it is most probable that the force will be landed in the neighbourhood of Takushan.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Shanghai, January 12.

Wang Chao-ming is credited with having stated to an interviewer that the period of armistice extends to the 15th instant. The Imperialists and Revolutionists are discussing the date and place of convocation of the national assembly, composed of three representatives elected by each province as arranged between Tang Shao-i and Wu Ting-fang. The revolutionists insist on holding it in Shanghai, while the Imperialists desire to convene it at Peking. It is expected that Yuan Shih-kai will make a proposition for holding the assembly in Tientsin. The revolutionists are ready to open fire immediately on the expiration of the period of armistice, but it is believed that Yuan will demand its renewal.

CANTON EXPEDITION.

Shanghai, January 12.

Eight hundred Canton soldiers and an artillery battalion remaining in the town will start for the north to relieve Hupeh in two or three days. The army will be under the command of Li Tien-chai. Li is now in Yanglo in Hupeh province.

MOUNTED BANDITS.

Tsitsihar, January 12.

The mounted bandits are rampant in Lanhsi-hsien, Chienhsien and other districts. The Government troops are faring badly at the hands of the bandits. The Mukden flying column suffered defeat in Lanhsi-hsien, when the commander and several men were either killed or wounded. The revolutionists are trying to take advantage of the situation to stir up public sentiment.

THE CHEKIANG MAGISTRACY.

Hangchow, January 12.

Twenty two delegates of various provinces met at the Magistrate's Office in the town on the 11th instant to consider the nomination of a candidate for the magistracy of Chekiang. Chiang Pai chi (at present the commander of the Chekiang Army) was elected magistrate unanimously. Chiang consented to accept the post.

TROUBLE ON AN ISLAND.

Hongkong, January 12.

According to intelligence from Haikan or Chingchow Island, the disturbances are not yet settled. The steamers arriving there on December, 29th and 30th last were compelled to leave without being able to discharge their cargo. Business is completely paralyzed. The people in Chiungshanhsien have always been on bad terms with the inhabitants of Wenchanghsien, and the present trouble is due to the appointment of a Wenchanghsien man

Taotai in that town. Now that the Canton Government has replaced the Taotai by a new man, the trouble will be soon over. The conflict resulted in the loss of thirty-seven lives on both sides, while twelve men were also accidentally killed. There are now a French and German warship in Haikau.

CHINWANTAO FROZEN IN.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "KASAGI."

Chinwantao, January 13.

The foreshore of Chinwantao has frozen over to the extent of about seven miles, and communication with the shore is entirely cut off.

THE COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE "NITAKA."

Nanking, January 13.

Tang Hsiang-ming, commander of the Northern Expeditionary fleet, left here for Shanghai yesterday afternoon with his subordinates.

THE HUPEH ARMY.

Hankow, January 12.

The Hupeh army commenced its march to-day. The third brigade proceeded in the direction of Hwangpei. The destination of the other troops is not yet ascertained.

JAPANESE WITH THE INSURGENTS.

Shanghai, January 12.

Drs. Terao and Soyejima have accepted the post of legal advisers to the Revolutionary Government; but Mr. Inukai has declined the appointment as political adviser on the grounds that the Revolutionary Government omitted the proper etiquette in proffering the appointment and also that the scope of the duties attached to the post is obscure. Mr. Inukai left for home this morning to recuperate his health.

RUMOURED DECREE OF ABDICATION.

MANCHUS WILLING TO RETIRE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, January 12.

Dr. Morrison to-day stated to an interviewer that an opinion is on foot amongst the Imperial princes that if one million taels be annually allowed as a civil list to the Empress Dowager and the Imperial princes, and their present titles and allowances be conserved for five years, the Imperial House will remove to Jehol, leaving Yuan Shih-kai as the President of the Chinese Republic. The Emperor will be ready to abdicate the Throne if cordial treatment be guaranteed, even in case any other person than Yuan assumes the Presidency.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Nanking, January 12.

The headquarters of the North Expeditionary army is now stationed at Pukau. They announce that they will commence their northward march shortly to take possession of Fengyang, but the soldiers generally are destitute of winter clothing and show no disposition to advance to the north.

Two delegates who call themselves the authorized representatives of Kueichow in the coming National Assembly have arrived at Nanking. Doubt is entertained as to the genuineness of the man calling himself the representative of Kansu. The rumour of the immediate arrival of representatives of

Hsinking, Thibet and other frontier districts is generally discredited.

IMPERIAL FUNDS.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.

Peking, January 13.

In consequence of the war fund raised by the sale of the treasures of the Imperial House and the compulsory subscription of Imperial princes to the patriotic loan, the Imperialists have assumed considerable strength. The commanders are confident of success in the coming battles. The Imperial Princes have begun to look with suspicion on Yuan Shih-kai, who is keeping a strong guard to ensure his personal safety.

DISORDER IN THIBET.

Hankow, January 13.

The anarchy, that now reigns in Eastern Thibet is due to the plunder committed by the troops who are in course of withdrawal and the work of local rioters. The inhabitants are longing for the return of the Dalai Llama to Thibet.

THE KANSU REVOLUTIONISTS.

Hankow, January 13.

The so-called revolutionists in Kansu are a band of rioters, unconnected with those in Hankow and Shanghai. They are now assembling in the town of Chungchangfu.

REFUGEES FROM CHENG TU.

Hankow, January 13.

Thirty-seven refugees from Chengtu arrived here on the 13th instant. These are all the refugees, except three men who voluntarily remain behind in Chungking. Mrs. Kawanishi, wife of Acting-Consul Kawanishi, and three others joined the party from Chungking and they are to leave for the lower course of the river on the 14th inst.

KILIN ON GUARD.

Kilin, January 14.

For fear of the entrance of revolutionists into the town, of late detachments of troops have been placed on the Kilin-Changchun road and other principal highways, to keep a vigilant watch. Travellers arriving at the town are subjected to close observation.

REVOLUTION AT KULJA.

St. Petersburg, January 13.

According to a telegraphic dispatch reaching the Foreign Office from the Russian Consul in Kulja, on January 7th a revolutionary insurrection arose in the town where the Chinese General for Ili is stationed. Fighting ensued, in which a large number of the Manchu authorities and people were killed, the total deaths being 300, while many others were wounded. The Kulja district has thus fallen into the hands of the revolutionists. The revolutionary government was constituted on the 9th instant. Public order is maintained by an armed force and the lives and property of foreign residents are safe.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Shanghai, January 14.

The warships *Haiyung*, *Hailan* and *Nantan* left Shanghai for the lower stream and dropped anchor at Woosung. Three China Merchants S. N. Company's steamers are lying alongside the railway pier at Woosung where the North Expeditionary troops are embarking on board the steamers.

Shanghai, January 15.

It is reported that the North Expedition embarking on board the transports at Woosung is composed of 2,000 Cantonese

soldiers, who are equipped with machine-guns and winter clothing.

REVOLUTIONISTS ACTIVE.

Hankow, January 14.

The revolutionists have now taken possession of Hwangpei, and a detachment also landed on the opposite side of Tsingshan on the evening of the 12th instant. They are marching in the direction of Shikau. The detachment numbers at least 4,000 men. Another detachment is also marching towards the Han river from Tsaitien, which lies to the west of Wuchang.

THE AMERICAN TROOPS.

Shanghai, January 14.

The American China detachment consists of an infantry battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment and two machine-gun companies, 570 men all told, with 95 horses. The detachment left Manila on the afternoon of the 12th by the transport *Logan*.

THE MARCH ON PEKING.

Nanking, January 14.

The revolutionary troops in the city commenced their march on Peking yesterday.

THE PALACE AT JEHOL.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.

Peking, January 14.

According to a traveller returning from Jehol, preparations are now being made in the Detached Palace for the Imperial family. The families of the great Manchu officials are already arriving.

THE FOREIGN TROOPS IN CHINA.

Peking, January 14.

The various Powers have under consideration a scheme for increasing the number of their troops in China.

MANCHU FEELING.

Peking, January 14.

The result of the issue of patriotic bonds does not come up to expectations. It is generally believed that the Manchus have no disposition to continue the war. The big talk of Tuan Chao-jui, Chong Hsun and other army officers is believed to be merely for obtaining from Yuan Shih-kai a supply of war funds.

RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA.

Peking, January 14.

The Chinese Government has not yet replied to the Russian demand concerning the recognition of Mongolian independence. A rumour discredits the report of Russia having ever put forward the demand. The attitude of Inner Mongolia is not yet ascertainable.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

Harbin, January 14.

According to intelligence received here, Russia contemplates reinforcing her garrison at Urga by sending there a battalion of the Za-Baikal army and building large barracks.

YUAN SHIH-KAI'S RESIGNATION.

Peking, January 14.

Yuan Shih-kai is reported to have stated to an interviewer that in the present situation the abdication of the Throne by the Emperor is inevitable and consequently he is now compelled to resign.

MONGOLIA AND THE REVOLUTION.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.

Mukden, January 14.

Conditions in Inner Mongolia remain uncertain, but the Mongolians generally dislike the republican government and the Llama

thinks that the destruction of Buddhism is inevitable if the new Chinese Government comes into existence. The Llama is telling the people that they could live safer under the rule of the Chinese Emperor. The Llama in Mukden also endorses this view.

THE ABDICATION OF THE THRONE.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chungwa* reports that an Imperial Rescript announcing the abdication of the Throne has been drafted by Na Tung, under special instructions of the Empress Dowager, and that the draft is now being revised by Yuan Shih-kai, Shih-tsu and Hsu Shih-chang, as it was couched in wild language.

Telegraphic communications are being busily exchanged between Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Yat-sen concerning the abdication of the Throne by the Emperor. It is thought that the extension by one week of the period of armistice agreed upon between them gives evidence of the conclusion of terms of peace.

ABDICATION DECIDED UPON.

THE REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, January 15.

In connection with the foreign loan contemplated by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Mr. Hellegger (?), representative of Mr. Morgan, has arrived at Shanghai and proceeded direct to Nanking.

AN IMPERIAL LOAN.

Peking, January 14.

The negotiations for the 10 million *taels* loan which Yuan Shih-kai is attempting to raise from the salt merchants in Tientsin failed, but were again resuscitated, and the negotiations are so advanced that the contract will be signed very shortly.

ABDICATION.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJIL.

Peking, January 15.

The abdication of the Throne by the Manchu Emperor has been decided upon and Yuan Shih-kai has organized a provisional government.

THE ARMISTICE EXTENDED.

Peking, January 15.

The period of armistice has been extended for two weeks, from this date.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

Shanghai, January 16.

The three transports of the North Expeditionary troops in Wusung having completed all preparations on the 14th instant, are now awaiting the order for departure. The German steamer *Bremen* has arrived at Wusung with soldiers on board.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL KAWAKAMI.

Nanking, January 16.

The transportation of the northern expedition was commenced by the Tsin-Pu railway from the 13th instant. The troops which left from Fukau, number about 2,100. A report has it that the detachment of the troops which embarked on board the transports at Woosung on the 14th instant is destined for Chefoo. General Hsu Shao has been appointed commander of the Nanking garrison.

Shanghai, January 16.

According to intelligence brought by a steamship which arrived on the 15th at 6 p.m., the three revolutionary warships were

not to be seen outside the mouth of the river when she passed.

Shanghai, January 16.

It is stated that when the *Saikyo Maru*, which left Dairen on the 15th instant was proceeding to Shanghai, three warships were seen at about 150 miles off Haichow Island steaming northward with two transport steamers.

Chefoo, January 16.

It is reported that the revolutionary warships, *Haiyung*, *Haitan* and *Nantan* were sighted off Shantung promontory at 7 o'clock this morning, steaming westward. No transports were sighted.

THE REFUGEES FROM CHENG TU.

Hankow, January 16.

Messrs Sato Yaichiro, Sugawara Matsuji and two other Japanese did not arrive with the party of refugees from Chengtu. No reference is made to them in the Chungking telegram received at Shansi on the 15th instant. They are supposed to be staying in Chengtu, but a telegraphic inquiry has been sent there. Tranquillity has now been restored in Chungking. A telegram from that town reports that on the 12th instant, a popular meeting was held to celebrate the establishment of a provisional government at Nanking. The meeting was largely attended.

TROUBLE IN MONGOLIA.

Tsitsihar, January 15.

A detachment of the Mongolian troops invaded Hailar on the 15th instant, and took possession of that town. The Chinese garrison fled. The Japanese residents there are all safe. A Japanese policeman was dispatched to inspect and report on the conditions in the town.

AEROPLANES FOR THE INSURGENTS.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJIL.

Shanghai, January 16.

Three out of six aeroplanes ordered from America by Dr. Sun Yat-sen arrived some time ago and were forwarded on to Nanking. The remaining three machines have just arrived. Dr. Sun has placed them in the custody of the Hunan Provincial Assembly with an order to give them a test there and also to make an experiment for throwing explosive bombs from a height.

THE POSITION OF MONGOLIA.

Peking, January 16.

According to reliable information, both Outer and Inner Mongolia view a republican government with disfavour. The Llamas believe that the Chinese Government will destroy Buddhism and think that they must choose between independence and allegiance to the Manchu Government. Outer Mongolia has decided to declare her independence, while Inner Mongolia has chosen to observe strict neutrality.

A GERMAN BOYCOTT.

Tientsin, January 15.

The Chinese in Tsingtao strongly resent Germany's action and have adopted a resolution to boycott German goods and German steamers.

CHANG HSUN AGAIN FLEES.

Nanking, January 15.

According to a report reaching the Revolutionary Government from the revolutionary army in Hsuechow, the Dare-to die party joined the north expeditionary troops and attacked the Imperialists under Chang Hsun on the 13th. After two hours' fighting the Imperialists were completely routed and

the majority of the soldiers surrendered. Chang Hsun fled in the direction of Chinaufu with a small number of followers.

THE ABDICATION OF THE THRONE.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chungwa* reports that Yuan Shih-kai asked for the renewal of the armistice to give the Peking Government time to prepare for the abdication of the Throne by the Emperor. His demand was received by the revolutionists very sympathetically and it was agreed to extend it to the 29th instant. President Sun Yat-sen has also given Yuan an assurance that the revolutionists will not march northward during the period of the armistice and also that he will give due consideration to the desire of the Imperial House in connexion with the abdication.

The abdication of the Throne by the Emperor seems now settled and Yuan Shih-kai will form a provisional government to take charge of State affairs and conclude peace with the revolutionists.

"THE TIMES" SUGGESTS A REPUBLIC.

THE ABDICATION OF THE THRONE.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, January 16.

Dr. Morrison wires from Peking that he hears on excellent authority that an Edict will shortly be issued announcing the abdication of the Throne and the establishment of a Republican Government, the people to elect the President.

The Times strongly favours a Chinese Edict promulgating a Republic as the simplest solution of the problem.

The London journal regards Yuan Shih-kai as the proper President, because of his statesmanship and diplomatic qualities.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE ATTACK ON YUAN SHIH-KAI.

Peking, January 16.

When Yuan Shih-kai was returning home from the Imperial Palace this morning, a bomb was thrown at him, but he escaped unhurt.

Peking, January 16.

According to intelligence just to hand, Yuan Shih-kai had an explosive bomb thrown at him outside the Tughwa gate when retiring from the Palace this morning, but escaped uninjured.

Peking, January 16.

When Yuan Shih-kai was retiring from the Palace this morning, some desperadoes attacked him and threw a bomb at him outside the Tughwa gate. Yuan escaped unhurt. Four desperadoes were arrested on the spot. The man who threw the bomb is a Kweichow man. A captain and two soldiers of the Bodyguard sustained injuries.

RUSSIA'S ACTION.

Peking, January 15.

The high-handed action of Russia has startled diplomatic circles in Peking. The various Powers are no less surprised than the Peking Government. It is generally believed that Russia will hesitate to take Mongolia under her protectorate. Kansu province is unexpectedly pacific and does not yet profess its allegiance the Republican Government. The ephemeral disturbances in the province were wholly due to the dissatisfaction of the troops at the non-payment of their wages, and were not of a revol-

tionary nature. A rumour is current in the city that the new Shansi army has advanced to the neighbourhood of Hsuanhuafu.

THE IMPERIAL HOUSE.

Peking, January 15.

The Manchu dynasty has decided to abdicate in accordance with the demand of the revolutionists. The Imperial House will retire to Jehol, but Yuan Shih-kai will remain in Peking to conduct State affairs.

THE CHINESE WARSHIPS.

Nanking, January 17.

According to a reliable report, three revolutionary warships which have been staying near Wusung for a few days past, awaiting further orders, were still there on the 16th instant.

Nanking, January 16.

The revolutionary warships *Haiyung*, *Haitan* and *Nantan* arrived at Chefoo at 12.30 p.m. on the 16th instant. The warships carry soldiers on board.

COMMISSIONER OF TRADE.

Shanghai, January 16.

Wen Sung-yao has been appointed Commissioner of Trade in Shanghai.

JAPANESE REFUGEES.

Shanghai, January 16.

Fourteen Japanese refugees from Sanyuan and Hsian in Shansi province left for home to-day by the *Chikusen Maru*.

THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL

Peking, January 16.

The north expedition, consisting of 4,000 men, dispatched from Canton, landed at Chinwantao yesterday. The troops have for their object, acting in concert with the revolutionists at Lanchow and cutting the railway lines and telegraph wires between Peking and Manchuria.

Shanghai, January 16.

The three transports of the northern expedition were to leave Woosung on the 14th under the escort of the warships, but were still there on the 16th instant. The embarkation of the troops is already finished.

TROUBLE IN HONAN.

Hankow, January 16.

Wang Tien-tung in Honan province has thrown in his lot with the revolutionists in Shensi and is molesting the Imperialists by marching to the district lying between Lingpao and Minhsiang, travelling round Sungshan.

INTERNAL DISSENSIONS.

Hangchow, January 16.

The revolutionary government in Szechuan is experiencing great difficulty owing to the internal squabbles between the natives and men from other provinces in the contest for power. The outbreak of trouble such as is witnessed in Honan is thought inevitable.

THE LATE TUAN FANG.

Hankow, January 16.

The head of Tuan Fang, who was murdered in Szechuan, was brought to Wuchang by the revolutionists yesterday.

WARSHIPS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, January 17.

Three revolutionary warships have arrived here and are expected to stay in the harbour for five or six days. Their future movements remain unknown.

YUNNAN DIVIDED.

Hongkong, January 16.

Since the town of Yunnan has fallen into

the hands of the revolutionists, collisions are constantly taking place between the Imperialists and revolutionists in that province. Some towns in the southern part of the province side with the revolutionists, while others support the Imperialists. The conditions in Chinnan district remain unknown, as that district is mountainous, which renders communication extremely difficult. The rioters are rampant and the situation is generally becoming rather serious.

PETITION TO THE EMPEROR.

Shanghai, January 16.

A few days ago, Tang Shao-i telegraphed to Chang, Chinese Minister in Washington, asking him to petition the Emperor, acting jointly with the Chinese Ministers in European and American countries, for the abdication of the Throne, in consonance with the public opinion in China. Minister Chang wired back on the 15th instant, consenting to the suggestion.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S PROPOSAL.

Shanghai, January 16.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen has wired to Yuan Shih-kai that if the Emperor abdicates the Throne, he will consent to the abolition of the provisional government in order to constitute a fresh and stable government and also to hold the election of a new President.

PREPARING FOR FLIGHT.

Peking, January 16.

The Empress Dowager, having become conscious of the hopelessness of the situation, has induced the Emperor to abandon his daily lessons since yesterday and his tutors have been discharged, evidently to prepare for flight from Peking.

THE ATTACK ON YUAN SHIH KAI.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwo* states that the desperadoes who made the attempt on the life of Yuan Shih-kai outside the Tunglwa gate, are now being subjected to close examination in the Criminal Court. The Department of Justice keeps the matter secret and Yuan remains reticent. Various rumours are current. According to information collected by a certain Legation, though the would-be assassin gave his name as Hwang Peng and described himself as a Shensi revolutionist, it seems that he is in reality a Manchu who entered the capital from Hsian. It further seems that he had frequent interviews with the Imperial Princes, when he vowed the assassination of Yuan, whom he calls his country's enemy. Since that time he has been watching for a chance to execute the dastardly deed. Learning that the Court had decided on the 16th instant to abdicate the Throne, he waylaid Yuan outside the Tunglwa gate, where he carried the plot into practice, but failed. He was detected by the court officials to be a Manchu. His name is unascertainable, but rumour has it that he is a Bannerman named Tung Chi, who was kept in Prince Tao's residence. Over twenty accomplices have been arrested up to the present. They all profess to be revolutionists, but the judicial authorities believe them to be Bannermen.

Another report says that the desperado who threw the bomb at Yuan and who was arrested on the spot gave his name as Hwang Tzu-pen and is a Kweichow revolutionist. He confessed that he gained access to the capital for the purpose of assassinating Yuan Shih-kai under the instructions of

Field Marshal Hwang Hsing, and that his mission was to assassinate not only Yuan but Prince Ching also. The confession of this man is, however, very doubtful. At any rate, over fifty suspected revolutionists have been arrested on his confession.

EDICT OF ABDICATION.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS AND THE THRONE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Shanghai, January 16.

According to the statement of Yang Tzu-chi, a few days ago Wu Ting-fang telegraphed to Chang Ying-tung, Chinese Minister in Washington, that the best policy for a peaceful solution of the situation lay in inducing the Emperor to abdicate the Throne in order to constitute a stable republican government in conformity with public opinion, and asking him to make efforts to present to the Throne a memorial, jointly with the Chinese Ministers accredited to European countries, recommending abdication. Minister Chang wired back to-day accepting the suggestion.

President Sun and Hwang Hsing have sent to Yuan Shih-kai a joint telegram, intimating that it is against the wish of the revolutionists to continue the war and that in the event of an Imperial Edict of abdication being issued they will forthwith cancel the Provisional Government in Nanking and hold a presidential election by convening a national assembly, thus intimating their consent to the election of Yuan to the presidency. Yuan demanded a guarantee of their good faith. Thereupon President Sun and Hwang Hsing agreed to the extension of the armistice by two weeks, although Yuan only asked for one week.

It is stated in this context that the revolutionists show an inclination to elect Yuan Shih-kai to the presidency to obtain the unity of China, because it is feared that if Russia's activity in Mongolia be not interfered with various other Powers will follow in her wake, which would inevitably lead to the partition of China. In short the revolutionists have been impelled by patriotic motives to work for the speedy restoration of peace by the establishment of a stable republican government, which the financial difficulties keenly felt by both sides makes imperative.

CHINESE WARSHIPS AT CHEFOO.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE POST OFFICE.

Chefoo, January 16.

Three warships under the command of Lan Tsin-wei arrived at Chefoo at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and were welcomed by a crowd of citizens, who went out to receive them, flying flags bearing the inscription "Welcome, brethren" in bold letters. None of the soldiers had landed up to 4 o'clock. The Japanese warships *Tokawa* and *Otowa* entered the harbour almost simultaneously with the arrival of the revolutionary warships. The American warship *Cincinnati* is also now in the harbour.

The town of Tengchow fell into the hands of the revolutionists on the 15th instant.

Chefoo, January 17.

Lan Tien-wei, commander of the Northern Expedition, is on board the *Haitan*. The warships will stay until the expiration of the period of the renewed armistice.

Chefoo, January 18.

It is reported that the *Nantan*, one of the

three revolutionary warships, left in the direction of Tengchow at 8 o'clock this morning.

REVOLUTIONARY LOAN.

Nanking, January 17.

President Sun gave a New Year's reception on the 15th instant. After the reception was over Hwang Hsing put forward a motion for raising a foreign loan on hypothecation of the whole property of the China Merchants Steamship Company in order to relieve the financial distress. The motion was carried unanimously.

REVOLUTIONISTS IN HONAN.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hankow, January 16.

According to intelligence reaching here a detachment of the revolutionary troops have entered Honan province and taken possession of the Hwang river district, after having destroyed the iron bridge across the river.

TROUBLE IN MANCHURIA.

Peking, January 17.

A Harbin telegram reaching here yesterday reports that Ulyastai has already declared its independence. The Tartar-General Kuci-fang has disappeared and his whereabouts in unknown. Russia has dispatched Cossacks thither for the protection of her own residents and to restore peace in that district.

REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND THE POWERS.

Peking, January 17.

Simultaneously with the abdication of the Emperor, the Revolutionary Government will ask the various Powers for the recognition of the new Government. *Pourparlers* are taking place between the Revolutionary Government and Yuan Shih-kai in regard to the personal position of Yuan himself and the treatment of the Manchus at the hands of the revolutionists. In the event of the *pourparlers* being brought to a satisfactory conclusion, Yuan Shih-kai will ask the Manchu dynasty for immediate abdication and the removal of the Imperial House to Jehol. Yuan will afterwards surrender to the revolutionists. A belief obtains in the city that the situation will be solved in the course of two or three days. The majority of the foreign residents believe that the Governments of the various Powers will promptly give their official recognition of the Revolutionary Government immediately after the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu dynasty.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Harbin, January 18.

The Military *Taotai* of Hailar fled to Tsitsihar last evening and the Chinese *jamen* in that town have all been turned into Mongolian *jamen*.

TENGCHOW OCCUPIED.

Chefoo, January 17.

The three revolutionary warships which arrived at Chefoo on the 16th instant are carrying five or six hundred soldiers. Three hundred revolutionists landed at Tengchow in Shantung province on the 15th instant and took possession of that town unopposed.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

Hankow, January 17.

The advance guards of the revolutionary force have already reached to the southwestern line between Hsiaokanhsien and Hwangpei, while a detachment has reached Anlu from Chungchow. Troops are being

transported day and night to the north bank of the river from Wuchang, the point of their debarkation being Yanglo, where three or four warships are at anchor.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Tientsin, January 17.

A large number of revolutionists have made their appearance to the north of Chuangho since last night and are making their influence felt in all directions. The detachment will commence an active movement when the Northern Expedition advances northward.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT KULON.

Harbin, January 17.

A provisional government has been constituted at Kulon. The district is guarded by Russian soldiers and peace and order are maintained.

CONFERENCE AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, January 17.

The *pourparlers* between Yuan Shih-kai and the revolutionists are making steady progress. On the 15th instant Tang Shao-i and Yang Tzu chi met in Tang Shao-i's residence, in the presence of Wang Chung-kuei, Wang Chao-ming and other revolutionary representatives, when the abdication of the Emperor and the organization of a joint Cabinet of Yuan's party and the revolutionists were discussed. As a result of the conference it was decided to elect Yuan President and Dr. Sun as Vice President, the Cabinet being composed of Tang Shao-i as Prime-Minister, Li Yuan-hung as Minister of the navy, Chin Kin-tao, as Minister of Finance, Chang Chen, as Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, and Tang Shou-chen, as Minister of Communications. Both sides agree to this arrangement, but whereas the revolutionary delegates insist on the appointments of Hwang Hsing as Minister of War and Wu Ting-fang as Minister of Justice, Tang Shao-i proposes to assign the portfolio for Foreign Affairs to Wu Ting-fang, and that of Justice to Chin Chia-pen, and objects to the appointment of Hwang Hsing as Minister of War, on the ground that Yuan Shih-kai would most probably not agree to the appointment. The matter was left over to a further conference. Yuan and Sun outwardly decline to accept the posts allotted to them.

Dr. Sun telegraphed to Wu Ting-fang that he would relinquish the presidency on the issue of an Imperial Edict announcing the abdication of the Manchu Emperor. Tang Shao-i has also received telegraphic advice that on the initiative of Chang, Chinese Minister at Washington, a telegraphic memorial was sent to Peking under the joint signature of all the Chinese Ministers in American and European countries, recommending the Emperor to abdicate the Throne.

EDICT OF ABDICATION.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuzuo* reports that as the result of a Council before the Throne a semi-official note has been handed to the members of *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking, intimating that it has been decided that the Emperor shall abdicate and the Imperial House retreat to Jehol, after issuing an Imperial Edict directing Yuan Shih-kai to constitute a new Government. The issue of the Imperial Edict is expected every moment.

It is also reported that the Empress Dowager demanded from Yuan Shih-kai

an annuity of five million *taels*, but Yuan Shih-kai cut it down to one and a half million *taels*, pleading financial difficulty. The Empress Dowager expressed a desire to rely on the assistance of foreign soldiers to guard the Detached Palace at Jehol against probable attacks by the revolutionists, but Yuan Shih-kai refused to comply with the Imperial wishes.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL POLICY.

BY DR. TANAKA.

(TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "NEW JAPAN.")

I.

As was experienced by Italy after the unification of the kingdom, in the administration of state finance a blindly positive policy brings as a rule dire results. Upon the completion, in the year 1861, of her unification, in which she almost exhausted her national resources, Italy found herself naturally confronted with the necessity of a thorough financial readjustment. In the then condition of the country this was impossible, since the Central Government was obliged to follow a financial policy more positive than negative in view of the necessity of appeasing and winning the hearts of the unified states, and the country's position among the world's Powers necessitating the implementing of her defensive equipment. Thus the total amount of Italian loan bonds, aggregating some 2,400,000,000 *lire* in the year 1861, increased to well nigh 5,700,000 *lire* in 1871, to 9,800,000,000 *lire* in 1880, and to 12,000,000,000 *lire* in the year 1892. It is well to note also that, as a consequence of the Government's positive financial policy, in the short period of ten years following the unification of the kingdom, the deficit in the ordinary revenue aggregated approximately 3,070,000,000 *lire*. This means that the financial deficit of the country amounted on an average to some 300,000,000 *lire* per annum in the period under notice. The financial difficulties Italy thus had to suffer under were, of course, due to her military expansion and to her indiscreet colonial policy, in total disregard of her national power. As remedial measures, taxes were increased as often as possible, yet the deficit in the State treasury remained unconquered and foreign bonds tended to show an increase. In the year 1878 Maliani, upon his assumption of the office of Finance Minister, effected more or less financial readjustment with a view to the abolition of bad taxes and a fair division of the national burden of taxation. But he, too, failed to effect any fundamental readjustment, and thus for about sixty years after the unification of the country the State finances remained in a most chaotic condition. To make the situation worse, in the year 1888 Italy had to fight with France a so-called tariff war, which dealt a severe blow to her national power and put her State finances in even greater difficulties. Italian foreign bonds were for the most part in the hands of French capitalists, who, however, upon the outbreak of the tariff war, disposed of them, and this naturally threatened to completely destroy the financial confidence reposed in the Italian Government.

In these adverse circumstances the State treasury annually showed a growing deficit; foreign bonds constantly increased; the conversion of bank-notes was suspended, and taxes upon taxes were imposed, until the people began to bend and stagger under the enormous burdens. What was more intolerable, the collection of taxes had to be made by means of military force. In fact, what with the tariff war, the financial pressure of foreign capitalists and the outcry of discontent echoing throughout the entire length and breadth of the land, Italy in those days was practically on the verge of being drowned in a sea of pecuniary difficulties. Just at this juncture it was, that the famous Italian financier, Sonnino, ap-

peared and succeeded in completely extricating the country. Let the fact be noted here that Sonnino achieved the financial readjustment with success, not by reason of any special measures, but because he pursued a negative policy honestly consistent with the condition of the State finances. Upon appointment to the post of Finance Minister in 1893, Sonnino laid before the Italian Parliament a full report of the financial conditions, and insisted that nothing short of a negative policy would rescue the country from bankruptcy. To do this he refrained from blind military expansion, postponed railway construction and abandoned a colonial policy. In regard to the construction of railways, the Italian public were long of opinion that as railways are indispensable for the development of national industries, they should be constructed by resorting to the issue of loan bonds. But to this Sonnino took exception. He insisted that railways constructed when the people are financially depressed and the State on the point of bankruptcy, would only hinder, and never promote the development of national industries, because railways contribute to the development of a country's power only when the country's economical development is such as to make a full utilization of the railways possible. With these convictions ever in view, Sonnino clung to the policy not to construct railways unless a surplus was found in the ordinary revenue. He resigned his post in the year 1896. Yet in that short period the Italian financial situation underwent a complete change, the ordinary revenue gradually beginning from 1897 to show a little surplus every year. Italy is now considered to show the most stable financial conditions of all the Powers in the world. In the above brief history of Italian financial development, we can easily see what an evil effect a blindly positive financial policy, pursued in and out of season, can produce upon a country's economics and how efficacious is a negative policy in extricating a country from such financial troubles.

The same malady can be cured by the same medicine. The above preliminary observations, though rather lengthy, are nevertheless in place, since they throw a light upon Japan's financial policy, in view of the remarkable resemblance the condition of her State finances bears to those of Italy in the past. It is a matter to be much deplored that Japan has been plunged in her present financial difficulties by treading the same track since the Russo-Japanese War as Italy trod in the past. Since the Japan-China War, increases of taxes have been frequent in Japan and with the growing increase in the amount of loan bonds, the people were saddled with a pretty heavy burden when the outbreak of the late war necessitated an increase of taxes by almost 136,000,000 yen. In view of the exigencies of the situation at that time, both the Government authorities and the people at large did their utmost for the attainment of the object for which they fought the expensive war. In fact the imperative necessity to meet the required war expenses compelled them to have recourse to every possible resource in utter disregard of the distress of the general public or the inequality of the burdens. Upon the restoration of peace, therefore, the contraction of the State finances and the readjustment of the taxation system ought to have been made the first of the Government's post-bellum undertakings. But the first Saionji Cabinet, in blind pursuance of a decidedly positive policy in the financial administration, not only perpetuated the special war taxes, but even increased anew the taxpayers' burdens by some twenty-five million yen. The annual deficiency in the State Treasury, the Government tried to fill by resorting to bond issues. But an evil policy can never gain any permanent success, and the depression that immediately came over the general economic world made the outcry of public discontent against the authorities all the louder, until the flotation of any more loans became at last a plain impossibility. Thus it was that the first Saionji Cabinet

met its downfall. Its fate was a good lesson to its successors, the late Katsura Cabinet, which accordingly announced its policy of issuing no bonds, postponing Government undertakings not in the range of immediate necessity, and curtailing the State expenditure. It must be noted that Prince Katsura is not the kind of statesman to cling, at the cost of his post, to any settled policy, but one who has proved himself to be a past master in the art of maintaining his own political position by means of patch-work and shifts. It is little wonder that he finally committed himself to a positive policy, and, as if totally forgetful of his first professions, undertook, or tried to undertake, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances, an increase of the military equipment, the reconstruction and extension of the nationalized railways, riparian work, military and other necessary and unnecessary provisions in Chosen, and also the so-called plans for the development of domestic industries. These schemes naturally necessitated the Cabinet having constant recourse to the issue of loan bonds, and this fatal policy, coupled with the growing deficiency annually found in the State treasury, at length sealed the fate of the Katsura Ministry.

Thus Japan pursued a positive financial policy for some seven long years, from the time of the late Russo-Japanese war; and the situation of the State finances came to assume for a time no less gravity than those of Italy in the past. At this juncture the Saionji Cabinet has risen to power for a second time. The creation of the new Ministry in our estimation does not inspire any particular confidence, and yet it is a matter of congratulation that in the selection and installation of the post of Finance Minister, of Mr. Yamamoto, who was a banker connected in no way with any political party, we may find a reason to believe that Marquis Saionji, taking warnings from his past bitter experiences, is resolved not to repeat the former failure. As scarcely needs stating, the contraction of the State finance must remain a plain impossibility so long as the Finance Minister is selected from among the *Seiyu-kai*, who profess a positive financial policy. Hence the fact that the Premier wisely selected for Minister of Finance one out of reach of any political party's influence, renders the situation somewhat like that in Italy when Sonnino was appointed as Finance Minister of that country. We sincerely hope that our new Minister of Finance, who has thus ascended to his post, will also successfully achieve, like the great Italian financier, the onerous task of financial readjustment in due course of time.

Mr. Yamamoto, in his determination to follow a negative policy for the time being, has carefully excluded from the budget for next fiscal year the schemes for the broad gauge railway construction, naval and military expansion, harbour repairs and construction, the opening of the Grand Exhibition, and so forth. This clearly convinces us of the fact that the positive policy which the *Seiyu-kai* has hitherto advocated has been completely discarded, and the Government, that has long been astray, has now been set on its right course. Some seem to regard this change of the Government's policy as not entirely welcome, as if they believed a negative policy to be always retrogressive. It is true the reconstruction of the railways to the broad gauge, the expansion of the national defensive equipment, the construction of perfect harbours as well as water-ways, are all schemes not entirely undesirable. Yet the present financial situation of our country is such as to absolutely prohibit every such undertaking. Certainly it is impossible to expand our State finances any further except either by issuing loan bonds or making an increase in the taxes. Our people are now so saddled with taxes, however, that an increase by even a *sen* might prove the last straw. The total amount of the national taxes imposed aggregate in the forty-fourth year of Meiji well nigh four hundred and ten million yen, which is an increase almost by five times as compared with the figures recorded in the twenty-sixth year, amounting to some seventy million yen. Thus the Japanese people

now bear a burden far heavier than even the Italians, the former being taxed at present approximately twenty one per cent. of their incomes as against seventeen or even less per cent. in the case of the latter. With such heavy burdens constantly weighing upon our people it is not surprising that ever since the Japan-China War the expansion of national power has been not a little impeded, as the rate of the increase of foreign trade eloquently proves. The total amount of our foreign trade doubled in the period of seven years from the twenty-seventh year of Meiji to the thirty-third year, whereas the returns in the period from the thirty-seventh year to the forty-third year showed an increase by barely one and a half times.

In these circumstances it is plain, that should our Government undertake railway reconstruction, military expansion, harbour construction and such like expensive schemes, the State finances, as a matter of necessity, will come to suffer the fate of practical bankruptcy.

THE LATE MRS. PATTON AND SHANGHAI.

A LECTURETTE ON DANCING.

Before leaving Shanghai the late Mrs. Patton arranged for the publication of a "Lecturette on Dancing." This has now been issued by the N.-C. Daily News and Herald Ltd.

In reviewing the lecturette our contemporary says:—

Mrs. Patton's lecturette on dancing, published by way of farewell to her Shanghai pupils and friends, will assuredly stand out as distinct in character from every other work on the subject with which we are acquainted. It is not a manual of instruction, no diagrams are given, and nobody should expect to learn to dance by its aid, although in more matters than one the habits of the ball-room may learn much; as for example, from the rebuke addressed to men who compel their partners always to dance backwards in straight walking. Mrs. Patton's work is rather a collection of memoirs of a most interesting career as an amateur, and subsequently professional, teacher.

There is history, too, and vastly entertaining history at that, in these recollections of a busy lifetime, which no one will read with more interest and appreciation than those whose queries, mistakes, protests and confusion are here recorded in spirit of kindly humour. For Mrs. Patton's recollections go back to the days of the great Tagliioni, and one who, in 1834, was set upon the dining-room table amid plates and glasses to "show us Tagliioni" has seen many new and strange fashions rise to popularity and sink into oblivion in the ball-rooms of the world. She can remember the indignation with which the innovation of the Laucers was received, and can register, in the cause of gracefulness and good manners, a vigorous protest against the boisterousness which has threatened to leave the triumphs of the ball-room to the strong and the much enduring.

Mrs. Patton has much to say of the mannerisms of bad dancers with amusing reminiscences of Shanghai and the "Shanghai style." Keen powers of observation, enthusiasm for the maintenance of ball room dancing as an art, and a rare sense of humour are revealed on every page of a truly delightful booklet. For the plodding duffer there is sympathy enough to rouse him to enthusiasm, and for the lion of the ball-room pointed comments that should remind him that perfection is a difficult ideal. And if Mrs. Patton "cannot pretend much regret in leaving Shanghai," Shanghai cannot fail to recognize a very real loss in the departure of Mrs. Patton.

Early on Wednesday morning fire broke out in a workshop of the Moji Ordnance Factory belonging to the Osaka Military Arsenal. In less than two hours three buildings in the factory were reduced to ashes. It is suspected that the fire was due to incendiaries.

IS JAPAN'S RELIGION NEW?

BY J. INGRAM EVAN.

Many of us were greatly surprised to read in the *Japan Mail* some days ago the lengthy excursions of Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain, endeavouring to show that the religion of Japan is a modern invention. If this were a man's conviction, one could understand him wishing to make it known, but when it comes to putting forth a theory that practically amounts to charging the ruling classes of Japan with deliberately devising a species of religious sophistry and regulation whereby to delude the masses into subservience to the Powers that be, Professor Chamberlain's attitude becomes more interesting than admirable. We regret this all the more because so many of us are his pupils and owe him an unending debt of gratitude for his linguistic assistance. We freely admit him to be a great authority on the Japanese language, and on some "things Japanese," but not on everything Japanese, certainly not on Japanese religion. Professor Chamberlain probably knows no more about Japanese religion than he does about Japanese painting, of which he has expressed so poor an opinion. With all due respect, one may hold that it is not possible for anyone not possessing a strongly religious nature to appreciate and estimate the religion of other people. Professor Chamberlain tries, but I think unsuccessfully, to be fair to the Japanese, whose hospitality he has for so many years enjoyed. Yet he would seem to hold it possible for the Japanese authorities to teach as conscientious truths what they all the while know to be fiction. We cannot suppose that the Japanese admit anything so immoral and absurd, though he ventures to quote a Japanese as saying: "We believe it though we know it is not true." Happily the Japanese are not all of this type of mind and character. If they were, the world would soon cease to have any confidence in Japan. I venture to say, that so far as the Japanese have any religion, they believe in it; and my experience is that they have religion. Moreover, I will add that it is evident from history and archaeology that the religion the Japanese believe in, is *not* new.

It would be a mere waste of time to undertake to show to those familiar with Japanese history that the people have from time immemorial believed much the same as they do to day. Their faith in a superhuman Power is as old as their history, and older; for their records, extending back even into mythological periods, bear witness to belief in a creator, albeit dualistic. If the Japanese believe, as no doubt they do, that the ruler of the Empire is the earthly representative of the divine Being, why should it be regarded as either a novelty or an absurdity to treat him with all the deference due to such a representative? This is no new creed, as Professor Chamberlain appears to assume, but one as old as China, where the people for untold generations have held the Ruler to be the representative of the Will of Heaven; and Chinese history undoubtedly shows this faith to have been at the bottom of the various revolutions that have marked the history of that country. As soon as the people believed that the ruler no longer expressed the will of Heaven, they rose up and deposed him, placing on the throne one more fitted, in their opinion, to carry out the will of Heaven for the country's good. The Japanese used to do this, as Professor Chamberlain shows, just as the English also did, but they have arrived at a period of development where the reigning sovereign so perfectly represents the will of Heaven that he holds unbroken affection in the nation's mind. A similar theory of theocracy has obtained in various nations; and therefore, how can it be charged against the Japanese that their bureaucracy has invented it as a device to keep down the ignorant classes? Hitherto the Japanese have suffered from those depreciating views as lacking in inventive faculty; but here we have one coming forward with the astonishing thesis that Japan has proven herself capable of the unprecedented feat of inventing a

religion. When the name of Auguste Comte was associated with the invention of a new religion, he admitted his failure, and was told that the only way to invent a religion was to be crucified, die, and rise again the third day. Yet we are asked to believe that in Japan it is possible to invent a new religion by the mere will of a political caucus.

Japanese religion is as old as ancestor worship and ancestor worship is as old as mankind. The three main classes of gods included in the Japanese pantheon are the ancestral gods, the communal gods and the Imperial ancestors. The ancestral gods are revered in the home, where the god-shelf, with its two lights, brings some member of the house twice a day before the family altar, that men may not forget those from whom they sprung. The communal gods, the spirits of the benefactors of the community, are given homage in the district temples. The Imperial ancestors are worshipped in the chapel of the Imperial Household and at the National shrines in Ise. Japanese religion is so very complex and has so many aspects, that it is impossible to deal with all sides of it in a brief article; but it is that aspect of it which treats of the attitude of the subject towards the Emperor which Professor Chamberlain seems to regard as recently invented. But surely, as has been suggested, this is the very oldest aspect of Japanese religion, as old certainly as the shrines at Ise. The writer of the article under review, thinks that because religion in Japan has shown various developments, in other words, because it has been marked by growth, that it therefore cannot be true; but was there ever anything alive that did not grow? Some of Professor Chamberlain's statements and comments on the subject of the so called new religion, border closely on the sarcastic, if they do not evince a tendency to ridicule! Whereas, what he is describing is really a record of Japan's earnest and honest desire and effort to deal with life, and to arrive at the best way of understanding it. Have Japan's critics of the Rationalistic Camp any better way to suggest?

Continuing, Professor Chamberlain says: Japan's "cherished beliefs" are the inventions of yesterday! Again: "Japanese officialdom acts quite naturally, after its kind, in not allowing the light to be let in, because the roots of the faith it has planted need darkness in which to grow and spread. No religion can live which is subjected to critical scrutiny." In these words we have the secret of the whole matter. The writer does not himself believe in any religion; nor does he apparently conceive the possibility of any religion being true. He seems to suggest, moreover, that there is some dishonesty on the part of religious advocacy and teaching. I am but an individual, but I feel assured that I represent many in saying that this attitude is unworthy of Professor Chamberlain. No man has the right to say that the responsible authorities of a nation deliberately keep the people in the dark, because they know the religion advocated is false; and that no religion can stand the light of investigation. Christianity has been before the light of controversy, criticism and science for 2,000 years and yet it holds the allegiance of the most moral and intelligent of the world's benefactors. There are many of the most intelligent of the Japanese who likewise believe in religion. Are there none among these as capable of knowing the difference between truth and falsehood as Professor Chamberlain, and as morally capable of abandoning what is false, cost them what it may, as he is? There are great numbers of men whose moral principles are based on religious sanctions. Are their morals therefore false? Art of a high order has usually drawn its inspiration from religion. Is art therefore false? Can the chip be of different wood from the block? Is not the most of modern philanthropy the outcome of religious conviction? Is it as false and hypocritical as the article accuses Japanese officials of being in respect to religion?

History shows that men may live without religion, but not spiritually. For most men the main inspiration to higher living will be lacking.

This is a matter in which the experience of the individual must be tested by the experience of the mass or the race. If the race is religious: then the irreligion of the individual only indicates his eccentricity, such as lameness or blindness would. But it would be obviously absurd for the blind man to say there is no sun; or the lame man, that there are no feet. Evidently critics thus deficient are not fit persons to teach the race. So, in the moral and religious sphere we have speculators and irresponsibles advising us to give up our faith in eternal Righteousness as represented in an Eternal God and Father of all; and the Japanese are asked to abandon as false and absurd the idea that there is anything higher than the human, and to violate their conviction that their Ruler can be to them the representative of Heaven on Earth; and for what? Only to accept a theory of existence so indicative of arrested development that it does not get beyond the most ancient primitive philosophy of the Greeks at the dawn of civilization, when it was taught that man is the measure of all things, that nothing is by nature true or false, good or bad, except by convention. They ask Japan to settle down to the night of a materialism that can spread without progressing; to believe in death without anything to bridge the vast gulf between death and life. But the Japanese are human, like other people, and the natural instincts of their hearts feel after the divine source whence they sprung. So divine a thing as man cannot be thus furnished without protest; he must struggle after reason and the truth. The posterity of Epicurus worshipped his memory with the same sort of idolatrous veneration that Comte yielded to Madam Clothilde de Vaux, and that John Stuart Mill did to his wife; for man must worship something. He has received a greatness from somewhere or some one; and, being at heart honest and magnanimous, he is always trying to find the source of his greatness that he may give thanks and live worthy of Him who did so much to make man what he is. Religion, therefore, is as natural to man as his admiration for beauty and goodness and truth; and if he does not find something worthy on which to lavish his affection, he will descend to something unworthy. He cannot extinguish his imperishable humanity, like some of his advisers pretend to be able to do. It is simply a matter of choosing between eternal reason and eternal unreason; and the Japanese have chosen the better part. In certain places the shadow of rationalism creeps over the sun, but the wise man knows that the sun, though obscured, is behind and unaffected by the shadow, or the foolish belief that causes it. And when the shadow passes the sun will be as bright, as mighty and as terrible as ever.

EMINENT EDUCATIONISTS.

VII.—DR. TAKATA SANAE.

(COMMUNICATED).

Dr. Takata's name is known all over Japan, says "Y.H.," the last of whose series of articles on eminent educationists we are now about to epitomize, but this is not because he is an eloquent speaker or a brilliant lecturer at the Waseda University, but owing to the fact that perhaps to him more than to anybody in the country, the rapid strides made by high-class private education during the past ten years are to be traced. Dr. Takata was born in Saitama in 1860 and took a degree in literature at the Tōkyō Imperial University in 1882. Soon after graduation he interested himself in Count Okuma's Waseda Seisaku Gakkō and took a prominent part in the organization of the Waseda University. He began life as a politician and was elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1890. For some years he continued to represent one of the Saitama constituencies in the Lower House, being known then as a warm advocate of Count Okuma's political principles, but in 1897 he became head of the Bureau of Commercial Affairs in the Foreign Office. He did not fill that post long, however, being trans-

ferred in the Department of Education, where he became a councillor and the head of the Kōtō Gakumū-kyōku (High School Business Bureau, abolished later on). But he did not take kindly to official work or to official ways, and so he subsequently went back to his old nest the Waseda School and, along with Dr. Taubouchi and Dr. Amano, devoted his whole strength to the development of the newly founded Waseda University. Notwithstanding that he is a Doctor of Law, he has in no sense been regarded as a specialist when lecturing at the University, though he has made a special study of Constitutions, particularly the English, and is recognized as an authority on the Japanese Constitution. But what he has to say from year to year is so threadbare that it fails to interest the students. His unprogressiveness is quite astonishing. (*Nennen, saikai tado dōitsu no naitō wō kuri-katsu nomi ni sugisu shite, sono futsuwasaru koto obitadashiku, gakusei mo mata neshin ni kare no kempō ron wō kiku mono hōondo nashi to iu mo ka nari to iu*). Most of the students at Waseda have not the discernment to see that Dr. Takata's forte is in organization.

If in his early years Dr. Takata had shown more deference to upper officials, he would no doubt have been appointed a Professor in the Tōkyō Imperial University. But he displayed strong antipathy to official educational methods and it was his ambition to organize a private University that in real efficiency should surpass the Government Institutions, and in that he has succeeded to a considerable extent. While many of the Waseda literary graduates have become noted authors and are an ornament to the country, those of the Imperial University are thankful enough to find teaching posts in Provincial Middle Schools. The Waseda University is about to add an Engineering and a Medical department to the already existing sections, notwithstanding the great cost of starting these departments; so that at no very distant date this privately endowed University is likely to be raised to a higher standard than that reached by the Imperial Universities. It is largely owing to the confidence placed in the Dean of the University, Dr. Takata Sanae, that large sums of money are being subscribed towards the further expansion of this seat of learning.

Among the noted novelists of the Meiji era no man was more popular throughout the country for a number of years than the late Ozaki Kōyō. He was cut off all too soon. (*Kōsen takai no kaku to naru*), suddenly became the guest of another world). Some years before his death, Ozaki suffered much from a stomach complaint. Being a true Edoite, he had made no provision for the proverbial rainy day which is apt to come to all of us. So when he recovered from his illness his numerous friends put their heads together and decided to send him a thousand yen as a congratulatory present. Now among Ozaki's friends there was an addle-headed (*hyō-rokudama*) fellow called Osada Shūō, who heard of what was going on, but thought one thousand yen to be a ridiculously small amount to present to the most famous author of the day. So he proceeded to the house of Dr. Takata and addressed him thus:—"Kōyō's friends have collected the sum of a thousand yen to send to him in token of the pleasure that his recovery affords them. But to give a great author such a paltry sum is nothing but an insult. So, in order to put them to shame, while showing my regard for Kōyō, I thought of sending him 500 yen out of my own pocket, but as I do not happen to have the money by me, I have come to ask you to lend me this amount. It need not be considered as an ordinary loan, as I am going to translate one of Hugo's works and that I will hand over to you for the Waseda Press to issue; so this 500 yen can be regarded as my remuneration for preparing the manuscript of the book." This was just the sort of proposal that this simple minded fellow would be likely to make. Dr. Takata reflected for a moment and then said:—"I agree to your proposal. I will hand over a thousand yen to you once, which

you can give Ozaki, 500 for me and 500 for you." Osada took the money and set out for Ozaki's house at once.

Nobody has heard of any translation of Osada's that has been published by the Waseda Press. It is probable that Dr. Takata never expected any return for the money he sent to Mr. Ozaki. He has the reputation of being one of the most liberal-minded of men. When deciding on the amount he ought to subscribe to various funds, he is not guided by what others give but only by how much is needed for the cause which he is furthering. By the sums he has subscribed he has often put to shame stingy capitalists, the amount of whose subscriptions has been determined by what others have given.

Among the men who have made a name for themselves by the help they have given to students after graduation, there are the late Mr. Yano Jirō, Dr. Hozumi, of the Imperial University, Mr. Kamada Eikichi, President of the Keiōgijuku, and Dr. Takata. No matter how busy he may be, Dr. Takata never refuses to see a graduate of the Waseda school who is in search of work. He treats all such men in a most cordial manner, affording to each what help is possible. It is stated that he pens quite a hundred letters of introduction for students every year. But these letters are said to resemble each other so closely that little value is attached to them. (*Takata wa semben ichiritsu no shōkaijō wō kaku wō motte, kinrai Takata no shōkaijō wa sukoburu sono sōba wō otoshi, yakkō naru baiai hanahada sukunashi to kiku*). But the effect produced by the letters does not make the kindness shown by the writer anything the less praiseworthy.

Dr. Takata's wife is the eldest daughter of Baron Maejima Mitsu. She is said to be a very clever woman with many artistic tastes. It is perhaps owing to her influence over him that the Doctor has taken to attending *Nō* performances and Japanese concerts in recent years.

THE ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT REPORTS

The editorial comments of the *Tōkyō Asahi Shinbun* on Government policy are always characterized by a sobriety that is rarely found in the news' columns of this sensational journal. It is not customary for Japanese newspaper editors to exercise control over the writers of reports and the compilers of the various announcements that appear in their papers. Consequently the leading articles in these papers are pitched in a different key to that of the news paragraphs which fill up the space available.

In a recent issue of the *Tōkyō Asahi*, I find the following remarks on the administration of the present Cabinet. When the Seiyūkai is out of power, it is wont to severely criticize the methods followed by the bureaucrats who are carrying on the Government. Noticing this, the public naturally expects a Seiyūkai Cabinet* on its assuming office to practise what has been preached. On the former occasion when they came into power (in 1906) no radical changes in the mode of administering the government were made. And on the present occasion, though it may be still early to pronounce judgment on their procedure, it does not look as if the abuses which existed under the Katsura Government would be rendered impossible by the action of the Seiyūkai. Of course there are some things connected with government that no new Cabinet can suddenly change. Though a novel appearance may be given to the front part of the stage, the background remains unaltered.

One thing that the Seiyūkai was constantly saying when out of power was that the Katsura Government was too fond of keeping its policy a secret and that the nation was not taken into its

* Several newspapers persist in applying the term "Seiyūkai Cabinet" to the present Government, but the majority of the Ministers are non-party men.

confidence in the way that its habitual in constitutionally governed Western countries. But in this respect it can not be said that the present Saionji Government is any improvement on the Katsura Cabinet. Of course everybody recognizes that in diplomacy a certain amount of secrecy is necessary. But our Governments habitually err on the wrong side. There is no constitutionally governed country in the West that conceals things to the extent we do when the nation would be largely benefited by publicity. And what is the motive for concealment in nine cases out of ten? Nothing but a desire to cover up certain diplomatic blunders perpetrated. (*Seifu jika no shissai shikkō [失行] wō oian to suru ni idetaru wa gōjin ga tsune ni nigamigashiku kanjitaru tokoro nari*). If the Government look counsel with the nation and when it made mistakes acknowledged them publicly and did the best to right them, there would be no need of all the secrecy now practised. It is only excessive regard for their own convenience and their own reputation that makes officials act as they do. That craftiness of this kind should cause umbrage among honest citizens is but natural. But the question which it is pertinent to ask is, in the matter of taking the nation into its confidence, is the present Cabinet any better than the last? Hitherto it has given no plain proof of a change of policy in this particular.

During the last session of the Diet, the Seiyūkai requested the Government to publish the correspondence that had been carried on with foreign countries on various questions. The Government certainly ought to put the Diet in possession of documents that would enable the members to form intelligent opinions on its whole policy in home as well as foreign affairs. Why should Japan fall behind England, France, America and Germany in this respect? In these countries the reports published by Governments resemble those of joint-stock business companies. From the books laid on the tables of the legislative assemblies it is possible to learn how all the various problems that the Governments have had to deal with have been disposed of. Since all existing Governments in these countries are placed in power by the people, it is obligatory on these Governments to give an account of their stewardship to the persons who have entrusted them with authority. But here our Government only furnishes the Diet with meagre statistics every year and feels under no obligation to give detailed information respecting their past doings. It is on account of the great difficulty of obtaining accurate information on what has been going on that so much of the session is occupied with answering the questions put to the Government Delegates. Is it too much to expect of the present Government that it should follow the practice prevailing in other constitutionally governed countries and publish the letters that have been exchanged on important questions? If this practice were once inaugurated, no Government could subsequently refuse to observe it. It would tend to strengthen the hands of a Ministry by winning the sympathy of the nation. If, now that the Seiyūkai is strongly represented in the Cabinet, it resolves to press for the adoption of this policy, it will certainly reap the benefits to be derived therefrom later on when it finds itself in the position of an Opposition Party. Regard it from what point of view we may, the issue of full reports of Government action is a measure which should be adopted without delay.

W.D.

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended January 14th are as follows:—

	Small Pox.	Dysen- tery.	Ty- phoid.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Para- Typhus.
Yokohama—						
New cases...	1	1	2	3	1	1
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Districts:—						
New cases...	—	3	9	2	—	—
Died	—	—	4	2	—	—

THE CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

TEXT OF JUDGEMENT.

The following is a full translation of the judgment pronounced by the Yokohama Court in the criminal case in which Messrs J. E. Hargreaves, Matsumura Takishige and Sato Kenji are charged with forgery and utterance of official documents and embezzlement:—

PRINCIPAL TEXT.

The accused Hargreaves and Matsumura are each sentenced to three years' imprisonment and Sato to two years' imprisonment.

Of the articles seized *wo* No. 97, *ken* 1 of No. 7, *ken* 1 of No. 8, *ken* 1 of No. 14, *ken* 1 and 2 of No. 16, *yo* 1-8 of No. 30, *yo* 1-3 of No. 33, *yo* 1-2 of No. 35, *yo* No. 37, *yo* No. 39, *yo* No. 41, *yo* 1-2 of No. 43, *yo* No. 45, the receipts numbered 1-2 of *yo* No. 1 of *wo* No. 649, invoices numbered 2 of *yo* No. 6 and the seal numbered *ken* No. 27 of *wo* No. 97, are confiscated. The others are to be returned to their respective owners.

REASONS.

Both the accused Hargreaves and Matsumura were employed by the Yokohama branch of Babcock and Wilcox, a British corporation, dealing in the import and sale of steam engines, etc., No. 23, Yamashita cho, Yokohama, the accused Hargreaves as the sub-manager and cashier, and the accused Matsumura as book-keeper and salesman. The accused Sato was employed by the Toyo Transport Agency and was engaged in passing through the Custom House the goods consigned to the said branch of the British company. Acting in collusion, the three accused decreased the invoice value of the machines forwarded from the company's head office in London and forged invoices in the name of the head office and presented them to the Custom House to evade the import duty, embezzling the amount so evaded. In order to cover up any trace of their crimes they also forged Customs receipts in the name of Customs branch treasury and forwarded them to the head office, and thus committed the following crimes consecutively, with criminal intent.

1.—On June 8th, 1910, they forged an invoice sent from Babcock and Wilcox in London and presented it to the Kobe Customs, and paid 22.72 *yen* as import duty thereon but, pretending that they had paid 92.34 *yen* according to the invoice value issued by the head office, they forged a Customs receipt (Exhibit *yo* 1 of No. 43 of *wo* No. 44) for the latest amount in the name of the Kobe branch treasury, and forwarded the same to the said head office in London, embezzling the balance, amounting to 69.62 *yen*, and at the same time forging a receipt for 50.26 *yen* in the name of the Kobe branch treasury and forwarding it to the head office in London.

2.—On the 11th of the same month the accused forged receipts in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for 239.69 *yen* and for 70.42 *yen* (Exhibits 1-2 of *yo* No. 35 of *wo* No. 44) and sent them to the said head office.

3.—During the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said company and presented it to the Yokohama Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 677.97 *yen*, but pretending that they paid 1,333.49 *yen*, they forged a receipt in the name of the Yokohama branch treasury for the latter amount (Exhibit No. 97 of *wo* No. 44 and *ken* 1 of No. 7) and forwarded it to the said head office in London and embezzled the balance 455.52 *yen*.

4.—On the 23rd of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said company and presented it to the Yokohama Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 96.22 *yen*, but pretending that they paid 568.30 *yen*, they forged a receipt in the name of the Yokohama branch treasury for the latter amount (Exhibit No. 97 of *wo* No. 44, and *ken* 1 of No. 8) and forwarded it to the head office, embezzling the difference amounting to 472.08 *yen*.

5.—On July 5th of the same year the accused

forged eight receipts in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for 138.74 *yen*, 357.02 *yen*, 228.54 *yen*, 49.88 *yen*, and 3.94 *yen* (Exhibits 1-8 of *yo* No. 30 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded them to the said head office in London.

6.—On the 8th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said company and produced the same to the Nagasaki Custom House, paying thereon import duty amounting to 1,054.46 *yen*, but pretending that they had paid 1,484.29 *yen* they forged a receipt in the name of the Nagasaki branch treasury for the latter amount (Exhibit *yo* No. 41 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded it to the said head office in London, embezzling the difference amounting to 429.83 *yen*.

7.—On the 16th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said head office and produced it to the Kobe Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 932.63 *yen*, but pretending that they had paid 1,364.21 *yen*, they forged a receipt in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for the latter amount (Exhibit *yo* No. 37 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded it to the said head office in London, embezzling the difference amounting to 431.58 *yen*.

8.—On the 18th of the same month the accused forged a receipt in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for 80 *yen* (Exhibit *yo* No. 39 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded it to the said head office in London.

9.—On the 27th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said head office in like manner and produced it to the Yokohama Custom House, and paid thereon import duty amounting to 82.88 *yen*, but pretending they had paid 214.68 *yen*, they forged a receipt in the name of the Yokohama branch treasury for the latter amount and forwarded it to the said head office in London, embezzling the difference amounting to 131.80 *yen*.

10.—On August 2nd of the same year the accused forged a receipt in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for 482.56 *yen* (Exhibit *yo* No. 45 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded it to the said head office in London.

11.—On the 16th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said head office in like manner and produced it to the Moji Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 3,412 *yen*, but pretending they had paid 3,939.88 *yen*, forged a receipt in the name of the Moji branch treasury for the latter amount (Exhibits 1-2 of *ken* No. 16 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded it to the said head office in London, embezzling the difference, amounting to 527.88 *yen*.

12.—On the 17th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the head office, in like manner and produced it to the Kobe Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 3,462.54 *yen*, but pretending they had paid 3,929.41 *yen*, they forged three receipts in the name of the Kobe branch treasury for 466.87 *yen*, 127.45 *yen* and 3,325.09 *yen* (Exhibits 1-3 of *yo* 33 of *wo* No. 97) and forwarded them to the said head office in London, embezzling the difference, amounting to 466.87 *yen*.

13.—On September 3rd of the same year, the accused forged a receipt in the name of the Yokohama branch treasury for 284.52 *yen* (Exhibit *yo* No. 2 of *wo* 649) for the purpose of forwarding it to the said head office in London.

14.—On the 10th of the same month the accused forged an invoice of the said head office in like manner and produced it to the Yokohama Custom House and paid thereon import duty amounting to 500.82 *yen*, but pretending they had paid 857.18 *yen* they forged two receipts in the name of the Yokohama branch for 136.09 *yen* and 721.09 *yen* (Exhibits 1-2 of *yo* No. 1 of *wo* No. 649) and forwarded them to the said office in London, embezzling the difference amounting to 356.36 *yen*.

In this case the accused Matsumura deposed:—The Yokohama branch of the said firm of Babcock & Wilcox has its head office in London and deals in steam engines, etc. The business routine is that when the Yokohama branch office

receives a consignment of goods from the head office, the invoice forwarded from the head office is produced through the transport agency and after receipt from the Custom House of a demand note for import duty on the goods specified in that invoice, the money is drawn from the Specie Bank by means of cheques and the duty paid to the Customs treasury office, the receipt therefor being presented to the Custom House to get the goods passed through. Afterwards the receipt for Customs duty and the receipt for transporting charges incidental to the import are forwarded to the head office. He first entered the service of the said Yokohama branch office on January 4th, 1908, as translator and was afterwards transferred to the shipping department from about November, 1909. He had since then been attending to the duties connected with the importation and sale of goods. While thus employed he connived with the accused Hargreaves, sub-manager of the Yokohama branch office, to forge the invoices forwarded from the head office, since about June, 1910, and evaded the Customs duty by reducing the true invoice value by twenty or thirty per cent., but pretending to have paid the Customs duty according to the value declared in the true invoice, in order to acquire the difference, by sending a forged receipt of the Customs treasury. As a result of a conference he got the invoice forms printed by a Chinese printer under the instructions of Mr. Hargreaves and also had the seals of the Yokohama and Moji sub-branch offices made, and also bought the type of the Yokohama, Kobe, Moji and Nagasaki branch offices of the Government treasury. With regard to the forgery of the receipts, they asked the accused Sato, an employee of the Toyo Gumi, a transport agency, who is undertaking the Customs House business and transportation of goods for the Yokohama branch office under contract, to insert on the receipts the amounts, etc., as their handwriting was known to the head office, and having obtained the consent of the accused Sato, they forged the invoices and receipts, and each time produced the invoices as forged to the Custom Houses and forwarded to the head office all the receipts, excepting those not indicated in the judgment, and thus obtained the money shown in the judgment. The money so obtained was all handed over to Mr. Hargreaves, he himself obtaining from Mr. Hargreaves three months' salary (which was 70 *yen* per month) twice a year in addition to the allowance of a portion of the profit arising from the Nippon Kikai-Yohin Shokai, conducted by the said Yokohama branch office, as well as the Murayama-Gumi, an imaginary firm, and also some bonuses. The spoils were not divided with the accused Sato, but the firm gave him the contract for all transporting business of the said Yokohama branch office.

In the cases shown in the latter part of No. 1, and Nos. 2, 5, 8, 10 and 13 of the judgment, the forgery was not committed with a view to embezzling the difference in the Customs duty, but to make them out in the same form as the other receipts. In asking the accused Sato for assistance, he did not tell him explicitly that they were going to forge the invoices, but told him that they were contriving to evade the Customs duty and to embezzle the difference by forging the receipts issued by the branch treasury office. He thought that the accused Sato must have known they were also forging the invoices, as otherwise it would be impossible to evade the Customs duty.

The above deposition is entered in the record of the preliminary examination and further confirmed by subsequent depositions in Court.

The accused Sato Kenji deposed that the Yokohama branch of the firm of Babcock and Wilcox was a customer of the Toyo Gumi Transport Agency where he was employed. "I used to visit the office and have undertaken the business relating to the passage of goods through the Custom House and also their transportation. About June 1910, I was asked by the accused Matsumura to make some alteration in a receipt for transporting

charges. When I asked for the reason, he simply replied it was a matter of convenience to the office. Afterwards I was again asked to make alterations in the receipts for Customs duties, the accused Matsumura explaining to me that he and Mr. Hargreaves intended to evade the Customs and thus embezzle the difference by forwarding to the head office the forged receipts. I consented to the request, as he promised to give me the contract for all the transporting business. I accordingly inserted the amounts on the receipts Nos 5 and 7 and other receipts shown in the judgment as well as the characters for Sanke Shokai, and also affixed a seal having the inscription Sato, and gave them to Matsumura. I was told by Matsumura that the difference would be pocketed by Mr. Hargreaves. On many occasions the amounts of cheques made out by the Yokohama branch of the said company exceeded the amount payable for Customs duty and in each case I handed the excess over to Matsumura, after having passed the goods through the Custom House, and I saw Matsumura hand the money to Mr. Hargreaves. Further, when an attempt was made to evade the import duty at the Moji Custom House in regard to the consignment shown in No. 11 of the judgment, the invoice value was considered too low and a supplementary collection of duty was ordered by the Custom House. Whereupon I accompanied Matsumura to Mr. Hargreaves' villa in Kamakura where Matsumura conferred with him on the matter, when they decided to pay the supplementary duty demanded. On the following evening I visited the Yokohama branch office when Matsumura received the money from Mr. Hargreaves and handed it over to me.

"All these facts made me believe that the difference in the Customs duty was pocketed by Mr. Hargreaves."

The above deposition is entered in the record of the preliminary examination of the present case.

A deposition of Mitsuhashi Yukio, a witness, is also entered in the record of the preliminary examination, which reads:—I am an employee of the Yokohama branch of Babcock & Wilcox. After the disclosure of the present case, Mr. Metcalf, manager of the said Yokohama branch, told me that this was the doing of Mr. Hargreaves and Matsumura. He expected that the penalty would be pretty heavy, but he would not put the case into the hands of a lawyer. He would rather let the matter take its natural course.

The accused Hargreaves stated in Court: I have been in the employ of the Yokohama branch of Babcock and Wilcox since March 1908, and was in charge of the whole business of the said office, paying and receiving money, issuing cheques, etc.

Putting all the evidence together, the court concludes that the crime was committed by the accused concerned.

When the legal aspects of the case are considered, the Court finds that the forgery of invoices committed by the accused comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 159 of the Criminal Law; and their utterance, under Clause 1 of Article 161 and Clause 1 of Article 159 of the same law, while the forgery of receipts comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 155 of the same law and their utterance under Clause 1 of Article 158 and Clause 1 of Article 155 of the same law. The embezzlement committed by the accused Hargreaves comes under the purview of Article 253 of the same law, while the same action committed by Matsumura and Sato comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 252 by virtue of Article 253 and Clause 2 of Article 156 of the same law. Inasmuch as there exists the relation of means and effect between the forgery and the utterance, gravity must be laid on the side of the utterance by virtue of the latter part of Clause 1 of Article 54 and also of Article 10 of the same law. Further, as the forgery of the documents, their utterance and embezzlement form one consecutive crime, the provisions of Article 55 of the same law are applicable respectively, and as it forms a case

of the concurrence of several offences, Articles 45, 47 and 10 are applicable and the punishment is assessed on the aggravation of the single crime of the utterance of forged receipts, and the terms of imprisonment determined within the limits presented therefor.

Of the articles seized, the receipts and invoices shown in the principal text are confiscated by virtue of No. 3 of Clause 2 of Article 19, and also the seals by virtue of No. 2 of Clause 1 and Clause 2 of the same Article. All other articles seized are to be dealt with in accordance with Article 202 of the Law of Criminal Procedure. The Court, therefore, decides the case as shown in the principal text.

In the Criminal Division of the Yokohama District Court.

Judge (presiding) HIGASHI KAMEGORO.
" OAO KEMIN.

Clerk of the Court MASUNAGA SHOSHII.
ISHII KINTARO.

(Dated) December 25, 1911.

THE RUMOURS OF A BRITISH PROTECTORATE IN THIBET.

The chaotic upheaval that China is now experiencing is naturally bringing many attendant benefits, evils, and changes in its wake. It is already authoritatively announced that Russia has officially entered the ring in connexion with Mongolia and that it is almost a certainty that this great northern territory will become to all intents and purposes a portion of the huge Russian Empire. The announcement of negotiations concerning this change has not taken any student of world politics by surprise, as it was apparent to all that in the eventual splitting up of China—as appears very evident—the "Colossus of the Snows" would place its hand upon Mongolia. It must be admitted that the interference of Russia is being conducted in a most proper and circumspect manner and in full accordance with the tenets of what is known as International Law. She has been asked by the Mongolians to arbitrate between themselves and the Chinese Court at Peking concerning their independence; and with the benign staidness of the great, has willingly consented. There is but little doubt that the result will mean that Mongolia will become independent; and also that Russia will become the suzerain Power. For maybe a year or two, this condition of affairs will remain apparently unaltered; but during that time, the gradual "Russification" of the Province will be proceeded with; and suddenly will come the announcement that Mongolia has become a portion of the Russian Empire. On top of this intervention of Russia, we now have rumours and reports that Great Britain is intending to do the same thing in Thibet. It is true that at present we have nothing official to go upon in respect to these rumours, but it is more than probable that they are based on solid fact. Inasmuch as Russia cannot afford to have a hostile State upon her borders,—as Mongolia might become in a possible Chinese Republic—neither can Great Britain allow Thibet to become independent and over-run with lawlessness and brigands, as it would certainly be were the strong hands of a stable Government removed. It was only a few years ago that the Indian Government was forced to dispatch Colonel Younghusband with a large military force to Lhasa to insist on the opening of the trade routes and the suppression of brigandage. If that was necessary when the province was under the rule of China, one can readily imagine the state of affairs that would exist if Thibet was left to its own resources, or declined to acknowledge either the Insurgents or the Imperialists as its Master.

One has but to climb that mighty range of mountains—the Himalayas—to step into Thibet; and it must be remembered that it is in Darjeeling, on the Indian side of the range, that the Dalai Lama is now taking his case under the protection of the Indian Government. The

proposal—according to rumour—is that the Dalai Lama shall be escorted back to Lhasa by British and Indian troops. There he will be installed as the Head of the State. Advising him, will be that quiet unassuming British gentleman—the British Resident. Whilst behind him, will be the British Raj. Should these rumours prove to be true, then the improvement, the advancement, and the safety of Thibet are assured. It must be always remembered that Great Britain is not hungering after new Colonies or Dependencies. She has quite as many as she requires, and the more that she obtains, the greater her responsibilities. Yet, the fact remains, that a great Power like Great Britain is driven into greater responsibilities by the force of circumstances. When one looks in a very calm manner at the attitude of Britain and Russia towards the complex situation in which China is now placed, one can almost believe in that great Arabic word "Kismet." "It is written," said the ancients; and 1912 proves the fact.

LADIES' LAWN TENNIS AND CROQUET CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club was held in the upper room of the Gaiety on the morning of the 16th inst., when the following Committee was elected for 1912:—

President, Mrs. Syme-Thomson, Vice-President, Mrs. Stitt, Hon. Treas. Mrs. Crowe, Gardens, Mrs. Hayward, Hon. Sec. Mrs. Edgison, Ball, Mrs. Read.

The Treasurer's Report for 1911 was presented at the meeting as follows:

Receipts.	Ven.
To Balance from 1910	2,157 26
To Subscriptions	3,826 00
To Interest earned	99 33
	6,082 59
Expenditure.	
By Ground Rent	2 6 25
By Wages	1,082 14
By Property upkeep	750 98
By Garden expenses	194 17
By Refreshments	444 56
By Gear	990 22
By Secretarial	1 6 85
By Tournament Prizes	31 50
By Balance	2,305 95
	6,082 58

1912.	
To Balance	2,895 95
Consisting of Fixed Deposit	2,000 00
Consisting of cash in Hongkong Bank	308 67
Consisting of cash in hand of Hon. Treas.	2 28
	2,305 92

SHORTHAND SYSTEMS.

Shorthand writers will be interested to hear that owing to a Gregg writer having won the medal presented by Isaac Pitman & Sons to the College of Preceptors, London, for two years in succession, Messrs. Pitman have withdrawn the medal. Messrs. Pitman desired to restrict the award to candidates who used the Pitman system and the council of the College were unable to accept the restriction.

The Gregg system, it may be added, is what is known as a "cursive" system, the characters used being restricted to two slopes, or three if horizontal characters be included. It was originally published many years ago under the name of "Lightning Phonography," but has since been much improved and now seems to be becoming very popular. A shorthand expert, himself a Pitman writer, informs us that the system is easy to learn and easy to write. As to whether it is superior in legibility to Pitman's, however, some doubts may be expressed.

Messrs. Crowther & Co. of Kobe are the agents for the Gregg publications.

YOKOHAMA AMATEUR ROWING CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club was held on Friday afternoon last in the Boat House, Mr. V. R. Bowden presiding over a large attendance.

Mr. T. H. G. Kenderdine, the Hon. Secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting, it was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting should be taken as read.

The Chairman then rose and said:—

GENTLEMEN:—You have met this afternoon to receive from your Committee the 40th Annual Report and Accounts, and to elect a new Committee and Officers for the current year, and while congratulating the Club upon having attained such a respectable age as that of 40 years, I am sorry to say that the Accounts do not show so satisfactory a state of affairs as I had hoped and anticipated when I last had the honour of addressing you. On that occasion I expressed the hope that during the year just past, we might be enabled to pay off our debentures, and see the Club entirely free of debt. That hope, as you will see from the Accounts has not been realised, in fact we have only just managed to scrape through the year without getting into debt. There are some people who hold the opinion that it is a good thing for an institution to be in debt to some extent, but I have never been able to understand their point of view: and always much prefer to see both people and institutions free of debt, and building up a reserve for the inevitable rainy day.

I would therefore again express the hope that during the current year every effort will be made to pay off our few remaining debentures, and start 1913 with a better credit balance than we can now boast of. A glance at the accounts and report will show you that during the past year we have had a continuance of the falling membership to which I have had to refer at the last two annual meetings, and a consequent falling off in the subscriptions received. There has also been a considerable falling off in our Bar and other receipts; and on top of this reduction in our income, there has been a heavy increase in our expenditure owing to repairs rendered necessary by damage caused by the typhoon of last summer. The net result is that we have only been able to just make our income and expenditure balance. Dealing with the most serious question of our falling membership, I would bring prominently before you the fact that our income from members' subscriptions and entrance fees has fallen from 4,702 yen in 1909, and 4,834 yen in 1910, to 4,183 yen in 1911. That is to say we are about 650 yen worse off this year than last. This, Gentlemen, is a matter which vitally affects the interests of the Club but the remedy rests entirely in the hands of the members themselves. For the very moderate subscription of 10 yen per annum, we give our athletic members the advantages of Rowing, Swimming and Aquatic Sports, while for those who are less strenuously inclined, there are rowing boats, and during the summer the coolest lounge in Yokohama, in the shape of our Club balcony,—to say nothing of the use of the billiard tables, a fair supply of current periodicals and newspapers, and refreshments at extremely moderate prices. I am sure that if our members would bring these advantages prominently before their friends and acquaintances who have not yet joined the club, we should speedily see the result in a largely increased membership which would relieve your Committee of the constant anxiety with regard to finance. I commend this matter most earnestly to the attention of each individual member, for if the present decline in membership continues for another year or two you will be faced with either an increase in the annual subscription or a curtailment of your present privileges. And while on the subject of falling receipts I commend to the attention of the incoming Committee the fact that the

locker receipts show a falling off from 110 yen in 1909 to 77 yen in the present year. There may be some good reason for this, but it needs special attention from the new Treasurer. Boat rents have also fallen from 227 yen in 1909 to nil in 1911. Our Bar receipts also show a woeful falling off, being less than half of those of previous years. Whether this is due to our present members being a less thirsty crowd than formerly, or to the great reduction made in prices, or to a combination of both, I cannot say. In any case it is the only falling off in receipts which I view without regret, as I consider that a Club established solely for purposes of recreation, should not look to its Bar account to help pay its way. (Hear, hear.) On the expenditure side of the account, I find that we have kept very closely to that of previous years; the only noteworthy differences being a reduction of about 950 yen on the barge and 850 yen on boats. During the present year, however, a large amount will have to be spent in repairing the typhoon damages on the slip and barge, which further emphasizes the need of increased membership to which I have already referred. I have dealt at such length with the financial aspect that I have left myself but little time for other subjects.

Due as usual to our constantly changing membership there has been several changes in the personnel of our Committee and it has been difficult to keep it up to its full strength. We have been fortunate again in having had an able and energetic Secretary in Mr. Kenderdine, and I learn with regret that he finds the exigencies of business prevent him from again undertaking this duty. There is a fine chance here for an energetic and ambitious member to fill this vacancy. We have been pleased to welcome back amongst us Mr. W. Hayward, who kindly took up the position of Treasurer on the retirement of Mr. R. C. Bowden early in the past year.

The Chairman also referred to the good work done by Mr. G. C. Allcock, their Captain, in a position it was very difficult to fill. He had worked early and late in the interests of the Club, and during the season last year, when they were trying to bring away the trophy from Kobe, he was continually on deck with his men, advising and guiding them. Mr. Allcock was eligible for re-election, and he (the speaker) hoped personally that they would elect him to show their appreciation of good work. He must not omit to mention that Mr. A. L. Robinson was coach for the Interport crew and that he deserved a vote of thanks for his services. (Applause.) With regard to prizes he regretted to say that during the past year the response for subscriptions had not been nearly so generous as in previous years. They were now practically the only athletic club that took any prominent place in the sports of the community, and he thought that if the matter were properly placed before the taxpayers they would gladly subscribe to the prize fund. With regard to the rowing season, they would join with him in regretting that they were unsuccessful in the Interport events. However, he hoped that in the current year, in their own water, they might be able to wipe the harbour with them. The crew that went down to Kobe, he might say in passing, was treated right royally and had a rattling good time and a rattling good beating. They would try to give Yokohama as good a time when they came to Yokohama.

Turning to other matters the Chairman pointed out that the bathing barge and pontoon, as stated before, require substantial repairs. They had bought two new boats during the year and were pretty fairly stocked. They had made a new departure and were trying to get skiffs, one of which was completed and promised to be satisfactory. The cost was 30 yen. The new billiard table had met the wants of many members who considered themselves above the small table. Their lease expired at the end of November, and the trustees, Mr. Hall and Mr. Robinson, had taken the necessary steps to obtain a renewal, but owing to the change of Governors not much progress had been made. During the year several friends had come down from

Tokyo to row against them. He understood they had new sliding-seat boats and were practising regularly. It was bad enough to be beaten by a little village like Kobe, but then if Tokyo came and beat them he did not know what they would do. In regard to cross country races, the donor of the cup last year had promised to give another this year and he trusted the entries would encourage him to give further prizes in future. After a few further remarks the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. L. Graham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said that before proceeding to the next business he would like to take the opportunity of welcoming back their old friend the Rev. Walter Weston, who had always taken a keen interest in racing and rowed for Kobe against Shanghai, where Kobe, as usual, won. (Applause.)

Mr. H. E. Hayward proposed that Mr. V. R. Bowden be re-elected President of the Club.

Mr. A. L. Robinson seconded.

No other nominations being forthcoming, on a show of hands, Mr. Bowden was elected unanimously.

The Chairman, who was warmly applauded, said he would be very happy to serve.

On the motion of Mr. W. Hayward, seconded by Mr. H. C. Whittall, Mr. G. C. Allcock was unanimously re-elected Captain.

While the ballot for the Committee was being taken, Mr. A. L. Robinson drew attention to the future situation of the Club. As one of their trustees he had been engaged, with Mr. Hall, in negotiating for a renewal of their lease. The negotiations were proceeding, but he would like to ask them what they were going to do in the future. They knew perfectly well that their tenure there could not be of very long duration. One of their most public-spirited men had suggested that if the younger members would get together and confer they could build up a scheme. What he would suggest was that the incoming committee should confer with kindred clubs and formulate a scheme, with which they could approach the older members of the community. He felt convinced that something could be done in this way, and that they could secure a place where they could have rowing, swimming, yachting, cricket and athletics of every description, and also a little ground for the kiddies. They could not rely upon the older people for ever, but should get together and do something for themselves.

Mr. W. Hayward, in explaining why the dinghy receipts had been nil this year, said that the yachting men were not getting all the benefits of the Club, while they were charged 5 yen a boat. To induce them to remain members of the Club they therefore thought it best to cancel the 5 yen.

Mr. Allcock made some remarks on the prospects of the coming season and asked the members to give him their advice and support.

Mr. A. L. Robinson expressed the deep appreciation of the members for the efforts of the Committee during the year, for which they tendered their grateful thanks.

Mr. Kenderdine, Hon. Secretary, replied on behalf of the Committee.

The result of the ballot for the new Committee was then announced, when the following were declared elected: Rev. Walter Weston, and Messrs W. Hayward, Kenderdine, V. G. Bowden, W. Graham and J. L. Graham.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was passed on the motion of Mr. J. L. Graham by acclamation.

Some discussion followed as to the possibility of affecting an amalgamation of the athletic clubs of Yokohama, in which the Chairman and Mr. H. S. Bell took part.

It was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee have pleasure in presenting this the 40th Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP:—It is with regret the Committee

have again to report a further falling off of members. Although 41 new members have been added to the list, the number of resignations and absentees bring the total down from 273 at the end of last year to 236, the number on the register at present. The Committee do not wish to alarm members, but at the same time they must point out that the loss of revenue from this source will seriously handicap the efficient working of the Club, and the hope that members will do all they possibly can to keep the active list average number.

COMMITTEE:—Owing to the departure of Messrs. Weston and Deveson, Messrs. Whittall and Flanagan were appointed to fill the vacancies on the Committee.

ACCOUNTS:—These are not quite as satisfactory as the Committee wish. The year was started with a Credit balance of 224.10 yen, and should, in the ordinary course of events, have closed with a fair Credit balance. The unfortunate Typhoon of the 25th/26th July, however, wrought such damage that the Committee were obliged to effect very extensive repairs, and as shown by the balance-sheet, were only able to close the year with a margin of 28.69 yen.

BAR:—Early in the year the Committee revised the Bar tariff, with the result that the profit on the year's working only amounted to 219.15 yen.

PRIZES:—A list was circulated among the Firms of Yokohama, asking for subscriptions towards the Prize Fund. The Committee regret that this did not call forth such a generous response as in the two previous years—the amount collected only amounting to 297.50 yen, as against 370.00 yen and 452.00 yen for 1910 and 1909 respectively.

ROWING:—The rowing season of 1911 is one that should be long remembered, not on account of it having brought any successes to the Club, but on account of its being the first year that our Japanese friends have interested themselves in "Sliding-seat" rowing. The Meiji University of Tokyo have taken up this branch of sport with a zest, and have now three very fine "Six-oared" Boats. On three occasions they have raced against crews of the Club, but so far without success—their form, however, shows such marked improvement that the club will have to look to its laurels if they don't wish to see them taken by these plucky competitors. Now that an interchange of visits with our Japanese friends has been started, the retiring Committee trusts that the incoming one will do all in its power to promote further meetings.

The entries for the "Opening Day" and "Club" Regattas were good, and in the Spring particularly, some very close finishes were witnessed.

Although great care was taken over the training of the Interport Crews, they were unable to wrest any of the honours from our Southern friends.

It is hoped to make an early start again this year, and that rowing members will do all they possibly can to help the Selection Committee in order that a good combination as possible may be procured.

BATHING BARGE & PONTON:—Although a very large sum was spent on these during the year 1910, the Committee have to report that owing to the Typhoon, extensive repairs will have to be made to the former, before she can be considered seaworthy.

BOAT-HOUSE & SLIPWAYS:—Here again the Typhoon caused the Club a serious loss, the side of the Club-House being badly damaged and both Eastern and Western slipways swept clean away. The House, Steps and Wall were repaired and the Western slipway was rebuilt as soon as possible—the Eastern portion was, however, left over, as the Committee did not think the Club funds warranted this heavy expenditure. The thanks of the whole Club are due to Mr. Laffin and Capt. Owsdon for their very valuable advice and assistance when these repairs were being effected.

BOATS:—During the year two "Singles," as well as new oars for the "Canton Fours" were purchased. The slides of the latter class, as well as those of the old "Pairs," have been replaced by new ones of the same Pattern as those on the "Leux Fours." The Committee were also obliged to purchase a new "Sampan" to replace one of the old ones, which was found to be beyond repair.

BILLIARD TABLES:—The Billiard Table that was installed on the "Share System" last year proved such a success that the Committee thought it advisable to try and procure a full-sized one on the same terms.

The Committee were fortunate enough to secure a very suitable Table, with Balls, Cues, etc., complete from the Yokohama United Club for 1,000.00 yen. With very little trouble this sum was collected and the table installed early in November, and has since been in constant use.

LEASE:—The present lease expires on the 30th November, and the question of a further lease is now being arranged for by our Trustees, Messrs. F. J. Hall, and A. L. Robinson.

AUDITOR:—The thanks of the Club are due to Mr.

W. Dempster for his kindness in auditing the accounts.

With the best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Club your Committee retire from Office.

The Clubs representatives in the Interport were:—

"FOURS":—
Bow. S. A. Vincent.
2 H. C. Whittall.
3 C. Heseltine.
"PAIRS":—
Bow. W. James.
Str. L. Stornebrink.
Cox. D. L. Abbey.
"DOUBLES":—
Bow. L. Stornebrink.
Str. S. A. Vincent.
"SINGLES":—W. James.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1911.— Yen. Yen.

To Wages 875.75

To Working Expense 451.74

To Boats:—

To Carpenters Wages and Re-

pairs 522.58

To Purchase of 2 Vincent Rad-

ley Sin.les 370.68

To Purchase of 24 Aying Oars.

To Purchase of wheels and axles

for Canton Fours 96.67

To Purchase of 2nd Hand Sam-

pan 47.00

To Paid on a/c of New Skiffs... 35.00

To Barge and Pontoon:—

To Upkeep 228.30

To Typhoon Damage Temporary

Repairs 50.00

To House and Slipways:—

To Upkeep and Repairs 176.45

To Typhoon Damage:—Ships... 193.40

House. 90.00

Steps... 95.00

To Regatta Expenses 402.41

To Prizes, Regattas, Swimming

and Cross Country Races..... 538.30

To Billiard Tables:—

To Repayment of 50 shares at

Y.5.00 each 250.00

To Purchase of Full Size Tables. 1,000.00

To Sundry Repairs & Expenses. 41.90

To Newspapers, Periodicals, Sta-

tionery and Printing 219.15

To Ground Rent 1/4/11—31/3/12

To Fire Insurance Premiums ... 79.17

To Interest on Debentures Y.

1,000.00 at 7 per cent. per

annum 70.00

To Balance Cash at Bank..... 28.96

Cash at Bank Billiard

Table account 245.11

Outstanding Subscrip-

tion 8.00

Jan. 1st, 1911. 224.10

By Cash at Bank 224.10

" " Billiard Table a/c. 19.95

Dec. 31st, 1910. 16.60

By Outstanding Subscriptions

Collected 16.60

By Subscriptions:—

229 Active Members 1st half

at Y8.00 1,832.00

210 Active Members 2nd half

at Y8.00 1,680.00

6 Tokyo Members at Y10.00 ... 60.70

17 Honorary Members at Y10.00 170.00

3 Boy Members at Y5.00 15.00

By Entrance Fees:—

41 New Members at Y10.00

By Absent Members' Fees 410.00

By Locker Rents 11.00

By Regatta, Swimming & Cross

Country Entrance Fees 77.00

By Special Subscriptions 225.50

By Interest on Bank account... 297.00

By Billiard Tables:—

Issue of 200 shares at Y5.00 each 1,000.00

Received as per account below. 517.06

Received from Bar: s p r a c-

count below 292.33

BAR BILLIARD ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31, 1911.— Yen.

To Receipts 562.04

562.04

Dec. 31, 1911.—

By Chits collected 1911 and transferred .. 517.06

By Chits outstanding, 1911 44.98

562.04

Dec. 31st, 1911.

To Stock 1/1/11 322.68

To Purchases 2,317.69

To Wages and Expenses 826.31

To Outstanding chits 1910..... 122.05

To Profit for 1911 219.15

3,807.88

BAR WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1911.— Yen. Yen.

By 1910 Chits collected 122.05

By 1910 Chits less written off... 2.69

By 1911 Chits collected 3,315.91

By 1911 Chits outstanding 166.26

By 1911 Chits less written off ... 5.20

By Interest on Bank 1.06

By Stock 31/12/11 210.49

3,807.88

BAR CASH ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st 1911.

To Cash, 1910 chits 119.36

To Cash, 1911 chits 3,315.91

To Interest 1.6

Outstandings:—

Debentures, yen 1,000.00.

200 Billiard Table Shares at yen 5.00 each, yen

1,000.00.

Dec. 31st, 1911.— Yen.

By Purchases and Expenses..... 3,144.00

By Transfer to General account 292.32

3,436.32

3,436.33

THE GRAND HOTEL, LTD.

THE HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING.

The forty-fifth half-yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Hotel, Ltd., was held at the Grand Hotel on Thursday afternoon last. Mr. D. H. Blake (Chairman of the Board of Directors) presided, and was supported by the following Directors:—Dr. C. H. H. Hall, Mr. L. Barmont, and Mr. G. W. Colton. Among those present were Mr. McDonald, Mr. Martinelli, Mr. Jarmain, Mr. H. E. Manwaring (Manager), and Mr. H. B. Dougherty (Secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The Chairman, addressing the shareholders, said:—In presenting the Company's accounts for the last half year, your Directors feel justified in saying that the optimism expressed at our last several general meetings has been found fully warranted. Our dividend has increased from 8 per cent. to 9 per cent. but what is still more encouraging is that a comparison of the present accounts with those of the corresponding period of the previous year shows an improvement of 7,004.58 yen in favour of the former. It may also interest shareholders to know that the business of each month of 1911, with but one exception, showed an improvement over the corresponding months of 1910. I shall not attempt to go into details or to explain this satisfactory condition of affairs, but I may say that the general tourist travel to Japan fell off, rather than increased during last year. It will be observed from the Accounts that your Directors propose writing off 2,500 from the New Building Account, and 2,000 from Furniture Account and to set aside 4,000 for repairs and improvements. It might appear to some that the last item is unnecessarily large, but on reference to previous accounts, it will be found that since June 30th, 1909, the Company has expended nearly 20,000 yen on repairs and improvements. This of course indicates that some of our buildings are in anything but a satisfactory condition, and it is reasonable to expect that further large sums will have to be spent on them in the future. It is unfortunate that such a comparatively large proportion of our earnings have to be disbursed

in this way, but there seems to be no present solution of the difficulty. The preceding remarks will indicate that the buildings and furniture have received due attention during the period under review, and I think it may safely be said that both Management and Directors have used their best endeavours to keep the entire property of the company at as high a standard as conditions and circumstances warranted. The only change in the Board of Directors during the term was the addition of Mr. Otani Kahel in the place of Mr. T. Murai, who had previously resigned owing to the demands of his personal business. The Directors have again to record their appreciation of the efficient services rendered the Company by the Manager, Mr. Manwaring. With these few remarks, he begged to move from the Chair, the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

There being no discussion, the motion was seconded by Mr. Martielli, and the report and accounts were approved.

The two retiring directors, Messrs Barmount and Dr. Hall, were re-elected on the Board whilst the Auditors were also re-appointed and the Directors' fees remained as before viz. 500 yen.

Prior to the customary vote of thanks to the Directors and Management being passed, the Chairman referred to the explanatory remarks at the foot of the Auditors' report and mentioned that as he had referred to it on several previous occasions, he had not thought it necessary to do so again at this meeting; but as certain shareholders were said to be uneasy, he would once more do so. This, Mr. Blake proceeded to do in a manner satisfactory to those present.

Dividend warrants were to be issued yesterday.

The Report and Accounts presented to the meeting were as follows:—

The Profit and Loss Account, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the half-year ended December 31st, 1911, accompany this Report.

The net profit for the half-year, after providing for general expenses, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, bad and doubtful debts, and commission to employees, amounts to 28,588.58 yen which the Directors recommend be applied as follows:—

In payment of a dividend of Y. 4.00 per share for half year.....	20,000.00
Written off New Building Account.....	2,500.00
Set aside for Repairs and improvements.....	4,000.00
Written off Furniture Account.....	2,000.00
Carried forward to next Account.....	88.53

The above dividend added to that paid at June 30th, 1911, makes a total of 900 yen per share, or 9 per cent for the year, which is an improvement of 1 per cent. over the previous year.

As compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, the present accounts show an improvement of 7,004.58 yen.

A further sum of 2,500.00 yen has been written off New Buildings Account, which now stand at 87,500.00 yen.

Furniture Account has been written down to the extent of 2,000.00 yen.

A considerable sum has been expended during the term on the Hotel Buildings, and the Furniture has also been added to.

Mr. Barmount and Hall retire from the Board by rotation, but being eligible they offer themselves for re-election.

It is proposed that the dividend be paid on January 26th, 1912, on which date warrants will be issued.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

LIABILITIES.		Yen.
Capital, 5,000 Shares of Y.100	500,000.00	
Sundry Creditors	20,861.14	
Debentures	10,000.00	
Kurumaya Security Fund	200.00	
Provisional Fund	7,379.47	
Reserve Fund	20,000.00	
Irroy Advertising Account	311.62	
Profit and Loss Account	28,588.53	
	586,565.76	
ASSETS.		
Cash in Hand	2,336.20	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Balance on Account Current	21,239.54	
Buildings per last Balance Sheet	218,000.00	
Ground per last Balance Sheet	173,500.00	
New Building	Y.42,500.00	
Less:—written off.....	2,500.00	
	40,000.00	

Furniture	78,437.01
Electric Light Plant	10,843.16
Steam Launch	3,500.00
Wines in Stock	8,674.63
Provisions in Stock	4,067.14
Cigars and Cigarettes in Stock	944.30
Miscellaneous	1,302.03
Unexpired Insurance	7,192.36
Irroy Consignment	7,351.62
Sundry Debtors	2,877.77
	586,565.76

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.—31ST DEC, 1911.

DR.		Yen.
To Insurance.....	4,840.20	
To General Expenses.....	33,208.20	
To Launch Expenses.....	796.48	
To Directors' and Auditors' Fees	1,895.83	
To Interest.....	31.55	
To Taxes.....	4,933.63	
To Balance available for division to be dealt with as under:—		
Depreciation on New Buildings Account	Y.2,500.00	
Depreciation on Furniture Account	2,000.00	
Set aside for improvements.....	4,000.00	
Dividend at 4 per cent on Y.500,000.00	20,000.00	
Carried forward to New Account	88.53	
	28,581.53	
	73,896.09	

CR.		Yen.
By Balance brought forward	765.27	
By Balance from Working Account	69,737.75	
By Rent Account	2,130.00	
By Sundry Receipts	1,256.07	
By Share Transfer Fees	7.00	
	73,896.09	

We have examined and audited the Books and Accounts of the Grand Hotel, Ltd. for the half year ended 31st December, 1911, and herein beg to report that the above Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account is correct, except an item of 40,000 yen to which the Shareholders' attention is drawn, representing balance of expenditure on a set of Architects plans and model for New Buildings. As no use has been made of these Plans and Model since they were acquired some three to four years ago, we are of opinion that the value of these Plans should be either written off entirely, or still further reduced out of Revenue.

In accordance with the Company's Act 1907 we hereby certify that we have obtained all the information and explanation which we have required.

PEARSON, MACKIE & DEMPSTER,
Chartered Accountants,

Yokohama, 13th January, 1912.

ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN SILK PIECE GOODS MERCHANTS.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Association of Foreign Silk Piece-goods Merchants of Yokohama held its Annual General Meeting at the Board of Trade Rooms on Monday afternoon, Mr. D. H. Blake, President, occupying the Chair.

After reading the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman stated that in view of the comprehensive report that was before them, it was not necessary for him to make any extensive remarks on the work the Association had accomplished. He would, however, like to point out, *vis à-vis* the Japanese authorities in all negotiations, that he could truthfully say that the Association was fully recognised and appreciated by the officials, both Prefectural and Governmental. He had always found them most willing to assist the Association and also to obtain from the latter information concerning the silk habutae trade; and if only as being a means of communication between both sides, the existence of the Association was more than justified. In dealing with the accounts, he was pleased to say that the year had been a successful one, as it had closed with a substantial balance of yen 1,226.77. The increase was very satisfactory and therefore the Committee had recommended that the tariff be reduced from 35 yen per annum, to 25 yen per

annum. He begged to move that the accounts be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer and was carried unanimously.

The election of the Committee for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, the Chairman stating that he regretted he would not be able to stand for re-election.

On the proposition of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the following gentlemen were elected as the new Committee; viz.—Messrs. W. M. Squire, L. Meyer, A. Altschuler, J. F. Hibbs, W. K. Wilson, H. Geddes and A. E. Cooper. This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The previous Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on the 30th of January last, when the Reports of the Committee, Statement of Accounts, etc., etc., were passed, and the following elected a Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. D. H. Blake, W. M. Squire, L. Meyer, A. Altschuler, O. Strome, W. K. Wilson, A. M. T. Woodward, Mr. Strome, however, was unable to serve, and Mr. J. F. Hibbs kindly consented to fill his place. Mr. A. M. T. Woodward has lately resigned as he has discontinued for the present in this branch of trade.

The Committee now have pleasure in presenting their Report to the Fifth Annual General Meeting, which is called in accordance with the Articles of Association for the customary presentation of the Report, passing of Accounts, &c., and election of a Committee for the coming year.

At the beginning of the year our Membership numbered 33, but recently one Firm having withdrawn from the trade rendered its resignation, thus reducing our number to 32.

At the first Meeting of the new Committee, held in February, the following Officers were elected and served during the term:—Mr. D. H. Blake, President, Mr. W. M. Squire, Vice-President, Mr. L. Meyer, Hon. Treasurer, while Mr. A. G. Price continued to act as Secretary.

The Committee have met regularly once a month during the year to arrange the ordinary matters of business and to prepare monthly reports.

In undertaking to review the work of the Association during the past year, few occasions offer for special comment. The year has been one of unusual quiet and regular trading. No marked fluctuations in Habutae, other than those temporarily occasioned by the demand for special grades or qualities, have taken place. It is very encouraging to those of the Association who have followed its history since its origin, to find that it is now well recognised in the eyes of the Japanese Habutae Merchants, Guilds, Prefectural and Central Government bureaux, and also by like Associations in the Home Countries.

It will be remembered that in the first years of the Association's life, its suggestions and demands met with but little response from the Weavers and Dealers. There were many obstacles to overcome, but persistent and tactful addresses made to the proper Authorities on various subjects have resulted in establishing the standing of the Association, and while possibly its measure of activity during the past two years may not have appeared great, yet its existence as a recognised body ensures for its members a very effective safeguard against dangers attendant to the trade.

We are forced to recognise that the Habutae branch of the export trade has of late years become much less remunerative owing to keen competition. This has forced shippers to grant concessions and reduce their commissions until the margins now realised leave no uniform room for further claim or rebates, which in the past have so frequently arisen, chiefly because no uniform system of inspection has been followed. With a view to remedying this difficulty, the Government Authorities have adopted new Regulations for the grading and marking of Silk Piece Goods, in which are incorporated many of the suggestions made during the first and second years of the Association's work. In order to ensure a satisfactory continuation of this industry, we consider it absolutely necessary that foreign dealers should remain well organised and present, in every case, a united front to any possible approaching dangers to the trade.

The Committee, during the year, have been visited by deputations from the Silk Weavers and Dealers in Fukui and Kawamata, who solicited suggestions from the Association for the improvement of their products. They have also had correspondence with the local guild, inviting cooperation in eradicating certain undesirable practices of Piece Goods.

MARKET.—The year opened with a fair standard of price, but gradually weakened and declined slowly

but constantly during the first eight months, when a little revival took place, but closed with prices still on a very low level. In the face, however, of this situation, the weavers studied well the art of limiting the supply to the demand, and although low prices prevailed, still, at no time was the market glutted or were stocks being sacrificed. The volume of trade in "Pieces" was slightly under that of the preceding year, but the value was considerably less.

One noticeable feature was the substantial increase in the quantity of Kawamata markets as against other years. Another, the great difficulty experienced by shippers in obtaining even small quantities of a superior grade, more particularly in Kaga goods, where the margin now between the prices of "ordinary" and "superior" has become very considerable.

ACCOUNTS.—The Treasurer's Account shows a balance in hand of 1,231.18 yen. As the Committee do not anticipate any extraordinary expenditure in the near future, they recommend that the Annual Subscription for the coming year be reduced to 25.00 yen.

COMMITTEE.—In retiring from Office your Committee recommend that the election of the new Committee be made as far as possible representative of the various export markets, and on their behalf request the support of all Members in the contribution of such information and other assistance as will serve to facilitate the work of the Association.

Cr.	Yen.
By Balance from 1910.....	1,093.57
By Subscriptions, 33 at Y.35.00.....	1,155.00
By Sale of Monthly Journal.....	72.40
By Sale of Regulations for the Control of Export Habitués.....	25.00
By Rent due.....	120.00
By Bank Interest.....	25.58
Total	2,492.55
Dr.	Yen.
To Office Rent, Hire of Board of Trade Room for Annual Meeting.....	394.00
To Printing, Stationery and Advertising.....	186.39
To Secretary's Salary and Bonuses.....	650.00
To Rikisha Hire.....	27.95
To Postages.....	2.73
To Sundries.....	30
To Balance with Hon. Treasurer Y.1,266.77	
Petty Cash.....	4.41
Total	2,492.55

THE FAR EASTERN PUBLIC HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Far Eastern Public Hall Co., Ltd. was held on Monday afternoon at the "Gaiety," Mr. E. Eddison in the chair. There was a very small attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting having been taken as read, the Chairman read the report as follows:—

Your Directors submit the Third Annual Report and Audited Accounts to 30th Sept. 1911.

Since the last report an Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders was called by the Directors, Messrs. G. G. Brady, E. C. Davis, E. Eddison, E. W. Frazar, D. Marshall and T. Thomas, and held on the 1st Sept. 1911, at which the Chairman, Mr. Marshall, stated his reasons for being unable to continue on the Board after the end of the year, and said that as the season began in September the Directors considered it would be for the good of the Company to proceed at once to elect a new Board of Directors instead of waiting for the Annual Meeting, and therefore they tendered their resignations in the hope that a new board, by taking office at once, would be able to carry out the various improvements contemplated.

At the meeting, the following were elected as Directors: Messrs. Ch. Bastin, A. E. Cooper, W. E. Gooch, C. F. McWilliams, M. Russell and C. H. Thorn, and subsequently Mr. Eddison was invited to join the Board.

The outgoing Directors, after consultation with the shareholders, engaged the services of Mr. Free as Manager, and their action was agreed to by the new Directors. The Manager arrived during September, and it was hoped that the increased business of the Company would speedily justify the outlay required for this engagement. Unfortunately, as has transpired since the date to which this report refers, Mr.

Free did not turn out to be satisfactory, so that this outlay has unfortunately been fruitless.

This expense accounts for the small surplus of the working account.

We regret also to notice that the Hall is made so little use of by the Public, especially the Small Hall, which should be very convenient for private dances, dinners, concerts, meetings, etc. and we ask shareholders to remember that if this Small Hall were more used it would be a source of great revenue to the Company.

Several improvements are being arranged for which we hope will bring increased earnings and enable a more prosperous balance sheet to be laid before you next year.

Messrs. Pearson, Mackie & Dempster, Chartered Accountants, have audited the accounts and their reappointment is recommended.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1911.

	Yen.	Yen.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT:		
Authorized 1,000 Shares of Y.50 each fully paid up.....	50,000.00	
Subscribed 88 1/2 New Shares Y.50 each fully paid up.....	44,100.00	
Subscribed 118 Old Shares Y.50 each fully paid up.....	5,900.00	50,000.00
LIABILITIES		
The Public Hall Association: Liability on 7 Old Debentures of Y.50 each not yet redeemed, Redemption Price Y.110 each.....		700.00
Mortgage at 7 per cent. per annum.....		8,500.00
Sundry Creditors for interest, etc.....		424.33
Profit and Loss Account: Net profit to date carried forward next Account.....		512.78
		60,137.11
ASSETS.		
Property, Value of land and Buildings taken over for the Hall Association.....	52,000.00	
Furniture and fixtures.....	7,154.28	
Fire Insurance (paid in advance).....	499.28	
Ground Rent (paid in advance).....	65.04	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.....	408.54	
Telephone Deposit.....	10.00	
		61,137.11

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. FOR YEAR END D 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1911.

	Yen.
To Interests on Mortgage.....	512.43
To Balance carried forward.....	512.78
	1,025.21
By Balance from last Account.....	497.02
By Balance from Working Account.....	535.13
By Transfer fees.....	8.00
By Bank Interest.....	26.06
	1,066.21

WORKING ACCOUNT. FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1911.

To Hall Expenses.....	2,386.86
To Fire Insurance.....	712.18
To Lighting and Heating.....	140.34
To Stationery and Printing.....	31.10
To Ground Rent and Taxes.....	32.52
To Balance to Profit and Loss Account.....	535.13
	3,838.13

By Income from Hall, etc.....	3,838.13
	3,838.13

In accordance with the Company's Act 1907, we hereby certify that we have obtained all the information which we have required.

We have examined the books of the Far Eastern Public Hall Company, Limited, Yokohama, for the year ended 30th September 1911, and beg to report that the above Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts as prepared by us, are in our opinion properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Company's Affairs according to the best of our information and explanations given us and shown by the books of the Company.

PEARSON, MACKIE & DEMPSTER, Chartered Accountants. Yokohama, 27th October, 1911.

Referring to the accounts the Chairman said the balance sheet showed a balance in favour of the Company of about 15 yen as the result of last year's working. The takings for the whole

period were 3,838.13 yen, which was a little better than last year, when the takings were 3,690 yen. The Hall expenses had risen to 2,386 yen from 1,300 yen roughly last year, the extra expenses being those incurred on engaging Mr. Free.

Mr. E. C. Davis asked if the Company lost anything by Mr. Free beyond his expenses.

The Chairman said the actual money retained had been returned, so they had lost nothing that way. Of the extra expenses a good deal was spent in fitting up rooms for Mr. Free to live in, but that was practically an asset as they hoped to make use of them.

Mr. Davis asked if the 700 yen entered under liabilities was ever likely to be claimed.

The Chairman said he thought not. The matter had been advertised and all legal requirements fulfilled, and it might now be written off. The last Board of Directors had gone, however, and the new Board had not seen fit to make any alterations.

On the motion of Mr. W. E. Gooch, seconded by Mr. C. H. Thorn, the report and accounts were adopted.

The Chairman said he might mention that the present Board of Directors had had rather a hard time in trying to pull things together. As they all knew Mr. Free's engagement did not turn out satisfactory and the Directors were left in rather an awkward position. He thought the shareholders ought to know that Mr. Thorn was doing a great deal to keep things going until they formed some other arrangement and got someone to look after the Hall properly.

Mr. Gooch said it might be interesting to know that almost the whole loss incurred by Mr. Free's engagement had been made good by the advertising curtain.

Mr. Thorn said it might also be of interest to the public to know what they intended to do to increase the profits of the company. The curtain mentioned by Mr. Gooch, although it was objected to by some, would prove a great source of revenue. The cinematograph performances, which had been given a trial, were also going to prove a great success. They were making arrangements to give three performances a month. Besides these they had projects in view which would prove a greater source of revenue. If the community would remember that aside from projects for making money the company was naturally working for their benefit, and would support it with that idea, they could add considerably to the revenue of the Company.

In answer to a question as to the bar, Mr. Gooch said that since Mr. Free went away he had had that in charge. Owing to complaints about the quality of the drinks supplied they had thrown away the old stock and laid in a new supply. They had now made all drinks one price 25 sen, and under this arrangement it was calculated they ought to show 25 per cent. profit.

After Messrs. Pearson, Mackie and Dempster had been re-elected auditors, the proceedings terminated.

YOKOHAMA ENGINE AND IRONWORKS LTD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works, Ltd. was held at the Company's offices on Monday afternoon, Mr. L. J. Healing (Chairman of the Board of Directors) presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been taken as read, the Chairman said:—

Gentlemen,—Before asking you to pass the accounts, I would like to allude to the very great loss this Company has sustained in the departure from Yokohama of two gentlemen who have for long been associated with the directorate of this Company,—I mean Mr. B. C. Howard and Mr. F. J. Abbott. These gentlemen have so thoroughly made themselves acquainted with the working of the Company and have served so long on the Directorate that their sound advice and guidance

will indeed be sadly missed. Mr. Howard, we all trust, will be speedily restored to health and will return among us. Mr. Abbott we cannot expect to have back, and can but offer him our congratulations on his promotion in his own Company. I am glad to be able to report that we have succeeded in getting as Directors to replace the departed ones, Messrs. Ibbotson, Bagnall, Koerting and Grimmesy, and I think, gentlemen, we may congratulate ourselves on securing the services of these gentlemen, who are nearly all interested in the engineering business, and their advice and experience should be very useful to the Company. Mr. N. F. Smith, who is also a Director, I am glad to say, will be shortly returning to Japan, and his services will be available on the Board.

Referring to the half-year's working which we have under review, a glance at these accounts, gentlemen, will indicate to you at once that the position of the Company is much improved. Since last we met, and the Directors after some deliberation, decided that an interim dividend of 1.50 yen a share, equal to 6 per cent. per annum, could be declared. I am glad also to be able to report that the works are at present very well employed, and that there is a good prospect that this state of affairs will exist for some time to come.

The policy to be pursued by the Company in the future must be a very conservative one, as experience has shown us that we must strengthen our financial position in order to be able to tide over times of depression, which we hope, however, will never come again, and also to be able to keep our works up to date in order that we may be able to produce our manufactures at the lowest possible price. For an engineering business such as ours we have many competitors, but the policy of our able Manager, Mr. Tresize, has always been to turn out a first-rate article, and not try to compete when asked to manufacture second-grade goods, and this policy is, I think, a very sound one, as throughout Japan now, the name of the Yokohama Engine and Iron Works is only associated with high-class works.

With these few remarks, gentlemen, I beg to move the adoption of the accounts.

Mr. Beatty seconded the motion, which was carried.

An interim dividend of yen 1.50 per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, was approved, and it was announced that dividend warrants would be issued to-day.

The Chairman referred to the hard and efficient work done in the interests of the Company by Mr. Tresize, the General Manager, and the whole of the Staff.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors terminated the proceedings.

THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION OF JAPAN.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF SAGHALIEN.

BY MR. HIRAOKA, GOVERNOR OF SAGHALIEN.

II.

The proposals for the development of Saghalien have often been published in papers and journals, and the general public must be tolerably informed by this time of the outlines of the administrative conditions in the island. Still I deem it not entirely uninteresting to introduce the features of the latest development, together with the hopes I entertain in the way of developing this newly acquired territory of our country. As the island is situated in the northernmost part of the Japanese dominions, it might be considered as the best touchstone of the Yamato people in respect to the administration of colonies lying in the arctic zone. It scarcely needs stating that colonies in the temperate or torrid zones are conspicuously differentiated in features from those in the frigid zone. It may be possible, of course, that close study and investigations in future of the

geological and other conditions of the frigid zone colonies may culminate in the discovery of some unexpected natural resources. But as things are now, the fact must be admitted that, as a rule, so-called natural endowments are considerably limited in the case of such colonies as compared with those in other zones. Accordingly, I make it my policy to inspire immigrants crossing over to Saghalien with a fighting spirit,—a spirit of moderation, perseverance and diligence which is necessary for the subjugation of Nature. The exploration of this northern island will prove a matter of impossibility, I believe, unless the authorities as well as the immigrants there in general first of all equip themselves with the above mentioned fighting spirit.

It was with this conviction as the guiding principle underlying my policy that I crossed to the territory to assume my present position. As for the results of the administration of the island, the shortness of the time that has elapsed since I was appointed to my present post naturally forbids any expectation as to a marvellous improvement in the administrative conditions. But it is nevertheless a source of great satisfaction to me that I can now most confidently assert that the present situation in Saghalien is such as to readily convince any observer of the steadiness with which the territory is now being developed in every direction.

In observing the conditions of Saghalien administration it should be noted in the first place that the budget is marked by a growing increase every year. It is true the budget for the present fiscal year shows practically no increase as compared with that for last fiscal year. But this is entirely due to the reductions effected last year in the taxes on fisheries. Add the above amount of reduction, therefore, to the present fiscal year's budget, and it will be made clear that it almost equals last year's budget in so far as the total amount is concerned, and the budget for the present fiscal year indicates a corresponding increase in every other source of taxation. In short it is a fact not to be refuted that the annual budget shows as much increase as ever, and with this tendency we must remain satisfied for the present, though no doubt it is a matter of great regret that the total amount of the budget does not go up by leaps and bounds. As to the details of the budget this year, considerations of space forbid particulars here. Suffice it to say that they are in the main little different from those making up the budget for the preceding fiscal year.

Passing to the public undertakings in Saghalien, among them must be counted paper-making, timber transporting, crab canning, wine brewing and the fisheries. Each of these is now beginning to make a steady development, especially the first named enterprise. There are already a few paper mills run on a fairly big scale. The future of whaling also promises well. Among the enterprises under the direct control of the Saghalien Administrative office, are coal mining, wood charring, and railway construction, each one of which is now undertaken in a perfect, or almost perfect, manner. So far as the railways are considered, the laying of the trunk lines traversing the land from Aniva Bay towards the eastern coast was completed in the early part of December last and the remaining repairs or other accessory work will be taken in hand upon the advent of the summer season this year. As for the charring enterprise, the results are decidedly reassuring. It is true the turpentine produced by means of wood charring possesses a more or less burnt smell and is not so transparent as the natural turpentine. Yet the production of the oil by the above artificial methods is nevertheless worth while, since the cultivation of the terebinth for the purpose of oil production, is so difficult that it would not pay.

In the coal-mining undertaking it was a great disappointment to find the coal veins lying not in such a satisfactory condition as we expected at the outset. Thus my first idea of leaving the enterprise, after the Government's trial work, with

the immigrants at large for undertaking on a very large scale, was obliged to be given up. But from this fact we should not jump at the conclusion that the coal mines in Saghalien are hopeless. In fact, the trouble being that the conditions of the coal veins are such as not to allow working on any big scale, it is my intention to continue, on the one hand, the mining on a small scale as heretofore, and to encourage, on the other, forestry as well as paper-making enterprises with a view to a contribution towards, and the maintenance of, the prosperity of such towns as have been newly created on account of the coal mines. Accordingly, for the present, upon the mining of coal in the island is placed a certain limit consistent with the above mentioned object.

In this northernmost territory of our country there are now five chief towns, namely, Maoka, Otomari, Toyohara, Tomariori and Shikika. In Otomari among the contemplated undertakings are the construction of paper mills, a middle school, agricultural laboratory and an electric light company, which are now all assuming tangible shape. In Maoka the Funama excavation, warehouse construction and a few other undertakings are contemplated. Then again in Toyohara there is a big turpentine producing factory already built and an agricultural laboratory now in course of construction. A few such like undertakings are also in contemplation in Tomariori and Shikika. Besides the above there are businesses that are naturally developing as the immigrants gradually increase in number. But these are not yet in such a state of progress as may require or justify any special investment on the part of the authorities, except for such works as the extension of telegraph wires, the establishment of post offices, and the construction of roads.

III.

FORMOSAN INDUSTRY.

BY GENERAL UCHIDA.

Viewed as a whole, Formosan industry, except sugar making, still remains in a very infantile stage of development. Yet the fact is undeniable that it is now beginning to show in every direction signs of gradual improvement as a result of the strenuous efforts heretofore employed by the authorities concerned. Thus factory after factory and company after company have been established throughout the island to undertake industrial enterprises, such as sugar, tea, hemp, flour, oil, iron, and ice manufacture, wine brewing, rice refining, and canning. Among the factories and companies lately established are the Japan Formosa Tea Company at Sanshaga, the Formosan Hemp and Flax Company at Koroton, the Mitsubishi Pulp Factory at Kinnai and the Oil Joint Stock Company at Taihoku.

As hardly needs pointing out, of all the branches of industry in Formosa, sugar making ranks first and foremost in importance. As the island is peculiarly well fitted for the encouragement and development of sugar production, from the very time it was included in the Japanese dominions the authorities concerned did all in their power for its possible improvement. Since the thirty-fifth year of Meiji they have re-doubled their efforts for the attainment of this object, while, on the other hand, they have assiduously applied themselves to investigating in detail the process of sugar manufacture, in quest of superior methods. Hence the wonderful development thus far made in this particular branch of industry. The number of sugar factories throughout Formosa now aggregates five hundred and fifty-eight, of which those following the old methods of production number four hundred and fifty-five, and those employing half-improved systems sixty-seven, while such factories as are equipped with machines and apparatus of the latest design and invention number thirty-six. In these circumstances it is but natural that the amount of the product annually shows a growing increase. In the thirty-sixth year of Meiji the total output of Formosan

sugar amounted to fifty million six hundred thousand catties, but in the forty-fourth year it jumped up to something like four hundred and fifty million.

Next to sugar making, the most important industry in the island is tea producing. The chief kinds of Formosan tea are Oolong and Hōshu, which are produced in the highland district of Northern Formosa and then refined into the two kinds at Taihoku, Hōkyō, Suihenkyaku, etc. The former is chiefly exported to America and the latter to Java, both to a considerable amount per annum. A regrettable matter is that hitherto in the production of the tea no mechanical power has been utilized in the island. In fact the productive methods here have been so old and imperfect that there will certainly be no hope for any future significant development in this particular line of industry if they are left unimproved. It was with these conditions in view that the Formosan Government General established some time ago at Ampeichin an Experimental Tea Producing Factory, the results thus far obtained from which are decidedly reassuring. We may now rest assured that the attainment of the end in view will not be a matter of a very distant future.

Again, as Formosa abounds in fibrous plants, the annual production of hemp, flax and ananus is large. At present flax and ananus-fibre are for the most part exported to China as raw materials and imported back manufactured. As for hemp, since 1908 the Formosan Hemp Manufacturing Company at Koroton, has been using it for the production of rice bags and sail cloth. In this connexion let it be noted that the demand for rice bags and other hemp manufactures is growing; the annual consumption, for instance, of rice bags aggregating over two millions and that of sugar bags from one million five hundred thousand to almost two millions. Under these conditions the productive capacity at present must be regarded as too limited, and along with the flax and ananus-fibre weaving industries, the above hemp manufacturing industry promises by no means less fairly than the sugar or tea producing enterprises.

This tropical territory is also full of bamboo, straw, wood, and sugar stalk, all of which afford good material for paper making. On account of the old fashioned methods of production, originally Chinese, the paper produced in Formosa is characteristically inferior in quality. The factories themselves, too, being all on a conspicuously small scale, the annual product amounts scarcely to over two million *kin*, of one hundred and fifty thousand *yen* in value. Such being the case the island has to depend on foreign imports for a considerable part of its supply, and with a view to the improvement of the art of paper making, the authorities some years ago established at Kagi a Model Paper Factory. This led to the unexpected discovery of a brilliant future for bamboo pulp, and thus the present Mitsubishi Pulp Factory was established at Rinnai, which is now driving a very prosperous business. Besides bamboo, both straw and sugar cane stalk offer alike great future possibilities as materials for paper or pulp making. Among the rich Formosan fibrous plants, those that make good materials for matting are also plentiful. But in this case, too, the methods of production leave much room for improvement. In view of the great efforts both the authorities and experts are now devoting to the encouragement among the people of the cultivation of the above materials, and to the improvement of the productive methods, it will not be long before the production of blinds, straw-mats and other matting will grow into one of the most important industries in the colony.

With regard to oil production, it is already tolerably developed. The native inhabitants of the island consume a considerable amount of oil as an indispensable part of their daily food. The oil which they consume is obtained chiefly from pea-nuts and sesame, and is used for industrial purposes besides, while oil cake is exported into China. Of late years the best part of the latter product has come to be consumed at home on account of the agricultural development. The factories

great and small number as many as five hundred and thirty-six and their annual products aggregate in value something like eight hundred thousand *yen*, of which the value of the oil amounts to five hundred and fifty thousand *yen* and that of oil-cake to two hundred and fifty thousand *yen*. A surprising fact is that the island has to annually import from Japan proper, as well as foreign countries, both oil and oil-cake to an amount of six hundred and fifty thousand *yen* in the former, and of over one million *yen* in the latter case. This fact shows what a brisk demand there is on the island for oil and oil-cake and therefore what a promising future the industry has. To meet these growing demands a big oil producing company has of late been established at Taihoku. This example should be followed in many other important parts of the island, because, whatever development the oil industry has thus far made, the fact is true that it still leaves much room for further encouragement. We believe that the great efforts now being made by experts and all interested in this field of industrial enterprise for the improvement of the cultivation of sesame, peanuts and other oil materials, will be crowned with success in due course of time. In that case who knows but that the products will be exported abroad?

Coming next to the rice refining works, it should be noted that most of the farmers in Formosa, unlike Japan proper, are in the habit of disposing of or dealing in cereals without un-hulling them. Hence rice cleaning has grown into a regular industry in this island, and the number of plants installed for the purpose aggregate now one thousand and forty. They use, let it be noted, simple earthen mortars in cleaning rice instead of utilizing mechanical power. Should electric motor power, therefore, be employed in future in this peculiar line of industry, the business would prove decidedly profitable. Also, hitherto Formosan rice has been exported unrefined. But as the electricity enterprise in the island gradually develops, rice refining by means of electric motor power will certainly prove as important and as promising a branch of industry here as the above mentioned rice cleaning business.

So far as soy, wine and such like brewing work is concerned, the progress thus far made cannot but be regarded as comparatively insignificant in view of the great advantages with which the island is blessed by nature. According to the latest investigations, the breweries now in existence in the Colony number no more than two hundred and ninety-four, while their product amounts hardly to one hundred and twenty thousand *koku*, which is equivalent in value to some five hundred thousand *yen*. However, we should not entertain any pessimistic views as to the future of the brewing industry. In fact, as mentioned before, the territory is peculiarly well fitted for the encouragement of distilleries in view of the great ease with which fermentation takes place here, and also of the profusion of materials, such as corn, potatoes, sugar-cane and sugar honey. So far as the last named is concerned, the product is so abundant that the people are practically at a loss how to dispose of it. What is more, when the transport into town of Arisan timber is more and more facilitated in future, the production of sawdust will certainly reach an enormous amount. Should all these rich materials, therefore, be properly employed for the production of spirits and Chinese wine, the product will naturally find a prosperous market in the quarters on the other side of the Formosan Straits. With regard to soy brewing, also, though still in an infantile stage of development, no doubt it will grow into one of most promising industries in the Colony when the people come to make more practical efforts for the production of salt and beans, in which the island abounds, so as to export them as material for soy.

As this southern territory of our country is not only favourable for the cultivation of cassava and arrowroot, but also produces a great many potatoes, the future of starch-making is as promising as any other branch of industry, if only

the productive methods are properly improved. As for flour producing, we cannot but persistently encourage the utilization of mechanical power. The methods of flour production now commonly followed by the natives being as old as the hills, the annual product, too, is greatly limited in amount. Out of a total value of flour of almost one million *yen*, which amount the islanders annually consume something like nine hundred thousand *yen* worth, they have to import from foreign countries every year. In these circumstances there is no doubt that if mechanical power were employed, the business would prove strikingly profitable even though the materials were imported from abroad.

Notice should be taken also of the fact that the public demand for bricks, tiles and other construction materials, as well as daily necessities, such as earthenware, chinaware and porcelain, are growing every year, the total of those goods consumed in the Colony now amounting to over one million *yen* per annum. Yet the present conditions of production are so poor that almost more than half of the above amount of consumption is occupied by products imported from Japan proper and abroad. Viewed from the standpoint of consumption, certainly a great deal of importance attaches to the above industry, and for its future development the authorities, as well as those interested in this line of enterprise, are now employing all possible efforts.

Turning next to fruit and vegetable growing, it may be regarded as already tolerably developed. In view, however, of the growing increase that marks the annual production, it is highly advisable that the export should be encouraged, not only in the raw but also in the manufactured state. In the island there is a traditional fruit-cake called Mussen or sugared fruit. Owing to defective productive methods, however, it is made so badly that it is scarcely fitted for foreign export. With a view to an improvement of the productive methods as well as to the general development of this sort of work, the authorities some years ago made a close investigation and this finally led to the growth of the pine-apple canning enterprise. The business has now developed so far, under the authorities' protection and encouragement, that the Formosa canned pine-apple threatens to drive all foreign products out of the Japanese market. It will not be long before this particular product of the island will come to find its way into the foreign markets.

The lumber industry in Formosa is still in an embryonic stage, those now engaged in the enterprise, assisted by motor power, numbering no more than three throughout the land. Still the fact is not to be gainsaid that once the Arisan and other dense, primeval forests existing in all parts of the island, are exploited, the industry in question will make a marked development and prove most prosperous. With regard to wooden manufactures, this industry is undertaken at present on a scale barely large enough to meet the domestic demand, the amount of the annual product reaching scarcely over four hundred thousand *yen* in value. The industry is nevertheless worthy of encouragement in view of the great future possibilities it is fraught with,—possibilities, above all, of the product finding a most thriving market in the quarters across the Formosan Straits, when the business is properly improved and developed. Owing to scarcity of timber necessary for the production of wooden articles, the above regions naturally depend on Formosa for a supply of the required materials.

The hat-making business, though it has not yet completely emerged out of the sphere of a "home industry," has made a very significant development in these last few years, and now may justly be regarded as a regular handicraft with a most promising future. Worthy of notice is the growing increase in the general demand, not only in the island but even abroad, for the Formosan hats called *rinō dō*, which are being produced in a wholesale manner at Enri, Taikō and Gyūbatō. The total amount of production now promises

to reach over three hundred thousand yen in value, and it may be safely predicted that the amount will in future increase to five hundred thousand, and even up to a million yen, provided that the present upward tendency of the demand continues, and there is no lack of materials.

Besides those industrial enterprises and undertakings enumerated above, there are bamboo ware and shoe-making, which are worth encouragement. Again, so far as such industries as are necessary for domestic consumption only are considered, there are a legion, indeed, among which may be counted dyeing, and cement, fertilizers, iron, as well as ice making.

The above are all industries which either are at present or, if not at present, will certainly become in future, most important in this colonial territory of our country. The Formosan authorities at first established an experimental agricultural laboratory for the improvement of agriculture, and also an experimental sugar producing factory for the development of the sugar making industry. Likewise they have now established an experimental factory or laboratory for each of the above mentioned industrial enterprises. In due course of time, therefore, all these industries in Formosa will, we may rest assured, make a very sound and steady, even if slow, development.

A SAMPLE OF KOREAN LABOUR SONGS.

[FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.]

The Korean's soul is strung to a wailful minor key. He is not a child to be called "Laughter" as was Isaac. Healthful hilarity has played but a poor part in Chosen during the last twenty years. Yet the Korean keenly appreciates a good joke, but a really good one is almost as rare with him as it is in the "funny" pages of the *Ladies' Home Journal*. His ideal world lies far back in the impossible ages of the past, and the widest rim of his horizon shows no evidence of any paradise peeking up. He is cast in a sardonic mould as regards the present world, and a still sadder one as regards the "Yellow Springs," or the Underworld, or whatever else you choose to call it. He has music and songs,—all races sing in some key or other,—and out of his songs shimmer forth the reflections of his soul.

Here is a sample that tells a story from one of the commonest pages of history. It is a labour-song, and the leading chorister, knee-deep in the mud, pipes out the statement, and then all his fellow-labourers come swinging in on the chorus, planting their seedlings of rice all the while:

Like a little round mat, a field of three rice-measures,

Off in the hills, 'tis quite a farm of paddy,

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Out we line like the figure one (一),

Round we swing, four square, like 'mouth,' (口).

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

With the fiery sun straight on the back,

And feet deep in the muddy water,

Thus we do our farming, and when it's done,

Who will eat of it I wonder?

Yo-ho, Yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Let's feed the old folks, eh!

And let the young wife have her fill,

And let's see that the kiddies are fed,

And when we're old we get our helping.

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

God made man, and mother earth supplies his need,

Caring for us just like parents,

We learned from Sillong (神農) to grow paddy

and to sow the fields,

Su-in (燾人) taught us the law of fire and how to cook,

And thus we flourished and became a people,

Yo-ho, Yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

In the basin of a rice-field,

With water a hand-span deep,

Pulling the comb-toothed harrow,

We break up the clods big as wooden pillows,
Comb them out fine as lentil flour.

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Toward each clod goes out the hand,

And an effort put forth for every bunch of seedling.

We wonder to whom will fall each grain of rice,
And to whom shall we pass the spoon?

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Fill in, fill in, plant every inch of space,

The soil is poor, and the owner short of cash;

Supplies for the spring are gone, and hungry he toils,

No grass from *Ta-kwan* height did he have for fertilizer.

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Squire Pak of our village has fine fields this year,
Fields of one bag measure, and fields of four days' ploughing,

A hundred loads of fertilizer!—and that too little,

So he piled it o'er with ox manure.

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

But there's trouble in the wind, trouble for Squire Pak,

Thick and warm his thatch, and piled high his store of rice,

Still, before and behind, rum rum are rife and spies are on his track,

If he's taken it will be no question of wrong,

But he'll be shaken dry of every cash.

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

Citizen Choi of our town, you know him, a bit close in his way,

But a man with no other fault

Than the sin of a thousand bags or so;

He was arrested by the prefect, and now wears the cangue,

He lives inside the prison and has not seen daylight

For a half year or more.

Yo-ho yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah, there!

The only son of three generations, lost his parents when a child,

Is now condemned for lack of filial piety,

I don't wonder he's a bit resentful in his soul.

His Excellency the prefect wears the honoured name of Cheung,

Has long ears for the sound of money,

But no ears at all for rightful indignation.

Yo-ho, yo-ho o-yo, hurrah, there!

Look here, fellows, list to me,

After all your toil at farming,

When you have enough to eat and wear and something over,

Don't think of laying by, never!

Drink your fill, and play your game,

And have a good time while you may.

This world is full of robbers,

And if you're rich you'll suffer torture!

Yo-ho, yo-ho, o-yo, hurrah there!

The political flavour at the end of this song is a faithful, though perhaps the too outspoken, expression of the mind of my host in the year 1889 when I lived in a distant part of the country and listened to the whispered criticisms of the long-eared prefect who held office just over the way. In An's (the host) mind the magistrate and all magistrates were Sons of Ishmael, indeed, and worthy of being rendered immortal by just such a heartsome ode as this! SPECTATOR.

THE ALLCOT ESTATE.

In the Yokohama District Court, the hearing was resumed on Friday last of the claim brought by Mr. A. F. Haum, No. 63 A, Bluff, Yokohama, against Dr. W. S. Worden, No. 236, Bluff, Yokohama, Executor of the will of the late Mr. G. A. Allcot, claiming the transfer of a perpetual lease on Lot No. 63 A, Bluff, covering 353 *tsubo*, together with six buildings standing there, as well as the payment of a sum of 10,900 yen.

Mr. M. Bornhold, of No. 66 B, Bluff, Yokohama, appeared in the Court as witness and stated that the house he now occupies was rented from the deceased, Mr. Allcot, from July 1910 for three years at 42.50 yen a month,

and that the rent was always paid in advance every month to Mr. Haum, who brought with him a receipt signed by Mr. Allcot and Mr. Haum on the revenue stamp affixed to it. Witness further stated that the last payment to Mr. Haum, he believed, was made in November 1910. In December 1910 Mr. Allcot died, and subsequently Dr. Worden asked witness to make payment to him, and on his refusing to do so, Dr. Worden showed him a document of inheritance, verified by the American Consul General, to prove that Dr. Worden was Executor of the will of the deceased Mr. Allcot, so that thenceforward the rent had been paid to Dr. Worden as Executor of the will of the deceased, the receipts being signed by Mrs. Worden up to December last, and the one for this month, by Mr. E. M. Worden, son of Dr. Worden, who came to collect the rent.

Being asked by the Judge if he had been told by Mr. Haum that the ownership of the house occupied by witness would be ultimately transferred to Mr. Haum, he (witness) answered in the negative, and added that he had had no other business to talk over with Mr. Allcot or Mr. Haum but paying the house rent.

The Court then put several questions to the counsel for plaintiff and defendant, and it was decided, in compliance with the request of both parties, to summon Professor Terry of the Tokyo Imperial University as an expert witness to give his opinion of the case in question according to American Law.

The hearing was adjourned until the 21st instant.

A PRETTY WEDDING IN YOKOHAMA.

At Christ Church on Saturday afternoon, the marriage took place of Mr. Claude Hesselstine of London and Yokohama and Miss Elspeth Catto, daughter of the late Mr. John Catto of Aberdeen, the civil service having first taken place at the British Consulate-General before Mr. John Carey Hall, I.S.O.

The church ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Walter Weston, whilst Mr. S. H. Somerton at the organ presided in his usual excellent manner, playing appropriate music as the many guests took their seats and the Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin as the bride entered the church on the arm of her brother. The choral service was tastefully rendered and included "The Voice that breathed o'er Eden," "O Father all creating," and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March."

On the conclusion of the ceremony, a reception was held at the Grand Hotel and was largely attended, the health of the bride being proposed by Mr. McIvor.

The happy couple afterwards left for Miyano-shita for their honeymoon, Mr. McIvor putting his motor car at their disposal.

EARTHQUAKE.

Tokyo was visited by an exceptionally sharp shock of earthquake at 4.35 p.m. on Friday last. No damage is reported, but the limit of safety must have been very nearly reached. A similar severe shock was experienced in Yokohama at the same time, but up to going to press, no damage is believed to have taken place. At the same time, the vibrations were much too pronounced to be agreeable and caused consternation in many households.

At 5.30 p.m. on the 27th ultimo an earthquake shock was felt again in Yokohama. This time the shock was so feeble that it hardly affected the seismometer, and lasted only fifty seconds. The oscillations were principally in a northerly and southerly direction.

At 5.27 p.m. on the 28th ultimo a very slight earthquake shock was again felt in Yokohama, lasting 57 seconds. The oscillations were principally in a northerly and southerly direction,

C. NICKEL & CO., LTD.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The ninth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held in Kobe at the Foreign Board of Trade Rooms on Tuesday afternoon last. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. Wooley, who was supported by Messrs. F. E. Popert, H. E. Green and C. Holstein, Directors.

In submitting the report and the statement of accounts for adoption, the Chairman stated that the Company's business had made steady progress during the year in spite of keen competition and he considered that the financial position of the Company was very satisfactory. Provision had been made for the building up of a general Marine Insurance Fund, which it was intended to invest in liquid securities later on; whilst yen 30,000 had been put aside for depreciation of property and a modest dividend declared. He moved that the Accounts be adopted. This was seconded by Mr. Hoffmann and was carried unanimously.

The remaining business was the appointment of the Directors and auditors, the old Board being re-elected and Messrs. E. des Voeux and F. S. Morse against appointed Auditors for the ensuing year.

This concluded the meeting.

THE KAISER'S BIRTHDAY.

THE CELEBRATIONS IN YOKOHAMA.

The German residents in Yokohama most loyally celebrated the birthday of Emperor William II. on Saturday last, their national colours and those of Japan flying gallantly from their many business firms in the principal streets of the city. Many firms of other nationalities also assisted in the celebrations by flying their own country's flag, together with that of Japan in honour of the occasion.

The customary reception at the German Consulate-General was held between the hours of half past ten and twelve o'clock, when the Consul-General, Herr F. von Syburg, assisted by his colleagues, received the numerous guests who came to offer congratulations in the reception rooms upstairs. Among those who attended were the British and American Consuls-General and the other foreign Consuls in Yokohama, together with the Governor of Kanagawa-ken and many high Japanese officials.

LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE.

It is a pity that the funds of the Charity Organization Society and the Bijou Orchestra were not more increased by Thursday evening's performance at the Gaiety Theatre of the above opera than they were. For one has to reluctantly admit that the A.D.C. were welcomed by but a scanty audience. It was not the fault of the Company, all of whom proved themselves to be in excellent voice and form and played with the same *ve ve* and go that characterized their previous presentations. The same praise is due to the principals and to the rank and file as we have previously bestowed in these columns and laughter and enjoyment reigned in the auditorium throughout the evening.

We hear that Tokyo is keenly looking forward to the visit of "Les Cloches" to the Imperial Theatre, and we sincerely hope that a full and enthusiastic house will greet and welcome the work of our capable and excellent A.D.C.

FIRES.

In the small hours of Thursday morning last a fire occurred at the fishing-village of Kujukurihama, near Choshi, Chiba prefecture. Most of the men in the village being out fishing, some difficulty was experienced in fighting the flames and the fire was not got under control till it had

destroyed over 70 houses. The loss sustained is estimated at some 11,000 yen.

A fire occurred on Friday night last at the Amagasaki Spinning Company, resulting in the destruction of a store of raw cotton. The loss sustained is estimated at over 50,000 yen.

On Sunday afternoon last a fire occurred at Baron Iwata's villa near Ashino-ko, Hakone, resulting in the entire destruction of the building. The place being situated close to the Imperial villa there was great confusion for a time.

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To students both of American politics and of naval affairs, the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy will be found to present much that is of interest. From the point of view of the American Naval establishment the report is highly satisfactory. It is clear that the elaborate and ambitious schemes of reform which Mr. Meyer has evolved for his Department have already proved to be something more than paper reforms. By March 15 of this year the availability of battleships for immediate service will have been increased from the 63 per cent. of two years ago to 100 per cent., and the Fleet will have been definitely divided into two divisions—the Main Fleet and the Reserve Fleet.

The latter will, apparently, consist of 12 battleships and various old cruisers. There are in all 32 battleships afloat.

Eventually Mr. Meyer purposes to have 20 ships of the First Line and 20 of the Second. To do this a steady continuance of the two battleship programme will, he points out, be required. It is necessary, he considers, that all 12 of the Second Line be replaced by 1920, while four of them are already obsolete. There should be no ship in the First Line more than ten years old, and none in the Second Line more than 20 years old. By 1916 the United States will, by continuing its two battleship programme, have 16 Dreadnoughts in its First Line. Mr. Meyer does not assert that this building programme is perfect. It is too slow for one thing; but a total of 40 battleships, with a proportional number of other fighting and auxiliary vessels, is the least that will place our country on a safe basis in its relations with other world Powers.

In regard to the Panama Canal, which is to be a naval base in time of war, the Secretary points out, as he did last year, that its opening will greatly increase the availability of the Fleet, and suggests that the Fleet will then spend part of its time in each ocean. No doubt it is partly due to considerations such as these that the United States looks with apparent equanimity to the fact that the tonnage of its Fleet, always second to that of the British Fleet, is soon destined to be passed by that of the German establishment.

CONSTRUCTION AND ORGANIZATION.

In regard to details of construction one passage of the report deserves to be quoted in full:—

"In the face of an almost universal adoption of the turbine for battleship propelling machinery by the nations of the world, the Department has, in the recent battleships, beginning with the *New York* and *Texas*, abandoned the turbine in favour of reciprocating engines. This decision was arrived at after an extensive investigation, including the comparative trials of the two types of machinery, in the scout cruisers *Birmingham*, *Chester*, and *Salem*, and in the battleships *Delaware* and *North Dakota*, which render available more exact data on the subject than is available to any other Government. It is found that the reciprocating engine is about 30 per cent. more economical at cruising speed than the turbine and of about the same economy at high speeds.

In that part of the report dealing with the organization of the American Naval establishment there are various complimentary allusions to the British system, which, it will be remembered, Mr. Meyer investigated in person last summer. The management of English dockyards is, for instance, cited to uphold the recent adoption in the American Government yards of a somewhat similar plan of co-ordinating the direction of work under two divisions—those of hull and machinery. Especial praise is given to the organization of the yards of Messrs. Vickers; and Mr. Meyer's findings are summed up as follows:—

"In the English dockyards I noticed particularly a cordial spirit of co-operation among the different

departments; there seemed to be no jealousies and nothing but the best teamwork. Paper work and red-tape had been reduced to a *minimum*, and this was also the case at the Admiralty—in fact, throughout the British Navy."

There is also much praise for the system of detention of offenders against military discipline in force in the British Army. The Aldershot Detention Barracks is instanced as the kind of institution needed in the American Navy if, as Mr. Meyer hopes, the present American system of fines and imprisonments is to be abolished. Mr. Meyer has, indeed, much of interest to say in regard to the *personnel* of the American Navy. At present, as was demonstrated at the recent review, there is a shortage of about 153 officers and 3,129 men. The total enlistments are now 46,500. Mr. Meyer asks Congress to allow the enlistment of another 2,000 men this year. He further suggests a more adequate system of pensions and enlistment, so as prevent men from leaving the Service after one term of enlistment to seek more lucrative pursuits ashore. In this respect he advocates the creation of a reserve force after the British pattern.

THE ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS.

Many other recommendations are made in regard to further co-ordination and consolidation of the Service both on shore and in sea, supported by adequate proof that what has already been done in that direction is working well. But the Secretary merely proposes—Congress disposes; and it will be interesting to see whether the Democrats in the House, with their ideas of economy and their latent distrust of what is implied in America by "Imperialism," will treat the Navy Bill in anything but the most parsimonious spirit. The present opinion is that the Government will be lucky if it gets one Dreadnought, and that the auxiliary force, which is admitted to be deficient, will remain deficient. But the effect upon public opinion of Mr. Meyer's adroit and successful scheme of advertising the Navy at the recent reviews in the Hudson and at Los Angeles (recruiting figures have already risen in consequence), and of the successful energy with which his reform programme has been formulated and carried out, are all factors to be reckoned with when a Presidential election impends.

COINS OF A.D. 100.

DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND'S FIND CLAIMED BY THE CROWN.

A dispute between the British Crown and the Duke of Northumberland with respect to treasure trove found in the manor of Corbridge, on the Scottish border, came before the London Courts in the form of a motion for judgment.

Mr. Sargent, for the Attorney-General, stated that the particular find in dispute took place three or four years ago and related to forty-eight valuable old coins dated between the years 300 and 400. A few months ago there was a more valuable find of 200 coins dated 100. A most elaborate defence had been set up by the duke in which he claimed a general right to all treasure trove in the manor. That question must be decided unless the duke would make an admission that the Crown were absolutely entitled to all treasure trove found in the past or which might be found in the future. The coroner of the county, who was also a defendant, was merely a stakeholder, and was willing to retain possession of the coins for either the Crown or the duke. As against him there was a motion for judgment in default of defence.

Mr. Schwann, for the duke, said he did not raise any claim to the recent find or to any coins that might be found in the future, and was willing to give an admission covering these as well as the forty-eight coins. But there had been previous finds, which were in the possession of the duke, and he was not willing to give a general admission which would bind him in any other proceedings that might be taken.

Mr. Sargent mentioned that there was a question of title which dated back to the reign of John.

Mr. Justice Neville said that as the duke would not make the general admission asked for, the question whether the treasure trove belonged to the Crown or the duke must be determined by a trial of the action, and his lordship ordered this motion to stand over until then.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.

CHINESE COURT TO COME TO JAPAN.

A NOTIFICATION FROM TSITSIHAR.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Tsitsihar, February 1.

The Deputy-Viceroy of Tsitsihar has issued a notification stating that the southern Revolutionists have murdered all the officials dispatched to central and south China, charging them with being spies, and were at the same time sending members to the north to stir up rioters. Yet they accuse the Peking Government of mal-administration. The local government has decided to suppress with armed force any insurgents, and to deal with those issuing seditious documents to instigate the people to riot, regarding them as common rioters. The notification has been transmitted to Wu Ting-fang through the Peking Government.

YUAN AND THE PRESIDENCY.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJL.

Shanghai, January 31.

A belief obtains in Shanghai that Yuan Shih-kai is incompetent to relieve the situation. The rumour that Yuan will assume the first Presidency of the Chinese Republic is connected in Peking with a section of the foreign residents and Yuan's followers. The Republican Government would in no case elect Yuan President, and in the event of Yuan being elected President the advocates of war in the Republican Government would organize a powerful Northern Expedition to contest it at the point of the bayonet. The Expedition will land at a certain point on the Gulf of Pechili early next month and, uniting forces with the troops landed at Shantung, will attack Peking from both sides.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Fuchow, February 1.

The two infantry battalions and two field hospital corps in Fuchow, which form the fourth Northern Expedition, left Nantai at noon to-day and will embark on board a transport at Mamei to-morrow morning for Shanghai.

FUNDS FOR THE EXPEDITION.

Dairen, February 1.

Lan Tien-wei, commander of the Northern Expedition, arrived at Dairen on the 31st ult. with the object of raising war funds, of purchasing arms, and to mediate between the two antagonistic factions with a view to a settlement of internal trouble. He will stay in Dairen for two or three days.

REVOLUTIONISTS CAPTURE TOWN.

Chefoo, February 1.

The town of Chihmohsien, about ten miles to the north of Tsitung, fell into the hands of the revolutionists on the 29th ult. Germany dispatched there about 120 soldiers from Tsitung on the 30th instant.

ACCIDENT TO WARSHIP.

FROM REAR-ADMIRAL YAMADA.

Port Arthur, February 2.

When the warship *Sudanya* was steaming into Dairen harbour at 10 o'clock on Thursday evening last, she accidentally went aground at the foot of the northern breakwater. The attempts to refloat the warship have so far proved unsuccessful. Another attempt is to be made at high tide this morning.

A latest dispatch states that the warship

was successfully got off at 8 o'clock this morning. The damage is very slight. Some rivets were slightly loosened by the accident.

THE CHINESE COURT.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* says that the report that the Empress Dowager will pay a visit to the Ancestral Monastery at Mukden in company with the Emperor and other Princes after the abdication seems well founded. A rumour is rife that after the visit the Imperial party will proceed to Dairen direct and thence leave for Japan.

THE CHINA MERCHANTS S.N. CO.

According to a Shanghai telegram, Sheng Huan-huai, who is staying in Japan, has lodged with the Revolutionary Government a protest, through a Shanghai jurist, against the contemplated loan on the hypothecation of the property of the China Merchants S.N. Company, in which Sheng holds a large number of shares, regarding the action as robbery of private property. The revolutionists contend that Sheng's property in the Yangtze valley is the result of spoliation snatched by dishonest means from peaceful citizens and therefore liable to confiscation.

MR. HOMER LEA.

Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to Sun Yat-sen that in the forming of a new government, great care must be taken not to hurt the feelings of Great Britain and Japan, and on this ground Yuan rejected the earnest request of Sun for the appointment of Mr. Homer Lea as highest army adviser to the new government.

Sun was compelled to withdraw the demand. Sun is losing the sympathy of the British on account of his connection with Mr. Homer Lea. In advocating women's suffrage and other opinions imbued with socialism, Sun is putting on the stage a dramatic plot planned by Mr. Homer Lea.

EDICT OF ABDICATION HANDED TO YUAN.

PEKING FINANCES.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

Peking, February 3.

It seems that the financial difficulty of the Peking Government has now reached a climax. The *Official Gazette* announces that the following note has been issued to various *yamen* in Peking by the Department of Finance:—"The National coffers are almost exhausted owing to the heavy drain of the war, so that the Government has been compelled to suspend all administrative expenditure of less urgent nature. The *yamen* should, therefore, raise funds themselves to cover all the necessary expenditure, as the Department is not able to meet the demand."

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

Peking, February 3.

According to Chao Ping-chun, after the council before the Throne held on the 31st ult., the Empress Dowager sent for Li Tsu-tai and Hu Wei-te, to whom her Majesty communicated her determination to suspend hostilities to promote the peace negotiations, and ordered them to consult with Prince Ching as to the method of negotiation and decide in accordance with the views of Yuan Shih-kai. He accordingly paid a visit to Prince Ching and consulted him and then convened a Cabinet Council the same afternoon, when the terms of peace to be put before the Revolutionists were decided upon. An Imperial Edict was to be issued on the

1st instant, but publication has been reserved and a secret instruction has been issued to the Cabinet. Yuan is to enter into negotiations with Wu Ting-fang in consonance with the instruction; and on the Revolutionists agreeing to the terms, both the Peking and Nanking Governments are to be dissolved and a new interim government organized.

RAILWAY BRIDGE DAMAGED.

Peking, February 3.

The railway bridge (measuring 150 metres in length) located about 2 miles to the north-east of Shanhaikwan, was blown up by somebody this morning and railway traffic has been suspended. The damage will be repaired in two or three days.

FIGHTING RENEWED.

Chefoo, February 3.

The German troops in China were withdrawn to Tsingtao on the 31st and a party of about sixty soldiers left for Cheng-yang on the 1st instant. Five hundred foot soldiers, 80 mounted soldiers and a number of machine-gun artillerymen of the Imperial army were transported by train from Tainan and alighted at Cheng-yang. They took possession of Ching-yang and bombarded the Revolutionists.

THE IMPERIAL PRINCES AT PEKING.

Peking, February 3.

A secret conference of the Imperial Princes was held to-day. A majority of the Princes were strongly of the opinion that the republican polity should be opposed, even if the situation became so critical that the partition of China amongst the foreign Powers should result.

DISQUIETING SITUATION IN PEKING.

Peking, February 3.

In view of the disquieting situation in Peking, six infantry regiments have been dispatched to the capital from Paoiting for the maintenance of peace and order.

A later dispatch states that a rumour is rife that the Imperial Guards and the first Army Division will rise and revolt at the first opportunity.

TROUBLE IN MANCHURIA.

Antung, February 3.

Revolutionists from various places in South Manchuria have assembled at Wangfu and an attack on the Imperialists is being planned.

MOUNTED BANDITS.

Tientsin, February 3.

Mounted bandits make frequent appearances in the town of Chengtu and the situation has again become grave.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS' TERMS.

Hankow, February 3.

Li Yuan-hung has convened a meeting of his staff officers to discuss the terms of surrender to be dictated to the Imperialists.

PATRIOTIC LOAN.

Peking, February 3.

Chang, the chief commissioner of the Patriotic Bonds, has remitted to the Department of Finance the proceeds of the loan, amounting to one million taels.

MAGISTRATE OF SHANTUNG.

Nanking, February 3.

Hu-yin has been appointed magistrate of Shantung province.

EXPEDITION FROM SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, February 3.

About 120 soldiers under La Chun-fang

have left Shanghai for Hsuehchow, armed with explosives.

ABDICATION EDICT ISSUED.

A Peking telegram, dated the 4th instant, to the *Chuo*, reports that at 6 o'clock on Sunday morning the Empress Dowager paid a formal visit to the tomb of the Imperial Ancestors with all the ancient pomp and ceremony, and at 9 o'clock proceeded to the Yang-shen Palace in company with the Emperor, where her Majesty handed to Yuan Shih-kai the Imperial Edict announcing the Emperor's abdication. The Edict will be made public on the 5th instant.

A later dispatch says that immediately after the issue of the Edict, Bannermen will assemble at a place five Chinese *li* off Peking and rise in arms, with Prince Kung for their leader. Great confusion reigns in the capital.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

THE ALLEGED SECRET EDICT.

Shanghai, February 2.

According to Hwang Hsing, on the 3rd ultimo, Tang Shao-i called on Wu Ting-fang and entered into a conference with him respecting the treatment of the Imperial House after abdication. The details are not disclosed, but the matter has already been fully discussed in secret conferences between Tang Shao-i and representatives of the Revolutionists. The conference on the 3rd ultimo was, therefore, only a matter of formality. The Revolutionists have no objection to the retention by the Emperor of the title of Chinese King and the allowance of 4,000,000 *taels* as a civil list. Yuan Shih-kai telegraphed to Tang Shao-i on the 1st instant that a secret Edict had been issued announcing the abdication. Tuan Chi-jin has also wired to Tang Shao-i stating that Chang Hsun and Feng Kuo-chang are amongst the signatories of the joint memorial, and requesting him to transmit to the Revolutionists a message that they should refrain from attacking the troops under Chang Hsun. Yuan Shih-kai's telegram received by Tang Shao-i reports that a majority of the Imperial officers and men are in favour of a republican polity, but Viceroy Chang-tang of Hansu and Deputy Viceroy Sheng-yin of Shensi oppose the abdication and will persistently oppose the republican polity, electing Prince Tuan, who is now in Hsing-king, to the Throne. Their threat need not be taken seriously if peace is concluded between the northerners and southerners.

TROUBLE IN THIBET.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Hongkong, February 3.

According to Indian telegrams reaching a certain reliable quarter, disorder prevailed in the interior of Thibet in the middle of last month. In view of the disorderly actions of the Chinese soldiers and the uprising of the Thibetans the Chinese authorities applied to the British authorities for assistance. Plunder was also committed with impunity and a large number of Chinese officials are supposed to have been killed. Yunnan is now in the hands of the revolutionists but the districts lying between Talifu and Teng-yueh are tranquil.

PRINCES AT TIENSIN.

Tientsin, February 4.

Two sons of Prince Ching have arrived here from Peking and put up at the Astor House and the son of Na Tung is staying at the Imperial Hotel. They are looking for

houses in the safest quarter of the foreign settlement.

INNER MONGOLIA.

Mukden, February 4.

Special envoys of the *Gegen* of outer Mongolia have recently arrived in Inner Mongolia and are trying to persuade the various Mongolian tribes to join the union.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Peking, February 3.

According to a telegram received at the Japanese garrison, a train which left Mukden for Peking on the 2nd instant was derailed and fell over a bridge at a point about 15 Chinese *li* to the north of Shaohaiwan. The cause of the accident and extent of damage are not yet ascertained.

One of the abutments of the railway bridge located about 15 Chinese *li* to the north of Shanhai-kwan was found to be broken and in consequence, several cars tumbled over. Traffic is suspended. The casualties seem to be limited to the Chinese passengers.

THE WINTER SEASON.

Chenwangtao, February 4.

According to a telegram received from the commander of the Second Standing Squadron, blocks of ice are now floating about four miles off the shore, but the harbour is not frozen over. The ice near the pier is about six inches thick but it admits free passage to and from the harbour.

SOLDIERS AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, February 4.

A transport returned to Chefoo from Tengchow on the night of the 3rd instant, and several hundred soldiers were landed this morning. These soldiers were withdrawn from Tengchow. A warship subsequently left for Tengchow.

THE ARMISTICE.

Nanking, February 4.

The period of armistice has been extended for a week commencing from 11 a.m. on the 4th instant. Chang Hsun, who is in Hanchow, has now no disposition to continue the war. A Revolutionary envoy has been dispatched thither to take delivery of the town.

DEMOLITION OF CANTON WALLS.

Canton, February 3.

The Canton Military Government introduced to the Provincial Assembly a motion for the demolition of the walls around the city and the motion was carried on the 27th ult. The work of destruction commenced from the 1st instant. The Government intended to put the revolutionary soldiers at the work, but the plan was abandoned owing to an objection raised by the commander of the troops. Coolies are employed. The work, it is thought, will prove beneficial to communications and the sanitation of the whole city. A wide highway traversing the city from the south to the north is to be laid and an electric tramway is to be built on the new road.

FIGHT AT MANJULI.

Tsitsihar, February 3.

At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 1st instant the Mongolian soldiers collided with the Chinese at Manjuli, when the former retreated, leaving twenty-five corpses on the field. The Japanese residents in the district are all safe.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Chefoo, February 4.

The warships and transports carrying the

Northern Expedition have returned to Chefoo from Manchuria. Two other transports laden with arms, ammunition, uniforms and other war necessities have arrived at Chefoo from Shanghai.

IMPERIALIST SUCCESS.

Chefoo, February 4.

The Imperial troops transported to Chengyang by train from Tsinan attacked Chimo conjointly with the German soldiers dispatched thither, and took possession of the town; about ten revolutionists there were captured and decapitated.

TROOPS IN PEKING.

Peking, February 5.

The soldiers assembled in Peking from various places reach a total of 25,000. These soldiers have been stationed in various important places in the city since yesterday. A belief obtains that the Imperial Edict on the abdication will be made public in the course of two or three days.

Peking, February 5.

The Imperial troops detailed in the neighbourhood of Lanchow and Petaiho to guard against an invasion of the Northern Expedition have been withdrawn and assembled in Peking. The troops assembled in Peking up to the 1st instant comprise the headquarters of the Third Division; viz.—the first battalion of the First Infantry Regiment and several cavalry, artillery and maxim-gun companies.

TROOPS FROM FUCHOW.

Fuchow, February 4.

The headquarters of the Second Infantry Regiment and the first infantry battalion and company of the second battalion, which compose the 5th Fuchow Northern Expedition, left Nantai at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The troops were to embark at Mamei this morning for Shanghai.

THE LEGATION GUARDS.

Peking, February 4.

The *Corps Diplomatique* in Peking has caused the commander of the Legation Guards to confer on the method of protecting the foreign residents in the capital in case of emergencies. As a result of the conference, negotiations were entered into with the Waiwupu and it has been decided to outline a region to the south of the Eastern Gate as the first line of defence.

ABDICATION UNOFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* says that a joint provisional government will in all probability be established in Peking soon after the Emperor's abdication.

Contrary to anticipation the town is extremely tranquil, due to the vigilant watch kept by the guards.

Yuan Shih-kai has obtained an Imperial Edict announcing the abdication. The *Corps Diplomatique* has received from Yuan an unofficial note stating the conclusion of peace and the abdication of the Throne by the Manchu Emperor.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE STILL CONTINUE.

THE ABDICATION OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR.

(REUTERS'S SERVICE.)

London, February 5.

A Chinese Imperial Edict has been issued

directing Yuan Shih-kai to form a republic with the help of the Southern Republic.

The public has up to now not been informed of the abdication of the Emperor, but trouble is not expected.

(By SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOKYO "ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES.

London, February 6.

Dr. Morrison, *The Times* correspondent at Peking, wires that the Republican leaders at Nanking have telegraphed Yuan Shih-kai suggesting the termination of hostilities.

Yuan cordially agrees.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

THE SECRET EDICT.

Peking, February 3.

According to Hu Wei ti, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Empress Dowager, having recognized the inevitableness of the adoption of a republican polity, has already informally instructed Yuan Shih-kai to come to terms with the Revolutionists. There are, nevertheless, many in Peking who strongly oppose a republican polity, and as the premature disclosure of the views of the Imperial House would give rise to disturbances, the official announcement has been reserved. Acting under the secret instruction, Yuan is now in indirect negotiation with the Revolutionists. In the event of a successful conclusion of the negotiations, an Imperial Edict will be officially made public, directing Yuan to conclude peace with the Revolutionists, whereupon Yuan will formally conclude terms of peace with Wu Ting-fang. The Imperial Guards are now being stationed in various important parts of the capital to prepare for emergencies. On the successful conclusion of the peace negotiations between Yuan and Wu Ting-fang, both the Peking and Nanking Governments will be abolished and a Provisional Government organized. The President will be elected by a national assembly. Negotiations are now being conducted on the thirteen clauses, which have leaked out in the press, with some modifications.

A NAVAL BRIGADE.

Nanking, February 4.

The naval brigade of the Northern Expedition, composed of over 500 blue-jackets, will leave Nanking on the 6th instant. After a few days' sojourn in Shanghai, the brigade will leave for Chefoo.

AN INDEPENDENT EMPIRE.

Nanking, February 5.

To-day's issue of the local Chinese paper publishes a Peking telegram reporting that Princes Tsaitao and Chun as well as Tieh Liang advocate the establishment of an independent empire in Manchuria and Mongolia after abdication. They are to leave for Mukden via Tientsin shortly, to make preparations for the movement on consultation with Shih Liang.

THE FUTURE OF MANCHURIA.

Mukden, February 5.

Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern provinces strongly advocates a monarchical polity and has caused the Provincial Assembly to send to Yuan Shih-kai a telegram stating that special legislation will be enforced in the Three Eastern provinces, even after a republican government comes into existence.

THE DALAI LAMA.

Calcutta, February 4.

According to a local newspaper the Dalai

Lama has already left Darjeeling for home and is expected to reach Lassa early next month.

MEETING OF CORPS DIPLOMATIQUE.

Peking, February 5.

The *Corps Diplomatique* at Peking held a conference on the 5th instant, when it was decided to declare Chingwangtao a neutral zone, to prevent the landing of the Northern Expedition there, in order to protect foreign residents.

IMPERIALIST SUCCESS.

Mukden, February 5.

According to intelligence received, the Imperialists have regained the town of Tungkwang. The report of the recapture of Hsian by the Imperialists is not yet confirmed, however.

TROUBLE AT TUNGCHOW.

Tientsin, February 5.

According to a Tungchow telegram, some time ago General Chiang Kuei-tai perpetrated a massacre of a large number of people on suspicion of their being revolutionists. This brutal action provoked great indignation among the citizens and they joined hands with the revolutionists and collided with the Imperialists outside the eastern gate. The revolutionists are gaining the ascendancy.

THE IMPERIAL PRINCES.

Peking, February 6.

Prince Hung has secretly left Peking, and his whereabouts is unknown. Prince Sa, who left for Mukden, is now staying at Shanhaikwan owing to an interruption of the railway.

JAPANESE RAILWAY GUARDS.

Peking, February 6.

A detachment of Japanese railway guards has been dispatched to the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan where the railway bridge was recently blown up.

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuo* reports that a temporary Ministry has been formed in the residence of Yuan Shih-kai. It is stated that Yuan intends to retain the services of Drs. Terao and Soyajima and others, now legal advisers to the Nanking Government, as legal advisers to the Provisional Government.

A telegram from Shanghai states that the Sino-American syndicate has concluded a provisional contract for a loan of 200 million taels.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

REVOLUTIONISTS ACCEPT THE TERMS OF PEACE.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS)

Peking, February 5.

In response to the request of Chao Ping-chun, one of the staff of the Japanese Legation in Peking paid him a visit on the 3rd instant, when Chao told the visitor that Yuan Shih-kai had been in indirect negotiations with the Revolutionists since the 1st instant; and as terms of peace had been agreed upon between the two parties, Yuan had submitted a draft of the terms to the Imperial inspection on the 3rd instant. The terms were accepted by the Empress Dowager *in toto* and a secret instruction was issued directing Yuan to officially enter into negotiations with Wu Ting-fang. The full text of the terms of peace was accordingly telegraphed to Shanghai. Chao produced a

copy of the draft and asked the visitor to hand it to the Minister, with the additional explanation that he believed that the draft will possibly not be modified, as it has already been fully considered in the previous negotiations.

OPPOSITION TO ABDICATION.

Peking, February 5.

Shih-hsu strongly opposes the Emperor's abdication lest it may lead to the partition of China. The Department of Finance has issued four million pieces of copper coin to relieve the tightness of the money market at the end of the year (Chinese calendar).

WITHDRAWAL OF IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Peking, February 6.

Yuan Shih-kai has decided to withdraw the Imperial troops confronting the revolutionists under Li Yuan-hung, and the transportation of the Fourth Division actually commenced from the 5th instant.

THE SHANTUNG MAGISTRATE.

Shanghai, February 6.

Hu Ying, magistrate of Shantung province, left for Chefoo on the 6th instant by the China Merchants S. N. Company's steamer, taking with him three or four hundred soldiers. The steamer was escorted by the warship *Tungchi*.

THE MUKDEN PALACE.

RECEIVED AT THE NISHI-HONGWANJI.

Mukden, February 6.

The Director of the Civil Administration of Mukden has proceeded to Peking to consult with the Central Government regarding the sale of the treasures kept in the Mukden Palace. It seems that fair progress is being made with German merchants for a loan on the security of the treasures. A court official has been dispatched to Mukden to examine the treasures to be hypothecated for the loan.

RIVER GUNBOATS.

Shanghai, February 6.

The two river gunboats ordered from Germany and put together in Shanghai have just been completed. The gunboats are now at anchor in front of the Kiangnan arsenal, flying German flags.

MORE FIGHTING.

Tientsin, February 6.

About one thousand Imperial soldiers fought with the revolutionary troops last night at Laiyang. The Imperialists were defeated and fled, leaving 10 field guns and 6 machine guns behind.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Peking, February 6.

The third Northern Expedition took possession of Wushengkwan on the 4th instant.

MUTINY OF IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Mukden, February 6.

The Imperial troops stationed at Tiaonanfu urged the local prefect to support the republican polity. The prefect refused to accept the suggestion. Whereupon the troops rose in mutiny and the prefect fled.

THE DEMAND FOR A REPUBLIC.

Peking, February 7.

Last evening Generals Tuan Chi-jin, Wang Chu-yuan, Li Chun, Chang Hsun and others sent to the Cabinet a joint telegram urging the speedy declaration of a republican polity and abdication of the Emperor. The memorialists threaten to enforce their view by armed force. Those

who advocate a monarchical polity are terror-stricken.

REVOLUTIONISTS ACCEPT TERMS.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chuwu* states that Tang Shao-i proceeded to Nanking in company with Wu Ting-fang and Wang Chao-ming to confer with Sun Yat-sen on the terms of the Emperor's abdication. The conference having been concluded satisfactorily, Tan Shao-i sent a lengthy telegram to Yuan Shih-kai from Nanking. It is reported that an argument was advanced at the conference that the title of Emperor should cease with the present Emperor, but the revolutionists finally consented to the conditions as proposed. After the abdication, the Emperor is to assume a Chinese name instead of his present Manchu name, and all the Court Officials are to have their queues cut. Further, the Emperor, Imperial princes and banner-men are all to take an oath to uphold the republican polity, otherwise the cordial treatment will be withdrawn.

A JAPANESE LOAN.

A Shanghai dispatch says that Wu Ting-fang is now negotiating with the representatives of a Japanese syndicate composed of the China-Japan Steamship Co., the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, for a loan, for which the property of the Chinese Merchants S.N. Company, is to form the security. The loan will in all probability be brought to a successful conclusion.

YUAN ADHERES TO HIS TERMS.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS' PROPOSALS.

(BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE "TOKYO ASAHI SHIMBUN.")

London, February 8.

Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of *The Times*, telegraphs that the Republican Government has made most reasonable modification of the Palace terms for the treatment of the Manchus after abdication, and an agreement is assured.

The terms provide that the Emperor reside at first in the Forbidden City and eventually in the Summer Palace, and be accorded the honours shown to a foreign Sovereign visiting China. The Emperor is to receive an annual grant of four million dollars, *taels* being abolished when the currency is reformed. Special ceremonial expenses will be granted by the Chinese Parliament.

The Princes and hereditary nobles will be continued and the order of succession maintained.

Arrangements will be made for devising a livelihood for the Manchu Bannermen in time, and pensions will be paid them.

All races will be treated on an equality with the Chinese in all matters.

(OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS.)

GERMAN TROOPS.

Peking, February 7.

According to reliable information Germany dispatched the 7th infantry company to China on the 30th ult.

Prince Ching's family and followers proceeded to Tsingtao on the 28th ult. to look for a house. The family will remove to Tsingtao as soon as a house is found.

FLIGHT FROM PEKING.

Peking, February 7.

The Imperial princes and the great officials are quitting the capital to take

refuge in the foreign settlements of Tientsin, Tsingtao and elsewhere. The Peking Government is therefore under the control of the small number of Yuan Shih-kai's adherents.

MONGOLIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Peking, February 6.

The Mongolian Princes now in Peking have decided to declare the independence of Mongolia after the Emperor's abdication. Viceroy Chao of the Three Eastern provinces also opposes the abdication and openly asserts that he is ready to declare the independence of Manchuria, if the abdication be enforced.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITIONS.

Hankow, February 6.

The Northern Expeditions which started from Wuchang are said to muster altogether 110,000 men, composed of the following:—

First Expedition:—Hupei army, 20,000. Second Expedition:—Kiangsi army, 25,000; Anhui, Kiangsu, Kwantung and Fukien united army, 15,000; Hupei army, 10,000. Third Expedition:—Hunan army, 10,000; Kwansi army, 10,000; and Hupei army, 10,000.

The First Expedition is commanded by Tu Hsi-chun, the Second Expedition by Li Lich-chun, and the Third Expedition by Chin Ping-hsu.

RAILWAY LOANS.

Canton, February 7.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Yeh-Hau Railway Company has been held to consider the proposal of the Nanking Government of raising a 10 million dollars' loan on hypothecation of the railway. A few large shareholders opposed the proposal, but it was eventually decided to consent to the scheme. The amounts of the loan and conditions are to be left to the decision of the Nanking Government. The Standard Oil Company of the United States is rumoured to be the lender. Another rumour is current that the Canton Government is to raise a five million taels loan from England on the security of the Kowloon-Canton railway.

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS.

Shanghai, February 7.

The warship *Tungtsi* and the transport *Tunan* left harbour at 1 o'clock this afternoon, carrying revolutionary soldiers. Hu Ying, the new magistrate of Shantung, also left for Chefoo on board the warship. It is rumoured that the Standard Oil Company is making strenuous effort to secure the petroleum fields in Shansi province.

THE TAYA PINGHSIEN LOAN.

Shanghai, February 7.

The Germans strongly oppose the contemplated Taya Ping-hsien loan, resenting the recent dismissal of the German employes.

THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION.

Fuchow, February 7.

The Sixth Fuchow Northern Expedition, composed of the headquarters of the third battalion of the Second Infantry regiment and the 4th Infantry Company, which left Fuchow yesterday, has started for Shanghai, embarking on a transport at Mamei this morning.

THE IMPERIAL TROOPS.

Chefoo, February 7.

As already wired a few days ago, the German-Chinese united army has recaptured China. The main force of the Imperial

army is now located at Sukau, about 234 Chinese *li* to the south-west of Hwanghsien, while the main force of the revolutionary army is concentrated at Hwanghsien and to the eastward. A regiment of the Imperial army is also stationed at Laiyang.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

Peking, February 7.

Yuan Shih-kai has telegraphed to the Revolutionary Government that the Peking Government cannot accept a republican polity unless the Revolutionists consent to the most important terms, that is the maintenance allowance, the retention of the title of Emperor for the term, and the conservation of the Imperial Body Guards, in the terms formulated by the Peking Court.

THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION OF JAPAN.

(TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM "JAPAN ABROAD".)

IV.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN FORMOSA.

By MR. EDA, CHIEF OF TAINCHU CHO, FORMOSA.

It is a rule in life that untiring efforts properly directed will always be crowned with success. It is not yet a score of years since the Island of Formosa was placed under the control of the Japanese Government. Yet the development the territory has made in that short period along every line of administration, is decidedly surprising. Especially in industries and education, as a result of the united strenuous efforts of the authorities and the people, is the progress thus far attained remarkable; far more remarkable than the people in Japan proper generally suppose. With regard to the industries of the Colony, their condition has by this time been so often laid before the public at home, that they scarcely require any particular comments here; but this is not so with the condition of education, to which, therefore, I am going to devote a few words.

Generally speaking, it may be assumed that in Formosa the schoolmaster is as much abroad as in Japan proper. It was in the thirty-first year of Meiji that an Education Ordinance was promulgated for the island with a view to the education of the children in the arts necessary in daily life and also in the Japanese language, to inspire them with the Yamato spirit. Since then the authorities concerned have made every possible effort for the consummation of the educational provisions until elementary schools are now established almost everywhere throughout the Colony, with the result that even natives living in the most remote and mountainous quarters, are as familiar with the Japanese language and the National Anthem as the people at home.

According to the results of official investigations made in the forty-third fiscal year, the number of "public" schools, head and branch together, aggregated 223, the male teachers being 955 and the female teachers 65. The school children numbered in all 42,141, divided into boys 38,331 and girls 3,810. As compared with the total number of school children, those finishing the whole course of studies were strikingly few, totaling no more than 1,920, of which 1,820 were boys and 100 girls. Such was the case not only in the fiscal year under notice, but in the series of preceding years as well, and not without reason. Hitherto, on account of the comparatively long period of the school course, not a few of the children were inclined to leave school half-way. It should be noted that at first the school course in Formosa was generally fixed at six years. This was all right so far as the urban districts were concerned, but in the remote, mountainous regions, circumstances prevented the people sending their children to school for so long a

course, and the result was an increase in the number of children giving up school attendance before they had gone through the whole course of studies. With a view to remedying this, the school course in the thirty-seventh year of Meiji was shortened from the former six to four years, except in the urban districts; and this, as expected, naturally operated to minimize the percentage of those who left school halfway. Some of these public schools are provided with dormitories for the sake of such pupils as live far away from the school. The age of those admitted into the schools is limited from seven to twenty, and the school course is fixed in the urban districts at six or eight years and elsewhere at four years. Lessons are given in ethics, the national language, arithmetic, Chinese classics, singing and gymnastics, with the addition of sewing for girls, while it is so regulated that in the schools with a course extending over eight years, lessons in natural history, drawing and painting, handicraft, agriculture and commerce may be taught in addition to the above, according to the circumstances of localities. Little boys and girls below the second-year class are taught chiefly in their own native tongue, but those above the third year class entirely in the national language, and the command which the children of the fourth-year class and upward acquire over the Japanese language in reading, writing and speaking, is really surprising and adds much to the credit of those in charge of their education.

Besides the public schools above referred to, there are, as another educational organ, though imperfect and secondary, the traditional private institutes called *shobō*, or "studying-rooms" literally translated, survivals of the old government and now publicly licensed under the superintendence of the authorities. These are, to all intents and purposes, like the *terakoya* of our feudal era. For admittance into these *shobō* no limit is placed on the age of applicants. The curriculum provides, in addition to reading and penmanship, which were formerly the only lessons given, arithmetic and the national language. Also, for the education of the aborigines' children, schools of nearly the same sort as the above public institutes are established in several important spots, at present to the number of seventeen. The school course is generally four years, the lessons taught being ethics, arithmetic, the national language, and also agriculture, singing and handicrafts selected in accordance with the local conditions. Children above seven years of age are admitted into these schools and they now number in all 1,757, of which 1,517 are boys and 240 girls. Among the graduates are a number of such as can hardly be distinguished, at first sight, from the home people in point of costume, manners and language. What is more, some of them are now even getting on as practitioners, after having graduated from the public medical institutes. This goes a long way to prove that even the aborigines, when properly educated, can be tolerably enlightened and made as useful as the rest. Anyhow, it is a matter of great congratulation that the Colony has made such marked development in education in so brief a course of years as have elapsed since Japan acquired the island. In view, however, of the fundamental principles underlying Formosan educational policy, the present conditions still leave much to be desired. Not that I am unaware of the great difficulties attendant on the education of islanders possessing a language, manners and history completely differentiated from ours. But the difficulties can be diminished to a greater extent than at present, I believe, when efforts are better directed. It cannot be too much emphasized that the fundamental object of the so-called public education in Formosa consists in the assimilation of the island itself—that is, in Japanising not only the natives' language and customs, but their very spirit as well. The consummation of the external educational system, methods and provisions is of course a matter of great necessity; but the concentration of the minds of the Formosan public-school teachers on the above fundamental principle of education is far more necessary. In

so remarking I do not mean to say that those now teaching in the public-schools of the island are apt to forget this guiding policy in colonial education. On the contrary I think we may really be proud of the presence among them, in a great number, of those whose moral as well as intellectual proficiency as teachers, commands our sincere respect. On the platform of time, however, there is nothing so perfect that it leaves no room for improvement, and it is with this idea in view that I now beg, in proceeding, to make a few suggestions concerning the present educational conditions of this colonial territory.

In the first place, more attention should be paid to the paramount importance attaching to the selection of teachers. As mentioned before, I am not in the least of the opinion that the present teachers in Formosa are entirely unequal to their task. But strictly speaking, the fact is that the assimilation of the natives is a work so important and yet so difficult that it requires for its accomplishment men of the very highest abilities and most polished character. As some of our people may be well aware, the Formosan natives generally hold teachers in great esteem. The impressions those teachers may make upon the school children will not stop there, therefore, but will reach their parents and even the people in the district. Those in charge of the children's education in the schools, therefore, should always be conscious of the weight of responsibility devolving upon their shoulders, and never for a moment consider or act as if teaching in the class-room were the whole part of their duties. They should be possessed of at least one idea,—that they are in name and fact the guiding stars in the moral as well as the intellectual sphere of the locality. To this sort of self confidence nothing can give birth but such superior abilities, plus character, as must clearly distinguish the possessors from the general folks around. It cannot but be confessed that those who leave the home-land for the Colony to teach in the schools, are apt, upon their arrival there, to neglect the self-culture necessary as a member of society, and remain content as so-called "teachers of children." Hence they are often found to be out of date in their ideas, and appear to others as if they hailed from somewhere outside the activities and progress of society. Their fellow workers at home often receive the same criticism, and it is to be feared that it applies even more to school teachers in Formosa. We must really hope that they will pay more attention in the paramount importance, or rather the imperative necessity, of self-culture, and do their utmost for the acquisition of such knowledge as may be required by the ever advancing times.

Secondly I must call the attention of the general public to the advisability of minimizing the difference existing between the text-books adopted and the lessons given in the Home schools and in the Formosan schools. It would be still premature, of course, to adopt at this moment in the latter schools the very text-books now used generally in the former, while the conscious efforts thus far employed by the authorities for the attainment, as far as possible, of the above aim, are unmistakably apparent. On the strength of our belief that the assimilation of the islanders is the ultimate, and at the same time, the foremost, object of Formosan education for the present, we cannot but hope that the text-books used in the schools of the Colony will be drawn at least a little closer to those adopted in the schools in the Homeland.

In the third place, it may be suggested that the instruction and the training should be more practical. The natives are even now, for the most part, ignorant of what in the world modern school education aims at, and seem to generally consider it something like a mere luxury to those who will soon have to work for their bread. To make the situation worse, the instruction hitherto given at the public schools in the Colony seems to have been superficial and impractical in more or less measure, much to the confirmation of the above false ideas of the natives. The fact should be placed on record that it is not

only advisable, but in fact necessary, to give the school children such an education as best fits the circumstances of the different localities, so far as it lies within the scope of the elementary education prescribed for the Colony. Of late, in the Home country much has been said as to the importance of cultivating business ideas in those undergoing elementary school education. Certainly this is a theory worth endorsement, and ought to be insisted upon in the case of our Formosan public schools also. It would best befit the present condition of the islanders, and therefore insure the best results of colonial education, to aim at the cultivation of general business ideas at school by giving additional lessons, for instance, in agriculture in the agricultural districts and in commerce in the commercial districts.

Lastly, there is one thing more that I should like to suggest in conclusion, and that is the crying necessity of the consummation of the internal provisions for those schools already built. Some people have of late assiduously insisted on the necessity for an increase in the elementary schools in Formosa. It is a matter very desirable, of course, that the schoolmaster should be abroad as early as possible, and therefore that the so-called public schools of the Colony should be established in as large a number as possible. At the same time, however, it should ever be borne in mind that a large number of schools does not always insure educational development. Man is apt to work more for the perfection of external than for that of internal conditions. As hardly needs stating, no merit lies in a mere increase of school houses when the internal educational conditions remain imperfect. True, a large number of public schools are already built in the island. But none will hesitate to admit that none of those institutes is as perfect as it ought to be. In fact some among them are intolerably imperfect, not only in external provisions but in internal conditions, more importance, for instance, being attached to form than to substance in point of instruction. In these circumstances, the improvement of the internal conditions of the schools already established is of more urgent necessity than the increased construction of school buildings.

V.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHOSHEN.

BY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL USAGAWA.

The public at home are already fairly familiar with the steps taken for the development of Chosen, and as considerations of space forbid me giving any detailed account, I will confine myself to a general outline only. In commenting upon the administrative conditions in the Peninsula, the first point worthy of notice is the good-feeling of the Chosenese in general, and especially of the farmers, towards the new régime. It is true the inundations that visited Chosen last summer worked great havoc upon the vast stretches of the upland farms and paddy-fields. But thanks be to Heaven, the disaster was confined only to the regions from Zenra-dō southward, while in all the districts which were fortunately spared the crops proved more successful than in usual years. But for the disastrous floods, therefore, the crops in Chosen last year would have far exceeded those of the preceding year. In the inundated districts, in some cases no crops were obtained, and in others they fell from twenty to fifty per cent. below the average. In view of these conditions, the Government General exempted from taxes those districts totally devastated, and partially exempted those that suffered less seriously. The considerate measure of the Government authorities is not in the least strange to the people of Japan proper, but was quite an extraordinary grace for the Chosenese, who had been constantly crushed under heavy taxation in the days of their old government. In fact they were bled, so to speak, to the last drop of blood, the local *Yanpang* being so cruelly avaricious that even in defiance of the Central Government's declaration of tax exemption in

calamitous years, they would force upon the people such unreasonable taxes as almost out-balanced the whole profit from their poor crops. It is quite natural that the Chosenese, with such a hard experience, should have rejoiced over the tax exemption declared and duly practised by the Government-General in consideration of last summer's disastrous floods. In some districts the idea of erecting a big memorial in honour of the new régime, is being discussed. In these circumstances the fact is not to be gainsaid that the Chosen people have come by this time to completely understand what the development of the Peninsula really means to themselves, and accordingly they look on both the Government-General and the Oriental Colonisation Company in a very favourable light. This is a matter of congratulation, even from the standpoint of the Company itself, since to win the confidence of the natives cannot but contribute much to the development of that institution. With regard to the inundations, too, it should be noted that in former days no permanent preventive measure was taken in spite of the disastrous floods that occurred almost every year. But now, under the new régime, perfect waterways have been constructed, and strong, permanent embankments on the most modern system have been built, so as to prevent the districts suffering the same dreadful fate in future. What is more, for the construction of the waterways and embankments the authorities employed, at a very fair wage, all such poor natives as were completely deprived of their crops by the inundation. Such being the case, unlike as in the days of the old régime, none were found in so unfortunate a condition as to starve from want of work or income, even in the districts where the floods proved most disastrous. On the contrary, the fact was that, calamitous as the year no doubt was, the people in general could after all enjoy incomes as great as, or even greater, than in the preceding year. I do not want to flatter myself, but the above satisfactory result must be attributed chiefly to the existence of such a competent organ as the Oriental Colonisation Company. At any rate, by the Chosenese the merits of this Company are now fully recognized, even if they are underrated by people at home, who always talk of what they assume to be the failure of the Company's undertakings and the unsatisfactory results of the immigration, some of them going even so far as to bring into question the very *raison d'être* of the Company. I know it is useless to try to say even a word in reply to these hard criticisms, and I am not going to do anything of the kind. But at least I should like to convince the general public that the Oriental Colonisation Company is by no means a Company established with a view to profit only, but one brought into existence for the purpose, as hardly needs mentioning, of helping in the development of the Peninsula, in accordance with the Government's policy. At the same time, however, notice also should be taken of the fact that while the Company does not desire to gain any profit, it cannot afford to suffer losses. Its funds must be maintained by all means. What most people are wishing the Company to do is, I fear, after all tantamount to urging it to take no heed of losses. But this the very nature of its creation forbids it to do. Certainly the Company would, if only the law permitted, give every convenience to immigrants at the sacrifice of its capital, and put at their disposal, as is done in Saghalien and Hokkaido, free of charge, all necessities, from farm lands and dwelling houses, down to petty agricultural tools and implements. In that case no doubt the immigrants, as well as the public at large in the homeland, would be satisfied to the bottom of their hearts. Unfortunately, however, conditions in Chosen are completely different from those in Saghalien and Hokkaido, and this fact prohibits the Company from taking such liberal measures. The Company has, for example, to first purchase land before it can distribute it among the immigrants. Under these conditions the Company cannot but depend upon those tenants, not neces-

sarily for making profits, but by all means for the supply or recovery of any deficit created by the purchase of the land. Such is the case not only with land, but also with all agricultural necessities and accessories. We sincerely hope that those who criticise the company will take into consideration the above circumstances and sympathize with the authorities concerned in the great difficulties they experience in their efforts to keep the Company's work parallel to the Government's policy of immigration.

While on this subject there are two things that I deem it in place to specially mention. These are the fisheries and the salt-making industry in the Peninsula. With regard to the former, it may be observed that at first the Chosen fisheries were practically monopolized by the Chinese people, but upon Japan's annexation of the territory, our people took the place of the Chinese in this particular line of enterprise. In the early stage of the transfer, however, the Company exclusively undertook the business with a view to minimising the chances of any possible trouble occurring between the fishermen of the two countries. Later the readjustment of the fishing grounds was duly completed and there was no longer any fear of international troubles in this direction, even if the business were put under private control. Accordingly the Company placed the enterprise in the hands of some marine product corporations of Fukuoka prefecture, and the results thus far obtained are decidedly reassuring.

As for salt-making in Chosen, its future is, we have every reason to believe, as promising as any other branch of industry. According to the latest investigations, the consumption of salt in the Peninsula amounts to some three hundred million *kin* per annum, of which two hundred million *kin* is produced in the Colony, the remaining one hundred million *kin* being imported from without. Chosen salt is produced by the boiling system. So far as the productive methods are concerned, they bear much resemblance to those now generally followed in Japan proper. Yet the difference in the construction of the salt-fields, coupled with the conspicuous lack of dexterity in the art of salt-making, render the Chosen product considerably limited in amount as compared with the output in the Homeland. Then again it is well to note that as the art of salt producing still remains in an infantile stage of development, Chosen salt requires in its production a great deal of labour, while the fuel is strikingly high priced on account of the scarcity of supply, due to the neglected conditions of the forests. In view of these circumstances it is but little wonder that the cost of production of Chosen salt is high. In respect of the quality, however, the product is excellent and favourably compares with the third-class salt in the home country. The cost of production of salt in Japan, also, can by no means be regarded as cheap, but it is not so un-proportionately dear as Chosen salt, amounting in the case of the former product to some eighty or at most ninety *sen* per hundred *kin*, and in the latter case to about one *yen* thirty *sen*. In fact, in but few countries in the world is the cost of salt production so high as in Chosen. Such being the case the market price of the salt is naturally high. On an average it ranges in the central districts from 1.70 *yen* to 1.80 *yen* or more per hundred *kin*, while in the districts where transport is difficult, it is from three to even four *yen*. True, as compared with the home salt, the above price may not be considered intolerably high, but it is nevertheless surprising in view of the fact that the tax imposed upon this kind of salt is only six *sen* per every hundred *kin*.

Of the salt imported into the Peninsula, Chinese salt ranks first in amount, followed by the home salt and then by the Formosan product. The salt imported from western countries is for table use only, being of so small amount that it may practically be put out of consideration. The home salt imported into Chosen is chiefly consumed in the fisheries. Formosan salt is now being gradually driven out of the Chosen markets by the Chinese product, mainly because the

former is rather higher in price than the latter. As everybody knows, Chinese salt is decidedly inferior in quality to the home or the Formosan product. Yet it finds its way into the Chosen markets with an overwhelming force every year and it now occupies ninety per cent. of the salt annually imported into the Colony. This fact is entirely due to nothing but its low price. Certainly Chinese salt is as surprisingly cheap as the Chosen or home product is dear. The cost of production of Chinese salt is from seven *sen* to at the most twenty *sen* per every hundred *kin*. With salt produced at such a remarkably low cost, the Chinese merchants load their own junks and set sail for the Chosen coast. Thus they do not pay even a *sen* for transport. Moreover they keep it on board for a month, or even two or more months, until it is completely disposed of, and even take, as the case may be, cereals or any other things in exchange. In these circumstances it is only natural that the Chinese salt is characteristically low priced. It costs at Jinsen generally fifty *sen* per hundred *kin*, and sometimes even little more than thirty-five *sen*, but seldom exceeds seventy *sen*. Thus Chinese salt now threatens to drive out of the Peninsular markets not only the Formosan and home product, but the Chosen salt itself, and the growing increase in the amount of the Chinese salt annually imported into Chosen is certainly a surprise. The latest statistical investigations show that the amount of Chinese salt imported into the Colony increased from twenty-six million *kin* in the thirty-eighth year of Meiji to some forty million *kin* in the thirty-ninth year; to fifty-four million *kin* in the fortieth year; to seventy-four million *kin* in the forty-first year; to fifty-seven million *kin* in the forty-second year; to ninety-three million *kin* in the forty-third year; and up to almost one hundred and seventeen million *kin* by October of the forty-fourth year. An increase like that in the amount of the imported Chinese salt means, it must be noted, a corresponding decline of the salt making business in the Peninsula. In the districts of Heian-dô and Kôkai-dô, where close intercourse with their Chinese neighbours has existed from very early days, vast stretches of salt-fields are now literally covered with wild grasses, all the people there depending on the Chinese import for supply. Until the forty-second year of Meiji Chinese salt was not imported into the regions south of Jinsen, but since the forty-third year it came to gradually but steadily find its way even into the Fusan districts, until now it has totally encroached upon the Kankyô-dô districts along the coast. In such circumstances, the fact is clear that, if things are to be left to take their course, Chosen salt will be completely defeated by its Chinese rival.

To remedy the situation the best way is to reduce the cost of production. To ensure cheap production we should prefer the "sunshine" system to the "boiling" one in salt making. Generally speaking the Peninsula is peculiarly well fitted for the production of salt by means of sun-drying in view of the scarcity of rain, the dry air, the well marked tides, and the clayish sea shore characterising the greater portion of the coast. Accordingly, in the course of the fortieth year of Meiji one *chôbu* of saltfield was constructed for experimental purposes by the authorities at Shuan in Jinsen-fu on this system, the results of which were found most satisfactory. The salt thus produced proved to be far superior to the Chinese and even the Formosan product in respect of both lustre and quality. The chemical purity of the sun-dried salt produced at the experimental saltfield is from eighty-eight to ninety-three or four per cent., which enables the product to compare very favourably with the second or even the first class salt produced in the home country.

According to the result of this trial the productive power of a saltfield of one *chôbu* is one hundred and twenty thousand *kin* per annum. Calculated on this basis, something like two thousand five hundred *chôbu* of saltfields is required for the production of three hundred million *kin*, which is the total amount of the annual consumption in

the Colony. Now that the full possibility of success in the production of salt in Chosen is satisfactorily proved, the authorities have in hand the construction, since the forty-second year, of about one thousand *chōbu* of salt fields, as a first term undertaking, within the forty-fourth fiscal year. By the end of that year, therefore, nine hundred and thirty-three *chōbu*, and some ninety-seven *chōbu*, of new saltfields will have been constructed at Kōryō Bay and Shuan respectively. These salt fields are expected to produce, when the construction work is completed, well nigh one hundred and thirty million *kin* per annum, which is equivalent to the amount of the salt annually imported into the Colony. The Government-General has also in contemplation the construction of some one thousand five hundred *chōbu* of saltfields at Shuan and Danshi in Heian-dō. The sun-dried salt now produced in the Peninsula is divided into two classes, and put on sale at the price, for an amount above one hundred thousand *kin*, of sixty *sen* and fifty *sen* respectively per hundred *kin*, and sixty-five *sen* and fifty-five *sen* for an amount below one hundred thousand *kin*. In this context it may be further observed that this kind of salt, being of a more or less coarse crystallization, is not fit for use by those long accustomed to the consumption of salt of fine crystallization, produced by means of the "boiling" system. Hence the authorities concerned established in the forty-second year a salt-grinding laboratory at Shuan, and intend to build another at Kōryō Bay next year. The price of the ground salt is higher by five *sen* per every hundred *kin*. But, as before mentioned, the quality of the salt is so excellent and the price so moderate, that there is gradually growing among the general consumers a tendency of preferring this domestic salt to the home, Formosan and even Chinese product. In view of these facts it may safely be predicted that salt-making will in future grow into one of the most prosperous industries in Chosen.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

BY DAVID STARR JORDAN IN "SUNSET."

Once, with a Japanese friend, I visited the island which separates the bay of Tokyo from the ocean. On this peninsula is an ancient fort, as fantastic in shape as a modern dreadnought. "This," said my friend, "was the means by which old Japan tried to shut out the rush of European civilization." But civilization did not come in over the fort. It passed it by as a negligible quantity. It is thus the type of all great movements of the future.

The western civilization came to Japan, not by force of arms, but by the power of brotherhood and of trade. These two are the forces of the future, bringing and binding the nations together, while war, the tumultuous destruction of men in the mass, is a relic of medieval barbarism.

And trade itself is but a form of brotherhood. In the long run, like a flowing river, it purifies itself. Commerce cannot last unless it is honest. Trickery is death to trade, and it is equally essential to the life of commerce that both parties to it should be gainers. We cannot sell to China unless China has money to buy with, and this money she can only get by having something to sell. The "Yellow Peril" may perhaps be found in an armed and therefore bankrupt China. It is found already in a China in which extortion and bad government make it impossible for Chinamen to make a decent living. A self-respecting, justly governed nation, large or small, cannot be a peril to anybody.

In one respect our present civilization is singularly topsy-turvy. The dominant note of life is trade. Commerce brings the nations together. It induces mutual respect. It cements friendship. As Franklin observed long ago, it hurts trade "to hit our customers on the head." So the aggregate effect of trade is toward peace and justice among the nations. With this goes the feeling of brother-

hood. In every land, missionaries fearlessly cross the turbulent frontiers, carrying the best of our civilization freely to those in need of it. International conferences and world-congresses in every conceivable public interest are held by the hundred each summer. And these serve, whatever else be their purpose, to promote mutual understanding and the spirit of peace.

With all this the money actually spent on munitions of war grows by leaps and bounds. It is admitted that for economic and for social reasons war among the great nations is now impossible. Amazing progress is made in arbitration and in treaties giving better and better machinery for peaceful settlement of international differences. These differences themselves are being reduced to trifles, mostly not worthy of a second thought on the part of civilized peoples. Yet the expenditures in behalf of suspicion and hatred are growing as never before.

In the United States to-day 73 per cent. of all the national expenditures goes to one or another of the war accounts. In most of the nations of Europe the expenditures for civil purposes are relatively negligible, while thousands of millions of dollars are chargeable each year to the war account.

"A more ironic situation" says Zangwill, "has never been presented in human history. . . . For whereas in the contest between Church and Camp it was simple enough to shelve the Sermon on the Mount, in the contest between Commerce and Camp both factors are of equal greatness. In the ancient world there has been the same struggle for supremacy, but, the Babylonians or the Egyptians did not build up each other's greatness. The Romans did not lend money to the Carthaginians, nor did Hannibal sell the Romans elephants. But in this era the nations fight by taking up one another's war-loans. In lulls of peace they build for one another the ships they would presently be bombarding one another with. The ancient mistress of the world never developed a country until it belonged to Rome. The rival mistresses (of to-day) are all engaged in developing countries which belonged to their rivals, or to which they may one day themselves belong. In brief, two threads of social evolution have got tangled up and tied into a knot, so that neither thread can be followed clearly. It is death to give away your country's fortifications to another country, but an easy life to contribute to the strengthening of the other country's fortifications—at a percentage. No sooner have you devastated your enemy's country than you lend him money to build it all up again. In vain shells hiss and dynamite explodes. The stockbroker follows ever on the heels of the soldier and the grass of new life (and new loans) springs up over the blackened ruins. Indeed nations, instead of being extinguished in the struggle for political existence because they are too weak to pay their debts, have to be kept artificially alive in order to pay them."

The secret of all this contradiction, the expenditure of millions to promote co-operation among nations, and of millions at the same time to promote mutual destruction, lies in this. The Unseen Empire of Finance is working both sides. It looks after commerce and armament alike. It plays no favorites. Its business is to "absorb" and to "adjust" the debts of the nations. The house of Rothschild long ago succeeded the house of Bonaparte as the arbiter of the fortunes of Europe. It will equip a king with the paraphernalia of royalty all complete, from a dozen superdreadnoughts to a golden crown and a German silver sceptre. There is nothing like a battleship for playing the games of diplomacy, especially that of blindman's buff, to which amateur kings are especially addicted. All this is given for a modest percentage paid in advance, the national bonds going for whatever they are worth when they have passed the gauntlet of the minor bulls and bears owned by the unseen empire. This unseen empire is ready to build a railway to Bagdad in the interests of civilization, if Germany will police it. It will build a railway across Siberia

on similar terms. It will loan its money to Russia to the limit of \$5,000,000,000, and it will loan to Japan at the same time to the lower limit of \$1,300,000,000. When these limits are reached the white dove of peace must naturally find a perch. Allied to the unseen empire of the Rothschilds and their associates there is another agency, more subtle, and in its way more powerful, because always directed to one end. This is the Armament Syndicate in the various nations, with its allies, conscious and unconscious. Working always for war expenditure is the group of militarists pure and simple, most of them the world over desirous of exalting their trade. Then come the jingoes and aristocrats generally, junkers, lords and lordlings, anxious to thwart the plans of democracy and favouring everything that makes for pomp, glory and circumstance as against internal reforms and civic improvements. Next come the millions of men directly or indirectly interested in war or war preparations. Ferris of London estimates that one man in every six in Great Britain belongs to this class, forming unconsciously a huge auxiliary of the great war lobby. Even trade unions, in spite of their hatred of war, are easy allies of the armament trust. Finally we have the conscious lobby itself, the body of "strong, silent men," in the pay of the Krupp, Vickers, Whitworth and other syndicates who permeate Europe and whose ambassadors are potent "in every court from Argentina to Mozambique."

These men are not working for war. Their business is not war but the selling of war goods. They often claim to be the real leaders of peace. They would have the nations so heavily armed and so deeply in debt that they cannot move without explosion. Therefore they will not move against each other, though they may be allowed at times to hunt down some wild squirrel of a nation, like Albania or Morocco, which may have thus far escaped the benevolent assimilation of the money-lending trust.

In the nations it controls, big business will not tolerate real war, which is a destroyer of credit, but it does not oppose the waste of the people's money in extravagant armament, pledged to prevent war through its crushing load of debt. Business has killed war, but war debt is the basis of European credit.

It is recognized in Europe that the armament men are largely responsible for jingo patriotism and for war scares. It is in their interest alone that England must have twice as much "sea-power" as any other nation has. It is in their interest alone that Germany demands as much "sea-power" as England has. From their activity arise these periodical scares that come over England, the fear of invasion, the dread of starvation, the story that Germany is about to seize Holland as a base of military operations. On the other hand, the spectre of the Pan Slav Union against Germany, the imminent revenge of France and possible dire happenings to Germans over seas furnish the stock in trade for war scares in Germany. It is true that Germany is not so easily scared as England, but it is also true that a small scare goes further. The spirit of medievalism is stronger in Germany than in England or in France.

It is hard to trace the origin of war scares in America. This we know: the Powder Trust and the Armament Syndicates, with their allies in patriotism and militarism, are in full evidence in Washington. A Powder Trust senator is chairman of our committee on military expenditures, and preposterous stories in the interest of greater armament often appear in our press despatches.

We are told that 200,000 Japanese could, without base of supplies, land in the dark and seize and hold all the territory west of Denver, Santa Fe and Spokane.

We are told that Japan is in alliance with Mexico, and that someone has seen a secret treaty, whereby the barren and waterless coast of Magdalena Bay, suitable for target practice only (there is not even a jack-rabbit

there to be hit), is assigned as a coaling station to Japan. We are told of huge dreadnoughts secretly constructed in Japan or for Japan's use, in spite of the fact that "in the budget of the Japanese minister of finance there is included an appropriation for the next six years of the sum of forty millions of dollars for naval expansion, which is between six and seven millions annually."

We are told of dangers arising from the naval and military ambition of Japan, a nation with less than half our population and less than 1-12 our wealth and burdened with a war debt of \$1,311,333,459.8.

In London, I heard from a well known journalist, the story of a reporter who had lately visited the Pacific slope, and who found that in every village there were two or more Japanese—evidently soldiers in disguise, and ready at a signal to rise and seize the country. I was able to confirm this and to say that every decent town had also one or more Englishmen, doubtless also in the secret, ready to rise on signal in defence of England's new ally. All this would be supremely foolish, save that at the leading diplomatic centres of the continent the impending war on the Pacific is constantly under discussion. If talk could make war, they would surely bring it on. Nothing would be more acceptable to some types of continental diplomatists than a war which would at once wipe off the slate the richest nation in the world, and at the same time obliterate the one self-governing and alert nation of Asia. The same diplomatists have been sure that the United States means at once to devour Mexico and that the Japanese encourage the plague in Manchuria in order to vex the Russians.

Now what are the grievances which separate Japan and the United States? On our side we have absolutely none. The Fur Seal matter, which was remotely moving toward the grievance stage, has been settled by a treaty just to all concerned. In matter of emigration, Japan has been always willing to do whatever we wish, so long as our wishes are expressed in terms of mutual respect. The governor of the Japanese province of Rikuzen once said to me: "Japan is like a country boy who has come to town and finds many things which are new and strange. This boy finds in America an elder brother who can give true advice and honest help in all the difficulties of the new situation, while any wish of America it understood in Japan will be gratefully respected."

On the other hand, Japan has not the shadow of a grievance against us. Freedom of speech is recognized on both sides. Foolish people in America denounce Japan, and some people less foolish form their opinion of a great nation from some tricky servant or from the careless talk of some irresponsible drummer. On the other hand, the waerfront journals of Yokohama or Tokyo sometimes present unflattering portraits of Uncle Sam. Making faces at each other across national boundaries has been a common amusement so long as nations have existed. It has no international significance. It is true that bills aimed at the Japanese have been presented at every meeting of the legislatures of the Pacific Coast. Most of these were unconstitutional and all of them have been voted down. They are therefore no concern of Japan.

Believing, in the words of Baron Makino, "We can only go wherever we are welcome," and being advised that unrestricted emigration of laborers to America would bring about friction, Japan, of her own accord, in 1899 prohibited such emigration. This action has been extended later, but it is true that no labourers from Japan have come to California for twelve years. From Hawaii, many have come, but these are no longer Japanese citizens, and not under control of Japan.

The labourers of the Pacific Coast object to the immigration of Japanese and Chinese labourers mainly because these work for lower wages. There are other objections; the Japanese are clannish, and they are ambitious; they prefer to go into business on their own account rather than to be permanently on wages. Some of them violate

their contracts to the injury of fruit men dependent on them and some of them are bad neighbours. In other words there are among the Japanese the same varieties of men that we find among labourers of other races.

The general fact is, that there is no special prejudice against the Japanese or Chinese among competent judges on the Pacific Coast. There is, however, a very strong feeling that unlimited immigration from Asia would endanger the future of the coast states as self-governing democracies. There are only about five millions of men of European origin in California, Oregon and Washington. It would be easy for as many Japanese and also as many Chinese to come to the coast, to the utter social and political confusion of the region. Whether wisely or not, the people of the coast are almost, not quite, a unit in fearing this result and in desiring in all honourable ways to prevent it. It is true, however, that the fruit and canning industries are practically dependent on Japanese or Chinese labour, and that increased numbers of both would be for the material advantage of California.

The school question in San Francisco has never deserved, from either side, the attention given it. After the great fire of 1906, Chinatown no longer existed and the Chinese public school had scarcely any pupils left. It is understood that the teacher of this school asked that Japanese children be sent to her. This request the school board granted, apparently without a thought of international complications. When it became clear that this act might constitute a violation of treaty agreements, the regulation was rescinded. The publicity of the whole thing was unfortunate, as in the first place there was apparently no thought of injustice to Japanese children. So far as Japanese students, merchants and artists are concerned, there has never existed any feeling against them, and there are at all times from twenty to forty Japanese students in each of the universities of California.

The truth is—there is not the ghost of a foundation for any of the talk about war with Japan. Japan is a nation of hard working people, very peaceful, very poor, very heavily taxed, with a huge war debt, and a very heavy burden in the control of Korea. Korea pays nothing back. Her impoverished lands are owned by Koreans, her forests have been destroyed through unthrif and her mines are in the hands of foreign companies. To Japan, Korea is valuable only as a buffer against Russian aggression. The rulers of Japan are sagacious and cautious men, largely educated in American universities. The people of Japan everywhere feel toward America a peculiar, almost romantic gratitude. Our nation has been a friend and helper who has shown her good will in many ways, as in the return of the Shimonoseki indemnity and in the release of the treaty ports, Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Hakodate, from the foreign jurisdiction, so long burdensome to Japan. It was America, who, in 1854, first opened Japan to the activities of the West and furnished the occasion for the downfall of the outworn feudal system and the dual rule of Shogun and Mikado. It was America who led in the establishment of the Japanese public school system and in the foundation of the great Imperial University at Tokyo. A few hotheads interested in stirring up trouble, on either side, count for nothing in matters of international import. The growth of Japanese manufacture and commerce means the growth of trade for us. The better off our neighbours are the better customers they make. To say that Japan and the United States must fight for control of the sea as some of our armament promoters have insisted, is the height of folly. No nation can control the sea beyond the three-mile limit. There is nothing to fight over and nothing is settled when the fight is done. The lanes of traffic can never be closed unless by superior skill in competition. Sea-power has nothing to do with this. The sea is open to every corner and there is room on the Pacific Ocean for a thousand merchant ships where one now exists.

The Pacific will be the scene of the great economic deeds of the twentieth century, but they will be deeds of peace and constructive policy. In face of these deeds "Sea-power" will disappear, its prestige to be recorded among the nightmares of history.

K. R. & A. C.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club was held on the 31st ult.

Mr. C. H. Lightfoot, who was in the chair, being unfortunately unable to serve again as President, Mr. H. G. Green, was unanimously elected.

Mr. Green, in thanking the members for the honour done him, took the opportunity to read the following from the minutes of the last Committee meeting held in the Gymnasium on the 23rd ult. :—

"Mr. Lightfoot regretted that he was unable to again serve as President. This was received by the Committee with still more regret and Mr. Campbell proposed, on behalf of the Committee, there be entered upon the Minutes an expression of sincere regret that Mr. C. H. Lightfoot deemed it necessary to intimate his inability to permit his name to be used as a candidate for the Presidency of our institution.

"Mr. Campbell referred to the many years of energetic service Mr. Lightfoot had devoted to the K. R. & A. C. as President and Committee-man, and the very satisfactory condition of the institution under his Presidency, notwithstanding, at times, very trying circumstances.

"Mr. Campbell further proposed that a special minute be made expressing recognition of and sincere thanks for the great interest taken in the Mirum Garden by Mrs. Lightfoot. The proposal was seconded by Mr. H. E. Green and unanimously accepted."

On the motion of Mr. C. Crowther, seconded by Mr. W. W. Campbell, Mr. Lightfoot was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Club amid applause.

The voting for the new Committee resulted in the election of the following:—Messrs. R. C. Bowden, W. W. Campbell, C. Crowther, M. Ellerton, E. N. Lambert, C. Rice, R. W. Somerville and C. L. Spence.

JAPAN'S TRADE WITH CHINA.

The figures of Japan's trade with China during the eleven days ending the 31st ultimo were as follows:—

	Yen.
Exports	1,331,000
Imports	780,000
Excess of Exports.....	551,000

The returns from January 1st to the 31st idem are:—

	Yen.	Yen.
	1911.	1912.
Exports	2,984,000	1,739,000
Imports	2,878,000	4,741,000
Excess of Exports...	106,000	

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended February 4th are as follows:—

	Small Pox.	Dysentery.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Paratyphoid.
Yokohama—						
New cases...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Districts:—						
New cases...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—

THE BANK OF JAPAN.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of Japan took place on the 17th instant in Tokyo. The following accounts were presented and passed:—

	Yen.
Gross Receipts	7,753,083
Disbursements	4,785,271
Net profits	2,957,811
Balance brought over from the Previous Account	1,294,539
Total	4,252,350
To be distributed as follows:—	
Dividend to Shareholders (12 per cent. Per Annum)	3,257,000
Reserves	300,000
Reserve against Depreciation of the Bank Premises	10,000
Bonus to Officials	183,000
Balance Carried Forward to Next Account	1,509,350

The Governor, Baron Takahashi, then delivered the following address:—

GENTLEMEN.—In laying before you the Business Report of this Bank for the past year, namely, the 44th year of Meiji, I wish to invite your attention to a few features of the year's economics and to the cardinal points of the Bank's business.

The financial and commercial conditions during the year were not without occasional fluctuation, but if the general facts be summed up in a word, the year may be said to have passed quietly. In the beginning of the year, large sums of capital paid out at the close of the previous year were rapidly returned, and appearances indicated that the former ease would be restored. But towards the close of January, that is to say, the New Year of the old almanac, more or less tightness was produced by the demand for money, and the situation was accentuated by the calling up of share-payments in the case of various existing enterprises, and by a conspicuous excess of imports in the foreign trade. Thus the indications were that an easy market like that of the previous year would not be again witnessed. Turning now to the condition of the various realms of economics, we observe that dullness reigned continuously in the share-market from the spring, producing a depressed feeling in that branch of business. From about March, the price of rice at last began to recover and move upwards. But as this was a time when farmers held only small stocks of the cereal, the appreciation did not become a means of inducing a brisker state of affairs. Hence, in the domain of general business, nothing particularly noticeable was seen. When, however, the time for laying in cocoons came, a larger demand for these showed itself in consequence of the reeler having planned to increase the dimensions of their industry. This led to competitive purchases, and the market for cocoons became very brisk. Then at the end of June the municipalization of the Tokyo Railway was reported, and it had the effect of producing activity in the share-market. These appear to have been the only features that broke somewhat the dull monotony of the economic world, which had been prevailing throughout the first half year. By the month of August, the time for anticipatory imports had passed, and a notable excess of exports was witnessed, so that the future of the foreign trade was ranted optimism. Then, in the beginning of September, the estimate of the rice-crop was published, and it became apparent that a plentiful yield might be anticipated, so that signs of a better feeling showed themselves, and business developed an upward tendency. In foreign countries, however, the Morocco question exercised a disturbing effect on international finance. The Imperial Bank of Germany raised its rate of discount, and the central banks of England, France and Austria

decided to take a similar step. Therefore, having regard to the condition of affairs at home and abroad, this Bank, on September 27th, raised its daily rate of discount by 2 *rin*. Thereafter, though things showed some inclination to take a downward course, a reasonably stable state of business was maintained. But, in October, the Chinese imbroglio suddenly broke out, and its effect was to produce a pessimistic feeling with regard to the future of our trade with China, so that people adopted a conservative attitude. Moreover, in consequence of the recent progress of various enterprises and an increase of loans on the security of immovable property, capital evinced a tendency to become fixed, and since, at the close of the year, a sudden demand for more money to settle accounts had to be anticipated as inevitable, the Government, in the middle of December, redeemed 20 million *yen* of State bonds, doubtless for these reasons. Nevertheless, as the end of the year drew near, the demand for money in both official and private circles, far exceeded anticipation, and at last, on December 30th, the volume of notes in circulation reached the highest figure of over 435 million *yen*.

In the financial circumstances here described, the feeling of ease that had existed in the early spring underwent a change. But as business in general was dull, the money market did not give evidence of tightening. On the other hand, the need of capital for various enterprises reached considerable dimensions, so that in addition to calls upon shares, a great many banks and companies collected capital by floating debentures, or in other forms. Since the Spring, especially in April and May, not a few large transactions were undertaken with that object; such as the floating of Hypothec debentures, the raising of an Osaka municipal loan and the issue of China bonds. All these appeals to the money market were apparently successful. Of course one reason for this success was the absence of any keen demand for capital in commercial circles, but the redemption of 65 million *yen* of Government bonds during May, and an increase of banking deposits, contributed to a plenitude of funds in the market, so that by various adjustments a satisfactory result may be considered to have been attained.

Turning now to the foreign trade, we find exports totalling 447,430,000 *yen* and imports, 513,800,000 *yen*, the two aggregating 961,230,000 *yen*, the imports thus being in excess of the exports by 66,370,000 *yen*. It would seem that the defective rice-crop of the preceding year caused a not inconsiderable import of cereals, and the prospect of the new Customs Tariff going into force from July 16th, induced large anticipatory imports in the lines affected. Every staple of import showed some increase, and the result was an aggregate excess of 49,570,000 *yen* over the corresponding figure for the preceding year. On the other hand, exports showed a diminution of 10,990,000 *yen*; but if, for purposes of comparison, we subtract from the total exports for the preceding year those for Korea, the result shows rather an increase of 6,450,000 *yen* during the year under review. However, in the case of the principal staples of export, not a few causes contributed to produce a diminution. In the first place, pest broke out in Manchuria and disturbances occurred in China, so that, beginning with cotton yarns, all goods for Chinese markets showed a precipitate falling off. In the second place, the price of silk declined notably, and there was some decrease in sales, the net result being a diminution of approximately two million *yen*. That a bad rice harvest and purchases of goods in anticipation of the operation of the new tariff should go to swell the bulk of imports; and that the pest, as well as a disturbance in China, should check exports to that country, were temporary phenomena, not constituting any special cause for uneasiness. But when we come to consider the falling off in the export of silk, there is a matter inviting close attention, irrespective of the amount of money involved. My information is that silk-reelers in general have of late been endeavouring

to increase their plant, and that the tendency has been to employ a part of their profits as capital for an addition to the number of their boilers. Thus in 1910, a conspicuous increase was witnessed in the total of the boilers in operation. If, in spite of increased apparatus or production, a notable falling off in the amount of export could not be avoided, the reason was doubtless largely attributable to commercial conditions in foreign countries. But may not one explanation be that the decrease of prices did not follow the increase of production? It is of course unavoidable that increased production should tend to cause a reduction of price; therefore there is imperative necessity that those concerned should be careful when they increase the output to reduce the cost of production, so as to provide for an increase of export. That remark does not apply to silk only; in every branch of productive enterprise, it holds true, so that the fullest attention should be paid to the national economics.

With regard to the internal affairs of the Bank, I have nothing special to report to you, but I desire to say a word about our former Governor, Baron Matsuo. The Baron took office in October, 1903, shortly before the Russo-Japanese war. Thus he had to deal with the exceedingly difficult task of monetary arrangement in connection with the country's economics and finance during the war and its post-bellum scheme. And you, gentlemen, are well aware how ably he discharged his onerous duties. Nevertheless, on the 1st of June last year, he resigned his post, to our great regret, and I am sure, gentlemen, that you will join me in long remembering his eminent services.

Throughout last year, people spoke continuously of bad times. As it seems that the decline in the market-price of rice during the preceding year caused a diminution in the income of the agricultural classes, from which effect they did not recover even last year, so it was inevitable that the trade in such lines as provide for the needs of the provincial districts fell into a state of protracted dullness from which it did not easily emerge. Nevertheless, if the progressive condition of business enterprise be examined, it is found that the amount subscribed on account of various undertakings which came into existence last year totalled 240 million *yen*, after making the necessary subtractions on account of enterprises that were dissolved or had their capital reduced; and it is further found that the sum actually paid up aggregated 103 millions. Compared with the figures on record annually since 1907, it appears that the subscribed capital did not reach the figure for 1907 which was 280 million *yen*, while the paid up capital did not mount to the sum of 125 millions for 1910. But with only these two exceptions each of the figures for last year showed a conspicuous increase over the other years. Does it not seem, then, that the so-called "bad times" were a reflection of the sentiment felt in some quarters only? When facilities of communication are extended, the centres of commercial activity undergo change; and when efforts are made to economise capital, the seasonable buying of goods tends to diminish. Thus, from one standpoint a feeling of dullness is unavoidably produced, and from that standpoint it is not altogether unreasonable that talk of hard times should have been heard. At present, however, there is nothing abnormal to be recorded in Japan herself. But in regard to the Chinese trouble, even after its pacification we must be prepared to find that some time will be required before economic order is restored. In that respect it is necessary that official and private circles alike should be fully alive to the fact. The sum of the matter is that economic conditions in our country do not warrant any thoughtlessly optimistic estimate involving reckless enterprise, but neither do they call for any pessimistic suspension of the spirit of enterprise in general. In my capacity as Governor of the Central Bank, I hope to be guided by that policy, and I trust, gentlemen, that you will accept my assurances in that sense.

THE FIRST REPUBLIC IN THE ORIENT.

By Dr. K. UKITA.

(TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "TAIYO.")

Until the end of last year the world at large seemed to be still under the impression, though with more or less dubiousness, that the Peking Government would be able to manage, somehow or other, to emerge from the revolutionary commotion and re-establish the Manchu Dynasty upon the new basis of a limited monarchy. But the signal success thus far attained by the Revolutionists renders the fact no longer disputable that the fate of the Manchu Dynasty is practically sealed. A provisional Republican Government is already established, with Sun Yat-sen for President and other Cabinet members duly appointed. It may be justly assumed that the very moment the Peking Government, failing in its desperate effort for the suppression of the Insurgents, proposed to enter into peace negotiations, it implicitly recognized them as a legitimate belligerent force, whether the general world outside recognized them as such or not. The Revolutionists were then no longer rebels, but a body with a proper government in South China, and the question now was whether the Manchu Dynasty would be able to successfully cope with the situation or suffer the alternative fate of downfall. On December 28th last, however, the Peking Government issued an Imperial decree proclaiming that problems bearing on the polity should be decided by the National Assembly to be elected later. This, *ipse facto*, must be regarded as practically tantamount to a declaration that it was the Emperor's intention to retire from the Throne, thereby rendering the republic in China an accomplished fact.

It is now almost 267 years since the Chinese were subjugated by the Manchus and placed under their control. The fact that the former, numbering over four hundred million, should have been governed by the latter, who did not exceed five million in number, bears a striking resemblance to the present condition of India under the British Government. It is by Englishmen, numbering scarcely over ten million, that the Indian people of well nigh three hundred million are now governed. Still, notice should be taken of the fact that the British Government in India is a most civilized government, even if more or less despotic, and an element evidently essential for the maintenance of the peace and integrity of the country, whereas the Manchu Government in China is at once oppressive and corrupt. It is not only no longer an element requisite for the maintenance of peace and order in China, but in fact an impediment to the progress and development of the country at large. Though ethnologically of one and the same school, and completely assimilated to the Chinese in literature, the Manchu people, until but a few years ago, refrained from marrying with the Chinese, and, what is more, unjustly enjoyed several rights and privileges that were denied to the majority of their brethren. They resemble in some respects our former *samurai*, and yet they now fail to discharge their own proper duties of protecting the country, nor are they capable of either reforming the polity or renovating its institutions. They are in short no better than useless drones in a hive of bees.

Inasmuch as a State or Government is an organized body, it can exist as such only while it performs its proper function. It is an inviolable natural law, that any organic body devoid of an adequate power to perform its functions must give it place to another organic body properly constituted. Hence it is in the natural course of development that a State or Government, when its organic structure collapses to such an extent as to allow no hope of reformation, should perish by inward decay or by outside forces.

It was in October last that the smouldering

elements of revolution in the Celestial Empire were suddenly kindled, and, like fire in fields of dry grass, spread with a marvellous rapidity all over South China until they became an overwhelming revolutionary force. It may be remembered in this context that when the Insurgents, as they rose steadily in influence, declared their intention of fighting in the cause of a republic in China, some of our politicians began to view the development of the situation with no small amount of concern, regarding the movement across the seas as an indirect menace to the welfare of the Japanese nation. They even tried to urge our Government to decide on a policy of interference towards China. They were of opinion that since China is the country of a people belonging to the same race and possessing the same literature as this Empire, which has been under a monarchical government for thousands of years, the establishment, in such a brusque manner, of a republic in that neighbouring country could not but effect Japan in an unfavourable manner. They were afraid that since not a few of our people sympathized with the Revolutionists in China, some of them would go to the Insurgents and assist them in their efforts for the establishment of a Republican Government. At the time of the American War of Independence, both the Government and people of France, with their eyes totally shut to every danger their attempt was fraught with, exerted themselves directly and indirectly to uphold the American cause. The consequence was the upheaval, within but a short period of ten years, of a great revolutionary movement in their own country, which finally culminated in the overturn of the Imperial Government and the establishment in its place of a Republic. In view of these facts who can tell, it was held, but that Japan too, in assisting the Chinese Revolutionaries, might not meet the fate of France?

This sort of theory is not entirely misapplied, and was entertained, until some fourscore years ago, by not a few Western politicians also; but it is now at variance with both the principles of international law and public opinion in the civilized world at large. It may be noted that in the year 1820, when a revolutionary movement burst out at Naples in Italy, Austria, Russia and Prussia jointly issued a circular to the Powers in general, insisting that the movement was to disseminate a dangerous spirit of intrigue against the legitimate government, and therefore that it was within the right of the Powers to take, in co-operation, such measures as were best calculated to facilitate the suppression of the upheaval. This theory, however, the then British Foreign Minister, Lord Castlereagh, did not endorse. He was of opinion that England could insist upon her rights of interference in cases where the welfare of the state or its vital interests were jeopardised by any disturbances that might occur in a foreign country, but that she would act upon that right only when she found the situation alarmingly exigent. Later, a revolutionary movement arose in Spain, wherein France sought to interfere. The celebrated Canning, then British Foreign Minister in succession to Lord Castlereagh, insisted that no country ought to interfere with the revolutionary movements in foreign lands, for reasons that were not less convincing than those suggested by his predecessor. As pointed out above, the theory of Lord Castlereagh was, in substance, that it was within the rights of any country to interfere in an insurrection in foreign dominions when its vital interests were greatly menaced by the disturbance. This is rather conspicuous for ambiguity. For instance, it is a fact that the commercial interests of Japan,—and in this respect, of other Powers in general as well,—are in no small measure injured by the present insurrection in China, not to mention the other evil effects that the Chinese revolution may possibly produce. According to the above theory of Lord Castlereagh, therefore, we should come to the erroneous conclusion that Japan would now be justified in interfering in the revolutionary movement in the country of her neighbour. As for

Canning, he described the sphere of a country's right to interfere in such a case in terms more accurate and more persuasive. He insisted that no country was justified in interfering with any revolutionary movement in a foreign land so long as there was no proof that the revolutionists of alien countries were either going to encroach upon the territories under its control, to instigate its military to insurrection, or again, to upset its own state institutions. Strictly observed, this dictum, too, is not entirely unattended in practical cases with some exceptions. But generally speaking it is now recognised by the world at large as a principle of international law.

Thus it is to be admitted that Japan is not in the least entitled to interfere with the present Chinese revolutionary movement, so long as its efforts are confined to the overthrow of the domestic government, or to the destruction of domestic institutions. There is no reason to conclude that, because the Chinese revolution has proved a severe blow to Japanese commerce and industry, therefore Japan is entitled to interfere. Besides, it is to be noted that a revolution in a neighbouring country is not always attended by loss. In particular should the Chinese people wake up as a sequel, of their revolutionary achievement, and follow a policy of progressive principles, the indirect profits the commercial and industrial circles of the world at large may thereby gain would certainly be infinitely great. We ought to be generous enough to bear with fortitude the losses incidental to, or attendant on, a political disturbance in a foreign country, considering it as natural and inevitable, so long as we continue to engage in international trade. It is a theory none of the world's civilized Powers is likely to endorse, that a nation is to stand a silent on-looker when a revolution in a foreign country is calculated to prove advantageous to her own commerce and industry, and to interfere in cases when the political disturbance is destined to take such a course of development as to go against her own interests.

As a matter of fact, if things in China convince us that the civil war will continue to shed rivers of blood for an apparently endless period of time to come, public opinion will tend towards a timely interference in the cause of humanity. Even in this case, however, to such a right no single Power can justly be entitled. It is the common right of those civilized Powers that are most closely interested in the Middle Kingdom, though it may not be inconceivable that, since their territories are directly adjoining China, either Japan and Russia will interfere if any interference becomes necessary, with the consent of, and on behalf of, the Powers in general. As things stand now, however, there is practically nothing that justifies or necessitates any sort of interference, inasmuch as both the Imperialists and Revolutionists are making every effort for the protection of foreign residents, for the avoidance of bloodshed, and for the quick and peaceful settlement of the disturbance, the Emperor even preparing to retire from the Throne in the interests of the people at large. So long as both Parties take such a wise and proper attitude, there is no room for the Powers around to resort to military interference, even if the disturbances drag on for another year. Some criticise the Chinese as being a people characteristically selfish and devoid of patriotism. I do not propose here to discuss how far the above opinion is true. But this much it cannot be difficult for anybody to admit, that the Chinese have, through the ordeal of the present revolution, proved themselves by no means less patriotic than any other people. Certainly they may be proud of the patriotic deeds of the publicists among them. With Kwang Yü in, Liao Kei-chow, Sun Yat-sen and his colleagues General Li and Hwang at the head of the list, quite a number of Chinese publicists, including even women, both at home and abroad, are now fighting for the cause of a Republic at the sacrifice of their lives and property. It is not too much to say that they very favourably compare with the publicists in our country at the

time of the Imperial Restoration and those in American and European countries in the days of revolutionary disturbances. In view of these facts, the Powers at large may feel themselves justified in sympathising with the Chinese Revolutionists, but there is no reason why they should interfere and impede the patriotic movements of those publicists. Accordingly the only question that now remains for the Powers to decide, is when they should give their public recognition to the Chinese Republican Government. Now that the Imperial Government has recognized the Revolutionists as a legitimate belligerent body, and the Monarch is preparing to abdicate, the establishment of a Republic in China may be considered as an accomplished fact. It would, however, be safe and proper for the world in general to refrain from formal recognition until the new Regime is formally proclaimed as the result of a conference of the National Assembly.

In this context it may be wise to observe that though the monarchical and the republican Government seem to be two polities, fundamentally contradictory with each other, they are in substance one and the same thing after all, the only difference lying in the fact that in the former country the Sovereignty rests on the authority of the Monarch, and, in the latter, on that of the people at large. Sovereignty is an essential element constituting a State. It is unlimited and therefore absolute, and in this respect there is not the slightest difference between the Sovereignty of a monarchy and that of a republic. In either case, the will of the Sovereign becomes law, and demands the people's absolute observance.

Republican polities are divided into two categories, namely, aristocratic and democratic. But they are not in any fundamental way differentiated from each other, the only difference lying in the number of members constituting the Sovereign body. Monarchical and republican polities are, when theoretically considered, diametrically opposite. Yet there is no longer any necessity for people to discuss the superiority or inferiority of the two polities now that every civilized country, monarchical or republican, possesses a *de facto* constitutional government. In ancient times every monarchical and republican country was characterised by a polity of absolute monarchy in a practical sense. Hence it may have been necessary for the people in the past to discuss and study the merits and demerits of these two polities, and to change, according to their belief, their systems of government from, for instance, a monarchy to a republic or *vice versa*. Nowadays, however, in a country with a *de facto* constitutional polity, be its nationality monarchical or republican, each sphere of the rights and liberty of both the Government and people is unmistakably and inviolably defined by the Constitution. It is, therefore, as before observed, no longer the contents or substance of administration that differentiates a monarchical from a republican government. Under these circumstances there is no longer any necessity for people to take the trouble of altering their polity, no matter whether their countries are monarchical or republican, for it may justly be assumed that in a modern, civilized, monarchical country, it is merely in respect of nationality that it is monarchical, the polity in fact being republican. Likewise in a civilized republic, it is in point of nationality only that it is republican, its polity being in effect monarchical. It is advisable and even necessary for a country whose nationality is monarchical, to interweave a republican element into its government system or polity, and for a country whose nationality is republican, to interweave a monarchical element with the organic system of its government, so as to strengthen the weak points of one polity with the strong points of the other. For these two systems of government have each their weak as well as their strong points. The merit of the monarchical system lies in the fact that it insures the solidity of the basis of State control, and therefore the perpetuation in a consummate

manner of the existence of a State as such. But it has in turn its weak point of being apt to assume an absolute and arbitrary complexion, often in defiance of the general interests of the people. On the other hand the republican system most effectively guarantees the maintenance and promotion of public interests. This is its strong point. But it is liable to cause unnecessary separations in opinion and often to give rise to complicated political party conflicts, which fact constitutes its weak point. With these considerations in view, no one will hesitate to admit that it would by no possibility prove conducive to the promotion of the interests of any particular country, and therefore of the world at large, that only one kind of polity and nationality should exist on the earth. In fact it is the co-existence in this world of monarchical and republican polities, rather than the survival of one system over the other, that best insures the sound development of each polity and governed body.

Last December, the British Minister at Peking, Sir John Jordan, is said to have advised China to stipulate, as one of the conditions of peace between the Imperialists and Revolutionists, the conversion of her present polity into what may be called a Monarchical Republic, with the Emperor preserved on the Throne and a President newly elected, for the administration of the country in coöperation. At the time some of our people may have felt the proposal curious, being under the impression that China, of all places in the world, was to be the first to institute the peculiar governmental system resulting from a combination of the Monarchical and Republican polities. It must, however, be noted that the government system of a Monarchical Republic is, strange as the name may sound, in reality nothing but what has long been put in practice in western countries. To wit, the Belgian Constitution, proclaimed in 1831, declares that "all rights and powers spring from the people." Belgium, therefore, ought to be considered as a democratic Republic, though it has its hereditary Monarch. Time was when England was a thoroughly Monarchical country, and even at present it possesses its hereditary Monarch. Yet in a practical sense, it may be regarded as a sort of democratic Republic, now that its sovereignty lies in the Parliament, and the Prime Minister is appointed by a vote of confidence, as in the case of Belgium. Then again, Germany should be considered as a Republic in a broad sense, though it is an Empire in name, for its sovereignty does not entirely lie in the person of the Kaiser. He may certainly be regarded as something like a hereditary President rather than a Monarch, since he possesses, for instance, the right to declare, not aggressive, but defensive wars only.

Thus, in Europe there are not a few countries which are Empires in name but Republics in fact. Therefore I heartily hoped until the end of last year that the Chinese Imperialists and Revolutionists, following the British Minister's advice, would conclude peace by mutual agreement for the establishment of a so-called Monarchical Republic. In so doing, I believe, China would have been spared the probable fate of disruption, while Mongolia, Tibet and the other quarters outside of the Eighteen Provinces, would have felt no necessity for either attempting to declare their independence or for turning to foreign Powers for protection. The natural consequence would have been the effective maintenance of the integrity of Chinese territory and therefore of peace in the Far East. Now the situation in China has gone such a marked distance along the course of development, that anything short of a drastic measure,--more drastic than the above,--would accomplish but little. As a result, the country may suffer the fate of disintegration. It scarcely needs stating, however, that the Chinese people should, in the exigencies of the present situation, prefer liberty to territorial integrity. It is true the maintenance of the integrity of Chinese territory is a guarantee of peace in the Far East, but it is equally true that under the present

Government there is no hope for the Chinese people to attain any significant development. They are by no means less entitled to the right of seeking and enjoying liberty than the rest of the world. The development of China is an essential condition of Oriental progress, and therefore is a matter that claims a greater share of the world's attention than the maintenance of her territorial integrity. There is no gainsaying that none of the Chinese would in any serious way regret the downfall of the present Manchu Dynasty, and that most of them, on the contrary, would heartily welcome the establishment of a Republic in their country. It may be well to remember in this connection that the Chinese are a people traditionally self-governing and independent. They are a people, indeed, as some ancient critics have well remarked, who get to work at sunrise, and leave off at sunset at their heart's dictation; a people who drink by delving their own wells and eat by ploughing in their own fields, and believe that they have in their daily life practically nothing to do with their Ruler. Such being the case with the majority of the Chinese, it may safely be predicted that once a Republic is established in their country, it will be sure to last,—unless the new Government commits worse blunders than the now doomed Manchu Government.

In ancient times there seems to have existed a few Republics in some parts of Western Asia and also in the north-western districts of India. But in recent centuries there has been no Republic in existence in the Orient. So the Chinese Republic, if formally established, must be considered as the first and foremost instance in the Eastern world, and must on that account be worthy of record, if it lasts, in the annals of the world. In this context, what is to be noted is the fact that in western countries, where people were from ancient times initiated into a knowledge of a variety of Government systems, such as monarchies and aristocratic and democratic Republics, and were in possession of rich political experience, there was a constant and marked development in law, politics and science, whereas in the Orient, where people knew nothing about Republics and followed only one government system, that of Monarchy, but little progress was made in politics, laws and general literature. The reasons are quite plain. In the first place, among countries with different polities there is apt to arise a competition which naturally accelerates the progress of politics and the development of laws. In the next place, rich political experience and observation enable people to make a thorough study of the relative merits and demerits of the several administrative systems and different State institutions, thereby facilitating the free expansion of thought and the development of the intellectual faculties, and thus, in turn, spontaneously prompting the progress of general civilization. As history shows, in olden times most European countries possessed Imperial governments, which were later transformed into Republican Governments, and later into Imperial Governments again. In modern times they all adopted the Monarchical system, but subsequently some of them preferred the Republican system. So in the West there now co-exist the above two polities, and to this fact may partly be attributed the present progress of civilization, which distinguishes itself as superior to that of the days when only one kind of polity existed throughout the Occidental World. Should all Oriental countries make it a point to cling to one and only one government system, that of Monarchy, and attempt to perpetuate that polity at every sacrifice, the very probable result will be a degeneration which may finally invite some dreadful State calamity.

While we are of opinion that every country ought to adopt such a polity as may best suit its customs, manners and the degree of its civilization, we cannot but believe that the unification of polities throughout the world, would by no means insure the sound development of either the Monarchical or the Republican systems. It should be taken as a fact that the permanency and the

perfect evolution of both government systems are only possible in cases when they are allowed to co exist. The existence of either one of them to the exclusion of the other, even if permanent, would contribute not an iota towards progress and development, as in the past in the Oriental world. As a matter of fact a theoretically and absolutely perfect polity cannot be expected to exist on this side of the grave. Hence nations should remain content with any government system, Monarchical or Republican, according to each people's historical customs, so long as it properly limits the power of the Government, perfectly protects the people's liberty, and satisfactorily insures the progress and development of society.

In China, however, the régime of the Manchu Dynasty has proved, as before observed, an impediment to the development of the country. Moreover, it is not in accordance with China's history that any definite rule should hold permanent sway over the country. Accordingly an alteration in its polity must be considered as a matter of imperative necessity. It may be further observed that in China the rise and fall of Imperial Dynasties have thus far been so frequent that the downfall of the Manchu Dynasty will not strike the people as at all strange. The Dynasty of Shû lasted for some eight hundred and sixty years; that of Hang for four hundred and thirty years; that of Fan for two hundred and eighty-nine years; and that of So for well nigh three hundred years. Put later the surviving periods of each Dynasty were gradually shortened, the Dynasty of Gen lasting only a hundred years and that of Min some two hundred and fifty years. The Manchu Dynasty has lasted for about two hundred and sixty-seven years, and, judging from the country's past history, it is but proper that it should go the way of its numerous predecessors.

If the times were not changed, by this time another Imperial Dynasty would have established itself in place of the Manchu Dynasty. As it is, the general situation of the world,—the spirit of the times,—has now undergone a complete change. Hence the establishment of a Republic instead of an Imperial government. In this respect the situation in China at present coincides remarkably with that of our country at the time of the Restoration. But for the complete change of the times in the latter days of the Tokugawa Shôgunate, some one of the leading vassals, such as Lord Môri, would have taken the place of the Tokugawa family as Shôgun, upon the latter's downfall. But the time for the "sword and the kamishimo" was already gone. Hence the Meiji Government was established, instead of another Shôgunate Dynasty. For present day China, too, which has been brought into contact with the broad current of the civilization of the twentieth century, the time for the queue is already gone. Now is the time not for a Chin shô or Kôso, the founder of an Imperial Dynasty, but for a Kwang Yü wei or a Sun Yat-sen, inspired with the fresh spirit of the present enlightened days. Upon China, too, has thus dawned, it seems, a new era of enlightenment and evolution. It is true the Chinese people possess no permanent Sovereign, but on the other hand they have the permanent ideal of recommending the wise to Heaven for their ruler, with the conviction that from Providence and the people spring all political authority. Here let it be noted that, whatever the country, it is a fact not to be denied that the people's will is the source of sovereignty. In cases, however, where the origin of sovereignty dates so far back that it is hidden in the general obscurity which surrounds the early history of every people, sovereignty rises above the will of the people and practically becomes one of the attributes of a Monarch, as in the case of Japan. Then again sovereignty may justly be considered as practically independent of the people's will, even if its origin may not be of any remote date, in cases where the most influential among the lords and warriors, as in the feudal days, fought his own way and installed himself upon the Throne. A practical example of this sort of sovereignty we find in the country of Prussia. But so far as our neighbour

is concerned, it is generally believed by the people there, may even insisted as a permanent law implicitly understood, that the Emperor of China shall be entitled to maintain the reins of government only while it pleases Providence. In their country there is a proverb that "Providence sees as people see, and hears as people hear." Western people, too, have a maxim to a similar effect, though couched in somewhat different words:—"The voice of the people is the Voice of God." Certainly Providence expresses His will through people, as a certain ancient Chinese Sage remarked. Every Imperial Dynasty in China thus rose and fell just according to the will and fiat of Providence. The Chinese Empire, as it has been heretofore, seems to bear more or less resemblance to Rome in some points. As is a matter of universal knowledge, the Roman Empire was at first a Republic. Hence the sovereignty of the Roman Emperor was construed among jurists in general as a sovereignty bestowed by the people. Indeed, as a monarchical country, it was the case with Rome that even a mere commoner would, once on the Throne, acquire sovereignty and his will become valid as the very law of the people. Yet, owing to the peculiar nature, as above observed, of the origin of the country's sovereignty, the State organization savoured of some republican element, every Emperor, for instance, depending for his ascendancy to the Throne upon the recommendation of the Senate or Army. As compared with the Roman Empire under such circumstances, China must be considered as a monarchical country pure and simple. Still, strictly speaking, her polity, nominally monarchical as it is, should be regarded as virtually democratic, inasmuch as Providence so willed always, as Chinese history proves, that the administration of every Imperial Dynasty should be based on the Heavenly principle of Government for the people by the people.

While on this subject we may consider the British polity also. According to that country's Constitution the Sovereignty rests with Parliament. But in case the so called Three Estates of the Realm fail to agree among themselves concerning any serious State question before them, and dissension threatens to culminate in a sort of national disturbance, the public opinion of the people at large is to be entirely depended upon for the final decision of the problem. Thus it is a fact in England that in ordinary times all State affairs are decided—and decided arbitrarily, it may be said—by Parliament, which is invested with practically absolute authority, the people's liberty being maintained only by the system of self government. The polity of China, too, somewhat approaches that of Great Britain in certain respects. It is always believed in China that the Government is the Government for the people in general and by no means for any particular individuals. Accordingly, though the Chinese government is in every respect monarchical, so far as ordinary times are concerned, once the Ruler becomes incapacitated as such, as in the case of the Manchu Court, it is generally and implicitly understood as lying within the scope of the people's right that they should, as a last measure, resort to a revolutionary movement for the salvation of their country. It was in such circumstances that Kôso of the Hang Dynasty, Taisô of the Tan, Taisô of the Min Dynasty, and several other founders of Imperial dynasties in China rose from "down among the crowd" and installed themselves on the Throne, each in their own day. The downfall of the present Manchu Court would naturally offer a chance for a would-be founder of another dynasty. But the progress of the spirit of the times now forbids further repetition of past history and it is but just and natural that the Chinese people of the present day, saturated with the ideal principle of the Western democratic republic in addition to their original democratic ideas, should endeavour to place the basis of the State upon the principle of the so-called government by the people, of the people, for the people. The establishment of our Meiji

Government upon the downfall of the Tokugawa Shôgunate was nothing other than going back to the old régime of the Imperial Government founded by the Emperor Jimmu. Likewise, to establish a Republic in China is in reality to revert to the old régime of the celebrated ancient Chinese Emperors Gyô and Shun, which made it imperative that the country should be administered in conformity with the will and wish of Providence and the people,—a principle underlying the republican polity of the present day. China is now struggling under the same circumstance for the same cause as Japan at the time of the Restoration some forty-five years ago. The Japanese therefore would be fully justified if they showed any extra sympathy towards the Revolutionists of the neighbouring country. Anyhow, one thing is now quite certain, that China will come out as the very first Republic in the Orient, and mark a new epoch in the history of her country, and, perhaps, of the world.

CONCERT AT THE GAIETY.

The lovers of classical music had an excellent evening at the Gaiety Theatre last Thursday. In spite of the bad weather, there was a fairly large audience; and even if their numbers were not quite so great as they would have been had the climatic conditions been better, the enthusiasm displayed was sufficient evidence of the appreciation of those in attendance. It is hardly necessary to comment fully upon the playing of Mr. Reuter, Mr. Junker and Mr. Werkmeister. We have heard them many times and always have they proved themselves masters of their respective instruments. It was the same on Thursday evening. Their opening trio in E flat for Piano, Violin and 'Cello by Beethoven, was brilliantly rendered. The same praise can be bestowed upon the 'Cello solos by Mr. Werkmeister; the Paganini variations on the Piano by Mr. Reuter; and the Violin solo from Handel by Mr. Junker. All selections were rendered with a sympathy, a sharpness of attack, and a command of technique that convinced us that we had three masters contributing to our enjoyment.

Signor Sarcoli was in excellent voice in his contributions of Wagner's Recitative from Lohengrin and the Aria from Licoonda by Ponchielli. His singing was robust; whilst there was also a dramatic touch that was singularly effective. If one may criticise the singing of Signor Sarcoli, one might mention the unwise tendency of the introduction of the *trémolo* note. Although it may have a certain effect upon the majority of the audience, it displeases those who have a love for purity and simplicity of tone; and we feel confident that Signor Sarcoli, remembering the directness and clearness of his great *confères* of Italy, will realise the unwisdom—if we may use the word—of this *pseudo* dramatic effect. At the same time, Signor Sarcoli is undoubtedly the finest tenor that has yet visited Yokohama.

The following is the full programme of the evening:—

1. Trio in E flat for Piano, Violin and 'Cello.....Beethoven
Profs. Reuter, Junker and Werkmeister.
2. Recitative from "Lohengrin".....Wagner
Signor Sarcoli.
3. 'Cello Solo—
(a) Kol Nidrei.....Bruck
(b) Am Springbrunnen.....Davidoff
Prof. Werkmeister.
4. Piano Solo—
Paganini Variations, op. 35 Brahms
Prof. Reuter.
5. Violin Solo—Sonata in A major.....Handel
Prof. Junker.
6. Aria from "Licoonda" Ponchielli
Signor Sarcoli.
7. Quartette Dvôřák
Profs. Reuter, Junker, Miss Landis,
Prof. Werkmeister.

FRESH disturbances have occurred in the Champagne district in France. Fifteen winegrowers at Mailly have had their wine destroyed.

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE
CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE AGES OF MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

Dr. Miyake Setsurei's organ, the *Nippon oyobi Nipponjin*, still continues to maintain a very high standard of excellence. A gigantic New Year's number of the magazine contained more illustrations than have appeared in any fortnightly organ this year. Though the cost of preparing so many pictures must be considerable, it is said that their publication largely increases the sale of magazines. It would seem that even such a very serious-minded writer as Dr. Miyake is ready to go to great lengths in pandering to the taste of the Japanese reading public in this particular. Many of Dr. Miyake's articles are written for scholars who have a philosophical turn of mind, for the learned Doctor is a philosopher to the backbone, but others are designed to teach students how to make their way in the world. The New Year's number of the *Nippon oyobi Nipponjin* contains a 20 page article entitled *How should life be spent*, which is full of wisdom and valuable counsel. No young man could read such an article without learning much from it.

In the January 15th number of Dr. Miyake's magazine we find the following remarks bearing on the ages of members of the House of Representatives:—"The New Year's pines that stand at our gates, like milestones on the road to Hades, whether regarded as emblems of joy or emblems of sorrow (*medetaku mo, medetakarazu mo*) serve to remind us of the approach of old age and the decline of strength and energy which in most cases this implies. The country expects great things from its House of Representatives, and if it does not get what it expects it is important to inquire why this is so. In this connection the ages of the present members of the Diet are of some interest. More than two-thirds of the members are over 50 years of age. There are only 36 members who are 35 years old. There are about 60 members who are over 60 years of age; that is, one-sixth of the total number of members have reached this age. How far is the lack of energy shown by the House the result of the advanced age of so many of the members? It is true that a man is no older than he feels himself to be. There have been numerous instances of men growing spiritless at 30 and of men retaining their youthfulness when over 70. Gladstone was capable of doing an enormous amount of work when nearly 90. But with the majority of men age always tells. Deterioration sets in with declining years.

It is highly desirable that in our House of Representatives there should be very few old men, only a moderate number of middle-aged men and a great many young men. In England to-day, as in times past, talented young statesmen have no difficulty in rising to be Ministers of State. Everything goes by ability. If it is clearly displayed early in life, it has not to wait many years for its reward. Hence we see men like Churchill and Lloyd George occupying such high posts to-day. England is a conservative country and has a high respect for order, yet no objection is made to the rapid advance of young men. How does it happen that our way of acting is so different? It is partly the result of our election law, which puts the age for election too high, and partly owing to the fact that there are so few young men who come forward as candidates for election. If we ask why they do not come forward, the answer is that for years past our Government has done its best to banish politics from the minds of young men. The Department of Education has pursued this policy steadily. This is the real cause of the indifference to politics manifested by our young men.*

That the present general indifference to politics bodes well for the future of the nation no thought.

* *Shikishite sono reitan to nareru wa, tamen Seifu ni oite sainen no seiji-teki shumi wo messuru ni tsurumete* (tried their best to exterminate all political tastes), *koto ni Momoshiki ni oite koto ken ni chikara wa so soshiki ni kin* (起因) *su to subeshi*.

ful man believes. Though politics are not everything and though Governments are not omnipotent, the welfare of a nation depends largely on the working of its political machinery. If a country which has a good Constitution takes no steps to render it thoroughly effective, it may as well be without this charter of liberty. A nation that takes no interest in politics is certainly placed at a great disadvantage in competing with other nations. The one desire of the bureaucrats is to induce people to obey, without enlightening them, without imparting to them any political instruction. (*Tami wa yorashimubeku, shirashimubekarasu*). This policy is responsible for the wide-spread indifference to representative Government now displayed.

IN WHAT DOES JAPAN SURPASS OTHER COUNTRIES?

One of the new ways of collecting material for publication in a magazine is for the editor to propound a question to contributors and then to publish their answers. This was done by the *Shinkoron* some weeks ago. The question was *Nani wo ka Nihonjin to shite no hokori to suru ya?* As might have been expected, there is great difference of opinion among the seventeen writers on the position relative to other countries that Japan now occupies; some contending that she has hardly anything to be proud of and others enumerating and discussing a number of particulars in which they consider she surpasses all other countries. We furnish below epitomes of four of the articles.

1. *Dr. T. Fukuda*.—You ask what I have to boast of as a Japanese. Well, I think I have a great deal to be proud of. I glory in the fact that I am a Japanese for five reasons, which I will now proceed to state.

(1) *We are a united people*.—Though the Germans are said to be a united nation, they are not really so, as is shown by the fact that in Southern Germany the people feel under no obligation to celebrate the Emperor's birthday in a proper way. If one looks to the real state of affairs among other nations, one finds that very few of them can be said to be united.

(2) *Our patriotism is not based on argument*.—There are men in every country whose duty it is to preach loyalty to the powers that be, and filial piety (?), and we too have moralists who do this, but it is a subject for congratulation that the patriotism of our sons and daughters is not dependent on reasoning for its existence. It is a deep-seated feeling that nothing can eradicate. Reasoning is needed no doubt for explaining our Constitution and other political institutions, but we need no arguments to make us ardent patriots.

(3) *We are at once an old established country and a newly created one*.—I should not like to belong to a country like America which has no past history to look back to, nor to a country like France whose population is decreasing, and which therefore has no future. The Germans and ourselves have a past to be proud of and a future to be proud of and it would be hard to find any other nation to compare to us.†

(4) *I glory in the fact that our ancestors lived and died under feudal rule*.—According to my ideas, a nation that has not passed through the feudal stage of government does not amount to anything (*tomo ni dazuru ni tarazu*). I rejoice to know that our ancestors went through all the hardship and stern discipline incidental to feudal rule. The fortitude, perseverance and long-suffering which they acquired they bequeathed to us. This is a source of much thankfulness‡.

(5) *The Tokugawa rule conferred on us endless benefits*.—The whole organization of society can be traced to the system of Government set up by Tokugawa Ieyasu. Our national

* Objection was taken to the wording of this question by several writers; the meaning of *Nihonjin to shite*, it is maintained, is not at all clear.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

† *Kawako wo hokori, mata shōrai wo hokori suru Nihonjin taru no hokori wa Dōtsujin to tomo ni wareru ga kae, gaki toki to nari*.

‡ There is another side to feudal rule, however, that deserves attention.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

character to-day is the result of the way in which we were governed for over 200 years by the Bakufu. What European countries have striven for and never obtained, a state of pure self-contentment and self-reliance, to that state we attained under the Tokugawa regime. (*Ta no Oshū shokoku ga itaran to hoshite, itaru atawazarishi shunko taru jōshukoku* [醇乎自足國] *wo tatele yetaru koto wa, warera ga Nihonjin to shite kanarazu hokorazarubekarazu tokoro ni araeu ya?*) I know too well that among my fellow countrymen there are very few who share these views with me, but nevertheless I hold to them steadfastly.

II. *Baron Den Kenjiro*.—To me it seems that we Japanese have many things to be proud of. To begin with the foundation of all our merits and strength as a nation is our glorious polity, which has no equal anywhere in the world.

(*Waga Nihonjin to shite no hokori wa bankoku muhi no koei aru waga kokutai nari to shinau*). The essential elements of that polity are many and various and can't be discussed fully here, but its realization may be traced to three sources:—(a) To the Imperial ancestry; (b) to the circumstance that we have never been subject to foreign rule of any kind; and (c) to the fact that we are a people of one race, whose language, script, customs and habits are all the same. If asked to name the leading characteristics of the Japanese people, I should say they are: (1) Attachment to patriarchy or the family system; (2) a great regard for the code of morals known as the Bushidō; (3) readiness to sacrifice themselves for King and country; (4) a spirit of hostility against foreign foes; (5) a strong sense of shame, chivalry, faithfulness, chastity and sympathetic feeling for others; (6) self-esteem and self-respect in sufficient strength to maintain our independence as a State.

It is long since we read such an extremely optimistic article as that of Baron Den's. He says that Japan is so powerful in every respect that the foreigners who come into contact with her people are bound to be assimilated to her ways.* He thinks that Japan has only to display before the eyes of the Koreans and Formosans the great superiority of her polity and her institutions generally and they will at once be enamoured with them and become loyal subjects of the empire. Baron Den sees no defects in Japanese politics, religion, morality, customs or tastes. The nation has according to him attained to a state of unparalleled perfection. It has everything to be proud of and nothing to cause shame.

The next writer to be quoted from tells a very different tale.

III. *Professor Abe Isoo*.—There is, I suppose, hardly anybody who is entirely without national vanity. I am like other people in this respect. I am naturally inclined to hunt around to see whether I can't find something in this country of which to be proud. But really, however much I may reflect, I can hit on nothing special in which to glory (*Shikashi ikura kangae mo kore zo to iu hodo no mono wa onoi tsukimasenu*). Of course we Japanese when talking among ourselves may say this, that and the other thing, and when writing only for Japanese readers in a magazine like the *Shin Koron* can make a number of assertions that we certainly would not venture to send to the *Contemporary Review* or the *Nineteenth Century*.

Now let us pass in review the various particulars in which one nation may surpass another, in order to see where we actually stand to-day.

(1) *Consider things material*.—In industry, agriculture and commerce we are certainly behind other countries. It is claimed that our army and navy are up to the standard maintained by great

* Mr. Ozaki Yukio and many other Japanese writers hold an exactly opposite view and maintain that one of the greatest defects of the Japanese is their lack of assimilative power. Five years ago Mr. Ozaki wrote: "Our lack of assimilative power is a matter of grave concern, as it lies across the nation's path, impeding its further progress."—(WRITER OF SUMMARY).

Powers. Even granting that they are so, is there anything to boast of in this, seeing that an army and a navy are, like the roof of a house, absolutely essential for the protection of a country against warring elements? As an illustration of the extent to which we fall behind other countries, let us consider the present state of aviation among the various Powers. According to statistics published by Graham White the number of aviators in the world to-day is 700; divided up among the various countries thus:—France, 387; England, 128; Germany, 46; Italy, 38; Russia, 37; America, 31; Japan, 4. This backwardness on our part may be partly attributable to our poverty, but is this the only cause of it?

(2) *In thought we are altogether behind other countries.*—What ideas of purely native manufacture have we given to the world. Certain fragmentary philosophic notions of some interest are current among us, but they can all be traced to Chinese or Indian sources. Are there any great ideas in existence that are only possessed by us which we can export to other countries? (*Waga kuni dokotoku no mono to shite yushutsu subeki daishisō ga aru deshō ka?*). I don't profess to be an expert on this subject, so there may be some of which I have not heard. Writers like Lafcadio Hearn and Miss Locke express much admiration for Japanese ways and Japanese ideas of a certain kind. But what they like in us is the primitiveness which as a nation we are leaving. It is old Japan and what there is that is left of it that they go into ecstasies over and not the transformed and progressive Japan of this 44th year of Meiji.* So the praise of such writers is of no value whatever. If we were to be proud of what they admire, we should make ourselves a laughingstock to the world.

(3) *Neither our natural scenery nor our climate is so superior to that of other countries that we can be proud of it.* It is ridiculous for some foreigners to talk of Japan as a paradise. How can a country that is so constantly subject to atmospheric depression and earthquakes and what not be regarded as a paradise? We Japanese are accustomed to all this and so we don't complain, but to boast of a country with all the drawbacks which ours has as something ideal is absurd.

The truth is we were late in starting on the road of enlightenment and therefore we have nothing much to be proud of to-day except the grand future that lies before us.

IV. *Mr. R. Kuroiwa.*—I must confess that I am somewhat puzzled by the Editor's inquiry. What precisely *Nihonjin to shite no hokori* may mean I don't quite know. If it signifies what have we as Japanese to be proud of? my answer is nothing. I can't say that I take kindly to the word *hokori* (pride). It is generally used in a bad sense among us. For a man to be proud of his skill, proud of his authority, proud of his power, proud of the favour he receives shows small-mindedness. There is nothing superhuman about the achievements of any of us however comparatively great some of them may be, so there is no call for boasting about them. To me it seems that the feeling of pride is one that should be suppressed rather than encouraged.

To this somebody may reply, have not the greatest men shown supreme satisfaction with the rank which they hold among men? Confucius said *Tenoku wo ware ni shōzu* (Heavenly virtue is begotten in me); Christ said "I am the light of the world" and Shaka said "In Heaven and earth I alone am worthy of honour" (*Tenjō tenka yuiga dokuson*). Now it seems to me that these three great sages, in giving utterance to such boastful words were acting inconsistently. These assertions are directly opposed to the modesty and humility which they all three constantly enjoined on their disciples. Not one of the great teachers the world has known has avoided self-contradiction.

* It will be remembered that this was just the criticism that some of Sir Edwin Arnold's writings evoked many years ago.—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

† Some scholars render *son*, by the word "holy."—(WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

tion in his teaching. Entire consistency is unknown among mankind. But of course it must be recognised that this self-assertion in each case was founded on great self-confidence, on the belief that they had had gifts bestowed on them by Heaven which were not shared by other men. So that their utterances were certainly not prompted by personal vanity of the kind that is so common among mankind.

It appears to me to be quite out of place to be talking about being proud of one's country. Even supposing Japan were the most beautiful and the best country in the world, since the credit of calling it into existence does not belong to us who are alive to-day, why should we congratulate ourselves on the production of such a country? If the country were infinitely worse than it is, I for one should feel no shame on this account, not having taken any part in calling it into being. What exists in Japan to-day, physical, political or social, we have inherited from our forefathers and hence it is not for us to be glorying over it.

In politics, in commerce and industry, in science, in inventions, in thought, in the production of great men, it seems to me, we have much of which to be ashamed but nothing of which to be proud. It is for us to change this state of things by renewed efforts. The notion that we have already reached a great height is ridiculous, the climbing has yet to be done.

It will be observed that we have given the views of two writers on each side in this discussion. As regards the thirteen writers whose views we have not reproduced here, they can be divided into two groups, one of which follows in the wake of Dr. Fukuda and Baron Dea and the other holds the same opinion as Professor Ison and Mr. Kuroiwa. The latter group of writers is in the majority. While Mr. Hayakawa Tetsuji asserts that Japan has nothing to be proud of but her army and navy, Mr. Yutake Kyoshi maintains that outside her polity there is nothing that Japan can glory in. Dr. Inagaki Orohei thinks that Japan can congratulate herself on fulfilling the function of a harmonizer of Eastern and Western civilisation, but surely this can not be said to have been completed, even if it can be truthfully asserted that it has begun. We can not pursue the subject further.

TUBERCULOSIS IN JAPAN.

A very useful and timely little book on this subject has just been published in Japanese by Dr. Allen K. Faust, of Sendai, entitled *Shakwai no Kyōteki* (*Society's Formidable Enemy*). It is especially designed to supply information to school teachers and others on the precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of this terrible malady and on methods of treating cases of consumption. The subject is discussed under two main headings: (1) Curable Cases, and (2) Preventable Cases of Consumption. The book is divided into seven chapters. Chap. I. deals with the extent to which the disease has spread in this country and its effects. Chap. II. discusses the origins of the malady and gives a brief account of the manner in which it develops. Chap. III. goes into the circumstances and conditions which are favourable to the germination of the disease. Chap. IV. describes the first symptoms of the presence of tubercular bacilli and prescribes the treatment which the disease should receive in its incipient stage. Chap. V. is devoted to the consideration of the precautionary measures it is desirable to take to prevent the spread of the malady. Chap. VI. deals with the prevalence of tuberculosis in schools and the manner in which it is contracted by children, and Chap. VII. gives an account of the measures now being adopted in various countries to stamp out the disease. The book runs to 169 pages and sells at 35 sen a copy. It can be highly recommended to all persons who desire to do something towards checking the spread of this terrible scourge among the rising generation. According to statistics, no less than 130,000 deaths have recently resulted from this cause alone. Great ignorance of the nature of the disease and of ways of checking it exists all over Japan

and we trust that Dr. Faust's work will obtain a wide circulation in every part of the country.

DR. TAKEBE ON GREAT MEN

In our last Summary we briefly alluded to an article contributed to the Jan. 1st *Jitengyō no Nihon* by Dr. Takebe Tongo, Professor of Sociology at the Tōkyō Imperial University. We now propose to give this writer's views at greater length, as their correspondence with the opinion held by the late Mr. Fukuzawa Yukichi on the same subject seems to us to render them specially worthy of attention. Mr. Fukuzawa held that the aim of reformers should not be the creation of a few great men, but the elevation of the whole nation to a higher level. Dr. Takebe says in the article before us that when a whole nation has a very high ideal great men are no longer needed and seldom make their appearance. When the general level of attainment is very low, the achievements of men whose characters are much superior to those of their fellow-men become conspicuous and the title of "great men" is given to them. Many of them are great only when contrasted with their contemporaries.

Reviewing the present position of this country in regard to the production of great men, we are confronted with the fact that neither in the House of Representatives nor in the Government offices are they to be found, says Dr. Takebe. There are 370 members in the Lower House; the election of each member is said to cost from 10,000 to 20,000 yen. If the members were men possessing superior moral and intellectual qualities, this outlay on their behalf would not matter, but as things are now it is money wasted.

The young fellows employed in Government offices are all picked men. Among the graduates of Middle Schools only about 20 or 30 per cent. manage to enter a High School. These students take six or seven years to obtain a University degree. Among those who succeed in doing this 30 or 40 per cent. only go up for the Civil Service examination. Not half of these pass. So that the number of men actually appointed to fill Government posts in proportion to those who have spent years in working to qualify themselves for office is very small indeed. Thus we see that selection has followed selection. But the result of all the sifting is disappointing. The country is certainly not supplied with a high-class set of officials.

It must never be forgotten that much that passed for greatness in former ages appears to us to-day to be very ordinary. When the whole world was steeped in ignorance it was not difficult for men to establish a reputation for greatness without being truly great. The standard of greatness changes with the age, and as knowledge advances and as the world becomes more and more enlightened the difficulty of establishing a name for greatness increases to an enormous degree. This to a considerable extent accounts for the dearth of great men of which we hear complaints in almost every country.

THE GROWTH OF SOCIALISM AND GENERAL STRIKES.

In the February *Taiyō* Professor Abe Isoo, who has for many years past taken a keen interest in Socialism as it is developed in the West and its bearing on the relation of workmen and employers in Japan, discusses this subject in a very thorough way in an article that covers 11 pages of the Magazine. Professor Abe first shows that, though Socialism is undoubtedly making rapid progress in Europe, hitherto the proportion of socialistic members of Legislative Assemblies to the total membership has been small. On this point the following figures are very instructive:—

	No. of Socialists.	Total No. of Members.
Austria.....	87	516
Belgium.....	34	166
Denmark.....	24	114
England.....	40	670
France.....	76	581
Germany.....	53*	397

* The election held in January brought them up to 110, so that Germany is far ahead of the whole world in the support given to Socialism. Austria comes next and then France. (WRITER OF SUMMARY.)

Holland	7	100
Italy	42	508
Norway	11	123
Russia	17	442
Sweden	36	270
Switzerland	7	167

Professor Abe observes that English Socialists do not seem to put much faith in the power of Socialism to affect legislation. The support given to socialistic members by the labour party in England is very lukewarm. There are 1,277 duly organized labour unions in England, with a total membership of 2,000,000 and with a capital of £5,000,000; yet at the last election socialistic members were only able to command 538,000 votes. The English Socialists seem at present to have more faith in general strikes for the attainment of their objects than in appeals to the House of Commons; as is shown by the fact that among the 41 chief instigators of the strikes last year 21 were Socialists.

After dwelling on the terrible losses and the great inconvenience caused by strikes, Professor Abe discusses the measures which Governments should adopt for protecting the public from this comparatively new scourge, which briefly stated are the following:—I. *The nationalization of railways, tramways, and other means of communication.*—Socialists have all along urged the necessity of adopting this measure, but lately capitalists have been advocating the same policy very strongly. II. *Compulsory arbitration between labourers and capitalists.*—This has been enforced in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with excellent results. III. *The strict enforcement of the factory laws and new legislation bearing on insurance.*—To the latter subject the present English Government is giving much attention. IV. *The Capitalists must be prepared to share their profits with the workmen to a greater extent than they have hitherto done.* During the recent discussion of the labour trouble in England, it was maintained that all labourers ought to be paid £2 a week and England with all her wealth could well do that. The argument that such high wages would raise the price of goods so much that they would be unmarketable is a strong one, but must be received with caution, since even now English employers pay their men higher wages than are paid in Germany and France and still England holds her own in competing with these two countries in the markets of the world.

The question of what constitutes a fair wage, we would remind Professor Abe, can not be determined without taking into consideration all the circumstances which affect labourers and which affect capitalists. Professor Abe is pronouncedly on the side of the labourer. In all his writings on socialistic questions he has invariably displayed this proclivity. He says that because England has lent America £688,078,000, Canada £373,000,000, Australia £380,000,000, and S. Africa £357,000,000, therefore she can certainly afford to pay her labourers £2 a week irrespective of all other considerations. Plausible as this argument may sound to certain Japanese ears, it certainly will not commend itself to business men.

THE MEN OF THE HOUR.

The leading articles of the Foreign Press of Japan on the Revolution in China have for the past three months given an able exposition of the great upheaval. On the whole, they have been impartial, as they have neither taken the side of the Imperialist Government, nor that of the Republicans. They have been fair accounts of the situation as conveyed by the remarkably conflicting telegrams and letters from China. It is usually about a week later to the original arrival of these communications that one is able to arrive at a correct understanding of their information, for China still appears to possess the undeniable reputation of being the home—*par excellence*—of rumours and unreliable assertions. However, we have now got down to the solid fact that the great Manchu Dynasty is an epoch of the past; that a Republican polity has

been adopted—with the uncertain acceptance of Mongolia—and that Yuan Shih-kai stands out distinctly as one of the men of the hour. It is a most remarkable thing that this great crisis in China has developed three brilliant men; viz.—Yuan, Sun Yat-sen, and Wu Ting-fang. The strength and reserve of Yuan is beyond dispute, as is also the confidence bestowed upon him by the foreign diplomats. The brilliant Western diplomacy of Wu Ting-fang is an accepted fact, for his actions and messages during his term of office as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the provisional Republican Cabinet amply testify to the truth of such a statement; whilst, with Sun Yat-sen, his self-sacrificing patriotism and the devotion of many years of his life to what he considered the welfare of his country, will be handed down to history. It is perhaps too early to fully comment on the doings of these three men; but judging them by their actions of the last few months, one can truly say that they are men of whom any country might be proud. It must also be remembered that all three are Chinese, and not Manchus.

We have therefore three brilliant men who must be counted as the *Dei ex machina* in the present Republic. Of these three, Yuan Shih-kai is unmistakably the first; Wu Ting-fang a close second, and Sun Yat-sen something of an unknown quantity. There is something intangible and shadowy about Sun that makes him rather a fascinating personality. His many years service and persecution on behalf of his country, are too well known to need dilating upon. His election as the first provisional President of the Republic was a fitting reward for his efforts; but his unselfish resignation of the exalted position in favour of Yuan on the ground that the latter was the only man worthy of being the first President of a United China, reveal him as a man of singularly high ideals. Looking at his action from every point of view, one cannot believe that his resignation was caused from any selfish instinct. *Per contra*, he gives one the idea of being a patriot of the best type; a man, in short, who having strenuously struggled and fought for the consummation of a great dream, and then having witnessed its actual realization, is big enough to quietly stand down in favour of one whom he considers better able to conduct the initial openings of what is undoubtedly a tremendous experiment. For the transformation of a great Empire into a Republic is an experiment of huge magnitude; and, as has been pointed out in this journal, is liable to be exceedingly expensive, as past history will confirm. The resignation of Sun may be interpreted as a sign of weakness, and one may be almost inclined to consider it as such, or else as a confession of inability to rule. In spite of this, however, he still stands predominant as one of the great men of the New Era in China and it is almost a certainty that even if he desires to retire into comparative seclusion, his fellow nationals will not allow him to do so. A man of Sun's calibre is far too valuable an asset to his country to be permitted in the prime of life to step back into the realms of obscurity and one may safely assume that he will occupy one of the high positions in the Government that will shortly be formed.

The magnetic personality of Yuan Shih-kai, his strength, his reserve, his power of being able to wait, and his mastery of men, have already been dealt with in these columns. He stands head and shoulders above all Chinese statesmen and his skill in the conduct of the recent intricate negotiations has received the approval and admiration of all parties. Realizing, as he did, the great power of the Republican Party and the weakness of the Peking Court and its adherents, he at the same time fought stalwartly for the honour of his Imperial Master and the Princes; with the result, that although unable to preserve the Monarchy, he was able to secure surrender with honour and a liberal maintenance for the Imperial Family. The inner history of the struggle has yet to be written; but when it is, we feel confident that unstinted praise will be given to Yuan for his wise and

sagacious diplomacy, as out from the chaotic conditions of an internecine and fratricidal war, he has evolved peace. To accomplish such a feat is something that is far beyond the ordinary and, as naturally follows, is sure to carry with it a certain amount of condemnation from those who disagree with the Power that wins. This opinion is well illustrated by the fact that the militant leaders of the Revolutionary Party at Nanking and Canton have threatened Yuan for his apparent incapacity in deciding upon the settlement of a Capital for the Republic and his inability to come to a rapid and complete understanding with the Nanking Government. Such opposition will hardly stand the strain of critical examination, for it must be recognised that the opposition comes from the military side; and they, considering themselves the cause of the Republic coming into existence, naturally desire to see their demands immediately agreed to. And it is also equally natural that the civilian statesmen decline to be driven into what they consider an act of unwisdom. It therefore follows that the questions in dispute are purely academical; and, as such, will undoubtedly be settled within a few days. The shrewd diplomacy of Wu Ting-fang may be counted upon to promote the solution of the difficulty, which after all, is but trivial. In conclusion, so long as China can produce three men of such sterling ability as Yuan, Wu and Sun, who will undoubtedly head the new Government, the future of China is assured. That further trouble is ahead, is certain, but it will be of so slight a character, that the Powers and foreign merchants will not be affected. The great danger is averted, and prosperity for the new Republic looms brightly in the foreground.

A.W.M.

THE JIZENKAI CHARITY HOSPITAL.

(COMMUNICATED.)

It will certainly be gratifying to all those in Yokohama who have known anything about the Charity Hospital and its pioneer difficulties, to learn that now, twenty years after its opening, there is a prospect of an Endowment Fund that will make its good work permanent—and not only that but enable it to care for all the destitute sick of Yokohama—all through the good offices of our Governor, Baron Sufu, and the Baroness, who has been President of the Jizenkai for many years.

The story is interesting. In the winter of 1889-90 there was much suffering in Aizawa and other poor districts because of the high price of rice. Mrs. Magaki, of the Bible school at 221 Bluff (on the edge of Aizawa), reported some cases of distress to Mrs. Van Petten, and they began relief work in a small way. Others heard, with sympathetic ears, of the sufferings endured, and in December, the Fujin Jizenkai—Japanese Ladies' Relief Society—was organized with six members (Mrs. Lindsley, Mrs. Lowder, Mrs. Van Petten, Mrs. Magaki, Mrs. Ninomiya and Miss Sasaki). The society grew rapidly as soon as the destitution became known. Money was given freely, and rice-kitchens, which furnished a good hot meal for next to nothing, were opened in the poorest sections; also two free dispensaries, one in Aizawa, and one in Ota, Drs. Worden, Rokkaku and Ono kindly contributing their services. These relief stations were continued until the next harvest relieved the situation. Having still some money in hand, the Jizenkai decided to employ a trained nurse to work among the sick poor.

This nurse, Miss Aoki, very soon began to beg for a clean, sanitary place—"a little room, no matter how small if it is only clean, and has good air." The need of such a place was made manifest, and her plea was emphasized by her taking typhus fever, and requiring the skill of everybody concerned to keep her from dying. Then a small room for the sick (we were not yet up to the idea of a hospital) was seriously discussed. Ground was necessary if we were to build, and, at this juncture, Mr. Lindsley gave our society three hundred yen, with which

to buy a site we thought we had secured on the "Teppoba." In this venture we were cheated by our middlemen, and seemed, for a time, to have lost our money, the confidence of our friends and our hope of a building for the sick. This was a dark time, but Mrs. Admiral Evans, by turning the proceeds of a concert our way, enabled us to buy our present site of a little more than 700 *tsudo*. Later the Teppoba ground was sold and became the nucleus of our present endowment fund.

Then the building! The late Mr. P. Sarda gave us his valuable services in planning and overseeing, and we worked with might and main to pay the bills as they came due. So well did Mr. Sarda do his part that for ten years not 100 *yen* were required for repairs. Our part had various experiences. On one occasion, we undertook a bazaar in the Bluff Gardens. It had but just been opened when a heavy hailstorm brought it to a sudden and violent end. That was on a Saturday. On Monday, we tried again and succeeded in making 300 *yen*.

Finally the building was finished and paid for, deep well and all, when a considerable trouble about the road unexpectedly came up. At last, in 1892, it was opened and began its good work. Our struggle to raise the needed funds continued, but many poor people were being helped, so we kept on. In 1899, Governor Suifu came to Yokohama and Madam Suifu at once interested herself in the Jizenkai, becoming its very efficient president. A short time before that, a board of twenty-five ladies was chosen to direct the affairs of the hospital (including five of the six original members of the Jizenkai). This was in May 1900. By this arrangement more money was raised, and more people helped, but as the city grew in numbers, and the hospital because more widely known, the calls still exceeded our power to help, until finally, pitiful as it was, it was found necessary to limit the number of dispensary patients to fifty per day and of beds occupied to ten.

This was the situation until now, when Baron Suifu, on the eve of departure for his high post in Tokyo, comes to the rescue. Overwhelmed with duties as he must be, it is amazing that he has already accomplished so much. Estimating that to meet the needs of a charity hospital in this great city, the interest on 200,000 *yen* was needed, he set about raising that sum. A letter, graphically describing the needs of the work and calling attention to the fact that the aims of this, the first charity hospital opened in Japan, were exactly in accord with the thought of his Majesty the Emperor, was written and sent to one thousand prominent Japanese gentlemen.

In response, two—Mr. Watanabe Fukusaburo and Mr. Okano Kinoshige—have donated 10,000 *yen* each; seventy others have replied that they will give,—the amount to be decided later.

It is likely that prominent foreigners, also, may be given a chance to help, and, when those who are able to do so have given large sums, it is to be hoped that the last 10,000 *yen* or more will be given by a popular subscription of 1.00 *yen* each, that all, rich and poor, may rejoice together over the prosperity of our Charity Hospital, and unite in appreciation of the kind efforts of Baron and Baroness Suifu in behalf of the sick poor.

C.V.P.

INTERPORT FOOTBALL.

Kobe v. YOKOHAMA.

The Interport Association Football match, which was played at Kobe on Saturday last, resulted in a win for the home team by six goals to one. The *Kobe Herald* describing the game, writes:—

The weather was perfect although a strong breeze was blowing across the ground from the West. Spectators began to arrive quite early, and a good attendance seemed assured.

Yokohama kicked off from the Gymnasium end, and Kobe at once made tracks for their goal, Woodruff shooting wide. Kobe were

playing a fine game, and after some fast and exciting play Woodruff scored a grand goal.

Kobe, 1 goal. Yokohama, nil.

This, after about five minutes' play. Kobe came again, forcing the game, and from a pass by Woodruff, Reynell nearly scored. Yokohama now got across for the first time, Hearne showing up well. Again they attacked, but Kobe drove them back and then took up the running themselves. Twice in succession they kicked wide of the posts. From a fine piece of combined work, Reynell made a grand shot right into the goal keeper's hands, that player making a magnificent save. Still Kobe pressed, but at last Yokohama got over, twice in succession. But Kobe came again and Guterres made a good shot, which the goalkeeper cleverly saved.

Yokohama again got dangerous and forced their first corner. The ball was badly placed by their man and Kobe rushed across. At this time there was a big crowd of spectators all round the ground. Hearne played a fine game at centre-forward for Yokohama. Kobe forced a corner, which Lambert took, but the ball was got away. After a brief incursion by Yokohama, Kobe again came down with a rush, Woodruff playing finely, and at last, after a bit of good combined play, Guterres scored.

Kobe, 2 goals. Yokohama, nil.

Again Kobe attacked, and Reynell missed by inches. The whole Kobe team was playing well. Yokohama now attacked for a change, their outside right, Andreis, showing good form.

But they could not keep it up, and, Kobe going across in a body, Reynell again just missed by inches. They came again and forced a corner, but Yokohama cleared the danger. Again Kobe attacked, but Hearne was always in the thick of the fight for Yokohama, also their right full back, King. Yokohama got across, by their right wing, and a goal kick was the result.

Kobe made a fine attack but Graham saved grandly and was proving himself a good goalkeeper.

Yokohama's right wing was always the more dangerous of the two. Midfield play followed for a time. Guterres was pulled-up for off side when in a good position for scoring. Yokohama went across and gained a corner.

Kobe cleared. Then good play by Wilson allowed him to shoot, but the ball went on the top of the net. Walter James was playing a good game for Yokohama.

Kobe came again in a body, but Reynell's final shot went wide. Yokohama took up the running again, but Kobe would not be kept back and they returned to the attack. Guterres scored an off side goal for Kobe. Yokohama rushed back, Hearne being very prominent.

Again Kobe came along magnificently on the right wing, and Crane passing to Weston, that player steadied himself and scored a really lovely goal.

Kobe, 3 goals. Yokohama, nil.

Yokohama returned to the attack after this, forcing another corner. Nothing came of it. They kept pegging away, however, and gained another corner. Half-time now arrived, with the score:

Kobe, 3 goals. Yokohama, nil.

Restarting, Kobe attacked at once, but Yokohama then made a fine spurt. They could not, however, follow up their advantages quickly enough. Kobe kept the ball at the Northern end for some time. Then Yokohama got down and Da Costa saved from Andreis. Kobe went across and forced a corner, but nothing came of it.

Kobe attacked and Crane scored, but the whistle had previously blown for off-side. Then Yokohama put in a bit of very fine play on their left wing. Hearne taking a leading part.

Again they became dangerous, and were playing up very pluckily. They now forced a corner, but Kobe got rid of the danger, and going across in a body, Guterres scored—a good clean shot.

Kobe, 4 goals. Yokohama, nil.

Wilson was playing a sterling game to left half,

frequently outwitting his opponents. Midfield play was the rule for a time, neither side claiming any advantage. Wilson was hurt a little, but resumed playing.

Once more Kobe attacked, by their left wing, and Lambert scored a grand goal.

Kobe, 5 goals. Yokohama, nil.

Again, after a brief incursion by Yokohama, Kobe attacked, and they were clearly masters of the situation. Yokohama, however, were not done with, and they rushed across, only to be quickly driven back. Once more they took up the running but Kobe were back in a flash and Guterres getting possession, scored.

Kobe, 6 goals. Yokohama, nil.

The scoring began to resemble a Cricket Match. Not quite, however, for Yokohama rushed across and scored, Hearne doing the trick.

Kobe, 6 goals. Yokohama, 1 goal.

Yokohama were playing a remarkably plucky game under adverse circumstances, and one could not help admiring their pertinacity.

Kobe came back again and looked dangerous, but Yokohama in turn attacked. Hearne was hurt slightly.

Kobe attacked again, forcing a corner. Another followed, Crane taking both. Nothing accrued. Each side was playing as hard, almost, as at the first, and they were two teams of real triers. Back came Kobe, but the final shot went wide again; they came twice in succession but each time the ball was got rid of by Yokohama.

The whistle now blew for a cessation of hostilities, the final scores reading:—

Kobe, 6 goals. Yokohama, 1 goal.

It was a fine game to watch, but, throughout, the Kobe team was much the stronger of the two. Yokohama, however, played very pluckily indeed, and deserve congratulations for their display. Every man on the Kobe side played well.

The Referee had no sinecure of a position, but he proved very efficient, and handled the game exceedingly well. The Linesmen also did their work very satisfactorily.

The large crowd of spectators cheered hugely at Kobe's success, but from a sportsman's point of view it would have been better if the game had not been quite so one-sided.

The teams were:—

Kobe.—Goal, da Costa; Backs—Aillon and Drummond; Half-backs—D. D. James, Woodruff, and Wilson; Forwards—R. Crane, Reynell, Weston, Guterres and Lambert (Captain).

YOKOHAMA.—Goal—J. L. Graham; Backs—P. S. Leigh Bennett and W. F. King; Half-back—O. F. Moccock, W. B. Mason, Junr., and W. P. James; Forwards—L. Andreis, L. Stornebrink, Junr., V. A. Hearne (Capt.), J. H. Ruler, and B. G. Walker.

Mr. C. W. Cooper (of Kobe) was referee.

DEATH OF MR E. J. MERRILL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. E. J. Merrill at his residence on Noge Yama on Monday night. Death was due, we learn, to pneumonia.

Mr. Merrill at one time held the post of manager to Messrs. Cameron & Co. and was afterwards connected with the firm of Messrs. Abenheim Bros. in Kobe.

HEALTH OF YOKOHAMA.

The health returns for Kanagawa prefecture during the week ended February 18th, are as follows:—

	Small Pox.	Dysen- tery.	Ty- phoid.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Para- Typhus.
Yokohama—						
New cases...	—	—	1	3	—	—
Died	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Districts:—						
New cases...	—	—	5	3	—	—
Died	—	—	—	1	—	—

THE RELIGIOUS POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

MR. TOKONAMI'S VIEWS.

(COMMUNICATED)

The medley of journalistic comment which Mr. Tokonami's public utterances concerning the future policy of the Home Department respecting religion have called forth is largely accounted for by the obscurity that characterized the remarks which set the ball of discussion rolling. For the past three or four weeks Japanese newspapers have been publishing paragraphs on the possible meaning of the Vice-Minister's declaration. Some Japanese writers have gone so far as to say that they doubt whether Mr. Tokonami himself had any clear ideas in his mind as to the precise policy that the Department should adopt respecting religion. It was certainly very singular that a Japanese Minister of State should have to fall back on three Christian missionaries for a public explanation of what he did and what he did not contemplate when he proposed that representatives of the three great religious Sects should assemble at the Home Office and, under official superintendence, confer together as to ways and means for enabling religion to be used for State purposes. One would suppose that Mr. Tokonami was perfectly capable of making his meaning clear to the foreign public without relying on three gentlemen who belong to one of the three Sects concerned. Their interposition naturally confirmed the suspicion that Mr. Tokonami's action from the very first was the result of Christian pressure brought to bear on the Home Office, and that the proposed Conference was a sop thrown to the Christians, who during the past few years have repeatedly complained of the unfair manner in which they have been treated by the Authorities.

So many entirely separate questions have been mixed together by the journalists who have been commenting on the episode that it is hardly to be wondered at that many foreigners in this country should be greatly puzzled to make out what the fuss is all about. In a discussion of this kind it is always desirable to endeavour to get at the facts whose existence has given birth to the question under consideration. In order to rightly understand this new move of the Home Department, for new move it certainly is, it is necessary to consider the action of the Katsura Cabinet early last year, when the Kōroku incident threw the Government into a state of alarm. It will be remembered that it was then publicly announced that the Government were of opinion that one of the causes of the growth of Socialism was want of due respect to the national gods. Consequently orders were issued by the Home Office that the shrines and temples, which through a series of years had been neglected, were to be put in repair at public expense and that the local authorities were to do all in their power to induce people to worship the gods on festival days. The Minister of Education at the same time issued similar orders to the Directors of Primary Schools. They were told that it was their duty to march the whole school to temples or shrines on certain days and to see to it that the boys and girls under their charge honoured the gods in the usual manner.

This action caused great umbrage among Christians. They affirmed that it took away the religious liberty which the Constitution granted, in that it compelled Christian school teachers and pupils to worship gods in whom they did not believe. Now it seems to us important to point out that if the Japanese Government's action in this matter was indefensible for the above-mentioned reason, the action of the English Government vis-à-vis orthodox Christians is equally so.

In England every man is supposed to be free to believe in what religion he pleases, yet on board every one of His Majesty's ships men are compelled to attend Divine Service, though the probabilities are that three parts of them at the very least are agnostics or sceptics. The same is the

case with whole regiments of soldiers and with a large number of civilians who are serving the Government. They are expected to attend service on certain special occasions. As regards our English schools, though most of the masters have ceased to believe in the Christian creed as it is expounded by the Churches, and though crowds of the boys at their schools are the children of agnostics, yet attendance at Church is rendered compulsory by public opinion. If in Japan the compulsory worship of gods on certain days and religious liberty are incompatible, then there is no such thing as religious liberty in England, Germany and several other Western countries, where the worship of the God the authorities still profess to believe in is made obligatory on certain important occasions.

The Katsura Government seems to have taken no notice of the Christian protests against the impetus given to the Shintō religion by the action of the Home Office and the slight put on Christianity by the Department's failure to publicly recognize its existence. But when the Saionji Government came into power, the Christians felt that they had a far more liberal-minded set of men to deal with. So they at once laid their case before the Authorities. Mr. Tokonami had lately returned from a trip to the West, where he was said to have received the impression that religion is doing great wonders. Of course his acquaintance with the present state of religious opinion in Europe and America is extremely slight. He is said to be somewhat impressionable, and when abroad he was doubtless run by a set of people who are always desirous of getting hold of visitors and filling them up with the notions they wish to see prevailing. Many of the globe-trotters who come here are treated in precisely the same way. They are not allowed to see things or to judge of things for themselves. They are carefully instructed by certain persons who are always anxious to act as guides to uninitiated strangers. As the result of his foreign trip and as a consequence of certain conversations held with Japanese Christians, Mr. Tokonami came to the conclusion that the best policy for the Government to pursue would be to treat the three sects alike. But it is extremely questionable whether it is possible to do this. There are many serious difficulties in the way. One of these seems to us quite insurmountable as long as Japan's leading statesmen think as they now do. It is an undeniable fact that the late Government held the view that due respect for the Emperor implies an obligation to worship Imperial ancestors and the Gods from whom those ancestors are alleged to have descended. In Mr. Chamberlain's essay, somewhat misnamed *The Invention of a New Religion*, religions like the one in question can hardly be said to be inventions, this is shown very conclusively. "Shintō," he says, "because connected with the Imperial Family, is to be alone honoured. . . . Under a regime of ostensible religious toleration, the attendance of officials at certain Shintō services was required, and the practice was established in all schools of bowing down several times yearly before the Emperor's picture. Meanwhile Japanese politics had prospered; her warriors had gained great victories. Enormous was the prestige thus accruing to Imperialism and to the rejuvenated Shintō cult. All military successes were ascribed to the miraculous influence of the Emperor's virtue and to the virtues of his Imperial and divine ancestors—that is, of former Emperors and of Shintō deities. Imperial envoys were regularly sent after each great victory to carry the good tidings to the Sun Goddess at her great shrine at Ise.* Not there alone, but at

* This differs nothing from the thanksgiving services held at St. Paul's Cathedral after our English victories. After killing a large number of the enemies that they are commanded by Christ to love, certain Englishmen thank God for helping them to disobey the command of Christ. The number of thoughtful Englishmen who really believe that the God worshipped by Christians decides battles is probably no larger than the number of Japanese who believe in the interposition of the Sun Goddess

the other principal Shintō shrines throughout the land, the cannon captured from Chinese or Russian foes were officially installed, with a view to identifying Imperialism, Shintō, and national glory in the popular mind."

Thus it would seem that in recent years, so great is the patronage which Shintō has received from the State, that to all intents and purposes it has become Japan's State religion. If this is distasteful to Christians, it is no less so to Buddhists, who have repeatedly complained that for many years past they have been placed in an inferior position to that of Shintoists. To us it seems highly improbable that the present Japanese Government will make any substantial alteration in regard to the pre-eminent rank given to Shintō, because if they ventured on such a step, they would at once be accused of lack of respect for the Imperial ancestors.

To interpret the action taken by Mr. Tokonami as indicating any radical change of policy on the part of the Home Office towards religion is to go further than the facts bearing on the case warrant. The truth is that by far too much importance has been attached to Mr. Tokonami's utterances. This is the view expressed by Mr. Sawayanagi, who is an earnest Buddhist, in two newspaper articles on the subject he has just written. Knowing that Christians and Buddhists were feeling somewhat sore owing to the strong support given to Shintōism by the Katsura Government, all that Mr. Tokonami aimed at doing was to try and improve the relations between the Sects and to increase their friendliness to the State by convening a religious Conference at the Home Office. To give a weightier import than this to Mr. Tokonami's proposals would involve an insinuation that it seems to us is absurd. It would mean that the Government hardly knows its own mind in regard to the use the State can make of religion, that it is engaged in experimentation of a very amateurish kind. Marquis Saionji is far too shrewd a statesman to father any policy of this kind.

The notion that Japan will ever go back on her determination to keep ethics independent of religion is untenable. She knows too well that to attempt to base the morals taught in her schools on Shintō, Buddhist or Christian supernaturalism would be fatal to their permanent influence on the minds of the rising generation. In furthering moral culture she now relies on what is solid, logical and historical, and the boys and girls who are growing up around us in this country are certainly on the average no worse than those found in Christian countries. Scientific thought is spreading fast and is affecting morals more and more. The Japanese lecturer on ethics to-day has no difficulty in finding a thoroughly sound basis for morality without going outside human experience and the common sense which has permeated the teaching of all the world's greatest moralists. As Pierre Lafitte observes, "Outside the religion of Humanity there is no belief that can furnish proofs. It alone is demonstrable. Composed of all that is good, true and beautiful, she represents the union of the spotless ideal with the perfect real. Her name expresses at once love, order and progress. Humanity is the exemplar for all being and all ages. She is the model to contemplate, to meditate, to imitate and to develop. All peoples and all races will one day freely proclaim her empire and then her reign will have fully commenced."

For State purposes Shintōism is likely to go on holding the position it now does for some years to come for the reasons stated above. Among Japanese statesmen it is hard to find anybody who is well versed in religion. Mr. Tokonami is no exception to the rule. With what he has from time to time written on the subject of religion we are well acquainted. His views may be summed up in the words he himself used some months

on Japan's behalf when she is fighting against foreign foes. The whole thing is a pretence in both cases and savours of insincerity, as in civilised countries people have for the most part ceased to believe that men are supernaturally aided to kill each other,

ago. "Worship something that is superhuman, be it god, divinity or Heaven, for the sake of the effect it is likely to have on your mind." The lover of truth can never follow such advice. If he sees no reason for believing in any of the superhuman beings created by man's imagination, who are all nothing but magnified human beings, this does not say that he will have no high ideals. In the past history of the human race, if he read it aright, he will find abundant inspiration and many powerful incentives to goodness. That the highest minds to be found in our modern world need to believe in any of the historical creeds in order to reach the loftiest state of development of which they are capable is a theory that has long since been abandoned by all thoughtful people.

FINANCIAL POLICY AND LOAN POLICY

By PROF. S. HONDA.

(TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL" FROM THE "SUN.")

The outlines of the financial policy of the new Saionji Ministry may be surmised from the Budget for next fiscal year. But the question is what line of policy the Government is going to assume concerning loan bonds. According to the Budget, the Government intends to execute, during the next fiscal year, as in the present, the redemption of the war loans to an amount of 50,000,000 yen, and to float a loan of 40,000,000 yen for the Railway Special Account and also 12,000,000 yen for the Chosen Special Account. How these schemes are to be carried out the Budget leaves unexplained. To go more closely into the matter, as regards the redemption, for instance, of the national bonds for fifty million yen, we must consider whether the new Ministry is, like its predecessor, going to resort to the issue of foreign bonds, or to an increase in the issue of Treasury Bills, and also whether the redemption is to be carried out by means of purchase or by lottery as has been the case up to now. Upon such questions the Budget does not touch. Then again with regard to the flotation of the loans contemplated in the Railway as well as the Chosen Special Accounts, whether the authorities concerned are going to issue five per cent. open to the general public for subscription, or issue Railway Debentures or Treasury Bills, or depend upon advances from the Deposit Bureau, or resort to a combination of all or some of the above, it is difficult to venture any prediction at present without some preliminary explanations. In short it is a fact that the Government's loan policy for next fiscal year is still an open question, and that so long as that remains undecided so long must the merits of the so-called new financial policy of the present Ministry remain open to doubt.

As hardly needs stating, the loan policy is to the financial policy what the shadow is to the substance. The readjustment of the financial policy therefore naturally means at the same time the renovation of the loan policy. This is a conclusion we must logically arrive at concerning the present Saionji Ministry, created in the wake of the Katsura Cabinet that suffered downfall because of its abuse of the loan policy. Hence it is not only illogical but in fact impossible for the Government to maintain the *status quo* by pursuing on the one hand the very loan policy of its predecessor, and on the other by endeavouring to improve its financial policy. Regarding the loan policy, it may be remembered that the preceding Ministry committed itself at first to a non-loan policy, and the redemption of the national debt by means of lottery. Then followed the four per cent conversion and, as a necessary consequence, various makeshifts in the Treasury accounts; an increased issue of Treasury Bills; the abuse of the issue of convertible notes; and the artificial maintenance of quotations of loan bonds. But the Finance Minister of the present Cabinet is said, if we are correctly informed, to be firmly in favour of the contraction of currency and

against the further issue of foreign bonds, and to have established, upon the bed-rock of this conviction, a policy of retrenchment. Now that he thus recognizes the imperative necessity of contracting the currency and the danger of issuing further foreign bonds, he cannot but peremptorily discard that loan policy which was upheld by the preceding Ministry. And yet, strange to say, it appears to be only concerning financial schemes that he has decided to take up what he calls the policy of retrenchment, the loan policy of the late Cabinet being apparently to be pursued the same as before. Since the Finance Minister intends, as observed before, to carry out the policy of national debt redemption bequeathed him by his predecessor; and since he wants to float a loan of forty million yen in the Railway Special Account, when the Deposit Bureau's power of advance is practically exhausted; and since, also, he is going to issue loan bonds for twelve million yen in the Chosen Special Account, relying on the really petty advance capacity of the Bank of Chosen, the fact is undeniable that the features of the present Cabinet's loan policy, as shown in the Budget for next fiscal year, are but little differentiated from those of the previous Ministry. This no doubt must be due to the existence of some political circumstances preventing him from the free pursuit of his own policy. Yet it is nevertheless a ridiculously contradictory measure, as the present Cabinet came into power with the professed intention of financial renovation. Anyhow what is decided is decided. The only hope that we can entertain of the present Ministry lies in the existence of some room being still left for an improvement in carrying out the loan policy thus fixed. We must really hope the authorities will undertake the policy of executing the above loan schemes with all fairness. It can never be too much emphasized that should the authorities resort to the issue of foreign bonds for the purpose of national debt redemption, or suffer themselves to be prevented by their policy of retrenchment from the necessary bond issue for railway construction, or again have recourse to makeshifts in the Treasury account in their vain efforts for the artificial appreciation of the quotations of loan bonds and for the execution of conversion schemes, their financial policy, which is beginning to mark a new departure in the retrenchment of the ordinary expenditure, would at once be completely destroyed. How to carry out the loan schemes in the Budget for next fiscal year is a question, indeed, of paramount importance, not only to the present Ministry but to the general national economics as well.

Thus the Saionji Ministry should at any cost persuade itself of the imperative necessity of laying the axe at the root of the vain and false loan policy cherished by the preceding Cabinet, with a view to placing the Government loan policy on a right basis consistent with the present financial conditions of our country. For executing, therefore, a redemption of fifty million yen, and the scheme of floating railway bonds of forty million yen, as well as of Chosen public enterprise loans of twelve million yen, the authorities have to find other means or methods than those employed by their predecessors. In my humble opinion the measure that may suggest itself for the authorities' selection in this case must be one of the following five. Firstly, the Government may carry out the national debt redemption and at the same time increase the issue of Treasury Bills to enable it to meet the deficiency of forty million yen to be found in the Railway account of the Budget for next fiscal year; secondly, the authorities may issue temporary Railway Debentures for the above purpose; thirdly, they may avoid entirely the flotation of domestic loans by the issue of foreign bonds next year; fourthly, they may issue five per cent. Railway loan bonds, thereby depending entirely on the domestic market for the collection of the funds required for the supply of the above deficiency in the Railway Account; and lastly, they may cultivate the State Treasury's power of advance by effecting the redemption of

fifty million yen by means of purchase instead of lottery, and thereby invite at the same time the general public to subscribe to the Government's new loan bonds. These are the measures suggested to supply the deficiency in the Railway Account. With regard to the Chosen Special Account, which shows the greatest deficit in the revenue next to the above Railway Special Account, almost the same means of supply may be suggested. That is, the Central Government may make the Government-General float five per cent. bonds in the general domestic market, or the State Treasury may subscribe to the said loan bonds, or the Bank of Chosen advance the required sum to the Government-General, or the Bank of Japan assist the Chosen Bank in case of course the latter finds its own power inadequate for the above purpose. Proceeding thus far with our observations, the next question that naturally suggests itself to our minds is, which one of all those means is the best for the present Ministry to adopt.

The means suggested in the first place, that is, to increase the issue of Treasury Bills to meet the necessary railway expenses, is the very measure already taken by the Government. In carrying out the Railway scheme laid down in the Budget for the present fiscal year, the authorities were in great difficulty because of the practical exhaustion of the Deposit Bureau's power of advance, and barely found a refuge in the increased issue of Treasury Bills. But a temporising measure as this undoubtedly is, is a temporising measure after all, and its continuation any longer, or to be more precise, its repetition next fiscal year, must certainly prove detrimental to the accomplishment of the financial renovation for which the present Cabinet was created. As for the issue of short term railway debentures, proposed in the next place, it may be considered better fitted in some points, as compared with the issue of the Treasury Bills, to the nature of such long-term investments as railway undertakings. And yet the fact is nevertheless indisputable that it is a measure by no means less temporising than the other. Furthermore, in view of the present economic situation, it is a matter of great doubt whether railway debentures, even if issued, would satisfactorily be absorbed by the general money market. Moreover, it should be noted in this context as a logical outcome, that when the condition of the national economy is such as to inspire the authorities with confidence in the said debentures being absorbed successfully by the money market in general, the flotation of five per cent. railway loan bonds may also be effected with equal success. Hence the authorities, in such a case, might be better advised to take up the fourth measure of floating domestic railway bonds rather than issue railway debentures. We more than once advised the late Katsura Cabinet to issue domestic railway bonds. But this the Ministry hesitated to do, on the one hand on account of its professed policy of non-bond issue, and on the other for fear of thereby causing a decline in the quotations of loan bonds, until the chance of the railway bond issue was completely destroyed by the unseasonable conversion schemes the Ministry later took in hand. So far as the present Cabinet is concerned, however, there is nothing at all to prevent it from floating railway bonds. There is no reason why the Saionji Ministry now in power should be fettered by the preceding Cabinet's wrong profession of non-bond issue. It may be the flotation of railway loan bonds will cause a decline in the quotations of general bonds as it did in the days of the previous Katsura Cabinet. Still, this sort of fear does not in the least justify the present Cabinet's abstinence from the issue of railway bonds, since the possible decline the price of bonds may thereby undergo, means in fact nothing but the restoration to normal conditions—consistent with the real situation of the State economics—of the quotations once artificially, and therefore unnaturally, appreciated. Those who advocate a foreign bond issue may insist that the railway bonds should be floated in the markets abroad. But they should

remember the fact that though the flotation of foreign bonds in this case may rescue the Railway Account, it cannot but result on the other hand in a disturbance of the general situation of the State finances and economics. Not only that. The issuing of foreign bonds in present circumstances is decidedly incompatible with the principle of retrenchment, of currency contraction, and of the conversion system protection implicitly underlying the financial policy of the present Ministry. The proposal for the flotation of railway bonds in the foreign market is after all no better than an idle dream of those who consider foreign bonds something like a panacea. In our opinion there is nothing in it to recommend it to the authorities as their loan policy. It would be in every respect safe for the present Ministry to bow to the conviction, that if railway loan bonds are to be floated at all, they should be floated wholly on the domestic market for the present. The only thing that would remain in question in case the railway bonds are thus issued in the home markets, is to what extent the domestic money markets will be capable of absorbing them. As to this point, nothing definite can be pronounced at present, inasmuch as the question naturally depends for its decision upon the fluctuations of the money market and also upon the rather capricious feelings of bankers. If it happens that both the situation of the money market and the feeling among bankers is such as to unmistakably predict the failure of a railway bond flotation, the only measure left for the authorities to resort to must be, as before suggested, to effect on the one hand the national debt redemption of fifty million yen by means of purchase instead of lottery, and to issue on the other hand new loan bonds with an invitation at the same time for the Deposit Bureau's subscription thereto, so as to supply thereby the deficiency in the Railway Account and that in the Chosen Special Account also.

While on this subject I deem it in place to recall that, with regard to the redemption of fifty million yen, initiated by the late Katsura Cabinet, we stood, as we still do, against the policy from the very beginning, because we were fully aware of the fact that that redemption was not a redemption effected with any real surplus existing in the State revenue, but a redemption to be forced only for the sake of redemption, and, therefore, that the so-called redemption in that case was nothing more than a financial stratagem, and a very poor stratagem at that. Hence upon the creation of the present Saionji Cabinet, it was our sincere hope that the new Ministry would convince itself of the crying necessity of establishing and clinging to the policy not to attempt any national debt redemption except when a surplus in a strict sense was found in the State finances. We further hoped that the authorities, throwing overboard, upon the strength of that conviction, their predecessors' policy of redemption, would devote part of the fifty million yen set down in the Ordinary Revenue Account as a sinking fund, to the Railway Special Account to supply the inevitable deficiency, as well as for the necessary construction and repair of waterways, and to appropriate the rest towards a fund for the readjustment of the taxation system. Had the authorities had the moral courage to act along this line of policy from the beginning, they would not have been confronted with the necessity of either effecting any untimely national debt redemption in the Revenue Account or of resorting to the bond issue in the Railway Special Account. As a necessary consequence, they would have found themselves also in no need of the increased issue of Treasury Bills or an over issue of convertible notes. This state of the national finances would naturally enable them to save the general economic world from the fluctuations to which it is constantly exposed, due to the petty financial trickery the Government has heretofore been compelled to follow. In disregard of all these self-evident facts, the authorities of the present Ministry have apparently decided to con-

tinue the late Cabinet's fatal policy of national debt redemption, which in turn necessitates their having recourse to bond issues in the next fiscal year. This greatly disappoints us all. But, as said before, what is done is done, and we must now urge them to improve at least the method of redemption. The lottery redemption system now in force was first initiated by banking circles in the forty-second year of Meiji. In that year the general money market was, it may be remembered, in a terribly tight condition and the quotations of loan bonds and debentures underwent a decided decline. With a view to remedying this abnormally strained situation, the leading bankers of the country proposed to the Government the redemption of the national debt by means of lottery, a scheme which was adopted by the Katsura Cabinet then in power and has been continued up to the present. At that time the direct object of both the authorities and the bankers was to keep up the quotations of loan bonds, and no doubt they succeeded in doing so for a time, by effecting the annual redemption of some fifty million yen by means of lotteries. Yet the fact is not to be gainsaid that the method in question is nevertheless a makeshift and that its continuation will not only prove fruitless but even impede the sound development of the State economy. We have every reason to believe that the purchase redemption system would work as effectively at present as the lottery redemption system did in the days of the late Katsura Cabinet. It is true the purchase redemption system also is, after all, only a temporary measure. Still it has to be noted that while the Government has to carry out the redemption of fifty million yen on the one hand and to issue, on the other, loan bonds for forty million yen, the Deposit Bureau's power of advance is, as stated before, practically exhausted, and the bond absorbing capacity of the general money market remains now such as to inspire no confidence. In view of these conditions we must advise the authorities to follow, at least for the present, the above proposed measure of redemption, temporary as it is,—if the Government must effect the redemption at all. It is a rule, and a wise one, that whenever we cannot obtain the very best, we should try to get the best we can,—and we believe the above alternative is far better for the authorities to resort to, than the increased issue of either Treasury Bills or Convertible Notes, or the flotation of any foreign bonds which the lottery redemption under present circumstances is apt, it must be admitted, to necessitate. The Budget for next fiscal year is already compiled. Yet it is nevertheless important to call the attention of the authorities, as well as the general public, to the necessity of improving, as above suggested, the system of redemption, so that the present Ministry may be enabled to keep itself aloof, in respect of loan policy, from the fatal track of its predecessor.

CHARLES DICKENS.

LECTURE BY DR. CLAY MACCAULEY.

On Monday evening, before the Tokyo Literary and Musical Society, Dr. Clay MacCauley delivered an address on Charles Dickens, from which we make the following extracts:—

One hundred years ago Charles Dickens was born. Forty-two years ago he died. In the fifty-eight years of his life, he passed through one of the most notable of the careers of the noteworthy men of the last century. Dickens's arena of action was the field of letters. Literary fame speedily followed the exercise of his marvellous abilities. The scope of his work was man's life, especially as found in the manifold experiences,—joyous, grievous and tragic,—of the middle lower masses of English society. His aim, if we ignore an insistent ambition to become personally distinguished and prosperous, was primarily popular entertainment. Early in his career, it is true, Dickens girded himself as an aggressive critic and mentor

of the faults of the society of his time, and attempted the reform of much deplorable social wrong, but, to begin with, he was more than anything else just an entertainer for the reading public. The life-story of Dickens need not be told at length here. It was not one of exceptional eventfulness. Nor was it one of any special misfortune, or of doubtful success after the few years of privation that have been named his "poverty-stricken childhood." Those few uncomfortable years have been made very prominent in the Dickens biographies, yet, their discomfort was not so much because of the absolute want in them, as because, so I think, it was the Dickens temperament that endured them and the Dickens pen that described them. A few leading biographical items, however, may be recalled.

Charles Dickens was born in England, on the island of Portsea, the 7th of February, 1812. He was born into a family so well advanced socially, that the father, John Dickens, held a Government clerical position which must have required of its occupant considerable education and some refinement of personal culture. But, because of a characteristic lack of business ability in the father, the increasing family was seriously straitened in money matters, and in time became poor; so poor, that the boy, Charles, in his later childhood had to endure what he graphically styled "abject poverty." In Chatham, where the family lived from the boy's fifth to his eleventh year, he went to school and was a quick learner. It was in his eleventh year, the family having moved to London, that there came the short but unpleasant episode of which we have spoken. Dicken was a precocious boy, and, by nature, the victim of excessive sensitiveness. He was also eagerly ambitious for personal distinction. Consequently, to be put into service in the shop of a relative where blacking paste was manufactured, and to be compelled to label the paste jars, was to him "menial labour under the most uncongenial conditions." The reflections made upon that unhappy year and a half can be excused, because they were made by Charles Dickens and were natural to the personality which gave him much of his power in his maturer years; but let us not think of the episode as having been, in itself, one of exceptional distress.

At fifteen years of age Dickens became an office boy for some London attorneys. Desirous of following his father in a new venture, he qualified as a reporter in two law courts in London. When nineteen years old he secured an appointment for newspaper work in the reporter's gallery of the House of Commons. Two years later, he had begun his career as an author with the first of the stories which afterwards were gathered into the volume named, "Sketches by Boz." And at the age of twenty-four he had fully launched his life for a literary career, by beginning, as a serial, the ever-memorable "Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club."

During the next thirty and more years, with no serious falling away at any time of an increasing popularity, Dickens was one of the most prolific and well rewarded, and, altogether, the most widely read, most admired and most applauded of the authors in the realm of English literature. Besides, in the last twelve years of his life he was not only before the public as its most popular writer of books, but as a public reader of his writings. Around him, throughout England, and in America, gathered crowds of enthusiastic auditors.

In the year 1870, Charles Dickens died. He passed away at the very summit of his career, without having had to endure any previous disabling illness. His body was buried in the Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, the ancient Memorial of British Worthies in Civics, Church, Science, Art and Letters. Carlyle, at Dickens's death, voiced a wide-spread esteem, in speaking of him, as "the good, the gentle, high gifted, ever friendly, noble Dickens,—every inch of him an Honest Man." And now, in the Centennial Year of the birth of this "high gifted" man, many hundreds of memorial meetings, in many lands, are being held

to celebrate him and his work:—and more than twenty-five millions of sets of his books, it is estimated, are to be found in the libraries and homes of the world's reading peoples.

This evening our Society takes part in this world-wide celebration, and I have been invited to join with you in a formal memorial of the man whom the world thus honours.

We have not the time now, nor have I the comprehensive and intimate knowledge necessary, for an adequate estimate of Dickens, the man, or to assign him his due value in the realm of letters, or to recount satisfactorily what he has done to help human welfare onward. At most I can only draft an appreciation of him with large strokes, and fill in with partial and probably not the most satisfactory, or significant, detail.

At the outset, however, I must ask your indulgence in recalling the fact that for most of my life I have been rather indifferent, if not anti-pathetic, to Dickens the man. In childhood I was ecstatic over the fun I found in "Pickwick." As a mere boy I read those delightfully absurd "Perambulations, Perils, Travels, Adventures and Sporting Transactions" over and again. In 1852 I set a serious task for myself by trying to read "Bleak House," as it was carried along from month to month in Harper's Magazine. The story of a suit in English Chancery was naturally at a far remove from the immature thoughts and experiences of a boy of nine. But I laboured faithfully through successive numbers. However, afterwards I found much pleasure in "The Cricket" and "The Carol." When, yet later, the "Tale of Two Cities" was put into my hands, I became an enthusiastic admirer not only of the story, but also of the man who could attain to such thrilling, overpowering, splendid achievements in historical romance, and could so valiantly champion the rights of the down-trodden and miserable bestialized masses of mankind. After years never lessened the admiration I then conceived for the products of Dickens's pen, but it is a fact that for a long time my chief pleasure in connection with him found its source there. I accepted his skill as a writer who was worthy of almost unstinted praise. I welcomed his denunciations and appeals as a valiant championship of the rights of abused people; as the means for bringing about much needed reforms among many social wrongs; as a mighty helper of the helpless poor, of the wretchedly oppressed, of the suffering and the hopeless social outcasts. But, along with this admiration, I was continually inclined to regard this valiant champion as being yet more a literary artist, who used his real, or possibly imagined, knowledge of the lower strata, even of the abysses, of the human world in England, chiefly for the purpose of sensational and remunerative exploitation.

But, in these later years there has come a kinder, and possibly, a more just, estimate. And I now am of the opinion that even if the judgment of which I have been speaking was justified, it should not be allowed to detract at all from a cordial acknowledgment of the superbly beneficent worth of Dickens's work. The over-reaching personal ambition; the shrewd utilization of knowledge, even of the pathetic and tragic kind, he displayed, for the purpose of gaining fame and pecuniary profit; the personal vanity and hypersensitiveness concerning the attitude of critics and the exacting public; these things, in large part the unfortunate consequences of temperament and environment, are not to be remembered as necessarily incompatible, thought out of harmony, with earnestness of purposes to expose social wrong and to try to bring about needed reform. Whatever else may be true, Dickens certainly saw society in many ways absurdly made up and painfully and pitifully "out of joint," and he tried to set it right. His personal failings, then, can be ignored, or put aside, as that which perishes, and his splendid mental powers and the service he rendered for the sake of promoting human welfare may be cherished as his immortal part. Here is the true substance which will endure, and, we may believe, will be accepted

with the passing years as the standard by which Charles Dickens is to be measured.

We shall not, therefore, concern ourselves with the personal life of Dickens except as happenings or people connected with it, may aid in illustrating and interpreting him as he appears in his books.

So then turning to Dickens's writing, we meet in them a literary artist, in the highest and most comprehensive sense of the words. In the art shown there, we see clearly why he was irresistibly interesting to multitudes of mankind and secured for his books an avid and constantly widening reading.

Among his superior qualities as an artist we discover, possibly of most notable importance, an extraordinary ability, amounting to genius, for making plastic and for vitalizing everything with an exuberant and perverted imagination which he portrayed, along with his human figures, thoughts, feelings, actions, mere things, as animated and personal. The objects of his attention, whatever their real quality or function, were, for him, specifically sentient, alive, feeling strongly and in intelligent movement.

Then, next, we note that in bringing his scenes and his actors before his readers, he habitually adopted as his mode of expression, a style markedly vivid, often intense, at times impetuous and surcharged with passion.

Moreover, we soon learn, too, that his attention was so comprehensive and so minute that we must give close heed if we would see as he saw; and we must regard his exhibits almost as microscopic studies.

These three qualities stand forth as distinctive and commanding in the manner of Dickens's artistic workmanship.

Do you remember, just to take one example among many hundreds of like characters, his personification in "Martin Chuzzlewit," of the night-wind. He brings it before us as a wandering, complaining, restless spirit. It speeds "round a Church, moving, as it tries with unseen hand the windows and the doors, seeking some way for entrance. And, when it gets in, not finding what it seeks, it wails and howls to issue forth again. Not content with stalking through the aisles and gliding round and round the pillars and tempting the deep organ, it soars up to the roof and strives to rend the rafters. Then it flings itself despairing y upon the stones below, and passes, muttering, into the vaults."

We need not multiply examples of this personifying imagination. The pages of Dickens's books abound with them.

So far as impetuosity, intensity and passion in style were the vehicle of Dickens's thought; Taine declares that "half the glory of his literary expression was this style." Recall, for instance, only as a grim illustration of this characteristic vein his description of the pupils of Dotheboys Hall. We are confronted with "Pale and haggard faces, lank and long figures," "children with the countenances of old men, deformities with irons upon their limbs, boys of stunted growth, and others whose long and meagre legs would hardly bear their stooping bodies—all crowded on the view together. There were the bleared eye, the hare-lip, the crooked foot and every ugliness or distortion that told of unnatural aversion conceived by parents for their offspring. With every kindly sympathy and affection blasted in its birth, with every young and healthy feeling flogged and starved down, with every revengeful passion that can fester in swollen hearts eating its evil way to their core in silence, what an incipient Hell was breeding here!"

Then, when we think of our author's habit of making excessively detailed or minute portrayals of the objects he pictured, every reader of Dickens can recall many illustrative passages. Storms were often described by him. Here for example is a paragraph showing what his writer could associate with a single flash of lightning:—"The eye, partaking of the quickness of the flashing light saw a multitude of objects which it could not see at steady noon in fifty times that period. Bells in steeples with the rope and wheel that

moved them; ragged nests of birds in cornices and nooks; faces full of consternation in the tilted wagons that came tearing past; their frightened teams ringing out a warning which the thunder drowned; harrows and ploughs left out in fields; miles upon miles of hedge-divided country, with the distant fringe of trees as obvious as the scare-crow in the bean-field close at hand. In a trembling flickering instant everything was clear and plain. Then came a flash of red into the yellow light; a change to blue; a brightness so intense that there was nothing else but light; and then the deepest and profoundest darkness."

What an imagination! What intensity of perception! And how minute withal, even to the rope and wheel in the belfry, and the bird-nest in the cornice crevice. This complex scene is disclosed by one lightning flash. It is no wonder that such vitalized, full-drawn portrayal, flung upon the reader's attention, arouses memory of its like into almost forgotten depths and draws forth praise. Human nature is irresistibly attracted to that which shows such sympathetic, abundant and comprehensive life.

Accepting these distinguishing primary qualities we discover with them the closely related fact that Dickens was eminently dramatic in his art. Vitalizing, impassioned, comprehensively and minutely analytic his work was, essentially, but, just as essentially, his writing tended to flow into dramatic forms and to portray dramatic action. The illustrations of this fact are as an embarrassment of riches; they are like trees when one enters a forest.

Indeed, Dickens could hardly be anything other than dramatic. Personally, his life throughout, he was impelled by the actor's instincts and used any available means for their expression.

Then, the themes to which Dickens gave his impassioned style and dramatic methods,—these were almost always under the sway of sentiments that are fundamental and universal. They were illustrated by events and situations, moods and actions, ranging all the way from the most absurd comedy to the profoundest pathos and tragedy. Throughout the score or more of our author's separate writings, we are constantly under the pressure of one form or another of emotion; at times serene, but generally restless, passing with frequent transitions from laughter to tears, and back again; now evoking boisterous merriment over the utter ridiculousness of person or event, and then, perforce, carrying one into the midst of scenes filled with sadness, suffering or, as may easily be, with repulsive horror. A critic goes so far as to declare that Dickens "never rests in a natural style or in simple narrative;" that "he writes but satires or elegies; that he only rails or weeps;"—and that "this sensibility can hardly have more than two issues—laughter and tears." "There is no writer who knows better how to touch and melt;" and at the same time he is "the most railing, the most comic, the most jocose of English authors."

We can not now go over the pages of Dickens's books and select from their munificent material, adequate illustrations of the judgment just given. It may be said, however, that if we were confined to a shelf of Dickens's books, from which the "Pickwick Papers" were excluded, we would find it oftener true than we may think, that, while we should meet with much fun, we should discover it to be not just comedy but somehow more or less akin to sadness and often, indeed, in close association with grief or tragedy.

Much more should be added here, if we would make an adequate memorial appreciation of Charles Dickens. But we can not go much farther now. I should like to turn over with you the pages of those volumes which I have just signalled with special mention. This would be a particularly agreeable close to what I have made, I fear, rather a serious, if not sombre, lecture:—I specialized "Pickwick," the "Christmas Stories," "David Copperfield" and "Great Expectations." These books probably, with especial attractiveness, have made Dickens the writer of the last century to whom, more than to any other, multitudes have

contre les maladies ou les insectes et parasites nuisibles;

4° En vue de l'application aux marchandises étrangères des prohibitions ou restrictions édictées par des lois intérieures à l'égard de la production intérieure des marchandises similaires ou de la vente ou du transport à l'intérieur des marchandises similaires de la production nationale;

5° Pour les marchandises qui sont ou seront l'objet d'un monopole d'État.

ART. 7.

Les marchandises de toute nature originaires du territoire de l'une des deux Parties Contractantes et importées sur le territoire de l'autre Partie ne pourront être assujetties à des droits d'accise, d'octroi ou de consommation perçus pour le compte de l'État, des communes ou corporations, supérieurs à ceux qui grèvent ou grèveraient les produits similaires de la production nationale ou, à défaut de ces produits, ceux de la nation la plus favorisée.

Les produits du sol et de l'industrie de l'un des deux pays importés dans l'autre, et destinés à l'entreposage ou au transit, ne seront soumis à aucun droit intérieur.

ART. 8.

Les importateurs de marchandises japonaises ou françaises seront réciproquement dispensés de produire des certificats d'origine.

Toutefois, dans le cas où un pays tiers ne serait pas lié avec l'une ou l'autre des Parties Contractantes par la clause de la nation la plus favorisée, la production de certificats d'origine pourra être exceptionnellement exigée.

Dans ce cas, les certificats seront délivrés dans les lieux d'expédition, sièges d'un consulat, par le consul de carrière du pays dans lequel l'importation doit être faite, et, dans les autres lieux, par l'autorité douanière, et, à défaut de cette autorité, par les Chambres de commerce ou les autorités locales.

Lorsque la délivrance des certificats d'origine entraînera la perception de taxes quelconques dans l'un des pays, des taxes équivalentes pourront être établies par l'autre pays à l'occasion des certificats d'origine qu'il délivrera. Il en sera de même, le cas échéant, pour les factures consulaires.

ART. 9.

Les négociants et les industriels, ressortissants de l'une des Parties Contractantes, ainsi que les négociants et les industriels domiciliés et exerçant leur commerce et industrie dans les territoires de cette Partie, pourront, dans les territoires de l'autre, soit en personne, soit par des commis voyageurs, faire des achats ou recueillir des commandes, avec ou sans échantillons et modèles. Ces négociants industriels, et leurs commis voyageurs, en faisant ainsi des achats et en recueillant des commandes, jouiront, en toute manière, du traitement de la nation la plus favorisée. Toutefois dans le cas où les voyageurs de commerce japonais en France ou français au Japon viendraient à être assujettis à un droit de patente, les voyageurs de commerce français au Japon ou japonais en France pourraient être soumis à des impôts équivalents.

Les articles importés comme échantillons et modèles dans les buts susmentionnés, seront, dans chacun des deux Pays, admis temporairement en franchise de droits, en conformité des règlements et formalités de douane établis pour assurer leur réexportation ou le paiement des droits de douane prescrits en cas de non-réexportation dans le délai prévu par la loi. Toutefois, ledit privilège ne s'étendra pas aux articles qui, à cause de leur quantité ou valeur, ne peuvent pas être considérés comme échantillons et modèles ou qui, à cause de leur nature, ne sauraient être identifiés lors de leur réexportation. Le droit de décider si un échantillon ou modèle est susceptible d'admission en franchise, appartient exclusivement, dans tous les cas, aux autorités douanières compétentes du lieu où l'importation a été effectuée.

Les Chambres de commerce existant sur les territoires des deux Parties Contractantes seront

réciproquement reconnues comme les autorités compétentes pour délivrer tous certificats qui pourraient être requis par les voyageurs de commerce, en vue notamment d'affirmer leur identité.

ART. 10.

Tous les articles qui sont ou pourront être légalement importés dans les ports de l'une des Parties Contractantes, par des navires nationaux, pourront, de même, être importés dans ces ports par les navires de l'autre Parties Contractante, sans être soumis à aucun droit ou charge, de quelque dénomination que ce soit, autres ou plus élevés que ceux auxquels les mêmes articles seraient soumis s'ils étaient importés par des navires nationaux. Cette égalité réciproque de traitement sera appliquée sans distinction, que ces articles viennent directement du lieu d'origine ou de tout autre pays étranger.

Il y aura de même parfaite égalité de traitement pour l'exportation, de façon que les mêmes droits de sortie soient payés et les mêmes primes ou drawbacks soient accordés, dans les territoires de chacune des Parties Contractantes, à l'exportation d'un article quelconque qui peut ou pourra en être légalement exporté, que cette exportation se fasse par des navires japonais ou par des navires français et quel que soit le lieu de destination, soit un port de l'autre Partie, soit un port d'une tierce Puissance.

ART. 11.

En tout ce qui concerne le placement des navires, leur chargement, leur déchargement dans les eaux territoriales des Parties Contractantes, il ne sera accordé, par l'une des Parties, aux navires nationaux, aucun privilège, ni aucune facilité qui ne le soit également, en pareil cas, aux navires de l'autre Pays, la volonté des Parties Contractantes étant que, sous ces rapports, leurs bâtiments respectifs jouissent d'une parfaite égalité.

ART. 12.

Les navires marchands naviguant sous pavillon japonais et français et ayant à bord les documents requis par leurs lois nationales pour établir leur nationalité, seront respectivement considérés, en France et au Japon, comme navire japonais et français.

ART. 13.

Aucun droit de tonnage, de transit, de canal, de port, de pilotage, de phare, de quarantaine ou autres droits ou charges similaires ou analogues, de quelque dénomination que ce soit, levés au nom ou au profit du gouvernement, de fonctionnaires publics, de particuliers, de corporations ou d'établissements quelconques, ne seront imposés dans les eaux territoriales de l'un des deux Pays sur les navires de l'autre sans qu'ils soient également imposés, dans les mêmes conditions, sur les navires nationaux en général, ou sur les navires de la nation la plus favorisée. Cette égalité de traitement sera appliquée réciproquement à leurs navires respectifs, de quelque endroit qu'ils arrivent et quel que soit le lieu de destination.

ART. 14.

Les navires chargés d'un service postal régulier de l'une des Parties Contractantes, qu'ils appartiennent à l'État ou à une compagnie subventionnée par lui à cet effet, jouiront dans les eaux territoriales de l'autre, des mêmes facilités et immunités que ceux qui sont accordés aux navires similaires de la nation la plus favorisée.

ART. 15.

Il est fait exception aux dispositions de la présente Convention pour le cabotage dont le régime reste soumis à la législation du Japon et de la France respectivement; il est entendu, toutefois, que les Japonais en France et les Français au Japon, jouiront pour tout ce qui concerne le cabotage, des droits et privilèges qui sont ou seront accordés par cette même législation aux ressortissants de la nation la plus favorisée.

Tout navire l'une des Parties Contractantes, chargé à l'étranger d'une cargaison destinée à deux ou plusieurs ports d'entrée des territoires de l'autre, pourra décharger une partie de

sa cargaison dans l'un desdits ports, et en continuant son voyage pour l'autre ou les autres ports de destination, y décharger le reste de sa cargaison, toujours en se conformant aux lois, aux tarifs et aux règlements de douane du pays de destination. De la même manière et sous la même restriction, tout navire de l'une des Parties Contractantes pourra charger dans les divers ports de l'autre, au cours du même voyage pour l'étranger.

ART. 16.

Les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes déclarent qu'elles sont adhérentes à la Convention d'Union de Paris du 20 mars 1883 pour la protection de la propriété industrielle; dans le cas où l'une d'entre elles cesserait d'adhérer à la Convention précitée, elles conviennent des stipulations suivantes:

Les ressortissants de chacune des Parties Contractantes jouiront, dans les territoires de l'autre Partie, des mêmes droits que les nationaux eux-mêmes, pour tout ce qui concerne la protection des brevets d'invention, des marques de fabrique ou de commerce, des dessins et modèles industriels et de fabrication de toute espèce, et noms commerciaux, et des indications de provenance, et pour tout ce qui concerne la répression de la concurrence déloyale, sous réserve de l'accomplissement des formalités et des conditions imposées par la loi.

Tout produit portant une fausse indication de provenance dans laquelle un des Pays Contractants ou un lieu situé sur les territoires de l'un d'eux, serait directement ou indirectement indiqué comme pays ou comme lieu d'origine, sera saisi à l'importation à la requête des autorités douanières ou du ministère public ou d'une partie intéressée, si la législation de chaque Pays Contractant l'admet, ou bien, à défaut, sera soumis aux actions et moyens assurés en pareil cas par la loi aux nationaux.

ART. 17.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes conviennent que, pour tout ce qui concerne le commerce, l'industrie et la navigation, tout privilège, faveur ou immunité quelconque, que l'une d'elles a déjà accordés ou accorderait à l'avenir au commerce, à l'industrie et à la navigation de tout autre État, seront étendus immédiatement et sans condition, au commerce, à l'industrie et à la navigation de l'autre Partie Contractante, leur intention étant que le commerce, l'industrie et la navigation de chaque pays jouissent sous tous rapports du traitement de la nation la plus favorisée.

ART. 18.

Les stipulations de la présente Convention ne sont pas applicables:

1° Aux avantages particuliers actuellement accordés ou qui pourraient être ultérieurement accordés par l'une des Parties Contractantes à des États limitrophes pour faciliter le trafic frontière;

2° Aux faveurs spéciales résultant d'une union douanière;

3° A la pêche nationale et aux pêches assimilées à la pêche nationale;

4° Aux encouragements accordés ou qui pourraient être accordés à la marine marchande nationale.

ART. 19.

Les dispositions de la présente Convention sont applicables à l'Algérie. Elles pourront être ultérieurement étendues en tout ou partie aux colonies, possessions françaises et pays de protectorat par une déclaration concertée entre les deux gouvernements.

Il est entendu en outre que la présente Convention est applicable à toutes les colonies et possessions du Japon.

ART. 20.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et l'échange des ratifications aura lieu à Tokio; les ratifications seront notifiées dans le plus bref délai possible aux Gouvernements du Japon et de la France par leurs Représentants respectifs; à partir de la date de la dernière de ces deux notifications, la présente Convention entrera en vigueur et

demeurera exécutoire pendant une période de dix années.

Toutefois, l'article 5 en vertu duquel les droits de douane perçus en France sur les produits d'origine japonaise et au Japon sur les produits d'origine française ne seront autres ou plus élevés que ceux perçus sur les produits similaires originaires du pays le plus favorisé, pourra être dénoncé à toute époque par chacune des deux Parties Contractantes, et dans ce cas, il cessera d'être exécutoire un an après cette dénonciation.

Au cas où douze mois avant la date d'expiration de la présente Convention, aucune des deux Parties Contractantes n'aurait notifié son intention d'en faire cesser les effets, cet acte demeurera obligatoire jusqu'à l'expiration d'une année à partir du jour où l'une ou l'autre Partie Contractante l'aura dénoncé.

En Foi de Quoi, les Plénipotentiaires des deux Pays ont signé la présente Convention et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait à Paris, en double exemplaire, le 19 août 1911.

(L. S.) S. KURINO. (L. S.) J. DE SELVES.
(L. S.) L. L. KLOTZ.
(L. S.) CH. COUYRA.

PROTOCOLE ANNEXE.

ARTICLE PREMIER.

Il est convenu entre les deux Parties Contractantes que les marchandises originaires de France, inscrites au tableau A ci-annexé à leur entrée au Japon, et les marchandises originaires du Japon, inscrites au tableau B ci-annexé à leur entrée en France, seront soumises aux tarifs indiqués aux dits tableaux.

ART. 2.

Ces tarifs pourront être augmentés ou réduits; toutefois, en raison de l'éloignement des Pays Contractants, les augmentations apportées aux droits des marchandises, inscrites aux tableaux A et B, ne seront applicables que cinq mois après la promulgation des actes qui les auront édictés, à moins que ces actes n'aient prévu un délai d'application plus long.

Au cas visé par le paragraphe précédent les tarifs des marchandises inscrites au tableau non modifié pourront cesser d'être appliqués en même temps que la mise en vigueur des augmentations, sous réserve d'un préavis notifié trois mois au moins avant cette mise en vigueur.

ART. 3.

Dans le cas où il serait fait usage de la faculté de dénonciation prévue à l'alinéa 2 de l'article précédent, les dispositions des articles 5, 6, 7 et 17 de la Convention, pour tout ce qui concerne les dispositions d'ordre douanier, cesseraient de plein droit de produire leur effet et à la même date.

ART. 4.

Le présent Protocole sera soumis aux deux Parties Contractantes en même temps que la Convention de commerce et de navigation signée en ce jour, et quand ladite Convention sera ratifiée, ce Protocole sera considéré comme approuvé sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'une ratification formelle subséquente.

Il est convenu que le présent Protocole prendra fin et cessera d'être exécutoire en même temps que la Convention à laquelle il est annexé, ou que l'article 5 de ladite Convention.

Toutefois, il pourra être dénoncé à toute époque par chacune des Parties Contractantes, et dans ce cas, il cessera d'être cinq mois après cette dénonciation, laquelle emportera application des dispositions de l'article 3 ci-dessus.

En foi de quoi, les Plénipotentiaires des deux Pays ont signé le présent Protocole et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait à Paris, en double exemplaire, le 19 août 1911.

(L. S.) S. KURINO. (L. S.) J. DE SELVES.
(L. S.) L. L. KLOTZ.
(L. S.) CH. COUYRA.

TABLEAU A.
DROITS À L'ENTRÉE AU JAPON.

Numéros du tarif japonais.	Désignation des Marchandises.	Unités.	Proportion pour cent du tarif national japonais d'après laquelle sont calculés les droits applicables aux marchandises françaises.	Droits applicables aux marchandises françaises, calculés d'après la proportion ci-contre, Yen.
Ex. 52.	2. B. a) Sardines à l'huile	Ad val.	50.0 per cent.	20.0 per cent.
Ex. 53.	Beurre naturel	100 kin.	91.2 per cent.	27.00
Ex. 64.	Vins non mousseux de toutes sortes provenant exclusivement de la fermentation naturelle du raisin, ne contenant pas plus de 14 p. 100 en volume d'alcool pur ayant une densité de 0.7947 à 15° C:			
	A. En bouteilles	100 litres.	37.5 per cent.	15.00
	B. En fûts ou barriques, ne contenant pas plus de 1 gramme de sucre calculé comme sucre de raisin dans 100 centimètres cubes à 15° C. Idem.		33.3 per cent.	5.00
	Vermouts contenant plus 14 p. 100 et ne contenant pas plus de 24 p. 100 en volume d'alcool pur ayant une densité de 0.7947 à 15° C:			
	A. En bouteilles	Idem.	50.0 per cent.	20.00
	B. En fûts ou barriques	Idem.	33.3 per cent.	10.00
	Note.—Les vermouths contenant plus de 20 grammes de sucre calculé comme sucre de raisin dans 100 centimètres cubes à 15° C., sont assujettis à un droit additionnel de 11 sen par 100 litres pour chaque gramme en plus de sucre.			
65.	Champagne et autres vins mousseux.....	Idem.	37.5 per cent.	37.50
Ex. 98.	Huile d'olive:			
	2. Autre qu'en récipients de fer-blanc ou barils (y compris les récipients). 100 kin.		63.2 per cent.	6.00
117.	Savons:			
	1. Parfumés (y compris l'emballage intérieur).....	Idem.	62.9 per cent.	18.00
	2. Autres	Idem.	50.9 per cent.	2.90
118.	Huiles, graisses et cires, parfumées, ainsi que préparations d'huiles, de graisses ou de cires, parfumées (y compris les récipients et l'emballage intérieur).....	100 kin.	44.9 per cent.	35.00
119.	Eaux de senteur:			
	1. Vinaigres parfumés (y compris les récipients et l'emballage intérieur).....	Idem.	33.3 per cent.	30.00
	2. Autres (y compris les récipients et l'emballage intérieur).....	Idem.	55.6 per cent.	50.00
222.	Poudres à dents, dentifrices, poudres de toilette et autres parfumeries préparées non autrement dénommées.....	Ad val.	50.0 per cent.	25.0 per cent.
Ex. 283.	Fils de laine cardée ou peignée:			
	1. Ni teints, ni imprimés:			
	C. Autres qu'obtenus par la torsion de fils de laine cardée et de fils de laine peignée, ou par la torsion de fils de différents numéros et autres que les fils dits "loop yarns"			
	C. 1. De laine peignée:			
	a) Ne dépassant pas le n° 32 métrique	100 kin.	100.0 per cent.	13.20
	b) Autres	Idem.	75.4 per cent.	13.20
Ex. 301.	Tissus de laine et tissus mélangés de laine et de coton, de laine et soie ou de laine, coton et soie:			
	2. Autres que velours, peluches et autres tissus pelucheux, avec poil coupé ou non:			
	A. De laine:			
	a) Ne pesant pas plus de 100 grammes par mètre carré	Idem.	75.0 per cent.	43.10
533.	Jumelles et lunettes:			
	1. Avec prismes	1 kin.	66.7 per cent.	10.00
	2. Autres	Idem.	83.3 per cent.	2.50
563.	Automobiles	Ad val.	70.0 per cent.	35 per cent.
564.	Parties d'automobiles à l'exception des machines motrices	Idem.	83.3 per cent.	25 per cent.
Ex. 600.	Machines à tricoter:			
	1. Ne pesant pas plus de 500 kilogr. pièce	100 kin.	50.0 per cent.	12.00

TABLEAU B.
DROITS À L'ENTRÉE EN FRANCE.

Numéros du Tarif Français.	Désignation des Marchandises.	Unités.	Droits Tarif minimum. francs.
Ex. 459.	Habutaï et similaires d'écrus, mais non blanchis, ni teints, ni enduits, ni imprimés.....	100 kil.	600.00
	NOTE.—Les tissus blanchis sont ceux dont le blanchiment a été obtenu autrement que par le simple décreusage.		
	Les mouchoirs en tissu habutaï acquittent les droits du numéro 460 du tarif minimum.		
	Les objets en bois recouverts de laque du Japon dite "Urushi," suivent le régime des numéros 591, 592 bis, 593 ou 641 bis du tarif minimum suivant leur espèce, à moins que par suite de leur combinaison avec d'autres matières, ils ne soient passibles d'un droit plus élevé.		

ANOTHER "CLEVELAND" TOURIST PARTY.

WELCOME BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The H. A. L. steamship *Cleveland* arrived at Yokohama on Monday morning with another large tourist party on board, numbering 526.

The party was welcomed to Yokohama by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Otsu, the President, reading the following address:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—On behalf of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, I have great pleasure in welcoming you here. It is with much delight that I see the presence of men of so many nations on board which has brought you here. The true way of creating commerce between the people of different nations is to establish terms of mutual friendship. Friendship promotes commerce. Nothing can do more to bring together the nations than fair, just and friendly commercial relations. We welcome you as friends whose welfare is so closely interwoven with our own prosperity. There are many reasons why we should always be friends. I give only these two which are pertinent to this occasion and are strikingly solid. The first reason why we should always be friends is that nearly eight-tenths of the entire foreign trade of Yokohama is with the countries you worthily represent. The other reason is that over one-half of the entire foreign trade of Japan is with the countries which you came from. The time has passed for ever when international relations were carried on on predatory principles. The days that commercial rivalry between nations was a state of war have gone. To day international commerce stands for international friendship.

I am glad to say that that our relations are of the most cordial description and our commerce is on a sound and satisfactory basis. Before closing, I beg to express my sincere thanks to you for having so kindly honoured us by your calling at this port and I hope your visit will be an enjoyable one.

The Rev. G. A. Hough, replied on behalf of those on board in the following terms:—

Mr. President:—On behalf of the Hamburg-American Line and of the passengers on the *Cleveland Cruise Around the World*, permit me to thank you and through you the Chamber of Commerce of Yokohama for the earnest greeting and beautiful souvenirs that you have brought us. The warmth and cordiality of your welcome will help us to forget any coldness or inclemency of weather that we may possibly experience and will add materially to the pleasure of our stay in your beautiful land. We congratulate you upon the honour you have of being President of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, an institution that is known far and wide for its good works and that has been so prominent a factor in the progress and prosperity of this great city. May your work and that of your colleagues serve not only to contribute to the commercial advancement of Japan, but by such deeds as this to day, may you be able to strengthen the ties that bind nations together and hasten the coming of universal peace.

We of the *Cleveland Cruise* are a most cosmopolitan company. In our passenger list are representatives from three continents, Europe, North America and South America. We come from many places and various nations, but we have one thing in common, that is a deep interest in Japan,—in her history, her people and her institutions. We admire your country for the marvellous progress she has made in the past forty years and we expect her to hold her place among the great nations of the earth, not merely by the strength of her army and navy, but more by the splendour of her industrial, intellectual and moral achievements. The victories of peace are even more precious and permanent than those of war, and may that magnificent heroism which the soldiers and sailors of Japan have shown on land and sea be characteristic of all your people

in their pursuit of higher ideals and attainment. Speaking as an American for the Americans who constitute a large majority of our party, I would bring you the greetings of our great republic and assure you that it is our earnest hope that the relations between your country and ours shall ever be those of mutual esteem, respect and affection.

Our voyage has been a most pleasant one, thanks to the skill and kindness of the officials and managers of the Hamburg-America Line, but we are glad now to be with you. Our days in Japan will be most busy ones. If we do not always observe the precise social customs which are expected in Japan, we trust that your people will attribute our neglect to ignorance or oversight. If our curiosity sometimes leads us to do that which seems to be rude, pardon us. We do not mean to offend but only to learn all we can of your land and people. We thank you again for your greeting and assure you that from our hearts we say, God bless your Noble Emperor, your beautiful land and your charming people.

The tourists are divided into three sections, the largest of which proceeded direct to Nikko soon after landing. Another section paid a visit to Tokyo, and the third visited Kamakura and other neighbouring resorts.

THE DECLARATION OF LONDON.

The Imperial Maritime League has issued the following letter:—

Desperate efforts have been and are being made in certain organs of the Press to represent the recent seizures of two French steamers by the Italians, and the case of the *Oldhamia* as proofs of the disadvantage which might accrue to ourselves by reason of the rejection of the Naval Prize Bill by the House of Lords and the consequent nullification of the Declaration of London. These endeavours constitute a complete and audacious inversion of the actual facts, and you would be rendering a great public service if you would allow us to state what those facts are.

One of the two French vessels arrested by the Italians was so treated because she carried an aeroplane on board. Article 24 of the Declaration of London provides that "balloons and flying machines and their distinctive component parts" "may, without notice, be treated as contraband of war under the name of conditional contraband." Article 34 of the same Declaration makes in substance and effect all neutral ships carrying any kind of conditional contraband to any port in the United Kingdom liable to be sunk or to be captured by an enemy's cruisers or merchantmen converted into men of war. While Article 35 provides that this liability shall not exist if the cargoes are to be forwarded to their destination by any intervening neutral port. Thus, according to this Declaration of London, if we were at war with Germany and badly needed aeroplanes, as we probably should, the German Navy would be perfectly free to seize all neutral ships bringing us those aeroplanes, or parts of them; while the British Navy would be strictly forbidden to touch any aeroplanes, or parts of them, which neutral ships might be conveying to Germany for the use of the German naval and military authorities, if they were going by way of neutral ports such as Rotterdam or Antwerp, whence they could be easily forwarded by land. This differentiation against us and in favour of Germany applies to all articles of conditional contraband. These articles include food stuffs, forage and grain, even clothing "suitable for use in war," gold and silver, in coin or bullion, vehicles of all kinds available for use in war and their component parts, vessels, craft and boats of all kinds, floating docks, parts of docks and their component parts, fuel, lubricants, etc. etc. The last two items named are significant, inasmuch as they show that the owners of the *Oldhamia* and her cargo would have had no case with which to go before the International Prize Court, had one been established, as the cargo she carried consisted of petroleum which would certainly have come under one of

these two heads. Moreover, under the Declaration of London the Russians would have been well within their rights in sinking the *Oldhamia*, since Article 49 confers absolute discretion on the captains of belligerent warships (or converted merchantmen) to destroy any neutral vessel which they may have captured, if in their opinion, it would be detrimental to the success of their operations to leave her afloat.

In view of these undoubted facts, the British public may be thankful that the Naval Prize Bill was rejected and the Declaration of London thereby nullified.

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP NICOLAI

AN IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL CEREMONY.

Further information concerning the funeral of the great Russian Archbishop of Tokyo on Thursday point to the fact that the ceremonies were of a most impressive and dignified nature and were fully worthy of the obsequies of a Prince of the Church. Despite the rainy weather and severe storm that swept over the capital throughout the day last, the attendance was exceedingly large and did not interfere in any way with the length and reverence of the religious functions. Bishop Serge conducted the services and was assisted by Bishop Paul from Korea and by the other priests of the Greek Orthodox Church of Japan. The ceremonies commenced at the Surugadai Cathedral at the early hour of seven o'clock in the morning and continued until one o'clock in the afternoon, after which a procession was formed and the stately cortege set out on its way to the Yagata cemetery where the late Archbishop was reverently laid to rest. A special place of honour was given to the handsome wreath that had been graciously sent by the Emperor of Japan.

Among those present at the cemetery were—Count T. Toda, Mr. Yosaku Yoshida, Secretary to the Imperial Household, Minister Count Watanabe, Baron Ishii, Vice-Foreign Minister, Premier Marquis K. Saionji, Mr. N. Oshikawa, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Kawamura, Vice-Imperial Household Minister, Prince Yamagata, Sir Claude Macdonald, British Ambassador, Mr. Crackanthorpe and Lieutenant Colonel Somerville, of the British Embassy, Deacon A. F. King, of the Anglican Church, Prof. J. Condor, Advisor of Architecture to the Home Department, Miss Blackmore, of the Canadian Methodist Church, Dr. Greene, Mr. Ooka, President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Nakamura, President of the South Manchuria Railway Company, Mr. Ishihara, Governor of Hokkaido, Mr. Matsuda, Minister of Justice, Mr. Hasebe, Education Minister, Mr. Koezuka, Vice-President of the House of Representatives, Mr. Tokonami, Vice-Home Minister, Dr. Masakichi Sasaki, Mr. Yamamoto, Finance Minister, Marshal Prince Oyama, Mr. Shiba, Director of the Religion Bureau, Count Hayashi, Communications Minister, Count Seijima, Baron Koshikawa, Governor Abe, of Tokyo, Baron Goto, Mayor Ozaki, Mr. Kanzo Uchimura, Baron Takahashi, and Baron Tokujio Nishi.

The even tenour of the Rubber Market on the London Stock Exchange was disturbed on the 8th inst. by vociferous bidding for "London Selangor," and considerable excitement prevailed. Before very long the price had risen to 1½ bid. There was one jobber who was looking justifiably pleased, for, hearing the name mentioned, he had made a price, bought some shares, and his book showed a profit of £15. But his content was of short duration. A thousand were offered at 1½, and then there came a broker who offered some more at 1½. Just when the bottom seemed to have fallen out of the market the jobber's partner called him out, and whispered a few words in his ear, with the effect that both walked away looking somewhat crestfallen. The whole affair had been merely a "spoof" got up to while away a dull hour.

THE BANK OF CHOSEN.

A REVIEW OF ITS HISTORY.

The development of the protective policy and the expansion of the markets in Chosen gave an impetus to the growth of monetary organs, until the banks having their domiciles in Chosen numbered about ten, in addition to a large number of branches outside the peninsula. An opinion was mooted in the latter part of the spring of 1909 as to the advisability of inaugurating the Bank of Korea to act as a centre for monetary transactions and to consult the convenience of the Government administration. The proposal was carried into practice and the Bank came into existence in October, 1909. Mr. Ichihara Seiko was elected president, with Messrs. Midzukoshi, Mishima and Kimura for managing directors. The capital was fixed at ten million yen, divided into 100,000 shares, two and half a million yen being paid up as the first instalment. The business of the Dai-Ichi-Ginko, which had formed the Central Bank in Chosen up to that time, was transferred to the new Bank on November 20th the same year. The Bank established its head office in Seoul, with branches in Chemulpo, Pyngyang, Wonsan, Taiku, Chinnampo, and other important towns in and out of Chosen, in addition to thirteen branches and sub branches of the Dai-Ichi Ginko to which the Bank succeeded. The Bank thus opened business on November 24th the same year. The services of the clerks of the Dai-Ichi Ginko were retained by the Bank and the transition was made without the least friction and without causing the slightest commotion in economic circles. This success won the high admiration of the general public.

As the central bank of Korea, the Bank has won a prominent position in banking circles and as an ordinary commercial bank it has consulted the convenience of the general public. It has issued bank notes and acted as the national cash office for the Japanese and Korean Governments in the receipt and payment of Government accounts. It has also undertaken the adjustment of Korean currency, and bought gold and silver bullion. Further it has acted as the agent for the Nippon Ginko in the management of National loan bonds. The Bank's business is thus multifarious. The branch offices in Hamheung and Kaishong were subsequently closed and made over, to the Agricultural and Commercial Bank, and the branch office in Kyongsong was removed to Nawam. New branch offices were established in Fusan and New Wiju in order to facilitate monetary circulation and the transaction of Treasury accounts. As a result of the Annexation, the Law of the Bank of Chosen was promulgated as Law No. 48 on March 28th last year, and came into force on and after August 15th last. The Bank was then renamed the Bank of Chosen. The law is practically similar to the old Bank of Korea Law, the principal points of difference being that the Bank is placed under direct supervision of the home Government in matters of importance, while the scope of the issue of convertible notes is extended. The following is a cursory survey of the conditions of the business and other affairs of the Bank.

Condition of Bank business—The Bank of Korea had for its prime object to

act as the Central Bank for the issue of bank notes, in order to regulate the monetary circulation and to undertake the management of Government finances, with a view to helping forward the development of the country. The condition of economic circles in Korea was, however, in its infancy, and capital was scarce. These circumstances did not permit the Bank to limit its business to the proper functions of a Central Bank, and besides giving assistance to various banks, it was found imperative to undertake ordinary banking business. It was thus obliged to succeed to and continue the ordinary banking business undertaken by the Dai-Ichi Ginko and its branches. A lowering of the loan rate was considered essential for bringing Japan-Korean trade relations closer and for accelerating the growth of domestic industry in Korea. The Bank thus lowered the loan rate three times in succession in the hope of thereby promoting trade and general commercial transactions. Although the connection with other banks is not yet perfected, the Bank is acting as another bank and is according them special treatment in the matter of discount on bills and loans. The connection is thus being steadily consolidated.

Generally speaking, economics in Korea have advanced in accordance with the progress of the protective policy of the Government, and consequently the bank business has gradually expanded. Since the annexation of Korea, proclaimed on August 29th, 1910, the people have begun to enjoy the blessings of enlightened government. Peace has been secured and a feeling of security established, so that the people have begun to follow their respective vocations peacefully. Capital has begun to flow in from the mother country for investment in land and general enterprises. Moreover, a large amount of money arising from the interest paid on, or proceeds of, municipal bonds, has found its way on to the market. The agricultural yield has increased under improved methods of cultivation and the output of the gold mines also has shown an increase. The purchasing power of the Chosenese has thus been considerably increased, resulting in an increase of the volume of trade, the amount last year reaching a total of 72,940,000 yen, of which the imports amounted to 54,080,000 yen, the excess of imports over exports totalling 27,110,000 yen. The Bank lowered its loan rate on the staple products of export and raised it on imported goods to prevent the Chosenese from acquiring luxurious habits. It also accepted Chosen works bonds for Government productive enterprises, such as harbour improvement, laying railways and highways, etc., in order to help forward the administration. It also granted to Municipal bodies, advances on annual instalments or temporary loans in order to enable them to complete public works, and altogether endeavoured to fully discharge the functions of a Colonial Bank. The deposits at the end of the previous business period stood at 6,978,000 yen, loans at 3,210,000 yen, the Government loan at 4,594,000 yen, and various public loans at 10,100,000 yen. Economic circles in Chosen are thus now taking a new lease of life.

Bank Notes.—At the time when the business was transferred by the Dai-Ichi Ginko, the issue of Bank notes amounted to about 12,000,000 yen, but has since shown the following increase:—

	Yen.
At the end of December, 1909	13,439,700
" June, 1910	13,255,000
" December, 1910	20,163,900
" June, 1911	22,047,000
" December, 1911	25,006,540

Although there have been some fluctuations in the amount of issue according to the conditions of the money market, the general trend shows an increase, that is to say the amount of issue is double that recorded two years ago. Amongst the causes responsible for the increase are the replenishment of the old Korean as well as Russian currencies withdrawn from circulation, the increase of Government enterprises, the development of general commerce and industry, the influx of capital from the mother country for investment; the increase of gold production in Chosen, and the general development of economic conditions. This tendency is likely to continue. There was a time when the Bank of Korea notes were used and when the old and new currencies were in circulation side by side; but the circulation was generally smooth. The one yen notes in circulation showed a radical increase, the amount of issue reaching a total of 10,501,700 yen at the end of last year, being 46 per cent. of the total issue of bank notes. The radical increase of one yen notes denotes that notes of this denomination are particularly fitted to the standard of living of the Chosen people, and at the same time the fact gives evidence to the wide circulation of bank notes in the towns and rural districts throughout the peninsula. The causes that accelerated the increase of the issue of the bank notes in the past continuing unchanged, the amount of issue will continue to gradually increase in future.

As to the National Treasury business, it may be noted that at the time when the Bank opened its business, the Seoul office and various branch offices, as well as specified agricultural and commercial banks, undertook the cash business of the Treasury jointly with the post office authorities in various districts, the head office in Seoul acting as the principal cash office of the national Treasury of the Home Government, while nine branch offices in Chosen acted as sub-cash offices. Simultaneously with the annexation the Korean accounts were all transferred to the Japanese Government, and the Special Account Law was promulgated. Thus all business relating to the Korean Branch Treasury was transferred to the cash-office of the National Treasury. The Seoul Head Office continued as the principal cash office and thirty-four branch cash offices of the Treasury were established throughout Chosen, while the management by the Post Offices of the Government Finances, which had been in vogue since the time of the old Korean regime, was maintained intact. The wide dominion and large population of Chosen, coupled with the multiplicity of the administrative organizations, render the business of the cash office of the Treasury multifarious and the scope of its business will increase as the public enterprises of the Government increase in future.

Currency adjustment.—Korea was a copper-standard country, and naturally had coins predominated to the detriment of the development of commerce and the progress of the State. Currency adjustment was thus the most important but the most difficult work for the development of Chosen. The measures taken by the authorities concerned,

however, proved successful, and the larger part of the work was accomplished under the Dai Ichi Ginko's regime. When the Bank succeeded to the Dai Ichi Ginko the old Korean nickels then in circulation were estimated approximately at one million *yen*, in addition to cash amounting to two million *yen*. By strenuous efforts the withdrawal of the nickel coins was nearly concluded towards the end of 1910, while the copper coins and cash were also being gradually redeemed. Thus the work was completed, and the currency adjustment section was closed at the end of February, 1911; the disbursement made by the Bank being refunded. Since the Bank first started the work in July, 1905, the amount of old coins redeemed numbered 391,196,850 pieces of nickel coins, 2,173,125,493 pieces of string cash and 25,366,199 pieces of miscellaneous old coins, altogether amounting to over 14 million *yen* in value. The new subsidiary coins issued in substitution reach a total of about 7,000,000 *yen*. The adjustment has had a salutary effect in giving an impetus to commercial transactions, and in the improvement of economic conditions generally, and is undoubtedly an achievement fit to adorn the first page of the history of the development of Chosen. After the annexation, the Chosen subsidiary coins were gradually replaced by Japanese subsidiary coins.

The total subsidiary coins now in circulation in Chosen amount to about 6,500,000 *yen*, of which 3,000,000 *yen* are Japanese coins. As a means of regulating the subsidiary coins in circulation, the sum of half a million *yen* received from the Central Government was deposited in 198 banks and other monetary organs in the principal towns in the peninsula to facilitate circulation. This arrangement proved satisfactory.

Purchase of gold and silver bullion.—The Bank succeeded to the bullion offices in Seoul, Pyongyang and Wonsan established by the Dai Ichi Ginko, where the gold and silver bullion produced in Chosen was purchased and forwarded to the Government Mint in Osaka, to add to the specie reserve of the Bank as well as of the mother country. The amount of annual purchase has shown a steady increase as will appear by the figures given below:—

1909.....	yen.
1910.....	447,294
1911.....	4,645,400
1912.....	5,619,258

Since the spring of 1910, the gold output in Western Chosen, especially in Ulsan, Sakjyn and districts in the province of Pyangyang has greatly increased and the mining fever has begun to run high amongst the Chosenese and Japanese people. Home capital has begun to flow in to seek investment in mining enterprises and this has tended to improve mining progress. The gold output tends to show a continued increase. The Government has concluded a survey of the mines, and charters have been granted for mining enterprise; and experimental borings by capitalists are steadily progressing. The prospects of the enterprise are very bright, which is a matter of congratulation to the State.

Only two years and four months have now elapsed since the Bank opened business and up to the first half of last year the Bank has had to rely on the Government subsidy to declare a six per cent. dividend. The second instalment of subscriptions to the

bank's shares, altogether amounting to 2,500,000 *yen*, was called up in April last year and the third instalment for a similar amount will be called up in April next. The Bank has thus been able to declare a dividend in the previous business period without having recourse to the Government subsidy and has also gradually redeemed the fund laid out for immovable and movable properties. The basis of the Bank has thus been consolidated and preparations for future activity completed. The building of the main office of the Bank, which was commenced under the Dai Ichi Ginko's regime in the winter of 1908, has been completed, and the massive stone building which stands inside the South Gate of Seoul is one of the achievements of modern architecture.

The development of Chosen depends on the growth of domestic industries. The industrial development naturally accelerates the progress of economic circles, which, in turn, gives an impetus to the activity of monetary organs. The Government's economic policy is directed to this end, and the growth of public enterprises and the development of general economics bring with them an increase of commercial transactions and trade. Economic circles in Chosen possess a bright future, and the Bank has an onerous duty to perform as the Central Bank. The Bank is, nevertheless, thoroughly prepared to meet the future activity and we do not doubt that the painstaking efforts on the part of the bank authorities responsible for the management will bear fruit in the near future.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank held their general meeting on Sunday last in Yokohama. The speech of the President, Baron Mishima Yataro, was as follows:—

The easiness of money which has prevailed continuously during the past two or three years and the consequent low rate of interest has afforded opportunity to the various existing enterprises to utilize their idle money towards extending the scope of their work, the situation having been accentuated by calls on the shares of newly established concerns. This resulted in a considerable amount of money being withdrawn from the market and in increasing the solid capital. Besides, there was a small demand for money for the settlement of outstanding accounts in relation to goods imported anticipatory to the new tariff. These elements contributed to change the market and a tightening of money was in evidence. Since the time for anticipatory imports passed, the balance of our foreign trade has assumed a better turn, a notable excess of exports having been witnessed.

During the latter part of July the storm and tidal wave which swept the country caused serious damage in some localities, and at one time the outlook for the rice crop, which is a most important factor in the country's economy, was gloomy. Fortunately, however, the pessimistic forecast was not realized. The preliminary reports were quite encouraging, and favorable weather having later prevailed throughout the country, there was a prospect of a good crop. Signs of activity in every branch of business were visible. The agricultural class were benefited by the continuance of the high level of the price of rice enhanced by the short crop of the previous year and was ready to absorb a good supply of goods.

The disquieting news from foreign countries, however, had a very disturbing effect on the money market at home during the period, and produced an uncertain feeling for a time. There

was the Morocco question to begin with, which at one time became very strained. Later came the Tripoli trouble resulting in a declaration of war between Italy and Turkey. In China a riot broke out in Szchuan. The Bank of Japan, in view of the conditions at home and abroad, raised its official rate in the latter part of September. Following this example, the other banks raised their rates of interest and the situation was watched with caution. The indications were that a further stringency of money was in store, but there appears to have been no detriment to the general economic trend, which made a healthy development.

In October a revolutionary uprising suddenly broke out in Wuchang and the place being a focus of central China's trade and therefore having great importance in connection with our export trade with that country, the situation was viewed with grave apprehension at the time, not only by those directly engaged in the business, but also by bankers and financiers. If the area of the disturbance were to spread to the several provinces in the North and South, the consequences would be most damaging to our export trade, especially cotton yarn, our foremost staple. However, it is gratifying that at home, events took a turn for the better. As I have said, the good crop of rice with its high price produced brisk business in the country. Under the circumstances, the stringency of money continued at the close of the year, there having been a good demand for the settlement of yearly accounts in spite of the payment by the Government of interest on domestic bonds amounting to 23 million *yen* and also the redemption of 5 per cent Special Bonds to the extent of 20 million *yen*.

Regarding the economic conditions abroad, it is observed that both in Europe and America, commerce and industry have been making steady progress, while many things happened to over-cast the outlook—amongst others, the threatened international controversy over the Morocco question and the Tripoli trouble to which I have already referred. As a precautionary measure, the Central Banks of Germany, France and England raised their official rates. These factors, along with the forthcoming demand of funds for the autumn harvest, asserted themselves to the tightening of money in these countries. However, later events have shown that the international money markets were not affected by the situation as at first feared excepting to a depression in stock operations. Subsequent to the settlement of the Morocco question and to the limitation agreed upon with regard to the area of war between Italy and Turkey, the markets retained their normal level.

To turn to the Orient, India unfortunately failed in her agricultural products and the consequence was the general depression of her trade. In China, upon the outbreak of revolution in the Wuchang district, business in every place affected by the uprising was paralyzed and the scarcity of money was keenly felt. Our business with China, both exports and imports, was suspended for a time, with the exception of Hongkong; the consequence being that large stocks of our export goods accumulated in Shanghai. It seems that a portion of the goods found their way to the interior markets through Chinwantao. However, later, a feeling of tranquility having apparently returned everywhere in anticipation of peace indicated by the progress towards an understanding between the Northern and Southern armies, the wheel of business began to move slowly.

Glancing at the foreign trade during the half year, we find that the exports amounted to 242,530,000 *yen* and the imports to 204,430,000 *yen*, aggregating 446,960,000 *yen*. These figures compared with those for the corresponding period of the preceding year, show a decrease of 4,650,000 *yen* in exports and of 19,850,000 *yen* in imports, resulting in a total shrinkage of 24,500,000 *yen*. The main cause of this shrinkage is doubtless to be attributed to the falling off of our Chinese trade, but the reactionary outcome of the anticipatory imports accompanying the new customs

tariff and the prolonged dullness of the raw silk market may be responsible in part.

The Bank's exchange business during the period was as follows:—The exchange sold in foreign branches and agencies by the Japan offices amounted to 29,460,000 yen and those purchased to 116,590,000 yen. These compared with the figures for the corresponding period of the year preceding show a decrease of 11,310,000 yen in the exchange sold, but an increase of 470,000 yen in those purchased. Again the exchange sold abroad on Japan amounted to 40,500,000 yen and that purchased to 108,010,000 yen. These figures compared with those for the corresponding period of the preceding year show an increase in exchange sold and bought of 6,370,000 yen and 15,710,000 yen respectively, aggregating a total increase of 11,250,000 yen. I am glad to state that the Bank's business, though it has suffered more or less in consequence of the political disturbances in China, has happily resulted in making a satisfactory showing on the whole and in enabling us to maintain the customary ratio of dividend. The net profit obtained during the period amounts to 3,285,136.25 yen, of which 1,103,327.84 yen is the balance brought forward from the preceding accounts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I have to report the opening of the Calcutta office of this Bank on the 3rd October last for business, and with deep regret, the death of Mr. Bekkey, our esteemed director. The late Mr. Bekkey joined this Bank in the fourteenth year of Meiji (1881), the year after the foundation of this institution, and ever since he had represented the Bank in Europe and America on various occasions. The Bank by the unanimous decision of the board of Directors has presented a cheque for twenty thousand yen to his family in token of appreciation of his meritorious services to the Bank. Gentlemen, I have no doubt you will approve our action in this matter.

The accounts rendered showed that the gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including 1,193,327.84 yen brought forward from last account, amount to 11,539,732.46 yen, of which 8,254,506.21 yen have been deducted for Interest, Taxes, Current Expenses, Rebate on Bills Current, Bad and Doubtful Debts, Bonus for Officers and clerks, etc. leaving a balance of 3,285,136.25 yen for appropriation.

The Directors recommended that 350,000.00 yen should be added to the Reserve Fund, and a Dividend adopted at the rate of Twelve per cent., per annum, which will absorb 1,740,000 yen.

The Balance, 1,195,136.25 yen, will be carried forward to next account.

KOREA'S RECEDING PANTHEON.

[FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.]

In the changes taking place in this country there is a general exit noticeable on the part of former gods that ruled in the spiritual sphere. Worship is disappearing from its ancient haunts where it held sway through the slow going and unchanging years of the past.

Of these changes we notice first the *Sa-jik* or worship of Heaven, (社稷), as being applicable to God, and *jik* to Earth. God and Mother Earth they were, the spiritual originals of all parental existence, before whom the king used to bow asking that rain be given and good crops to bless the land. The people had no part in this worship, only the king, whose ceremonial function resembled that of the Emperor of China when he visited the Temple of Heaven. The *Sa-jik* gates are closed. The spirit of the crops goes unpropitiated. No complaint is made or word of regret spoken regarding him. The grass of the future will grow over his grave, and his name will be a far-off memory only.

Second, the *Chong-myo* (宗廟) or Royal Ancestors have likewise had written across their immovable countenances "It is finished." Near the middle of Seoul, just before the East Palace, is this abode of the spirits of the ruling family. In 1396 A.D., a famous minister of the House of

Plum, was given the responsibility of rearing this spirit temple. He made in it twenty eight rooms, each room intended for one spirit. Taijo the king asked "Why twenty-eight?" Cheung To-jon replied, "Twenty-eight will be sufficient," and so twenty-eight rooms were made in these Halls of Hades.

Cheung was again asked to name the building and he called it "Chang-yop Chou" (蒼葉殿), Green Leaf Palace.

"That's a peculiar name" said the King. "Peculiar it is, but will your Majesty let it stand? Its meaning will be evident in days to come."

"Very well," said Taijo, and Green Leaf Palace is the name to-day for this quiet house of departed spirits.

Now let us poll these characters apart and see in how far the prophetic element enters into them. "Green" (蒼) is made up of "twenty" (廿) and "eight" (八), which, thrown together, would read twenty-eight; the lower part of the character is *hun* or 'king' (君). Twenty eight kings is what "Green" expresses when resolved into its component parts, and this is the number of kings that have actually ruled from Taijo till the annexed Emperor made his exit.

We shall try "Leaf" now and see what it is resolvable into (葉). It is made up of "twenty" (廿), *sei* (世) "generation" and *mok* (木) a tree. This reads then "Twenty generations of the House of Pium." Twenty-eight kings, but only twenty generations, is strange as it may seem, what it actually reckons up to be. The spirit of the prophets was in Cheung To-jon. The twenty eight rooms are occupied, the twenty-eight kings of "Green" have come and gone, the twenty-eight generations of "Leaf" are completed, the Temple is closed, the story is ended, no jot or tittle of the prophetic name having fallen to the ground.

Third, there are the Confucian Temples, one located in each magistracy and the large *Song-kyun Kwan* in Seoul. At appointed seasons the officials aided by the literati repaired to these temples and made their obeisance before the tablets of the Sages and lesser Sages. There were in all one hundred and thirty-seven of them, of whom one hundred and twenty one were Chinese, and sixteen Korean. Sacrifices of raw food material were offered, never cooked fare. To-day the temples are forsaken. Where the spirit sat enthroned dust gathers, and the paper on the wall hangs in loose tags and flaps in the wind.

The fourth object of worship in the tablet of the family ancestor. This has really been Korea's symbol of divine allegiance from time immemorial. To lose the tablet from the home, to fail to bow before it on the first and fifteenth days, to forget the "greater" or "lesser" sacrifices would mark one as cut off from the house of Israel.

There are few or no temples in Korea to be seen by the passer, for the temple of the tablet is the home and the quiet grave, and these truly exist. Sackcloth, and ashes, and tears, and loud wailings, have accompanied this diminutive symbol of the world of departed spirits, and its position as a household god is the strongest of all. But the ancestral tablet too is receding into the dim vista of forgottenness. Christianity has had a part in cutting into ancestral worship, but beyond its influence, the spirit of the new age is one that pays little heed to the common, everyday kind of ancestor. The tendency, if any exists at all, is towards hero-worship. Democracy is disappearing from the world of spirits, and only the godlike among men will remain to be propitiated and prayed to.

The fifth form of worship to be noticed is that of Kwan-gong (關公). The only great temples in and about Seoul, if we except the Song-kyun, are Kwan-gong's. Kwan was a Chinaman of the Han dynasty who died in 219 A.D. A seller of beancake

proved his constant fidelity. The Koreans call him a master of *chui* (義) righteousness. He is looked upon as the special guardian divinity of this peninsula. In the Japanese invasion of 1593 A.D. he is said to have appeared first at the South Gate of Seoul, where a temple to-day marks the spot, to have passed over the city and disappeared outside the East Gate where another temple stands. He is to come again they say. He is called Song-je Kun (聖帝君, Holy Imperial Ruler, and is regarded as the special intercessor with the Jade Divinity. His image and portrait is very fierce and awful. He has blazing eyes, a thunder-cloud for face and a three-fold bristling beard, with whiskers that blow off wrath and fiery indignation. The worship paid him must be given in an atmosphere of fear and uncertain expectation.

The worshipper thinks that if he but repeat Kwan-gong's formula that deal with truth, faithfulness, etc. he will be free from all forms of danger by land and sea, and will finally land in the happy home of the Jade Divinity.

But no longer does the State share in the worship of Kwan-gong. The crowds that used to frequent the temple have fallen off. Wind bells tinkle disconsolately over the grass-grown court-yard. Kwan is dead.

A sixth form of worship universally spoken of and believed in by the Korean was that of the Hills and Streams (山川). The hill everywhere present is the guardian of the human pigmies that congregate under its wing. Seoul was safe in the shadows of the Three Horned Mountain, Song-do likewise under its protector. Each hill had its attendant spirit called the *Sas silbung* (山靈). He is represented as riding comfortably on the back of a tiger, one of his special menials. He is great in power and can apportion special attainments in the way of strength, making men *cha-ryok-kun* (借力軍) so that they can pull apart a bar of steel, can jump over the moon, or bite through armour-plate. The hunter prays to the mountain deity for success in the chase and for a never failing aim. The writer once met a man with a gun going into the hills at the fall of night. He asked if he did not fear to enter thus into the darkness. "No" he answered, "I am an attendant upon the Mountain Spirit and have no cause to fear."

The seeker for ginseng, too, prays that his eyes may be enlightened to see the precious weed.

"A hundred days of prayer" (百日祈禱) is one of the common sayings that have to do with the Taoist worship of the hills. Away alone, where scarce the fall of a leaf can disturb the quiet, is this mystic worship carried on. This temple ever stands open. It requires no rickety gate-keeper to dispute the right of entrance with anyone; it is forever and forever in repair, a great temple roofed with the lamp-lights of the sky, and walled by the green eternal hills, accompanied by the silent flight of birds or the murmur of falling water. It would seem indeed a grand king of worship beckoning all hearts to come to its bosom and taste of the inner quiet of the soul. Will it go like the other deities of the Korean Pantheon? Undoubtedly.

The seventh form of worship is Buddhism. For several centuries it has been in a decadent state, and needed a great revival if it ever hoped to live. To-day has this revival come? From Japan Proper, new Buddhist forces have entered and are seeking to revive the fallen fortunes of the sect, but its task will be a difficult one. Already adverse associations cluster about Buddhism, that will make a revival of it all but impossible. For generations the State, while frowning with one eye on Buddhism, nodded and winked all sorts of requests with the other. Prayers were asked, *subras* were said and sung at her bidding, bells and gongs and intonings have kept many a mountain dell in a state of discordant uproar at the bidding of the king and queen. The common classes went to the Buddha to ask a son, or long life or happiness. The silent god, never vindictive or threatening in face as Kwan-gong, gave a quiet hope for the future. To-day we find temples given up, we see

gilded Buddhas stowed away. Buddhism, for the present, seems likely to still further decline.

The eighth form is what was called in Hebrew parlance "the worship of the host of heaven." Attached to every Buddhist temple, and also off in some quiet valley itself is the *Chil song Kak* (七星閣), the Temple of the Dipper. The Seven Stars circling round and round the Pole had to do in some way with the fortunes of the family and so were worshipped. Many a little boy in Korea wears the name of Chil song-ee (Seven Stars), under whose favouring influence his birth came to pass. "You may thank your stars" illustrates the same faith on the part of our ancestors. Good fortune is said to attend the star in the ascendant here as it did with us. But the spirit of the age upon which we have entered will pay but little attention to the Seven Stars or any other deity unless quick returns are made in the way of profit.

The ninth form of worship is associated with the roadway. The pilgrim must be accompanied with well-intentioned spirits. At each pass-way or elevation there is usually an old tree with rags and tatters hanging to it, a pile of stones underneath and often a tumble-down shrine. The passer splits, or casts an extra stone on the heap, or ties a rag to the tree in the hope that the frosty spirit that has to do with the place will give him a safe journey and good luck. These wayside shrines are nasty places, that look like pest-houses gaping at you as you go by, marring the beauty and the sweetness of the eternal hills.

The tenth form of worship is that of trees and rocks in general. The Koreans say "When a thing grows old it becomes a spirit" (物舊則神). Trees, especially the ginkgo, and rocks have an unchanging character, which suggests eternal life, unending posterity and the like. Women will say their tearful prayers to the hoary tree and the adamant rock in the hope that the spirits will hear. They will cut off the bark and make spirit tea of it and believe themselves into great and lasting benefit therefrom. The writer has a ginkgo tree that he has had to defend as with a shot-gun against the old and crazy wives of the neighbourhood who, beaver like if left alone, would strip the bark all round the stem. One old dame lay down in front of the tree and had a "cooption" fit because she was interfered with in the holy exercise of peeling bark and saying prayers. Only by main force was she dragged off the premises, all the time protesting in language that would make an ordinary spirit's hair stand on end.

As the tortoise that never dies presents a back from which ages read all sorts of spiritual mystery, so the horny bark of the tree, like the weather-worn surface of the rock, is full of messages of spiritual import.

The eleventh form of worship includes in its embrace household gods, spirits of rats, snakes and weasels. Some are bottled up and buried, some are seen alive in the flesh itself and prayed to, some are invisible. They are petitioned, sacrificed to, and called on imploringly for help and protection against this troubled world. This form of worship is on the wane in the more enlightened parts of the country, and will go largely with this generation.

The twelfth and last is the worship of the Dragon, be he snake or fish in form. He frequents pools and waters. Sailor lads in Korea, instead of singing out about the good ship tight and free, pray to the sea dragon and feed rice over the gunnel into his seething dusty gullet. The dragon will probably stay for a time at any rate.

However, these twelve forms of worship that have beckoned the Korean of the past to pay his vows, his prayers, his tithes, his tears, are receding into the vistas of the bygone and forgotten. Soon we shall see them only in folk lore records, and among customs defunct and dead. We watch them recede with something akin to sorrow unless a better be here on hand to take their place and make good the defects that were inherent in them.

SPECTATOR.

LANGFELDT AND CO., LTD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING

The half yearly meeting of Langfeldt & Co., Ltd., was held on Friday afternoon last at the offices of the company, with Mr. D. H. Blake, Chairman of the Board of Directors, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting having been taken as read, the Chairman, dealing with the report and accounts said that the result of the working, while not quite so satisfactory as for the January-June term, was about the same as for the corresponding period of the previous year. As intimated in the report, the local trade had shown a considerable increase, this result being mainly due to special efforts made by the foreign staff. On account of the high duties levied on practically all food stuffs, it was becoming increasingly difficult to expand the business, but as that result had actually been accomplished, he felt that they had some grounds for congratulation. The same cause that militated against them in the local trade applied with equal force to the shipping business, vessels coming into the port confining their purchases as far as possible to articles not affected by the duties. This naturally meant some reduction in the volume of the trade in this particular branch of business. They had written down the steam launch and furniture accounts as usual and recommended a dividend of 4 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year, carrying forward to the next account the substantial sum of 2,492.94 yen.

Mr. Blake then moved the adoption of the report and accounts. This was seconded by Mr. Weinberger and carried.

Mr. Bowden and Mr. J. S. Scott were elected Directors, and Mr. W. D. S. Edwards auditor.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for his untiring work on behalf of the company concluded the proceedings.

The following is the Report of Directors and Statement of Accounts:—

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and Profit and Loss Account for the half year ended December 31st, 1911, accompany this report.

The working for the half year, including the amount brought forward from last account, after providing for general expenses, bad and doubtful debts, and bonus to employees, leaves a balance of 7,208.70 yen, from which amount 345.66 yen has been written off Steam Launch, and 370.10 yen off Furniture Account. This leaves an amount of 6,492.94 yen, which the Directors recommend be dealt with as follows:

In payment of a dividend of 4 per cent. for the half year.....	4,000.00
To be carried forward to next account.....	2,492.94
	<u>6,492.94</u>

The results obtained during the period under review are practically the same as for the corresponding term of the previous year.

Local trade has shown some considerable increase, but shipping business has fallen off somewhat owing to a decrease in the number of men-of-war visiting the port.

The Dividend above recommended, added to that paid at June, 1911, makes a total of 9 per cent. for the year.

Directors:—Mr. M. F. Bengen left for home during the year, and the customary leave of absence was granted him. An invitation was extended to Mr. C. Benrath to join the Board, which he accepted. Mr. V. R. Bowden retires from the Board by rotation, but being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Mr. D. H. Blake, owing to his temporary absence from Japan, tenders his resignation, and a new Director will have to be elected to fill his place.

Auditor:—The Directors have pleasure in recommending the reappointment of Mr. W. D. Edwards as Auditor for the ensuing year.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

ASSETS.	Yen.
Merchandise in Stock	120,964.07
Plant, Fixtures and Furniture	2,500.00
Sundry Debtors	35,597.32
Fire Insurance, Value of Running Policies	598.39
Cash in Hand	7,241.67
Steam Launch	2,500.00

169,401.45

LIABILITIES.	Yen.
Capital 20,000 Shares, 50 yen	1,000,000.00
Sundry Creditors	26,635.32
Reserve Account	15,000.00
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	21,273.19
Balance, December 31st, 1911	6,492.94

169,401.45

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1911.

Dec. 31st.	Dr.	Yen.
To Expenses, Wages and Rent Account		14,263.32
To Fire Insurance Account		634.17
To Interest		598.16
To Directors' Fees		450.00
To Auditors' Fees		150.00
To Amount written off Steam Launch		345.66
To Amount written off Furniture		370.10
To Balance		6,492.94

23,777.35

July 1st, 1911.	CR.	Yen.
By Balance carried forward from January 30th, 1911		2,715.42
Dec. 31st.		
By Gross Profit		20,561.93
		<u>23,277.35</u>

THE SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

BUSINESS FOR THE LAST HALF-YEAR.

The returns for the last half year of the South Manchuria Railway Company's business are rated by Mr. Kuizawa, the Vice-President of the Company, to be most satisfactory, in spite of the outbreak of the disturbances in China. As compared with the corresponding term of the preceding year, the freight conveyed by the railway showed a considerable increase. The passengers too have greatly increased in number, many coming from Peking and other districts to seek refuge. Such being the case, a decided increase marks the revenue from both freight and passengers.

Hitherto the Company's loans have been raised as a rule by means of foreign bond issue. The condition of the European economic market, however, is such as to scarcely allow the flotation, on favourable terms, of loan bonds. The Company has thus far had to defray a large amount of money for the hasty construction of the Anhui-Mukden line, Dairen harbour and such like expensive undertakings, and it was difficult for the company to seek such funds in the share capital paid in. The funds required hereafter, however, are to be appropriated for the most part towards improvement work which call for no enormous expenditure. It is true the company may have to undertake, after some years, the construction of a second pier at Dairen, and such like expensive enterprises, but, for the present, nothing necessitates defrayment of any large sum of money, while there is share capital amounting to over eighteen million yen that still remains to be paid up. Under these circumstances the Company is confident that it may safely depend for the time being on the capital to be paid in, instead of as heretofore upon the flotation of foreign bonds.

A STUDENT of the Seisoku English school, Kanda, named Okamoto Yoshitaka, aged twenty-two, hailing from Kagawa prefecture, committed suicide on Thursday afternoon last about three o'clock while in school. He is said to have resorted to such a tragic measure owing to his weak constitution, that destroyed, as he thought, every hope of prosecuting his English studies.

reported in the import of Java sugar. This is accounted for by the strong efforts being made to develop the Formosan sugar industry, which brought prices down rapidly, though towards the end of the year increased buying set in because of the failure of the Java crop, and values consequently steadily advanced.

FERTILISERS

The increase in the imports of fertilisers, specially sulphates of ammonia and oilcake, is very marked, being over 25 per cent. on the figures for 1910, which goes to show that farmers are now depending largely on fertilisers for rice and other crops.

METALS AND MACHINERY.

Metals and machinery show a very large increase on the previous year's trade. The general expansion in the industrial business throughout the country contributed largely to the increase of over 4½ million yen in machinery alone. In metals a fair quantity was imported in anticipation of the higher duties, but had only a temporary depressing effect on the market. Imports, however, of bars, rods, etc., may be somewhat checked by the higher duties, which were supposed to enable the Government iron foundry at Wakamatsu to be worked at other than the heavy loss which the tax-payers have been compelled to meet ever since its inauguration. Rails show a marked increase, due to the expansion of railway systems throughout the country, as also to speculative importation on account of the increase in duty.

EXPORT OF COTTON YARNS.

Cotton yarns show the largest decrease, being over 2½ millions less than in 1910, which may be entirely ascribed to the outbreak of the rebellion in China and to the severe famine in the Yangtze valley which preceded it. Prices in the first eight to nine months ruled very high, which told against the customary free shipments to that market. Mills, however, are reported to have done fairly well during the year, though the acquisition of one or two of the Shanghai mills and the erection of new mills there by Japanese capital may have a curtailing effect on the export yarn trade of Japan in years to come.

Exports to China, in spite of the unsettled state of affairs during the latter half of the year, only show a decrease of about 400,000 yen. The alteration from the conventional Chinese dress to that of European style is largely responsible for the increase in grey goods, hats, caps, etc., and there is every reason to believe that exports generally to that market will experience a marked increase once the country becomes settled and a better form of Government in control of affairs.

BRAIDS.

In braids during the latter part of the year considerable difficulties were experienced in getting supplies from the producers. The war between Italy and Turkey caused a reduction of the output of the former country, with the result that consumers abroad had to appeal to Japan for supplies. Prices went up smartly in consequence, and as is usual with manufacturers on such occasions, they saw more profit in supplying the spot demand for goods at the higher rate than abiding by the contracts which they had made for cheaper supplies ahead. Such tactics are by no means uncommon in other countries, but the Japanese manufacturer does not seem to recognise that by so doing he is only putting a ban on Japanese goods when the world's supply gets back to normal, for the home consumer will naturally prefer to place his orders in the market where he has the best chance of having them fulfilled.

COTTON UNDERWEAR.

Cotton underwear showed a decrease of about 600,000 yen, due to the heavy stock carried forward from 1910 in India, which is the principal outlet for the Japanese production. The market there was depressed, and only small orders came forward during the earlier part of the year.

COPPER.

The export of copper declined about 1,600,000 yen, but the production increased and home con-

sumption was much larger than in former years, especially in connection with electric wire manufacture.

FALSE CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS.

So much, gentlemen, for the trade of the port. At the last annual general meeting the subject of false Customs declarations was brought up, and, as requested at that meeting, a deputation from the Committee called on the local Director of Customs, and he gave the assurance that in the event of any importer being found guilty of making false declarations of the value of goods, they would receive the proper penalty applicable under the Customs Law.

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT OF TRADE.

At the same meeting the attention of the Committee was drawn to the Government subsidising a trading company. Your Committee went fully into the question and brought it to the notice of the Ambassadors at Tokyo, but little help could be expected from them beyond that their attention had been drawn to the Government's method of fostering direct trade at the expense of the taxpayers.

BUOYS IN THE HARBOUR.

During the year the notice of the Committee had been drawn to the advantage of having the tops of buoys in the harbour painted with luminous paint, which is generally done in the principal harbours in other countries. Those of you who have been out in the harbour on a dark night will readily recognise the danger which these buoys are to the navigation of vessels, and the result of a large passenger steamer becoming disabled in a crowded harbour would be somewhat grave. A recommendation was sent to the Harbour-master by the Board, and it is to be hoped that in the interests of safe navigation he will see the benefits of the suggestion.

THE NEW DUTIES AND THEIR EFFECTS.

With reference to the new duties which came into force in July last, while, of course, they will put practically a closure on the import of certain lines, the effect so far on trade has not been very pronounced. Speculative buying in anticipation of the increase was moderate, and while it led to a depression after the inauguration of the new duties, the effect did not last very long. Woollens and worsteds seemed to be most overdone, but the bad state of the market in them cannot be altogether ascribed to duties—the failure of one or two large concerns in Tokyo having had a very bad effect. As to what the future may show, that is a point on which opinions differ very much, but I may venture the opinion that it will not bring about the shutting-out of foreign goods to the extent that many had predicted. A protective tariff may foster home industries, but does not mean that the consumer will be better or cheaper supplied—rather the reverse—and there are many classes of foreign goods which producers in this country cannot compete with at least for some time to come.

An Association of foreign merchants engaged in the export of produce has been formed at Kobe with the object of improving the existing conditions of that trade, but as by coming under the wing of the Foreign Board of Trade they feel they would have more power, the question now before the meeting is the formation of a sub-Section of the Board to deal with produce matters only, and I would make the following proposition from the Chair:—

"That this meeting authorizes the creation of a sub-section to deal with matters relating to products. Such section to have the right of making its own rules, regulations, contracts and agreements, which, however, would always be submitted for the approval of the Managing Committee."

"The members of the sub-section to elect their own Committee, Chairman and Secretary, but the Committee of Management shall have the right to appoint at least one of their number on that Committee. The expenses of running this sub-section may at any time mean a considerable increase in the running expenses, which, if found

necessary, shall be borne by the members of that sub-section."

Mr. McKay seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously. The Chairman then went on to deal with the question of Customs accommodation as to which he said it was necessary to remedy the present state of affairs. He added:—As regards Customs accommodation, the Board have to-day received a memorial signed by 34 firms regarding the inadequate accommodation at the Customs compound for exports. The lack of proper landing space and godown accommodation at Kobe is a matter which seems to come before us regularly, and though the Committee in the past have not been able to get much improvement made, the excuse given by the authorities being lack of funds, I feel sure the incoming Committee will give the question full consideration, and do the best possible to remedy the present state of affairs.

In the election of officers of the Board for the ensuing year, Mr. Crevatin was again elected Chairman, with Mr. Melhuish as Vice-Chairman, and Messrs. Koops, Tata, Officer, Town and W. W. Campbell for Committee.

EIGHT POISONED BABIES.

OXALIC ACID IN HOSPITAL FEEDING BOTTLES.

Miss Winifred Ankers, the girl nurse in the Brooklyn Infants' Hospital, New York, where eight babies have died apparently from oxalic acid poisoning, was examined on Feb. 23, by mental specialists. They found that Miss Ankers' memory was faulty and that she was possibly suffering from intermittent delusion, but they were unwilling without further examination to pronounce her insane.

The case is so puzzling to the medical staff that they hesitate to order the nurse's arrest without first exhuming and examining the bodies of the infants already buried. The girl is herself a mother, and her infant is among those in the hospital.

On February 11, the head nurse gave her money to purchase oxalic acid for sterilising purposes. Part of the acid was given to the head nurse. This supply is intact, but Miss Ankers retained the rest. Most of this has gone. The girl says she used it for sterilising the operating table. She had access to a closet in which the food for the thirty babies in the ward was kept.

The last baby to be taken ill was seized with violent pains after receiving some food from one of the bottles. This led to the discovery of oxalic acid in the bottles.

ESCAPE BY TIGHT ROPE.

ACROBATIC FLIGHT FROM A PRISON.

A militant Socialist named Thomas, who had been condemned to five years' imprisonment for highway robbery, has made a daring escape from Chartres Prison, France. Pending an appeal, he was spending his days in the prison office.

On Feb. 22, he slipped unnoticed into the carpenter's shed. There he seized a large bundle of string and a folding ladder. When he reached the outer prison yard he had two walls, 11ft. and 29ft. high and only 12ft. apart, still between him and liberty.

Outside, however, an accomplice was waiting. Tying a weight to one end of the string, Thomas threw a line over the two walls. To the string his friend attached a stout rope, of which the prisoner soon had possession. With his rope ladder he climbed to a stoutly grilled window opening on one of the prison corridors. He tied the rope to the bars, and when it had been pulled taut by his accomplice he swung himself on to it. Suspended by his hands, he slowly worked his way along the rope, scrambling over the two walls and then slipping down the end of the rope into the street. A moment later he was in a motor-car speeding away from Chartres. The police have found no trace of him.

YOKOHAMA FOREIGN BOARD
OF TRADE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

There was a very large attendance of members at the new Board of Trade Rooms on Friday afternoon last for the purpose of receiving and adopting the annual report, on the election of a new committee for the ensuing year and the transaction of what other business might arise. Among those present were Messrs. A. E. Cumming, W. T. Payne, S. Isaacs, C. W. Weinberger, J. Struthers, M. Russell, F. Hayward, F. J. Koerting, A. I. Cornes, L. Pollard, R. Pohl, F. G. Sale, E. W. Mailind, J. E. de Becker, M. J. Gibbs, etc., etc., etc.

The meeting was opened punctually at 3 o'clock, the Secretary, Mr. E. Fox, reading the notice convening the same.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were then passed, being proposed by Mr. Cole-Watson and seconded by Mr. H. E. Cole.

The Chairman, Mr. A. Cumming, then formally moved the adoption of the Report, stating that as it had been in their hands for some time, there was no necessity for him to read it to them. He would like to mention that he was confident that the members appreciated the attendance there that afternoon of the Foreign Commercial Attachés in response to the invitation of the Committee.

In submitting the report and accounts, the Chairman said:—

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen, I have now pleasure in submitting the Annual Report, which includes the Statement of Accounts.

I think you will agree with me that, notwithstanding the allowance which has to be made for the abnormal conditions associated with a period covering the enforcement of a new and increased tariff, the growing volume of foreign trade is matter for congratulation. With regard to the extent to which the foreign merchant has participated in the advance, it would serve no useful purpose to attempt a conclusion. Although favourable on paper to either party, an apportionment would be misleading, inasmuch as it is, with any degree of accuracy, impossible. Besides, the object expressed in the now hackneyed but pertinent phrase "common interests and common aims" is not likely to be promoted by an elusive discrimination, and there is no getting away from the fact that the foundation of the gradually improving aggregate was laid by the enterprising traders who, 48 years ago, established the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade and kindred institutions in the sister ports.

I will not take up your time by quoting figures already detailed at length in the report under the heading of Summary of Trade and Finance. It will suffice to touch upon the salient feature of those valuable statistics.

Taking the whole country's imports first, we find that the premier staple—Cotton—shows a regression partly due to heavier purchases, at moderate costs, in 1910 than in 1911, when, early in the year, prices ruled high. The import is, anyhow, more or less governed by the exports in various manufactured forms, the leading market for which was practically closed towards the end of the year.

Wool experienced a set back, but for other, and, it has to be recorded, regrettable reasons.

Metals, particularly Iron and Steel, show that what at one time was feared to be over-importation has proved a healthy appreciation that promises to continue. Locomotives and Iron Rails, making due allowance for increasing requirements, appear to have been specially marked for pre-tariff importation. The same applies to Machinery.

Sugar is somewhat exceptionally placed, in that the Government look to it as an important source of revenue, and at the same time desire to effectually protect the development of the Formosan production. The results of this dual burden of

taxation are what European experience has already shown to be inevitable; it is being forced to a level of price which places it beyond the purchasing power of the poorer class of consumers, so that the people are deprived of an adequate supply of what is, in this country, a very necessary food staple. On the present basis of price the Import Duty is equivalent to about 50 per cent. and the consumption tax to over 100 per cent. of the c.i.f. cost. The situation that is thus being created is similar to that which led some years ago to the establishment of the historic Sugar Convention, and it may not be out of place to express surprise that a policy, which has already been found so harmful elsewhere, should be adopted here on such an extreme scale. The result is already becoming apparent in a decreasing consumption, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this matter, as well as the unfortunate result of the increased duty on Condensed Milk, about which the *Japan Chronicle* has recently written a very illuminating article, will attract the serious attention of those to whose care the welfare and material progress of the country are confided. Another article which would seem to be overburdened is Rice; whereas the old duty of 64 *sen* was meant to be the specific equivalent of 15 per cent. only, a duty equivalent to about 25 per cent. is levied.

I have touched at some length upon this subject because the industrial development of the country is of primary importance to all engaged in trade within its borders, and that development will be retarded or assisted according to the difficulty or ease with which the working population obtain a proper supply of food suited to their needs and of moderate cost, which leads me to allude to another matter of supreme importance to the country's industries and commerce before closing my remarks on Imports.

I refer to the maintenance and increase of crop yields from the soil. This is inevitable when it is considered that the possible arable land is estimated at 16 to 17 per cent. only of the total area of Japan proper, and we have evidence that Japanese agricultural science and practice can utilize properly the newer and Chemical Fertilisers, as well as the older-fashioned materials, in the volume imported in 1911, which constitutes a record both in weights and values.

Exports do not call for any special remark. The volume, when the removal of Korea from the list of foreign countries has been taken into account, is in advance of 1910.

Gentlemen, turning now to what is commonly termed the Balance of Trade, I find myself dealing with a subject that has lately received a good deal of attention. Imports from foreign countries during the year under review exceed exports by 66,371,867 *yen*, but a close study of the question does not support theories advanced by pessimistic critics. I do not consider that the excess quoted need be viewed apprehensively, when, ignoring pre-tariff importations, that excess has, with variations, for a period of at least 10 years followed the volume of trade as indicated by the total Exports and Imports. Moreover, the value of exports declared to the Customs does not represent the actual proceeds that will return to the country in the shape of payment direct or indirect. In addition to charges and profits, freight,—nearly 50 per cent. of it being earned by Japanese carriers,—should be added to those export figures and would put a very different complexion on the margin between the two contributors to the total. Again, there are what are known as invisible exports, for instance, the revenue from Tourists, who purchase freely; emigrants' remittances, which must be considerable, may also be taken into this account, for they are the product of labour.

Economists can, however, turn their attention with advantage to a solution of the problem of the cost of production, one of the two requisites of which is labour. The country is already committed to protection; it is therefore useless arguing on free trade lines, but why, if a reduction is impossible, should not some special effort be made

to counteract anything, no matter what shape of form it takes, that may tend to further increase the cost of living? That will be the first step toward stimulating exports, which, in turn, expand imports, Japan being very dependent, and likely to remain so, on foreign countries for supplies of, at any rate, raw material.

In Yokohama we can see great preparations for, let us hope, a great future. The extensive reclamation work that continues ought, with the encouragement promised, to attract an increasing industrial colony to the port, in the prosperity of which we, traders in it, are more particularly interested.

Gentlemen, reviewing the work carried out by your committee, there have really been few matters of importance to deal with. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the question of long-credits, which, it will be remembered, was discussed at our last annual meeting. The interest in the subject, and the necessity for some concerted action being taken, was evidenced by the well attended private meeting of importers convened to discuss it. My predecessor in the chair expressed the opinion that the remedy lay largely in the hands of the Bankers. Acting in this opinion the Bankers and your Committee ultimately agreed on a *modus vivendi* which appears to have proved satisfactory to all concerned. I will not occupy your time with details which are already known to you.

The New Tariff was the outstanding feature of 1911. Negotiations for the conclusion of conventional tariffs culminated in concessions being obtained by various Powers which, under the most favoured nation clause, will prove of general benefit to foreign trade. The result, on the whole, has been considered satisfactory, but an opinion on what part the change is to play in the commercial development of the country can better be formed by the time we meet to discuss the Board's report on the trade of the ensuing year. That the post-tariff imports—August to December—returned only two millions under what is recorded for the corresponding periods of 1908 and 1909, is, to say the least of it, encouraging.

The Fortnightly Trade Circular, as suggested by Mr. Koerting at the last annual meeting, has been the subject of certain changes and amplifications for which the thanks of the Board will be due to that gentleman. Members could give much assistance in still further increasing the usefulness of this publication.

I hope you are pleased with the change of rooms. These have the advantage of larger meeting accommodation and a separate apartment for the use of the Secretary and his staff.

In conclusion, I should like to express the grateful thanks of the Committee for the assistance ungrudgingly given by members of the Board in compiling the report, the adoption of which, with the accounts, I now beg to formally move.

POINTS OF INTEREST.

Mr. G. Sale then spoke as follows:—

I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts and in doing so I will take the opportunity afforded of touching briefly upon one or two subjects, which I hope will be found of general interest to members of the Board.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.—Our report mentions that the bonded debt was reduced during 1911 by 75,000,000 *yen* and this gratifying fact is practical evidence of the sincerity of the assurances made from time to time by the Imperial Japanese Government, that they would so limit expenditure as to bring about a steady reduction in the debt of the country. At the same time it is only right that mention should be made of the increase in the amount of floating loans during the past year.

On the 31st December, 1910, the total was 147,000,000 *yen*; whereas on the 31st December, 1911, this had increased to 205,000,000 *yen*. Of this amount 27,000,000 *yen* refers to expenditure in Korea and Formosa and 72,000,000 *yen* to expenditure in connection with the railways. Of the increase of 58,000,000 *yen* in the floating

debt during 1911, the large sum of 40,000,000 yen was due to disbursements for railway extensions and improvements. The mileage during the year has increased by 163 miles and I understand that during 1912 an additional increase of 200 miles will be effected. All improvements in the means of communication are bound to assist the general development of the country and this expenditure in connexion with the railways is therefore to be regarded with much satisfaction.

It should be borne in mind that this debt is always larger in the last month of the year than in any other. A considerable reduction is invariably seen in the Spring months, the explanation being that the taxes collected during the first quarter of the year are much heavier than during either of the remaining three-quarters. A fact worthy of note is that the interest charge on the bonded debt was less by 7,000,000 yen for 1911 than for 1909, in which year the disbursements for interest were higher than in any other twelve months.

Owing to a variety of causes, the principal one being doubtless the disturbed political and industrial atmosphere in Europe during the past nine months, Japanese Government bonds have somewhat declined. It is difficult to believe, but I understand that in some quarters the decline has been attributed to statements made last November by the Minister of Finance, to the effect that any increase in unproductive expenditure would prejudicially affect Japan's credit. Gentlemen, I am sure you will heartily agree that it is all to the good when the Minister of Finance adopts the policy of frankly informing his country of the nation's exact position financially.

No remarks from me are needed to show that Japan's finances are on a sound basis and it is unquestionably a matter for congratulation that Japan has in its present Minister of Finance, a man who has the courage of his convictions and a man determined to set his face against any increase in unproductive expenditure. There is no doubt that provided the policy of the present Government is consistently maintained, the credit of Japan in the world's money markets will show a steady and certain advance.

THE LAW'S DELAY.—You will have noticed that the attention of the authorities has been recently called in the Diet to the urgent necessity of expediting the conduct of law cases. I believe it is now some four or five years since this Board issued a carefully prepared pamphlet entitled "The Law's Delays," and I remember that it was hoped that the prominence then given to the grievances suffered by those who felt obliged to go to law, would in due course have some little effect. These hopes have proved vain and the position to-day is that whatever the injustice involved, they are better advised to refrain from seeking redress in the Law Courts. This is not due to any feeling that justice is not obtainable, but that the annoyance and loss of time certain to be incurred in embarking on a lawsuit which may very probably drag on for three or four years, is too great for anyone to contemplate with equanimity.

The *Japan Chronicle* in its issue of the 5th inst. concludes a valuable leading article on this subject in the following words:

"An appeal to the law is almost always a costly matter, and the very least the State can do is to so arrange its local machinery as to give judgment within a reasonable space of time. This can only be done by thoroughly revising the present vexatious and time-wasting system of obtaining adjournments for the attendance of witnesses or for the consideration of evidence and exhibits. As the commercial and industrial development of Japan goes on, there will be an accompanying increase in the number of law cases, and unless the present unsatisfactory system is speedily reformed, matters will go from worse to worse. Judges should be competent to take a more active part in the proceedings than they do at present; counsel on both sides should have their exhibits and their witnesses ready from the beginning, and adjourn-

ments be made an exception, rather than the rule, as at present."

I trust the incoming Committee will give this matter their consideration, with a view to ascertaining whether, in co-operation with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, something cannot be done to bring about an improvement in the present state of affairs.

FALSE REPORTS.—I have been asked to make reference to a defect which makes itself apparent from time to time in the columns of the Japanese press. I refer to the false reports occasionally found regarding the financial position of the business houses in Japan.

Only a short time ago, a leading Tokyo paper contained a paragraph alleging that a foreign firm—the nationality was given but not the name—was involved to the extent of from six to eight million yen. Enquiry proved that there was not the slightest foundation for the story, but before this was definitely ascertained, very considerable anxiety had been given in several directions.

I understand that these defamatory reports are by no means confined to foreign firms; that such reports are often inserted in the papers regarding Japanese firms and not infrequently the full names are given.

To anyone engaged in business it seems incredible that the management of any newspaper, large or small, can be ignorant of the fact that "credit" is the most delicate of fabrics, and that consequently the greatest care should be taken to ascertain the whole truth before allowing the insertion of any paragraph calculated to reflect on the standing of anyone. Unless there is a recognition of this responsibility, very serious and possibly lasting injury may be done to quite innocent people. (Applause.)

RECREATION GROUND.—Before concluding I make no apology for mentioning a matter of very general interest and one which I venture to think comes quite properly within the scope of the activities of this Board. I refer to the absence, since the old Cricket Ground lease expired, of any recreation ground suitable, more particularly, for the use of the younger members of community.

I understand that a joint committee of the Y.C. & A.C. and Y.R. & A.C. have been endeavouring for some time to secure the refusal of a conveniently situated piece of land, but the difficulties in the way are very great and progress has necessarily been slow.

A large proportion of the staffs of firms in the East are men under 30, and it is obvious that the absence of playing fields is a very real privation, particularly to these juniors who, in the home lands, have been accustomed from early boyhood to wholesome outdoor sports of one kind or another.

Gentlemen, I think there is no question that the responsibility for providing, at the earliest possible date, a recreation ground for the use of the foreign community is one that should lie heavily upon the heads of firms in Yokohama. These remarks are made in the hope that very generous financial assistance will be given in due course by the members of the International Foreign Board of Trade, to the joint committee I have named, who, it may be hoped, will shortly be in a position to formulate a proposal for the purchase of a suitable site.

At the conclusion of Mr. Sale's speech, the Chairman invited comment on the Report now in their hands. There not being any forthcoming, the proposition that the Report and Accounts be adopted, was carried unanimously.

The next business on the agenda was the election of the incoming committee. It was stated that with the exception of Mr. Cumming and Mr. Blake, the whole of the outgoing committee offered themselves for re-election; whilst Messrs. Schellenberg, Wootton and Cole-Watson offered themselves as candidates. Balloting papers were handed round and scrutineers appointed.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

Mr. A. J. Koerting then spoke.

Mr. Koerting said:—In connection with the remarks made by Mr. Sale as to the

slowness of the law, it may not be out of place to point out the inadequacy of the bankruptcy law, or rather the method of its application. It happens very seldom that anybody, and in particular foreigners, resort to the extreme measure of applying to the courts for the declaration of bankruptcy of an insolvent debtor, but I would like to show up at least one particular case during the last year.

A big paper merchant in Tokyo suspended payment on the 15th July, 1910. The circumstances were such as to leave no doubt in the minds of his Japanese and foreign creditors, that it was a case of distinctly fraudulent practice. The eight foreign creditors of Yokohama and Tokyo decided to act in concert and promptly engaged the services of a prominent lawyer, a member of the Tokyo Bar, instructing him to take proceedings with a view to obtaining a decree of bankruptcy against the debtor. After somewhat protracted legal proceedings the Tokyo District Court pronounced on the 30th September a decree of bankruptcy and appointed a Commissioner and two Administrators. Against this decree the debtor appealed, advancing the plea that he was not insolvent, his explanation being that on the 15th July, 1910, at about 10 a.m. he decided to close his business. Therefore he at that time ceased to be a merchant and the bankruptcy laws could no longer be applied to him. After a number of postponements on the most trivial reasons and after several hearings, extending over a period of nearly six months, the Court of Appeal gave judgment in favour of the Respondents on the 13th March, 1911.

During the time that the Courts were occupied in hearing the case, the debtor, according to his own statement, continued to deliver goods, to pay, and to receive cash and also made arrangements and cash settlements with his Japanese creditors who included some Japanese banks, but the foreigners were, according to the assurances of their lawyer, unable to put a stop to these proceedings.

Indeed it had become evident early in the case that the debtor had committed acts of a nature to justify criminal proceedings being taken against him and the foreign creditors' lawyer received definite instructions to take steps in this direction. His clients then got a reply to the effect that "With respect to instituting a criminal prosecution we have submitted evidences to the Bankruptcy Commissioner who will probably act in the matter. But if he does not of his own motion bring a criminal charge of fraudulent bankruptcy, we will prefer the same ourselves."

The Bankruptcy Commissioner did not act in this respect and as the lawyer of the foreigners was repeatedly pressed by his clients without any result, the inference can only be that he saw no chance of success by his taking the matter up.

After the man had been declared bankrupt the foreign creditors were informed by their lawyer that he had a proposition to make them on account of the debtor. At a meeting called for this purpose the lawyer put before his clients a detailed statement, showing how the debtor had arranged with his principal Japanese creditors—while bankruptcy proceedings were in progress—and also giving a list of his assets remaining after these settlements had been completed. The proposal was that the debtor would pay 50 per cent. of the amounts owing in cash, also the fees of the foreigners' lawyer (stated to be 10 per cent. of the amounts paid) and would undertake to pay the balance after three years.

Being questioned, the lawyer stated he had no suggestions nor any further advice to offer with regard to this proposal, which in fact constituted an ultimatum, and the foreign creditors found themselves forced to agree to this settlement, although they felt it to be quite inadequate.

Now commercial intercourse between any two parties is very considerably influenced for good or bad according to the degree of confidence which can be felt in the strict and prompt administration of the law. We recognise that the Government is using its efforts to gradually bring the Code into line with modern practice and we

sincerely hope that a repetition of such cases as the one I have endeavoured to outline will be impossible in the near future.

As soon as the proceedings of the law can be accelerated, so that at least minor cases can be rapidly and effectually disposed of, a great step will be gained and the insecurity felt at present by foreigners bringing dishonest traders before the courts will give place to a feeling of confidence in obtaining adequate redress. (Applause)

Mr. J. E. de Becker, rising, said he would like to make a few remarks on Mr. Koerting's speech; especially on the point that referred to the bankruptcy in Japan of a Japanese merchant. The ideal law would be when the millennium comes, when the lion will lay down with the lamb. The fact of the matter was that the Bankruptcy Law was hopelessly out of date. Speaking from memory, he believed it was made in the 22nd year of Meiji, some ten or twelve years before the days of Treaty Revision, before foreigners were of any importance here. In short, the law was made for the Japanese themselves and for nobody else. He knew for a fact that the present Bankruptcy Act was not liked by the Japanese judges and that they would all appreciate a drastic revision, but as it is, they are bound down hand and foot to that Law. No discretion is allowed them. They must administer that Law as it is there written. There was only one way out that he could see, and that was to deeply interest the Law Department in this crying evil and by gentle but never ceasing pressure, persuade them to introduce a Bill into the Diet for the Law's revision. He thought this gentle pressure would have far more effect upon the Minister of Justice if it was made by the Committee of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade than it would by articles in the newspapers, and he was of the opinion from what he knew, that such pressure might be successful. If they could thoroughly convince the Minister and his colleagues that the Law was wrong, he firmly believed it would soon be altered. Mr. de Becker also referred to Evidence on Commission from abroad. At the present time, there was no machinery here to examine foreign witnesses abroad, unless there was an actual treaty existent granting Japan reciprocity. This evil might be remedied, he thought, by the Foreign Board of Trade approaching the Minister of Justice and explaining to him the inconsistencies of the situation.

Mr. de Becker's remarks were received with loud applause, the chairman stating that the members owed hearty thanks to both Mr. Koerting and Mr. de Becker for what they had said and he could assure them that the incoming Committee would seriously consider the question with a view to making representations to the Minister of Justice.

AN EXPORT ASSOCIATION.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. V. R. Bowden, but the latter gentleman having been unable to be present, the speech he should have delivered was read for him. It was as follows:—

Gentlemen:—I should like to bring before you a matter of considerable interest to those engaged in the export trade, in the hope that those Members of the Yokohama Board of Trade who are interested in the export of Raw Produce may follow the lead given them by the members of the Kobe Board and form an association similar to that formed at the sister port.

Those of you who are exporters of Raw Produce know the difficulties under which the trade is carried on, difficulties which place the Raw Produce Export trade in what our insurance friends would call the "Extra-hazardous" class.

To begin with, our troubles at this, the buying end, commence with our suppliers, who, as a rule, contract to supply not from stock actually in hand or actually purchased from the producer, but on a speculative basis, and at prices which they hope or expect to be able to buy at, plus their profit.

On the strength of these purchases in Japan the exporter re-sells the goods on the Foreign Markets (Great Britain, Europe, America, etc.) for shipment within a certain period. Should the

Japanese vendor's anticipations be realized, and the market be favourable, all goes well, as far as this end is concerned. But on the other hand, should conditions be adverse, it too frequently happens that either the vendor tenders goods which are not up to standard, delays deliveries beyond the contract date, or makes no deliveries at all.

In the latter case the exporter's troubles then begin, for he knows from experience that should he not live up to his contract abroad either with regard to quality, or to shipping date, he may expect no mercy from his buyer at the other end.

However, supposing for the moment that he has overcome the difficulties at this end; has obtained delivery of his purchases, has carefully inspected the goods, and assured himself that they are up to the standard of the season, or to the standard upon which he has sold, and has duly shipped them within contract date; his troubles should surely be over, but frequently, perhaps generally, this is not the case. He has still to deal with the buyers in London, Liverpool, and other ports abroad.

These gentlemen claim the right to determine the "fair average quality of the season" by standards which they set up themselves; standards which the supplier at this end has never seen and knows nothing about, but up to which standard he is nevertheless expected to deliver his goods. Should the goods upon arrival not come up to the Buyers' ideas as to quality or to the standard set by the Brokers at port of delivery, an arbitration is demanded, and I think I am right in saying that the general experience has been that the result of these arbitrations is in the majority of cases against the Shipper, and further that the penalties imposed are also in the majority of cases unduly heavy, and in some cases,—and I say this with a full understanding of the seriousness of the statement,—scandalously unjust.

Well, Gentlemen, in view of their experiences in past seasons and particularly in the season which has just closed, the Kobe Foreign Exporters met recently, to the number of 25 or thereabouts, including all the principal exporters, and after full discussion, formed the "Kobe Foreign Merchants Export Produce Association."

The objects of this Association are to adopt, as far as can be done, standard contracts on which purchases of the various exportable products shall be made. To provide for the submission of disputes between the Japanese Seller and the Foreign Buyer to friendly adjustment or arbitration. To establish (in conjunction, if possible, with the Japanese Guilds) "F.A.Q." and "F.A.D.-Ficted" standards of the season for the various export products. To arrange, if possible, the terms upon which Members of the Association will sell their goods abroad. That is to say terms regarding weight, condition, quality standards, etc.

To appoint surveyors, conduct surveys and to give certificates as to quality, condition, etc. of shipments made by members of the Association, and generally to endeavour to put the business on a more satisfactory footing for all parties concerned than it is at present.

Briefly, Gentlemen, these are the objects for which the Kobe Association has been formed, and while it may not be possible to realize the whole of them, there can be no doubt that much good can and will be accomplished. The rice merchants in Burnah and Saigon do not allow buyers abroad to fix the sellers' standards. The sellers fix them for themselves, and the official certificates issued at port of shipment to the effect that shipment is up to standard is final evidence that it is so. The same method is in force with Wheat shipments from the Pacific Coast, and from Australia, and doubtless the same practice is in force in many other places.

Is there any reason why Japan Exporters should not combine to fix their own standards, instead of leaving themselves to the tender mercies of their buyers abroad.

However, Gentlemen, I have already taken too much of your time, and my object is not so much

to enter upon a discussion of the merits of the scheme, as to point out what has been done in Kobe, with a view to similar action being taken here by those interested.

The Export Association of Kobe has now been incorporated with the Kobe Board of Trade, and will in future act as a Sub-Section of the Board, having, however, its own committee, Chairman and Secretary working in conjunction with the general committee of the Board, but practically independent as regards its own particular objects and duties. As a Sub-section it will have all the weight and authority of the Board of Trade behind it. Its standards of quality will be Board of Trade standards. Its Surveys and its Certificates and Arbitrations, will be Board of Trade Surveys, Certificates and Arbitrations, and in fact the Kobe Board of Trade has now a special section and special committee specially interested in and dealing with export matters.

I feel that if such a section were formed here, it would not only be a great advantage to the Yokohama Exporters but would also be a source of strength to our Board and would add materially to its usefulness, popularity, and power. I trust therefore that some action in this direction may be taken at this meeting.

Mr. Isaacs said:—

I have much pleasure in seconding the suggestion put forward by Mr. Bowden. To all exporters of produce it might be known to what extent they are at the mercy of the buyers abroad, who do not consider in any way the exporters, but insist upon all their claims being settled by arbitration. The present season's crops of certain articles were so severely damaged by the floods of the past year that claims most unreasonable have been forced to arbitration, and the allowances given have been in some cases, to say the least, most outrageous. Reports have reached here that the London Corn Trade Association intended fixing F.A.Q. standards by taking samples of different shipments bulking together, and from these make a standard, which, it is apparent, cannot be a true F.A.Q. sample of regular crops. The exporters here should have some such body as is suggested by Mr. Bowden, to whom they may look for assistance when such unreasonable demand arises, and I trust that the incoming Committee will seriously consider the suggestion now made.

The Chairman stated the suggestions would receive the consideration of the new Committee.

Mr. W. T. Payne said he would like to call the attention of the Foreign Board of Trade to the Regulations for Speed and Movements of Automobiles in Japan. In view of this expanding interests of the Community here, it was necessary that they should know what these regulations were—if there were any at all—and he hoped the incoming Committee would take this matter up by obtaining these regulations from the Authorities, having them translated and seeing that they were enforced. At present, there were people here who were driving motor-cars for the first season and seemed to consider the Bund a speedway, whilst their furious driving along the Bluff and the turnings off it, was nothing less than criminal. He had heard that there was such a body as The Tokyo Automobile Club; but it seemed to be rather a moribund association although it was reported that it could tell you where you could buy gasoline (Laughter) The Board of Trade could do much here, as it was not a thing apart of dry facts and figures, but on the contrary was of general use to the Public.

Mr. Duke Marshall, whilst supporting Mr. Payne, hardly considered Traffic Regulations were part of the duty of the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade; yet at the same time, if many accidents did occur, it would certainly affect the the Automobile Industry here.

Mr. F. G. Sale, whilst sympathising with the two last speakers, did not consider it came within the scope of the hard worked Committee of the Foreign Board of Trade. The Tokyo Automobile Club was shortly to hold its annual

meeting and were to discuss this question, so it would be better to leave it to them.

Mr. Payne remarked that the Club was in Tokyo and that this was Yokohama. He considered that a suggestion from the Board of Trade on the subject would have great influence, as it required an important association such as their own to carry weight.

The Chairman, in replying, asked that the matter should be left to the incoming Committee who, he was sure, would give it their serious consideration.

Both Mr. Payne and Mr. Duke Marshall expressed themselves as satisfied.

Mr. Stewart then rose, and stating that votes of thanks to a hardworking outgoing Committee were usually dimly heard owing to the general move downwards, begged to move, before the meeting concluded, a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Committee and their able Chairman, Mr. A. Cumming.

This was enthusiastically carried.

The Chairman briefly replied, expressing his thanks and specially referring to the assistance rendered him by his colleagues and the Secretary, Mr. E. Fox.

The votes for the new Committee having by this time been counted, the result was handed to the Chairman.

The Chairman:—The result of the election for your Committee for the ensuing year is as follows:—Mr. V. R. Bowden, Mr. F. H. Bugbird, Mr. J. Gibbs, Mr. A. J. Koerting, Mr. F. G. Sale, Mr. J. Struthers, Mr. R. T. Wright, Mr. J. Harnissen, Mr. A. H. Cole-Watson, Mr. C. W. Weinberger, and Mr. Schellenger.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

JAPAN AND THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION TREATIES.

The *Asahi Shimbun* quotes a certain Doctor of Law as observing that the deletion of the vital clause of the Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty has rendered it completely void as far as its name of *General Arbitration Treaty* is concerned, for it is no longer "general," but, in fact, limited,—as limited as the old arbitration treaties. Should the Anglo American and Franco-American Arbitration Treaties be ratified in such a crippled form by England and France, the submission to the Arbitration Tribunal of any questions that may occur between the treaty Powers, would depend solely and entirely upon the will of the Senate, which state of things would, as a matter of course, neutralize the functions of the Arbitration Treaties and destroy the object for which they were called into existence.

In this context it may be interesting to observe in what position Japan now stands to the Arbitration Treaties. It is true that at the time of the conclusion of the Arbitration proposals between England and America, some extreme Japanese politicians seemed to feel very nervous and insisted that Japan should also join in. But those who watch the trend of public opinion in Japan must have noted that the people and authorities remained rather indifferent towards the treaty from the start. When the present Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty was concluded last year, the American Government on the one hand notified Japan, through Great Britain, of the contents of the compact, while on the other, it threw out a feeler concerning Japanese sentiment, by expressing to the then Japanese Ambassador at Washington, Viscount Uchida, its desire for Japan to participate. At that time Viscount Uchida indirectly stated by way of reply that it would be very difficult for Japan for the present to participate in the Treaty. So far as the Japanese Government authorities at home were concerned, they practically reserved their opinion on the matter, but it was manifest to anybody well acquainted with the conditions of the Empire that both the authorities and the people in general held that Japan's participation in the Treaty was a matter that demanded the exercise of great prudence and discretion, in view of the national conditions, thoughts and customs which differentiate the Japanese from the citizens of the Republic on the other side of the Pacific. Furthermore we find this conviction thoroughly confirmed by the radical change the said Treaty has undergone on account of the striking out by the Senate of the articles bearing on the Joint High Commission, and on account, also, of the amendment barring from arbitration questions concerning immigration. Regarding the exclusion from the scope of the treaty of the immigration question, it may be noted that that makes no difference so far as Japan is concerned, because between this country and the United States a definite policy has been already established by mutual agreement, and no future day will see the occurrence of any immigration troubles of such a serious nature as to necessitate the Powers concerned depending for a peaceful settlement upon the Arbitration Tribunal. Moreover, now that the regulations for the Joint High Commission, as before mentioned, are all struck out, it may naturally be expected that the Senate will always give a decision in favour of its own country when any international dispute came before it to decide whether the question shall be submitted to the Arbitration Tribunal or not. In such circumstances, not only Japan, but perhaps many other Powers, may feel it best to use due caution before joining in the so called General Arbitration Treaties. At any rate, one thing is indisputable, and that is that the Senate's amendments have removed Japan farther away from the sphere of the influence of the Treaties.

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THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENING.

Another very successful evening was provided by the Yokohama Literary and Musical Society on Thursday last, there being present a large and appreciative audience. The literary portion of the evening was a very interesting lecture by the Rev. H. B. Walton, entitled "Some Oxford Memories." It was excellently delivered and was charged with many delightful touches of humour that were very welcome. Commencing with a brief historical sketch of the great University, he afterwards dealt lightly with its many rigid customs and the brilliant men who had studied there. As was only to be expected, Mr. Walton as an Oxford man, considered his 'varsity greatly superior to that of Cambridge; but as the latter man always considers Oxford inferior and hide bound by convention, it is only a case of six of one and half dozen of the other. Altogether, the lecture was a very interesting one and fully deserved the nice things said about it by the President and warmly agreed to by the audience.

In proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Walton, the President, Dr. Dearing, called the attention of reluctant payers of their subscriptions to the predicament in which their action was placing the Society and made an earnest appeal to them to pay up as soon as possible; for if that was promptly done, the Society's finances would be in a sound condition.

The musical half of the evening was opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss Orth, the Prelude by Chopin. Mrs. Oyama, a Japanese lady, followed with an Aria by Mozart, and later on, contributed two more, one entitled "Lied der Mignon" by Schubert, and the other "Du bist wie eine Blume" by Schumann. Whilst admitting with pleasure that Mrs. Oyama is the possessor of a voice that has a range well out of the ordinary and that her notes are remarkably true, her singing lacks expression. On Thursday evening it was rather colourless and thus marred what would have been an excellent performance. Mr. S. H. Somerton was in good voice with his two songs "The Bandolero" and "Thora;" whilst Mr. P. Nipkow contributed two

'cello solos in his usual finished style. The evening terminated with Beethoven's Trio in C Minor, rendered by Miss Orth, Miss Landis and Mr. Nipkow in excellent style.

KOBE GOLF CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Kobe Golf Club held its annual general meeting last Friday afternoon in the Kobe Gymnasium, the President, Mr. Alf. Woolley, being in the Chair.

The Honorary Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, on the motion of Mr. A. H. Groom, seconded by Mr. W. G. Feast, the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were taken as read, after Mr. Pike had moved and Mr. Galletly had seconded an amendment that the minutes be read, the amendment being lost.

The Chairman said the Report and Statement of Accounts were in the hands of the members, and he thought everything had been placed before them lucidly and straightforwardly. He did not think there was anything for him to comment upon; but he should be glad to hear what any member had to say and to answer any questions. The season had been a very successful one, and there had been no signs of any diminution of the popularity of Rokko-san.

After a brief discussion concerning the price of golf balls, the high prices of drinks at Rokko-san, and the Club D. ventures, the Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted. The following Chairman and Committee for the ensuing year were then elected:—Mr. Pike (Chairman); Committee—Messrs. Des Voeux, Jackson, Kirchstein, Poole and Warren.

The Report presented to the meeting was as follows:—

Your Committee beg to place before you the Statement of Account of last year's working, audited by Mr. W. G. Feast, and they trust you will find them satisfactory.

During the year, 37 new Members were elected against 40 in 1910. The active Members on the books at 31st December, 1911, were 179.

Separate list of Competitions held during the year is presented herewith, and to it the attention of Members is drawn.

The Committee regret the approaching departure of our Captain, Mr. J. L. Crockett, from Kobe, but wish him every success in his Golfing career in Hongkong.

A list of the Leases owned by the Club is given herein. All the Leases have been duly registered except Lease No. 4, which is a Sub-Lease.

The Season 1911 was a very successful one from every point of view—and the Rokko san Links maintain their popularity.

THE NIKKAN GAS COMPANY.

The Nikkan Gas Company held its ordinary general meeting of shareholders at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Mitoshicho, Kanda, on Saturday morning last at ten o'clock. After several reports had been rendered, the following statement for the appropriation of profits was discussed and unanimously passed:—

	Yen.
Net Profits	140,479.469
Brought over from last account	9,283.186
Total	149,762.655
Reserve Fund	7,024,000
Special Reserve Fund	7,024,000
Bonus for Officers	4,500,000
Dividends	120,000,000
Carried forward	11,214,655

PRESIDENT TART. speaking at Toledo, Ohio, emphatically condemned as crude, reactionary and unstable, the policy lately advocated by Colonel Roosevelt in favour of the revocation of judges' decisions by the popular vote and submitting their judgments to the people.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Two Years in the Forbidden City. By the Princess Der Ling, first Lady-in-Waiting to the Empress Dowager. Illustrated with photographs. New York, Moffat, Yard & Co., 1911. \$2.00 plus postage.

If there are now in Tokyo any who were members of the diplomatic corps during the closing years of the last century, they will recall with pleasant recollections the Chinese Minister, Lord Yü Keng, and his family; while those who were simply of the foreign community in the capital at that time, will remember the family taking an active part in all the social functions of a general nature. To be sure, we did not then call Miss Yü "Princess" anything; the title was conferred by the late Empress Dowager, but she, her sisters, and her brothers, all of whom spoke English fluently, were made welcome everywhere; while their own hospitality was always most charmingly dispensed. We are committing an almost unpardonable breach of Chinese etiquette in giving children precedence over their parents; yet we intend no disrespect in speaking of Lord Yü and his charming wife after their sons and daughters. His Excellency was, perhaps, not quite so frequently seen as were the others; and yet his taciturn face was known everywhere. We knew that the bright eyes behind those big spectacles were taking in everything that went on, and if conversation was difficult, for even his Chinese was not always intelligible to those who thought they spoke that language, it was not impossible to engage him in small talk or serious discussion. As for Lady Yü, of course she seemed to be almost more American than either Manchu or Chinese; that was to be expected from her individual tastes.

In 1898, Lord Lü was recalled to Peking and became President of the Tsung-li Yamen; in 1899 he was appointed Minister to France and took his family with him to Paris. In January 1903, the whole family returned to China and very soon after getting settled down in their Peking residence, the house in which Li Hung-chang died, the two daughters were called to the Summer Palace by the great Empress Dowager, or Lao Tsu Tsung. "The Great Ancestor," as we may speak of her, for that was what she told Miss Lü to call her. They became Ladies-in-Waiting; the elder, because of her own personality, her natural intelligence, and her command of Manchu, Chinese, English, French, and German, being made First Lady, given charge of Her Majesty's jewels, special robes, etc., and kept in close attendance upon her patron. We may note here that Lord Lu seems to have committed a very serious breach of Manchu regulations in not registering his daughters in that list of Manchu maidens who might be called upon to become secondary wives of the emperor, Ladies-in-waiting, or simply upper servants at Court, but apparently no condign punishment was inflicted upon anybody and the two young ladies passed two years at Court. In 1905, while on leave of absence from her Court duties, and in attendance upon her father who was fatally ill at Shanghai, Princess Der Ling became engaged to Mr. Thaddeus C. White; this step, of course, terminated her connection with the Court, and greatly displeased Lao Tsu Tsung. Lord Lu died very soon and on May 21, 1907, the Princess was married.

The book we are now considering is a naive, young womanly, chatty account of life at the Chinese court, told in a very entertaining way. As we read, we are enabled to see Lao Tsu Tsung in quite a different aspect from that which she is seen in any other book that deals directly or indirectly with this remarkable personage. There is almost a surfeit of detail in telling us how the Empress Dowager did up her hair, arrayed herself in gorgeous apparel for audiences or disrobed and settled herself for the night, nibbled at queer confections or satisfied a hearty appetite with substantial, drank tea flavoured with flower petals, and all that sort of thing. We have known for a long time that the great Empress Dowager was

always fond of dress and jewelry, scents and sweets, but we needed just such a narrative as this to give us an intimate acquaintance with that august lady's character and habits. Yet, as will be imagined, the life of a Lady-in-waiting at the Imperial Court of China during the autocratic rule of Her Majesty, Tsze She Duan Yo-Kong Vee-Joan Yu-Chwong Chung-Sho Goong Chin Shen-Tsung She, Empress Dowager, was no sinecure. When our Miss Yü entered upon the discharge of her duties, in 1903, Lao Tsu Tsung had taken to heart the lessons of 1900, and there was, apparently, little of the former contempt for foreigners which found such easy expression in old days: on the contrary Her Majesty was evidently thoroughly honest in her desire to see her country and people advance properly, even if to do so entailed imitation of many of the ways of those once hated Europeans and Americans; only it must be done according to Her Majesty's own plan, and our Miss Lü was of considerable assistance in keeping her mistress informed about events in the outside world. Yet the petty jealousies, inseparable from Court circles just as much in one land as in another, and not by any means wanting in the innermost government circles of Republics, made life sometimes hard to bear; and the rigid rules of etiquette that her mistress would never permit to be relaxed even for one little moment, such as compelling the Ladies-in-waiting and everybody else, except the Young Emperor, to stand all the time when in the Empress' presence; the outrageously early morning hours and the too frequently late night ones, the incessant changing of dress, jewels, ornaments, flowers, and all that fuss, made the billet which was given Miss Lü anything but an easy one. Still, the experience was something remarkable, and we strangers are especially favoured in that the position was given to one who can tell of the late Empress Dowager, her Court, and Life in the Forbidden City, so admirably as Mrs. White has done. Seemingly, that life is likely to become soon another of the things of a past that shall never return, and this is all the greater reason for giving this book a place in every library. While there is something new and interesting in every one of the twenty chapters, we should like to commend to our readers the twelfth, "The Empress and Mrs. Conger." This lady, it will be remembered, was the wife of the American Minister, and from the account given in this chapter, we can get a very good idea of the diplomatic tact displayed by Princess Der Ling about greater friendliness between the Chinese Court and the representatives of Western nations. We refrain from comment upon Mrs. Conger's subsequent behaviour. The Princess' account of her intercourse with Chang Chih-tung, Yuan Shih-kai, and others who have been conspicuous in Chinese history of recent years, is very enlightening. Throughout the whole volume, there is everything to make us feel that the position of Emperor Kwang Hsi (for whom Princess Der Ling evidently had great sympathy and with whom she had much friendly intercourse) was absolutely pathetic, and his later life one unbroken round of suppression and misunderstanding. The illustrations are admirable; most of them are from pictures taken by the Princess herself or by her brother, while others are not altogether novel.

The Education of Women in China. By MARGARET E. BURTON. Illustrated. New York, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1911. \$1.25, plus postage.

MISS BURTON is a daughter of Professor Ernest E. Burton of the University of Chicago, and accompanied her father on a visit to China in 1909, during which she made good use of her opportunities, devoting herself to one particular object; yet she is, of course, dependent in large measure upon others for the most important parts of her narrative, as is evident from the copious quotations. We should think, after the marked success that has attended the effort to give the women of Japan education conforming in every respect with the highest standards set up in any

land for all students, that the ease of imparting information to the women of China through advanced educational courses would not now be questioned by anyone, and it is not by those who are really competent to express an opinion. Nevertheless, it is surprising to learn that some people of the West still question the wisdom and propriety of placing education, in the best terms of Europe or America, at the disposal of Chinese girls and women. There will be some slips assuredly, and doubtless there will be individual cases or even groups, where the privilege granted will be misused as license to do improper if not bad things; it was so in this country, yet we are sure there is no one who can honestly say that the Japanese are doing too much for the education of their girls and women; more likely, the complaint would be that there is not yet enough being done. For our own part, we have no hesitation in declaring our conviction that very much of Japan's progress has come through the influence exerted by her educated women.

Miss Burton remained in China only six months, and gave as much of her time as possible to the study of conditions in women's education, visiting several schools for girls, both those conducted by Mission Boards and those established by the Chinese themselves. She begins with a chapter that is entitled "Woman's Education before 1842," and this is, naturally, almost entirely a compilation of material taken from books recently (comparatively) written by foreigners, or extracts from translations of native works; it is unnecessary to tell our readers what is the general tone of the latter section of these authorities. Still, there is recognition of the fact that even in "Old China," the attainments of women in literature are much lauded and respected, although educated women were so rare that "in the whole empire, probably, not more than one woman in a thousand knows how to read." Miss Burton gives credit, as she should, to the efforts of the Christian propagandists by saying, "the opportunities of education in the sense in which education is imparted by means of books and schools, were first brought to the women of China by the Christian missionaries. It is with their work therefore, that the story of this new era in woman's education in China must begin." In 1834, a little group of English women organised the first Society ever established for the express purpose of work for the mental benefit of Eastern women; it was called "The Society for Promoting Female Education in the East." In 1844, Miss Aldersey, an English woman, established at Ningpo, promptly after the opening of the first five treaty ports, the pioneer School for girls in all China. In 1907, at the Morrison Centenary Conference of Protestant Christian Missions, Shanghai, one Mrs. Lai-sun made a memorable impression when introduced to the audience. This lady is "the oldest living product of schools for girls in China." She was graduated from that Ningpo institution. From this small beginning, the growth of education for women in China was for many years very, very slow, and this progress is sketched by Miss Burton with that warmth of sympathy which always appeals to unprejudiced readers. The demand for progress, for the awakening of China that has asserted itself so emphatically in these early years of the Twentieth-Century, shows no feature which is more interesting and significant than the unusual attention given to the education of women. While the establishment of government and gentry schools for girls is convincing evidence that the interest is a real and vital thing, until it has come so to be that we may say with Miss Burton "enthusiasm for the education of women is in the very air of China to-day," yet she, with so many of us, realises that however wonderful may be this enthusiasm, and encouraging the vigour with which the work is carried on, the responsibility and duty of the Christian mission schools are by no means ended. On the contrary, there has never yet been a time when Christian education (not any narrow sectarian brand) was more needed in China than to-day; "after years of patient overcoming of

prejudice and obstacles, the Christian schools for women are to day facing opportunities of a magnitude of which, even a few years ago, the most optimistic would hardly have dared to dream. Six months is all too short a time for the study of any of the multitude of problems which the Chinese are now trying to solve, and yet when the time is judiciously used and the chosen guides are competent, sympathetic, and honest, a great deal may be accomplished in half a year; of that fact there have been several remarkable proofs given the American readers in books about China published during the second half of 1911. Miss Burton used her opportunities most wisely and her sympathy was so keen that the result was truly surprising and we endorse cheerfully the declaration "the work is probably the most thorough study of an important phase of the economic development of the world's most popular country that has appeared." To those of us who have been accustomed for many years to the reserve displayed by the women of these Far Eastern countries, there is just a suggestion of boldness in at least one of Miss Burton's illustrations, "Almost ready for College," which shows five young women arrayed in a rather queer combination of Chinese and European garb and coiffure; but this old-fashioned prejudice must give way to progress, and progress demands a good many things which would have shocked us forty or fifty years ago.

Chosen Days in Scotland. By Josephine Helena Short. Illustrated with photographs. New York, Thomas T. Crowell Company, 1911.

THE appropriation of some of the most attractive estates in Scotland by Americans, either by purchase outright or by lease for long or short duration, has been resented somewhat by Scotchmen who are admirable, if at times rather selfish, in their love of their native land; yet it is something which cannot be denied, is a tribute to the charms of Scotland, and resistance is useless. It is no new thing for Americans to love to wander through Scotland and if it does savour a little of impudence for one of those trans-Atlantic wanderers to tell in her own way of what she has seen and likes best, it is a presumption which has resulted in supplying us with a most attractive volume. The "Chosen" days are just those selected from experiences that have been spread over a number of years, for the author loves the land of heath and heather, the home of Bruce and Scott and Burns, as do all of her countrymen who know it, and she has visited it time and again; so that her descriptions might most properly be taken as a comprehensive guide book for a tour of Scotland, the Orkney Islands, and the Isle of Skye. But those who have not yet been so lucky as to see Scotland with their own eyes, and those who feel that this privilege will never come to them, are fortunate in having another attractive, truthful, and descriptive book to add to their libraries. The author begins her pleasing task with a consideration of "Some Scottish Characteristics," and this is her first sentence: "In no other country is there compressed into so small a space so much wild and romantic scenery, so many centuries of stormy history, and so much fascinating romance as in Scotland." This is the dominant note of the whole melody,—enthusiasm which never goes too far and truthfulness that never wounds. There is, in the volume, a certain arrangement which makes it almost descriptive of a tour through Scotland; after the Border comes Edinburgh; then along the east coast through Fife to Aberdeen; on to Inverness and the Great Glen; the Orkneys, back to Loch Marze; out to Skye; Glencoe and the Land of Lorne; back to Glasgow, and the book winds up with the chapter, "We'll a' be Proud o' Robin," devoted to Burns. The way in which the story, if we may call it such, is told, adds materially to the reader's pleasure and profit. It is true that there can hardly be anything new to say about the places in which the "Chosen Days" were spent, yet there never will come a time when people will tire of hearing what others have to say about places

they themselves have not seen but in which they must be interested; and even when the hearer has seen the places, it is pleasant to know what another careful observer has to say. For ourselves, and we speak from fortunate knowledge, we cordially endorse what Miss Short has to say about the dubious wisdom of making a tour through Scotland, or anywhere else if there really is a good deal to be seen, provided it is to be done in a speeding motor car. We have often been impressed by the apparent desire of motorists to hurry on to the "next place," skimming along so rapidly that it is impossible to take in satisfactorily the scenery. The specific illustration which the author of this book has chosen to emphasize her argument is the Caledonian Canal. From the deck of a steamer, the tourist is able to see both sides in their fullest details, and the panorama is always perfect, for the speed is never very great; whereas the people in the motor cars, which one sees speeding along the roadway on one side or the other, have their range of vision restricted to one side only, the opposite one from that which they are traversing, and they usually seem to be intent on watching what will appear at the next turn of the road, rather than to be taking in the charming scenery that is all about them. Miss Short confesses frankly her fondness for Edinburgh and that is which will find an echo in the heart of every other American who has visited that city; as for the Scotsmen, it would be an impertinence for us to assert what their opinion on the matter is. It is not surprising that the author has given one whole chapter, and a rather long one, too, to "Scott's Country," or that a goodly portion of that chapter is devoted to Melrose Abbey, for which she evinces a great liking. The poetical selections which Miss Short has interspersed, are well chosen and display good taste. Altogether, this is a book which one wishes to read slowly and carefully; and when the end comes, there is a desire to express thanks for the pains taken in writing it. It exerts an excellent influence, and that is to make the reader desire to know more about the Land of Heath and Heather than even this book tells.

The Heart of the Bible: for young people, parents, and teachers. Edited by Ella Broadus Robertson. New York, Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1911. Price 100 nett.

THIS is another effort to give the very kernel, "the heart" of the Holy Bible, in connected readings which follow the thread of Providence and Purpose. The salient points are marked by illuminative headings. The book is based upon the American Standard Version of the Holy Bible. The genealogies, the statistics, and all that tends to distract the attention from the main theme, as well as that which is likely to be tedious to young people (and to many old folks too, we must admit) are expunged. Mrs. Robertson, who has had considerable experience as a Bible teacher, tells us, in her preface, that "every part of the Bible is to be read in the light of the Bible as a whole; and this clear view of the whole can be gained by seeing the great consecutive events pass rapidly as in a moving picture. Hence this book of selections, in which the method has been: (1) To choose from the narratives those that bring out 'the history of providence and the history of redemption'; (2) To analyze each story with graphic headings, so as to give the dramatic movement; (3) To group poets and prophets where they belong, after the great sections of the history, selecting their distinctive messages; (4) To show by mere arrangement 'the development and struggle in the Messiah's work,' and similarly the currents of history in the Acts; (5) To present the Epistles as personal and vital letters which all can enjoy, and the Revelation as glorious glimpses of heaven; (6) To give a proper perspective to the whole; and (7) To use the Bible language throughout." There is little for the reviewer to do for such a book, because there is so little that is original work. A Bird's-eye View of the Old Testament, which introduces the parts dealing with

that section of the Bible, and "A Bridge from the Old Testament to the New," are merely synopses and can hardly be characterized as displaying any originality. Criticism, then, means simply approval or disapproval of the mechanical way in which the author has made her selections from the whole Bible and then arranged them in that order which carries out her scheme. We are much pleased; and we feel convinced that this book may be used with great advantage by all who are teaching Bible Classes. There are a goodly number of half tone illustrations; most of these, as is to be expected, are reproductions of ideal pictures painted by artists who were "inspired." The coloured plates, such as the Jaffa Gates at Jerusalem, Rachel's Tomb, etc., are, of course, reproduced from actual paintings. The fact that there are twenty-four illustrations (by far the greater number being in the New Testament portion) indicates clearly the special object of this editor, and these pictures will be found of service to teachers. There is no possible danger that such a book as this will ever supplant the Bible itself, or that it will be found more satisfactory than the King James Version to which we are all accustomed and attached. Its greatest function is to direct the attention; and when once that has been achieved it is quite certain that the student, young or old, will find himself turning to the Bible itself for his greater and broader gratification.

The Love Story of a Maiden of Cathay: told in Letters from Yang Ping Yu. New York, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1911. Price 50 cents nett.

THE wrapper adds to the title "A Romance of Real Life," and doubtless it is, for Cupid does not always draw hard and fast lines between colours, creeds, or nationalities, no matter how great may be the physical difference between the man who woos and the maid who is won. The letters are supposed to be from the daughter of a wealthy Chinese merchant (?) at Hongkong, to her cousin and schoolmate, Miss Sheng Bei Li, the daughter of a distinguished Viceroy, who has gone to Edinburgh to study medicine; both are graduates of M—, a girls' school under foreign management. It happens that one of the teachers in another girls' school under the direct control of the Church of England authorities, is taken ill with typhoid and Miss Yang Ping Yu is asked to take some classes in rudimentary English and in the first principles of European music, for the piano especially, for Miss Yang is depicted as an adept in playing the pianoforte. The heroine's father arranges a marriage for her with the son of a very rich pearl merchant in Canton, and at first this is accepted as being quite satisfactory. But Dr. Hart, the head of this Kenwood school, upsets the plan by falling in love with Ping Yu and making her love him. The heroine retains enough of her native temperament not to know just what is going on; yet she informs her father that she will not carry out his wish and that she is promptly disinherited. We who are more familiar with love affairs of the European type have our suspicion aroused by this act and are disposed to think that Miss Tang's intimacy with young English people has taught her something besides their languages. The end of the story, we are left to believe, is that happiness asks. It is alleged that these letters were actually written by a native maiden of Cathay, yet we are inclined to doubt it, even if they do evince an intimate acquaintance with Chinese family life. The personal name of the heroine, Ping Yu, has a suspicious sound; it is too much like the Cantonese word for "friend," and is not likely to be given to a girl. But whether they were written by a Chinese young lady or not, whether they were edited by an English man or woman, are not of the slightest importance. The book is most apposite; for everything that relates to China is just now read with avidity in Europe and America; and when romance is so pleasingly brought in, goodness knows how many editions of this little volume will be called for. There is

absolutely no "love making" in the whole story: not until the climax is there a word of love passed between the principals; therefore, no teacher need be afraid to let her girl pupils, either in Japan or in China, read the book, and it must have a good influence. It is funny, though, to note again how impossible it seems to be for the European or American artist to draw an Asiatic face. The frontispiece is supposed to show us a picture of the heroine; the garb is correct enough; the hair may be anybody's; the eyes are given suggestive slant; but the face is not Chinese, it is Caucasian after all.

J.K.G.

A SERMON BY DR. SAYCE.

The following Sermon was preached by the Rev. A. H. Sayce, LL.D., D.D. at St. Andrew's Church, Shiba, Tokyo on the 17th inst.:

S. Mark, VIII 36.—What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

The age of romance is dead. Trains de luxe, steamers and aeroplanes do not leave much to the imagination, and the dim religious light of the past has been replaced by electricity and acetylene. Still less can we describe our age as the age of chivalry or the age of faith. Instead of a circle of knights we have a limited liability company, and faith in the old sense of the term has vanished with a belief in fairies and witchcraft. But if our age is neither romantic nor chivalrous nor over much inclined to believe in an unseen world, it nevertheless has a character of its own. It is emphatically an age of comfort. Other ages may have been equally or more luxurious, but there is none that has been equally comfortable. Never before has the age of comfort been so thoroughly understood or so efficiently realised. The mechanical inventions of our century have enabled us to make the world a far more comfortable place than it ever was before. And the result is that few of those who have the means of enjoying this comfortable world have any desire to leave it. They may go to church to join in singing the hymn, "O Paradise, O Paradise, 'tis weary waiting here," but I doubt whether any of those who sing the hymn have any real feeling of weariness. We have comfortable homes, pleasant society, first-class hotels, well-cooked dinners, rapid means of getting about. Why should we be weary of them, and wish to exchange them for the unknown? Our lives and thoughts are too full of pleasant occupations, or the business affairs which place these pleasant occupations within our reach, to allow us much time for thinking about another life. Sufficient unto the day is the comfort thereof.

Can we wonder then that our age cannot claim the merit of being an age of faith? Contentment with this world is not conducive to a desire to know something about another world. Those whose vision is bounded by the experiences of this life are not likely to have a very profound faith in what lies beyond. Faith in the unseen, a belief in a better world may be natural for those to whom this world has little to offer, but those of us who want nothing better and who are content with what they see around them can get along very well without either the faith or the belief.

If, therefore, faith is the essence of religion, I am afraid that our age cannot be described as a very religious one. At all events the motives that move the civilised populations of the West are not religious motives. They may be connected more or less remotely with religion; indeed, the question what dogmas, if any, we shall teach our school-children, is a burning one in English politics just now; but the idea of shaping his policy by his religious beliefs is the very last thing which would occur to a European (or American) Statesman of to-day. We no longer go to war for the glory of God, or submit to be taxed in order to spread His Kingdom. Religion has been relegated to a place by itself and ordered not

to meddle with the things of this secular world. No, our age is not religious as other ages have been religious; but it does not follow that it is not moral. On the contrary, I believe that civilised society as a whole has never been so moral as it is in this 20th century. That, at any rate, is the impression left by a study of history. It is not only that public opinion condemns the immoralities which characterised the civilisations of Greece and Rome, of the age of the Renaissance, or even the age of Faith; the individual is readier than ever was before to place himself under moral restraint and self-discipline. Popular novels notwithstanding, modern society is cleaner, saner and better disciplined than the society of the past; its interests are wider, its outlook is broader, its pleasures and occupations are more innocent. When we compare British society to-day with what it was a hundred years ago, or still more with the cultured society of the palmy days of the Roman Empire, we are bound to conclude that on the moral side there has been progress of a very decided character.

And along with this improvement in public and private morality there has gone a deeper and fuller sympathy with human suffering. The callousness to the wants and suffering of others which characterised the best of our forefathers seems strange in our eyes. It is difficult for us to understand the placid contentment with which they regarded punishments that seem barbarous in the extreme or allowed their poorer neighbours to grow up in ignorance and brutality or to die of starvation and unrelieved disease at their very doors. We have built schools, have stretched out hands of help to the waifs of humanity in our overpopulated towns, have started charitable societies innumerable, and have made "slumming" a fashionable pursuit. Some of us would make men moral by act of Parliament or try by State legislation to banish poverty and squalor from the face of the earth. Most of us without knowing it, are socialists in one way or another; we feel that there must be something wrong in the framework of a Society which allows the occupant of a mansion in one street to have more of this world's goods than he knows what to do with, while another human being a few streets off is fighting the cold and rain of an English Winter, half-clad and half-fed, under the shelter of the open sky. Socialistic—or, if you like, altruistic—theories have come to stay with us, and socialistic theories are but one of the forms in which a sympathy with human suffering expresses itself. Now this sympathy is very closely connected with the ruling characteristic of the age. I mean with our determination to be comfortable. It is not conducive to our comfort to know that our neighbour is dying of starvation at our doors, or that there are hideous diseases around us which could be cured or alleviated by diverting a little of our superfluities from being spent or wasted upon ourselves. The civilisation which has given us the comforts of the 20th century and has enabled us to appreciate and enjoy them has also made us sensitive to pain and discomfort in a way unknown to our ruder forefathers. And it has made us sensitive not only to suffering in ourselves, but to the sight of suffering in others. An age of comfort is also necessarily an age which endeavours to remove suffering and discomfort out of the world in which we live, and from which we would fain banish everything that would remind us that such things exist.

You will ask me, therefore, is it not a gain to be living in this age of comfort? Why need we think about another world when we have made this world not only materially but also morally better, when we have begun to realise the duties we owe to our brother-men and to break down the selfishness of the past? Have we not good reason to be supremely well satisfied with ourselves like the Pharisee in the Gospels, and to believe that we really have discovered a way in which to adjust the conflicting claims of God and Mammon? It is the deeply-rooted conviction of a large section

of mankind that religion means morality and that morality means religion and that a Society which is more or less governed by the moral code is—whatever the theologians may say—a religious society.

Ah well!—For the past 2,000 years and more the official religion of China has been a moral code of a high order. And the result is that the Chinese to-day are—what they are. We have only to ask ourselves, How do the results of Chinese Confucianism compare with the results of Christianity, to discover that morality and religion are not interchangeable terms. There is something which Christianity possesses and which Confucianism does not, which constitutes the difference between their results, and that something is what St. Paul would have called faith—faith in the unseen, faith in a power that works for righteousness, faith above all in our Master, Christ.

Systems of morality are excellent things for people who have been well brought up, who are kindly and honourable by nature, and who are sufficiently well off to have comparatively few temptations put in their way. But for the great mass of mankind something more is needed than a system of morality. Some motive force is wanted that shall make them choose the good and eschew the evil, resist temptation and follow the will of God rather than their own desires and necessities. And History has shown that this motive force is supplied by Christianity in a way that no other religion has been able to supply it. Other religions have succeeded in producing saints out of those who were saintly by nature. Christ alone has converted the sinner into the saint. Christ's message alone has penetrated to the dens of misery and squalid crime and lifted the outcasts of humanity to a level with their more fortunate fellow-men. The man of wealth and culture who has at his disposal all that this age of comfort can bestow may be able to live without Christ; for the great bulk of mankind a life without religious faith is but a blind and painful struggle for existence without the silver lining of hope. The comforts of this world are for those only who can afford to enjoy them.

And even for them are they all sufficient? Is our contentment with this pleasant world of ours really justified? Our days and years pass with little to disturb them beyond the crumpled roseleaf; our consciences are soothed, and gratified by a recollection of our charitable subscriptions, our kindly wishes and our unimpeachable conduct; and we are quite content to leave Christ and Christianity, except perhaps on Sundays, to the suffering and the destitute. But in spite of all our efforts to make this world so comfortable that we never wish to leave it, we cannot get rid of a law—eternal and inexorable—by which this universe is governed. And that is the law of Death. All that is born must die. The day must come for each of us when we must leave behind us our comforts and our possessions, our friends or acquaintances, our gaieties and pursuits, our business and our pleasure. We cannot carry them with us when we die; sufficient unto the day, as I have said, is the comfort thereof, but that day is a very short one. And when comforts forsake us, when pain and sickness make life a burden, when our loved ones pass away and leave only a blank behind them, when we ourselves are summoned to traverse the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the remembrance of pleasant days, or even the consciousness that we have been kindly and charitable, will be but frail supports and insufficient comforters. The faith that in our days of strength and social happiness seems so needless, so old-fashioned, can alone give us the help and consolation for which we crave. Let us beware lest in our hour of need that faith comes not, lest our eyes have been so long fixed upon this world that they have been sightless for anything beyond it. Christ stands indeed beside each of us, but we may be too blind to see Him or cling to the arm that would guide our steps. We have sworn at our baptism to fight under

His banner against sin, the world and the devil,—let us see that our lives have not been spent in fighting for the world instead of against it. The captain we follow and the cause for which we have fought will be the captain and the cause that will reward us, and if that captain add that cause have been this material world, it is the world to which we shall have to look for our reward. In this our age it is true the reward is a pleasant one for those who have been blessed with the good things of life, but remember that the pleasure is transient and short-lived. Sooner or later the shadows of night must enfold us; sooner or later the old refrain will fall upon our ears: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," and ill will it be for him who has no light to guide him through the darkness, no voice to whisper comfort in his ear, no hope of truth and reality behind the vanities of human existence. In what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

THE BANK OF FORMOSA.

EXTENSION OF OPERATIONS.

The Bank of Formosa, which has heretofore been circulating silver yen coins, and with these as security, issuing convertible notes in the Foochow and Canton districts, is now said to be contemplating the expansion of its business by enlarging the sphere of the circulation as far as the Shanghai districts. In regard to this new scheme of the Bank, the *Tokyo Asahi* observes that China has for years been suffering from a lack of a superior currency. To make matters worse, the outbreak last year of the revolutionary disturbance led to the complete destruction of the so-called credit system, which in turn caused a deadlock in commercial transactions, and the economic condition of the neighbouring country grew so bad that it was more than once urged that the Bank of Japan should take measures calculated to remedy the situation. Under these circumstances, the contemplated issue by the Bank of Formosa of silver coins, or of convertible notes on their basis, as a medium of exchange, must certainly be a matter that can justly claim the approval of all. But at the same time the fact should not be lost sight of that the issue of silver currency in Shanghai, as planned by the Bank, is fraught with some amount of danger. According to the scheme of the Formosa Bank, its Branch at Shanghai is to first forward all the silver *tael* coins received in the office to Osaka, where they will be re-minted into silver yen coins and thence sent back to Shanghai, — a work which takes at least a fortnight. Accordingly the conversion work requires that the Bank of Formosa should pay no small sum of money as interest, transport dues, insurance fees, etc. The authorities of the Bank confidently calculate that what they gain from the conversion will more than suffice to pay the above expenses. Certainly this is quite correct so far as theoretical calculations go, but there is another phase that should be noted in this connexion, and that is the fluctuation of quotation to which silver is perpetually subject. Those who are aware of this indisputable fact cannot but fear that the Bank of Formosa will suffer some loss in the sequel of a decided decline, the quotation of silver may possibly undergo before the silver *tael* coins sent up to Osaka are brought back to Shanghai again, and re-minted into the silver currency. As all know, one of the greatest difficulties the Bank of Japan is often confronted with in its business transactions in Chinese quarters, is the constant fluctuation of silver quotations. It is true the Bank of Japan's method of transacting business leaves so much to be desired that it can by no means be justly taken as a criterion. Yet the fact should nevertheless be kept in view if we would form correct conclusions about the present subject. Some may suggest that the Formosan Bank should on the one hand issue convertible notes and on the other, effect a conversion of the silver *tael* currency into the silver yen. This seems to insure

less risk on the part of the Bank, yet it nevertheless fails to keep the Bank completely aloof from the dangers attendant on any fluctuation of the silver quotations that may occur during the fortnight required for the re-coining.

With all these considerations in view, we deem it most advisable that the Bank of Formosa, confining the re-minting to such an extent as may suffice to maintain the reserve fund for conversion, should devote its efforts chiefly to the issue of convertible notes. For by so doing, the dangers above mentioned, will, it must be admitted, be practically removed forever.

In this context we may express a further wish that the Bank of Formosa would issue convertible notes with silver coins of the same value as those of the Bank of Japan. As is known to all, it is with silver *tael* coins as security that the Bank of Japan is issuing convertible notes in Shanghai and other Chinese districts, whereas, the silver currency the Bank of Formosa has issued, and is going to issue, is of the same value as the Japanese old silver yen coins. Consequently the convertible notes issued by the two Banks possess different quotations. We need not dwell on the inconvenience arising as a result of the issue of two kinds of convertible notes with different quotations by the two banks under protection of one and the same Government. But this much should be emphasized; that it is not only the want of currency, but the lack of a unified currency system that has hitherto proved a drawback to those engaged in trade with China. We do not necessarily want at this time to insist that the above two Banks, like the National Bank in America, should issue common convertible notes and receive even those issued by other banks for the purpose of conversion. But at least let us hope that the two Banks will issue bank notes of the same quotation, or else, those who have to suffer from such a discrepant currency system will be not only the Chinese, but the Japanese traders themselves.

THE "KAINAN-MARU" AND COUNT OKUMA.

In celebration of the Japanese Antarctic Exploration ship, *Kainan Maru*, having reached Whales Bay, a lecture meeting was held on Sunday afternoon last at the Central Tabernacle, Hongo under the auspices of the Japan Antarctic Exploration Reinforcement Association. Despite the inclement weather the entire hall was practically filled by an eager audience. After interesting speeches and lectures had been delivered by Mr. Nakamura, Dr. Tokunaga and many others, Count Okuma, President of the above organization, rose amidst a burst of deafening applause, and, opening his speech with a brief explanation as to why the *Kainan Maru*, that had left for the Antarctic Ocean, was once more obliged to turn back halfway, the Count proceeded to speak in substance as follows:—

Though both the Upper and Lower House approved and passed the project concerning State aid for the *Kainan Maru*, the Government has thus far done practically nothing in the way of support. The Captain of the vessel, nothing daunted, started for a second time for his destination with thirty dogs on board. Judging from the latest reports, it may be safely concluded that by this time the *Kainan Maru* has reached the Antarctic quarters and perhaps may be on her way back. If things go well with her, therefore, she will reappear in Shinagawa Bay five months hence, when our exploration party, consisting of twenty-seven members, may be expected to bring back with them various interesting and important reports and experiences bearing on science and navigation. To the great regret of us all, it is a question whether the exploration party had the honour of erecting the Japanese flag at the South Pole. But it does not necessarily follow that because the party failed to discover the South Pole, the expedition proved a failure. Of late years, in our country, it seems to me that most people talk more than they do. It is one

real shot, rather than the firing of a hundred blank cartridges that tells. The attempted South Pole conquest is after all a real shot fired over the men of more theory than deeds, for whose presence Society at the present day appears conspicuous; and therefore by no means insignificant must be the favourable effect this above attempt is calculated to produce upon the spirit of the Yamato people. It is with this conviction in view that we find ample reason for welcoming back our brave Antarctic explorers, even if their attempt to reach the South Pole itself prove a failure.

THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha will hold its half yearly general meeting on the 27th instant at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce. In this connexion it may be noted that the company from last year started a loan redemption adjustment fund in the Profit and Loss Account, with a view to supplying the deficiency created of late years in the ordinary fund for the payment of the construction of vessels. The details of the Profit and Loss Account are as follows:—

REVENUE.	Yen.
Freight	1,095,673
Passengers	1,244,877
Charter money	26,686
Subsidies	1,620,606
Miscellaneous	10,733
Margin of Exchange	2,484
Total	4,000,881
EXPENDITURE.	
Expenses of running	1,681,983
Expenses for Freight and Passengers	218,419
Office Expenditure	367,893
Interest due	321,651
National and Local Taxes	60,830
Salaries for Reserve Employees	10,751
Engine Expenses	9,321
Insurance Fees	241,049
Sundry Losses	23,022
Vessel Loan Redemption Adjustment Fund	63,456
Allowances to officers	15,000
Vessel Loan Redemption Fund	488,548
Expenses for Repairs	112,227
Total	3,614,156
Balance	386,725
APPROPRIATION OF PROFITS.	
Net Profits	386,725
Brought over from last account	7,636
Total	394,361
Reserve Fund	20,000
Dividend	367,250
Carried to next Account	7,111

NEW YORK-JAPAN TRADE.

The London and Glasgow Shipbuilding Company, Govan, launched on the 21st December last the steamer *Indraghiri*, which they have built for the Indra Line, of Liverpool. The vessel, which has been constructed under the supervision of Messrs. G. S. Goodwin & Co., is 430 feet in length, 53 feet 8 inches in breadth, 33 feet 1 inch in depth, moulded to upper deck, and of about 5,750 tons gross, and 9,000 tons deadweight. She has been built to the highest class at Lloyd's, is fitted with a double bottom for water ballast, and has all the most modern appliances for handling cargo. Accommodation is provided for a limited number of First Class Passengers in State Rooms amidships on the Bridge Deck. The vessel is to be fitted with a refrigerating installation for the provisions. The naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. Hugh Neilson, Chapletoun, Ayrshire, daughter of Sir Thomas Royden, Bart, Liverpool.

The death has occurred, quite unexpectedly, of Mr. Arthur Abraham David Sassoon, M.V.O., a friend of the late King Edward VII. The death occurred at Mr. Leopold de Rothschild's residence at Ascot.

THE IMPERIAL DIET.

HOUSE OF PEERS.

The House of Peers met at 10.10 a.m. on Friday last. At the outset the election of delegates to confer with the Lower House concerning the Election Law Revision Bill was conducted, when ten members were chosen, with Baron Kubota for chairman.

The Supplementary Budgets for the next fiscal year were referred to a special committee, on condition that the committee should report at the next sitting. The Press Law Revision Bill was also considered and referred to a committee.

The House rose at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House of Representatives sat at 1.50 p.m. on Friday last.

Mr. Muramatsu brought in an interpellation on the cultivation of political knowledge and morals, in the course of which he said that he thought it would be beneficial to have the Imperial Edict on the promulgation of the constitution read to the students of all the schools on proper occasions, that is on February 11th, on which date the Constitution was promulgated. Would the Government accept the suggestion?

Answer was reserved.

After Mr. Shimada had explained an interpellation relating to the consecration at the Yasukuni-shrine of those patriots who lost their lives for their country, Mr. Sawa brought forward an interpellation on national defence.

The Government stated that the interpellation would be answered in writing.

The House then proceeded to discuss the Bills included in the Order of the Day. The Chosen Judicial Officials Pension Bill was referred to a committee. The Chosen Barristers Law Revision Bill was approved, but the Police Regulations Revision Bill was vetoed.

The Supplementary Budgets were taken up for discussion and passed. Matters relating to the audit of previous accounts were next discussed, when the Popular Party insisted on passing a resolution on the illegal outlays found in the accounts. The *Seiyukai* took exception to the motion and it was finally decided to warn the Government for the future. While other minor business was in progress, the delegates appointed by the two Houses to confer on the Election Law Revision Bill sat in conference in a separate chamber.

The House rose at 5.30 p.m.

REVISION OF ELECTION LAW VETOED.

The House of Peers sat at 10 a.m. on Saturday last. After numerous Bills had been dealt with, Baron Kubota, Chairman of the conference committee, laid before the House a full report on the progress of the conference with the Lower House concerning the amendment of the Election Law Revision Bill. He said that the committee had failed to come to an agreement and when the division was taken, the amendments of the House of Peers were vetoed by 10 votes to 9.

Viscount Soga said a similar Revision Bill had for several years past been transferred to the House from the Lower House but the House had each time vetoed it. The House must oppose the resolutions of the Lower House until good reasons were submitted why it should overhaul its former decision.

A division was then taken when only five members voted for the Bill, which was thus lost.

The House rose at 2 p.m.

The House of Representatives sat at 10.30 on Saturday morning last.

At the outset Mr. Suzuki asked whether the next General Election would take place on May 15th.

President Ooka replied that he might take it for granted.

Mr. Itô, Chairman of the conference, then made a full report of the progress of the conference with

the committee of the House of Peers on the Election Law Revision Bill. In the course of his report Mr. Itô remarked that the delegates of the House of Peers explained that the Upper House introduced the amendments for three reasons; firstly, because local favouritism was apt to influence elections in small electorates; secondly, because small electorates are not adapted to the election of representatives of the minority party; and thirdly, because election campaigns are keenest in small electorates and consequently it is more difficult to exercise control over elections. The delegates of the House of Representatives refuted the arguments and demanded their reconsideration. Some of the delegates of the Upper House said that personally they were ready to support the contention of the Lower House, but they were bound to respect and uphold the resolution of the Upper House. The committees of the two Houses thus failed to arrive at an agreement. A division was then taken when the Bill as amended and passed by the Lower House was approved by a majority of votes.

Mr. Morita of the Popular Party asked why the delegates of the Lower House had not shown some magnanimity by accepting the amendments of the Upper House, who approached the question as a disinterested party, whose decision should carry weight.

Mr. Kokubo of the *Seiyukai* said the Upper House was morally bound to respect the decision of the Lower House on a question which touched the Lower House only. With the exception of the representatives of the highest tax-payers, the members of the Upper House had no experience of elections and had therefore no right to speak about the question, much less to veto the Bill.

Mr. Ogawa of the Central Party said that the vital point of the Bill lay in the increase of the members of the Lower House, the electorate question being of secondary importance. The Upper House approved the proposed increase of members. The amendments introduced by that House on minor points were no humiliation to the House.

Mr. Nagashima of the *Seiyukai* said that though the two Houses had failed to arrive at an understanding, they adopted the resolution, which even the opposition members must respect. He would desire to see a resolution adopted by the Lower House should be duly respected by the other House.

Mr. Sakamoto of the Central Party said that the decision of the House must of course be respected, but there could be no harm in overthrowing the resolution forced upon the House by the majority. The small electorate system did not have the endorsement of the general public, though it might prove beneficial to the *Seiyukai*.

Mr. Hanai of the Independents said that while personally he opposed the small electorate system, he had now no alternative but to respect and uphold the resolution. At no time before in the parliamentary history of the country had the resolution of the conference committees of the two Houses been broken by either House. The House of Peers had recently vetoed several Bills approved by the Lower House and had begun to assume that it had the right of supervision over the doings of the Lower House. The two Houses had their respective rights and functions to perform. The resolution of the House of Peers should also be respected, but it was an error to suppose that the Upper House had a greater right of supervision than that vested in the Lower House. The House ought to respect and vote for the resolution arrived at at the conference.

After a rather animated debate a division was taken, when the resolution was approved by 186 votes against 101 votes.

A few more Bills of minor importance were dealt with before the House rose at 4.15 p.m.

FINAL SITTING.

The House of Peers sat for the last time this session at 10 o'clock on Monday morning. After various reports had been submitted the House

entered on a discussion of the Bills included in the Order of the Day.

The Chairman of the Petition Committee reported that the petitions received during the current session totalled 952, the signatories to the petitions numbering 86,508. Of these petitions the committee had accepted 233 and rejected 709, 10 petitions being left undecided.

The Supplementary Budgets for the 45th fiscal year were then taken up for discussion, when Viscount Soga, Chairman of the special committee, reported that the committee had decided in favour of the budgets, with a hope that the Government would effect the readjustment of administration and finance and produce to the House an appropriate financial programme in the next session.

Baron Kubota also expressed a desire that the Government should adopt proper measures to harmonize the finances and general economics.

Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, stated that the Government would introduce an adequate financial programme in the next session, completing the readjustment of the administration and finances in the meantime. The Government had proposals for bringing the finances and general economics into harmonious relations, but he would reserve explanation until a more favourable opportunity, as they could not be explained in the limited time at his disposal.

The Budget were then approved unanimously.

The Bills relating to extra outlays made in the 43rd fiscal year were then dealt with, and *post facto* consent was given on the recommendation of the special committee.

The Custom Tariff Revision Bill was approved, but the Mining Law Revision Bill was vetoed.

The Bill relating to the Revision of the Law of Criminal Procedure was also passed, the chairman of the committee reporting in its favour.

Numerous petitions were dealt with before the House rose at noon.

The House of Representatives sat at 10 a.m. on the 25th instant.

Mr. Fukui brought in an interpellation regarding the construction of a branch line connecting the Sanyo line with the Sanin line, in the course of which Mr. Fukui remarked that the Government had decided to alter the railway programme concerning the construction of a branch line between Tsuyama and Yonago to connect the Sanyo and Sanin railways. Had the Government another plan under consideration to connect the two railways?

Mr. Hirai, Vice-Director of the Railway Board, replied that the Government might construct a light railway, connecting the two railways at Hiroshima, but the matter was not yet definitely settled.

Mr. Sasaki brought forward an interpellation concerning a subsidy to the Antarctic explorers, in the course of which he remarked that the Diet had in the last session approved the representation introduced by Mr. Kokubo, a *Seiyukai* member, which representation was duly forwarded to the Government. A report of the landing of Shirase's Exploration Party in a part of the Antarctic regions had now been received. Had not the *Seiyukai* Ministry any intention of granting a subsidy to the Party, which was now in financial difficulties on its homeward voyage?

Answer was reserved.

After numerous Bills included in the Order of the Day had been dealt with, Mr. Muto, chairman of the Petition Committee, reported that the petitions received by the House up to date numbered 702, which had all been dealt with by the committee.

Mr. Ooka, President of the House, in the course of his closing address, stated that the twenty-eighth session of the Diet terminated that day, and the four years tenure of office of the members of the House matured. This was the third time since the inauguration of the Diet that the members had been able to sit four years without interruption. During the past four years the House had dealt with numerous important Bills, such as the annexation of Korea, the revision of commercial treaties, the post-bellum financial pro-

gramme, etc. and had voted for an increase in the civil list, naval increment, customs tariff revision, alien land ownership, besides other legislation in the interests of commerce, industry and education. It was regrettable that the Election Law Revision Bill had failed to obtain the consent of the House of Peers. He desired to avail himself of this opportunity to thank those present for their assiduous efforts in the promotion of the interests of the State.

The chief secretary of the House of Representatives then submitted a report on the progress of business in the current session, in the course of which he stated that the House had dealt with 42 Government Bills, all of which had been passed; in addition to 43 Bills introduced by the House, 209 of which were passed, 6 vetoed, 6 withdrawn, and 10 undecided. The House had also dealt with one memorial to the Throne, and 77 representations, 68 of which were approved, 3 vetoed, 1 withdrawn and 5 left unsettled. The House has adopted four resolutions and dealt with 702 petitions, 286 of which were accepted, 14 either noted or withdrawn, and 158 untouched. Throughout the session 38 interpellations had been introduced to the House.

Mr. Ohi, senior member, responded to the President's address on behalf of those present.

The House rose at 3 p.m.

THE CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

OPENING OF APPEAL.

The hearing opened in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court on the 20th instant, before Judge Aihara and four accessory judges, of the appeal lodged by J. E. Hargreaves and Sato Kenji against the judgment of the Yokohama District Court, in regard to the charge of forging official documents and fraud. Public Prosecutor Kawazoye conducted the prosecution, Dr. Hanai and Dr. Kishi appeared for the defence of Hargreaves and Mr. Tanabe in defence of Sato. The accused Matsumura abandoned the right of appeal. Mr. Sato Hakuai watched the case on behalf of Messrs Babcock and Wilcox. Mr. White of the British Consulate was present in Court. The case was timed to begin at 9 o'clock, but was delayed until 11 o'clock.

The accused Sato was first examined.

In reply to the questions of the Court the accused admitted the facts on which the judgment of the lower Court was based and proceeded to state that he joined the Toyo Transport Agency in January, 1908, and that that firm was appointed the transport agents of Messrs Babcock and Wilcox on or about April 1909. He received 12 yen a month in addition to 4 per cent. commission, so his monthly income amounted to about 60 yen on an average. He made the acquaintance of Matsumura from the time he entered into business relations with the foreign firm. Cheques were usually signed by Hargreaves, but he signed the receipts. Between the dates from June 8th to September 10th, 1910, he made out a large number of Custom House receipts. At first he did not know of the evasion of Customs duty, but his suspicions were aroused when he saw that the amount of the cheques issued was greater than the amount of the receipts. When he asked the reason he was told by Matsumura that it was for the convenience of the Company and he need not bother about it. Feeling reassured he entered on the forged Customs receipts the amount of duty, etc. He received from Matsumura forms for the forged receipts. He made these entries either in Matsumura's room or Hargreaves' room on the ground floor of the firm. He always took the excess from the cheques to the foreign firm and handed it over to Matsumura, sometimes in the presence of Hargreaves, but he did not see Matsumura hand any money to Hargreaves. He did not know what became of the money. He paid 94 or 95 visits to the licensed quarters

between December 1909 and February 1911, spending about two yen each time. He borrowed about 400 yen from his uncle, as his income was not sufficient to cover his expenses. He resigned his appointment in the Toyo Transport Agency about September 1910.

This concluded the examination of the accused Sato.

J. E. Hargreaves was next examined, and replied to the formal questions asked as to nationality, age, etc.

By the Court.—When did you join the firm?—In February 1908, and was in charge of the general business, accounts and correspondence.

What salary did you get?—375 yen a month.

Are you married?—Yes, and have two children.

Do you employ servants?—Yes, I have two servants.

About how much does your household cost?—About 275 yen a month.

Have you a villa besides your residence?—No, but I hired one for a month during the summer of 1910.

Did you speculate in shares while you were employed by the firm?—No, I did not speculate, but I invested to a small extent. I held 80 China-Japan Spinning Company's shares and twenty Nagoya Hydro Electric Company's shares, most of which I bought four years ago.

Have you still got them?—No, I sold them to pay the expenses of my wife's passage to and from England last year.

What was the position of Matsumura in your office?—He acted as book keeper, interpreter and shipping clerk, but he had nothing to do with the sale of goods.

Have Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox any other branch offices?—Yes, one in Osaka.

How were the shipments dealt with?—On receipt of the documents from London I notified our customers and passed over the shipping papers, including Customs invoices, to our shipping clerk, whose duty it was to hand them to the forwarding agents appointed. A duplicate set of these papers arriving by the following mail were handed to the shipping clerk and it was his duty to file them in envelopes kept in an open cabinet in his room. On paying the duty cheque for the amount the Customs required for duty, the shipping agent invariably gave me a temporary receipt in exchange, which was held by me until the official Customs receipt was forthcoming, which in the case of an outport would take some days.

How did you find out the forgery?—On Sept. 12th, 1910, Mr. Midzuno of the Yokohama Customs came to the office and said that the Moji Customs had raised some questions concerning a Babcock & Wilcox invoice. I looked into the matter and found the invoice to be perfectly in order. However so as to satisfy Mr. Midzuno I there and then called to the Company's Head Office in London for corroboration. I also told Mr. Midzuno that the London Office would, I was sure, willingly certify any of the Customs' invoices to the Japanese Consul in London if he desired them to do so. Two or three days later a reply was received from London vouching for the accuracy of the invoice in question. Mr. Midzuno came again on Sept. 13th and told me that although the Customs were satisfied on many points there were more questions to ask. He wished to know why it was that I objected to the Moji Customs increasing the value of the invoice that he had referred to the day before, when another invoice had previously been raised by the Moji Customs on a consignment for the Kyushu Electric Railway of £1,000, and the extra duty, namely 1,500 yen, paid by us without any protest. He said this seemed very strange and asked for an explanation. I told him he must have made a mistake, that I knew nothing about any such raising of a previous invoice, and that no such money had ever been paid by us. During the afternoon, as the result of my questions, Matsumura confessed to me that he had lowered some of the firm's Moji invoices, his confession being the result of various questions that I asked him in order that I might reply to questions that Mr. Midzuno asked

me. I told Matsumura to give me Customs' invoices for all shipments in connection with the Moji consignments. I had to repeat these instructions several times and even had to go myself upstairs to Matsumura's room to insist on his bringing these Customs' invoices. It was then that Matsumura got very alarmed and made his confession to me upstairs, whilst Mr. Midzuno was still waiting downstairs. He said that he had something very important to tell me and asked that the Customs' officials be put off from demanding these invoices so that in the meantime he could explain to me what was wrong. I replied that it was impossible to send the Customs' officials away and insisted on being informed immediately what the trouble was. Matsumura hesitated to make his confession and I realising for the first time that something serious had happened, again demanded to be told what it was. He said he could not speak in front of the other clerks, so I ordered the two other clerks to leave the room upstairs, where we were at the time, telling them that Matsumura wanted to say something important. Matsumura then confessed to me that the reason for the Customs being suspicious was that Mr. Midzuno's statement about the Moji Customs raising a previous invoice £1,000, on which 1,500 yen extra duty had been paid without protest, was quite correct. He (Matsumura) had paid this money himself in order that it should not be found out that he had previously lowered this London invoice and embezzled the difference in the duty. Further he stated that if the firm paid the necessary amount on the increased value of the invoice that the Moji Customs were then contesting no further action would be taken in the matter by them. He implored me to send the Customs officials away and to save him. I told Matsumura that it would be impossible for me to save him as I had just made a statement to the Customs that I knew nothing about the previous payment of 1,500 yen and that I would not agree to the invoice now under dispute being raised by the Customs. Matsumura earnestly begged me to alter that statement to the Customs, but I refused to do so because I would not make a false statement. On the following morning, the 14th, at about 8.30 a.m. Matsumura called at my house and said he was afraid of the Customs' officials again visiting the office, but I told him he must come down to the office and report all details of what he had been doing and hand over his papers, and of course he was to consider himself discharged from the firm. He promised to do this, but instead of turning up at the office he ran away to Tokyo, apparently because he was afraid of being caught, as he was repeatedly telephoning the office to know if the Customs' officials had called again. I went to his (Matsumura's) desk and found one drawer locked. I took out my duplicate key to open it and was very much surprised to find it would not open, having apparently had a fresh lock put on. The reason I was surprised at this was that I always kept a duplicate key of every drawer in the office, and it appeared strange that Matsumura should have had another lock made to his drawer without my knowledge. I sent for a locksmith and had the drawer forced open, and took all the papers contained therein to my desk, including a large envelope in which landing charges receipts were supposed to be kept. Matsumura visited me at my office that same evening to hand in his papers, and when he did this I closely examined him, asking how many times he had reduced the firm's London invoices, to which he replied that he had only reduced them three times for the Moji Customs. I then asked Matsumura whether the amount of a cheque, namely 857.18 yen paid by the firm on September 12th for duty on a Yokohama consignment, had been fully paid to the Customs by him, to which he replied that it had not been fully paid. At this time Matsumura handed over to Mr. Waterlow and myself several Customs' receipts and invoices, among which were the two forged receipts that were afterwards handed by

me to Mr. McIvor and given up by Mr. McIvor to the Customs. I recognised by the Roman figures on these receipts that the amounts were the correct amounts paid by us, and as Matsumura had just admitted having embezzled on these payments I concluded that the receipts must be forgeries.

Had you ever any dealings with Sato?—No, I have never once spoken to him.

Did Matsumura pay you a visit at Kanfakura in August 1910?—No.

Have you ever paid Matsumura three months' salary twice a year as bonus?—No. We pay our Japanese clerks one month's salary at the end of the year, which is the usual thing in Japan.

Have you ever got an invoice or receipt form printed by Yongtai, a Chinese printing house?—No, I have never ordered false documents.

After a few questions had been asked the accused Sato by Mr. Kishi, the case was adjourned.

JAPAN'S CHINA TRADE.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT.

The *Fiji Shimpō*, writing on Japan's trade with China, observes that there are indications of a recovery. The markets in Kobe and Osaka are gradually becoming active, and most of the traders view the future with a good deal of optimism, some of them in Osaka even contemplating the establishment of factories for the manufacture of articles especially for the China trade, in anticipation of great developments. No doubt the considerable increase in the export trade to China since February must be due to a demand for daily commodities, from the want of which the Chinese have been suffering for months, owing to the civil disturbances. At the same time it must be admitted that the increase is partly ascribable to speculative exports by Japanese traders. Hence the present brisk tone of the export trade with China can scarcely be regarded as constituting in itself a valid reason to conclude that the Japan-China trade is now fairly on its way to complete recovery. The steady recovery of trade can, however, be confirmed from another source. According to investigations made by the Agricultural and Commercial Department the export trade with China—in particular Central China—suffered a decline of thirty seven per cent. in October last, the month of the outbreak of the disturbances, and by eighty-six per cent. in November. Since the latter part of last year, however, it has begun to be restored to normal conditions, the percentage of decrease getting gradually lower. In December the decrease was fifty five per cent., in January forty-seven, and in February thirty-two per cent. Under these circumstances it must be taken for granted that the export trade with China is making a steady recovery.

As regards the export trade with Manchuria, South China and Hongkong, the tendency has been towards a gradual increase since last December notwithstanding the upheaval; so much so that so far as trade with South China is concerned, it increased in February by well nigh 171 per cent. If things continue to move as they do now, the blow Japan's China trade has received from the Revolutionary upheaval in China will certainly prove less severe than our traders seemed to anticipate at the moment of the outbreak.

In regard to the future, the revolution practically destroyed the credit system, exposing the monetary organs in Shanghai and other districts to a state of bankruptcy. Moreover, many districts have been thrown into chaos and anarchy, some of them being still infested with robbers. Even in Peking and Tientsin, the very seat of Government, for a time the maintenance of peace and order has been hopelessly out of the question, the people being exposed to plunder by the army. In these circumstances further disturbances may be expected on the disbandment of the troops that is to be effected sooner or later. With these considerations in view, the fact is not to be refuted that any

recovery of the trade market in China depends much upon the consummation of the monetary organs in different districts and the complete restoration of peace and order. This, however, is a work that can by no possibility be easily achieved within a short time. The restoration of the China trade therefore, must be a matter of the still distant future. The only consolation is that things now show every sign of recovery,— reassuringly steady if not prompt. We may rest assured that, now that the first work of the revolution has been achieved by the abdication of the Emperor and the subsequent organization of a Republican Ministry, peace and order will gradually be restored and satisfactorily insured throughout the country, when the foreign trade may be expected to undergo a large expansion.

DR. SAYCE'S IMPRESSIONS OF JAPAN.

A representative of the *Fiji Shimpō* has been interviewing Dr. Sayce as to his impressions of Japan and things Japanese. Dr. Sayce is quoted as expressing himself very favourably impressed with Japan and her people. What came to him as a most pleasing surprise was the advanced condition of college education, showing the unequalled zeal and devotion with which the Japanese prosecute scientific studies. His surprise was doubled when he remembered that it was in the short period of less than half a century that Japan had attained such marvellous development. Keio and Waseda Universities also impressed him by their efficient organisation. The libraries of Tokyo and Kyoto Imperial Universities, Dr. Sayce notes as in an enviable perfect condition.

"Frankly speaking," continued Dr. Sayce, "I don't think I like Japan's climate much, as it is rather too changeable,—just like that of England. But so far as the scenery is concerned, of which I have so often heard and read while at home, it fairly fascinates me with its impressive beauty, and reminds one of the beautiful landscapes which constitute an attraction of the West of England."

Another thing which impresses Dr. Sayce is the unique progress made in the fine arts. To him it appears that the fine arts of the seventh or eighth centuries in Japan surpass in a great measure those of later historical eras. He has been to Kyoto, Nara, Kamakura, Nikko and many other famous places, and the pleasant impressions he received there will long remain in his memory. The colossal image of Buddha at Nara was one which Japan might well be proud of. Japan and England are two countries that bear remarkable resemblance to each other in point of the combination of races, climate, and geographical features. Accordingly the two peoples are closely allied to each other in national character and spirit. It is little wonder therefore that Japan and England have come to what they are now, emerging out of the same conditions of feudalism,—the Japanese *Daimyō*, for instance resembling, in every respect the particular classes of society called in England the nobility.

THE LATE MISS CAMERON.

In the presence of her dearest friends, the late Miss Wilhelmina Cameron was carried to her last resting place on Tuesday afternoon. The preliminary services were held at the house of Mrs. W. G. Cameron on the Bluff; and afterwards, the cortege proceeded to Christ Church, the service there being conducted by the Rev. Walter Weston.

At the conclusion of the service, the majority of those present wended their way to the General Cemetery to pay their last tribute to the lady for whom all had the greatest respect and affection.

The pall bearers were Dr. Wheeler, Mr. J. T. Esdale, Mr. George Blundell, Mr. Clarence Griffin, Mr. G. Kenderdine, and Mr. W. Blundell.

THE GREAT FIRE IN TOKYO.

TWELVE HUNDRED HOUSES DESTROYED.

As already reported, the fire that occurred on Thursday afternoon last at the Susaki licensed quarters, resulting in the complete demolition of some 1,200 houses, was the biggest that Tokyo has experienced since the destruction of the Yoshiwara licensed quarters. When the flames were at their height, almost the whole force of the fire-brigades in Tokyo was centralized in the quarter, although little could be done save to prevent the fire from spreading. According to the authorities, the inadequacy of the water supply seems to have practically neutralized the desperate efforts of the firemen.

Neither the origin nor the reason of the outbreak are yet known, but the general belief is that the fire started in the bath-chimney of the licensed house "Kanei ro." Fortunately, very few casualties are reported, owing to the prompt work of both the police force and the salvage corps dispatched from the Red Cross Society. The loss is estimated at something like 1,500,000 yen, of which 240,000 yen is for the licensed houses, sixty-eight in number, and 350,000 yen for the Tokyo Rope Manufacturing Company.

The loss of insurance companies is estimated at 20,000 yen for the Tokyo Marine, 15,000 yen for the Mutual; 6,000 yen for the Kobe Marine; 5,000 yen for the Japan, 10,000 yen for the Meiji, 15,000 yen for the Yokohama; and 4,000 yen for the Imperial Marine and Fire Insurance Company.

According to a member of the Tokyo Central Meteorological Observatory, the force of the wind at the moment of the outbreak was 12 metres,—a little weaker than a gale. As the burnt out quarters face Tokyo Bay, they experienced the full force of the wind.

There is little need for dwelling on the pitiful conditions of the thousands of victims. Suffice it to mention that hundreds of homeless people, young and old, are now being sheltered at the Primary School, the only building that is saved. Besides contributions already made, both in money and kind, by private sympathizers, several charitable associations are contemplating relief work.

NEW COMPANIES IN JAPAN.

According to the results of investigations recently conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the companies established during February number 181 and their paid-up capital amounts to 2,291,496 yen,—an increase by 71 companies and by 698,731 yen, as compared with the records for the corresponding month of the preceding year. The following table shows the details:—

Classes.	No. of Companies.	Capital Paid up.
Agriculture	13	41,500
Marine Products	2	815,000
Industries	67	916,849
Brewing	7	78,000
Provisions	7	24,475
Fibre Industry	15	136,514
Chemical Industry	6	212,400
Metal and Metallurgy ..	3	11,300
Tools and Machines ..	5	27,500
Gas and Electricity	8	261,250
Sundry Industries	16	165,410
Mining	1	75,000
Commerce	61	407,797
Sale Agencies	49	346,457
Warehouses	3	14,240
Intelligence Office	9	47,100
Miscellaneous	33	480,750
Traffic and Transport ...	4	184,600

Total

181 2,291,496
It may be added that the total number of companies established since January this year aggregates 428, and their paid-up capital reaches 16,172,597 yen. This is an increase by 67 in the number of companies and by 8,944,319 yen in the amount of capital as compared with the corresponding term of the preceding year.

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Cable Game; Being the Adventures of an American Press Boat in Turkish Waters during the Russian Revolution; by STANLEY WASHBURN. Boston: Sherman, French & Co., 1912.

EVERY congratulation is due to Mr. Washburn for his singularly fascinating book, describing some of the experiences that fall to the lot of a special correspondent in times of war and revolution. To be a brilliant success in this field of journalism requires exceptional nerve, ability and resource. One is called upon to act swiftly and accurately, to rise superior to whatever obstacles may confront one and to have the gift of getting to the heart of the matter in such a way as to enable the newspaper office at the other end of the wire to know as much as the correspondent knows himself.

Mr. Washburn was with the Japanese forces in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War as correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News*, and it was the day following the signing of the Peace Treaty at Portsmouth that he received a cable from his paper in Chicago bearing the laconic word—*Return*. The war was over, so packing up his belongings, and sending a short dispatch to America, running—*Leaving the front immediately*. Wire instructions Peking, he left for China's capital. After waiting there for about a fortnight, another telegram was handed to him. *Russia direct. When do you start?* One's mind had to be made up quickly and within an hour the reply was speeding over the wires—*Leave to night*. *Shanghai Monday, thence first steamer Canal*. Russia then was in a state of revolution, the southern portion, it will be remembered, being practically cut off from outside communication.

Finally Mr. Washburn decided to wind up at the Black Sea and land at Batum or the Crimea or some of the Ports. Eventually arriving at Constantinople, he discovered that every line of steamers crossing the Black Sea had summarily stopped. There was only one thing to do, and that was to charter a boat, with the result that a sturdy little salvage tug of under 300 tons was engaged. It is here that the author's real and exciting experiences commence. He succeeds in landing in different places on the Russian coasts, obtaining full information of the revolt and the aftermath and despatching thousand word cables to his paper in Chicago; but the cost of success is not only a very heavy one in the matter of hard cash, but the repeated narrow escapes from death by shipwreck in the fierce winter gales of the Black Sea and the privations they are compelled to suffer in pursuit of duty are so severe, that one and all are thankful when Constantinople is again reached and the author receives further orders to proceed to St. Petersburg.

Mr. Stanley Washburn writes in a very fascinating and unassuming manner. It is very evident that he is an enthusiast in his profession and that he has fully earned the high position he now holds. We strongly recommend the book to our readers and especially to those who labour under the wrong impression of how important war news is gathered and dispatched. Also, of the big sums a great newspaper will willingly pay for a full account of a world event. As the author states—\$2,000, \$5,000, and even \$10,000 will be paid for a great story. For a story of this kind is printed in ten thousand papers in fifty different languages within twenty-four hours after the correspondent files it in a cable office. "His version of the affair is read first by every foreign office in the civilized world, and on it are based editorials from London to Buenos Ayres."

Highways and Byways of the Great Lakes. Written and Illustrated by CLIFTON JOHNSON. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1911. Price \$2.00 net.

THE average European who sees the crowds of American tourists roaming all over the continent each summer; who reads of the numbers that make their winter homes along the Riviera or in

some other of the delightful or popular resorts; or hears of the "rich Americans" who have their permanent residences in various places of the Old World; will naturally assume that the first ambition of the American who has amassed a fortune, or who has scraped together a few hundred dollars that may be spent in indulging in the luxury of travel or in the pursuit of idle pleasure, is to visit Europe. After all, it is a landable ambition; because so many of the Americans do still look upon some one or another of the countries of Europe as their fathers' land. If they do not, the history and the associations, the art and the architecture, the peoples and the customs, and a hundred other reasons, all of them good and sufficient when the purse gives its endorsement, may be assigned for going back to Europe when—and whenever—the opportunity offers. Yet it must not be concluded that all these Americans who flock to Europe in yearly increasing numbers and who spend money so recklessly as to lead the saving and economical Europe to assume that dollars with the Americans are as plentiful as *centimes* in France or *pennings* in Germany, know nothing about their own country.

Year by year the number is increasing of those Americans who have been described as entitled to go abroad because they have seen their own land from east to west, from north to south. The book now under consideration is but one of many evidences that Americans have, for some time, been appreciative of the fact that their own country possess natural attractions which are, to say nothing more, at least comparable with anything Europe can show. The Great Lakes are coming to their own and their attractions are being appreciated more and more each year. Mr. Johnson has, as he tells us in his Introductory Note, tried to make "a record of a search for the picturesque and the characteristic in nature and life in the Great Lakes region." This particular book is one of a number that bear the general title of "American Highways and Byways Series," and this same author has already prepared the following-named volumes: *Highways and Byways of the Mississippi Valley*, *Highways and Byways of the South*, *Highways and Byways of the Pacific Coast*, *New England and Its Neighbors*, *Highways and Byways of the Rocky Mountains*. All are published by the Macmillan Company and all are well illustrated with half-tone reproductions of photographs that were, as a rule, taken by the author himself. They are useful handbooks; they deal with the life and the common people wherever the author has gone, and they are written in a plain and simple style which is very effective: there is a good deal of conversation, occasionally in dialect that is easily read. All the books, so far prepared, describe rustic rather than urban attractions, and there is comparatively little said about the cities. In this particular volume, Mr. Johnson has kept himself quite closely to the American side of the lakes; along the Detroit River he has attempted some discussion of the Canadian side and its people, because here the two countries touch most intimately; but never does he discuss international, political or diplomatic problems, and "reciprocity" is not mentioned. Anyone contemplating a trip along the American Great Lakes will do well to provide himself with a copy of this book, because there is added to each chapter a note prepared for the benefit of just such intending travellers. Mr. Johnson makes no pretence at literary style, and yet he has succeeded admirably in giving us a pleasing, instructive, and interesting book which holds the attention and well deserves the favourable comments that have already been made by many other reviewers. The volume badly needs an Index, or else the Table of Contents should have been more synoptical.

Honey-Sweet. By EDNA TURPIN, illustrated by ALICE BEARD. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1911. Price \$1.25 net.

THOSE readers of the *Mail* whose memory takes them back far enough, will recall the fact that

some years ago, two books were discussed in these columns as being written for young people and yet were absorbingly interesting to "grown-ups." Those books were *The Railway Children* and *Merrylips*, and any adults who took the advice to read them would not have regretted for one moment. They were written by English women, yet the local colour was never so strong as to debar any sane English-reading people from enjoying them, and they were read in all parts of this world by children and by the children's men and women relatives and friends with satisfaction fully equalling that which the youngsters derived. We are now favoured with another of these artistic books which, although strictly speaking written for girls, is just as attractive to their brothers, parents, and all friends of mature age, and let it be said that it is an evidence of consummate skill to be able to write such a book.

Honey-Sweet is the pet-name bestowed by the delighted owner upon a rag-dolly whose "proper" name is *Mrs. Emily Patterson*, in honour of the maker and donor. In many respects this little story is positively pathetic. Let our readers imagine for themselves the feelings of a little orphan girl, only eight years old, "going on nine," who is left alone on a big Atlantic liner, and see if the thought does not pull so hard at the heart-strings as to make the pain go to the eyes! Anne Lewis' uncle, Mr. Carey Mayo, had misappropriated the funds of the Stuyvesant Trust Company and used Ann's fortune, the money being lost in Wall Street speculation; but he had cleverly covered his tracks until the day before that on which the story opens. Then, he decided to bolt for Europe—the foolishness of such criminals in these days of wireless telegraphy, easy extradition, and the like! Just as the gangplank was to be taken away, a telegram is handed Mayo and evidently it tells him that his chances of escape were nil. Anticipating the plot of the book a little, we may say that Mayo disguises himself as an Italian and goes in the steerage of the *Caronia* with Anne, but not known by her, although they see each other every day. Well, Mrs. Patterson, her son Patrick, and her sister, Miss Sarah Drayton, take care of the little waif, and the first move is to supply a companion, the rag dolly. Of course there are mishaps and one of them is that Mr. Patterson, after the death of his wife who has been a patient sufferer for years, when he enters the story, decides to annul Mrs. Patterson's plan of adopting Anne and puts her into a "Home." The little girl runs away, gets back to her old home in Virginia, is identified and cared for by a family connection, but *Honey-Sweet* is the means by which she is found again by Miss Drayton, Pat, and Mr. Patterson, now only too willing to carry out the plan of adoption, and all ends well. Uncle Carey is successful in his effort to restore Anne's fortune; then he gives himself up, and then he dies. If the story is a girl's book, with a child as its heroine and with no hero, although that last statement is rather an unfair imputation upon Pat, yet it is one which has already appealed strongly to men and women of mature age. There is not an impossible situation between the two covers, although there are some that are fairly dramatic; the style is admirable, and the language is good. True, it is an American story, but that does not mean that it is not interesting for everyone, man, woman, boy or girl, who is able to read the English language. It is a clean, wholesome story, without being for a moment nauseatingly "goody goody." The few illustrations are good half-tone prints; but they do not supply much in the way of illumination. It seems to us that this book would be a delight to the advanced English classes in any of the Young Ladies Schools, whether Government or Mission.

Universities of the World. By CHARLES FRANKLIN THWING, LL.D. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1911. Price \$2.25 net.

THIS book is an attempt to discuss some of the leading universities of the world, and the author has taken for his subjects, Oxford, London, Paris, Leiden, Upsala, Madrid, Geneva, Rome, Athens,

Berlin, Budapest, St. Petersburg, Bucharest, Robert College on the Bosphorus, Cairo, Calcutta, Melbourne, Peking, Tokyo—in this order. He tells us that he personally visited all but Melbourne, of which he says, "and in preparing this sketch I had the advantage of many conferences with its distinguished Dean, Professor Tucker." Dr. Thwing thinks that universities may easily be segregated thus: in the first class, and perhaps this is the more normal phase, are those which have for their purpose the discovery and the publication of the truth, they are devoted to learning and to Scholarship; the laboratory and the library are their tools, and observation represents their methods. "The universities which are called rather by the social than by the geographical name of German are the more conspicuous members of this class. They represent the most impressive form of the higher education of modern times." In the second class, the primary purpose is the development of character through the power of thinking. "Scholarship finds its place, too, in this class, but less dominantly" than in the universities of the first group. "The aim is rather intellectual. The purpose is to train the individual unto a power of thinking and of thinking with depth, breadth, and height, comprehensively, cubically." The author considers that the Scottish universities and those of the United States of America are most typical. The third class "has for its real, though seldom spoken of, purpose the making of the gentleman. This purpose is not the object of proclamation. Such proclamation would be ridiculous and result in a lack of achievement; but the universities of this class do use scholarship and disciplined thinking as methods of creating men who are interpreted by the word gentleman, in whom the intellect, the heart, the conscience, the will, and the aesthetic faculty are so blended and made so harmonious that they become at home in Society. Oxford and Cambridge are the finest examples of this type. Certain American Colleges are also emphasizing the worth of this type more deeply than in early times." "It is a far cry to the fourth type of the university, a cry far in place and in function. This class seeks to train men of efficiency; its members endeavour to make graduates who are able to earn their living. In this respect they are like all other professional schools, and especially like schools of engineering. Of course the efficiency is of a liberal sort, and the learning, for earning which the opportunity is given, is of large relations. The universities of this class belong especially in the Far East. They are found in India, China, and Japan. The reason is not far to seek. The means of subsistence are so small, the margin dividing starvation from bare existence so narrow, that every force must be utilized, every method employed, which shall add a crumb to the food or a thread to the garment. The Universities of Tokyo, of Calcutta, of Peking, represent this type of efficiency.

We have drawn freely from Dr. Thwing's own Introduction in order to show our readers how he intends to proceed in the discussion of his subject. The copious extracts given serve another purpose, for they give an idea of this author's literary style, and—to be entirely frank—it leaves a good deal to be desired in a book which is written by one who is supposed to be a scholar. The same defects are noticeable all through the text of this large volume. Dr. Thwing has had a long experience as an educator, and is now president of Western Reserve University and Adelbert College, Cleveland, Ohio; he has, too, written a number of books on educational subjects, at least twelve besides this one. But, and it is a pity there should be a "but," his own success as an university president does not bulk very large; for who of our readers, save the Americans and by no means all of them, know anything of the university over which Dr. Thwing presides? That it is a small institution, not liberally endowed, does not affect the matter at all, for there are plenty of equally small and poor colleges in this world which have been and are famous for their scholarship and for their eminent

graduates. It seems to us that the duty of discussing the universities of the world might better have been entrusted to someone whose own scholarship, breadth of experience, personality, and success fit him to deal with the important subject upon broader lines than Dr. Thwing appears to have followed. It is to be noted that England is the only country from which he has taken two universities for his consideration, Oxford and London. He could not, of course, have dealt with all the universities of the world; no man has ever lived competent in any way to do that; yet it seems rather odd that he should have made the choice he has. To be sure, Oxford and London represent very different types; but why, then, pass by all schools in other countries that are comparable with the University of London in methods and results?

We know that Dr. Thwing visited Japan some years ago, in 1905 if we are not mistaken, and we may safely assume that he had some opportunity to get information from members of the faculties of the Tokyo Imperial University; but (we believe we are correct) his visit was made in the summer time, when the students were not in residence, and his chapter given to that particular university is mainly based upon hearsay evidence. Doubtless there was unavoidable necessity for this untimely visit. Dr. Thwing probably had to come to Tokyo when his own university was closed for its long summer vacation; but if this was so in this particular case, must we not assume that it was equally so in that of the other universities he professes to "have visited and studied in its own habitat?" Certainly, the whole tone of the Chapter given to "The University of Tokyo," indicates this method, and confirms the suspicion in other cases. Yet when it comes to reasoning, we cheerfully admit that Dr. Thwing evinces the ripe power of a mature mind. When speaking of the effect upon the higher educational service of Japan of the absence of the classical tradition, after contrasting the influence of Greek and Latin in the British universities and that of the Chinese classics in the Japanese, he says: "One effect seems to me to be conspicuous: it is the lack of accuracy in the working of the Japanese mind. That the Japanese mind is not an accurate tool is the usual testimony. This is the testimony of Japanese scholars themselves; it is also the testimony of American scholars who have taught in Japanese schools. The Japanese mind is rather a knowing than a thinking mind. It is rather acquisitive than inquisitive, although in inquisitiveness it is not wanting. It is rather a memorizing than a reasoning mind. This lack seems to me to arise in part from the lack of linguistic training. But it should be added that the defect may have two other sources, namely, the lecture system of conveying instruction, and also the desire of the Japanese student to take too many courses of lectures at one time. The very earnestness of these students tends to make them superficial. The lecture system has many advantages. But if introduced early in the course of education it is in peril of substituting general facts and general knowledge for close study, and it also is in danger of training the memory at the expense of the logical faculties. Furthermore, this peril of the system is enhanced when students attend so many lectures that they have little time left for reading, and less time for reflection. Not a few Japanese students take twenty-five or more lectures a week. The ordinary American student takes twelve or fifteen. I know Japanese students who are attending lectures for no less than six hours a day. Such a method is intellectual gorging, stuffing. This custom arises from the eagerness of the student to clutch and to cram. It is bad physiology; and it is worse psychology." Every foreign instructor will endorse what Dr. Thwing says; but those who have had that intimate experience which qualifies them to speak far more precisely than he can possibly do with his limited knowledge gained during a brief visit at the wrong time, will say that many university students in Japan spend more than thirty-five hours a week in the lecture room or

laboratory, and such competent observers know that it is not often the students who elect to take so much work, but the university authorities who insist upon it.

Dr. Thwing's book is a good one to place on the shelves of every academic and public library in Japan. It gives useful information in a convenient shape and that information is imparted in a readable way. The author's personal inclination towards the German universities and away from the French university, will be approved by most of our Japanese readers; yet his prejudice is not shown in an offensive way. Mechanically, the book is admirably got up. The paper is good, the type clear and well-spaced, and the fifty half-tone illustrations sharp and effective. With the prejudice that comes with precise, personal knowledge, we must say we think we could have made better selections for Tokyo.

Great Religious Teachers of the East. By ALFRED W. MARTIN. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1911. Price \$1.25 net.

WHEN James Russell Lowell wrote his delightful essay on *Chaucer* in 1870, he began it thus: "Will it do to say anything more about Chaucer? Can any one hope to say anything, not new, but even fresh, on a topic so well worn? It may well be doubted; and yet one is always the better for a walk in the morning air,—a medicine which may be taken over and over again without any sense of sameness, or any failure of its invigorating quality." This little volume, containing seven lectures (of a series of twelve) delivered before the Society for Ethical Culture in New York City, recalled at once Lowell's remark about Chaucer. The lectures were given on successive Sunday evenings in the winter of 1910-11, at the Meeting House of the Society. The seven lectures chosen for presentation in book form, have for their titles, in order, *The Discovery of the Sacred Books of the East and its Results; Gotama, the Buddha; Zoroaster; Confucius and Lao-Tse; The Prophets of Israel and the Commonwealth of Man; Jesus; Mohammed*. It will be manifest, at the very first glance, how reasonable it is to ask: Is there anything new or even fresh to be said about any one of these subjects? The answer is distinctly, *nothing*! If the sentiment (modestly controverted by the lecturer) expressed by a well meaning gentleman, "This will be a succession of intellectual treats," voiced the opinion of the members of the Society for Ethical Culture, we must say frankly that they are easily entertained; and we would not say that Mr. Martin, who is associate leader of the Society in New York, in putting some of his addresses into edited shape, has performed a work of supererogation in responding "to several hundred requests for their publication." All thoughtful and earnest readers like to have the opinions of various people placed before them, and this lay preacher has given us some pleasure and perhaps a little benefit. Considering carefully the preacher, the "Meeting House," and the congregation, we must say that Mr. Martin's appreciation of the character of Jesus is a surprise. Too frequently, the Ethical Culture leaders openly scorn and deride Him; and therefore it is refreshing to find one who can go so far even as to admit so much as to say that Jesus is an *inspiration* for him. It is evident that Mr. Martin has read a good deal upon the subjects that he has chosen as the themes for his sermons, and there are not wanting evidences of his having been what plain, ordinary people call a student of theology. Still, the bibliography "added for the benefit of those who may wish to extend their reading in the field of popular, non-technical literature on the great moral leaders whose life and work are here discussed," is open to criticism. Either Mr. Martin has not read any of the great number of books upon just those subjects which have appeared during the last four or five years; or he purposely omits them from his list, and this is cowardly. If he really wished to help, he should have pointed out such books as *India: Its Life and Thought; Aspects of*

Islam, The Religions and Philosophies of the East, and a score of others that are helpful, non-partizan, and non-technical. Just what authority Mr. Martin has for rendering the name of "the Buddha" who, it is generally agreed, lived in the sixth century before the Christian era, as *Gotama*, we cannot imagine. Read as spelled, that first syllable should, of course, be pronounced *go* (our verb *to go*), and equally of course, most English readers would argue that the other syllables should follow English rules, making them *lam* (e), syn. gentle, subdued, and short *a*. Now, nearly all English writers accept the transliteration *Gautama*; many even going so far as to use diacritical marks to indicate the full sound of the vowels; and by no twist of philology can the Sanskrit or Pali rendering be expressed as *Go-tama*. With most of our readers, the importance given to this really small matter will simply be provocative of a laugh; yet it is rather an important straw; and this weakness is allied to others tending seriously to discredit Mr. Martin's arguments. With so many consistent and authentic works of reference at his service, it is not likely that the earnest student will make much use of this volume; but members of afternoon reading-circles, and those who are satisfied with just a readable account of these great religious teachers and convenient suggestions, will find this little book almost invaluable; and we suspect that it was intended for just such. It certainly reads well and easily; the language is good; the locutions graceful and the style attractive. This full meed of praise is honestly and cheerfully given. Japanese students who have nothing more than the average koto-gakko measure of English, should have no difficulty whatever in understanding all there is in this book, at first reading, and because a good many of these young men are interested in the subject of comparative religion, it is most gratifying to be able to recommend this book, for it is so absolutely non-partizan.

The Soul of the Far East. By PERCIVAL LOWELL. New Illustrated Edition. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1911. Price \$1.60 net.

It cannot be necessary to review in these columns a book that is so well known as this. It is sufficient merely to say that the new edition contains twenty-four full-page inset illustrations in half-tone, from photographs, on glazed paper. These seem to have been selected rather for their artistic value than for any special illumination they throw upon the text. They are all, with the exception of that which faces page 154, well done and are pleasing. The exception, called "The Art of Japan," strongly suggests the *Kōrin* School; it is not in any way illuminating and mechanically it is not well done. Some of the titles given to these pictures are not altogether satisfactory, for instance, a "Temple in the Heart of Japan," should be identified more precisely; for the combination of the old, artistic Japan and modern, industrial Japan, is somewhat puzzling.

The text shows a few traces of having been carefully gone over by the author for this new edition. There are not many changes and, as a rule, these tend to clarify; while they also, at times indicate that the author has taken a slightly different viewpoint from that which he had at the time of his first stay in this country. For example, on p. 10, "There entered, to heighten the bizarre effect, a spirit common in minds that lack originality—the spirit of imitation," of the new edition, is much better than, "Another factor entered to heighten the bizarre effect, a cause which is the inevitable concomitant of a lack of intrinsic impulse—the spirit of imitation." So, too, on p. 61, we prefer the new, "Is it to be presumed that even Socrates chose Xantippe for her remarkable contrariety to himself?" to, "Is it to be presumed that even Socrates chose his consort for her remarkable contrariety to himself?" At the end of Chap. III, "Adoption," Professor Lowell has added a useful sentence to explain the custom of a man

becoming *inkyō* before he is really old. There are a number of verbal changes in the chapter on *Religion*, VII, all, we think, well made.

We note that Professor Lowell continues to follow the incorrectly established rule of rendering the honorific "O" as "August" and "Augustly." Prof. K. Ito, head of the Department of English in the Third Higher School, Kyoto, now studying in England, and other competent Japanese scholars contend that this is unduly grandiose; that "O," when applied to "Cha," "Sato," and all such things, really means nothing to the Japanese, and therefore calls for no English grandiloquence. We are a little surprised that Prof. Lowell continues to employ the objectionable, tautological form "Shintoism." May we venture to suggest to this distinguished author, and to others perhaps, that the word "pidgin," so constantly heard in the "Pidgin English" of the China ports, is simply a running-down and debasing of the English word "business?" This writer's personal experience led him to that conclusion many years ago, and the opinion has frequently been confirmed by both Chinese and Europeans.

If there are any who have not already possessed themselves of what is justly admitted to be one of the very best studies of the Japanese character, the opportunity which this new edition of "The Soul of the Far East" gives, should be grasped at once. It is as apposite and as entertaining now as when first written, nearly a quarter of a century ago. When such an authority on *Things Japanese* as Professor B. H. Chamberlain says, "Percival Lowell's *Soul of the Far East*, for instance, starts to our recollection at once, with its brilliant array of metaphysical epigrams," and recommends it to readers as "written to prove that the Japanese mind is impersonal. . . . We are acquainted with no other work treating explicitly of the mental characteristics of the Japanese," it is unnecessary for the writer to add anything, except to say that Professor Chamberlain expressed himself before Hearn had written *Japan: an Interpretation*; and Gulick, *The Evolution of the Japanese*.

AN INTERESTING ESSAY ON JAPAN.

Under the heading of "The Social Crisis in Japan" one of the most interesting essays ever penned about Japan and her prospects is published by the *Crusade*, which periodical is the organ of the National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution. The writers are Mr. Sidney Webb and Mrs. Beatrice Webb, the well known social philosophers who recently visited Canada, Japan, China and India. The *Crusade* promises that this article on Japan will be followed by one on China, and as the well known writers visited the Chinese Empire during the very height of the Republican revolution, their article acquires a special interest. We reproduce in full the article on Japan and commend it earnestly to the attention of the people of this country. Mr. and Mrs. Webb have made a close study of the whole subject of sociology, and are not for an instant to be classed with the irresponsible agitators who represent socialism in its least reasonable phases. Every word penned by Mr. and Mrs. Webb is the outcome of close observation and profound thought. Japan may congratulate herself on coming into possession of the fruits of such ripe knowledge, and we trust that she will benefit by them:—

We do not presume, in these words of "greeting from afar" to the members of the National Committee, to give any full or detailed account of our impressions of Japan. Who could adequately describe the extraordinary charm of that wonderful country, which we have found far more beautiful than we had ever imagined? Japan is wonderful in its profusion of picturesque mountains, which are

scarcely ever mentioned in England; wonderful in its primeval forests of giant *cryptomerias*; wonderful in the ubiquitous intensity of the cultivation of its irrigated plains, out of which the hills always rise so abruptly, and which are surprisingly rich in rice and mulberry and beans and millet, with here and there maize and tea and grapes and oranges; wonderful in its ancient palaces, with their wealth of carving and painting, and in its multifarious temples, embowered in groves of immemorial trees; wonderful, indeed, in the charm of its ancient civilisation. If anyone is tired of the complexity and ugliness of modern industrialism, we can imagine no holiday so complete and so restful as a walking tour in Japan away from the ports and the very few inland places in which the tourists and missionaries congregate. We shall never forget our own ten days' walk in the August sunshine, with clothing reduced to a minimum, and luggage to the basket that one coolie could carry, from Nikko to Nagano, over mountain passes up to 7,000 feet above sea level; through forests, climbing up to the very tops of these heights; with a semi-tropical vegetation full of new delights to European eyes; by rushing rivers and silent lakes and bubbling waterfalls; along the narrow paths connecting the innumerable villages with each other; past countless shrines and tombs and temples of century-old piety; across endless smiling plains of rice, in little patches, at different levels a few inches higher or lower than each other to permit of irrigation; and through one populous village after another, each with its own individuality, but always swarming with babies, and really seeming at last to differ from all the rest of those seen throughout the day, chiefly in its totally unrememberable name!

But Japan is not all country. Large towns of fifty to a hundred thousand inhabitants, of which European geographers do not give even the names, are numerous; each with its schools and temples and manufactories; and there are also half a dozen giant cities as large as Manchester or Liverpool (but oh, how different!), with Universities and palaces and "sights"!

We have found travelling in Japan unexpectedly easy, pleasant, and (in spite of a never-ending rise in prices) cheap. It is, to begin with, so "civilised" a country that one goes everywhere, even in the lonely forests and the slums of its great cities, without the slightest fear of molestation by man or beast. Then, it is a country in which everyone seems always to be travelling—immense concourses of pilgrims and holiday-makers and business people are everywhere on the move—so that everywhere there is accommodation and provision for travellers' needs. Add to this that the so-called "lower orders," the common lump of men, are, in Japan, perhaps more civilised than those of any other country that we have seen—clean, elaborately well-mannered, "common schooled," if not educated, kindly and polite to a degree that leaves far behind the English labourer, town or country—whilst the officials and rich men are eager to be friendly to the wandering Englishman; and it does not need any special introduction to make travelling pleasant. But the traveller makes a great mistake who, through shyness or modesty, or mere lack of foresight, does not provide himself with "pilgrim's scrip" in the form of letters of introduction of one sort or another. They are easy to get, they are almost always effusively honoured on presentation, and they add enormously to the charm and interest of travel. We have ourselves lived so entirely with the Japanese officials, statesmen, bankers, professors, priests, and business men to whom we brought or obtained introductions, that we have had hardly any time to see the European and American residents.

But this sort of travel involves getting hold of a good interpreter. We were fortunate, through friends, in engaging, actually before we left the steamer, an interpreter of education and refinement, to whom, in our two months' intercourse, we have become personally much attached, and by means of whose skill we have been able to conduct long intellectual discussions with our Japanese friends, on all sorts of subjects, from economics to Buddhist philosophy, from agriculture to art. And all our expenses in Japan, including first-class travelling and this interpreter, have come easily within twenty-five shillings per day for each of us.

Now, of Japan to-day, there are two aspects, the old and the new, agriculture and manufactures, the country and the town. Of the charm of rural Japan we cannot speak too highly. Imagine an intelligent and essentially *civilised* population of millions of families, settled in closely contiguous villages, on fertile plains, between picturesque mountain ranges from which descends abundant irrigation water; each family with its own series of plots of highly cultivated and copiously irrigated garden land, on which, by incessant hand labour, minute care, and abundant manuring, huge crops of rice,

millet, beans, mulberry, maize, buckwheat and barley are raised under the sub-tropical sun; the families often owning as well as cultivating their little plots, which hardly ever exceed in extent the amount cultivable by the members of the families themselves, so that there is no class of agricultural wage labourers; or, if not themselves the owners, being tenants on a customary rent of about one-half of the rice crop, and enjoying, in practice, virtual fixity of tenure; and whether owners or occupiers, having often been in occupation of the same land for five or ten generations. Where non-cultivating landlords exist, having numerous tenants, the relationship seems to be one of friendly mutual co-operation, the landlord exercising a sort of paternal supervision and direction of the village affairs; and obtaining, as rent, such proportion of the rice crop as the harvest allows. And intermingled with these millions of agricultural families—often coincident with them—there exist apparently no less numerous families of petty handicraftsmen and retailers, supplying all the household wants of the countryside. In short, rural Japan represents the perfection of "*la petite culture*" and "*la petite industrie*." In no country of Europe or America that we have seen is there so large a proportion of the population in the position of being "their own masters"; owning themselves the instruments of production, working for their own profit, occupying their own little houses, worshipping at their own family shrines, and consuming very largely the products of their own labour. Here, at any rate, is the "proprietary state," with the family group as the economic unit, which Mr. Hilaire Belloc finds so attractive. And, certainly, nowhere is this society more alluring than in rural Japan.

Whether such a social order could, in the twentieth century, ever be created anew—whether even in rural Japan, it can long be maintained in existence—we need not now discuss. What must be noted are several concomitants not usually remembered, which rural Japan forces on our attention. In the first place, it is a community of superstitions of all sorts, wedded to the old ways, with a tremendous binding force of national sentiment. Perhaps as the other side of this feature, this community of small peasant cultivators and village retailers is practically devoid of political democracy. Absorbed in the incessant toil that their fields and handicrafts demand, their horizons bounded practically by their family, or at most their village, concerns, these thriving millions of rural families are plainly incapable of organising, controlling, criticising, or even intelligently comprehending the large enterprises characteristic of a community of the size of twentieth century States. What disables such a community from wide political interest, and from that active personal participation in "movements" having no direct bearing on their family concerns—and it is these that make effective political democracy possible—is not merely the incessant toil in which their lives are spent. It is also the fact that (as with the indoor domestic servant and the working mother of a young family) there is no division of their lives between work and leisure. They have no "working" hours. Their work is never done. From waking to sleeping they are never free from its presence, never able to take their minds off its perpetual insistence on an endless series of petty details in which their own personal concern is paramount and all-absorbing.

In Western industrial States two new classes furnish the material for political democracy. We have the growth, on the one hand, of an "intellectual proletariat" of teachers, clerks, lawyers, doctors, and journalists—in Switzerland the hotel keepers—with leisure to think; and on the other hand, of a class of hired artisans and labourers, in whose lives the hours of work, few or many, are sharply marked off from the rest of their lives, so that their waking day is not wholly taken up with an endless series of petty personal affairs requiring all their thought. In a universally "proprietary State" of agricultural peasants and petty retailers, the railway and postal service, the telegraphs and telephones, the conservancy of the rivers, the construction of main roads, the organisation of an educational system from the kindergarten to the University—not to mention international relations, the army and the navy—inevitably become, if they are to exist at all, the sphere of an expert bureaucracy, without any effective supervision or control from the people at large. For a community of tiny peasant occupiers and petty handicraftsmen scattered over the countryside, the only alternatives are to confine the State to the small size contemplated by Aristotle and Rousseau, like the Forest Cantons of Switzerland, foregoing such essentially large enterprises as railways and Universities; or to leave all the public affairs transcending the family and the village to a bureaucracy outside and above the village life.

The latter is the position of rural Japan. The Government officials seemed to us as a class admirable. They were everywhere on the most friendly intimate terms with all classes. They appeared to be taking the keenest interest in their work and eager for the public welfare; to be full of intellectual curiosity about it, open-minded and curiously unprejudiced. But they were (and were recognised as being) so superior in knowledge and ability to the rural population that what they did and decided was practically beyond all effective check or criticism. We do not see how, in a rural community of small cultivators and handicraftsmen—if it is to have large enterprises at all—such a bureaucratic administration of those enterprises can be avoided. In the twentieth century State, peasant cultivation and rural handicrafts are, to the extent that they make up the community, incompatible, beyond the affairs of the family and the village, with effective political democracy. This, at any rate, is our comment on rural Japan.

And the countryside of peasant cultivators and petty retailers inevitably creates its own destruction. With cultivation already pushed to its maximum of intensity, and with every inch of ground in use on which rice will grow, the village finds itself unable to provide a livelihood for the natural increase of its population. If famine is not to ensue, the surplus of boys and girls must swarm off; and in Japan, as elsewhere, they swarm off to swell the huge cities in which the modern machine industry and capitalist production on a large scale is both creating and demanding a wage-earning proletariat. And this brings us to the other aspect of Japan, with its surprising and rapid development of a native capitalism, reproducing, with minute accuracy, all the features of the industrial England of 1790-1840. Japan has already a million factory operatives, in some 20,000 factories—not to speak of extensively worked mines of coal and copper, oilfields and petroleum refineries as hideous as anything in the United States, and huge capitalist exploitations in timber, fisheries, merchant shipping, and what not. In the cotton and silk mills we found young girls (as young as 9 or 10) and women working (night shifts along with day shifts) for over eighty hours per week, with no Sunday rest, and practically no holidays. We found these girls sometimes working (for such hours!) in insanitary processes which in England are confined to men, and are even then largely mitigated in their evil influences by extremely short shifts. We found the "hands" (just as in the Lancashire of 120 years ago) collected by recruiting agents from all parts of the country—even children of 9 or 10—separated from their families, and boarded and lodged in the employers' own premises, to which (under normal circumstances) they are practically confined—if, indeed, they have any time or energy left for anything but working, sleeping, and eating. Until last year there was absolutely nothing in the nature of a Factory Act, and no restriction on the will of the employers as to the conditions of labour. There was not (and still is not) any effective registration of children liable to attend school; there is no power legally to compel attendance; and moreover, tens of thousands of children of school age are actually exempted from attendance on the ground of poverty! Even now the Factory Law of 1910 resembles rather the English Factory Acts of 1819 and 1833 than a twentieth century law; and some of its prohibitions (as of night work for women) do not come into force for fifteen years. And whilst some of the factory managers are philanthropic men, desirous of doing for their thousands of operatives the best that they can—just as England had its Peels and Greggs and Maistralls and Ashworths—and accordingly some of the boarding-houses are swept and garnished, and there are flowers and amusements and be evocative truck shops where the operatives can buy what they want without leaving the compound, the system remains in all its hideousness. The girls, contracted away by their parents, or entrapped by alluring offers of wages, looked sullen, apathetic, and discontented. It was complained by the employers that they seldom stayed on after their three years' contract service, and that they took every excuse for leaving before the term expired, so that the mill had to be perpetually breaking in new hands! Finally, it was asserted everywhere that nothing would induce a girl living in the city where the factory was situated (and therefore knowing what the life was like) to become a factory operative! Similarly unrestricted conditions of employment prevail in the coal and copper mines, and in the oilfields, where the men seem to be much as were the English coalminers a hundred years ago. And these and similar industries are increasing in Japan by leaps and bounds.

We saw something of the conditions of existence

of the poorest quarters of the great cities; and, naturally, we found them pretty nearly as bad as they could be. The Japanese Government has had too much to do, in its amazing task of taking three centuries of social evolution in a stride of forty years, to undertake much in the way of town sanitation, the prevention and treatment of disease, or proper housing requirements. And the Japanese Central Government has not yet learnt how to call to its aid, in administration as well as in finance, the indefinitely expansible force of local self-government. In its eagerness for efficiency, the Japanese Cabinet has adopted a bureaucratically controlled and minutely supervised system of local administration, partly German and partly French in its structure; and has failed, as yet, to learn from England how to create really independent centres of local initiative and local administration, which would relieve it of some of its gigantic task. The education system is a strange mixture of universal provision and nominal compulsion, with a practical failure to ensure universal attendance; in some places fees are charged in the poor districts, whilst the richer districts have free schools; there is a system of elaborate secondary schools, pretentious and very imperfect, but no provision for enabling the poorest children, however clever, to take advantage of them. There is no general provision for the prevention and treatment of disease, and (in spite of apparently endless charity on the part of the very poorly remunerated doctors, and various "charity hospitals," as they are called) the death-rate is half as much again as in England; with tuberculosis and infantile disorders fatally prevalent; and with the children growing up, untreated, with all sorts of eventually disabling complaints. How quickly the alert and open-minded Japanese bureaucracy will realise the precipice down which capitalist exploitation (by Japanese capitalists, be it noted, not foreigners) is hurrying the nation, we cannot estimate; whether they will be clever enough to jump to a systematic application of the policy of the National Minimum in Sanitation, Education, Leisure, and Subsistence, by which, as English experience teaches us, the country can alone be saved, as they have jumped to other things, no one can foresee; finally, whether without the driving power of a politically active democracy, the bureaucrats will be able to overcome the resistance of the capitalists (who declare that they are producing the wealth without which Japan cannot make good its position as a first-rate Power) we do not pretend to judge. The moment is, for Japan, perhaps the most critical in its whole national history; and is one of extraordinary interest to the instructed observer.

Of destitution in Japan, in the comprehensive sense in which we now use the term, there is already no lack; but it naturally takes different forms from those to which we are accustomed. As in England, however, the greatest number are those who are sick and destitute of medical attendance. The amount of preventable disease, of unnecessary disablement and of premature old age and death is costing Japan today more even than its gigantic naval expenditure or its war debt. The lack of any systematic and complete Public Health organisation which would actually prevent the occurrence of much disease; and of a public medical service (including hospitals) to supply appropriate treatment at the earliest stage, when alone it is really preventive, constitutes, at the present, the most glaring failure of the Japanese Government to bring the nation abreast of the ideals of Western civilisation.

An almost equally extensive section of destitution is represented by the children. A large proportion of the children of Japan are suffering severely from the want of the necessities of healthy child life. There is very little public provision for orphans or abandoned children; in the absence of any supervision of child-birth and infancy, the infantile death-rate (in spite of universal breast-feeding) is very high, implying much infantile disease; as the children do not go to school until 6 or 7, the period during which they escape all inspection or supervision is much greater than in England; and even during the school years there is no systematic provision for ensuring that they are medically attended to. No doubt the Japanese family achieves a great deal; but in the slums of Osaka and Nagoya—even in the mountain villages that we passed through—the "family system" cannot, in the absence of systematic medical inspection and provision, prevent the development and dissemination of tuberculosis and enteric, nor save the children from the sequelæ of neglected measles. The child destitution of Japan, in this all-important particular, is, of course, not to be compared with that of most Eastern nations—there is no such glaring child neglect as is seen in the streets of Cairo, or even in those of Calcutta—but what Japan pretends to, and what the

world now expects from her, is civilization of a high Western standard.

Of the destitution of the aged we saw little in Japan. In this particular the nation certainly sets an example to all Europe, and perhaps leads the world. The "family system" makes it a matter of course for the aged to be provided for as honoured guests in the families of their descendants. There must be some not thus provided for; and Tokyo has a "general mixed workhouse" not essentially different from a typical Scottish poorhouse. But the problem is mitigated by the grim fact, not in itself creditable to Japanese administration, that extreme old age is rare. Men and women become old at 50 or 60; and those of 70 or 80 seem very much less common than in Europe. Japan escapes old age pauperism partly because the neglect of health in early life prevents there being many aged!

Able-bodied destitution, or "unemployment," appears also to be rare. Whether this is to be ascribed to the still great prevalence of the hand industry, to the people still having practical access to the instruments of production, to the "family system," or to the low standard of subsistence, we cannot now determine. Certainly, an able-bodied man, even if he indulges in "sake," seems always able to earn the extremely minute sum on which he can live from day to day. The cause used to be local famines from failure of crop. There are now periods of stress owing to a rise in the price of rice; and a system of poor relief is on the point of springing up. The Tokyo poorhouse, already mentioned, is a semi-philanthropic, semi-municipal enterprise of a generation old, but still an exception. We came across, however, in other places, spasmodic distributions of rice by the public authorities, in order to keep people alive. In Osaka, the second city of the Empire, they were just on the point of establishing a municipal department of poor relief, to deal with all classes of the destitute—once more preparing to repeat the English mistake! The Japanese Government has a great opportunity of avoiding this administrative blunder, which has given England the mournful heritage of a huge pauper class, by refusing to create any special organisation for the relief of destitution—such, it can, if it chooses, arrange for each section of the destitute—be it with or preventive lines by the public authority charged with dealing with that section of the population (he sick, the children, the mentally defective, etc.), and thus avoid the creation of any class specifically pauper, with all its demoralising tendency to increase and to become a permanent burden on the community.

But the greatest blot on the civilisation of Japan is its treatment of women. We do not here mean simply the "subjection" of the wife to the husband, a position compatible with a very real "equality" in practical life, and one which we need not here discuss. But the subjection of the wife in the family is one thing; the subjection of the young woman to the factory owner, the geisha-master, or the "licensed quarter" is quite another. Japan is trying the most extraordinary experiment on the health and character of its whole population: an experiment, as it seems to us, fraught with the greatest possible danger. There may be something to be said for taking about 40 per cent. of all the young men and making them serve for two years in the army; with results, good and bad, on health and character, which are evidently considerable. What is remarkable, and, we think, peculiar, is that in Japan a very large proportion of its young women—a proportion which seems to run up to something like 20 per cent., and in some places much higher—are also passed into bondage for a term of years. There is the annual recruitment under contract of the million of factory operatives. There is the not inconsiderable annual recruitment—virtually sale by the parents—of girls to be trained as geishas. And there is the still darker shadow of the passing into the almost hopeless bondage of the "licensed quarter" (which exceeds in horror and cynic bestiality anything that we could have imagined) of literally thousands of young girls every year. This subjection of the girls of the nation to a period of what is really involuntary servitude, under conditions making neither for health nor for character, is of ominous portent. It is not the way to bring up the mothers of a great race. And it is, for the most part, a new evil which it is quite possible to stop. We cannot believe that, if it is allowed to continue, Japan can permanently "make good" its position among the great world powers.

But, in such a period of transition, it is unlikely that anything, bad or good, will long remain unchanged. In our own analogous period of transition—in the England of 1790-1840—social conditions were, so far as we can judge, considerably worse than in the Japan

of to-day. Japan to-day has the advantage, which England a hundred years ago had not, of facing its problems with an instructed and highly intelligent civil service, and with the mass of the common people, in their own way, essentially civilised. It has the further advantage over the England of a century ago—perhaps even over the England of to-day—of being open-minded, eager to learn, and intellectually modest. It has before it the results of a century of experiment by other nations; and in social organisation, as in military and naval matters, it may well learn to improve even on those whom it takes as models. In short, it is a land full of hopefulness. We believe it is still the land of the Rising Sun.

SATURDAY'S CROSS COUNTRY RACE.

The second cross-country race of the season took place last Saturday afternoon last and was a success in every way. Owing to the very complete arrangements that had been made, all competitors adhered to the correct route and any repetition of the unfortunate misunderstanding of a few weeks ago, was happily avoided.

Quite a large number of spectators assembled at the Boathouse to witness the start, the course being from the Boathouse to Daijingu-yama by way of Camp Hill, then to the Forts, to the main road by the Makado Hotel, on to the hills to the Shakespeare and Racecourse, then to Nakamura Buff and from there to the Boathouse by way of Daijingu-yama and Camp Hill.

The race was an excellent one throughout, the times being very good. G. H. Box was the first man home and was closely followed by W. Russell and S. D. Torneye.

The following are the various time of the start and finish:—

	Start.	Finish.
	h. m. s.	h. m. s.
G. H. Box	2 51 00	4 02 48
W. Russell	2 53 00	4 03 03
L. D. Torneye	2 53 00	4 05 02
H. Potts	2 54 00	gave up
G. R. Bardens	2 55 30	4 04 44
G. L. James	2 56 00	4 03 25
S. A. Vincent	2 59 00	4 04 34
K. M. M. Tresize	2 59 00	4 04 54

We understand that the prizes won at Saturday's and the previous race will be presented at the Boathouse on Saturday next.

ART AND MORALS.

ACQUITTAL OF A PARISIAN DANCER.

The Parisian dancer Adorée Villany, who dances without clothing, and who was charged with giving an immoral performance, was prosecuted by the Munich police in connection with a series of performances given last November before an invited audience of painters, sculptors, and academicians. The final performance was broken up by the police, who invaded the theatre and carried off the dancer to the station.

The case came up for trial on March 8, and ended in the acquittal of Mlle. Villany and her theatrical managers, the co-defendants. The jury held that Mlle. Villany was serving "the higher interests of art," and the question of an offence against public morals was therefore irrelevant.

Half a dozen of the most eminent artists of Munich went into the witness-box to testify to the artistic satisfaction which they derived from watching Mlle. Villany.

Professor Kaulbach, the most celebrated German portrait painter, described the dancer's performance as "thoroughly artistic and respectable." The professor has taken his wife to the performance and she, too, found it unobjectionable. Professor Petersen, president of the Munich Artists' Society, said that he would be happy when the time came when such performances could be given for the masses instead of to a select artistic audience. Such an advance in culture would be a universal blessing, and public morals would not be jeopardised by giving the public an opportunity of admiring the beauty of the human figure,

THE CHINA FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DATE.

The following subscriptions have been received or promised to the China Famine Relief Fund organized by the local Committee:—

	Yen.
Consul-General J. Carey Hall, I.S.O.	25.00
Consul-General Thom. Sammons	25.00
Rev. J. H. Ballagh, D.D.	100.00
Thos. Bibby, Esq.	50.00
Rev. T. Roseberry Good	25.00
H. E. Coles, Esq.	100.00
R. T. Wright, Esq.	25.00
W. H. Rose, Esq.	25.00
G. Miller, Esq.	25.00
S. Isaacs, Esq.	25.00
A. L. Bagwell, Esq.	50.00
L. J. Grimmesey, Esq.	25.00
Ch. Haastin, Esq.	25.00
P. de Chanmorin, Esq. (M.M. Co.)	20.00
Chas. J. Halm, Esq.	25.00
Miss M. L. Winn (Morioka)	5.00
Anonymous (Bluff Hotel)	5.00
M. McS. Buchanan	4.00
International Sleeping Car Co.	20.00
J. R. Thomson, Esq. (No. 21)	10.00
H. H. Koppch, Esq. (H & S. Bank)	10.00
J. H. Lind, Esq.	5.00
J. E. B. de Co. Esq.	5.00
A. C. Leith, Esq.	5.00
W. H. Bredin, Esq.	5.00
R. A. Shaw, Esq.	5.00
P. S. Leigh-Bennett, Esq.	5.00
C. J. Lloyd, Esq.	5.00
Wm. T. Payne, Esq.	5.00
Wm. L. Keane, Esq.	10.00
Miss Moulton	10.00
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A. W. Sherriff, Esq.	10.00
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L. Pollard, Esq.	25.00
A. H. Cole Watson, Esq.	5.00
M. Spencer Smith, Esq.	10.00
R. F. Coggeshall, Esq.	5.00
R. Wallace, Esq.	10.00
Rev. E. S. Booth, M.A.	10.00
Mrs. Emily S. Booth	5.00
Miss E. C. Booth	1.00
E. C. Downing, Esq.	1.00
Miss Loomis	5.00
C. B. W.	1.00
J. R. Geary, Esq.	25.00
John Robert, Esq.	5.00
Rev. W. T. Austen	10.00
Anonymous	5.00
Mrs. E. A. Vincent	1.00
Mrs. Hocken	10.00
Kindergarten of Morioka	4.00
F. S. L.	25.00
Proceeds of Entertainment, "The Magic Sword," per Mrs. E. C. Davis	113.50
R. S. Cole, Esq.	25.00
T. M. Laffin, Esq.	10.00
H. A. Ensworth, Esq.	10.00
K. Van R. Smith, Esq.	5.00
R. D. Cochrane, Esq.	5.00
J. A. Eaton, Esq.	5.00
J. C. Gould, Esq.	5.00
K. Morgan, Esq.	5.00
E. M. Milne, Esq.	5.00
H. H. Nock, Esq.	10.00
H. C. Simonds, Esq.	2.00
F. L. Taverner, Esq.	5.00
W. P. James, Esq.	2.00
Anonymous, S.O. Co.	3.00
Iida Sohichi	10.00
C. B. Stedman, Esq.	5.00
E. O. Waterlow, Esq.	10.00
Chiksan Mining Co.	10.00
M. H. Gobhai & Co.	25.00

Total 1,176.10

Lists are now being circulated among the local foreign firms. Those who, by inadvertence, do not see the lists, and who wish to subscribe, are requested to forward their subscriptions to the Rev. T. Roseberry Good, 48 A. Bluff, who will acknowledge same on behalf of the local Committee.

The cable line between Osaka and Tokushima, which has been under construction since last year, is completed, and a trial communication will be made on the 1st proximo.

A NEW YORK LETTER.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

March 21, 1912.

We think of St. Patrick and blessed Ireland during the month of March, and this year we expected as usual a stormy day, for "the wearing of the green," is the mighty parade, which monopolizes upper Fifth Avenue for most of the afternoon of March 17, gives New York city an emerald hue and makes the great city look as if it had been annexed to Hibernia for the nonce. In Boston the Irishman scored a triumph, for he is nothing if not a politician, when he got an ordinance through the city council requiring the bells to be rung on March 17th, which officially declares that General Washington, with his New England militia, and especially with his battery, erected under cover of night, on Dorchester Heights, did make it rather unpleasant for General Howe and his brave redcoats, so that he and they found it convenient to sail away to Halifax on March 17th. Nevertheless, when the bells ring in Boston on this date, every son of Erin knows that the carillon is in honour of St. Patrick, and gay are the banquets, held in the Atlantic cities chiefly, which celebrate the virtues of the saint. In fact it usually requires several days for the average Irishman to recover fully from his happiness, which is apt to be somewhat prolonged.

The Irishman of a generation ago was the one on whom Americans could depend to do the cheap, rough labour always required in countries either new or old, and if childhood's memories be correct, the Irishman's tasks were usually faithfully done. But to-day, as a prominent New York City officer, born in Ireland assured me, the Irishman leaves manual labour, especially of the rough sort, chiefly to the Italian, while he attends to the finer hand work and professional labour, including politics. Happily for the Manhattan Irishman of last Saturday, March 16, the day was balmy and springlike. Under the inspection of Cardinal Farley, the paraders had dry feet and warm ears, while their noses were distinctly of a less cerulean tint than is usual when Boreas and Mars combine to make things unpleasant.

From Ireland to Japan the transition is not violent when you meet an Irish city father and a Japanese literary man at the same festival. This was my pleasant experience at the dinner given in honour of the dean of American letters, Mr. William Dean Howells, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Col. Harvey, editor of *Harper's Weekly* and the *North American Review*, and executive head of the great publishing house of Harper and Brothers, determined to do honour to the novelist. He sent out invitations to nearly four hundred of the most prominent men and women of letters in the United States, beside many of those in England, who were known to be Mr. Howells' friends, who might send felicitous letters of congratulation. Messrs. Thomas Hardy, Arthur Pinero, H. G. Wells, Israel Zangwill, Anthony Hope Hawkins, Lord Curzon, besides Mrs. Humphrey Ward and others responded by letter; while at the main table, near President Taft, sat Mrs. W. K. Clifford of London.

In the great dining hall at Sherry's, on Fifth Avenue, with a thousand electric lights shedding mild radiance from bowers of greenery and flowers, the American men and women eminent in literature gathered. President Taft came on from Washington expressly for the purpose and seemed to enjoy himself thoroughly. He spoke from the heart and showed an appreciation of Mr. Howells which was based on a personal knowledge of his writings. In a pleasant chat which I had with him, the President recalled the services and fragrant name of Townsend Harris, and expressed his warm appreciation of and confidence in the Japanese. Col. Harvey was toastmaster. Among others present at the main table, were Miss Mildred Howells, the daughter of the novelist; the new President of Princeton University, John Grier Hibben; Miss Ellen Glasgow, William Allen White, Augustus Thomas,

the very successful dramatist; Mrs. Alice Hegan Rice, Hamilton W. Mabie, of the *Outlook*; Miss Dorothy Harvey, daughter of the Mæcenas of the occasion; Mrs. Margaret Deland, Basil King, Winston Churchill (who I suspect, with his "best sellers," has a larger revenue than Mr. Howells); Mrs. M. S. Gerry, the President of the State University of California, Benjamin Ide Wheeler; the veteran editor of *Harper's Magazine*, Henry M. Alden; and Mrs. Florence Earle Coates. Probably one third of the guests were women. The Japanese author present was Mr. Adachi Kinnosuke. Beside the speeches, several of which were notably brilliant, Mr. James Barnes, the writer on naval affairs, dressed as Silas Lapham, in the cut and garb of a half century ago, recited an original poem in praise of the literary creator of this Boston Yankee.

While on the subject of Japanese literary men, it is well to notice a recent excellent work, of Mr. K. K. Kawakami on "American-Japanese Relations: An Inside View of Japan's Policies and Purposes," just published by Fleming H. Revell Co. of New York. It treats of three burning questions, of the Japanese in Manchuria, Korea, and America. It is finely written, and the text is clear and strong. One would suppose that such a book would lay forever the ghost that cries "War! War with Japan!" Nevertheless, the greed of gold among American lovers of the dollar, who wish to get up a war to sell their pork and beans, steel and gunpowder, at war prices, and to get fat contracts in order to have young men slaughtered like hogs, while "Old Glory" is waved over the shame, is too great to be resisted. Furthermore, people in the metropolis, who require at least two newspapers a day, to help pass away the time, must have plenty of cayenne and mulligatawny to flavor their daily nourishment; while newspapers that are governed entirely by the counting house will do anything to sell their inked paper. So, in last evening's *New York Scribe*, I read in a big head line at the top of the paper: U.S. Rushes Fleet to Far East, and, in smaller letters below, the following "scarehead": "Jap plan to seize Philippines; U.S. ships rush to Far East."

I notice also that Prof. Longford has gotten out a solid volume on "Japan of the Japanese," one of a series. It follows his excellent work on "The Story of Korea." E. P. Dutton Co. announces for early publication, "The Creed of One-Half of Japan," by the late Rev. Arthur Lloyd, whose untimely decease we all mourn. The late Professor F. H. King of the University of Wisconsin, who after many months of study in China and Japan and a run through Korea, produced a remarkable work entitled "Farmers of Forty Centuries, or Permanent Agriculture in China, Korea, and Japan." It is published at Madison, Wis. by his widow, Mrs. F. H. King. To its text and abundant illustrations, Dr. Liberty H. Bailey, President of the State Agricultural College of Ithaca, N.Y., contributes an excellent preface.

At several Japanese functions in New York, during what we may call St. Patrick's week, I had the pleasure of meeting several old Japanese friends; Prof. Edward Morse, Miss R. Scidmore, Mr. Spieden, who served on the U.S. *Portsmouth* in Commodore Perry's expedition; Professor Smith Munroe, of Columbia University, formerly of Tokyo and Yezo, and others, especially at the reception given by Dr. Takamine to Ambassador Chin'ia and Baroness Chinda. In his beautiful house, on Riverside Drive, fronting the Hudson and close to the equestrian statue of General Franz Siegel, he had gathered a brilliant company to welcome the new envoy. The opening or reception rooms, on the first floor of the house, have been modelled after the best rooms in the Nijo castle in Kyoto and the effect is altogether pleasing, there being a richness of effect in wood, gold and lacquer, marked with that restraint and horror of the too-much, in which the Japanese so closely approach the Greeks. Dr. Takamine has an American lady

for his wife, and his two handsome sons are in Yale University. It was delightful, indeed, to meet so many people who have been in China and Japan, and to renew the old associations of the early and later Meiji days.

When, later in the week, in the apartments in Gramercy Square, of Miss Emma Thursby, formerly New York's most distinguished soprano, and who had spent a year in Japan, we assembled again, many noted musical people were seen in the throng of lovers of Japan. The chief attraction was the singing of Madam Takaori, of Tokyo, who was robed in light blue native costume, and who sang a number of pieces both in her native tongue and of European composition. Her voice is contralto, but of astonishing range, depth, tone and colour. Many who had supposed that the Japanese could not compass the standard register were surprised at this lady's mastery of difficult musical themes, as well as by the sweetness of her rendering. Her husband is engaged in the work of so mastering the music of the Occident as to be able to set much of it to the Japanese score, and, vice versa, with Japanese music, as rendered on Occidental lines. Certainly the singing of Madam Takaori marked, to at least one individual, an epoch in the musical history of Japan as he recalls that episode, when, even before the days of Meiji, Mrs. James H. Ballagh, at Yokohama, with an elect youth and at a psychological moment persuaded and enabled the lad to reach the highest note in the scale. Then, after two or three weeks practice, with a picked class of boys, she astonished Dr. J. C. Hepburn and Rev. E. W. Syle, both scholarly gentlemen and versed in Oriental music, by having her boys sing several of our simpler musical compositions. Possibly from that day may be dated the wonderful advance which, through such teachers as Messrs. Mason and House, and through others, whose names the present writer does not at this moment recall, has been made in the mastery of the music of the world. W.E.G.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

It does not require a prophet—nor the son of one—to forecast the ultimate future of business in the Philippines if what is known as the Jones Bill passes Congress and becomes law.

Briefly, the Bill, which is fathered by Congressman Jones, one of the House leaders, proposes to do away with the present government about the middle of next year, and to substitute in its place a legislature altogether elective, with a president appointed from Washington;—this condition to be in force for seven years, when, if the Filipinos have shown themselves capable of self government, the entire control of the country is to be placed in their hands, and the United States is to relinquish the archipelago *in toto*.

The present plan of government includes two houses, the Philippines Commission, consisting of seven members, presided over by a Governor-General and a Vice Governor-General; the majority of the whole body being American; and the Assembly, or lower house, wholly composed of Filipinos. The Assembly meets yearly, sessions lasting about three months, while the Commission may meet at any time.

The Commission has been in existence since the formation of the civil government in 1901, when the islands were released from military government, President Taft being sent out as the first Governor-General. The Assembly, however, has only been organized three years. There has already been a great deal of friction between the two bodies, however, and from the standpoint of the Americans, the Commission has acted as a brake, as it were, to the more restive Assembly.

Consequently, if the Commission be withdrawn, as the Jones Bill proposes, it will be seen that the Filipinos would run matters to suit themselves, for even if the President was invested

with the veto power, as in the case of the President of the United States, it is hardly likely that the wishes of a solitary American would be either consulted or heeded, and therefore his veto power is practically valueless.

For that matter, the Jones bill does not even stipulate that the President must be an American—it merely says he "shall be appointed from Washington," meaning by the President of the United States. If President Taft is re-elected, he would have the power of this appointment, and as he has always shown a great favoritism for "our little brown brothers," it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that he might take the course referred to.

In any event, if the Jones Bill is passed, the commercial future of the Islands, as far as America is concerned, will be practically doomed. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons why Mr. Jones would not have the bill operative for over a year, is to give American business men a chance to sell out, for no sane man who has ever lived in the Islands and tells the truth will say that Americans could still do business once the United States had loosened its hold.

There always was, is now, and always will be, friction between Americans and the Latin races or their prototypes. Witness Mexico at present, where practically all the animosity is against the Americans. Those familiar with South and Central American events of the last two decades (and the writer is one) will recall various unpleasant experiences between Americans and the people of the various countries south of the United States. An Englishman, a German, or in fact practically any European, will get along beautifully with the Latin, but the American, in the majority of cases, is hated. And the Filipino, who is a type of the Latin, does not particularly adore the American. Furthermore, he never will. Nature never intended assimilation, and nature always conquers. The Filipino, as a class, dislikes and even hates the American for his pushing, strenuous way of doing things, and the American, in turn, despises the Filipino for his tropical laziness.

A case very much to the point and the most striking in evidence in Manila, is the Manila hotel. Announcements of an opening date have been made for over a year now, yet the building is not ready, though it has been in course of construction for over two years. American business men voyaging to the Islands ask many questions, and rapidly acquire information which differs radically from the glowing reports sent out by high salaried officials in Manila, and by merchants there who have their own axes to grind. The fact of the matter is that it is already hard enough to get more American capital to enter the Philippines, and if the Jones Bill passes Congress, it will be a case of good-bye altogether.

The uncertain attitude of the United States with reference to its insular protégé is the cause of this primarily. American capitalists who have visited the Islands recognize the vast commercial possibilities of the country in several widely different fields, but they are not going to take any chances of investments when it is impossible to foretell the political future of the country for even a very few years.

A German, at present in Yokohama, who is interested in the tobacco business in Northern Luzon, told the writer a day or two ago that in his section many of the Filipinos did not want independence. This may be true. It ought to be, simply because some of them must have sense enough to realize the fact that they are a dozen times better fed, clothed and paid since the American invasion than before it.

Yet the Filipinos as a nation employ an "agitator" to travel all over the United States, spreading the gospel of independence, and preying on the sympathies of the susceptible Americans in the States, to whom the word "independence" naturally acts as a most powerful inducement towards the desired end.

To sum up, all the Americans in the Islands who hold positions, and the men already in busi-

ness, want present conditions retained. The vast majority of the people of the United States who ever give the subject more than a passing thought, want them dropped.

The popular impression in the United States is that the Philippines are and ever will be a costly "white elephant." Insular Government officials and mercantile interests meet this allegation with the statement that the United States only pays for the military forces quartered in the Islands. There are now about 17,000 men and officers there, and allowing an average expense of \$2.00 per day, and that is not an extravagant figure for the best paid army by far in the world, the total reaches to the neighbourhood of \$1,000,000 a month, or \$12,000,000 annually. In addition to which, a vast sum is being spent for fortifications, quartermaster's supplies, etc., for the Islands cannot yet raise hay. Everything has to be imported. Therefore, it will not surprise Americans familiar with Philippine conditions, both in the Islands and the United States, if the Jones Bill passes, and if it does, American business interests will have to "stand from under."

JAPAN'S SILK INDUSTRY.

Writing upon Japan's silk industry the *Chugan Shogyo* calls attention to the marked development made in the past decade, and to the paramount importance of improving the quality.

Of all branches of industry in this country, observes the paper, silk production is the one that has attained the most remarkable development. In the year 1901 the output of silk amounted to 10,940,000 *kin* and the amount of export to 8,697,000 *kin*, valued at some 74,667,000 *yen*. In the year 1910, the total amount of production reached almost 18,716,000 *kin*, which means an increase of 7,776,000 *kin*, while the export was about 14,670,000 *kin* or 130,182,000 *yen* in value,—an increase by some 5,973,000 *kin* or 55,115,000 *yen* in value, as shown in the following table:—

Year	Amount of Product. Thousand Kin.	Amount of Export. Thousand Kin.	Value of Export. Thousand Yen.
1901	10,940	8,697	74,667
1902	11,205	8,078	86,859
1903	11,478	7,315	74,428
1904	11,629	9,658	88,740
1905	11,464	7,241	71,845
1906	12,897	10,383	110,442
1907	14,558	9,272	116,430
1908	15,892	11,455	108,312
1909	17,129	13,348	123,760
1910	19,716	14,670	130,182

As will be seen by the above table, the output of silk in the year 1910 is almost double of that in the year 1901.

According to investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the total production of silk aggregated in the year 1901 about 19,229,000 kilo, China occupying the first place with an output amounting to 7,306,000 kilo, followed by Japan with 4,500,000 kilo, and Italy with 4,290,000 kilo. In the year 1910, however, Japan outstripped China with a total amounting to over 8,800,000 kilo, thereby heading the list as shown in the following table:—

AMOUNT OF SILK PRODUCTION.		
Countries.	1910 Thou. kilo	1901 Thou. kilo
* Japan	8,890	4,500
* China	7,845	7,306
† Italy	3,947	4,290
Persia	540	255
Caucasus	520	440
Syria	515	425
Anatolia	310	418
Austria	355	325
France	320	64
Others	—	—

World's Gross Total ... 24,350 19,229

* The figures for Japan and China indicate the amount of export.

† The figures for Italy indicate the amount produced out of domestic cocoons.

Japan's output thus increased from a quarter in

1901 up to one-third of the world's total production in 1910, Japan outstripping China and leaving Italy far behind in the short space of ten years. It may be noted, however, that Italy produces about a million kilo per annum out of imported cocoons, besides the amount produced from the domestic cocoons as shown in the above table. The total of the Italian production in 1910, therefore, aggregated in reality something like five million kilo. But even with this, Italy still falls behind China, not to speak of Japan. It is true that owing to the unfavourable weather that prevailed in Italy throughout the year 1910, the production of that country was more or less decreased as compared with ordinary years. At the same time the output for the year shows an increase over the figures recorded a decade before. China, also, made more or less advance in the total amount of production in the same period of ten years, but still falls short by eight million kilo. So far as France and other countries are concerned, they are left at so great a distance behind Japan that there is little chance of them overtaking this country. The following table shows the rate of increase in the production of silk during the past decade:—

	*Japan. Thou. kilo.	*China. Thou. kilo.	†Italy. Thou. kilo.	Whole World. Thou. kilo.
1901	4,501	7,306	4,290	19,229
1902	4,770	5,819	4,477	18,764
1903	4,608	5,391	3,526	18,135
1904	5,827	6,349	4,900	20,500
1905	4,619	6,010	4,440	18,830
1906	5,992	6,224	4,745	20,913
1907	6,370	6,405	4,820	22,600
1908	7,570	8,016	4,486	24,079
1909	8,372	7,483	4,251	24,510
1910	8,890	7,845	3,947	24,350

* The figures for Japan and China show the amount of raw silk exported.

† The figures for Italy show the amount produced out of domestic cocoons.

Although Japan has occupied the first rank during the past decade, it is doubtful whether she can maintain her present position for the decade to come. A great deal depends upon the assiduity with which she endeavours to further develop the industry. As a wise teacher well remarked, those who think themselves standing should beware lest they fall. Besides, notice should be taken of the fact that Japan's present superior position in the silk industry is in fact only in respect of amount of production. So far as the quality of the product is concerned there is still much to be desired, especially as compared with the Italian product. In this particular field of international industrial competition, no victory can be considered satisfactory that has not been won both on amount and quality. If there is anything that claims special attention on the part of silk producers, it is the improvement of the quality. While it is important for them to endeavour to increase the amount of production, it is by no means less important—or rather more important—for them to make efforts for the improvement of quality, inasmuch as the former depends in effect much upon the latter, if the increase of product is to insure a corresponding increase in the profit. Now that silkworm breeding stations are established, the improvement of the quality of raw silk should not be a difficult task. The seventh annual general meeting of silk producers is to be held shortly in capital. Let us hope that they will take the opportunity to discuss the above points thoroughly, so that they may be enabled to further develop this most promising industry.

A Kusatsu-Karuzawa Light Railway Company has been established with a capital of 700,000 *yen*. The capital is divided into 14,000 shares, of which 3,000 will be open for public subscription. It has been also decided that for five years, including the year of the Company's establishment, subsidies of five and of two per cent. will be granted per annum from the Government and Kusatsu respectively, while for another five years the town will give an annual allowance of five per cent.

"THE SOCIAL CRISIS IN JAPAN."

BY SHUIMASA IDDITTI.

London, February, 1912.

Under the somewhat sensational heading "The Social Crisis in Japan," Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, who have visited Japan on their recent tour to the East, write about their impressions of the country in the January number of the *Crusade*, organ of the National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution. The article seems to have been sent from Japan as a sort of greetings to their friends in England, and is, therefore, of the nature of a sketch rather than an essay. As a matter of fact, at the very outset, they make an apology that they do not presume to give any full or detailed account of their impressions. Such being the case, we must not take the article as a deliberate exposition of their opinion on the country. The article has, however, interested me (who am a Japanese) so much that I am tempted to express Japanese views on some of the subjects touched upon therein.

In the first place, I must say that their observations are, on the whole, wonderfully accurate and subtle, and that they give some valuable suggestions which Japan will do well to keep in mind. I am especially pleased that they have got such insight into rural Japan, and that they appreciate some attributes of our 'family system.' As for their remarks on industrial life, they deserve, I think, special attention.

They seem to have been simply charmed with the scenery of the country, inasmuch as they praise its beauties in a rather flowery language. "Who could adequately describe the extraordinary charm of that wonderful country, which we have found far more beautiful than we had ever imagined?" For us, Japanese, the nature of England has as many, if not more, charms as that of our own country. In fact, even the London fogs present some charms to the Japanese eye. I should not, however, be surprised to hear an Englishman speak so highly of the Scenery of Japan, and the Webbs' statement may not perhaps be an exaggeration. For the Japanese scenery is so different from the English. But when they say, speaking of city life, ".....and there are also half a dozen giant cities as large as Manchester or Liverpool, with Universities and Palaces and sights" we cannot but call it an *o-seiji* or more compliment. It is a pity that such unbiassed and clear-sighted observers as the Webbs could not escape the common unnecessary exaggerations.

I have been amused to read the passage:—"It is, to begin with, so 'civilised' a country that one goes everywhere, even in the most lonely forests and slums of its great cities, without the slightest fear of molestation by man or beast." The passage makes me suspect that they had supposed before that Japan was a country where one must travel at the risk of one's life. I do not mean to accuse them of ignorance for that matter, but I rather think that it shows the real extent to which Japan is known to the English public.

In speaking of rural life, they say:—"Of the charm of rural Japan, we cannot speak too highly," and go on to give a picture of the happy village life; and make the pronouncement:—"In short, rural Japan represents the perfection of 'la petite culture' and 'la petite industrie'."

"In no country of Europe or America that we have seen is there as large a proportion of the population in the position of being 'their own masters'; . . . Here, at any rate, is the 'proprietary state,' with the family group as the economic unit, which Mr. Hilaire Belloc finds so attractive. And, certainly, nowhere is this society more alluring than in rural Japan."

When one follows them as far as here, one is naturally inclined to conclude that the Webbs place some, nay much, faith in Japanese rural life. But a little further on, we read:—" . . . this community of small peasant cultivators and village retailers is practical democracy. Absorbed in the incessant toil that their fields and handicrafts

demand, their horizons bounded practically by their family, or at most their village, concerns, these thriving millions of rural families are plainly incapable of organising, controlling, criticising, or even intelligently comprehending the large enterprises characteristic of a community of the size of twentieth century States." Again they say:—"In the twentieth century State, peasant cultivation and rural handicrafts are, to the extent that they make up the community, incompatible, beyond the affairs of the family and the village, with effective political democracy. This, at any rate, is our comment on Rural Japan."

Here we are plunged into disillusion. Or perhaps I had better say, the Webbs are disillusioned. When they looked at rural Japan without any political consideration, they regarded it as simply charming and the envy of the world. The moment, however, that they view it in the light of their political democracy, they are disappointed and begin to doubt—it does not conform to their professed principles.

It is quite true that rural Japan is devoid of political democracy. The peasants and handicraftsmen are strange to political activity. They do not, as the Webbs say, take part in 'movements.' These are plain facts. But whether political democracy will do them good or not is quite another question. From the tone of the above quoted words of the Webbs, it seems that they are dissatisfied with rural Japan so far as it does not agree with the ideas of political democracy to which, I understand, they are wedded.

As Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb decline in their article to discuss whether such a social order can long be maintained even in rural Japan in the twentieth century, I shall not propose here to go into discussion on the subject; but I should like to express the view that Japan ought to maintain by all means this happy estate of the peasant community where everyone is 'his own master,' and that the matter is not an impossibility so long as the Japanese do not cease to live on rice. The movement for the small holdings in England clearly shows that even in such a great industrial country, healthy peasant life is necessary. In fact, I always think that the land question is the very root of the social problems which beset the present England. In this respect, Japan is, I think, a step ahead of England; that is to say, is better off. The rural community is really the pride of Japan. There is, however, certainly a fear as to whether this state of things can resist the tide of factory industry. But I am very doubtful if this fear, as the Webbs seem to suggest, can be averted by the mere power of political democracy. It depends upon the growth of industrialism and capitalism. In other words, the question is whether industries and commerce can be so developed as not to affect this organisation.

I quite agree with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb when they say that Japan is now, "with its surprising and rapid development of a native capitalism, reproducing, with minute accuracy, all the features of the industrial England of 1790-1840." With all my national pride, I cannot pretend to deny that industrial Japan is about one century behind England. What the Webbs call, "Social Crisis in Japan" can really be found in industrial life. They describe the wretched conditions of factory operatives and miners, making comparisons with the industrial history of England. Wretched as they are, they may not yet be so terrible as in the England of the Forties. But there are signs that Japan is just now on the brink of that dreadful period which England had experienced. It is said that history repeats itself. But whenever I think of this question, I am reminded of Oscar Wilde's words:—"Does tragedy repeat itself?" Must Japan tread the same road as England? How Japan comes out of this crisis is an interesting question for students of economics. On the other hand, Japan will do well to take lessons from English history. Ought we simply to rely upon the 'Invisible Hand,' pursuing the *laissez-faire* principles? Are the

evils which came in the wake of the English industrial revolution also to overtake the island Empire of the Far East? Must the Poor Law Commission also find its place in the allied country of England? These are the questions which now confront industrial Japan.

I should like to say a few words as to the Webbs' allusion to Western civilisation. In passing their judgment upon Japanese institutions, they frequently use such terms as "the ideals of Western civilisation" and "civilisation of a high Western standard." They seem to believe that it must be taken for granted that Japan should be judged by the standard of Western civilisation and that Japan is merely following in the steps of Western civilisation. It is true that almost all modern institutions of Japan are on the models of Western countries. But it does not follow that Japan must, therefore, be gauged by the standard of Western civilisation. I was once talking with an Englishman about Japanese food, and when I told him that the Japanese did not have pudding, he said with real sympathy:—"Poor Jap!" Now I am afraid that most of Western writers on Japan have the same presentiment as that innocent Englishman. I think it is quite questionable whether Japan should take the same direction as Western civilisation. On the other hand, I should like to ask Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb if they believe that Western civilisation is a success or it is in the right direction.

Their remarks on the relations between the 'family system' and old age destitution seem to me to be a bit self-contradictory. First, they pay a tribute to the 'family system,' attributing lack of old age destitution to the system. Then they spoil their praise by declaring that "Japan escapes old age pauperism partly because the neglect of health in early life prevents there being many aged!" Well, I think this is a too sweeping assertion. As a natural outcome of the 'family system,' we do not have old age in social activities (This is now changing). The retirement from actual world at comparatively early age partly accounts for the death of the people while they are not advanced in years. On the other hand, here in England the necessity to work to the 'last drop of blood' makes people drag on their life to advanced age. It cannot, therefore, be pronounced at once that neglect of health in early life has the virtue of preventing old age destitution in Japan.

Perhaps the Webbs are justified in saying that the "greatest blot on the civilisation of Japan is its treatment of women." And it is not, they say, so much the subjection of the wife in the family as the subjection of the young woman to the factory owner, the geisha-master, or the 'licensed quarter.' Both men and women are quite awake to the question, and there is a movement for the 'emancipation' and 'self-consciousness' of women. So the 'blot' is recognised by the Japanese themselves. But I should like to say something about the 'licensed quarter.' The Japanese authorities unreservedly acknowledge that it is a great shame to allow the 'licensed quarter,' but the shame is not peculiar to Japan; it is a universal shame to the whole of mankind on the face of the earth. So long as human weakness is what it is, we cannot stop the 'shameful trade.' The question is, therefore, how its evil can be limited. In so far as its limitation can be realised, the Japanese system is, in my opinion, far better than the English. If there be any hypocrite or ignorant person who says that there is no prostitution in London, he has only to walk through Piccadilly after dark or go to Hyde Park in the evening to convince himself of his hypocrisy or ignorance. As Mr. Price Collier says, "Here in London, the most shameless parading of harlotry is held under your nose." I cannot understand those ever-obliging foreign missionaries in Japan who have taken upon themselves the self-imposed task to abolish the "licensed quarters" in Osaka and Tokyo. I wonder if they are going to overrun Japanese cities with "street walkers" as in Western countries.

(We publish the above absolutely as it left the writer's hands.—ED. J. M.)

CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF COMMUNICATIONS.

ADDRESS BY COUNT HAYASHI.

As previously reported, a general conference of the Chiefs of the Communication Superintendence Bureaux (Teishin Kwanri Kyoku) was held on the morning of the 9th instant in the Department of Communications.

Count Hayashi, Minister of Communications, in addressing the gathering drew its attention to the establishment of the Readjustment Commission. As they were all well aware, in consideration of the present financial conditions, the Government, with a view to the readjustment of both the State finances and the administration, in compiling the budget for the present fiscal year decided to refrain from any fresh undertaking, and on the other hand to seek to improve the administrative system by establishing the Readjustment Commission. As hardly needed stating, such a business as communications would never keep pace with the progress of the times unless its procedure was constantly as far as possible systematised and simplified so as to facilitate transactions, the expansion of the work being also aimed at. He was aware what attention had been paid to this point by the Chiefs of the Superintendence Bureaux but what he would like to emphasize was that in every case there was a tendency towards performing the daily business mechanically. It was by no means an easy task to effect during the course of working hours such a radical renovation as might improve the business in any satisfactory manner, but it was nevertheless important, and even necessary at this juncture, to take a most drastic measure for the fundamental improvement of procedure.

"As regards the arrangements and provision for the work," continued the Minister, "you are so well informed on the matter that there is little room for further suggestion. Only let me hope and trust that you will do your utmost in the dissemination of knowledge among your subordinates, and pay every attention to the importance attaching to the convenience and kind treatment of the public.

"The primary object in regard to electric undertakings lies in the harmonization by the Government of public and private enterprises. It is highly advisable, therefore, that you do not confine your efforts to superintendence only, but also make every possible endeavour for the promotion of the public interest.

"As for marine transportation, the coasting services have been adjusted. It is my sincere desire that you will watch the effect of the above revision and freely make whatever suggestions you think fit. In this context I want to call your attention to the fact that some of the lower class marine employees, being dissatisfied with the treatment accorded to them by ship-owners are often reported to resort to unjust practices. If matters are left to take their own course, this may produce a very evil effect upon our marine business. It is part of your duties to take what you may consider the proper steps to remedy the situation, and prevent any such troubles.

"The Post Office Saving Banks have made a marked progress, but still leave not a little room for further development. The merits of thrift may be considered from many points, but viewed from the standpoint of the State economy, the development of the national wealth depends as much upon habits of thrift as upon production. It is in this sense that I believe the saving banks are worth further encouragement. As an example of the development of post office business it may be mentioned that the Communications Department has decided to arrange for all the post offices in the country to take up, when requested by special banks, the issue of debentures and other loan bonds, and the payment of money or interest due. This business the post offices have never before undertaken, and the success of the system de-

pends entirely upon your careful and faithful endeavour.

"Much depends upon the untiring efforts of your subordinate officials for the realization of what I have thus far suggested to you, and the success of the lower-class officials engaged in this particular field of State work depends in turn not a little upon the vigilance and assiduity with which you conduct your superintendence. At present the officers and employees of the Communications Department number well nigh 80,000 in all, and I am paying particular attention to their treatment in view of the recent rise of prices. I hope you, who are in direct charge, will convince yourselves of the paramount importance of giving them every encouragement, besides proper material allowances. The business will never make a real development unless you so endeavour as to remove from your subordinates' minds the idea that they are working only for their monthly allowances. Remember that the spirit of harmony is an essential condition of business development. For the attainment of all these aims, I can make no more timely suggestion than your special efforts for the spiritual training of subordinates, by means of public lectures and the like.

"In conclusion there is one thing more that I should not omit to mention, and that is the peculiar temptation to which communication officials are naturally exposed at the time of general elections. The date for the general election of the Members of the Diet is now drawing near, and I cannot but hope that you, as Chiefs of the Superintendence Bureaux, will see that your subordinates are aware of the weighty responsibilities devolving upon their shoulders, and will take care that they discharge their respective duties in such a satisfactory manner that none of them will be accused by the public of any dishonorable practices."

FIRE AT THE CAVALRY BARRACKS.

A STAMPEDE OF HORSES.

On Sunday evening about half past seven, a fire broke out in the stables of the Cavalry Regiment of the Imperial Guards at Toyama-ga-hara, Ushigome. Fanned by a strong southerly wind the flames spread rapidly and reduced to ashes seven stables, covering 80 *tsudo*, the veterinary surgeon's office, the canteen and a few other buildings. On the alarm being given, the fire brigades lost no time in rushing to the scene, but when they arrived the stabling was well alight and the deficient water supply practically neutralized their efforts. It was not before the flames had burned for two hours that they were brought under control.

All the horses in the stables, about 200 in number, were turned loose, and rushed into the streets in all directions. Some of them were killed through accident, one at the railway crossing at Tsunohazu, one down the cliff of Kinokunizaka, another at Bentencho, Ushigome, and some others at other spots. Quite a number of casualties are reported, those treated by the Shinjuku police station alone numbering not less than eight. By Monday morning about 130 horses had been recaptured and taken back to the barracks while by noon of the same day the remainder had all been found or accounted for.

An authority is quoted by the *Hochi* as remarking that there is every reason to believe that the outbreak was due to incendiarism but that it will take a few days to identify the culprit. As regards those who were injured by the horses set free, the authorities feel deep sympathy, and have despatched four military surgeons to visit each of the injured. The removal to the newly constructed barracks at Toyama-ga-hara, of the Cavalry Regiment, will have to be postponed until the reconstruction of the burnt buildings. Of the horses set free on the outbreak of the fire, some twenty five returned direct to their own old stables at barracks at Takehashi.

HONOURS FOR JAPANESE BOTANISTS.

The Teikoku Gakushi-in decided at a general meeting held on the 18th instant, to grant awards for their meritorious achievements to Drs. Ariga, Fujikawa, and Ikeno and Prof. Hirase. The ceremony in connexion with the affair will be conducted on May 12th and will be presided over by Dr. Baron Kikuchi, President of the Academy.

Dr. Ikeno and Prof. Hirase have won their laurels for their discoveries in botany. Dr. Ikeno Seichiro, Professor of the Agricultural College in the Imperial University, discovered spermatozoa in the pistils of the Ivory Palm (*Phytolapha macrocarpa*) and published the discovery in the German scientific magazines and in the Records of the University in the 31st year of Meiji. As all students know, botanists divide plants into cryptogamia or flowerless, and phanerogamia, or flowering. This classification by Linnæus has been maintained although it was felt to be unsatisfactory, especially so far as plants standing apparently between the two classes are concerned. Some fifty years ago the discoveries of Dr. Hofmeister made the distinction more definite, cryptogamous plants being distinguished from phanerogamous under the theory that the stamens of the former contained spermatozoa whereas those of the latter did not. Dr. Ikeno in the 30th year of Meiji went to Tanegashima in Kagoshima prefecture, and the careful study he made there of the fertilising action of the Ivory Palm, a phanerogamous plant, resulted in the discovery of a couple of spermatozoa within the pollen tubes of its stamens. Thus the theory that cryptogamous plants were distinguished from phanerogamous plants by the existence or non-existence of spermatozoa was destroyed, it being now generally conceded that there is practically nothing in the two series of plants that distinguish one from the other, viewed from the standpoint of morphology.

Prof. Hirase had also discovered spermatozoa in the stamens of the *ginkgo*. It adds much to the professor's credit that he made the discovery in those fragments of time he could spare from his teaching, some ten years ago, in the Imperial University. He is now at the Hikone Middle School and at the same time engaged in the making of microscopic sections for the Shimazu Biological Samples Institute at Kyoto.

STEAMSHIPS BUILDING IN JAPAN.

According to the authorities concerned, the steamships now building in Japan under the Ship-building Encouragement Law, number ten, with a gross tonnage of 49,500, of which four are for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha. Two are of 6,200 tons each, and are to be named the *Yokohama Maru* and *Shizuoka Maru*, and the other two are of 9,450 and 10,500 tons, and are to be named the *Katori Maru* and *Kashima Maru*. The Home Department's ship, of 1,250 tons, will be named the *Noda Maru* and will be employed for the purpose of dredging the Shimonoseki Straits. Besides the above, there are a couple of vessels for the Railway Bureau, which will be placed on the Fusan-Shimonoseki service, and a ship ordered by the Japan Marine Association, to be named the *Sasaki Maru*, which will be included in the Volunteer fleet. The table below shows the details:—

Ordered By.	Dockyard.	Tonnage.	Horse Power.
N. Y. K.	Mitsubishi	6,200	5,500
"	"	9,450	6,600
"	Kawasaki	6,200	5,500
"	"	3,500	2,800
Railway Bureau	"	10,500	10,000
"	"	3,000	4,500
Marine Association	"	3,500	8,500
"	"	2,900	900
Home Department Uruga	"	1,250	—

THE JAPANESE FARMER.

In an essay on the social conditions in Japan, written by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb and published by the British National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution, the following passages occur: "Of the charm of rural Japan we can not speak too highly. . . . Rural Japan represents the perfection of *la petite culture* and *la petite industrie*. In no country of Europe or America that we have seen is there so large a proportion of the population in the position of being their own masters; owning themselves the instruments of production, working for their own profit, occupying their own little houses, worshipping at their own family shrines and consuming very largely the products of their own labour. Here, in any rate, is the 'proprietary State,' with the family group as the economic unit, which Mr. Hilaire Belloc finds so attractive. And, certainly, nowhere is this society more alluring than in rural Japan. Whether such a social order could, in this twentieth century, ever be created anew—whether, even in rural Japan, it can be long maintained in existence—we need not now discuss. What must be noted are several concomitants, not usually remembered, which rural Japan forces on our attention. In the first place it is a community of superstitions of all sorts, wedded to the old ways, with a tremendous binding force of national sentiment. Perhaps, as the other side of this feature, this community of small peasant cultivators and village retailers is practically devoid of political democracy. Absorbed in the incessant toil that their fields and handicrafts demand, their horizons bounded practically by their family or at most their village concerns, these thriving millions of rural families are plainly incapable of organising, controlling, or even intelligently comprehending the large enterprises characteristic of a community of the size of twentieth century States."

According to this estimate the Japanese farmer keeps aloof from politics and fixes his whole attention on his occupation, which, considering the very scanty means at his disposal, yields great results. "By abundant hard labour," say Mr. and Mrs. Webb, "minute care and abundant manuring, huge crops of rice, millet, beans, mulberry, maize, buckwheat and barley are raised under the sub-tropical sun."

It would be impossible to speak too highly of many of the characteristics of the Japanese farmer. Yet he is a product of feudalism. There is no denying that. His character, his ways, his superstitions, his prejudices, form a relic of old Japan. No class of people have been so little affected by the startling changes of the Meiji era as the farmers. What they were in the early sixties of the last century, that in all essential respects they are now. The attempts that have been made to awaken an interest in politics among them have usually failed. The attitude the farmer takes to political questions is one of stolid indifference.

No class of people in this country are so inured to hardship as the farmers. Under feudal rule they were subjected to such sharp discipline that fortitude, perseverance and long-suffering reached a high state of development among them. The marvellous powers of endurance which they displayed in Japan's two great wars were acquired in their rural homes, where year in and year out they had been battling with adversity of sundry kinds. Japan's best soldiers have during the past thirty years been drawn from the agricultural classes. And to-day, by all Japanese discerning publicists, the farmers are rightly regarded as the backbone of the country.

Perhaps no modern writer has given more attention to the economic and social condition of Japanese farmers to-day than Dr. Yokoi Tokiyoshi. From an essay of his which appeared in the *Kyōiku Jiron* some months ago, entitled *A Plea for the better Education of our Village Farmers*, I propose to make a few extracts. "The truth is," says Dr. Yokoi, "that our small farmers are in great straits to-day.

Despite the fact that they have to keep outward appearances up to a fairly high standard, the amount of money they make is extremely small, their daily savings not amounting to more than 10 *sen*. So that their whole business only enables them to put by 36 *yen* 50 *sen* a year. Since they are obliged to work incessantly to make both ends meet, there is no way of adding to their earnings as things are now situated. The insufficiency of their earnings to keep the wolf from the door is proved by the fact that in recent years they have been borrowing money at a fearfully rapid rate. The amount borrowed on land to-day stands at one thousand million *yen*. Besides this there is a debt of five hundred million *yen* which has been loaned to farmers on other than land security. In poor Prefectures like Fukushima, the average amount of money borrowed per house is 320 *yen*, and even in well-to-do Prefectures like Shizuoka it is not less than 150 *yen*. Though some of these debts have been incurred by big landowners, they only constitute a very small proportion of the total sum borrowed. Since the outlay of the small farmer goes on increasing year after year, unless the State intervenes, nothing can save him from ruin a few decades hence. It is plain to everybody that the purchase of farms by capitalists, which is now going on, will prove the ruin of the small farmer; and his ruin will certainly involve a decline in the nation's energy and a drying up of the spring whence come our sturdy and hardy troops. Never do I think of this but my spirits go down to zero.

"The present economic condition of the small farmers and what has produced it should form the subject of official investigation, and since retention of these men on the land means so much to the country, the Government should devise measures for releasing them from the claims of usurers, and for restoring them to their former state of independence.

"Notwithstanding that the grain produced by our farmers represents the bigger half of the country's revenue, and notwithstanding that without the fine moral qualities and physical strength which these men possess, the brilliant victories won on land and on the sea by Ōyama and Tōgō would have been impossible, there are few people in this country who appreciate the services they have rendered to the State. They are referred to as 'mere water-drinking peasants' or they are said to be quite indifferent to all that is going on around them (*Saisei-mushi, born tipsy and dying in a dream*). The whole of our educational system is characterized by an exaltation of officials at the expense of farmers and others. The heroes who are held up as models in our State Schools are all military men, high officials, or scholars, never farmers. According to the teaching of most of our educationists, life is hardly worth living unless you can become an official. However much our civilisation may advance and however superior the organization of society may become, the need of men for high-class work will always be small and the need of men for middle-class, or low-class work will invariably be great. . . . While this is so, schoolmasters to-day do nothing but urge boys to try and reach high positions in life. What our schools are engaged in is the endeavour to create thousands of ministers of state, heads of companies, admirals, generals and field-marshal.

"The prevailing worship of officialdom is having a very bad effect on the lower orders of society. Many very humble people grow up with the notion that there is no such honour as to become an officer of some kind or other. This accounts for the fact that at Hiroshima, Sendai and Okayama, whenever it is announced that an addition to the Police force is to be made and that applications may be sent in, there are always several score more applicants than can be accommodated. Of course I have the highest regard for the duties performed by policemen. Unless these men discharge their duties faithfully, honest

* Intended to show their inferiority to the sake-drinking *samurai* and officials.

citizens can not live in peace for a single day. I know full well how important an office is that of a guardian of the public peace. Therefore, supposing that these provincial applicants for employment as policemen made the importance of the office they wish to fill the chief reason for seeking appointments, I should of course not be backward in honouring them. But this is not the motive that actuates them. They are bent on becoming officers in order to be able to put on airs."

"As a consequence of the practice of representing officials as occupying a far more important position than any private citizen, numbers of youths educated in State schools get to dislike the humdrum life of the small farmer and flock up to the big towns in search of employment under the Government as policemen, gate-keepers or office servants."

Dr. Yokoi is of opinion that those engaged in education can help the small farmers in three ways. I. They can impress upon them the fact that their occupation is a very honourable one and make them feel that the whole stability and prosperity of the county largely depend on them. II. They can preach the doctrine of equality and put an end to the silly distinctions that are made between the big landowner and the small farmer. III. They can devise some means for providing recreations and pleasures for poor farmers.

In a more recent article on the same subject published in the *Shin Nihon*, Dr. Yokoi gives a detailed statement of the chief causes of the present pitiable condition of the small farmer, which he tells us is founded on a minute examination of official statistics collected by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Briefly stated they are as follows:—(1) The growth of aversion to hard labour. (2) The growth of luxurious habits unknown in former times. (3) The continued observance of foolish old customs in a very extravagant manner. (4) The existence of scoundrels in every village who rob the farmer of his earnings. (5) Appeals for subscriptions to societies and funds of all sorts and descriptions, and heavy losses caused by forced sales of property. (6) The big demands made by educationists for the establishment of higher class schools than are necessary. (7) Expenses connected with elections, which have increased of late at a rapid rate (*senkyōhijō nado no masumasu sōka suru koto*). (8) The decrease of capital in the villages owing to the prevailing tendency to invest money in stocks or to put it into Savings Banks in order to escape taxation.

Dr. Yokoi is of opinion that the yearly expenses incurred by the farmer could be reduced by one half by coöperation of sundry kinds and by the adoption of various measures for reducing outlay. As things are now, the increase of the farmer's comforts, conveniences and general happiness is out of all proportion to the growth of his pecuniary liabilities.

It is very doubtful whether the Government can do much more just at present to help the farmer by providing cheap money. In fact Mr. Yamamoto stated in the Diet a little time ago that no funds were available for this purpose. Concerning the money that has already been advanced by the Government, Baron Ōura expressed himself as follows early last year:—"Perhaps more important to our farmers than cattle, horses, implements and manure (all of which are very deficient) is cheap money. Up till lately they had been borrowing money from usurers at from 12 to 21 per cent. But during the past few years the Government has been loaning large sums to them through various banks. The year before last the sum of 3 million *yen* was advanced to them by the Postal Savings Banks. Last year it was increased to 10 million *yen* and the Industrial Banks provided another 15 million *yen*. This money has been distributed all over the country. The

* Dr. Yokoi classifies these rogues as *haori-goro* and *fukku-koto* (flock-coat) *goro*, and says that sometimes men of this class are the official heads of villages (*Chō-son chō tō mo ō goro-leki pachu* (猪鹿) *to iwaba* [*yo wa tsume ni shika tute oru*] *kora, fukō ni shite, arasoubekazaru no ijitsu de aru*).

loans granted by the Savings Banks are at the rate of 5.8 per cent. and those granted by the Industrial Banks at the rate of 7 or 8 per cent. The condition of our money market does not allow of lower rates than these. These measures, when further extended, ought to greatly improve the state of agriculture in this country."

The question is how much further can they be extended? Though, according to this statement, 25 million yen has been loaned by the Government at comparatively low interest, there still remains a huge debt of 1,005 million yen, carrying, according to all accounts, very high interest. So, what with this and what with the other unfavourable circumstances described above, the immediate outlook for the Japanese farmer is anything but bright. But I for one, as the result of many years of close contact with the rural population in North-East Japan, have great faith in the farmer's power to surmount obstacles of the kind dwelt on somewhat despondently by Dr. Yokoi. The Japanese farmer has been trained in the school of adversity and has inherited from his ancestors a spirit of indomitable pluck and perseverance, which served him in good stead on Chinese battlefields and that will not fail him in the harder struggle with poverty and distress in which he is now engaged.

W. D.

"ONE SUMMER'S DAY."

THE A.D.C. AT THE GAIETY.

A brilliant audience welcomed the first performance of H. V. Esmond's comedy—"One Summer's Day" at the Gaiety Theatre on Friday evening last. It is doubtful if there was a vacant seat in the house, whilst the hearty reception of our local amateurs was so sincere that the repeat performance this evening is certain to be well patronised.

Whilst tendering every praise to the actors and actresses, one is reluctantly forced to admit that several of them did not actually get into the parts they depicted. Somehow or other, they failed to strike the genuine note. They were letter perfect and acted conscientiously and artistically; but there was something missing, and that was reality. One does not like to criticise an amateur company as one would a professional company; and it is only because the Yokohama A.D.C. has built up for itself such a high standard of efficiency that one now ventures to point out this slight falling off in their latest production. Only two members of the caste actually got there; viz.—Mrs E. C. Davis, and Mr. A. H. Windett.

The comedy itself is a thing of gossamer, being dainty, fragile, and in places, exquisitely tender and charming. It is because of these qualities that it is so difficult to act; for it demands the finest acting possible for its successful interpretation; and unless the true note is struck at the beginning and maintained throughout, the play appears artificial and strained. Nervousness may have been responsible on Friday for many of the deficiencies and in all probability, the second performance this evening will have that touch of actuality necessary that makes all the difference.

The plot is of the slightest. Major Dick Rudyard, a big good tempered Army man, has adopted the "kiddie" of an old chum and has somehow or other become accepted as the father of the boy. This interferes with his love for Maysie and it is not until the last act, that, on the death "off" of the kiddie, his old friend and junior officer, Phil Marsden, tells the real facts of the case to Maysie and so enables the lovers to understand each other. Interwoven with this little love story is the attempt of the kiddie's mother, a gipsy woman, to blackmail the Major, whilst other characters fit through the play and provide an interesting background.

Concerning the acting of Mrs. E. C. Davis, it is impossible to give this talented lady too high praise for her splendid performance. She was the character from the beginning to the end and it is doubtful if she has ever acted better. Her

fine voice, her splendid elocution, and her magnetic stage presence lifted her acting far above the realms of the amateur stage, whilst her command of passion and pathos gripped the audience with an intensity that was singularly real. This was especially so in her big scene with the Major, in which she over-reaches herself in the attempt to heavily blackmail him. This took the house by storm.

Mr. Windett was also very fine as the Urchin. Not for a moment was he out of the picture, whilst his gift of dialect enabled him to give a really masterful performance. He was the typical gutter-snipe of the streets and the many exceedingly funny lines that fell to him were rendered with a point that was irresistible.

Mr. A. E. V. Cooper as Major Dick Rudyard played artistically and with great restraint. The part is a very difficult one to portray and it speaks volumes for Mr. Cooper's ability that he carried it through with the success that he did. Behind the apparent laziness and indolence of the man, could be seen the quiet strength of his nature; and in his scene with Maysie in the last act, he showed himself capable of strong emotional acting. Mrs. Ward was also very good as Maysie and gave an interesting and sympathetic rendering of the part. Mr. R. McP. Austin was also in good form as Phil Marsden, especially in the last act.

The minor characters were well interpreted, particularly the roles of Theodore Bendyshe, the artist, by Mr. C. A. Fraser; Robert Hoddesden, by Mr. F. W. Blackie; his nephew Tom, by Mr. P. F. Anderson; Seth, a gipsy, by Mr. F. G. Palmer; and Bess, by Mrs. Cumming.

The following is the full programme of the evening:—

"One Summer's Day," a Comedy in 3 Acts by H. V. Esmond.

Characters:

Major Dick Rudyard.....	Mr. A. E. V. Cooper
Phil Marsden.....	Mr. R. McP. Austin
Theodore Bendyshe.....	Mr. C. A. Fraser
Robert Hoddesden.....	Mr. F. W. Blackie
Tom, his nephew.....	Mr. P. F. Anderson
Seth, a Gipsy.....	Mr. F. G. Palmer
The Urchin.....	Mr. A. H. Windett
Irene, Hoddesden's niece.....	Miss Henrietta McIvor
Maysie, his ward.....	Mrs. F. W. R. Ward
Mr Theodore Bendyshe.....	Mrs. E. Eddison
Bess, a Gipsy.....	Mrs. W. M. Cumming
Chiara, a Gipsy.....	Mrs. E. C. Davis

Act I.—An Island on the Thames (Morning).

Act II.—The same (Afternoon).

Act III.—The Lawn of Mr. Hoddesden's House on the Thames (Evening).

Selections during the Evening by The Bijou Orchestra.

Stage Manager: Mr. G. G. Brady
 Scenery: Mr. Ch. Bastin
 Musical Director: Mr. C. H. Thorn
 Properties: Mr. P. F. Anderson
 Acting Manager: Mr. F. W. R. Ward

SATURDAY'S CROSS-COUNTRY RACE.

Under the auspices of the Y.A.R.C., the third cross-country race of the season took place on Saturday afternoon. The course was nine miles and a good crowd of spectators met at the Boathouse to see the competitors start. The men were sent away just before 3 o'clock, the official starters and timekeepers being Messrs. H. G. Ball and G. Allcock. Eleven men participated, their names and handicaps being as follows:—

L. D. Tomoye.....	6 min.
N. Brockhurst.....	6 "
P. Hornstein.....	6 "
G. H. Box.....	4½ "
W. Russell.....	4½ "
H. Pors.....	4 "
T. A. Levack.....	Scratch
E. V. Stevens.....	Scratch
K. M. M. Tresize.....	Scratch
S. A. Vincent.....	Scratch

Tomoye was in excellent fettle and won easily, covering the distance in 1 hr. 8 m. 5 sec. Pors

came in second (1 hr. 9 m. 30 sec.) and Russell third (1 hr. 9 m. 32 sec.). The Boy Scouts under Mr. Clarence Griffin, did excellent service as before in marking the route and so preventing mistakes.

The fastest time was made by Tresize, who made the run in 1 hr. 7 m. 20 sec.

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Peace Society of Japan, held in the Office of the President, Mr. E. W. Frazar, No. 167, Yokohama, at 5 p.m. on the 12th inst., there were present Dr. D. C. Greene and Messrs. H. E. Cole, E. W. Frazar, J. R. Geary, S. Isaacs and Gilbert Bowles.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the Annual Meeting, a Committee consisting of Mr. E. W. Frazar, Dr. D. C. Greene and Mr. Gilbert Bowles was appointed to co-operate with committees from the Japan Peace Society and other organizations in investigating the subject of an international institute for teaching the Japanese language to foreigners.

It was decided to send a letter to the Lake Mohonk (New York) Arbitration Conference, where about 400 of the leading men of America will meet next month to discuss great international problems.

Dr. D. C. Greene and the Secretary were chosen to represent the Society in any conferences concerning the work of Dr. Elliott, who is due in Japan about April 30.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR APRIL.

The foreign trade for the first ten days of the current month shows an increase in exports of some eight million yen as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, but at the same time a greater amount of increase is shown in imports, such as cotton, rice, beans, oil cake, etc., the result thus being an excess of imports over exports valued at 8,700,000 yen, as detailed below:—

	Thou. Yen.	Since Jan. 1, 1911.	Thou. Yen.	Thou. Yen.
Exports.....	13,200	119,023	+	8,639
Imports.....	21,979	186,835	+	30,194
Excess of Imports over Exports...	8,779	67,812		

It may be added that except raw silk, most of the exports, in particular waste silk, habutae, refined sugar, copper and porcelain, showed a considerable decrease, while almost every item in the imports increased by some five per cent.

A NEW REVIEW.

The *Ostasiatische Zeitschrift* or *Far East*, a new review dealing with the art and civilisation of East Asia, edited by Herr Otto Kummel and Herr William Cohn, is announced. As both a German and an English name is given to the review, presumably it is to be published in both languages. In a prospectus, the publishers, Messrs. Osterheld & Co. of Berlin, state the journal will aim at increasing our knowledge of the fine and applied arts of Eastern Asia, their history and aesthetics. Among those who have agreed to contribute, we notice the names of Messrs. Alberti, Anesaki, Asakawa, Baelz, Giles, Grosse, Hamada, Kannō, K. Kubota, Riess, and N. Tsuda. The *Ostasiatische Zeitschrift* will be published quarterly, the price being £1 10s. per annum or 8s. an issue.

MR. IJUN, Minister to China, who is now home on furlough, is expected to leave for his post on the 20th instant. An Imperial banquet in his honour will be given on the 18th at the Palace, when invitations will also be extended to Lord Chambe Iain Tokudaiji, Count Watanabe, Minister of the Household, Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and several others.

THE CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

CONCLUSION OF HEARING OF APPEAL.

On the 17th instant, in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court, the trial was resumed of the criminal case in which J. E. Hargreaves and K. Sato are indicted for forgery and utterance of official documents and embezzlement. The hearing lasted nearly ten hours, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., without a recess. The Court was presided over by Judge Kihara, and Public Procurator Kawazoye conducted the prosecution, Mr. Sudzuki acting as court interpreter. The accused Hargreaves was defended by Dr. Hanai and Dr. Kishi, but the accused Sato was absent through illness. The Court decided to proceed with the indictment preferred against Hargreaves independently of Sato, as well as the civil suit filed by Messrs. Babcox and Wilcox for the recovery of the sum embezzled by the accused. Mr. White, of the British Consulate, was also present.

Mr. Waterlow was first examined as referee, or unsworn witness.

In answer to the questions of the Court, witness deposed that he was present when Matsumura confessed to the forgery of the invoices and Customs receipts. It was on September 14th that the accused Hargreaves asked Matsumura whether he had forged the invoices as well as the Customs receipts, to which Matsumura replied he had forged some of them. Hargreaves next asked Matsumura whether he had any accomplices in the commission of the forgery, to which Matsumura replied in the negative. When the question was repeated Matsumura persistently replied "No." Hargreaves then remarked that an examination of the endorsement on the bank cheques would clear up the matter. The confession was made in the room on the first floor of the office, when the witness, Matsumura and Hargreaves alone were present. Matsumura repeatedly appealed to Hargreaves to save him. About a week later an anonymous telegram, dated September 17th, was received at the office, which read, "Do best to save otherwise will tell tax forms result will be terrible." About that time the witness met Matsumura at Hargreaves' house. When he told Matsumura that the forged documents had been handed to the Customs House, he (Matsumura) flew into a passion and used threatening language against the witness. On September 14th, when Matsumura confessed his offence, Hargreaves made no attempt to impede the statement of Matsumura. The witness was present when an attempt was made to open the drawer of Matsumura's desk, but it was found another lock had been put on. A locksmith had to be sent for in unlocking the drawer. When the drawer was opened a number of invoice forms were discovered. It was on September 15th, that is a day after Matsumura's confession, that the drawer was opened. He did not ask Matsumura the reason why a new lock had been put on the drawer, because the witness did not see him afterwards.

Replying to questions put by Hargreaves through the Court, witness stated that he remembered that Matsumura confessed that he committed the forgery and embezzlement on four different occasions, when Hargreaves remarked to Matsumura it was audacious to commit such an offence four times in succession, to which Matsumura stated that since he forged the invoices he had had to forge the Customs receipts also. At about 5.30 p.m. on September 13th, after dinner, the witness consulted with Hargreaves on a visit to Mr. Munster, formerly the manager and at present an adviser to the Yokohama branch of the firm, and at about 9 o'clock the same evening he went to the house of Mr. Munster together with Hargreaves to consult with him on the matter, when Mr. Munster advised them to consult with Mr. McIvor, legal adviser to the firm, as to the steps to be taken. On September 15th Matsumura repeatedly rang up

Hargreaves on the telephone under assumed names. The witness himself was called to the telephone on that day. He remembered that Hargreaves asked Matsumura whether he could make good the sum embezzled, to which Matsumura replied that he could not, as he had spent all the money.

Replying to a question put by Dr. Kishi through the Court, the witness stated that he learned from Hargreaves that Matsumura embezzled the money payable to the Yokohama Customs House and also to the Customs House at Moji.

This concluded the examination of the witness, and Mr. Kuriyama, an employe of the Yokohama branch of the firm, was then examined as referee. In answer to the questions of the Court he stated that after Matsumura left the office the witness destroyed some blank invoice forms by the instructions of Hargreaves. Hargreaves afterward said that he had better not have destroyed the forms as those used in London and Japan were entirely different from one another. About the 14th the witness went to the Toyo Transport agency in company with Hargreaves to get the Customs receipts, when he acted as interpreter. Mr. Mizorogi and Sato were present. Sato told him that the Yokohama Customs receipts were not yet ready, while Mr. Mizorogi produced some other receipts. The witness remembered that Hargreaves took some home then. Sato was in consternation.

Replying to questions put by Hargreaves through the Court, the witness stated that he sent for a locksmith to open the drawer. Matsumura was that day severely reprimanded and Mr. Mitsuhashi and the witness were ordered out.

Mr. Mizorogi, who was examined as a witness, was duly sworn and in reply to the Court said that he stated the whole truth before the preliminary court. On September 14th last year he had a visit from Hargreaves and Kuriyama. The witness did not then know their names, but he knew them by sight. The witness thought they came for the receipts of the charges for the passage of goods through the Moji Customs and also the receipts of the Sumitomo Ginko, and produced the same, but they told him that they came for the Yokohama Customs receipts. He then told them that he did not keep the Yokohama Customs receipts, nor was there any reason that he should be in possession of such documents. The witness remembered Hargreaves then took home the Bank receipts. On the following day Sato tendered his resignation. The witness did not remember that Sato told them that he would get the Yokohama Customs receipts in a few days, but he seemed rather upset. Sato joined the Toyo transport agency in May 1909 and remained until about September, 1910. He was a good man at first, but he got gradually imbued with bad habits, until he embezzled about 400 yen belonging to the firm. The incident was discovered about October after he had left. The transport agency paid the foreign firm 140 yen and again 200 yen during 1909 as compensation for damage done to machinery in transit. The transport agency had never received a rebate on transport charges. Since Sato obtained a contract for landing the goods of Messrs. Babcox and Wilcox for the agency, the profits received from that company did not exceed 544.13 yen in all.

Matsumura Takeshige, who has abandoned the right of appeal but has been granted a delay in the execution of judgment owing to illness, was summoned as a referee from the Tokyo Hospital, where he is now confined. He was of course not sworn. Replying to the question put to him by the Court, he said that he stated the whole truth before the preliminary court. The idea of forging the invoices and Customs receipts was first conceived to raise a fund for the maintenance of the Murayama Gumi, and the Nippon Kikai Shokai, whose existence the Yokohama branch of Messrs. Babcox and Wilcox could not make known to the head office in London. The forgery dated back to the Spring of 1910, that is to say before Mr. Metcalf

went home to London. The scheme was disclosed to Sato in June or July the same year. Sato did not at first know that the forgery was being committed, but he learned it from somebody else afterwards. Sato was in charge of the cash payments and he was taken into their confidence, as the scheme could not succeed without his connivance and assistance. At first he held back Sato's name from Hargreaves, but he afterwards disclosed it. Hargreaves had never talked with Sato over the matter. The witness most positively never talked with Hargreaves about forgery on September 13th, when Mr. Midzuno, a Customs official, paid a visit to the office, nor had he confessed his crime before Hargreaves and Waterlow on the 14th. The witness never talked about forgery in the presence of Mr. Waterlow. Hargreaves felt great uneasiness concerning the matter of the invoices and asked witness to disappear. He did not say anything to him about it in the presence of Mr. Waterlow. He received 70 yen a month in addition to special bonuses and some commission from Mr. Metcalf. For example when he sold to the Kure Naval Arsenal 200 iron pipes at double the cost price, he received a handsome commission. He was on intimate terms with a Miss Mori and paid for one year's house rent in advance. He had good reasons to do it and it was not surprising, as he had an adequate income. The drapers' bills were pretty heavy up to November 1910, but the purchases included those made for his relatives and the bills were met by the money received from a life insurance company on the death of his sister. He paid 47 yen to a Chinese printer for a bill of 52 yen, and gave Hargreaves the 5 yen. On Sunday morning in August the witness went to Kamakura in company with Sato to see Hargreaves regarding the supplementary collection of duty claimed by the Customs House in Moji. On their arrival there, he found Hargreaves alone on the second floor. When he communicated the matter, Hargreaves asked him to put the matter right. On the following day he received from Hargreaves about 1,000 yen in cash for settlement. When he went to Hargreaves' house he met the cook's wife there also. The firm treated Sato with leniency in handling the goods and also paid him a higher price for transporting charges. That was the benefit Sato had in connexion with the business. He had never borrowed money from anybody, nor had he given any money to Sato.

The Court showed the witness a telegram and asked whether he sent the message. The witness replied in the affirmative and explained that the telegram was dispatched from Sakurada-cho, Shiba, on September 17th, on consultation with Hargreaves. By the words "Do best to save" used in the telegram, was meant a request to do the best for the smooth settlement of the whole affair. The witness denied having had a special lock fixed to his desk, but stated that he had the key mended. The key used in the office fitted all the desks.

This concluded the examination of the witness. Dr. Kishi remarked that the last witness stated that he had sent the telegram on consultation with Hargreaves. The statement was rather curious, and he would call the attention of the Court to the fact that such a statement did not exist in the records of the previous examinations.

Public Procurator Kawazoye argued that throughout the trial the accused Hargreaves had failed to advance any evidence or offer any explanation to refute the statements of Matsumura and Sato. On looking through the records of this case he found that the written prosecution presented to the lower Court by Metcalf was nothing but a letter written to shield Hargreaves and was no evidence to prove the innocence of the accused. Matsumura and Sato were men of mean character, but this was no proof that Hargreaves was not guilty of the crime. He exceedingly regretted that the business books only of the firm had been seized in connexion with the criminal case, since its true nature might have easily been cleared up had Mr. Metcalf's cash-book been produced to the

Court. It was stated that the cash-book had been sent to the head office in London, but he could not attach any credence to the statement. There was no alternative but to judge the case in accordance with the statements of Sato and Matsumura.

Dr. Hanai stated in defence that the case admitted of both a simple and a complex construction. The simple construction might be obtained by deciding the credibility or otherwise of the statements of Matsumura and Sato, since no substantial evidence was added to establish the alleged crime of the accused. If the case were viewed from more complex points, it would be absolutely impossible to arrive at the truth. He would, therefore, take the simple view of the case. In Japan there did not exist any system of administering an oath to accused persons, and unsworn statements could not be trusted. There was no incriminating evidence in the case, save the untrustworthy statements of Matsumura and other accomplices. There was no alternative but the acquittal of the accused on the ground of absence of incriminating evidence.

Dr. Kishi urged in defence that the only evidence adduced in the Court against the accused Hargreaves were the statements of the accomplices. The evidence of Mitsuhashi Shintaro was incredible from start to finish. The witness deposed in the lower Court that Mr. Metcalf told him that he (Metcalf) thought the affair was the doing of Hargreaves and Matsumura, but it was highly incredible that a man in Mr. Metcalf's position should have told it to the witness. Common sense would at once dismiss it as incredible. The credentials which Hargreaves holds (which were now before the Court) proved that he was a man of unimpeachable character. The accused should be acquitted of the charge.

This concluded the arguments and the Court announced that judgement in regard to Hargreaves would be given at 1 p.m. on the 22nd instant. The Court rose at 8 p.m.

Judgment was rendered on the 22nd inst., in the Criminal Division of the Tokyo Appeal Court, in the criminal case in which J. E. Hargreaves is indicted for forgery and the utterance of official documents and embezzlement.

The principal text of the judgment reads as under:—The original judgment of the Court of First Instance is quashed and the accused Hargreaves is sentenced to three years' imprisonment, the forged documents under seizure being confiscated.

The Appeal Court states as the reasons of the judgment that when the accused Hargreaves was sub-manager of the Yokohama branch of Messrs Babcock and Wilcox, he, acting in collusion with Matsumura Takeshige and Sato Kenji, committed with criminal intent the offences mentioned under Nos. 1-14 as shown in the judgment of the Court of First Instance. The actions mentioned under Nos. 1, 2, 5, 8, 10 and 13 refer to the forgery and utterance of Customs receipts to cover the offences mentioned under separate items, and the nine other items of the charge, although there exist some discrepancies in the amounts, to the forging of invoices, the entry of false amounts in the cheques, to pretend that the amount of Customs duty due on the true invoices had been paid, and the embezzlement of the difference between the amount due on the bona-fide invoices and that on the forged ones. The accused also forged Customs receipts to cover the offences. The above facts are recognized by the present Court. The Court also recognizes that Clause 1 of Article 159 and Article 55 of the Criminal Law are applicable to the forgery of the invoices. The utterance of the forged invoices comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article

161, and Clause 1 of Article 155 and Article 55 of the same law; while the forgery of the Customs receipts comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 155 and Article 55 of the same law. Clause 1 of Article 158, Clause 1 of Article 155 and Article 55 of the same law are applicable to the utterance of the forged Customs receipts. The embezzlement by means of cheques comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 246 and Article 55 of the same law, while the forgery and utterance of invoices and Customs receipts together come under the purview of the latter part of Clause 1 of Article 54 and Article 10 of the same law, forming a concurrence of several offences. The accused is, therefore, to be dealt with for the graver item of the utterance of forged official documents and is punished by three years' imprisonment as shown in the principal text.

The judgment of the Court of First Instance erred in its recognition of the facts (or nature of offences) and the law is applied to the case on that recognition. The judgment of the Court of First Instance is therefore hereby quashed. The accused is at liberty to appeal to a higher Court within three days if he takes objection to this judgment. He may also apply at his own cost and expense for a copy of the written judgment, if he so desire.

FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS.

The foreign trade returns for the second ten days of the current month show an increase by four per cent. in the exports and a decrease by one per cent. in the imports, as compared with the preceding ten days. The import of cotton, however, amounting to well nigh ten million yen, the returns show an excess of imports over exports by something like 9,500,000 yen, as shown in the following table:—

	Second Ten Days. Yen.	Since January. Yen.	Dec. or Inc. Yen.
Exports ...	13,705,000	132,980,000	+10,171,000
Imports ...	23,223,000	212,413,000	+37,586,000
Excess of Imports..	9,518,000	79,423,000	

It may be added that among the exports which showed an increase for the period under notice were raw silk, habutae, and copper, while the imports decreased chiefly in wollen tissues, petroleum, wheat, and steel.

The export of specie shows an excess by some six hundred thousand yen in value over the imports, as the table given below shows:—

	Second Ten Days. Yen.	Since January. Yen.	Dec. or Inc. Yen.
Export	672,424	7,715,000	—1,434,000
Import	10,374	658,000	+206,000
Excess of Export...	662,050	7,057,000	

OUTPUT OF MINERALS.

According to official investigations, the output of minerals during the month of February this year, was as shown in the following table:—

	month.		month.
Gold	84,607 kin.	Silver	2,801,057 kwan.
Copper	7,474,261 ton.	Iron	1,234,535 koku.
Coal	1,326,707 kin.	Petroleum.....	115,762
Sulphur.....	4,048,662		

As compared with the figures for the corresponding month of the preceding year, a general increase is shown, gold increasing by 5.4 per cent., silver by 3.9, copper by 9.1, iron by 7.7, coal by 13.6, petroleum by 2.9, and sulphur by 5.6 per cent.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK.

The marvellous development Japan has recently attained is no doubt partly due to the successful way in which she emerged from the ordeal of the Russo-Japanese War, but must be chiefly attributed to the superiority of the national character, and the country's peculiar topographical position, which is advantageous for industrial as well as commercial expansion. Prior to the late War, Japan was generally considered, as in fact she was no better than an undeveloped, minor country. This was even more the case before the Japan-China War. In those early days the national industries in an infantile stage of development, the gross total of the foreign trade amounting to no more than 200,000,000 yen. Within the short period of twenty years the amount has increased to over 900,000,000 yen. This can not be regarded as discouraging though it may dwindle into insignificance as compared with the marked development thus far made in national education and military equipment. As scarcely needs emphasizing, Japan's industries owe not a little of their present development and prosperity to the prudence and assiduity with which the Government Authorities have afforded them protection. This fact is clearly seen in tracing the history of the development of the Yokohama Specie Bank, which is the one great trade organ of Japan under Government protection. The expansion of the Specie Bank therefore means the expansion of the national industries, while the expansion of industries signifies as a rule the promotion of foreign trade. This in turn naturally accelerates the expansion of the capital of the Bank, which stands in close connection with the transactions of foreign trade, as the Bank's history attests.

The Yokohama Specie Bank was established as far back as February 8th in the 13th year of Meiji with a capital of 3,000,000 yen. The capital was increased at first by 3,000,000 yen in March of the 20th year, then by 6,000,000 yen in March of the 29th year, by 12,000,000 yen in September of the 32nd year, and again last year by 24,000,000 yen, thereby making a total for the present of something like 48,000,000 yen. When to this is added 30,000,000 yen for reserve fund, and 17,150,000 yen for special reserve, the grand total of the Bank's capital comes up to 95,150,000 yen. Certainly it is not too much to say that this great trade banking organ of the Rising Sun Empire will not compare unfavourably with even the great European and American banks. This is a matter on which Japan must be heartily congratulated, inasmuch as the development of the Bank is, as before mentioned, tantamount to a corresponding development of industries. In fact it is not to be refuted that one of the chief factors that have given an impetus to the speedy development of the country's industrial enterprises lies in the absorption, by the Bank, of a great deal of foreign capital subsequent to both the Japan-China and the Russo-Japanese Wars. It is to be sincerely hoped that a long and brilliant future may lie in store for the Yokohama Specie Bank, in view of the fact that the growing prosperity of the Bank is in effect the expansion of Japanese industries.

That the staff of the Specie Bank consists of men of ability such as Mr. Inouye Jinnosuke, the Vice President, is a matter that is well known among all the European and American bankers connected with the Bank. But the time will come before long, when in spite of all those able officers' efforts, the development of the Bank will prove an impossibility unless its capital is further increased, in view of the decided prosperity that will be shown by the Pacific trade as a result of the completion of the Panama canal. Japan is now at her best, and every hotel in the capital and other attractive cities is crowded with foreign tourists. It will not be therefore entirely out of place to call attention to the above facts to add to general knowledge as to the Yokohama Specie Bank which is so closely connected with the country's foreign trade and general industry.

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

Dealing with the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, the *fiji Shimpō* dwells upon the necessity of its maintenance. Our contemporary says:—

Baron Kafo, Ambassador to the Court of St. James, who has been on furlough, is leaving for his post. It is therefore a good opportunity to refer to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and give expression to our people's sincere reliance upon the Alliance and to their earnest wishes for a growing friendship between England and Japan. As scarcely needs stating the Anglo-Japanese Alliance has for its object the maintenance of peace in India and East Asia, in particular the maintenance of the Powers' common interests by ensuring the independence of China and the principle of "equal opportunity." In view of the nebulous condition in which China still remains since the late Revolutionary commotion, the existence of an Alliance having the above aims in view cannot but be a source of satisfaction to those desirous of the maintenance of the territorial integrity of China, and an insurmountable barrier to those harbouring the ambition of monopolizing rights and interests in the neighbouring Republic at the first opportunity that may offer. Certainly there is every reason to believe that the Anglo-Japanese alliance will prove as effective as in the past, and even more so, in maintaining peace in the Far East. It is in this sense that we feel its existence necessary.

It seems to us most regrettable that of late, in some quarters, the merits of the Alliance have often been brought to question, not in our country alone, but in England as well. In either case those holding such prejudiced opinions are so limited in number that they may safely be passed over unnoticed. It must be pointed out, however, that the constitution of any alliance presupposes not unilateral, but mutual interests and advantages. If the Anglo-Japanese Alliance appears unsatisfactory in the estimation of our people, that is because they view it from their own selfish standpoint alone. It may be well to remind them that at the time of the annexation of Korea, none of the Powers entered any protest. While that was due to some extent to our victory over Russia in the late war, the British recognition of the annexation from the outset, as the only natural and proper course in the development of things, must certainly have been an influential factor in enabling Japan to effect the annexation peacefully. In short, it is a matter not to be refuted that although the present important position which Japan now occupies among the world Powers may be attributed to the natural development of her power, the fact that she has an influential Ally in England in the central arena of the world's competition must also be counted as among the weighty reasons. Viewed in this light, the Alliance appears to be rather more advantageous to Japan than in England. How is it then that some of our people should nevertheless doubt the merits of the Alliance? It is true that as a result of the revision of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance Treaty last year, America will, on the conclusion of a general arbitration treaty between that country and England, be excepted from the application of Art. IV. of the Alliance Treaty. But that can never for a moment be made a just ground for concluding that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance will prove less efficacious than it was before. It would be safer and more just to regard Britain and America as Allies in a practical sense. Moreover, in the estimation of our people, America is a country possessing traditional friendship with Japan. Even if there are any people so chauvinistic in our country as to dream of the outbreak of an American-Japanese War, they must be confined to that limited class whose sentiments and beliefs are on a level with the Jingoism on the other side of the Pacific. Men of sound sense will never hesitate to admit that even if more or less international trouble occur in future between the two countries, it can by no possibility culminate in an outbreak of war. Now that an American-Japanese War is a matter of plain impos-

sibility, the proviso of Art. IV. practically makes no difference, so far as the effects of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance are concerned. It would be the height of folly to slight the Alliance, the necessity of which is increasingly felt in view of the present Eastern situation, by imagining a situation that does not lie within the range of possibility.

The value of an alliance is like that of the services of the hands and feet in coöperation. Man seldom recognizes or appreciates the advantages attendant on the coöperation of his hands and feet until either side refuses to coöperate. Its value, like that of health, is scarcely recognized until it is lost. In the same way, while the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is discharging its duties in ordinary times, its effect may not appeal to some minds as appreciatively great. But the very fact that its effects are not felt is proof of its merits. On the other hand we must remember the unsurpassable value of the Alliance at the time of the Russo-Japanese War.

If it were Japan's intention to seek her selfish interests by taking advantage of any future crisis in China, in defiance of the principle of the maintenance of Chinese territorial integrity, she might take her own independent course or coöperate with those entertaining similar sinister ambitions. As a matter of fact, however, such a step is entirely and practically prohibitive in view of the general tendency of the world's opinion, and inasmuch as it is Japan's professed, inviolable principle to maintain the integrity of Chinese territory and thereby keep peace in the Eastern World. We are quite confident that we express the general sentiment and conviction of the Japanese people when we declare that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is an embodiment of the said guiding principle of our country, and therefore that no foreign policy not based on that Alliance will prove safe and successful for our country.

The Anglo-Japanese Alliance Treaty was first concluded in the days of the previous Conservative Cabinet in England. But it is maintained in equal sincerity and earnestness by the present Liberal Cabinet. It is clear from the fact that it extended the terms of the Alliance at the time of the revision last year. In our country, too, since the conclusion of the Alliance Treaty, many Cabinets have risen and fallen. Still there has been one thing at least that remains unchanged, and that is the earnest desire of both our Government and people as a nation for the maintenance and consolidation of the Alliance. Should the Japanese Authorities follow any foreign policy incompatible with this fundamental principle of our nation, the people would certainly not for a moment allow them to remain in office.

FORMOSAN RICE.

The annual production of Formosan rice amounts to something like five million *koku*, of which about 3,500,000 *koku* are consumed by the islanders, the remaining 1,500,000 *koku* being cleared for Japan. The authorities of the Government-General are now devoting special efforts to the readjustment of the cultivable land, improvement of agricultural methods, and selection of seed, with a view to increasing the amount of the annual production. One of the regrettable points concerning the cultivation of Formosan rice, is that the natives attach little or no importance to the effect of fertilizers. In consequence even in a most favourable year the output amounts to not more than two *koku* per *tambu*. Accordingly every step will be taken to encourage among the natives the application of fertilizers.

Another thing which is attracting the authorities' attention is the neglected tracts of paddy fields in the southern districts, where people under present conditions have to wait for a chance rainfall to cultivate the rice, owing to the total absence of any system of irrigation. By the 70th year of Meiji the readjustment of these fields will be completed, when there is every reason to believe that the amount of the annual production will be increased to 13,000,000 *koku*.

THE LATE CAPTAIN HIROSE.

As already reported, a telegram from Dalcy to the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* says that the tomb of the late Captain Hirose Takeo, apparently constructed by the Russians at the time of the war, has been discovered at Port Arthur. In this connexion the above paper quotes Major-General Hirose, the elder brother, as remarking that he is deeply impressed with the magnanimity of the Russians, which is worthy of a great nation, in having dedicated a tomb even to their enemies—as the Japanese then were—killed on the field.

"As a rule," the Major-General continues, "the Russians are a very polite and kind people, although their somewhat rough exterior—at first sight at least—is not attractive. Prior to the Russo-Japanese War, my brother Takeo was in St. Petersburg for the purpose of prosecuting his studies, when he was placed under such vigilant surveillance by the Russian Government that he could not move a step, as he used to tell me, without being shadowed by a detective. The Russian naval officer with whose family Takeo lived, while stopping in the Russian metropolis, was very kind, however, and seemed to make no difference between him and his own family. Dr. Petergan also treated Takeo with great kindness. Especially Mr. Irkuk, then Vice President of the Waterworks Bureau of the Russian Government, loved Takeo, and consequently my brother and Mr. Irkuk's son remained the best of friends to the last. One day Mr. Irkuk called before him this couple of young officers and asked them if they would fight with each other, destroying their close friendship, if Russia and Japan should cross swords in future. 'We'll fight as hard as possible,' was the prompt reply, uttered almost in a breath, 'for we cannot sacrifice our public duty for private considerations.' Takeo then added: 'But remember, if you please, that if you hear there was a Japanese who kissed the corpse of your son at the front—if he be killed—that Japanese will be no other than my very self! Mr. Irkuk's son is said to have reciprocated Takeo's sentiment in a most impressive manner. It was in that way indeed, that my late brother Takeo left Russia, only to have to fight before long that brave fight which he promised Mr. Irkuk's son when sojourning in Russia. In view of these facts I should not be much surprised if the telegraphic report in question be true.'

EXCHANGES IN JAPAN.

Exchanges in Japan now number forty-eight in all, the majority of which will have to apply by June 31st next for the renewal of their charters, which expire on the 31st of September. Of these Exchanges there are said to be not a few which are practically useless and some even harmful, the brokers engaged numbering no more than two or three, and the annual salary of the directors amounting to not over 96 *yen*. Accordingly the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has decided to effect a thorough readjustment of Exchanges, and to decline to sanction such as can not show sufficient grounds for their existence.

In this connexion it may be recollected that as far back as the thirty-sixth year of Meiji, when Mr. Kiuchi Jushiro was Chief of the Agricultural and Commercial Bureau in the Department, some of the Exchanges brought an action against the authorities for prohibiting business transactions for the same reasons as those given above, which resulted in the defeat of the latter. This threw a bar in the way of any renovation of the Exchanges. It is doubtful whether the Court of Administrative Litigation will now adhere to this precedent; but at all events the Authorities of the Department are said to be firmly resolved to carry out the readjustment next year, by ordering the dissolution of such establishments as may be liable to prosecution on any point.

VICTIMS OF THE "TITANIC" DISASTER.

MR. W. T. STEAD.

Among the prominent men who have lost their lives in the sinking of the White Star liner *Titanic*, the name of none will probably attract more interest than that of Mr. W. T. Stead, the well known English journalist. The irony of fate has consigned to a grave in the North Atlantic one who seemed destined to reach a ripe old age and pass gently to his end surrounded by loving ministrations. Yet probably the sudden ending was not altogether regretted by him. He had reached the age of 63, and his work, whether for good or ill, had been done. The little he could have added to it would hardly have served to make it better or worse, and if there were any "past regrets and future fears" in the minds of those who took their last glimpse of life from the deck of the sinking vessel, he hardly shared them.

William Thomas Stead was the son of a Congregational Minister of Wakefield. Although he started on a commercial career, he soon abandoned this for journalism, and at the early age of 22 became editor of the *Northern Echo*. The fame of the brilliant young journalist had already preceded him when he went to London in 1880 to become the assistant editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, with Lord Morley (then plain Mr. John Morley) as his chief, and in 1883, when he became chief editor of the journal, he at once attracted attention by his uncompromising methods, which at time verged on the sensational—at least for those days, when the Harmsworths and Pearsons had not yet appeared on the scene. Mr. Stead's development of the *Pall Mall Gazette* may be considered as paving the way for the change that was to come over English journalism very shortly, more especially in the presentation of the news. Mr. Stead's first great boom was in 1884, when he succeeded in arousing a scare as to the condition of the Navy. More questionable were his methods for securing the passage through Parliament of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, however necessary such an amendment may have been. Recently, in a rather enigmatical article in the *Review of Reviews*, Mr. Stead hinted at feeling some regret for his then action. However that may be, the methods he employed to arouse public opinion led to his being imprisoned for three months. Later he appeared as an advocate of Russia at a time when the relations between her and England were strained. He severed his connection with the *Pall Mall Gazette* in 1889, and next year started the *Review of Reviews*, of which he was editor up to the time of his death. It served him as an organ wherein to express his opinions and whatever views we hold of those opinions there can be no doubt of their sincerity. His connection with the peace movement will probably be his best remembered work, although here again his uncompromising attitude led him into positions where few could follow him. His brilliant journalistic talents—his keen eye for news, his knowledge of what the public wanted,—had all the defects of their qualities,—these defects being an almost entire absence of what Matthew Arnold called "sweetness and light." Lord Morley, we believe, once described him as "the most brilliant journalist of modern times," and this perhaps he was, but in spite of all his efforts he never seemed to rise above being a journalist.

Like most gifted men Mr. Stead had a "bee in his bonnet," which consisted in a firm belief, on what seemed very unsubstantial grounds, in the spirit world. He even went so far as to publish communications with a spirit known as "Julia," although to the outsider the communications never seemed to contain anything of value. *Bordenland*, a journal dealing with the alleged manifestations, was one of the publications issued from the *Review of Reviews* Office.

Mr. Stead published a good many works on

social topics, the most notable perhaps being "If Christ Came to Chicago."

COL. JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

Colonel Astor who is also reported drowned, was one of the best known men both in Europe and America. His vast wealth, together with his genuine ability, gained him the entree practically everywhere. He was born in New York in 1864 and was a Harvard man. In 1897 he built the Astoria Hotel, New York, adjoining the Waldorf Hotel that was built by his cousin William Waldorf Astor. The two now form one building and are known as the Waldorf-Astoria. He was commissioned Lieut. Colonel of the U.S. Volunteers and served in the Spanish-American war, also presenting a mountain battery to the U.S. Government. The Colonel was only recently married a second time.

MR. JOSEPH BRUCE ISMAY.

Mr. Ismay, who is also reported to have gone down with the sinking leviathan, was Chairman and Managing Director of the White Star Line and President of the International Mercantile Marine Co. He was only fifty years of age, having been born in Liverpool in 1862. Mr. Ismay was educated at Eistree and Harrow and has been connected with the White Star Line for many years. He leaves a widow, two daughters and two sons.

THE LATE MR. W. T. STEAD.

In reference to the career of the late Mr. W. T. Stead, it is rather curious to note that in *Who's Who*, the biographies in which are supposed to be written by the persons concerned, it should be stated that "he suffered imprisonment for three months for the Maiden Tribute." "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon" was the series of articles which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and later as a pamphlet, in which form they were freely sold in the streets of London without any let or hindrance by the authorities. Mr. Stead probably meant that the imprisonment was in connection with the agitation which the "Maiden Tribute" started. In collecting material for those articles Mr. Stead, in his eagerness to prove that the then criminal law was ineffectual in protecting minors, constructed a test case. A criminal charge was laid against him, probably to show that the law was effective, and a technical breach of the law having been proved, he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment as a first-class misdemeanant. Unfortunately, the fact of his having been sentenced for a breach of the law he was striving to have amended, led to a misunderstanding on the part of the general public, and he was freely accused of hypocrisy,—a charge which it took some years to live down.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORUM.

In response to invitations sent out by the Japan Branch of the International Peace Forum, twelve delegates representing the leading Universities, Colleges and High Schools of Tokyo, met at the Nippon Club on Saturday afternoon in a preliminary conference for the organization of an Associated English-Speaking Society of Japan.

The plan was most enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates, and they agreed to hold the general meeting on May 18, from 2 p.m. at a place to be chosen by the promoters. At this meeting, speeches, recitations, etc. will be delivered by students from different educational institutions in Tokyo.

At Saturday's conference, Mr. Henry Satoh, of the International Peace Forum, was particularly requested by the student delegates to secure for them a number of foreign speakers in order that Japanese students may be brought into close touch with the best thought of the West, and incidentally may be given an opportunity of hearing good English speakers.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

Speaking at the last conference held on the 17th instant, of the Chiefs of the Marine Products Experimental Stations, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, pointed out that it was a matter of urgent necessity to strive for the development of industries and at the same time promote the export trade. It was a matter of congratulation that, along with the improvement of fishing methods and implements, those who engaged in fishery on a large scale, with a big capital and gear of the latest design, were increasing in number. At the same time, however, notice should be taken of the fact that as a necessary result the coast fishermen will suffer. It is part of the authorities' duties to properly guide and help them in the improvement of their fishing methods, so that they may engage in their business in harmony with those working on a greater scale.

"With regard to trawling," continued the Minister, "the regrettable fact is that it often causes a conflict of interests with those engaged in the coast fishery. As it is the Government's policy to exercise great vigilance in supervising trawling, and to show no mercy in punishing whoever violates the law governing trawling, there is little fear of any disturbance on the part of the coast fishermen. Still the fact is not to be gained that a great deal depends upon the untiring efforts of you, who are in direct charge, for the prevention of trouble.

"There is still room for further studies in the development of the fish-breeding industry, improvement of manufacturing methods, diminution of productive cost, expansion of markets, transport of products, and reform of procedure in sale. All these are problems of paramount importance that require your special efforts for their solution."

The Minister concluded his speech by emphasizing the importance of constant and devoted efforts on the part of the local authorities for the development of the fishing industry, by furnishing fishermen from time to time with necessary and useful information about the business.

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

In view of the disturbances in China it was first generally anticipated that there would be a decided decrease in Customs revenue for the 44th fiscal year. Towards the end of the year, however, the revenue showed a sudden increase, the figure recorded for the fiscal year amounting to something like forty-nine million yen. This is an increase of some eight million yen over the returns for the preceding fiscal year, although falling short of the budget by 1,640,000 yen. The following table shows the annual amount of Customs revenue since the year 1905:—

First Year.	Customs Revenue. Yen.
1905	37,512,348
1906	42,656,348
1907	50,333,146
1908	49,823,416
1909	37,172,589
1910	40,692,624
1911	48,974,133

JAPAN LEATHER COMPANY.

An ordinary general meeting of the Japan Leather Company took place on Monday afternoon, with Mr. Okura Kihachiro in the chair. After the report and accounts had been laid before the shareholders, the following profit and loss account was passed unanimously:—

	Yen.
Gross Profit.....	250,485.89
Legal Reserve.....	12,500.000
Redemption Fund	12,500.000
Special Reserve	25,000.000
Bonus	12,500.000
Dividend (10 per cent.)	125,000.000
Carried Forward.....	62,985.89

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

According to the authorities of the Communications Department, the number of telephones to be newly installed during the present fiscal year amounts to 27,000 and the expenditure required for the purpose to 6,500,000 yen. The length of wires will be something like 2,500 miles. As in the preceding fiscal year, the so-called prompt installation system will be adopted in the large cities, namely, Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama. New telephone exchanges will also be established in both Osaka and Kobe.

So far as the telegraph service is concerned, the authorities do not expect any big expansion, the fund appropriated for the purpose being no more than 230,000 yen. Among others, wireless telegraph offices will be established on some of the new liners, while the construction of through service wires between Tokyo and Shimonoseki will be completed within the present year.

As regards the postal service, the fund set apart for expansion work amounts to some 60,000 yen this year. With such a limited sum at their disposal, the authorities of course find it hard to effect any satisfactory improvement in the business. Still it may be sufficient to meet the expense required for consummating such provisions as may promote the public convenience in several minor points. Among the improvements the authorities intend to effect in the present fiscal year in this branch of the Department's business, must be counted the expansion of the scope of the service, as in the treatment by post-offices of taxes payable and other public money. From this year, the post-offices in the chief cities will commence dealing in public bonds, receipts and payment of interest due, capital to be advanced by the Hypothec Bank, debentures of industrial banks, and other loan bonds.

THE CHOSEN CUSTOMS DUTIES ORDINANCE.

REGULATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT.

The following translation of the Regulations for enforcing the Chosen Customs Duties Ordinance, promulgated on March 28, 1912, by Order No. 48 of the Government General of Chosen, is published by the *Seoul Press*:—

CHAPTER I.

ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF, AND SECURITY FOR, CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Art. I.—The collection of duty shall be notified to the payer, except in cases in which this is done according to the Regulations for Receiving and Paying Cash at the Post Office of the Government-General of Chosen, by a document indicating the amount of the duty and the treasury to which it is payable. No such notices, however, shall be issued unless it is made payable to a treasury or post-office.

Art. II.—The payer, on receipt of the notice mentioned in the preceding Article, shall pay the duty to the treasury indicated.

Art. I A.—When a Customs official examines and directly collects duties on passengers' baggage or on the goods mentioned in the proviso of Article XXIV. of the Customs Duties Law, the attendance of some other Government or public officer is required.

On collection of duties according to the preceding paragraph, the official shall obtain a certification from the Government or public officer in attendance and report to the Custom House.

Art. IV.—When a post-office receives a notice of the amount of duty payable on postal matter according to Article XLII. of the Customs Duties Law, it shall notify the addressee before it is delivered.

Art. V.—The person on being notified as mentioned in the preceding article shall affix on the notice delivered from the post office, revenue stamps equal to the amount of duty and present it to the post office.

Art. VI.—The post-office, on receipt of the document mentioned in the preceding Article, shall send it to the Custom House concerned.

Art. VII.—A person who desires to claim a reduction of duty according to Article II. of the Customs Duties Law shall present to a Custom

House a document stating the marks, numbers, description, quantity and value of the damaged goods, and the principal reasons for the claim.

Art. VIII.—The securities to be furnished for payment of duties are limited to money and negotiable bonds recognised by the Customs as reliable.

Art. IX.—The security to be furnished shall be deposited in the treasury and its receipt shall be presented to the Custom House.

Art. X.—The Custom House may require an additional security to be furnished, when the value of the negotiable bonds already furnished has depreciated.

Art. XI.—When a security is to be sold publicly according to the proviso of Article VI. of the Customs Duties Law the fact shall be advertised and it shall be put up to public sale after the lapse of at least three days from the first day of advertisement.

Art. XII.—In the advertisement mentioned in the preceding Article, the domicile or residence and the name of the furnisher of security, the kind and value of bonds, the time and place of public sale and other necessary particulars shall be mentioned.

Art. XIII.—The public sale shall not take place if the amount of duty and expenses have been paid before its execution.

Art. XIV.—If there is any surplus to be returned to the furnisher of security according to the proviso of Article VI. of the Customs Duties Law, it may be deposited in the treasury.

CHAPTER II.

PROCEDURE CONCERNING VESSELS.

Art. XV.—The entrance notice of a vessel shall be given by means of a document stating the name, nationality and registered tonnage of the vessel, the port of departure, the number of crew, and the time of arrival.

Art. XVI.—In the vessel's manifest shall be described the name and nationality of the vessel, the port of shipment and destination of cargo, and the marks, numbers, description, and quantity of the cargo, number of packages and the consignee's names shall be mentioned.

Art. XVII.—The list of hatches shall contain the location and number of the hatches, and the list of articles for the ship's use shall contain the kinds, quantity and estimated value of the articles for the ship's use, while the list of passengers shall contain their names and nationalities and the ports of their embarkation and debarkation.

Art. XVIII.—When it is desired to obtain permission for a vessel carrying foreign goods for shipping and discharging cargo before the production of the manifest, an application in writing shall be made to the Custom House giving fully the reasons for it.

Art. XIX.—The clearance notice of a vessel shall be given by means of a document stating the name and nationality of the vessel, the port of destination and the time of departure.

Art. XX.—The clearance permission of a vessel engaged in foreign trade shall be given by means of a document and at the same time the ship's register and other documents shall be returned.

Art. XXI.—When it is desired to obtain the special permission of the Superintendent of Customs for a vessel carrying foreign goods for shipping and discharging cargo between sunset and sunrise or on a Customs holiday, an application in writing shall be made to the Custom House stating the reasons for it.

Art. XXII.—The person who has obtained the special permission mentioned in the preceding Article shall pay a fee for it. This rule, however, does not apply to cases when goods are to be discharged on account of stress of weather or other unavoidable causes, or when it is only the shipping in, or discharging from, a coasting vessel carrying foreign cargo, of domestic goods.

Art. XXIII.—When a police officer has received the report mentioned in the second paragraph of Article XVIII. of the Customs Duties Law, he shall immediately inform the Custom House or Customs Station governing the locality.

Art. XXIV.—When it is desired to land temporarily any foreign goods, the master of a vessel shall report it to the Customs or, if there is no Customs, to a Customs official or, if there is no Customs Official, to a police officer, by means of a document stating the marks, numbers, description and quantity of the goods and reasons for their landing. But if it is impossible to report it previously on account of stress of weather or other unavoidable causes, he shall do so immediately after they are landed.

Art. XXV.—The report mentioned in Article XXI. of the Customs Duties Law shall be made by means of a document stating the description, quantity and value of articles.

Art. XXVI.—When a police officer has received the report mentioned in the two preceding Articles

he shall inform the Customs or Customs Station governing the locality.

Art. XXVII.—When a coasting vessel has been compelled to call at a foreign port on account of stress of weather or other unavoidable causes, the master shall report on its return the fact to the Custom House governing the locality.

If the vessel mentioned in the preceding paragraph take on board any article for ship's use, a list stating their description, quantity and value shall be presented to the Custom House.

CHAPTER III.

PROCEDURE CONCERNING GOODS.

SECTION I.—GENERAL RULES.

Art. XXVIII.—A person who desires to obtain special permission to send to, or take out goods from the bonded boundary, or to handle them within the boundary between sunset and sunrise or on a Customs holiday shall make an application in writing to the Custom House stating reasons for it.

Art. XXIX.—The person who has obtained the special permission mentioned in the preceding Article shall pay a fee for it.

Art. XXX.—A person who desires to obtain special permission to land and ship goods and communicate between a vessel and the shore at places other than those appointed for that purpose by the Customs shall make an application in writing to the Custom House stating the place, time and description of goods.

In case the conditions under which the special permission has been granted are disobeyed, the Custom House shall nullify the permission.

Art. XXXI.—The Customs may grant a special permission to examine goods outside of the places appointed for that purpose by the Customs. In the case, however, mentioned in the proviso attached to Article XXIV. of the Customs Duties Law no special permission is required.

A person who desires to obtain the special permission mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall make an application in writing stating the place and time desired and the description of goods.

The person who has obtained the special permission mentioned in the present Article shall pay a fee for it.

Art. XXXII.—Foreign goods can be stored in the following boundaries:—

1. A boundary appointed or specially granted by the Director of the Customs as place for landing and shipping goods outside of the premises of the Customs according to Article XXVIII. of the Customs Duties Law.

2. A boundary appointed by the Director of Customs inside of the premises of a Railway Station in order to store goods transported by land.

SECTION 2.—PROCEDURE CONCERNING EXPORTATION AND RE-IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

Art. XXXIII.—Export entry shall be made by means of a document stating the name and nationality of the vessel on which goods are to be shipped, the marks, number, description, quantity and value of the goods, number of packages and the port of destination. For passengers' baggage, however, no such document is required.

If the goods to be exported are not products of Chosen, the place of production shall also be mentioned.

With regard to the export entry of goods not of Chosen produce and those which are desired to be exempted from Customs duties by virtue of Nos. 26 and 27 respectively of Article III. of the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Tariff, the object of exportation and the port of reimportation shall be mentioned when they are first exported.

If the port of reimportation mentioned in the preceding paragraph is changed, the fact shall be reported in writing to the Customs at the port of exportation.

Art. XXXIV.—A person, who desires to export, within the legal period, goods from which the Customs duty was exempted by virtue of Article IV. of the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Tariff, shall produce at the Custom House the import permit or Customs certificate having equal validity at the time of making export entry.

On giving the permission for exportation of the goods mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the import permit or certificate shall be returned to the holder after it has had the term "exported" put down in it.

Art. XXXV.—The provision of the first paragraph of Article XXXIII. is applicable to reimport entries.

SECTION 3.—PROCEDURE CONCERNING IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

Art. XXXVI.—The import entry shall contain the statement of the name and nationality of the vessel on which the goods have been carried, as well as the names of the places of their purchase, shipment,

production or manufacture, their marks, number, description, quantity and value.

Art. XXXVII.—The invoice attached to the import entry of goods shall be made in the country of their purchase and signed by their sellers.

Art. XXXVIII.—Passengers' baggage may be declared verbally.

Art. XXXIX.—A person who intends to import the goods under categories Nos. 25, 26 and 27 of Article III. of the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Tariff and desires to claim exemption to duty shall produce the export permit or Customs certificate having equal validity at the time of making import entry. Other documentary evidence, however, may be substituted for either of the two with regard to the importation of goods, provided the Customs authorities recognize the reason for the inability of the importer to produce the export permit or Customs certificate having equal validity.

Art. XL.—A person who intends to import the goods mentioned in Article IV. of the Chosen Customs Tariff Ordinance shall state in the import entry the object of importation and the port of exportation.

When the port of exportation is changed the fact shall be reported in writing to the Custom House at the port of importation.

Art. XLI.—A person who desires to obtain permission to remove goods before the import permit is granted according to the proviso of Article XXXIV. of the Customs Duties Law, shall make an application in writing to the Custom House stating the reasons, while one who desires to obtain the permission to remove part of the goods stated on an import entry shall give a statement of the marks, numbers, description, and quantity of the goods, and the date the import entry was granted.

Art. XLII.—The Post Office can not deliver postal matter imported to its addresses before a Customs examination has been made.

The examination of postal matter shall require the attendance of a postal official.

The post office shall inform the Customs on landing, the imported postal matters by submitting their list.

Art. XLIII.—When any postal matter cannot be delivered to the addressee, the post office shall inform the Custom House, stating the reasons thereof.

SECTION 4.—TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS.

Art. XLIV.—A declaration for and list of transportation by sea shall contain the name of the vessel on which the goods have been carried, their destination, distinctness of domestic goods from foreign goods, marks, numbers, description and quantity of the goods. The declaration for transportation shall also contain the value of the goods and the object of their transportation and the list and name of their consigners.

A declaration for and list of transportation by land shall contain the destination, marks, numbers, description and quantity of the goods. The declaration shall contain the value of the goods and the object of their transportation and the list and name of the consigners.

Art. XLV.—A person who desires to obtain permission for transportation of the foreign goods mentioned in 5 of Article XXXIX. of the Customs Duties Law shall present a written application stating the destination, description and quantity of the goods.

Art. XLVI.—A permit of foreign goods transportation which has been obtained according to 5 of Article XXXIX. of the Customs Duties Law shall state the appointed road besides the particulars mentioned in the application under the present Article.

If a police officer has issued a permit mentioned in the preceding paragraph he shall forward a copy of it to the Custom House governing the locality.

Art. XLVII.—On arrival at the destination of the goods in transportation, the transportation permit shall be produced at the Customs.

In case of the preceding paragraph, the Customs shall, when it finds the goods agree with the permit, return it to the owner endorsed thereon "transported."

SECTION 5.—PROCEDURE REGARDING STORAGE OF GOODS.

Art. XLVIII.—In the notice mentioned in Article XLVII. and the application mentioned in Article XLVIII. of the Customs Duties Law the marks, numbers and description of goods and the number of packages shall be mentioned.

Art. XLIX.—Public notice shall be given for the public sale mentioned in the 2nd Clause of Article L of the Customs Duties Law.

In the public notice mentioned in the preceding paragraph and Article LI. there shall be described, besides the particulars mentioned in the preceding Article, the reason for and time and place of the public sale and other necessary particulars.

Art. L.—If there is any balance to be returned to

the consigner according to the 2nd Clause of Article L. it may be deposited.

Art. LI.—The rates of charge for goods so stored shall separately be determined.

CHAPTER IV. PROTEST.

Art. LII.—In a written protest regarding the assessment of duty there shall be stated the gist of any reasons for objection and the date on which the demand was made and action taken. If there are any documents or articles relating to the fact these shall be mentioned and shown.

Art. LIII.—In a written decision on a protest there shall be stated the domicile or residence and name of the person making the protest, the gist of protest and the ground and the principal part of the decision.

Art. LIV.—The delivery of a written decision shall be made by means of a registered letter.

Art. LV.—On delivery of a written decision, a receipt shall be obtained.

Art. LVI.—When a written decision can not be delivered owing to uncertainty of domicile or residence of the person making protest or to any other causes, the fact shall be notified publicly.

In the case mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the written decision shall be considered as duly delivered after the lapse of seven days inclusive of the day of notification.

Art. LVII.—When it is intended to purchase goods or cause them to be valued by appraisers according to Article LXIII. of the Customs Duties Law, the person making the protest shall be notified thereof.

Art. LVIII.—The person making the protest, upon receipt of the notice regarding the valuation of goods according to the preceding Article, shall select his appraisers and report their occupations, domiciles or residence and names within seven days and obtain the approval of the Superintendent of Customs. But the period prescribed in the present Article may be prolonged on request of the person making the protest, if the Superintendent of Customs deems it necessary.

Art. LVIX.—When the Superintendent of Customs considers as unsuited the appraisers selected by the person making the protest, he shall order re-selection within another period indicated.

Art. LVX.—On approval the Superintendent of Customs shall appoint the time and place of the valuation of the goods and notify thereof the person making the protest.

Art. LXI.—On conclusion of the valuation, the appraisers shall draw up a statement giving fully the reasons for their valuation and present it to the Superintendent of Customs.

Art. LXII.—The Superintendent of Customs, upon conclusion of the valuation, shall notify the person making the protest of the assessed amount of the duty.

CHAPTER V.

INVESTIGATION AND ACTION TAKEN IN CASE OF INFRACTION OF THE LAW.

Art. LXIII.—Any articles seized shall be sealed up by the officials making the seizure.

Art. LXIV.—In the list of article seized, there shall be stated the names and quantity of the articles, the time and place of seizure and the domicile or residence and name of the owner of the articles.

Art. LXV.—When seized articles are placed in custody of the owner or myon office, a receipt shall be taken therefrom and if in custody of the myon office the owner at the time of seizure shall be notified of the fact.

Art. LXVI.—When seized goods are to be disposed of by public sale according to Article XC. of the Customs Duties Law, they shall be sold after advertisement.

In the advertisement mentioned in the preceding paragraph, there shall be described the description and quantity of articles, the reason for and the time and place of public sale and other necessary particulars.

Art. LXVII.—In the statements regarding a visit of inspection, search or interrogation, there shall be described the facts, time and the particulars of information obtained.

Art. LXVIII.—On conclusion of an investigation of infraction of the law, the Customs official shall make report to the Superintendent of Customs.

Art. LXIX.—The notice to be given for the action taken as mentioned in Article XLIV. of the Customs Duties Law shall be made by the delivery of a note.

In the note there shall, besides the particulars mentioned in Article XLIV. of the Customs Duties Law, be stated detailed facts regarding the infraction of the Law, the quantity of articles and place and period of payment of money.

Art. LXX.—The provisions of Articles LIV. and LV. shall apply to the delivery of the note of the action taken.

Art. LXXI.—When the articles liable to confisca-

tion are under custody of the myon office, the formality of their delivery shall take place, leaving them in custody of the same.

Art. LXXII.—If there are any seized articles at the time the Superintendent of Customs institutes proceedings against an infraction of the Law, they shall be transferred to the legal court with a list of the seized articles.

If the seized articles mentioned in the preceding paragraph are under custody of the owner or myon office, the custodian shall be notified of the fact of transference of the articles.

Art. LXXIII.—All the documents concerning the investigation and action taken in cases of infraction of the Law shall be sealed across every juncture of pages, and every letter added or erased and every marginal note shall be sealed thereon.

The erasure of letters shall be done so as to leave the letters legible and the total number of the letters shall be endorsed.

CHAPTER VI.

HOURS FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS AT CUSTOMS AND SPECIAL OPENING OF THE OFFICES.

Art. LXXIV.—The hours for the transaction of business at the Customs are from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., exclusive of holidays, but on Saturday it shall be closed at 3.30 p.m.

Art. LXXV.—A person who desires to obtain the special permission for the opening of the offices outside the hours for the transaction of business, shall make an application in writing to the Custom House stating the hours and the nature of the work to be done during the time.

The person who has obtained the special permission mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall pay a fee for it.

CHAPTER VII.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES

Art. LXXVI.—A shipmaster who desires to obtain the special permission mentioned in Article IV. of the Ordinance for Chosen Customs Duties shall supply in writing to the Superintendent of Customs, stating the name of the port, the name and nationality of the vessel, the period of stay and the reasons for the same, and, if it relates to landing or loading of any goods, the nature and quantity of the goods.

Upon obtaining the special permission mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the master shall pay a fee for it into the Custom House.

Art. LXXVII.—A person who asks for a certificate of Customs or a statistical table regarding ships or merchandise shall pay a fee for each.

Art. LXXVIII.—Fees may be charged from persons who make use of piers, cranes, grounds, buildings or articles belonging to the Customs.

Art. LXXIX.—The rates of the fees shall be determined separately.

Art. LXXX.—The fees may be paid by means of revenue stamps.

The revenue stamps for payment of the fees shall be affixed to the application forms of payment.

Art. LXXXI.—The Customs and revenue officials are strictly forbidden, either directly or indirectly, to purchase any articles seized or confiscated, or any goods in storage and securities deposited for duties, when they are sold by the offices so authorized.

Art. LXXXII.—All documents to be drawn up by the officers authorized, according to Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Duties or the present Regulations, shall be inscribed with the name of the Government establishment or the official letters and names and duly dated and sealed.

Art. LXXXIII.—All applications and other documents shall be inscribed with the nationality and domicile or residence of the applicant and the date of application, duly signed by the applicant.

Art. LXXXIV.—Public notice mentioned in the Ordinance for the Chosen Customs Duties or the present Regulations shall be made by means of the Official Gazette of the Government-General of Chosen or of newspapers issued in the locality concerned, besides on the bulletin board of the Customs governing the locality.

Art. LXXXV.—All documents to be sent to the Customs or Director of Customs shall be presented to the Customs branch or detached office, if the matter happens within the jurisdiction of such a branch or detached office in the case may be.

Except the stipulation in the preceding paragraph, all provisions regarding to the Customs are applicable to Customs branches or detached offices.

Art. LXXXVI.—The present Regulations shall be applied to vessels and goods moving between Chosen and Japan proper, Taiwan or Karafuto.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULE.

The present Regulations shall be put into force on and after April 1 of the 45th year of Meiji (1912).

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

PATRONS:—H.I.H. Fushimi-no-Miya, H.I.H. Arisugawa-no-Miya, and H.I.H. Kanin-no-Miya.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE:—Sir Claude Maxwell MacDonald, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., President; Dr. E. Wheeler, Vice-President; B. d'Anker, Esq., Y. Arakawa, Esq., H.E. Col C. P. Bryan, F. H. Bugbird, Esq., P. A. Cox, Esq., F. C. Davis, Esq., A. J. Easton, Esq., F. L. Elliot, Esq., H.E. S. E. M. A. Gerard, L. J. Healing, Esq., S. Hori, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., D. Marshall, Esq., Captain S. Minoda, K. Mori, Esq., H.E. Governor K. Oshima, M. Pors, Esq., H.E. Graf von Rex, H.E. J. H. van Royen, H.E. F. de Salis, F. Strahler, Esq., H.E. Baron Suifu, F. M. Tegner, Esq. and T. Thomas, Esq.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—F. M. Tegner, Esq., Chairman; D. Marshall, Esq., Hon. Clerk of the Course; P. A. Cox, Esq., Hon. Treasurer; Captain S. Minoda, M. Pors, Esq., A. R. Riddle, Esq., J. Sonoda, Esq. and Mr. Geo. Hood, Secretary.

STEWARDS OF THE MEETING.

F. M. Tegner, Esq., Chairman.
D. Marshall, Esq., Hon. Clerk of the Course.
W. Y. Showler, Esq., Judges.
J. E. B. de Courcy, Esq., Scales.
Dr. E. Wheeler, Esq., Handicapper.
A. R. Catto, Esq., Handicapper.
F. L. Elliott, Esq., Timekeeper.
E. Coutts, Esq., Timekeeper.

K. Mori, Esq., A. R. Riddle
G. H. Stitt, Esq.

Mr. G. Stevenson, Official Interpreter.
Mr. J. Ito, Official Interpreter.

FIRST DAY.—Friday, 26th April, 1912.

The opening day of the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club at Negishi yesterday was not exactly notorious for the great attendance of spectators. It was a pity, for on the whole, the racing was distinctly good, whilst the weather behaved in a fairly admirable manner. There was a crispness in the air that gave zest to the enjoyment of the afternoon, and there was a wind that touched one up and kept him—or her—perpetually on the move. As one man sagely said, it was "a fine fresh air cure." The course was in excellent condition, as is proved by the fact that two records were broken. Between the races, the splendid band of the German cruiser, *Scharnhorst*, delighted one and all with musical selections. To-day (The Emperor's Cup Day) the Toyama Band will be in attendance.

1. Class F.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450. For Horses that have not won more than 3 Races at date of entry. Weight for Age with 11 lbs. deducted. Winners at date of entry to carry 5 lbs. penalty for each win. N.R.C. Subscription Horses of Autumn, 1911, 5 lbs. allowance. Distance One Mile.

Mr. I. Yasuda's Suisei II, 124lbs.(Sato) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Mikasa, 127lbs.(Akiyama) 2
Mr. M. Kimura's Niagara, 127lbs.(Shibata-kan) 3
Mr. R. f. ale's Poulette, 117lbs.(Pass) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Seikei, 132lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Murakumo, 122lbs.(Sugiyama) 0

Great difficulty was experienced in getting a good start, six attempts being made before it was successful. At the first attempt, Murakumo made up its mind to get away and went round the course by itself. Eventually, the horses got away, Poulette taking the rails, Suisei II, the favourite, soon surged to the front, although Mikasa was pressing hard. However, in spite of Mikasa, Suisei II. had the race easily in hand and won without any trouble by half a length, Mikasa being second and Niagara third. Time 1.53 3/10.

2. Class H.—For ALL COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450. Non-Subscription Horses, Weight for Age with 7 lbs. deducted. Winners of 2 or more races at date of entry to carry 3 lbs. extra for each win over one win, not exceeding 160lbs. in all. Subscription Horses, Weight for Age with 12 lbs. deducted. Winners of 6 or more races at date of entry to carry 3 lbs. extra for each win over 5 wins, not exceeding 155lbs. in all. Distance One Mile.

Mr. S. Minoda's Frustrate, 128lbs.(Kawasaki) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Rasban, 133lbs.(Shibata-kan) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Hanabishi, 128lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 3

Only three ran. The start was an excellent one. Rasban at once swept into first place, Frustrate being close on her heels. In the back straight, Frustrate drew level, and for the rest of the course it was

a ding-dong race, both horses running practically neck and neck. Rasban took the rails on the home straight and Frustrate won a fine contest by a quarter of a length. The pace was very fast and established a record, the time being 1.44 2/5; the previous best being made in November 1900, by Mr. R. Field's "Tomboy" in 1 min., 51 1/2 sec. Hanabishi was several lengths behind as third.

3. Class A.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES OF 1911.—Value Yen 500. Weight for Age with 7 lbs. deducted. Winners of 1 race at date of entry 7 lbs. penalty. Winners of 2 or more races at date of entry excluded. Subscription Horses of Autumn, 5 lbs. allowance. Distance One Mile.

Mr. N. Kawakita's Cyano, 137lbs.(Nagazumi) 1
Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Magnolia, 132lbs.(Tamaso) 3
Mr. J. Sonoda's Sonare, 151lbs.(Kanno) 0
Mr. N. Kawakita's Hikou, 137lbs.(Kishi) 0
Mr. Rafale's Lulu (late Kwazan), 128lbs.(Fitzgerald) 0

Mr. Rafale's Seventeen, 125lbs.(Kashichi) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Ezan, 125lbs.(Tani) 0
Mr. N. N. Kuno III, 137lbs.(Takano) 0
Mr. Tandem's Brunette, 137lbs.(Mr. F. L. Elliot) 0
Mr. Royston's Nedschi, 132lbs.(Kawasaki) 0
Mr. Silk's Louise, 132lbs.(Yasu) 0

The start was much delayed owing to a fit of bad temper on the part of Louise who kicked and reared and finally refused to budge. At last her jockey dismounted and leading her back, got her into a better humour. When the horses got away, three were left at the post, viz. Lulu, Seventeen and Louise. Nedschi got away from the rest almost at the start, closely followed by Sonare. At the back straight, Cyano was leading. Towards the home straight, Mr. Elliott on Brunette was riding strong and it looked as though he had a chance of winning, but was unable to force the pace. The finish was a capital one, Idzutsu suddenly rushing to the front on the home straight and winning by a length, with Cyano second, and Queen Magnolia third. Time 1.49 1/5.

4. Class D.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES OF SPRING, 1912.—Value Yen 450. Weight 120lbs. Distance Three-Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Lenard's Bonnie Jane, 120lbs.(Tamaso) 1
Mr. J. Sonoda's Tomoye III, 123lbs.(Kanno) 2
Mr. I. Yasuda's Yokohama II, 124lbs.(Goto) 3
Mr. Prince's Schoolgirl, 120lbs.(Kashichi) 0
Mr. Jester's Reinbeck, 130lbs.(Sugiyama) 0
Mr. T. Ishiura's Lady Ordonge, 120lbs.(Fuukawa) 0
Mr. State's Alabama, 120lbs.(Coffee) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Tsubasa, 120lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. N. N. Miyuki II, 120lbs.(Ebano) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Benikusa, 120lbs.(Okuyama) 0
Mr. S. Minoda's Tennin II, 125lbs.(Kawasaki) 0

Eleven started, Tomoye III. taking the lead. About the quarter of the mile, Coffee was thrown rather nastily, owing to the breking of a stirrup leather. There was a general halt and after an interval of a few minutes, the race was re-started.

Alabama soon replaced Tomoye III, with Bonnie Jane a close third, the rest tailing off behind. Before entering the straight, the three leading horses were closely bunched together, but Yokohama II. was going strong and looked a dangerous enemy. She, however, failed to keep up the pace, and the finish was left to the two leaders, Bonnie Jane winning by half a length; Tomoye III. by 2 lengths and Yokohama II. third.—Time 1.25 1/10.

5. Class C.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES.—Value Yen 500. Weight for Age with 7 lbs. deducted. Winners of 4 or more races at date of entry 3 lbs. extra for each win over 3 wins, not exceeding 160lbs. in all. Non-Winners at date of entry 5 lbs. allowance. Distance One Mile.

Mr. J. Sonoda's Sonohana, 160lbs.(Kanno) 1
Mr. Norfolk's Biwako, 136lbs.(Coffee) 0
Mr. Cherry's Cupid, 139lbs.(Kawasaki) 3
Mr. T. Hiama's Persephone, 142lbs.(Higaki) 0
Mr. Monte Carlo's Nadina, 130lbs.(Sasehichi) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Bonny Black (late Samartaine), 130lbs.(Suzuki) 0

For this race, six horses ran, Cupid and Sonohana being first away. Coffee on Biwako passed Cupid at the base of the hill. Coming along the back straight, Cupid came ahead, displacing Biwako at the bend; Coffee still held second place and it looked very much as though he would manage to pull off the event. The race down the home stretch was excellent, but Biwako only succeeded in getting second; Sonohana winning by ten lengths, with Cupid third. Time 1.47.

6. Class G.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450. Weight for Age with 7 lbs. deducted. Winners of 6 or more races at

date of entry 5 lbs. extra for each win over 5 wins, not exceeding 155lbs. in all. Distance One Mile.

Mr. R. Kimura's Oimatsu II, 140lbs.(Tsubouchi) 1
Mr. Jester's Chantecler, 140lbs.(Pass) 2
Mr. Monte Carlo's Bijou, 130lbs.(Sasaki) 3
Mr. Tatsuta's Kinjo, 130lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Nile's Chigusa, 135lbs.(Ebano) 0

A false start prefaced the race, and then the five horses were successfully despatched, Oimatsu II at once taking the lead, Kinjo and Chantecler close on its heels. The same order was maintained for the latter half of the course, until nearing the post, Bijou suddenly leapt forward and passed Kinjo, but failed to catch Chantecler. Time 1.50 1/5. This again established a record, the previous highest being made in Oct. 1911 by Mr. Tandem's Merrythought II. in 1 min., 51 1/5 sec.

SECOND DAY.—Saturday, 27th April, 1912.

THE EMPEROR'S CUP DAY.

Splendid weather characterised the second day of the Nippon Race Club Spring Meeting on Saturday. The sun was out the whole time and its genial warmth materially contributed to the undoubted success of the afternoon. The attendance too was much better, whilst the really beautiful frocks of the many ladies present, provided a picture exceedingly charming to the male portion of racegoers. One would like to describe some of the dresses and hats, but the fact that the writer is unmarried, warns him of the danger of venturing into the unknown.

Shortly after one o'clock, H. E. Sir Claude MacDonald, K.C.B., accompanied by Lady MacDonald, arrived on the course and was shortly followed by the German Ambassador, Count von Rex. Soon after, both the French and American Ambassadors joined the throng and about 1.30, H.I.H. Prince Higashi-Fushimi, with his staff, was received at the entrance by the President and Officials of the Club, the Toyama band playing the National Anthem as he entered.

The racing on the whole was good, although considerable difficulty was experienced in several of the starts, one of them being particularly bad. The course was in fine condition, as is proved by the fact that in the last race (a mile and a quarter) the previous record made in May 1890 by Mr. Tatsuta's Tatsuta of 2 min., 22 1/2 sec. was well beaten by 5 sec.

The feature of the afternoon was naturally the race for the Emperor's Cup, which proved an easy win for Pass on Steadfast. He led from the start and was never once seriously challenged. Both owner and jockey received an ovation at the conclusion of the race. Mr. Scho. Fischer, the owner, is evidently in luck, for he secured the Coronation Cup at the Autumn meeting of last year.

Racing will be continued on Friday and will conclude on the following day.

1. Class E.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Weight for Age with 12 lbs. deducted. Winners at date of entry of 1 race 7 lbs. penalty; of 2 races 7 lbs. penalty; of 3 or more races excluded. N.R.C. Subscription Horses of Autumn 1911, 5 lbs. allowance; N.R.C. Subscription Horses of Spring 1912, 7 lbs. allowance. Winners of Races 1 and 6, First Day, excluded. Distance One Mile.

Mr. N. Kawakita's Tachimaru, 127lbs.(Asahi) 1
Mr. Lenard's Hayate, 131lbs.(Tamaso) 2
Mr. M. Kimura's Niagara, 127lbs.(Shibatakan) 3
Mr. T. Ishiura's Shogun, 137lbs.(Higashi) 0
Mr. Tatsuta's Seik-i, 132lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Mikasa, 127lbs.(Kawasaki) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Murakumo, 120lbs.(Sugiyama) 0

Seven started. Hayate was first away, closely followed by Tachimaru. At the first quarter Murakumo was laying third, and for a few moments surged to first place, but dropped back again at the bend. Approaching the trees, Tachimaru fell back to second, but at the last furlong, shot ahead and won a capital race by six lengths. Hayate was second, beating Niagara by ten lengths. Time 1.51 1/4.

2. Class G.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Weight for Age with 7 lbs. deducted; Winners of 5 or more races at date of entry to carry 4 lbs. extra for each win over 4 wins, not exceeding 155lbs. in all. Winners of Race 1, First

Day, 7lbs. extra, of Race 6, First Day, excluded. Distance One Mile.

Mr. Jester's Chantecler, 141lbs. (Pass) 1
Mr. I. Yasuda's Suisei II., 130lbs. (Sato) 2
Mr. Nile's Chigusa, 137lbs. (Ebano) 3
Mr. Monte Carlo's Bijou, 133lbs. (Susaki) 3
Mr. Taisuta's Kinjo, 130lbs. (Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Tandem's Merrythought II., 125lbs. (Coffee) 0

Six started, Chantecler being first away and Merrythought II. a close second. Rounding the bend to the hill, the horses were in a bunch; but half way up, Kinjo drew ahead and for a time held first place. Approaching the home straight, Chantecler surged forward from the rest and won a hard race by a length and a half from Suisei II. Chigusa and Bijou dead-heated for third place, two lengths behind. Time 1.51 1/10.

3. Class B.—THE EMPEROR'S CUP.—Presented by H. S. MAJESTY THE EMPEROR. The Second to receive Yen 200. For N.R.C. Subscription Australian Horses and Country Bred Horses. Winners of 3 races or less ■ date of entry. Weight for Age; Winners of more than 3 races ■ date of entry 3lbs. extra for each win over 3 wins, not exceeding 15lbs. in all. (Wins on the N.R.C. Course only to count). Subscription Australian Horses in Japan for their Second Meeting, 3lbs. allowance; Horses that have started ■ previous meetings, but have not won a race, 5lbs. allowance, allowance accumulative; Subscription Australian Griffins 12lbs. allowance; Winners after closing of entries to carry 5lbs. extra accumulative. Previous winners of Emperor's Cup under these conditions excluded. Distance One Mile.

Mr. Prince's Steadfast, 137lbs. (Pass) 1
Mr. Nile's Idutsu, 134lbs. (Ebano) 2
Mr. Monte Carlo's Nadina, 134lbs. (Suzuki) 3
Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Magnolia, 134lbs. (Tamazo) ■

Mr. Prince's Saratoga, 137lbs. (Kashichi) 0
Mr. N. Kawakita's Cyranos, 137lbs. (Nakazumi) 0
Mr. Rafale's Lulu (late Kwasan), 129lbs. (Fitzgerald) 0

Mr. Tandem's Brunette, 137lbs. (Mr. Elliott) 0
Mr. Royston's Nedechdi, 134lbs. (Higashi) 0
Mr. Tylerleigh's Bonny Black (late Samaritaine), 134lbs. (Coffee) 0
Mr. S. Minoda's Langton, 137lbs. (Tsubouchi) 0

Eleven horses faced the starter for the Emperor's Cup, but considerable difficulty was experienced in getting them away. Eventually, however, they were despatched, Pass on Steadfast, the favourite, being first away with what was almost a flying start. He was closely followed by Idutsu and Nadina, but was never passed. Apparently, in a perfectly easy manner, Steadfast drew ahead and won without any trouble by ten lengths. Idutsu was second and Nadina third, one length separating the two horses. Time 1.47.

At the conclusion of the race, the Emperor's Cup was presented to the happy winner, Mr. Schopflocher, by Mr. Miwa Sir Claude Macdonald, as President of the Race Club, then called for three cheers and Banzai's for His Majesty, which were given with the heartiest of good will.

4. Class D.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES OF SPRING 1912.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Weight 120lbs. Winners at the Meeting excluded. Distance One Mile.

Mr. States' Alabama, 120lbs. (Coffee) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Benikusa, 120lbs. (Okuyama) 2
Mr. I. Yasuda's Yokohama II., 120lbs. (Sato) 3
Mr. Prince's Schoolgirl, 120lbs. (Kashichi) 0
Mr. Jester's Reinbeck, 120lbs. (Sugihara) 0
Mr. Robin Hood's Maud Allan, 120lbs. (Asahi) ■
Mr. J. Sonoda's Tomoye III., 120lbs. (Kanno) 0
Mr. Taisuta's Tsubasa, 120lbs. (Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Nile's Miyuki II., 120lbs. (Ebano) 0
Mr. Tandem's Trilby, 120lbs. (Hansawa) 0
Mr. Royston's The Kid, 120lbs. (T-mazo) ■

Eleven ran for this race but once again the start was bad, in fact it was the worst of the day. Yokohama II. was the first away, with Alabama at her heels and the rest well behind, Schoolgirl leading the bunch. Going up the hill, Maud Allan forged ahead to third place. In the back straight, the order was Yokohama II., Benikusa and Schoolgirl. Round the bend, Coffee on Alabama was seen to be going strong and entering the home stretch, he shot to the front and won an excellent race by a length and a half. Benikusa was second, beating Yokohama II. by two lengths. Time 1.55 4/5.

5. Class C.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES.—Value Yen 500, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Weight for Age with 17lbs. deducted; Winners of 4 or more races at date of entry to carry 4lbs. extra for each win over 3 wins, not exceeding

16lbs. in all. Winners at the Meeting excluded. Distance One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Norfolk's Biwako, 128lbs. (Coffee) 1
Mr. N. Kawakita's Hikoo, 120lbs. (Asahi) 2
Mr. T. Hiyama's Persephone, 136lbs. (Higaki) 3
Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Jasmine, 120lbs. (Tamazo) 0
Mr. Silk's Midzuho, 136lbs. (Shibatakan) ■

Only five horses faced the tape for this race. Biwako was first away, Hikoo following closely and the other three in a bunch behind. At the Grand Stand, Persephone took the lead but lost it at the trees, when Biwako moved to the front, and on the home straight rapidly increased the lead, winning easily by three lengths. Hikoo took second place, beating Persephone by four lengths. Time 2.18.

6. Class H.—For ALL COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Non-Subscription Horses, Weight for Age with 12lbs. deducted. Winners of 2 or more races at date of entry to carry 4lbs. extra for each win over 1 win, not exceeding 160lbs. in all; Subscription Horses, Weight for Age with 16lbs. deducted; Winners of 6 or more races at date of entry to carry 4lbs. extra for each win over 5 wins, not exceeding 155lbs. in all. Winners of Race 6, First Day, 5lbs. extra, of Race 2, First Day, excluded. Distance One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Taisuta's Hanabishi, 122lbs. (Nihonyanagi) 1
Mr. R. Kimura's Oimatsu II., 129lbs. (Tsubouchi) 2
Mr. M. Kimura's Rasban, 129lbs. (Shibata-kan) 3

A small field of three faced the starter for the last race of the day. The start was a good one, Oimatsu II. at once taking the lead. Rasban was close behind and at the back straight jumped into first place. Hanabishi, however, was going strong and approaching the home stretch secured second place. On the home straight she took first place and passed the post a winner by five lengths. The tussle between Rasban and Oimatsu II. for second place was a capital one and resulted in a dead heat. The time was 2.17 1/2 sec. thus establishing another record, the previous best for the same distance being 2.22 1/5.

JUDGE WATANABE AND THE CHOSEN CONSPIRACY.

Judge Watanabe, President of the Supreme Court in Seoul, who has been ordered abroad by the Government on official business, was given a farewell dinner by members of the Japanese Y.M.C.A. in Seoul at the Keijo Hotel on the 23rd ult.

The mission with which Mr. Watanabe is charged in his forthcoming journey is the inspection of Courts and judicial procedure in America and Europe. He will leave Seoul for Japan at the beginning of next month and then proceed to America. He will return to Seoul about the end of this year.

In this connection the *Seoul Press* refers to a rumour that Judge Watanabe's foreign journey has been arranged so as to remove him from Chosen during the trial of the Christian Koreans charged with the conspiracy against the life of the Governor-General, because he is a Christian and will naturally show sympathy with the prisoners. The rumour is so absurd, says our contemporary, that it scarcely need be heeded. In the first place, Judge Watanabe's foreign journey was settled previous to the discovery of the conspiracy. Secondly, Judge Watanabe is a man of recognised integrity of character and will show no partiality whatever in judging those accused of crime, whether they be Christian or not. Thirdly, Judge Watanabe will come back in time to attend the trial of the prisoners above referred to, should they bring their case to the Court presided over by him. The public trial of their case in the Court of First Instance will take a long time to conclude because of the large number of persons involved. It is possible that it will drag on for several months. And then they may appeal to the Court of Appeal, where another length of time will be required for their re-trial. It is only after judgment is delivered on them in the Court of Appeal and in case they again appeal, that their case will come to the consideration of the Supreme Court. It will be seen that even though Mr. Watanabe should be absent from Seoul for a year or so, the chances are against his being excluded from the trial of the prisoners. The rumour is false on the face of it.

THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON.

The last lecture of the season of the above Society was held on Thursday evening last at the Van Schaick Hall and can be counted as one of the successes of the year. Nearly every seat in the building was occupied and it is doubtful if any lecture given to the members held them more entranced than the one given by the lecturer of the evening, the Rev. Walter Weston.

Mr. Weston selected as his subject—"Alpine Climbing"—and for fully an hour delighted his hearers with stories of the Alps. The wonderful fascinations of mountains—only really known to those who have climbed—was vividly depicted; sometimes with a simple directness that went to the hearts of all, and at other moments with touches of delicious humour that was irresistible. It is almost impossible to praise Mr. Weston too highly for his—they are the only words one can use—charming discourse. He traversed the paths of comedy and tragedy and was equally at home in both. His own particular great adventure, which he left to the end as a *bon bouche*, was told with modesty and much humour; whilst his friend the "Porter," will long be a treasured memory to those who heard of his elephantine gambols and his ardent desire to have steps cut in the ice sufficiently large to accommodate his abnormally large feet. The lecture was assisted most ably by some excellent lantern slides illustrating the many scenes described. When one remembers that the Rev. Mr. Weston is a member of the English and Swiss Alpine Clubs, it is evident to all that they were listening to a man who had been there and done things.

The concert that followed was brief but excellent. Especially so, was the singing of Madame von Syburg, Mrs. W. T. Payne and Mr. H. C. Gregory. The two ladies have seldom been heard to better advantage, the Aria rendered by Madame von Syburg, being particularly fine and true. Mr. Gregory was also in good form with that dramatic song "Son of Mine" and fully deserved the encore demanded from him. In response, he gave the good old English ballad, "King Charles."

The following is the full programme of the evening.

Vocal Solo.....	"Serenade"	Strauss
	Mrs. W. T. Payne.	
Pianoforte Solo	"Corely"	Seeling
	Mrs. E. Eddison.	
Vocal Solo.....	"Aria"	Stradella
	Mme. von Syburg.	
Song.....	"Son of Mine"	Wallace
	Mr. H. C. Gregory.	
Duet	(a) "Autumn Song"	Mendelssohn
	(b) "May Flowers"	
	Mme. von Syburg and Mrs. W. T. Payne.	

THE RAW SILK TRADE.

According to investigations made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the amount of raw silk handled at Yokohama in the 44th fiscal year is double that recorded some seven years ago, the total being 278,000 bales as against 148,000 for the 38th year, the export amounting to 247,000 bales as against 122,000 bales for the 38th year. On the other hand the quantity of raw silk which fails to pass the conditioning house shows a tendency to increase, being 11,600 bales in the 38th year and 20,000 bales in the 44th year. The following table shows the amount of raw silk both entered and cleared from Yokohama during the past seven years:—

Year.	Entered. Bales.	Cleared. Bales.
1905	148,878	122,778
1906	178,772	183,040
1907	200,764	162,559
1908	215,145	209,486
1909	216,278	237,235
1910	264,487	255,530
1911	278,161	247,458

CHARGE OF FORGING OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

FULL TEXT OF JUDGMENT ON APPEAL.

The following is a full translation of the judgment pronounced by the Tokyo Appeal Court in the appeal lodged by J. E. Hargreaves in regard to the judgment rendered against him by the Yokohama District Court on December 25th, 1911, in the criminal case in which the accused is charged with the forgery and utterance of official documents and embezzlement:—

PRINCIPAL TEXT.

The original judgment is quashed and the accused Hargreaves is sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Of the articles seized the Customs receipts numbered 1-2 of *ken* No. 7, 1-8 of *yo* No. 30, 1-3 of *yo* No. 33, *yo* Nos. 39, 41, 1-2 of *yo* No. 43, *yo* No. 45 of *wo* 97 and 1-2 of *ken* No. 1 (erroneously described as 1-2 of *yo* No. 1 in the original judgment) of *wo* 649; and the invoices numbered 2 of *yo* No. 6, are confiscated. The others are to be returned to their respective owners. The cost of the public trial in this Court shall be borne by the accused Hargreaves.

REASONS.

The accused Hargreaves, who was the sub-manager of the Yokohama branch of Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox of London, acting in collusion with Matsumura Takeshige, an employee of the said Yokohama branch, and Sato Kenji, an employee of the Toyo Transport Agency, in the same city, who undertook the transportation and the Customs business of the Yokohama branch of the said firm, committed the following offences consecutively and with criminal intent:—

1.—On June 8th, 1910, the accused forged an invoice sent from Babcock and Wilcox in London, undervaluing the price mentioned thereon, and produced it to the Kobe Customs House, deceiving Mr. Metcalf by pretending that 91.34 *yen* had been paid as import duty thereon, thus fraudulently obtaining from the said Metcalf a cheque for 142.60 *yen* (*yo* No. 42 of *wo* No. 97) for this and another sum of 50.26 *yen* payable as import duty on another consignment, while he actually paid to the Custom House the sum of 22.72 *yen*, assessed on the price mentioned on the forged invoice as import duty, and got the goods passed through the Customs. He also forged Customs receipts in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury for 92.34 *yen* and 50.26 *yen* (1-2 of *yo* No. 43 of *wo* 97) in order to cover up the offence, and uttered them, keeping the receipts in the Yokohama branch of the said firm.

2.—On the 11th of the same month accused forged Customs receipts (1-2 of *yo* No. 35 of *wo* 97) in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury for 229.69 *yen* and 70.46 *yen*, for fear that the existence of *bona-fide* receipts for import duty paid to the Kobe branch of the National Treasury might lead to the disclosure of the above offences and uttered and kept them in the said Yokohama branch.

3.—On the 17th of the same month, when a consignment of goods reached Yokohama, the accused forged in the aforesaid manner an invoice sent from the head office in London and, producing it to the Yokohama Custom House, got the import duty assessed on the forged invoice, and, pretending that 1,133.49 *yen* had been paid as import duty, fraudulently obtained from the said Metcalf a cheque for that amount (*wo* No. 97). He also forged a Customs receipt (1 of *ken* No. 7 of *wo* 97) for the amount described on the said cheque, to cover up the offence, and uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

4.—On the 23rd of the same month, when a consignment of machinery was received at Yokohama, the accused fraudulently obtained from the said Metcalf a cheque for 568.30 *yen* (*wo* No. 97) and forged the Customs receipt (1 of *ken* No. 8 of *wo* No. 97) to cover up the offence, and

uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

5.—On July of the same year the accused forged eight Customs receipts in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury for 138.74 *yen*, 357.02 *yen*, 238.54 *yen*, 159.66 *yen*, 30.08 *yen*, 13.78 *yen*, 49.88 *yen* and 3.94 *yen* (1-8 of *yo* No. 30 of *wo* No. 97), for fear the existence of *bona-fide* receipts for import duties actually paid to the Kobe branch of the National Treasury should lead to the disclosure of the above offences, and uttered and kept them in the said Yokohama branch.

6.—On the 8th of the same month, when a consignment of goods was received at Nagasaki, the accused forged the invoice sent from the said head office in London and producing it to the Nagasaki Custom House, got the import duty assessed thereon and fraudulently obtained from the aforesaid Metcalf a cheque for 1,484.29 *yen* (*wo* No. 97), pretending that that amount had been paid to the Custom House. The accused also forged a Customs receipt for that amount in the name of the Nagasaki branch of the National Treasury (*wo* No. 97) to cover up the offence, and uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

7.—On the 16th of the same month, when a consignment of goods was received at Kobe, the accused forged in a similar manner the invoice sent from the said head office in London, and fraudulently obtained from the said Metcalf a cheque for 1,364.21 *yen* (*wo* No. 97), under the pretence that that amount was payable as import duty thereon, and got the goods passed through the Custom House on payment of 932.63 *yen* as import duty assessed on the forged invoice. The accused also forged a Customs receipt for the amount equal to that mentioned on the cheque in order to cover up the offence and uttered and kept the receipt in the said Yokohama branch.

8.—On the 18th of the same month the accused forged a Customs receipt for 81 *yen* in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury for fear that the existence of a *bona-fide* receipt for the sum actually paid to the said Kobe branch of the National Treasury as import duty might lead to the detection of the offence, and uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

9.—On the 27th of the same month, when a consignment of goods was received at Yokohama, the accused forged in like manner the invoice sent from the said head office in London, and fraudulently obtained in like manner from the said Metcalf a cheque for 242.55 *yen* (*wo* No. 97). The accused also forged a Customs receipt for that amount (*wo* No. 97) to cover up the offence and uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

10.—On August 2nd of the same year the accused forged in like manner a Customs receipt in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury, for 482.56 *yen* (*wo* No. 97) and uttered and kept it in the said Yokohama branch.

11.—On the 16th of the same month the accused forged in like manner an invoice sent from the said head office in London, and producing it to the Moji Custom House, got the import duty assessed on the forged invoice. The accused fraudulently obtained from Mr. Munster a cheque for 3,939.88 *yen* (3 of *ken* No. 16 of *wo* No. 97) and also forged two Customs receipts (1-2 of *ken* No. 16 of *wo* No. 97) and uttered and kept them in the said Yokohama branch.

12.—On the 17th of the same month, when a consignment of goods was received at Kobe, the accused forged an invoice (*yo* No. 31 of *wo* 97) in the name of the said head office in London, and fraudulently obtained from the said Munster a cheque and also forged three Customs receipts (1-3 of *yo* 33 of *wo* 97) to cover up the offence, which he uttered and kept in the said Yokohama branch.

13.—On September 3rd of the same year the accused forged a Customs receipt (*yo* No. 2 of *wo* No. 649) to cover up the aforesaid offences,

which he uttered and kept in the said Yokohama branch.

14.—On the 10th of the same month the accused in like manner forged an invoice (2 of *ken* No. 1 of *wo* 97) and fraudulently obtained from the said Munster a cheque, and also forged two Customs receipts (1-2 of *ken* No. 1 of *wo* No. 649) to cover up the offence, which he uttered and kept in the said Yokohama branch.

In this case the accused Matsumura Takeshige deposed in the second examination of the Preliminary Court (on October 13th, 1910) that the Yokohama branch of the said firm of Babcock and Wilcox has its head office in London, and deals in steam engines, etc. Mr. J. E. Hargreaves is its sub-manager. He first entered the service of the said Yokohama branch on January 4th, 1908. The business routine is that when the Yokohama branch office receives a consignment of goods from the head office, the specification of goods, invoice, bill of lading and other documents are forwarded from the head office. These documents are delivered to the transport agency, who brings to the office the demand note of the Custom House, and a cheque is made out for the amount described in that note. The cheque is handed over to the agent for the payment of import duty, to have the goods passed through. The transport agent hands over the Customs receipt either to him or to the manager during his absence. About March, or April 1910, Hargreaves told him in the sub-manager's room that he (Hargreaves) thought he would alter the invoices, as the Japanese tariff rate was too high, but the matter was left alone, as the office was very busy then. When the office became less busy in June, Hargreaves again suggested the alteration of invoices as he said before, and the appropriation of the money thereby obtained to extraordinary expenses in the office. On subsequent consultation the alteration of invoices was put into practice from June. Forged invoices were drawn up accordingly, the prices shown on the *bona-fide* invoices being reduced by thirty or forty per cent. Exhibits numbered 2 of No. 6 and 2 of No. 7, shown him by the Court, were invoices forged in Yokohama. The blank receipt forms were printed in March or April, 1910, by a Chinese printer named Ho Tung, No. 159, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama. The receipts were forged, entries being made thereon and seals put on them. The accused got the ideographs and figures written by Sato Kenji with pen and ink, the work being invariably executed either in his room or Hargreaves' room in the office. After the entries were made he (Matsumura) printed thereon the words "Yokohama branch of National Treasury" with types which he had bought, and thus the receipts were forged. The forged receipts for the invoices forged up to August, 1910, were all forwarded to the said head office in London. After the Customs official Midzuno paid the office a visit to make inquiries concerning the invoices forged after August 16th, Hargreaves asked Matsumura to leave the office and go over to the United States, promising him about 2,000 *yen*, and also stated that he (Hargreaves) would not associate Matsumura's name with the affair, but would pretend that all the evil actions had been done either by the office or by the transport agent. The accused replied that he could not agree to the proposal, and left the office. Afterwards he learned from Mr. Mitsuhashi that Hargreaves had on consultation with a lawyer produced to the Yokohama Custom House all the forged receipts, accusing him of the forgery. Thereupon he (Matsumura) sent his brother to the Custom House to make inquiries, when he found that Hargreaves had laid all the blame on him.

The accused Hargreaves, when examined as a witness in the preliminary court (on October 31st, 1910), deposed that the steam engines, etc., consigned to the Yokohama branch office by the head office of Babcock and Wilcox in London, were landed at Nagasaki, Moji, Kobe or Yokohama, and the business of passing the consignments through the Customs was undertaken by the Yoko-

hama branch office. The invoices were forwarded from the head office in London. The invoices were handed over to the transport agent, who took the documents to the Custom House, to have the import duty assessed, and obtained demand notes, which were taken to him. He then made out the cheques for the amount and delivered them to the transport agent, who paid the Customs duty to the local branch of the National Treasury and got the goods passed through. This business was entrusted to the Toyo Transport Agency. He had neither destroyed blank invoice forms nor had he ever kept such forms. The receipts issued by the local branch of the National Treasury for the import duty paid in by the Toyo Transport Agency were returned by Matsumura, who sent them in at the end of each month, together with all other receipts. He then forwarded all these documents to the said head office in London.

The accused Sato Kenji, who was examined as a witness in the Preliminary Court on November 2nd, 1910, deposed that he was employed by the Toyo Transport Agency, Aioicho, 1-chome, Yokohama, and had been engaged in the handling and passing through the Custom House of the goods consigned to the Yokohama branch of Babcock and Wilcox since about March or April 1909. He usually received from Matsumura, though sometimes from Hargreaves, cheques for payment of import duties. He used to hand over the balance remaining to Matsumura after the duty was paid, but he remembered he handed over the balance to Hargreaves on one or two occasions. Whenever he handed over the money to Matsumura, the latter used to take it to Hargreaves' room. He remembered handing over the balance to Hargreaves, but he did not mean that he handed over the money to Hargreaves direct, but that he took the money to Hargreaves' room, when he handed it over to Matsumura in the presence of Hargreaves, to whom Matsumura delivered it. He remembered it was a Sunday in August 1910 that he accompanied Matsumura to Hargreaves' villa at Kamakura in connection with the Moji Customs affair, when he understood that Hargreaves stated that there was no alternative but to comply with the demands of the Moji Custom House and pay the amount of duty demanded. He forthwith telegraphed to Takekichi, the Moji agent of his firm, an instruction to that effect.

The witness Ono Minoru deposed in the Preliminary Court that the import duties paid on the consignment of goods received by the Yokohama branch of Babcock and Wilcox of London were as under:—677.99 yen on June 17th, 1910; 96.12 yen on the 3rd of the same month; 82.88 yen on July 27th; 384.26 yen and 116.56 yen on September 10th. The last two items were assessed on September 10th and the duty paid to the Yokohama branch of the National Treasury on September 12th, while all the other items were paid on the date of assessment. The Custom House sometimes assessed the duty on appraisement when there existed some doubt as to whether the price stated in the invoice was an undervaluation, but usually assessed the duty on the invoice price.

The accused Matsumura deposed at the fourth examination in the Preliminary Court (November 17th, 1910) that he recently learned from Mitsuhashi that it seemed as though Hargreaves disclosed the whole affair to Mr. Metcalf. Mr. Metcalf told Mitsuhashi that the whole affair was done by Hargreaves jointly with Matsumura, and their action seriously reflected on the credit of the firm. The firm would pay the import duty as demanded by the Custom House, and would not consult with a lawyer, but would keep a cool head and leave matters to take their natural course.

The witness Mitsuhashi Yukio deposed before the Preliminary Court that Mr. Metcalf told him the affair was the doing of Hargreaves and Matsumura. The penalty was rather high, but he would not engage lawyers but would leave matters to follow their natural course.

The accused Hargreaves deposed in the Pre-

liminary Court on December 5, 1910, that he remembered it was the day when Matsumura left the office that he discovered in the drawers of Matsumura's desk thirty or forty blank invoice forms, which he ordered Kuriyama to destroy. On the previous day Matsumura confessed to him the forgery of the invoices and other criminal acts. He examined the drawers of Matsumura's desk on the aforesaid day and had the invoice forms destroyed, as he did not like to have such forms about the office.

The witness Jen Itai, of the Tong-chang printing house, deposed to the Public Prosecutor who examined him, that in May 1909, he received from the Yokohama branch of Babcock and Wilcox an order for 500 sheets of forms. The May accounts altogether amounted to 52 yen, of which he received 47 yen on June 15th from Matsumura, with whom he went to the room of the foreigner then present.

The accused Sato Kenji deposed before the Preliminary Court on March 24th, 1911, that about June last, Matsumura confided to him that the price mentioned in the invoices sent from the head office in London were altered in the Yokohama branch in order to evade payment of import duty. About that time, when he went to the said Yokohama branch office, he saw Matsumura was getting Kuriyama to alter an invoice and getting forged invoices type-written. Through the request of Matsumura he made out in Hargreaves' room forged receipts on about two different occasions.

The accused Matsumura, when examined as a referee (unsworn witness) at the third examination in the Preliminary Court on June 20th, 1911, deposed that with reference to the items Nos. 2, 4, 9, 11 and 14, referred to in the text of the judgment, the invoices were forged and uttered on the dates shown in the same text and import duties were paid as shown in the text, but reports were made to the head office as if the amount of import duty had been paid, as shown in the same text, and also that the Customs receipts in the name of the branch offices of the National Treasury were forged as shown in the same text. The receipts dated August 16th bore the stamp "Nagasaki branch." He believed that the stamp was put on by Hargreaves. If he put the stamp on he might have another stamp marked "Moji branch," which he kept. With reference to the item No. 13, shown in the same text, the receipt in the name of the branch office of the National Treasury had been forged, as shown in the same text, to cover up the offence, because if a bona fide receipt had been forwarded to the head office in London, it would have easily led to the detection of the crime, as forged receipts were sent to London on previous occasions. The receipt was also forged under the instructions of Hargreaves. Those documents dated after June were forged by him, jointly with Sato, by the instruction of Hargreaves.

The accused Sato deposed at the fifth examination in the Preliminary Court that with reference to the items No. 3, 4, 9, 11 and 14, shown in the text of judgment, the invoices were forged and altered as shown in the same text, and the Customs receipts were also forged in regard to No. 13, shown in the same text.

The witness Henry E. Metcalf deposed before the Preliminary Court on June 29th, 1911, that he was manager of the Yokohama branch of Babcock & Wilcox, but left Japan for home on July 9th, 1910, on leave of absence, and returned to Yokohama in October the same year.

The accused Matsumura deposed in the Preliminary Court on July 26th, 1911, that in reference to item No. 1, the invoice was forged and uttered as shown in the text of the judgment, and 22.72 yen was paid as import duty thereon, a report being made to the head office in London that 92.34 yen had been paid on that consignment, and a Customs receipt in the name of the Kobe branch of the National Treasury was forged and forwarded to the said head office. In regard to item No. 2, he got the documents 1-2 of No. 35 of *wo* No. 97 forged by Sato, and had them forwarded to the

said head office in order to corroborate the other forged receipts. With reference to item No. 5, shown in the same text, eight Customs receipts, numbered respectively 1-8 of No. 30 of *wo* No. 97, were forged on the date shown in the same text, and he thought these documents were taken home by Hargreaves, where his wife got Mr. Hearne (?) to write the amounts inserted in the centre of these documents. With reference to item No. 6 shown in the same text, the invoices were forged and uttered on the date shown in the same text and 1,054.46 yen was paid as import duty on the consignment, a report being made to the said head office that 1,488.29 yen was paid as import duty thereon, by forging Customs receipts in the name of the Nagasaki branch of the National Treasury. With reference to item No. 7, the invoice was forged on the date shown in the same text and 932.63 yen, if he remembered correctly, was paid to the Kobe Custom House as import duty thereon, a report being made to the said head office that 1,364.21 yen had been paid as import duty on that consignment, and the Customs receipt for the latter amount was forged. The Customs receipt No. 37 of *wo* No. 97 was the forged receipt referred to above. With reference to item No. 8, shown in the same text, the Customs receipts Nos. 39 and 45 of *wo* No. 97, were forged and forwarded to the said head office in London. With reference to item No. 12, shown in the same text, the invoice was forged as shown in the same text and produced to the Kobe Custom House and import duty paid thereon. He remembered that the cheque was made out for the amount of the import duty plus 466.87 yen. A report was made to the said head office that 3,929.41 yen had been paid as import duty on that consignment, and a Customs receipt for the corresponding amount was forged. (The Court presumes that the balance of 3,462.54 yen was naturally paid as import duty). The documents 1-3 of No. 33 of *wo* No. 97 were the receipts referred to above. He forged all these invoices and receipts by the instruction of Hargreaves.

The referee E. O. Waterlow deposed in this Court that Mr. Munster was formerly the Manager of the Yokohama branch of Babcock & Wilcox of London and was now an adviser to the said office. During the absence of Mr. Metcalf, the present manager, Mr. Munster was in charge of the said Yokohama office.

All these depositions quoted above are entered in the Record of proceedings of this case, and, taking these depositions into consideration, together with the existence of the cheque for 142.60 yen signed by Metcalf and numbered 1 of *wo* No. 42 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 1,133.49 yen signed by Metcalf, and numbered as 2 of *ken* No. 9 *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 568.30 yen signed by Metcalf, and numbered as 2 of *ken* No. 8 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 1,484.29 yen signed by Metcalf, and numbered as *yo* No. 40 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 1,364.21 yen signed by Munster, and numbered as *yo* No. 36 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 242.55 yen signed by Munster, and numbered as 3 of *ken* No. 24 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 3,939.88 yen signed by Munster and numbered as 3 of *ken* No. 16 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 3,929.41 yen signed by Munster, and numbered as *yo* No. 31 of *wo* No. 97; the cheque for 857.18 yen, numbered as 2 of *ken* No. 19 of *wo* No. 97; and the invoices, respectively numbered as 2 of *yo* No. 6 and 2 of *yo* No. 7, and also the Customs receipts in the names of the branch offices of the National Treasury shown in the text of this judgment, and respectively numbered 1-2 of *yo* No. 43 of *wo* No. 97, 1-2 of *yo* No. 35 ditto, 1 of *ken* No. 7 ditto, 1 of *ken* No. 8 ditto, 1-8 of *yo* No. 30 ditto, *yo* No. 41 ditto, *yo* No. 37 ditto, *yo* No. 39 ditto, 1 of *ken* No. 14 ditto, *yo* No. 45 ditto, 1-2 of *ken* No. 16 ditto, 1-3 of *yo* No. 33 ditto, *yo* No. 2 of *wo* No. 649 and 1-2 of *ken* No. 1 ditto, the Court recognizes that the accused is guilty of the charges.

When the legal aspect of the case is considered, the Court finds that the forgery of invoices com-

mitted by the accused comes under the purview of Articles 55 and Clause 1 of Article 159 of the Criminal Law, and their utterance under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 161, Clause 1 of Article 159 and Article 55; while the forgery of Customs receipts comes under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 155 and Article 55, and the act of their utterance under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 158, Clause 1 of Article 155 and Article 55; while the acts of fraud come under the purview of Clause 1 of Article 246 and Article 55 of the same law. Inasmuch as there exists a connection between the forgeries and utterance of the aforesaid documents, preponderance is to be attached to the act of utterance in accordance with the latter part of Article 54 and also Article 10, and as the acts form a concurrence of several offences, the crime of utterance of forged Customs receipts should be considered as a concurrence of several offences, applying the provisions of Articles 47 and 10 to the case, and the accused shall be punished by three years' imprisonment. Of the articles under seizure the Customs receipts and invoices mentioned in the principal text are confiscated in accordance with 3 of Clause 1 and Clause 3 of Article 19 of the same law, while the other articles are returned to their respective owners according to Article 202 of the Law of Criminal Procedure. The cost of the public trial shall be borne by the accused in accordance with Clause 1 of Article 201 of the same law.

As the original judgment erred in the recognition of facts (jijitsu) the Court recognizes the appeal as reasonable and hereby quashes the original judgment and at the same time gives judgment as shown in the aforesaid principal text.

In the 4th Criminal Division of the
Tokyo Appeal Court.

(Signed) Presiding Judge. AIHARA SUKEYA
Associate Judges. YOKOMURA YONETARO
FURUKAWA GORO
SAIGO YO
KASAI KENTARO
Clerk. FUKUDA KEISUKE
(Date) April 22nd, 1912.

"MYSTERIES AND "MORALITIES."

[FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT]

February, 1912.

The theatrical season of 1911-12, which began in September or October, and has now, in February, reached its middle period, has been a season characterised by rather peculiar and significant features. Not that it has been brilliant all round; on the contrary play after play has been presented not even attaining to the modest standard of mediocrity. Christmas holiday makers, have, for want of better food, been obliged to content themselves with vulgar farces from the French, or wishy-washy comedies, harmless indeed, but deplorably thin and unthinkably trite. They had to conduct their children to those miserable entertainments of the "hotch-potch" order, misnamed Fairy Plays, which are nothing more nor less than boiled down "Musical Comedies," lacking even the honest breadth and backbone of the old fashioned pantomime. Unremarkable for general excellence, the season has produced no bright particular star of dramatic authorship, or any work of real value from an old hand. There was a promise of interest in Mr. Arnold Bennett's debut as a playwright, a promise not fulfilled; for his play, *The Honey Moon*, is unpleasant and undistinguished.

The two most successful new plays of the season are without doubt "Fanny's First Play," and "Bunty pulls the Strings." The former owes its popularity in part to its undeniable cleverness, which is often irrelevant and as cheap as it is obvious, in part to the piquancy of the transparent mystery which at first surrounded its authorship, and in part to the glamour of daring and spicy lawlessness which timid and old fashioned people

persist in attaching to the name of Bernard Shaw. It is not quite so easy to understand the phenomenal success of "Bunty Pulls the Strings." Granted that there is a certain charm and freshness about the inexperience and simplicity of the Scotch actors, the very ugliness of the dresses and the rather touching common-place of the whole thing,—the Scotch accent, the Scotch Customs and the Scotch Sunday. Besides, some of the dialogues and episodes are certainly amusing in a semi-farcical way. There is nothing more to say except that the little play has "caught on." The name has "caught on," the actors have "caught on" the clothes, the scenery, the whole thing has, in the usual mysterious manner, struck the fancy of the public. Royalty has patronised it. What matters it that "Bunty" is an innocent but inferior little production, that its chief scene is taken straight from "The Little Minister" and its principal character probably quite unconsciously from "What Every Woman Knows."

The present season, though poor in new works, has been rich in revivals. "Romeo and Juliet," "Macbeth," "A Message from Mars," "What Every Woman Knows," "Peter Pan," "The Blue Bird," "Man and Superman" are, taken at random, a few of the old plays which have been adequately and successfully presented. Such revivals, however, are in no way peculiar to the autumn and winter just past. Happily, considering the meagre and unsatisfactory output of the dramatists of the present day, Shakespearian and other revivals have been popular for some time past. Therefore it is not revivals in general which form the dramatic tendency which has lately become so remarkable. This tendency has been observable in a varying degree for several years, but it is indeed long since it has been so pronounced as it is at present. It is the desire to express in terms of the drama, morality of a very obvious and religion of a very definite kind. Of course dramatic art (in this country at least) had its birth in this very thing, but in the course of centuries wandered away from its early ideal, so the present bark back is particularly curious and interesting. "Miracle," "Mystery," "Morality"—until the last year or two, these have not been common terms in the modern theatrical world. Now they are everywhere to be met with because these kind of plays have become the fashion. Examine for an instant the growth of this fashion, the formation of this taste, which is both old and new. Very probably the first indications of such a thing are to be found in the rather sudden fame and popularity of the Passion Play at Oberammergau. That ceremony is a thing somewhat apart: strictly speaking it has nothing to do with the dramatic art of this country and need not be discussed here; there is little doubt however that Cook's Tickets and the general increase of accessibility to Oberammergau prepared the minds of many for the present innovation or reversion.

Again, some years ago,—it may be as much as six or seven years ago,—a Sixteenth Century Dutch morality play was acted (in translation) at Oxford. The play was entitled "Everyman" and was a stern, grim and powerful piece of work in spite of its crudity and its naïve outlook. Probably inspired by the idea of the famous "Dance of Death," which formed one of the many mysterious and terrible obsessions of the mediæval mind, this morality shows forth the plight of "Everyman" at the dread and final hour,—how "Riches" and the pleasant companions of the world desert him before he sets forth on his journey, how such good things as discretion may be with him only for a part of the way, and how his "Good Deeds" alone accompany him and plead for him before the throne of Judgment.

"Everyman" was produced privately and experimentally, I believe, in the Hall of University College. It was next performed for the benefit of the young students at Cheltenham Ladies College, where it gained the approval of Miss Beale. If it appealed to this stern and high minded old lady who, in her latter years, rose superior to the weakness of her sex, being indeed more like a Bishop than a woman, to the knowledge of the

present writer, it cruelly frightened the more sensitive of the children who saw it.

After this, "Everyman" was acted by The Elizabethan Stage Society during the season of Lent to audiences who were evidently hard put to it as to what to make of the curious old piece of work, which remained for some time isolated and unique on the Modern English Stage.

A few amateur attempts attracted but little attention at Charity Matinees and the next important manifestation of a surely growing taste was Mr. Jerome's play "The Passing of the Third Floor Back." This was something between a Mystery and a Morality Play, presented in an entirely modern dress. The production of the play was, at the time, extremely daring, and probably justified itself by a fair measure of success, although the theatre going public was a divided camp upon the subject and discussion was rife.

If "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" offended many just persons, the sensitive in these matters were yet further outraged by *Hanck*, a poignant but morbid little "Mystery" from Germany. *Hanck* was conceived in all innocence by a melancholy and imaginative mind but, like "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," it introduced the figure of our Saviour, not indeed simply and openly as in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, but under a veil of transparent mysticism. As far as the writers of these plays are concerned there is nothing in the least irreverent about this presentation, but there is a hesitating uncertainty about it; it is either too daring or too timid; and above all it is self-conscious, which is its absolute condemnation.

Directly descended from the foregoing tentative movements came the "Blue Bird," which took London by storm. The reason of its popularity is very hard to fathom. It is of course distinctly a morality play, though not a Christian morality Play and it appears to have only two things to recommend it, its *intermittent* poetry and imaginative beauty, both in ideas and description, and the charming character of Tyto the dog. These merits are indeed very remarkable, but they do not go very far towards the making of a play and they do not in themselves constitute the success of this one, which is probably not dependant on any single and important feature but on a host of minor considerations. As a play, the "Blue Bird" is slipshod and inconclusive. It has one original idea which is a hideous one. The main theme, the pursuit of happiness, has surely nothing new about it, neither does the author contribute much that is of value to the solution of the problem involved. Some people admire the "Blue Bird" because M. Maeterlinck wrote it and it is the fashion to admire what M. Maeterlinck writes. Many people are merely attracted by the Blue Bird itself, for you may see its picture on all the busses, and blue is a pretty colour. But more than this, the form and tone of the play have certainly made an appeal to a growing taste for drama of the Morality type. It is evident that this sort of thing is now in demand and can command its public.

So at any rate thought astute persons who pull the strings in the theatrical world, and in consequence there has been an outburst of "Mysteries" and "Moralities." This is no place in which to deal with them in their numbers; it will be sufficient to touch upon three of them, each of which is characteristic in its way.

It is probable that there remain but few persons in the civilized world who have not heard something of a much advertised, discussed, criticised and belauded play called the "Miracle," which was produced about Christmas time and was acted in the immense arena at Olympia.

The music was by Professor Humperdinck; there was a cast of over two thousand; there was an ancient Gothic Cathedral with stained glass windows and statues; an atmosphere of incense, a living statue, a knight in real armour, and a conflagration scene, the whole managed and thought out by Professor Reinhardt, and all in dumb show.

The story of the "Miracle," a Rhine-land

legend, ancient and well known, is both simple and beautiful. It tells of a nun who, lured by the fair promise of the world without, leaves the sheltering walls of the convent. It tells of a miraculous statue of the Virgin that comes to life and takes the place of the departed nun amongst her sisters, shielding and saving her whilst performing her lowly duties. The nun having run through the gamut of human joy and woe returns weary and repentant to the convent and our Lady returns to her throne in her blue mantle and her golden crown, to her eternal stillness and silence.

Professor Reinhardt has amplified this mediæval legend, and what with music, dancing, groupings, lighting, costumes, properties and accessories of all sorts, he has produced an extremely fine spectacle. The spectacle is also at times very moving, it has its great moments. But taken as a whole it cannot be called great; its very wealth and perfection of detail so distracting the crowd that it becomes unnecessarily overwhelming. The Madonna, indeed, is a figure full of the most exquisite dignity, but what of the nun with her theatrical dancing in the limelight? Far more than these, it is the spirit of the ancient mystery that is lacking, the humble people gazing with awe and wonder, with prayers and with tears, the devout actors wailing as those who take part in a Sacrament—where are they? These perhaps we could not have had, but surely those concerned have done much to dissipate the atmosphere they most wished to create by a system of vulgar and indiscriminate advertisement. They have given the thing away. The "Miracle" was not conceived or produced for the good of humanity or, indeed, for any altruistic motive; it was simply a speculative venture. The *Daily Mail* took it up as it took up *Standard Bread* a year ago. People ask each other about the "Miracle" "Does it pay?"

If the "Miracle" was produced in a commercial spirit, "Jacob and Esau" was dug out of who knows what dusty manuscript in a spirit of curiosity. It was acted by the Elizabethan Stage Society at the Little Theatre and was witnessed by a cultured audience with an interest entirely literary or antiquarian. It is a primitive and crude but highly dramatic and fiery piece of work, teaching the well known Old Testament story in a powerful and vivid manner. It was a pity that the audiences at the Little Theatre was so much occupied with the curious style of the play and its laughable but negligible inconsistencies that they missed the force and the pathos, the clash of human passion, and rare dramatic skill.

Self consciousness, that modern and baleful enemy of art, spoilt the acting of "Jacob and Esau" and its reception.

There was no self consciousness and no spirit of self-seeking abroad when the little boys of the Choir School of Westminster Cathedral acted their mystery play the "Nativity," on that occasion the old devout atmosphere of the Mediæval mystery was realised perhaps as far as it is possible to realize it at the present day. The innocent little actors, with their high childish voices and their touching inexperience, the quiet room adjoining the cathedral, the old and reverend music, the still audience,—these things made for sweetness and peace. In all simplicity and in all faith were the sacred scenes presented. Shepherds, angels and wise men alike spoke their lines with a certain delicate stiffness and coldness, artless and accidental, but exquisite nevertheless in the purity of its appeal. The Madonna, white, silent, moving softly on little bare feet, was a beautiful and moving sight to see.

The impression created by this wonderful little mystery is perhaps best indicated by the remark of a member of the audience. It was a young mother who bending to her child said: "Darling, after this, you *will* be good."

A MAN named Nakamura Kitaro, 35 years of age, who has been sentenced to penal servitude for life for incendiarism, attempted to escape on the 29th ultimo by setting fire to the factory at the Abashiri Prison, where he is serving his term.

MR. E. C. DAVIS.

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE FROM THE STAFFS OF SAMUEL, SAMUEL & CO.

A very interesting little ceremony took place at the Club Hotel, Yokohama, on Saturday morning last. Mr. E. C. Davis, one of our best known residents, has lately severed his connexion with Messrs. Samuel, Samuel & Co., and was to leave yesterday for London with his wife and daughter. To mark their appreciation and affection for Mr. Davis, the employees of the firm from Yokohama, Kobe, Shimonoseki and Formosa, presented him with a handsome silver salver and an illuminated address. Mr. H. V. Summers, who is in charge in Kobe, made the presentation and in doing so, earnestly expressed the feelings of those who had worked under Mr. Davis for many years. The following is the text of the address.

"EDWARD CLARENCE DAVIS, Esq.,

"216, Bluff, Yokohama.

"Dear Mr. Davis,—We, the undersigned, who have had the privilege for several years of working under you personally while you have administered the affairs of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co., of Japan and Formosa, desire particularly to convey to you our most sincere regrets upon the termination of your connexion with the firm. We feel very keenly the loss we have sustained by your withdrawal from our midst, for we have esteemed you not only as a respected Chief and Principal, but as one whose association with us has always been characterised by a uniform display of tact, sympathy and encouragement. We trust that you have always felt that we have endeavoured on our part to afford ample proof of our loyalty to you and of our appreciation for the kindly consideration with which you have treated us, and we take this opportunity of assuring you that these sentiments have always been deeply felt and cherished by us.

"We unite in expressing to you our warmest wishes for your success in whatever career you may choose for the future. May you enjoy long life, happiness, and prosperity, and have your choicest wishes realised.

"As a small token of the very pleasant memories of our connection in the past we ask your acceptance of the accompanying gift, which we trust will serve to remind you of our affectionate regard and esteem.

"We extend our sincere good wishes to Mrs. Davis and to your daughter.

"Believe us to be, Dear Mr. Davis,
Yours very sincerely"

(Here follow the signatures of the Staffs at Yokohama, Kobe, Shimonoseki, and Taipei, Formosa.)

Mr. Davis was evidently deeply moved by the mark of affection and clearly showed such to be the case in his brief but sincere words of thanks, in which he spoke of the happy time he had always had with the employees of the firm and of the smoothness with which they had ever worked together.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

We are asked by the Chief of the Yokohama Waterworks Bureau to announce that in anticipation of a deficiency in the water supply, the authorities have already suspended supplying water for the purposes of ponds, fountains, and street sprinkling. Officials will also be shortly despatched to each residence to place a further limit on the amount of water used.

Under these circumstances, residents would do well to see that the water is not only not wasted but used as sparing a manner as possible. They may also be advised to draw some water from time to time and keep it ready for a temporary suspension of the water supply which often occurs in the summer season, judging from past experiences. This is especially necessary for those living on the Bluff, inasmuch as they are very often short of water when the demand in the lower parts of the city is increased.

AERONAUTICS AT TOKOROZAWA.

On Sunday morning some trial flights were made on the flying ground at Tokorozawa. The practical absence of any wind and the clear sky made the day an ideal one for practice.

About five o'clock Captain Tokugawa, in his aeroplane No. 1, circled the ground five times at an altitude of 70 metres, covering 3 miles in four minutes. The Captain then ascended in a Bleriot monoplane with Mr. Tsutsuki, a private aeronautic student, circling the ground at a height of 40 metres. At seventeen minutes to six, Captain Tokugawa again rose, and, after twice going round the ground, he continued to ascend until he attained a height of 500 metres, when he made ten rounds of the ground in thirty minutes, covering a distance of 21 miles, and thereby breaking the record in this country. About half past six, Lieut. Yamabe also attempted to fly in a Wright biplane, but could not make a satisfactory flight owing to damages sustained to the wheels in the preliminary glide.

On Monday, further practices were held on the same ground. As it was the last day for the aeronautic practices for the spring season, almost all the aviators of the country assembled. It was rather cloudy and foggy in the morning, but the practical absence of any wind rendered the day particularly suitable for aeronautics. The ground was crowded with spectators from early in the morning. About half past five, Major-General Inouye, Drs. Tanakadate, Yokota, and Nakamura, Lieut.-Colonel Tokunaga, Captain Tokugawa, Lieut. Ito and a number of other members of the Aviation Association arrived on the scene and immediately commenced preparations for the flight of Tokugawa, Bleriot, and other types. Meanwhile the Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau, the Head of the Military Museum and many other military representatives, arrived in motor cars.

About seven o'clock, Lieut. Ito rose in No. 1 aeroplane with Captain Nakajima and two others. Amid the roar of the propeller the aeroplane slowly ascended until it reached a height of 450 metres. Here the motor stopped for a time and the aeronauts were in some danger. Luckily however, the motor again started, and the aeroplane safely descended to the starting point after a flight of forty minutes.

While Lieut. Ito was up in his aeroplane, Captain Tokugawa also rose, carrying Lieut. Sawata. This was a very successful flight, Captain Tokugawa showing great skill in handling the aeroplane, and practically making it do everything he wanted. The flight lasted for over an hour.

Captain Tokugawa also tried to fly in the Bleriot monoplane, but was obliged to give up the attempt, the motor having been damaged.

Practice will be resumed in June.

THE GAIETY CINEMATOGRAF.

The management of the Gaiety provided a most excellent show at the Theatre on Saturday evening last. As a matter of fact, they have consistently done so from their initial performance. Certain pictures may occasionally not have been so good as some of their predecessors, but the same complaint could be lodged against the great shows in Europe and America; for one cannot always produce perfection. Saturday night, however, gave us three excellent films. The Shooting of the Rapids on the River Pagsanjan near Manila in the Philippines was exceptionally good; whilst the Oxford and Cambridge Boat race (the first race) was even more than good. It took several of the audience back to the river they knew and still love, although it may have been a few years since they last saw it. The humorous pictures were also capital, whilst every praise is due to the string orchestra from the steamer *Mongolia*. They played splendidly and were certainly one of the successes of the evening.

If it is not out of court, one might suggest to the junior members of the community that "cat-calling," "booing," etc., etc., do not give evidence of a sense of humour, nor of good behaviour.

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN MODERN JAPAN.

From the perusal of a number of articles on female education and on the position occupied by women relative to the opposite sex, I have gathered that those who have made a special study of this subject are not agreed as to the ideal which the nation should aspire to reach. Speaking roughly, writers on the status of women in modern Japan belong to one of two schools of thought. They either hold that as far as possible it is desirable to keep women as they were in pre-Meiji days, meek, retiring, very domesticated and abjectly subservient to their husbands and other male relations, or they contend that Japan must look to the West for models in educating her women, that what Japanese women most need is more independence, more self-assertiveness, and a wider knowledge of subjects with which men are familiar but which they have never been allowed to study. Female education has been conducted in accordance with one or other of these notions during the past few decades, resulting in the production of two widely different types of women. The girls educated at Mission schools and at other private schools, and even at some of the State schools, are habitually referred to by the Japanese as "high-collared;" that is to say, they are regarded as Occidentalized, as holding opinions on women's rights that were certainly unknown in Japan in pre-Meiji days. It is not always easy for girls of this kind to find husbands. The majority of Japanese men prefer to marry a woman who regards quiet submission to her husband and obedience to his commands as her duty. They say that the new woman puts on all sorts of airs, is difficult to please, hankers after things that few husbands can afford to provide, is apt to get discontented with her surroundings and the traditional mode of life, in a word, that she is ahead of the age, somewhat of a white elephant with which they are at a loss what to do.

While these objections to the semi-Occidentalized woman are being emphasized by the ultra-conservative section of educationists, a great many advanced thinkers are denouncing the old-fashioned way of bringing up women, as calculated to render them quite spiritless, and to convert them into mere dolls. Dr. Anezaki in an article recently published in the *Shujokai*, a well supported Women's Magazine, takes this line. He says that so much has the duty of submission been urged and meekness of spirit extolled that seldom to day is any female voice raised against the oppression and the arbitrariness of heads of houses. But he is of opinion that women will not go on quietly bearing all the wrongs committed against them by men much longer. He has noticed in many families a spirit of rebellion against injustice that did not exist in old Japan, when women were kept ignorant of the respect due to their sex. Western thought and modern influences of various kinds have convinced the Japanese educated woman that ordinary self-respect demands that she should refuse to be treated as the members of her sex were treated in feudal times. As women of the old school of thought die off and their newly educated sisters take their places in the female world, the position of women relative to the other sex is bound to improve. According to what well-informed Japanese have written on the subject, it has already perceptibly improved.

In an interesting article recently published in the *To A-no-Hikari* entitled *Fujin Mondai*, Professor Fujii Kenjiro, of the Tōkyō Imperial University, goes into the history of the changes which Japanese public opinion has undergone in reference to the status which should be given to women in this country. As the facts given by Professor Fujii and the inferences he draws from them are of considerable interest I propose to reproduce some of them in an abbreviated form.

Early in the Meiji era the subject of female education was pressed upon the attention of the

public by Mori and Fukuzawa, both of whom had recently returned from the United States and who were very favourably impressed by what they had seen of woman's status there. They advocated giving women the same power as men, that is, in the case of all married couples. Up to that time the wife was the slave of her husband. She had no power of any kind. Marriage and divorce were affairs in which the woman had no say. In the columns of the *Jiji Shimpō*, in the year 1885, Mr. Fukuzawa showed how unjust and unreasonable the relationship of the sexes was at that time.

Just then politicians were clamouring for more liberty and insisting on the recognition of popular rights. Taking advantage of the spirit of the age several female writers worked up an agitation in favour of granting the franchise to women. But the nation was not prepared to sanction the adoption of any such radical measure as this.

As regards the legal status of women the new codes greatly improved that. Neither marriage nor divorce could be effected in the free and easy way allowed by Japan's old system of law. The right to hold property in her own name was given to woman and her general rights as an individual were recognized by the new codes. But educated people only are aware of the provision of the new laws. Among the lower orders the relations of the sexes are just what they were in Tokugawa times. The fact is that the spirit of the new civil code exercises little influence on the mass of the people (*Watakushi wa konnichi no nimpō no seishin ga jimmin jippai ni fukyū shite oru to dengen shi-uru hito wa, goku mare de arō to sissuru no de arimasu*). The status given to wives and divorce among the lower orders to-day are based on the old Confucian teaching of pre-Meiji days.* Though society recognizes this, it is more inclined to approve of it than to censure it.

The question of the amount of authority and independence it is desirable that our women should have given to them is still an undetermined one. The desire to keep them in subjection is very strong among us even to-day. There is said to be a growing antipathy to marriage among a certain class of women. For this men are largely responsible. It is natural for women to want to marry, and if they are treated properly by the male sex when married, no pressure need be brought to bear on them to induce them to enter the state of matrimony. It is as natural to women as to men to love independence, and so if marriage means that the enters a state of slavery, a spirited woman will certainly keep out of it.

During the Meiji era the whole nation has been busily engaged in breaking down the barriers that formerly separated one class of people from another. The old system of morals was all class morality. The higher classes to-day no longer occupy the superior position they formerly occupied and the lower classes have been elevated to a rank they never enjoyed under feudal rule. But when we come to consider the position of woman relative to the opposite sex, taking the nation as a whole, the change that has been made is infinitesimally small. The doctrine of equality has been proclaimed far and wide as far as men are concerned, but women still continue to be regarded as undeserving of the respect shown to the male sex.

There are people who say that the disinclination to marry which is observable to-day is confined to well-educated women, and that, seeing that the instruction they have received at school has tended to unfit them for making "good wives and intelligent mothers" (*Kyōsai Kenbō*), there must be something radically wrong about high class female education. But the fact is that in the majority of cases, objections to marriage are not based on theories learnt at school. Rather are they to be traced to the difficulty of making two ends meet in these hard times and to unwillingness to enter on a state of servitude. If the removal of the economic reasons for avoiding marriage be too big

* *Yahari samu* (3 states of obedience) *shichikyo* (7 reasons for divorce) *shugi no seiyoku wa doko, ka ni takumashū shite oru*.

an undertaking for scholars and educationists to accomplish, they can do much towards making married life more attractive to a self-respecting educated woman by raising her status as a wife and a mother. In the position occupied by her women to-day, Japan is far behind the Western world.

The majority of Japanese educationists hold very strongly that the chief object of female education is preparation for the duties of married life rather than general mental development and culture. To educate women to be independent, and self-supporting is not an ideal that most of the teachers in girls' schools ever set before them. The minds of the teachers are permeated with traditional notions respecting the sphere that woman is designed to fill in the family. Hence it is to be feared that the day is still far distant when the Japanese woman will be thoroughly emancipated and have accorded to her the rights and privileges which are enjoyed by the weaker sex in the most advanced Western countries.

W.D.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS IN THE FAR EAST.

(SPECIAL TRANSLATION FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Not long ago Mr. Merkuloff, a well known lawyer at Vladivostok, went to St. Petersburg, and presented a report on the present Russian position in the Far East. The report has been reprinted in many Russian papers, and in consequence Far Eastern affairs have been again brought to the front in Russian politics.

Mr. Merkuloff asserts that Russia is now on the eve of great political events in the Far East, affecting her safety from the political and economical point of view, and that the present state of affairs is very disadvantageous to Russian interests and will grow worse unless proper measures are taken by the Russian Government. In short Mr. Merkuloff and his supporters hold very pessimistic views on the Russian position in the Far East, and more sober-minded people in Russia, who do not think the situation is so gloomy as it is represented, are inclined to regard the report as an advertisement of the high officials, who sometimes like to hear a voice in support of their plans from the midst of the people. By some of the semi-official papers the lecturer is styled "a representative of public opinion."

According to Mr. Merkuloff a catastrophe in the Far East is imminent. The whole Amur region is at present nothing more than a mere stove, in which Russian money is being destroyed. Russian policy in Manchuria is detrimental and Chinese influence in that country and in the Priamurie is growing at the expense of Russia. This state of affairs, he predicts, will continue undoubtedly for at least the next ten years, when it is clear that the Russians will end by losing the Maritime province.

Mr. Menshikoff, a well known correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya*, favourably commenting upon Mr. Merkuloff's views, says, in an article which appeared recently in that paper, that while the Russians are surprised by the events which have taken place latterly in China, they should take advantage of the fall of the Celestial Empire to occupy Manchuria and Mongolia so as to strengthen Russia's influence in the Far East. According to Mr. Merkuloff's assertions, however, Russia is living on the eve of great losses, not on the eve of acquisitions, although this conclusion was based on the circumstances which existed in China before the revolution, and therefore there may be some hope that the situation in the Far East has latterly greatly changed.

Mr. Menshikoff notes that the *Novoe Vremya* always asserted that in case of a war in the Far East Vladivostok would be cut off and remain without water and provisions. The Russian army was able to wage the late war only by reason of Mongolian meat and Manchurian vegetables and

forage, which were brought by the Manchurian Eastern railway. During the war the Japanese fleet was kept off by the Russian navy and could not cut off the importation of food stuffs and other goods from abroad by sea, while at that time the Russian population in East Siberia was only one fourth of what it is at present, and could confine itself to local products. Thanks to these conditions the Russian troops could be brought to Manchuria by the Siberian railway, which was comparatively free from the transportation of food stuffs and other goods. Now all the conditions have become more disadvantageous to Russia.

Thanks to the loss of South Manchuria and the complete absence of naval strength, the Russian Far Eastern possessions have become quite defenceless and could be captured by starvation. Farming in Eastern Siberia, instead of developing, has fallen behind greatly since the late war, and now can not yield sufficient agricultural products to satisfy the requirements of the local population. The annual harvest amounts to 20,000,000 *poods*, but at present it is decreasing while the population is growing. This is due to the great import of cheap agricultural products from Manchuria. Last year about 17,000,000 *poods* of corn were brought from Manchuria. The Manchurian Eastern Railway, constructed by the Russians, kills the Maritime province, because it is the channel by which cheap labour and cheap products, with which no competition is possible, are brought into the province. The cheapness of the imported labour and goods creates conditions under which the Russian farmers can not work without a loss, and without the help of the commissariat, which buys up the corn from the Russian farmers at a high rate, Russian farming would be ruined altogether. Even under present conditions it cannot exist for a long time if the Russian frontier districts are settled with Chinese farmers. On the completion of the Amur Railway the freights of the Amur Navigation Co., the steamers of which are now filled with the cargo of that railway, will be undoubtedly reduced as a result of competition with the railway. In consequence of this, Chinese products, imported at a lower rate, will become yet cheaper. For the same reason Russian market gardening in Eastern Siberia is also declining, because more than half of the vegetables consumed at Vladivostok, Nikolsk-Ussurijskii, Blagovestchensk and other towns are supplied by the Chinese. In the case of a war with China, which is, according to Mr. Merkuloff, imminent, the Russian army, and even the local population, will be compelled to feed on the products which will be brought by the Siberian railway from regions located a thousand versts away. If under such conditions the trunk Siberian line be broken at several points or occupied by the enemy, the Russian army, as well as the local population, will be in a critical position.

This dependence of Russia's economics on Manchuria must prove disastrous, as the Russian railways and steamship communications on the Amur and Ussuri rivers will be paralyzed in time of war, since these steamship communications, with their 570 steamers and barges, depend, in many respects, greatly on the Chinese. During last year, three-fourths of all the fuel for the steamers was supplied by the Chinese, and the most part of this fuel was stored on the Chinese bank of the river. Most of the signal and fire-towers on the Amur river are located also on the right bank and are kept by the Chinese; one half of the crews of the steamers consists of Chinese.

Was Russia prepared to wage war with China last year when the St. Petersburg Government sent ultimatum after ultimatum to Peking? asks the writer. It is interesting to note that, according to Mr. Merkuloff, the later a war breaks out during this decennary between Russia and China the worse it will be for the former, because the present state of affairs is getting more disadvantageous to the former country year after year.

A CYCLISTS' Race Meeting will be held on May 5th at nine in the morning in front of Kanagawa railway station.

THE FORMOSAN TOURIST PARTY.

A party consisting of 32 Formosan aborigines arrived at Shimbashi on Monday morning last. They mostly belong to the Taiyal or tattooed tribe, who were only subjugated after ten-years' hard fighting, and among them are now a few of those who offered a most stalwart resistance at the time of the Taichu expedition and killed a number of the Japanese soldiers and constables. The most aged of the party is the head of what they call the Yöhen group, and is just fifty years of age; the youngest is twenty-three.

The interpreter to the party is a woman, who played the part of a modern Pocahontas in the wilds of Formosa some eleven years ago. The story runs that a Japanese druggist, named Nakano, while hunting for herbs, fell into the hands of the tribe. The girl, who was then fifteen years of age, fell in love with him, and pleaded for his life. Her father, who appears to have been a reluctant parent, consented to the two of them eloping on the condition that if the man should ever attempt to forsake her, she should not return to the camp without bringing his head with her, if she valued her own.

Mrs. Nakano, it is said, speaks Japanese very fluently, and, unlike the rest of the tribe, is dressed in fashionable Japanese style, though the tattoo marks about her mouth and on the forehead betray her origin.

The platform at Shimbashi was crowded with people when they arrived, and they had some difficulty in making their way to the Hansai-kan, in Hirakawa-cho, Kojimachi, although they had an escort of seven policemen attached to the Formosan Government-General. The men were all in native dress and formed a picturesque sight.

The party is expected to stop in Tokyo about a week.

The party of aborigines from Formosa now visiting Tokyo paid a visit early on Tuesday morning to the First, Second and Third Infantry Regiments of the Imperial Guards Division, after viewing the manoeuvres held on the Aoyama Parade Ground. They seemed at first to be greatly pleased to see the troops confronting each other across the ground and steadily approaching under the torrents of rain, but most of them were apparently frightened at the charge which ended the manoeuvres.

At the barracks of the Third Regiment, Major-General Hisamatsu, received the party.

On Wednesday the party was favoured with better weather, and paid a visit to the Military Arsenal at Koishikawa.

They appeared to possess a good knowledge of arms and ammunition, and listened attentively to the explanations of the experts concerning the manufacture of rifles and other fire-arms. They appeared to be most impressed with the revolvers, and automatic pistols. Major-General Hyodo welcomed them, expressing his pleasure at seeing them so far from their native land, and his hopes for their return in safety. They all nodded by way of reply when the interpreter told them what the Major-General said.

FIRES.

On Friday afternoon last a fire broke out in the drying room in the Mituma Printing Company's building in the Ginza, Tokyo. Fortunately the flames were quickly suppressed before they could do any serious damage.

In the small hours of Sunday morning last a disastrous fire broke out at Ashio, Tochigi prefecture. The flames originated in a house occupied by a man named Fuchita and rapidly spread in all directions, though the wind was rather weak. Seven fire brigades lost no time in appearing on the scene, but their efforts were practically neutralized by the total lack of water, and the fire was not brought under control before three o'clock the same morning, when 44 houses, including a post office, and five warehouses, had been completely destroyed. The majority of the houses and buildings

burnt down were those of miners and farmers. The loss is estimated to aggregate over 55,000 *yen*. Some casualties are also reported.

About three o'clock on Tuesday morning a fire broke out in the bath-room of the residence of Count Ogimachi at Fujimicho, Kojimachi, resulting in the complete destruction of the house and the partial damage of the next house. The cause is suspected to be incendiarism.

The Satsuma-cho Fire Brigade performed an uncommonly good piece of work in the small hours of Tuesday morning, when, in a wind that was blowing not far from typhoon force, they succeeded in checking a fire at No. 276, Yamashita-cho, occupied by Mr. Shibata, the barrister. The call was at 3.55 a.m. and four companies turned out with the engine and three standpipes. They found the outhouses attached to the premises well on fire, but by skilful and energetic action saved the main building, which was only a little scorched. The total destruction consisted of two small outhouses and some servants' quarters. Had the fire caught the main building, which is of wood, a large conflagration might have resulted.

A fire broke out on Tuesday night about eleven o'clock at Taiheimachi, Honjo, destroying a few houses.

In the small hours of Thursday morning, a fire broke out at the Sericultural School belonging to the Hokkaido cho. The flames were brought under control about two o'clock in the same morning after reducing to ashes seven buildings, namely the first sericultural room, lecture hall, dormitory, general affairs office, warehouse and sheds. At the time of the outbreak there were fifty students asleep in the dormitory, and on the alarm being given, great confusion ensued in their efforts to escape. Fortunately, however, no casualties are reported except to two firemen, who were slightly injured. The cause of the outbreak is under investigation, but it is suspected to have been incendiarism. The buildings burnt down covered some 463 *tsubo*, and the loss is estimated at well nigh 20,000 *yen*, that is 16,000 *yen* for the buildings, and 4,000 *yen* for fittings, which, however, are covered by insurance.

JAPANESE CHERRY TREES AT NEW YORK.

A New York despatch to the *Tokyo Asahi* says that the cherry-trees sent last year from Tokyo, in commemoration of the Hudson-Fulton festival, all died, and 2,500 young trees were some time ago again sent with the compliments of Mayor Ozaki.

The ceremony of planting the trees took place on Sunday instead of Saturday, as previously fixed, owing to the inclement weather. The assembly-place was beautifully adorned with artificial cherry flowers, and in the centre were set a couple of very large artificial flowers, with the reasons for the contribution attached to them.

The last thirty trees were planted by thirteen girls, each thirteen years old.

Among the speakers were Dr. Takamine, and Consul Numano. Baron Ozawa and his party were also among those present on the occasion. The Municipal authorities of New York will name the ground the Cherry Tree Park, and take its protection and development under their charge.

We have received from the local office of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son, a handy little brochure, entitled "Information for Travellers landing in Japan," wherein the tourist will find some useful hints arranged in a handy form, including brief notes on the principal places, specimen itineraries, hotel and steamship guides, etc., etc. Attention may be drawn to the system of inclusive tours, by which the traveller, for the payment of a fixed sum, is enabled to make a 14, 21 or 30 days' tour at the minimum of trouble, and with the certainty that he is not being overcharged. The local offices of Messrs. Cook and Son are located at 32, Water Street.

THE TREATY WITH DENMARK.

FULL TEXT.

The Foreign Office publishes the following explanation of the new Treaty of Commerce with Denmark and the special reciprocal tariff convention:—

In the new treaty, matters relating to import duties are separated from the commercial treaty as in the Swedish-Japanese, Norwegian-Japanese, and German-Japanese commercial treaties and are included in a special reciprocal tariff convention, and while the duration of the commercial treaty is ten years, the tariff convention may be abrogated by either party giving one year's notice. No conventional tariff has been provided as in the old treaty.

No provisions existed in the old treaty concerning land-ownership, but the new treaty guarantees the most favoured nation treatment in the matter of the acquisition of immovable property by aliens according to the municipal laws of either country, and subject to reciprocal conditions, as in the Anglo-Japanese, German-Japanese, Swedish-Japanese, and Franco-Japanese treaties.

The old treaty granted Danish vessels the right to engage in the transportation of goods between the ports open to foreign trade at the time of the conclusion of that treaty, excepting Osaka, Niigata and Ebisu, in regard to coastwise trade, but this provision is struck out of the new treaty, the matter being left to the municipal laws of either country, most favoured-nation treatment being mutually guaranteed, as in the Anglo-Japanese, American-Japanese, Swedish-Japanese, Norwegian-Japanese, and Franco-Japanese treaties.

The new treaty also contains provisions concerning the recognition of commercial companies, the frontier trade, and fishery industry which are absent from the old treaty, and at the same time the clauses relating to freedom of conscience and religious worship, which are no longer required, have been struck out.

The following is the text of the new Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Denmark, the ratifications of which were concluded on the 6th instant, the Minister Plenipotentiary of Holland representing Denmark:—

TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND DENMARK

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and His Majesty the King of Denmark, being desirous to strengthen the relations of amity and good understanding which happily exist between Them and between Their subjects and believing that the fixation in a manner clear and positive of the rules which are hereafter to govern the commercial intercourse between Their two Countries will contribute to the realization of this most desirable result, have resolved to conclude a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation for that purpose, and have named Their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Monsieur Sato Aimaro, Shoshii, First Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, etc., His Imperial Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Royal Court of Denmark,

And His Majesty the King of Denmark, C. W. Count Ahlefeldt Laurvig, Commander of the 1st Class of the Order of Dannebrog, etc., His Royal Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who after having communicated to each other their respective Full Powers, found to be in good

and due form, have agreed upon the following articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties shall have full liberty, with their families, to enter and sojourn in all parts of the dominions and possessions of the other and, conforming themselves to the laws of the country,—

1. Shall, in all that relates to travel and residence; to the pursuit of their studies and investigations; to the exercise of their callings and professions, and to the prosecution of their industrial and manufacturing undertakings, be placed, in all respects, on the same footing as the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation;

2. They shall have the right, equally with native subjects, to carry on, either in person or by agents, singly or in partnerships with foreigners or native subjects, their commerce and trade in all kinds of merchandise of lawful commerce;

3. They shall, on condition of reciprocity, be at full liberty to acquire and possess every description of property, movable and immovable, which the laws of the country permit or shall permit the subjects or citizens of any other foreign country to acquire and possess, subject always to the conditions and limitations prescribed in such laws, and shall be permitted, equally with the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation, to own or hire and occupy the houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops and premises which may be necessary for them, and to lease land for residential, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and other lawful purposes;

4. They shall, on condition of reciprocity, enjoy the same privileges, liberties and rights and not be bound to pay any higher taxes or charges than those which are or may be paid by the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation in regard to the transmission of movables and immovables by succession according to last will or otherwise and the disposal in any way whatever of all kinds of property which they may lawfully acquire;

5. They shall enjoy constant and complete protection and security for their persons and property; shall have free and easy access to the Courts of justice in pursuit and defence of their rights; and shall also be allowed to prosecute their claims against the State and its organs before the tribunals or other authorities having jurisdiction in such matters, and shall be at liberty, equally with native subjects, to choose and employ lawyers, advocates and representatives to pursue and defend their rights before such courts and authorities, and in all other matters concerning the administration of justice, shall enjoy the same rights and privileges as native subjects;

6. They shall be exempted from all compulsory services, whether in the army, navy, national guard or militia; from all contributions imposed in lieu of personal service, and from all forced loans; they shall also be exempted from military requisition unless imposed on them equally with native subjects as owners, lessees or occupiers of immovable property;

7. And they shall not be compelled to pay taxes, fees, charges or contributions of any kind whatever, other or higher than those which are or may be paid by the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE II.

The houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops and premises used for lawful purposes and belonging to the subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties in the dominions and possessions of the other shall be respected. It shall not be allowable to proceed to make a domiciliary visit to, or a search of, any such buildings and premises or to examine or inspect books, papers or accounts, except under the conditions and with the forms prescribed by the laws for native subjects.

ARTICLE III.

Each of the High Contracting Parties may appoint Consuls General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents in all the ports, cities and place of the other, except in those where it may not be convenient to recognize such officers.

This exception, however, shall not be made in regard to one of the Contracting Parties without being made likewise in regard to all other Powers.

Such Consuls General, Consuls, Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents, having received exequaturs or other sufficient authorizations from the Government of the country to which they are appointed, shall, on condition of reciprocity, have the right to exercise the functions and to enjoy the privileges, exemptions and immunities which are or may be granted to the Consular officers of the same rank of the most favoured nation. The Government issuing exequaturs or other authorizations has the right in its discretion to cancel the same on explaining the reasons for which it thought proper to do so.

ARTICLE IV.

In case of the death of a subject of one of the High Contracting Parties in the dominions or possessions of the other, without leaving at the place of his decease any person entitled by the laws of the decedent's country to take charge of and administer the estate, the competent Consular officer of the State to which the deceased belonged, shall have the right, either personally or by delegate, to represent and act for such absent person during his absence, and to take all measures and to perform all acts necessary to the due administration and winding up of the estate. But nothing contained in this Article shall be held to deprive the Courts of the country where the property is situated of jurisdiction in cases in which they would otherwise be competent.

The foregoing provisions shall also apply in case of a subject of one of the Contracting Parties, dying outside of the dominions and possessions of the other, but possessing property therein without leaving any person there, entitled to take charge of and administer the estate.

ARTICLE V.

There shall be between the dominions and possessions of the two High Contracting Parties reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation. The subjects of each of the Contracting Parties, equally with the subjects or citizens of the most favoured nation, shall have liberty freely to come with their ships and cargoes to all places, ports and rivers in the dominions and possessions of the other, which are or may be opened to foreign commerce, subject always to the laws of the country to which they thus come.

ARTICLE VI.

The import duties on articles, the produce or manufacture of the dominions and possessions of one of the Contracting Parties, upon importation into the dominions and possessions of the other, shall henceforth be regulated either by special arrangements between the two States or by the internal legislation of each.

Neither Contracting Party shall impose any other or higher duties or charges on the exportation of any article to the dominions and possessions of the other, than are or may be payable on the exportation of the like article to any other foreign country.

Nor shall any prohibition or restriction be maintained or imposed by either State on the importation or exportation of any article from or to the dominions and possessions of the other, which shall not equally extend to the like article imported from or exported to any other country. The last provision is not, however, applicable to prohibitions or restrictions maintained or imposed as sanitary measures or for purposes of protecting animals and useful plants.

ARTICLE VII.

The subjects of each of the High Contracting Parties shall, in the dominions and possessions of the other, enjoy exemption from all transit duties and a perfect equality of treatment with native subjects in all that relates to warehousing, bounties, drawbacks and facilities concerning the importation or exportation of merchandise.

ARTICLE VIII.

Merchants and manufacturers, subjects of one of the High Contracting Parties, as well as merchants and manufacturers domiciled and exercising

their commerce and industries in the dominions and possessions of such Party, may, in the dominions and possessions of the other, either personally or by means of commercial travellers, make purchases or collect orders, with or without samples, and such merchants, manufacturers and their commercial travellers, while so making purchases and collecting orders, shall, in the matter of taxation and facilities, enjoy the most favoured nation treatment.

Articles imported as samples for the purposes above mentioned, shall, in each country, be temporarily admitted free of duty on compliance with the customs regulations and formalities established to assure their re-exportation or the payment of the prescribed customs duties if not re-exported within the period allowed by law. But the foregoing privilege shall not extend to articles which, owing to their quantity or value, cannot be considered as samples, or which, owing to their nature, could not be identified upon re-exportation. The determination of the question of the qualification of samples for duty-free admission, rests, in all cases, exclusively with the competent authorities of the place where the importation is effected.

ARTICLE IX.

Limited liability and other companies and associations, commercial, industrial and financial, already or hereafter to be organized in accordance with the laws of either High Contracting Party and domiciled in the dominions and possessions of such Party, are authorized, in the dominions and possessions of the other, to exercise their rights and appear in the Courts either as plaintiffs or defendants, subject to the laws of such other Party.

The foregoing stipulations shall in no way influence the question whether such company or association, domiciled in one of the two countries, shall be entitled or not to carry on commerce, trade and industry in the other, this right being always dependent upon the laws of the respective countries.

ARTICLE X.

All articles which are or may be legally imported into the ports of either High Contracting Party in national vessels may likewise be imported into those ports in vessels of the other Contracting Party, without being liable to any other or higher duties or charges of whatever denomination than if such articles were imported in national vessels. Such reciprocal equality of treatment shall take effect without distinction, whether such articles come directly from the place of origin or from any other foreign place.

In the same manner, there shall be perfect equality of treatment in regard to exportation, so that the same export duties shall be paid, and the same bounties and drawbacks allowed in the dominions and possessions of each of the Contracting Parties on the exportation of any article which is or may be legally exported therefrom, whether such exportation shall take place in Japanese or in Danish vessels, and whatever may be the place of destination, whether a port of the other Party or of any third Power.

ARTICLE XI.

In all that regards the stationing, loading and unloading of vessels in the territorial waters of the High Contracting Parties, no privileges or facilities shall be granted by either Party to national vessels which are not equally, in like cases, granted to the vessels of the other country; the intention of the Contracting Parties being that in these respects the respective vessels shall be treated on the footing of perfect equality.

ARTICLE XII.

Merchant vessels navigating under the Japanese and Danish flags and carrying the papers required by their national laws to prove their nationality, shall in Denmark and Japan be deemed to be Japanese and Danish vessels respectively.

ARTICLE XIII.

No duties of tonnage, transit or canalage, harbour, pilotage, lighthouse, quarantine or other similar or corresponding duties or charges of whatever denomination, levied in the name or for

the profit of Government, public functionaries, private individuals, corporations or establishments of any kind, shall be imposed in the territorial waters of either country upon the vessels of the other which shall not equally, under the same conditions, be imposed on national vessels in general, or vessels of the most favoured nation. Such equality of treatment shall apply reciprocally to the respective vessels from whatever place they may arrive and whatever may be their place of destination.

ARTICLE XIV.

Vessels charged with performance of regular scheduled postal service of one of the High Contracting Parties, whether belonging to the State or subsidized by it for the purpose, shall enjoy in the territorial waters of the other, the same facilities, privileges and immunities as are granted to like vessels of the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE XV.

The coasting trade of the High Contracting Parties is excepted from the provisions of the present Treaty and shall be regulated according to the laws of Japan and Denmark respectively. It is however understood that the subjects and vessels of either Contracting Party shall enjoy in this respect the most favoured nation treatment in the dominions and possessions of the other.

A vessel of one of the Contracting Parties laden in a foreign country with cargo destined for two or more ports of entry in the dominions and possessions of the other, may discharge a portion of her cargo at one of the said ports, and, continuing her voyage to the other port or ports of destination, there discharge the remainder of her cargo, subject always to the laws, tariffs and customs regulations of the country of destination, and, in like manner and under the same reservation, the vessels of one of the Contracting Parties shall be permitted to load at several ports of the other, for the same outward voyages.

ARTICLE XVI.

The competent Consular officers of each of the High Contracting Parties in the dominions and possessions of the other shall have exclusive charge of the internal order of the merchant vessels of their nation and shall alone take cognizance of differences, which may arise, either at sea or in the territorial waters of the other Party, between the captains, officers and crews, and particularly in reference to the adjustment of wages and execution of contracts. But in the event of any disturbance or disorder on board a merchant vessel of either Contracting Party in the territorial waters of the other, of a nature to cause or to be likely to cause, in the opinion of the competent authorities of the place where the disturbance or disorder occurs, a breach of the peace or trouble in such waters or on shore, the territorial authorities shall, in such case, have jurisdiction.

ARTICLE XVII.

If any seaman should desert from any ship belonging to either of the High Contracting Parties in the territorial waters of the other, the local authorities shall, within the limits of law, be bound to give every assistance in their power for the apprehension and handing over of such deserter, on application to that effect being made to them by the competent Consular officer of the country to which the ship of the deserter may belong, accompanied by an assurance that all expenses connected therewith will be repaid.

It is understood that this stipulation shall not apply to the subjects of the country where the desertion takes place.

ARTICLE XVIII.

In cases of shipwreck, damages at sea, or forced putting in, each High Contracting Party shall afford to the vessels of the other, whether belonging to the State or to individuals, the same assistance and protection and the same immunities as are in like cases granted to the national vessels. Articles saved from such wrecked or damaged vessels shall be exempt from customs duties unless cleared for consumption, in which case they shall pay the prescribed duties.

If a ship of one of the Contracting Parties should

run aground or be wrecked upon the coasts of the other, the local authorities shall inform of the occurrence the nearest competent Consular officer of the country to which the ship belongs.

ARTICLE XIX.

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties agree that, in all that concerns commerce, navigation and industry, any privilege, favour or immunity which either Contracting Party has actually granted, or may hereafter grant, to the subjects or citizens of any other State shall be extended immediately and unconditionally to the subjects of the other Contracting Party.

The stipulations of the present Treaty shall not apply to special advantages which are or may be accorded by one of the High Contracting Parties to contiguous countries in order to facilitate frontier traffic, nor to advantages resulting from the conclusion of a customs union, in as much as these advantages are not extended to other countries.

ARTICLE XX.

The stipulations of the present treaty shall be applicable to all the territories and possessions belonging to or administered by either of the High Contracting Parties, with the exception only of Iceland and the Danish colonies in Greenland.

The provision of Article VII. with regard to transit duties and the provision of Article VIII. paragraph 2 concerning freedom from duties for samples shall, however, not apply to the Danish Antilles.

ARTICLE XXI.

The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged in Tokyo as soon as possible.

It shall enter into operation on the day following the exchange of ratifications and remain in force for the period of ten years.

In case neither of the High Contracting Parties shall have given notice to the other, twelve months before the expiration of the said period, of its intention to terminate the Treaty it shall continue operative until the expiration of one year from the date on which either of the Contracting Parties shall have denounced it.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at Copenhagen in duplicate this 12th day of February, 1912.

(signed) AIMARO SATO.

[L. S.]

(signed) C. W. AHLEFELDT LAURVIG.

[L. S.]

COPPER MINING.

The total output of copper during last year amounted to 86,481,000 *kin*, valued at 26,938,000 *yen*. This is an increase of 4,270,000 *kin*, valued at 1,119,000 *yen*, over the figures recorded for the preceding year, and an increase of 22,890,000 *kin*, or 43 per cent., as compared with the output in the 40th year, which amounted to 69,589,700 *kin*. The output at the various mines during the 44th year is as shown in the following table:—

Mines.	Output for Last year, <i>kin</i> .	Dec. or Inc. <i>kin</i> .
Ashio (Tochigi Prefecture).....	12,723,170	+ 999,676
Besshi (Ehime).....	11,358,800	+ 225,428
Kosaka (Akita).....	9,934,345	— 627,356
Hidate (Ibaragi).....	9,456,571	+ 1,397,558
Osarusawa (Akita).....	3,258,391	— 375,730
Furogura (do.).....	3,021,830	+ 719,235
Ikuno (Hyogo).....	2,485,706	+ 226,552
Arakawa (Akita).....	2,116,333	+ 359,306
Ani (do.).....	2,054,087	+ 209,968
Okoya (Ishikawa).....	1,868,795	+ 241,106
Hisaushi (Akita).....	1,620,203	+ 34,218
Yusenji (Ishikawa).....	1,600,074	— 11,446

The inauguration ceremony of the Saghalien Middle School was held on Friday morning last, with some seventy students were admitted into the first-year class.

CONCERNING THE OCCULT.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT)

It is undoubtedly true that the Korean has a bent in the direction of the occult and the unseen, more than he has towards the matter of fact conditions of this mundane life. He likes to hie himself away to regions of quiet where he can meditate himself off into the realm of the spiritual, to meet clairvoyant folks and telepathic doubles. Mind spectres and familiar spirits he is acquainted with. The old fortune-teller will sing out his formulism and then end with a spasmodic tap of his wand-stick saying "Come down, come down, ugh! come down." Possessions, exorcisms, floatings about in mid air, necromancing are all matters of every day converse. The automatic hand too he has discovered, and second powers of vision.

Speaking of the catastrophe of the *Titanic* to a Korean friend, I mentioned how the world had lost an old familiar face and interesting personality in W. T. Stead. The writer spoke of his efforts in behalf of the general weal of England, of his friendship for Russia, of his gifts as a writer, all of which interested the Korean only slightly; but when I told of his letters from Julia and the strange doings of that automatic hand of his, the friend awakened as from a deep sleep. Here was a familiar theme that was in accord with his own heart and mind, and he at once told me of two happenings in his experience that were enough like the doings of Julia to merit repetition.

One was this: This friend, let's call him Kim, was taking a siesta one afternoon while an acquaintance was sitting at the foot of his mat reading a book. Some time later a third party called and the two proceeded to con over the Chinese together. They came to a passage difficult to construe with a word in it that neither understood.

Kim, who was dozing, heard them discuss the passage in loud and emphatic terms. He grew tired of it and at last got up and said, "Don't you two know that that word means *sukchung*?" They paid no heed. "Look here," he said, "I tell you it is *sukchung*." Still they paid no attention but went on arguing each with the other. The afternoon sun shone square on the book and the two sat on each side with the disputed character between them. Kim incensed at the thought of their taking no notice of him, said, "You fools, it's *sukchung*," and went back and lay down. He fell asleep and when he awoke it was evening and the third party had gone.

"I say," said the friend, "but you did sleep." "What's the use of staying awake," said Kim, "when folks pay as little attention to one as you did?"

"What do you mean?" asked the friend. "Why I mean about *sukchung* when you were arguing about *deulgeul*?"

"Yes, we were, we didn't just know what it meant."

"But I told you that it was *sukchung*, and you paid no attention."

"*Sukchung*? You never said *sukchung* to us that we heard."

"Go away," said Kim, wearied out by it, "didn't Yi So-and-so call?"

"Yes."

"And didn't you and he read the book together?"

"Yes."

"And didn't you get into a dispute and argue in a loud way over *deulgeul*?"

"Yes, we talked over that word but only in a whisper, for we did not wish you to be disturbed."

"But I got up and told you what it meant."

"Oh no, you didn't, never got up at all, had no part in it and was sound asleep all the time."

Kim went on to explain certain features of the afternoon, the sunshine on the book, etc. showing that he was most definitely awake and aware of the

conversation, while his friend vouched for it that he had been sound asleep all the time.

Still this might all have been but a dream and piece of imagination on his part.

Here is another story, trustworthy witnesses being still on hand to vouch for it:

Chang fell ill and died. He had been an average unimportant Christian for a year or so. Great was the consternation in the home, for Chang was the support of the household and was still a young man. Friends called to condole with the stricken family. All the accompaniments that bespeak the greatest loss that can overtake a Korean were present, tears and desolation.

A startling thing happened in that home. Five hours after the so-called death Chang suddenly rose up, shook himself back into consciousness and spoke to the congregated mourners.

"Friends," said he, "I have seen wonders, have been all the way to heaven and back to earth again."

With startled faces the mourners looked at him. Was it a dream or was he alive, for of a surety, according to Korean custom, he had been dead. Inquiry was made as to where he had gone and what he had seen.

"When I died I was taken by an angel guard up into the high heavens, where I met Yi Yo-tam, the Christian preacher of the town of Tam-yo, who had just died also."

The assembled company knew of Yi Yo-tam and the announcement of his death was a startling piece of news to them.

"We were carried up to heaven, where were indescribable delights such as the heart never pictures. We were both graciously welcomed, Yi especially. Passing by an archway that seemed to lead to the eternal City, he was asked to enter while I was directed to another. I separated from him with regret but was shown a portico of such splendour as these eyes never before looked upon. Into it I entered, but was stopped by an angel who said to me:

"Your companion when on earth was a faithful servant and told others of God's goodness and has passed to great reward, but you are to go back to earth one more for a new opportunity to be faithful."

"My regrets at having to return from that region of bliss were very great. I begged that I might stay forever, but it was not to be, and so I am here and would tell of the mercy of God and of how we should all give our hearts to him."

"But how about Yi Yo-tam?" asked the company.

"Yi Yo-tam is in heaven," said Chang, "for I have just been with him and we have walked together on its celestial way."

So emphatic was he in the statement, that one of the hearers started at once on foot to Tam-yo to see how it fared with Yi Yo-tam. Arrived at the village he inquired as to the leader of the church where did he live and how about him.

"He is dead," said the man addressed.

"Dead?"

Sure enough the signs of morning were evident; on going to the house he found that the master and faithful leader of the church had passed away that day according to the message brought by Chang on his return from heaven.

These facts are correctly stated, though the proper names are changed. They are vouched for by one whose name stands high in Korea for Christian integrity, higher than Mr. Stead's does in England, while the story itself is hardly less wonderful than any messages from Julia, and without the doubtful necromancy that goes with them.

SPECTATOR.

According to an investigation of the Communications Department, the number of vessels registered at the end of March amounted to 7,589, as detailed in the following table:—

	Steamships.	Sailing Vessels.
No. of Vessels	1,881	5,708
Gross Tonnage	1,378,384	414,996
Registered Tonnage	871,704	387,446

THE READJUSTMENT OF TAXATION.

In reference to the proposed readjustment of taxation, the *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain authority as observing that the revision of the taxation system now in force will prove a most difficult task. The Finance Department is now conducting investigations with a view to the readjustment and is obtaining reports from the different Tax Bureaux on the local conditions. It is a question, however, whether their efforts will be crowned with any practical success in view of the repeated failures of their predecessors in similar attempts. As scarcely needs pointing out, the defective point of the taxation system now in force lies, in the first place, in the inequality of the burden, the present taxes pressing too heavily on the middle classes and downwards, and too lightly on the upper classes. In the second place there is a partiality characterizing the methods of collection. The readjustment of the present tax system therefore presupposes the removal of these two defective points, in effect a fundamental readjustment. The trouble is that in the present conditions, anything like a fundamental readjustment of the taxation system is out of the question. If the authorities decrease the taxes in order to obtain an equilibrium in the burden, the decrease must be made on all items and the result will be the creation of a considerable deficit in the State revenue. This, the present financial conditions absolutely forbid. Then again, if the authorities attempt to renovate the methods of taxation, they will have to fix a different tax-rate according to each item of income. But in this case, too, obviously such a radical readjustment does not lie within the range of possibility at present.

Thus the readjustment in any fundamental way of the present tax system is not only impracticable in present circumstances, but may even produce hundreds of evil effects upon the State administration. In view of these facts it may be safely predicted that the sum and substance of the administrative adjustment the authorities now so loudly proclaim, and for which they are conducting elaborate investigations, will be the renovation of the taxation system and methods of collection only in local and minor points.

NEW COMPANIES IN APRIL.

The number of new companies established during the month of April, according to the investigations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, number about 280, with a paid up capital of some 4,630,000 yen. The total number of companies established since January is now 1,000, with a gross capital of 34,800,000 yen. This is an increase of 20 in the number of companies and of 11,000,000 yen in the amount of capital, as compared with the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The details are shown in the following table:—

	No. of Companies.	Capital. Yen.
Brewing	5	107,000
Provisions	9	1,292,620
Fibre	22	200,280
Chemical Industry	7	148,300
Metallurgy	1	10,000
Wheels and Shipbuilding	1	40,000
Machinery and Implements	6	26,500
Gas and Electric	5	307,500
Sundry	33	294,905
Mining	2	32,000
Wholesale	67	558,575
Warehousing	9	94,425
Banking	2	250,000
Credit Mobilier	24	217,750
Insurance	1	350,000
Miscellaneous	59	454,320
Transport and Traffic	17	356,290
Agricultural	8	73,156
Marine	3	15,560
Forestry	1	1,200
Total	282	4,630,361

RUSSIA AND FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

INTERVIEW WITH RUSSIAN MINISTER TO PEKING.
(SPECIAL TRANSLATION FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

M. Krupenski, the newly-appointed Russian Minister to Peking, recently passed through Harbin on his way to the Chinese capital. During his stay at Harbin he was interviewed by the representative of the *Novaya Jiss*. M. Krupenski acknowledged that the situation in the Far East had latterly become very complicated, but he thinks that the Chinese Republic will be recognised in the near future. Probably this recognition will take place after the election of the National Assembly, when the new Government will be organized, but undoubtedly the Republic will only be recognised when the new Government has pacified the country and the safety of the lives and property of foreigners is guaranteed. The Powers will not be satisfied with mere declarations on the part of the Chinese Government but will require real facts according to the existing treaties. This question of the recognition of the Chinese republic is a very serious one. If the Tsin dynasty can not be restored in South China, so much can not be said about the North, where the Imperialists are becoming more and more active. For that reason it would not be surprising if North China severed its relations with the South.

Generally speaking it is very difficult to say when order will be restored in China, because it is very probable that new internal dissensions will occur, and in that case peace can only be restored by a Government which enjoys public confidence.

As to the Chinese loan, at first it was arranged on a commercial basis, but later it assumed a political aspect. The United States of America tried very hard to prevent the Russian Government from participating in the loan, but on a protest being raised by the Russian Government, supported by some of the European Powers, participation in the loan on equal terms with the other five Powers was secured. The funds, which was at first fixed at £60,000,000, will be lent to the Chinese Government for economical and administrative purposes, and the uses to which the money is to be put will be placed under the control of the Powers interested. Certainly Russia will not refuse to participate in this control, because her interests have been for a long time and still are closely connected with Chinese affairs. The other Powers are also not less interested. At present in the Middle Kingdom the cry of "China for the Chinese" is the motto of the new Government, and all their efforts are directed to the improvement of national affairs. For that reason all the Powers interested have special reasons to watch over the expenditure of the money.

As to treaty revision between China and Russia it is necessary to note that both contracting parties have arrived at an agreement on many points and this agreement only awaits the sanction of the Peking Government. This question cannot be settled immediately, however, because the Chinese Government is too busy with internal affairs. Personally, said M. Krupenski, I shall try my best on my arrival at Peking to push this question, especially in regard to points which must be settled as soon as possible.

Concerning the navigation of the Amur and Ussuri rivers (the treaty conditions as to which expire next autumn), the new Minister said that in spite of the expiration of the treaty, the stipulated rights will be probably prolonged for at least one year, if the new treaty is not concluded before that time. This is the rule observed by all European Powers in such cases. If the new Chinese Government refuses to comply with this, the Russian Government will be compelled to enter a protest. The Russian Government sincerely desires to maintain friendly relations with China, and there can be no reasons for China

to break this friendship, as it is necessary for both sides.

Being questioned about the probable annexation of South Manchuria by Japan, M. Krupenski said that all these rumours were groundless, and there was no possibility that Japan would take such a step. In the case of annexation Japan would provoke all the Chinese against her, which she did not want to do. Moreover the other Powers could not remain silent.

As to Mongolian affairs, M. Krupenski holds very pessimistic views and does not believe independence possible. According to him, Mongolia has not the means, the ability, or the troops to maintain her present policy. For that reason it will be necessary for her to recognise Chinese sovereignty. Some Russian papers think that Mongolian independence should be maintained. This may be regarded only as political short-sightedness. If Russia abandons the peaceful policy which I have been authorized by our Government to put into practice in the Far East, said M. Krupenski, it would still be a great mistake to interfere in the affairs of Inner Mongolia. In that part of Mongolia there are very few Russian interests and Russia has no reason to take any steps in the sense of interference. Russia has also no intention of financing the Mongolian Government, because that would only produce ill-feeling among the Chinese, under whose suzerainty Mongolia has been for a long time.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE AGRICULTURE.

SPEECH BY BARON MAKINO.

At the conference of the Chiefs of the Agricultural Experimental Station, held on Monday afternoon, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, in his address said that the agricultural products of Japan are valued at some 1,600,000,000 yen per annum, and form one of the most important portions of the country's wealth. The annual export of silk and silk manufactures aggregates over 150,000,000 yen in value, or well nigh one-third of the total value of the exports. In imports also, agricultural products occupy a prominent place, the annual amount of raw cotton alone reaching something like 150,000,000 yen, or thirty per cent. of the total amount of imports. In view of these facts it scarcely needs pointing out that the development of the state economics depends in great measure upon the agricultural administration. As a matter of fact, agriculture in Japan is the source of the people's food supplies, and the demand for food supplies is on the increase in proportion to the increase of the population. It is part of the authorities' duties, therefore, to carefully observe the conditions of demand and supply, and make every possible endeavour to keep them in proper balance.

The local agricultural experimental stations are the only organisations for investigations with a view to the improvement and increase of agricultural products, and it is very necessary, therefore, that those in direct charge should devote their efforts to the improvement of the work for the attainment of the aim for which they were established. With regard to the policy to be followed by the experimental stations, as it is impossible to make thorough investigations all over the broad field of agricultural undertakings with the very limited funds available, they should be prosecuted within a small compass and be confined to such items as are in close relation to the development of agriculture in each locality. It is also important that the Chiefs of the Agricultural Experimental Stations should see that their policy is in conformity with that of the local Governments, so that their efforts may be facilitated and prove as fruitful as possible.

It need scarcely be emphasized that the officials connected with the stations should have a general knowledge of agriculture whatever their respective specialities may be. A regrettable fact is that, of late, as an apparently inevitable result of the

division of labour, not a few of them possess little or practically no knowledge on general agricultural subjects. This deplorable defect can easily be removed by giving constant encouragement to subordinates to extend their knowledge in such a way as not to impede their own particular studies.

Students graduating from agricultural schools have of late entered the Government service in large numbers, and upon the training of these graduates depends not a little the development of agricultural industry. It is the bounden duty of the Chiefs of the Agricultural Experimental Stations to spare no efforts for the guidance and instruction of those junior and inexperienced subordinates with a view to the production of able agricultural experts.

THE MONGOLIAN ARMY.

The *Russkii Invalid*, a semi-official Russian military paper, published at St. Petersburg, commenting upon the present situation in Mongolia states that at present the Mongols of Outer Mongolia can bring to the front, in case of war, not more than 10,000 horsemen, who are gathered from the Hoshuna. Every Hoshun, for the purposes of conscription, is divided into several Samons, and each of these Samons must levy and equip 150 horsemen. As a matter of fact, however, the Samon cannot raise more than 40 men on an average and some of them can not levy even this number. One member of every family which has two adult sons must enlist as a conscript, and must be provided with two horses and 5 to 7 sheep. One of the horses is for riding and the other for carrying baggage, while the sheep serve for food. Both the horses and sheep must be furnished by the administration of the Samon. Every conscript must furnish his own saddle and apparel, but his ammunition and arms are supplied from the arsenal of his prince, the arms being merely muskets bought from Russian traders travelling in Mongolia, although there are a few Russian rifles bought from the Japanese merchants, which were captured by the Japanese at Port Arthur during the late war.

According to the paper, the Mongolian army is quite powerless to defend the country against an enemy, as it is weak and slow in its movements. At present many small parties, consisting of from 30 to 50 horsemen, are moving towards their respective rallying points, driving before them herds of sheep. It is said that in the vicinity of the Mongolian capital there are about two or three thousand of such horsemen. The soldiers who are stationed at Urga receive hay for their horses, but the horses of those soldiers who are quartered in the vicinity of Urga, are put out to graze in spite of the wintry weather and the deficiency of good pasture. The soldiers themselves are supplied with brick tea, butter and mutton. There are no regular military exercises, as they have no instructors, but from time to time they make military excursions into the steppes to quell the Hunghutzes and other bandits who sometimes appear in Mongolia.

Firing practices are sometimes held, but the soldiers fire only at short ranges of 100 to 150 yards, as they do not know how to use the sights to aim at marks at different distances.

THE NIPPON RACE CLUB.

SPRING MEETING.

PATRONS:—H.I.H. Fushimi-no-Miya, H.I.H. Arisugawa-no-Miya, and H.I.H. Kanin-no-Miya.
PERMANENT COMMITTEE:—Sir Claude Maxwell MacDonald, K.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., President; Dr. E. Wheeler, Vice-President; B. d'Anker, Esq., Y. Arakawa, Esq., H.E., Col C. P. Bryan, F. H. Bugbird, Esq., P. A. Cox, Esq., F. C. Davis, Esq., A. J. Easton, Esq., F. L. Elliot, Esq., H.E., S. E. M. A. Gerard, L. J. Healing, Esq., S. Mori, Esq., S. Isaacs, Esq., D. Marshall, Esq., Captain S. Minoda, K. Mori, Esq., H.E., Governor K. Oshima, M. Pors, Esq., H.E., Graf von Rex, H.E., J. H. van Royen, H.E., F. de Salis, F. Strahler, Esq., H.E., Baron Sufu, F. M. Tegner, Esq. and T. Thomas, Esq.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—F. M. Tegner, Esq.,

Chairman; D. Marshall, Esq., Hon. Clerk of the Course; P. A. Cox, Esq., Hon. Treasurer; Captain S. Minoda, M. Pors, Esq., A. R. Riddle, Esq., J. Senoda, Esq. and Mr. Geo. Hood, Secretary.

STEWARDS OF THE MEETING.

F. M. Tegner, Esq., Chairman.
D. Marshall, Esq., Hon. Clerk of the Course.
W. Y. Showler, Esq., Judges.
J. E. B. de Courcy, Esq., Scales.
Dr. E. Wheeler, Handicapper.
A. R. Catto, Esq., Timekeepers.
F. L. Elliott, Esq.,
E. Coutts, Esq.,
K. Mori, Esq., A. R. Riddle
G. H. Stitt, Esq.,
Mr. G. Stevenson, Starter.
Mr. J. Ito, Official Interpreter.

THE AUSTRALIAN CUP DAY.

SOME GOOD RACING.

Some capital racing took place yesterday at the Spring Meeting of the Nippon Race Club at Negishi, the weather being on fairly good behaviour, for though it several times looked like rain, and on one occasion actually did give us a few spots, it kept off and enabled us to get through the day without discomfort. The turf was again in good condition and two records were broken, viz.:—the Australian Cup which fell to Coffee on Biwako and the fifth race by Susei II.

The attendance unfortunately was again very poor, there being even less than there were last Friday, whilst the absence of any music did not tend to the enlivenment of one's spirits. To-day will be the last day of the meeting, and given fine weather, the Champions should attract a good crowd.

THIRD DAY.—Friday, 3rd May, 1912.

1. Class D.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES OF SPRING 1912.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Handicap. Winners at the Meeting excluded. Distance One Mile.

Mr. M. Kimura's Benikusa, 140lbs.(Pass) 1
Mr. I. Yasuda's Yokohama II, 140lbs.(Sato) 2
Mr. J. Sonoda's Tomoye III, 132lbs.(Kanno) 3
Mr. Prince's Schoolgirl, 113lbs.(Kishichi) 0
Mr. Jester's Reinbeck, 115lbs.(Sugihara) 0
Mr. Robin Hood's Maud Allan, 118lbs.(Asahi) 0
Mr. T. Ishiura's Lady Ordonga, 120lbs (Furukawa) 0
Mr. Tatsu's Tsubasa, 125lbs.(Tani) 0
Mr. Tandem's Trilby, 120lbs.(Hansawa) 0

Ten horses started for the first race, but four attempts were made before the horses were despatched. When they finally got away, Maud Allan and Reinbeck led and round the first bend Maud Allan was still ahead. At the top of the hill, Tomoye III, surged forward, but approaching the trees, she was displaced by Yokohama II. The same order was maintained round the last bend, but on entering the home straight, Benikusa had taken first place and won an excellent race by half a length from Yokohama II, Tomoye III, being third. Time 1.56 1/5.

2. Classes D. E. & F.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. For All Subscription Country Bred Horses, non-winners at the Meeting, that have not won more than 3 races at date of entry and N.R.C. Subscription Country Bred Horses of Spring 1912. Handicap. Distance One Mile.

Mr. M. Kimura's Niagara, 132lbs.(Shibata-kan) 1
Mr. Lenand's Hayate, 133lbs.(Tamazo) 2
Mr. M. Kimura's Mikasa, 114lbs.(Pass) 3
Mr. T. Ishiura's Shogun, 134lbs.(Kawasaki) 0
Mr. Tatsu's Seiki, 117lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Murakumo, 115lbs.(Sugihara) 0

Six horses faced the starter for this race, and were got away after two shots. Hayate was first away, closely followed by Mikasa and Shogun. Up the hill, Mikasa moved into first place and continued to hold it until entering the home straight, when Shibata kan on Niagara took the rails and coming along with a fine spurt passed the leader and won a good race from Hayate by two lengths, Mikasa as third being beaten by one length. Time 1.53 1/5.

3. Class C.—The AUSTRALIAN HANDICAP.—A Cup with Yen 450 added, the Second to receive Yen 100, and the Third Yen 50. For All Subscription Australian Horses. Nominations made on 1st December, 1911, with a stake of Yen 10; Acceptances with a further stake of Yen 10, made on 13th January, 1912. A final entry of Yen 5, 20th March, 1912. These stakes will be added

to the prize money allotted in the proportion of 70, 20 and 10 per cent. for the First, Second and Third Horse respectively. Winners at the Meeting to carry 5lbs. extra for each win. (Stakes received and allotted:—Yen 434.00 for First, Yen 124.00 for Second and Yen 62.00 for Third Horse) Distance One Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. Norfolk's Biwako, 133lbs.(Coffee) 1
Mr. Prince's Stedfast, 132lbs.(Pass) 2
Mr. J. Sonoda's Sonohana, 155lbs.(Kanno) 2
Mr. Prince's Saratoga, 130lbs.(Kashichi) 0
Mr. Cherry's Cupid, 127lbs.(Kawasaki) 0
Mr. T. Hiyama's Persephone, 127lbs.(Takano) 0
Mr. Tatsu's Tsuden, 123lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Nile's Idzutsu, 120lbs.(Ebano) 0
Mr. Monte Carlo's Nadina, 114lbs.(Tamazo) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Bonny Black (late Samaritaine), 114lbs.(Seikichi) 0
Mr. Silk's Midzubo, 121lbs.(Shibatakan) 0

Eleven horses started for the Australian cup, one mile and a furlong. The start was a good one Saratoga being first away closely followed by Stedfast. At the post, the order was Saratoga, Stedfast and Nadina. At the bend, Stedfast was still leading. In the back straight Sonohana took third place. At the half mile there was no change but on entering the home straight, Coffee on Biwako had secured third place, and riding splendidly, got through the leaders and won the best race of the day by a neck. Stedfast and Sonohana dead-heating for second place. The cup was presented to the Japanese owner of the horse, a Mr. Hiyama of Kobe. The time was 2min. 07 1/10, thus constituting a record, the previous best being made by Mr. Prince's Saratoga in 1911, in 2 min. 07 1/4 sec.

4. Classes E. F. G. & H.—For ALL COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Handicap. Winners of Race 2, First Day, and Race 6, Second Day, excluded. Distance One Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. M. Mimura's Rasban, 128lbs.(Shibata-kan) 1
Mr. R. Kimura's Oimatsu II, 135lbs.(Tsubouchi) 2

A small field of two faced the starter, Oimatsu being first away. Passing the grand stand the two horses were neck and neck but up the hill, Oimatsu II led. The same order was maintained in the back straight but approaching the half mile, Rasban secured first place and maintained it to the end, winning easily by nine lengths. Time 2.06 1/10.

5. Classes E. F. & G.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Handicap. Winners of Race 6, First Day, and Race 2, Second Day, excluded. Distance One Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. I. Yasuda's Susei II, 138lbs.(Sato) 1
Mr. Monte Carlo's Bijou, 138lbs.(Susaki) 2
Mr. N. Kawakita's Tachimaru, 133lbs.(Asahi) 3
Mr. Tatsu's Kinjo, 125lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Nile's Chigusa, 135lbs.(Ebano) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Tomizumi, 150lbs.(Suzaki) 0

Six horses entered for this race, slight trouble being experienced at the start. At the getaway, Kinjo was off away and passing the stand, the order was Kinjo, Chigusa and Susei II. Of the hill, Chigusa moved forward, but in the back straight, the three leaders were bunched together. Entering the home straight, Susei II, surged ahead and passing Bijou and Tachimaru, won a good race by three lengths, the same distance separating second and third.

Time 2.07 1/10. This was also a record being better than the one made by Makino in 1911 in 2.08 3/5.

6. Class A.—For N.R.S. SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES OF 1911.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. For Horses that have not won more than one race at date of entry. Winners at the Meeting excluded. Handicap. Distance One Mile and a Furlong.

Mr. Rovston's Nedschdi, 129lbs.(Kawasaki) 1
Mr. N. Kawakita's Hikoo, 136lbs.(Asahi) 2
Mr. Nile's Kumoi III, 124lbs.(Ebano) 3
Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Magnolia, 136lbs.(Tamazo) 0

Mr. N. Kawakita's Cyran, 136lbs.(Nakazuma) 0
Mr. Rafale's Lulu (late Kawasan), 134lbs.(Fitzgerald) 0

Mr. Tatsu's Eizan, 117lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 0
Mr. Silk's Louise, 123lbs.(Shibata-kan) 0

Eight horses faced the starter but were unable to get away for some time, owing to the bad temper of Lulu, the race being delayed for full five minutes. At last the horses were got away, and from the very start Nedschdi took the lead, holding it throughout, and followed by Cyran. In the back straight the jockeys were bunched together, but on entering the home straight, Nedschdi drew still further away and

finished in good form, beating Hikoo by two lengths and Kumoi III, by half a length. Time 2.05 1/5.

FOURTH DAY.—Saturday, 4th May, 1912.

The tremendous rains of Saturday morning from the very early hours until about 2.20 p.m., assisted as they were by winds of typhonic force, effectually damped the ardour of all save the most enthusiastic of racing men and those whose professions compelled them to be present. In fact, the wind rose to such a speed 11.30 that it seemed inevitable that the races would have to be postponed till another day. Even as it was, a notice was posted that the racing would be delayed until 2.30 in the hopes of their being a change in the weather. As it so happened, strange to relate, the change did take place, for the rain ceased, whilst the wind dropped considerably and about three o'clock or so, the welcome sunshine appeared to cheer up the onlookers.

As was only natural, the consistent downpour for so many hours had got the turf into a very bad condition, with the result that the going was heavy, and the times proportionately slow. Nothing exceptional characterised the racing, although on the whole, it was good all round. In the last race of the meeting, though no protest had been officially raised, the Judges disqualified Shogun from second place, awarding the position to Tomizumi on the grounds that Shogun had unfairly crossed Tomizumi.

The attendance at the Meeting was naturally very poor, but from about 3.30, when the sun began to show itself, a few more people appeared on the scene, among them being several ladies.

Fortunately, in spite of the condition of the course, there were no accidents among the jockeys or horses.

1. Class D.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES OF SPRING 1912.—Value Yen 400, and the Second to receive Yen 100. A Consolation Handicap for Horses that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Distance Three-Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. I. Yasuda's Yokohama II, 145lbs.(Sato) 1
Mr. Nile's Miyuki II, 123lbs.(Ebano) 2
Mr. Jester's Reinbeck, 120lbs.(Shibata-kan) 3
Mr. Prince's Schoolgirl, 118lbs.(Kashichi) 0
Mr. Robin Hood's Maud Allan, 120lbs.(Asahi) 0
Mr. J. Sonoda's Tomoye III, 137lbs.(Kanno) 0
Mr. Tatsu's Tsubasa, 125lbs.(Tani) 0
Mr. Tandem's Trilby, 120lbs.(Hansawa) 0

The first field of the day, consisting of eight, got away about 2.30, in a very strong wind, Trilby leading at the start but soon being passed by Miyuki II. Up the hill Tomoye III was going well and at the half mile had secured first place. Nearing the trees, Yokohama II, drew up to second and rounding the bend surged to the front, taking the rails, with Miyuki II second, and Reinbeck third. The same order was maintained down the home straight and at the post, Yokohama II, won by six lengths, one length dividing the latter two horses. Time 1 min. 31 sec.

2. Class C.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES.—Value Yen 400, and the Second to receive Yen 100. A Consolation Handicap for Horses that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Distance One Mile.

Mr. Silk's Midzubo, 134lbs.(Shibata-kan) 1
Mr. Prince's Saratoga, 150lbs.(Kashichi) 2
Mr. T. Hiyama's Persephone, 140lbs.(Higaki) 3
Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Magnolia, 120lbs.(Tamazo) 0

Mr. Kanagawa's Queen Jasmine, 119lbs.(Hansawa) 0

Mr. N. Kawakita's Cyran, 120lbs.(Kanno) 0
Mr. Nile's Kumoi III, 119lbs.(Takano) 0
Mr. Monte Carlo's Nadina, 132lbs.(Sazaki) 0
Mr. Tytherleigh's Bonny Black (late Samaritaine), 129lbs.(Coffee) 0

Nine horses faced the starter for this race, Bonny Black being first away, followed by Queen Magnolia and Saratoga. Up the hill, Queen Magnolia went to the front, Kumoi III and Cyran occupying second and third positions. In the back straight Cyran took the lead, Midzubo having got into third place. At the trees, the latter horse came up with a rush, securing first position, from which it was never seriously challenged, and won a good race by three lengths from Saratoga, half a length separating Saratoga from Persephone. Time, 1 min. 59 sec.

3. Class D.—CHAMPIONS.—For N.R.C. SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES OF SPRING 1912.—

Value Yen 400. Forced entry for winners at the Meeting. Winners of 1 race 120lbs., of 2 races 127lbs., of 3 races 140lbs. Distance One Mile.

Mr. States' Alabama, 122lbs.(Coffee) 1
Mr. Lenand's Bonnie Jane, 120lbs.(Tamazo) 2
Mr. M. Kimura's Benikusa, 120lbs.(Pass) 3

For the first race of the Champions, class D, only three horses ran. Alabama was first away but was quickly displaced by Bonnie Jane. At the hill, rounding into the back straight, Benikusa took the lead and occupied the same position at the half mile. At the trees, Bonnie Jane drew up but just before entering the home straight, Alabama shot to the front and won by two lengths, Bonnie Jane beating Benikusa for second place by six lengths. Time 2 min. 4 1/10.

4. Classes E. F. & G.—CHAMPIONS.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 400, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Forced entry for winners at the Meeting. Weight for Age with 12lbs. deducted. Winners of more than 1 race at date of entry, 5lbs. penalty for each win over 1 win. Winners of 2 races after closing of entries to carry 5lbs. extra, of 3 or more races 10lbs. extra, not exceeding 155lbs. in all. Distance One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. R. Kimura's Oonatsu II., 148lbs.(Ts. bouchi) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Niagara, 120lbs.(Shibatakan) 2
Mr. I. Yasuda's Suisel II., 141lbs.(Sato) 3
Mr. N. Kawakita's Tachimaru, 125lbs.(Asahi) 0
Mr. Jester's Chanticleer, 131lbs.(Pass) 0

Five ran, Tachimaru being rather troublesome at the start. At last they were got away, Oimatsu taking the lead and holding it to the end. In the back straight Suisel II. got into the first three and at the post, the horses finished with Oimatsu II., the winner by six lengths, and Niagara beating Suisel II. by three lengths. Time 2 min. 30 1/5 sec.

5. Classes A. B. & C.—CHAMPIONS.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION AUSTRALIAN HORSES.—Value Yen 500, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Special additional prize of Yen 300 to the winner, presented by the Basuikyoku. Forced entry for winners at the Meeting. Weight for Age with 12lbs. deducted. Winners of more than 1 race at date of entry 5lbs. penalty for each win over 1 win. Winners of 2 races after closing of entries to carry 5lbs. extra, of 3 or more races 10lbs. extra, not exceeding 160lbs. in all. Distance One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. J. Sonoda's Sonohana, 160lbs.(Kanso) 1
Mr. Nile's Idzutsu, 122lbs.(Ebano) 2
Mr. Prince's Steadfast, 135lbs.(Pass) 3
Mr. Royston's Nedschid, 122lbs.(Coffee) 0

Another small field only consisting of four, ran for this race, the lead being once secured by Pass on Steadfast and was held by him until approaching the trees when he fell back to third place, Sonohana surging to first place in a fine manner, Idzutsu being second. This order was maintained to the finish, Sonohana winning easily. Several lengths separated the three leaders. 2 min. 26 3/10 sec.

6. Class H.—For ALL COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 450, and the Second to receive Yen 100. A Handicap for Horses that have started at the Meeting and are not eligible for Champion Races. Distance One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. S. Minoda's Frustrate, 136lbs.(Kawasaki) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Kasban, 133lbs.(Shibata-kan) 2
Mr. Tatsuta's Hanabishi, 133lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 3

Again only three ran, Kasban being first away, with Hanabishi second. In the back straight, however, Frustrate came along rapidly and at the half mile, secured the lead, maintaining the position to the winning post, beating Kasban by two lengths, and Hanabishi by six. Time 2 min. 29 sec.

7. Classes E. F. & G.—For ALL SUBSCRIPTION COUNTRY BRED HORSES.—Value Yen 400, and the Second to receive Yen 100. Consolation Handicap for Horses that have started at the Meeting and not won a race. Distance One Mile.

Mr. Tatsuta's Kinjo, 120lbs.(Nihonyanagi) 1
Mr. M. Kimura's Tomizumi, 140lbs.(Suzuki) 2
Mr. T. Ishiura's Shogun, 117lbs.(Furukawa) 3
Mr. Lenand's Hayate, 120lb.(Tamazo) 0
Mr. Nile's Chigusa, 120lbs.(Takano) 0
Mr. Monte Carlo's Bijou, 140lbs.(Sazaki) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Mikasa, 115lbs.(Okuyama) 0
Mr. M. Kimura's Murakumo, 120lbs.(Sugihara) 0
(Shogun was disqualified for second place).

For the last race of the Spring Meeting, eight horses faced the starter and after a few false starts, were got away, Bijou being left at the post. Hayate was leading, with Kinjo a very close second; Up the hill, Kinjo came to the front, Chigusa second and Shogun third. At the half mile, Hayate was leading, the rest of the field being in a cluster

behind. Entering the home straight, Kinjo shot forward to the front, Shogun cutting across the course and securing second place from Tomizumi, Kinjo winning. Shogun was eventually disqualified from second place, after a consultation by the Stewards, for having crossed Tomizumi in contradiction to the rules.

THE LATE DR. KNOX.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT SEOUL.

On the evening of May 1st a memorial service for the late Dr. Knox was held by the Japanese Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches in Seoul under the auspices of the Japanese Y.M.C.A. Mr. S. Niwa presided. Pastor Inoguchi offered prayer, Mr. Matsumoto read the ninetieth Psalm, Miss Avison sang "Crossing the Bar" and addresses were given by Rev. Thomas C. Hall, D.D., a colleague of Dr. Knox at Union Theological Seminary, Chief Justice Nobu Wataabe and Rev. Frederick S. Curtis. The address of Dr. Hall is published by the *Seoul Press* as follows:—

Dear brethren in the Lord Jesus Christ, we come together to-night to remember one who over 35 years ago gave his life to Japan and became wedded to it in a bond that never has been broken. He loved the church of Japan and longed to bring her again a message of love and unity in Christ or Lord. Dr. Knox was a profound thinker, a philosopher and a student, but his object in life was to proclaim the love of God as the one basis of unity. When he came back to us in America it was with a heart full of love for this people and with the desire that we should love and understand Japan as he had. He recognized the great national purpose of Japan and he coveted for God the national, steady purpose which has characterized your life. For some years he had dreamed of making this tour around the world to teach that all men are brothers in Christ and were to be united in the one Father. He felt in his heart that there was a great future before a national Japan with its religious life quickened and purified, and he believed that this would be through the Bible. He did not despise other religions, but he felt in his heart of hearts that there was in Christianity what could be found in no other religions—immortality, hope and the quickening of the Holy Spirit; and it was for this reason that he longed to come back to Japan and repeat the same message of hope and faith in Jesus Christ. He often said to me that there is here in Japan the foundation of the family and the nation.

Dr. Knox had a singularly acute mind. He was a great scholar but he was also a great friend. He had a heart full of love; Japanese coming to him always found sympathy and help. How we miss his heart, now hushed. He said once to me: "Under all the differences of language, custom and colour we are the same. After all, we are brothers in our sorrows and our joys and are sons of the same Father. If we can only get behind these differences we shall find in one another loving friends." He longed to show this friendship but now he is gone, and now you are showing friendship for him. I trust that the taking away of our brother in this land will prove to be a bond, to bind you in Japan more closely with us in America. Dr. Knox was a great philosopher, scholar and theologian, but he used to say that Christianity gave something better than philosophy, scholarship and theology; that it gave a Christ-like character, and that he who had a Christ-like character, had found God in Jesus Christ. Now he has gone but surely he still speaks to us of those things which cannot pass away—of love, faith and Christian character. He lives with us and lives with God, who has taken him to Himself. And so he leaves us a precious message of friendship—friendship in Christ our Lord and Master—friendship which cannot be broken.

He has written many books about Japan and the Orient and in all these he sought to show that the one thing we need is simplicity in Christ—

simplicity of faith and love; and he longed for the unity of the Church—to have men work together, and find in this the real basis of unity. Christian life is working together, making men into the image of God through the power of the in-dwelling Christ. He served for fourteen years in the Union Theological Seminary, preparing men to go out into the world and teach the gospel. In that institution we have nineteen or twenty churches represented and Dr. Knox used to glory in the fact that the churches in the world were drawing together and would sprout all differences through the cross of Jesus Christ. So now I close, asking you to give your prayer for his widow, his children and his colleagues. We ask for your sympathy and thank you from our hearts for your love and heart-felt appreciation. We are thankful that he loved you and taught us to love you.

Following Dr. Hall in his address, Chief Justice Watanabe dwelt especially upon the words in Revelation 14: 13, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.....they rest from their labours; for their works follow with them." He also commented upon the great resurrection passage in 1 Cor 15. "This mortal must put on immortality. Death is swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God who give thus the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mr. Curtis then spoke of his early acquaintance with Dr. Knox, and the latter's relation to the church of Dr. A. T. Pierson, who was then in Detroit, Michigan. In 1877, Dr. Pierson wrote to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions asking that some outgoing missionary be assigned to his Church, the support of whom would be undertaken by the *Men's Missionary Society*; Dr. Knox's name was suggested and thereupon began a most happy mutual relation. Ten years later, at Philadelphia, when Dr. Pierson had become Pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church in that city, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis who had already begun seriously to consider Japan as a possible missionary field were greatly impressed and interested by an address on Japan delivered by Dr. Knox, then at home on furlough.

Allusion was also made by the speaker to Dr. Knox's 16 years of service in Japan, from 1877 to 1893, and especially to his unusual ability as shown in his having acquired sufficient facility in the use of the Japanese language to be able to preach after one year of study. At the end of two years (then at the age of 25) he began to teach regularly in the Theological Seminary and continued this work throughout the remainder of his stay in Japan. It was his privilege to lay the foundation of the Church in Kochi and to baptize Mr. Kamikichi Kataoka. On Dr. Knox's return from furlough in 1888 he found Mr. Kataoka in prison whither he hastened to visit him. (Mr. Kataoka was a number of times elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Imperial Diet, and also was at the time of his death, President of the Doshisha University and of the Board of Home Missions of the Nihon Kirisuto Kyōkai.) Dr. Knox's immediate seeking out of Mr. Kataoka in prison is an illustration of the deep love and sympathy for the Japanese people which was undimmed by the subsequent 20 years spent in America. Mr. Curtis then read selections from a letter of condolence just received by Mrs. Knox from the Rev. Mr. Tada, pastor of the Kochi Church. In this letter Mr. Tada spoke of the high regard in which Dr. Knox was held by that church, of his own deep affection for him, and of his great influence upon the work in Tosa. At the close of the letter, Mr. Tada most aptly quoted Rom. 8:28, expressing the wish that it might be of great comfort to Mrs. Knox in her time of bereavement. ("We know that to them that love God all things work together for good.") This message is one for us all. May his mantle fall upon us and may we go forward following him in his zeal and love even as he followed his Master and Lord.

THE inauguration ceremony of Ochonomidzu Park took place on Sunday morning. About five hundred persons attended the function.

THE "HAWAII SHIMPŌ" AND JAPANESE COLONIZATION.

On April 14th the *Hawaii Shimpō*, now the most widely circulated and the most influential Japanese newspaper in Hawaii, celebrated the 5000th issue of the paper by bringing out a gigantic number, consisting of 44 pages. Among the numerous letters of congratulation sent in, there were a good many which were written by leading American journalists and business men. Just to show the important position held by the *Hawaii Shimpō*, I will make one or two quotations from these letters. Mr. Walter C. Smith, one of the best known newspaper editors in Hawaii, writes:—

"Your paper has grown in a few years from an amateur rural journal to a Territorial one of large professional value, quite as metropolitan as a paper can be in Hawaii. Especially let me congratulate you on the triumph of your policy of getting the Japanese and whites on terms of perfect friendliness. You have smoothed over many difficulties; you have explained things to both sides which were not easy to understand without such light." The Governor of Hawaii, the Hon. W. F. Frear wrote:—"The *Hawaii Shimpō* does well to celebrate its 5000th number, for its 17 years of history contains much that may be recalled with pride and commendation. It has striven courageously and persistently for what it believed to be for the best interests of its own people, the Japanese, in these islands, whether its course in doing so for the time being was popular or not. At the same time it has not been unmindful of its obligations to the land in which these people sojourn. It has aided materially in the cultivation and maintenance of that feeling of mutual respect and kindness among the races which is so typical, so appropriate, and so essential in this mixed community at the meeting place of the East and West. In a word, it has gone far towards exemplifying the idea of a worthy newspaper—in its earnestness and uprightness of purpose, its fearlessness for the right and just, and its generous breadth of view. May it live long with ever increasing usefulness in the pursuit of its high calling."

It will be remembered by many readers of the *Japan Mail* that Mr. S. Shiba, the Proprietor and Chief editor of the *Hawaii Shimpō*, was strongly opposed to the strike of Japanese labourers that took place in 1909 and that he boldly denounced the many acts of violence perpetrated and the constant instigation to violence which appeared in the columns of a rival newspaper—the *Nippon Jiji*. For the part he took on that occasion Mr. Shiba had to pay dearly. He was stabbed in one of the streets of Honolulu and was within an inch of losing his life. The four editors of the *Nippon Jiji* were tried and convicted of conspiring against the American Government and were all sent to prison. This broke up the strike, and when the excitement had quieted down, among the 80,000 Japanese settled in the Hawaiian Islands, thousands became convinced that Shiba was a truer friend to them than the men who had worked up the agitation for the sake of the profit that the wide sale of their paper yielded. Since that time the circulation of the *Hawaii Shimpō* has increased from year to year. It is an excellently edited and a well informed paper. The editor is in close intercourse with the leading residents of Honolulu and is highly respected by them, as the 21 English letters of congratulation which appear in the jubilee number of the *Hawaii Shimpō* abundantly testify. There was a time when the Hawaiian Japanese were regarded with extreme aversion by their fellow-countrymen in Japan, owing to their very low standard of living and morals. For nearly 17 long years the *Hawaii Shimpō* has been labouring in the cause of enlightenment and high culture, and, according to the testimony of the Japanese contributors to the jubilee number of the paper, it has accomplished wonders in this line.

Not only has the *Hawaii Shimpō* commanded the sympathy and support of the leading Japanese

residents of the Hawaiian Islands, but not a few publicists in this country regard the noble stand it has made for liberty, justice and fair play with great admiration. Among them are Messrs. Ozaki Yukio, Inoue Kakugoro and Abe Isao and Dr. K. Ukita, all of whom have contributed essays on Colonization to this jubilee number of the paper.

Mr. Ozaki discusses the whole question of emigration and colonization on broad lines. He is of opinion that before Japan sends her surplus population off to distant parts of the world she should bring the whole of the land available in this country under cultivation. If Shikoku and the Hokkaidō were properly developed, the population of Japan might exceed one hundred million, as it is likely to do some 40 years hence, without causing inconvenience. Mr. Ozaki says that a far more important question than deciding on the country to which Japanese emigrants should be sent, is the development of the qualities which go to make good colonists. The effect of the centuries of isolation through which the Japanese passed prior to the Meiji era is seen to-day in the various countries where they are settled. To conform to the ways of the people among whom they live is a lesson they do not learn. Their modes of life, their habits and customs, their prejudices and narrow-mindedness, and a certain disregard of the decencies of civilised society, Mr. Ozaki affirms, account for the aversion with which the Japanese are regarded in the United States and elsewhere.

Mr. Ozaki furthermore says that though foreigners often speak of Japan as a first-class Power, and though certain Japanese claim the honour of having attained to this distinction, when the lives passed by the majority of Japanese be compared with those passed by Europeans and Americans, the fact that the inhabitants of these sunny isles are satisfied with a far lower standard of life than that reached in the West is very evident, and this can not but produce a feeling of abasement in the minds of right thinking Japanese. The whole future of Japan as a colonizing Power depends entirely on her ability to reform her ways, says Mr. Ozaki. (*Kokuminsei no kaitō wa kokka no kyūmu de aru. Shin ni Nihon ga rekkyō ni go (五) shite itō koku to nari uru to ina to no senketsu (先決) mondai de aru.*) To Mr. Ozaki it seems that the narrow-minded nationalism and the Jingoism that are so prevalent in Japan to-day among a large section of the community are calculated to do the country much harm.

Mr. Inoue Kakugoro is known to be strongly opposed to the choice of Manchuria as a place for establishing Japanese settlements. An article from his pen that appears in the *Hawaii Shimpō* goes minutely into this subject. It will be remembered that Mr. Inoue and Mr. Hara visited Korea and Manchuria when the Katsura Government were urging Japanese would-be emigrants to proceed to these places in preference to going to America and other Western countries, and that, after minute investigation of the state of things in Manchuria and Korea, they strongly denounced the policy adopted by the Katsura Government as short-sighted and speculative in the highest degree. Further inquiry, Mr. Inoue tells us, has only tended to confirm the pessimistic views he expressed more than a year ago on Manchuria as a field for Japanese emigration. He now says:—"Manshū wa waga dōbō no shōrai ni yubō naru tenchi de nai. His reasons for making this assertion are that the climate is unsuitable, that the soil is less fertile than has been represented, that promising industries are few, and, most important of all, that Japanese labourers can not successfully compete with the Chinese in their own country.

Professor Abe Isao spent a month in Hawaii last year, and when he returned, wrote a 200 page book entitled *Hawaii Kikō* [紀行]. But this work has not yet appeared owing to unavoidable delay at the Shueisha, where it is being printed. In an article which Professor Abe contributed to the jubilee number of the *Hawaii Shimpō* he adduces much evidence to show that the

future of the Japanese settlers in Hawaii will depend entirely on the educational policy they adopt. With the instruction imparted in the Primary Schools established on the various sugar plantations he has much fault to find. The boys who attend those schools are American citizens and they certainly should have this fact impressed on them by their Japanese teachers, and the instruction in Japanese they receive should differ essentially from that imparted in the Primary Schools of this country. But this it does not do. Consequently the boys grow up with narrow-minded, anti-foreign and Japan-worshipping ideas filling their minds. This disqualifies them for becoming American citizens of the right type, and it accounts for the strong antipathy felt towards them by earnest-minded American politicians. So the situation is just this, that though from an economic point of view the Japanese are considered a necessity to Hawaii, from a political point of view they are regarded with such grave misgiving that it is not unlikely that their presence in such large numbers in the islands may eventually lead to a radical change in America's method of governing the Territory. According to the existing system of local autonomy, since the Japanese population is increasing by over 3,000 per year, and seeing that there are now nearly 80,000 Japanese settled on the islands, the voting power will gradually pass into the hands of these aliens. This it is felt would create such a dangerous situation that the Washington Government would certainly intervene and cancel the Constitution according to which the Territory is now administered, establishing in its place an autocratic form of Government. There is, says Professor Abe, only one way of preventing this culmination, and that is by radically altering the whole character of the instruction given in the Hawaiian Japanese Primary Schools. In their eagerness to make the boys good Japanese subjects, the teachers are, consciously or unconsciously, most likely the former, making them objectionable and even dangerous American citizens.

The history of the strike of 1909 showed conclusively how ready the Japanese were to combine against American authority, to defy the laws of the land and to set up a kind of local government of their own. As I pointed out at the time, the American local authorities will never forget the lessons which Japanese lawlessness taught them on that memorable occasion. And they say to themselves that nothing could be more dangerous than to allow political power in the islands to be monopolised by some 80,000 people who are in no sense loyal American citizens. Professor Abe seems to be of opinion that this American view of the situation in Hawaii is based on incontrovertible facts and that the Japanese have only themselves to blame for the political hostility displayed towards them by all loyal-hearted American citizens residing in the Territory. He points out that in case the Japanese in Hawaii continue to isolate themselves in the way they have done in past years and in the event of this attitude of theirs forcing the Washington Government to deprive the Territory of most of the local power it now possesses, the anti-Japanese feeling in Hawaii will certainly assume a very dangerous character.

Professor Abe holds that all that the Japanese children in Hawaii need is an American education and that the Japanese education they are now receiving is in excess of what is necessary. (*Wakushi wa Nihonjin no kodomo ni Nihon-teki kyōiku wo suru hitayō wa holondo nai; fuhitsuyō de aru to iu iken wa yū suru mono de aru.*) But Professor Abe qualifies this by afterwards admitting that a little Japanese history and geography needs to be taught. But he is for dropping the use of ideographs in Hawaiian Japanese schools, maintaining that Japanese lads can get all the general knowledge they need from English books and had far better write their language in Roman letters, thus saving years of labour.

The opinion that the education received in the Primary and Middle Schools of Japan

to-day unite students for colonial life in foreign countries is very widely held by progressive Japanese thinkers at the present time. The strong indisposition to assimilate themselves to the ways of Occidentals displayed by the Japanese in Hawaii and America is undoubtedly the result of the narrow-minded ideas they have acquired at school.

W.D.

AERONAUTICS AT YOKOHAMA.

SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS OF A HYDRO AEROPLANE.

During the early hours of Friday morning last a little after six o'clock to be exact, Mr. Atwater made another flight in his Curtis Hydroplane from the Pacific Mail Company's coal depot. The aviator successfully circled the *Tenryu Maru* and the French cruiser, the *Dupleix*; after which, he gave several skilful demonstrations of flying just above water.

The people of Yokohama had an opportunity of seeing some fine exhibitions of aeroplaning on Saturday and Sunday, when Mr. W. B. Atwater made several successful ascents over the bay in his hydro-aeroplane, and they took full advantage of the opportunity, the Bund being lined from one end to the other with eager spectators, the crowd being naturally thickest near the Pacific Mail coal yards, from which the ascents were made.

The exhibition on Saturday was given for the Navy authorities, among those invited to witness the performance being Prince Fushimi, Admiral Saito, Minister of the Navy, Mr. Takarabe, Vice-Minister of the Navy, Vice-Admirals Ijima and Uryu, and the Hon. Mr. O'Brien, American Ambassador.

Three ascents were made, the first two by Mr. Atwater alone, and the last with Captain Umekita as a passenger. All three were very successful. The launch was made from a movable platform, the aeroplane gliding gracefully over the water and then rising gradually in the air, over the Japanese torpedo-boats, which had brought some of the visitors from Yokosuka, and circling round the French battleship. The flight lasted about ten minutes and it is estimated Mr. Atwater rose about 300 feet. As to speed this is very difficult for any one but an expert to estimate but it is said he was travelling at the rate of fifty miles an hour. The aeroplane was brought back exactly to the spot where it had started.

In the second flight Mr. Atwater was commissioned to convey a message to the commander of the torpedo-boat *Kanome*, ordering it to proceed to Yokosuka. This he accomplished very easily and after some further evolutions he made a rather steep descent and flew just over the surface of the water up to the landing stage. Here the speed at which the machine was travelling could be well judged.

In the last ascent on Saturday Captain Umekita accompanied Mr. Atwater, who to show the power he had over the aeroplane, travelled upwards of a mile over the surface of the water before rising. It was in this last flight that Mr. Atwater seemed to attain his greatest altitude. He again returned to the water a good distance out, and cleverly avoiding the sampans, travelled over the water at a speed of some fifty miles an hour. From a distance it looked as if the speed could not be brought under control quick enough to prevent an accident, but when the engine was shut off before reaching the stage, the machine instantly slowed down and glided safely on to the platform.

A large number of the spectators went away after the first flight, apparently under the impression it was all over, so that the second and third flights were witnessed by comparatively few people.

On Sunday morning another exhibition was given for the benefit of the Army officials. On this occasion, the aeronaut only made one flight, but it lasted close on half an hour. In this demonstration, he rose to a great height, believed to be about 3,000 feet, and for a few moments

was lost from sight completely. As on the previous day, the exhibition was perfect and was witnessed by quite a large number of military officers and officials.

It is reported that the Government is contemplating placing orders for four of these machines.

FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS.

The foreign trade returns for the first ten days of the current month show an excess of imports over exports by 6,011,000 yen, making a total excess of imports since January of 633,000 yen. In exports raw silk showed a slight decrease in amount, while cotton thread, camphor, fish oil, fancy matting, straw braid and matches witnessed a decided increase. In imports, there was a slight increase in rice, sugar, oil cake, bar and sheet iron, rails, iron rails and petroleum, but raw cotton and woollen tissues underwent a decided decrease on the other hand. The details are shown in the following table:—

First Ten Days of May.		Since January.		Inc. or Dec.	
Yen.		Yen.		Yen.	
Exports	14,263,000	160,022,000		+ 14,540,000	
Imports	20,274,000	253,655,000		+ 46,334,000	
Excess of Imp.	6,011,000	93,633,000			

Specie showed an excess of export by some 906,090 yen, making 8,293,000 yen since January as shown in the following table:—

First Ten Days of May.		Since Jan.		Inc. or Dec.	
Yen.		Yen.		Yen.	
Exports	942,244	9,033,000		— 1,111,000	
Imports	36,154	740,000		+ 287,000	
Excess of Exp.	906,090	8,293,000			

The returns from Chosen are as follow:—

First Ten Days of May.		Since Jan.		Inc. or Dec.	
Yen.		Yen.		Yen.	
Exports	1,177,066	15,826,000		+ 3,782,000	
Imports	320,308	4,968,000		— 2,023,000	
Excess of Exports	856,758	10,858,000			

SPECIE.

	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Export	100,080	203,000	— 4,051,000
Import	479,469	3,632,000	— 4,091,000
Excess of Export	379,389	3,429,000	

MARRIAGE IN KOBE.

On the 9th inst. at H.B.M.'s Consulate, before R. H. de B. Layard, Esq., H.B.M.'s Consul-General for Kobe and Osaka, Mr. Peter D. H. Grant, Agent of the International Bank, was united in marriage to Miss Ada H. Scott, of West Hartlepool, England. The religious ceremony was subsequently performed at All Saints' Church. Mr. Munro had the duties of best man, and Miss Giretta Spence and Miss Joyce Green were bridesmaids. Mr. Newton presided at the organ, playing the Wedding March from Lohengrin as the bridal party entered. The only hymn played during the service was "The Voice that Breathed o'er Eden." As the congregation dispersed the organist played Mendelssohn's Wedding March. A reception was subsequently held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, where Mr. Longmore proposed the toast of the Bride and Bridegroom. Mr. Grant replied in felicitous terms, coupling with his toast to the Bridesmaids the name of Mr. Munro, who, in a very happy speech, replied. The happy couple, the *Kobe Herald* reports, left the same evening for Kyoto.

On Mr. Seymour Hicks sitting down by a beautiful damsel, when acting "Cook's Man" at the Coliseum, the high-born lady imperiously commands him to "Rise! Rise!" The reply, in tones childlike and bland, is: "Do you take me for a Rubber shoe?"

MEETING OF THE TO-A DOBUN KAI.

A general conference of the To-A Dobun-kai took place at the Peers' Club on Friday evening last, Viscount Kiyoura, President of the Association, presiding.

After the general reports had been read, Prof. Nedzu delivered an address, in the course of which he observed that some people seemed to view the present political changes in China with solicitude and even in a pessimistic light, but that in reality there was nothing that justified such views. It was true the country's revenues now scarcely exceeded some four hundred million taels, but in view of the neglected condition of the greater portion of the resources, it would not be a matter of great difficulty to obtain at least double the present revenue in the event of administrative readjustment. To the fact that there is plenty of room for readjustment, and that hopes of a future increase in the revenue are certain, the six Powers' proposal for taking the salt tax as security for China's contemplated loan bears eloquent witness.

Prof. Nedzu, proceeding, referred to the effect of the political changes in China upon the general conditions of the country and concluded that the changes had been to the benefit of China in the expansion of her finance, improvement of her currency system, development of communications, progress of commerce and industry, betterment of the educational system, and harmonization of the Manchus and Chinese. At the same time she had lost by the destruction of religious doctrines, the growth of political party conflict, the disbandment of her troops, the degeneration of officialdom and the growing tendency towards strikes. Some of those effects might not be perceptible at present, but they would nevertheless make themselves felt sooner or later. The future political situation in China, and in the Far East as a whole, therefore, claims more close attention than ever from those who aim at the promotion of peace and the maintenance of order in the Eastern World.

The President and other officers of the organization were re-elected, and a brief address by Viscount Kiyoura, after a light repast, brought the meeting to a close at about eight o'clock in the evening.

JOINT-STOCK UNDERTAKINGS IN JAPAN.

Since the promulgation of the Company Law in the year 1887, there has been a great development of joint-stock undertakings in Japan. According to investigations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the companies in existence in 1887 numbered 6,113, with a paid up capital of 532,522,377 yen. In ten years, however, the number increased to 12,308 and the capital to 1,481,401,454 yen, as detailed in the following tables:—

AGRICULTURAL.		
	No. of Co.	Amount of Capital.
		Yen.
1887	148	2,220,627
1895	231	3,368,990
1900	316	16,864,519
INDUSTRIAL.		
1887	1,881	105,381,206
1895	2,449	189,414,059
1900	3,673	580,117,198
COMMERCIAL.		
1887	3,630	260,227,479
1895	5,630	466,404,498
1900	7,394	687,792,486
TRANSPORTATION.		
1887	454	154,684,165
1895	696	316,649,008
1900	856	186,596,551
TOTAL.		
1887	6,113	532,522,377
1895	9,006	975,836,555
1900	12,308	1,481,401,454

So far as reserve funds are concerned they increased from 62,504,575 yen in 1887, to 224,799,901 yen in 1895 and to 363,543,967 yen in 1900.

THE BOOKSHELF.

In and About Amoy. By Rev. PHILIP WILSON PITCHER, M.A., Member of the American Reformed Church Mission, Amoy, China 1912. Publishers: The Methodist Publishing House, Shanghai and Foochow.

THIS work has here reached a second edition, indicating a considerable degree of appreciation on the part of the public. We should be inclined to say that this book, written in an unpretending simple style deserves much favourable estimation.

The book is well planned, and beginning with a clear account of the geographical situation of Amoy, proceeds to treat of its history, both in domestic and foreign relations. Thus it leads up to the opening of Amoy as a port in 1842, as a consequence of the Opium War.

The writer treats of the people, their characteristics and customs, dealing with their home life, their clans, and their clan fights. These feuds between clans are said to be distinctively peculiar to Fukien and Kwantung.

The industries of the region seem to gather round agriculture. Rice, of course, is the standard crop, but a great deal of sugar cane, tobacco and bamboo is also raised. Cotton growing is increasing, and promises to be very profitable. Fruit is abundant and of numerous sorts. The Amoy tea cultivation, at least in large quantities, is a thing of the past, although one district raises about 300 tons, the greater portion of it being exported to the Straits Settlements for the Chinese living there. Opium cultivation has been, and remains, very profitable, but the Government has taken measures to restrict the area under cultivation, annually reducing it by one-tenth.

The emigration from Amoy is next spoken of. The average yearly emigration from Amoy is about 65,000, about four-fifths returning.

It is pretty certain that any book about China is sure to have something to say about the language, and this book gives a very interesting chapter on the Amoy vernacular, and we have a series of racy anecdotes of the usual type about the blunders of learners. These are always amusing, and they are generally true, in Japan as well as in China. The most interesting portion of the discussion on language is that dealing with "the Amoy Romanization." This Mr. Pitcher speaks of as an unqualified success;—very remarkable indeed, if true, and very different from results of efforts to Romanize elsewhere in China, or Japan. The work, it seems, began before 1850. Seventeen Roman letters were taken as an alphabet. By aspirating four of them, viz. ch (ch), k (kh), p (ph), and t (th); and by combining m and g (ng) and by placing a dot above the o ('o), a total number of twenty three letters was completed, a, b, ch, chh, e, g, h, i, j, k, kh, l, m, n, ng, o, 'o, p, ph, s, t, th, and u. With these letters the possibility of indicating every sound used in the Amoy vernacular—a language spoken by eight or ten millions of people living in Amoy district and Formosa—was attained. One remarkable feature is that the Amoy Romanization is easily comprehended by all alike among the dialects of the district, each person reading it in his own dialect. Those who can read this among the Chinese are said to number five or six thousand.

This book has no pretension to literary merit, but it gives a plain and direct description, just such as an intelligent man might write in a letter. Indeed, we fancy that the book grew out of a series of letters. It is fairly well printed, and there are a number of "process" engravings, and one or two maps. Some misprints have been corrected in a short list of *errata*, but one rather bad slip escaped notice. On page 31, we read that "the wild events of 1900 were prefaced by the *coup d'état* of Sept. 21, 1898." What this "*coup d'état*" may be, we don't exactly know,

Did some conspirator try to butt the Emperor off the Dragon-throne?

A Laboratory Guide in Bacteriology; PAUL G. HEINEMANN, Ph.D., Associate in Bacteriology, the Univ. of Chicago. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, I.U., U.S.A. Cambridge Univ. Press, London and Edinburgh. 2nd Edition.

BACTERIOLOGY has become a true science, and has been applied in many directions, at first to the field of medicine, but later on to industries. Here is a new handbook for students, teachers, and practitioners. The field of the science is extending so rapidly that handbooks and guides soon become useless, or, at any rate, they become so in part. This guide is designed to meet and satisfy the ends of the science in its most recent form. The author aims at precision, and his directions, like his methods, definitions and diagrams are succinct, full and clear. This second edition has been revised and enlarged, and made applicable not only for medical bacteriology, but also for agricultural bacteriology, and in general for those engaged in the work of municipal sanitation and domestic science, all of which deal with products of fermentation. It ought to be useful in Japan.

The Teachings of Islam; by MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD (of Quadian, India) and the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. Luzac & Co. 46, Great Russell Street, London, 1910.

THIS most interesting and valuable booklet came out in instalments in the *Review of Religions* about ten years ago. It discusses from a Muslim's point of view five subjects related to (1) the physical, moral, and spiritual conditions of man, (2) the state of man in the after-life, (3) the real object of the existence of man, and the means of its attainment, (4) the effect of actions in the present life and the life to come, and (5) the sources of Divine Knowledge.

It is frankly intended and declared to be a part of a missionary propaganda, and therefore is to some extent polemic; although not unfairly so. Whatever may be thought about Islam and its believers, there can be little question that most Occidental peoples know next to nothing about it.

This little book undertakes to open the way to a more complete knowledge of the doctrines of Islam. No one who reads it should be surprised to find many excellent things in it, nor should he wonder because it is not corrupting. The religion of Islam is not untrue in the sense that it is full of error, but (if so) rather in this, that it does not go to the depths of man's needs, and it offers but little vital aid. Like all forms of Unitarian thought as to God, it either divorces him from his own world, or else it absorbs him into it in pantheistic mysticism. So its "error" consists, largely, in incompleteness. We should be inclined to recommend the book to all who know how to hold back judgment till both, or all, sides have been heard.

An Etrenic Itinerary; by SILAS MCBEE. Longman's Green & Co. 1911.

MR. SILAS MCBEE is, or was till lately, the editor of a weekly and very able Broad Church newspaper published in New York. He took a journey to Europe and the Levant about two years ago in the interest of Christian unity. He saw a great many distinguished ecclesiastics, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Russian Archbishops, the Holy Governing Synod, Eastern Patriarchs, and the Pope, Pius X. Mr. McBee has for many years been interested in Christian unity and, taking himself very seriously, has fancied that he has some contribution to make to the subject. Perhaps he can do so; and, perhaps, if he could begin with the gentleman in Yokohama who somewhat arrogantly boasts week by week that his conventicle is in communion with all Evangelical Churches throughout the world, (thereby implying that the others are not Gospel Churches), he might do some good. At any rate, Mr. McBee writes cleverly, his story of his pleasure trip is enjoyable, and we hope his book may set some people thinking, which is probably all he asks.

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

HER MAJESTY'S DONATION.

Marquis Matsukata on Tuesday had an audience with Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, to present to them the resolution of appreciation adopted by the Ninth International Red Cross Conference, cabled to the American Ambassador, expressing gratitude to Her Majesty the Empress for the generous donation to the Red Cross Society. After the Imperial audience, Marquis Matsukata made a call of acknowledgement at the American Embassy to express his Sovereigns' appreciation of the action taken by the Washington meeting and of the cordial message delivered by the Ambassador.

The cabled resolutions were as follows:

Washington, May 9, 1912.

The Ninth International Red Cross Conference at to-day's session unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"With weighty appreciation for the generous thought and act of Her Gracious Majesty, the Empress of Japan, in creating an international foundation to be devoted to the encouragement of the relief work in time of peace, and with the certainty that we but voice the sentiment of the societies of the Red Cross of all the world, the Central Committee of the American National Red Cross has the honour of presenting for the consideration of the Ninth International Red Cross Conference the following resolution:—

"The announcement that Her Gracious Majesty, the Empress of Japan, inspired by motives of the highest benevolence, has established a foundation whose income shall forever be devoted to the encouragement among all nations of the world of relief in time of peace, arouses the strongest sentiments of gratitude and admiration on the part of the delegates from all the Governments and Red Cross Societies now assembled in the Ninth International Red Cross Conference.

"In this generous and significant act, the Conference sees a powerful demonstration of that brotherhood among all peoples of the earth which in suffering recognizes no differences of race or station, but only sympathy and a universal spirit of helpfulness."

"The donation thus generously bestowed upon the Conference by Her Majesty, the Empress, is accepted in the spirit in which it is given, and will be administered with the utmost effort to realize all the wishes of the Royal Donor."

THE COURTESY OF THE ROAD.

We hear so many complaints of the lack of courtesy or thought on the part of Japanese drivers of motor-cars in Yokohama that one is apt to believe that the foreign driver is immaculate. One would gently like to intimate that such is by no means the case. On Saturday evening last, on the conclusion of the cinematograph show at the Gaiety, four harmless foreigners were quietly walking along the Bluff towards their respective houses. Suddenly there was a roar from a car behind them. They had just time to move to the fence of a house near the Catholic Church when the vehicle shot by them; at the same moment, the driver threw his engine into the high speed. Clouds of dust immediately enveloped the pedestrians and loud shouts of laughter (feminine as well as masculine) exasperated the sufferers for what they were going through. To those in the car, it may have seemed a good joke. To those walking, it was an exhibition of caddish behaviour and worse manners.

A GENERAL convention of the International Insurance Association will be held at Amsterdam on the 2nd and 3rd of September. Mr. Ito Mantaro, Engineer of the Insurance Section in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, will be appointed delegate from this country. He is expected to leave here early in August.

THE LATE DR. DIVERS.

MEMORIAL MEETING IN TOKYO.

A meeting in memory of the late Dr. Edward Divers, F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Chemistry of the Tokyo Imperial University, was held on Friday afternoon last in the Assembly Hall of the University, at the instance of Dr. Sakurai and several others who were intimate friends of the English Professor. The meeting was attended by over fifty distinguished scholars, including Baron Hamano, the President, and Baron Kikuchi, Privy Councillor and ex-President of both the Tokyo and Kyoto Imperial Universities. In the hall where the function took place, a photograph and a plaster bust of the late professor were hung on the wall.

Dr. Sakurai, chief promoter of the meeting, was in the chair reports the *Japan Times*, and said that it was his sad duty to hold a memorial meeting in honor of the late Dr. Divers who endeared himself to the scientific world of Japan especially by signal services in his profession. He then called upon Dr. Haga, also Professor of Chemistry in the University and once a pupil of Dr. Divers, to make an address.

Dr. Haga was one of the best friends and pupils of Dr. Divers, whom he claims to know better than anyone else. His speech on the life and work of the late English professor which lasted for an hour, was much appreciated.

Following the meeting a dinner was given in a separate room, when covers were laid for fifty-three persons, including Dr. Sakurai and his colleagues. During the dinner various anecdotes of Dr. Divers were told by various persons. It was about eight o'clock that the party dispersed after extolling the great work the English professor had done in this country. It was unanimously agreed at the meeting that a letter should be sent to the late professor's family informing them of the tribute to him, accompanied by a paper bearing the signatures of those present on the occasion.

His relatives still alive are Countess de Labry, wife of the ex-military Attaché to the French Embassy in Tokyo, Mrs. Tilden, and Miss Moylan.

LIFE AND WORK OF DR. DIVERS.

Edward Divers, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.; 2d Class Order of the Sacred Treasure; 3d Class Order of the Rising Sun, Japan; Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Tokyo Imperial University, was born in London November 27, 1837. In 1850-1 he studied chemistry at the City of London School under Dr. Thomas Hall, when the famous Sir Wm. Perkins was with him studying the same science. All who were trained under Dr. Hall became well known and about sixteen of them were famous. Dr. Divers was one of them.

He started the Royal Academy of Chemistry in 1852. Previously to this, soon after his graduation from the City of London School, Dr. Divers entered the Royal College of Chemistry, built under the patronage of Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria. He was also a student at Galway, Ireland.

From 1853 to 1854 he was an assistant in the St. Bartholomew Hospital School, London, and from 1854 began teaching chemistry. In 1860 for his prominence in his science he was honored with the M.D. of Dublin. He also made an improvement in gun cotton in 1863. This would seem very interesting together with the discovery by his pupil the late Dr. Shimose of a new explosive. As Professor of Materia Medica, he taught from 1863 to 1869 at the Birmingham Medical School. In 1865 he married and had a son and two daughters. His son Frederick, who was an official under the late Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Customs in China, died young. The first daughter is married to Count de Labry and the second to Mr. Tilden. Before coming to Japan in 1870 he was lecturer of medical jurisprudence in the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. The next year he made the discovery of hyponitric. Between 1871 and 1873, when he first came to Japan as a lecturer at the Engineering College then at Toranomon, he made several other discoveries.

Despite his standing and position in the

scientific world of Europe, he came to Japan to teach chemistry. This is said to have been partly due to his own desire and to have been accomplished through the courtesy of Mr. Williamson, ex-adviser to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., Yokohama. He was made a member of the Royal Society, London, in 1885.

On the abolition of the Engineering College at Toranomon, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the College of Science of the present Tokyo Imperial University, where he taught for thirteen years until he was sixty-two years of age, when on the expiration of the term of his teaching at the institution, he returned home. Having begun his teaching at the Engineering College in 1873, the years of his service under the Japanese Government were twenty-six. For his meritorious services thus rendered to the Japanese scientific world he was decorated with the Third-Class Order of the Rising Sun before leaving Japan, and later with the Second-Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

After his return home, he was Vice-President of the Chemical Society, London, and President of the Chemical Section of the British Association. He was also Vice-President of the Institute of Chemistry and President of the Society of Chemical Industry.

He was a man of great sobriety and faithfulness. No one ever met him without being impressed. He was also very kind to his pupils. Dr. Takamine, the discoverer of adrenalin, and Dr. Shimose, inventor of the new explosive, were his pupils. There were many writings by him on chemical subjects and one—"On the Union of Ammonia Nitrate with Ammonia," was read January 9, 1873, before the Royal Society, and one of his earliest theses is quite famous. His theses on chemical topics were published in Japan, England, Germany, and France.

THE YOKOHAMA LITERARY AND MUSICAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the above society was held at Van Schaick Hall on Thursday evening last. The meeting was for the passing of the accounts and the election of officers for the ensuing year.

In proposing the adoption of the accounts as presented to the members, the President (the Rev. J. L. Dearing) referred to the excellent attendance at their fortnightly gatherings during the past season. At the beginning of the session in October, 1911, the Committee were a little nervous as to how the Society would progress; but the members and their friends came along in good force to listen to the excellent programmes that were put before them, and thus made the session a real success. He also had the sincere pleasure of thanking the various ladies and gentlemen who so generously entertained them from both the Literary and Musical standpoint.

The proposal for the adoption of the accounts was seconded by Mr. Mahr, and was carried unanimously.

The next business of the evening was the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—

President:—Rev. J. L. Dearing, D.D.
Vice-President:—Mr. H. E. Metcalf.
Treasurer:—Mr. D. F. Anderson.
Secretary:—Mr. Harold Bell.

Literary Committee:—Mrs. Booth, Mr. Thos. Sammons, Mr. Dinsdale, and the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A.

Musical Committee:—Miss Orth, Miss Hall, Dr. Voght, Mrs. J. E. Morse and Mr. H. E. Hayward.

At the conclusion of the election of officers, Mr. Sheriff proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing executive, to those who had retired from the committee, and to the good friends who had lectured, and those who had sung and played. This was duly seconded, and was carried unanimously.

A short musical programme followed, consisting of the following items.

Song....."Myra".....Clutsam.
"Father O'Flynn".....Stanford.
Mr Geo. W. Colter.
Pianoforte Solo.....
(a) "The Watchman's Song".....Grieg.
(b) "Dancing of the Elves".....
Miss Moulton.
Song....."Out on the Deep".....
Mr. Vile.

REPORT FOR THE SEASON 1911-1912.

The report for the 1911-1912 season of the Yokohama Literary and Musical Society has now been issued.

In presenting to the Members of the Society their Report, the Officers and Committee feel that in the past season there has been cause for congratulation. The Lectures given have been both interesting and instructive, while the range of subjects dealt with has been sufficiently varied to meet all tastes. The Musical Programmes have also maintained a high standard of excellence, and special mention may be made of the dramatic presentations given on the occasion of the Dickens Centennial. The meetings have, on the whole, been well attended; at the Christmas Social Gathering the Hall was filled to its utmost capacity, while on one or two other occasions there was scarcely a seat vacant. The Committee deem it well to emphasize the above facts as showing the popularity still enjoyed by the Society, and the pleasure its meetings afford to the members and their friends.

MEMBERSHIP.—During the season 43 Ladies, 48 Gentlemen and one Family joined the Society, but 90 individual members and four Families had to be removed from the List of Members owing to resignation, departure from the port, or neglecting to pay their dues. As a result, the Membership, as shown in the Accounts, comprises:—142 Ladies, 186 Gentlemen, and 8 Families. While these figures are not altogether unsatisfactory, the Committee feel that there are many who have enjoyed the hospitality of the Society during the past season who will probably wish to become members, and, the dues being so small, the roll of members should be considerably augmented.

ACCOUNTS.—From the accounts it will be seen that the income has only just sufficed to cover expenditures, but it is hoped that next season an increased membership will help this most useful and popular Society to continue its work with renewed vigour and success. The expenditure under the head of Special Meetings, is heavier than last year, as in addition to the customary Christmas Social Gathering, there was a Dickens Centennial celebration. A great deal of difficulty has been experienced in collecting subscriptions, and the Committee desire to specially emphasize this fact, and to urge members to respond more promptly when called upon for the small dues levied by the Society.

LECTURES.—During the season, fifteen meetings were held, the syllabus being as follows:—

October 6th, 1911.—Annual Meeting.
October 19th, 1911.—"Romantic Love," Mr. A. M. Tracy Woodward.
November 2nd, 1911.—"Brains," Rev. John Wesley Hill, D.D.
November 16th, 1911.—"Life in Roumania," Mr. Montgomery Schuyler.
December 7th, 1911.—"The Social Outlook in England," Bishop Cecil, South Tokyo.
December 21st, 1911.—Christmas Meeting.
January 4th, 1912.—"Through the Yangtze Gorges to West China," (Illustrated), Rev. J. L. Dearing, D.D.
January 18th, 1912.—"Outline of the National Government of Japan," Prof. W. W. McLaren, Ph.D.
February 1st, 1912.—Dickens Meeting.
February 15th, 1912.—"Glimpses of Holland," (Illustrated), Mr. Karl Lewis.
February 29th, 1912.—"The Dawn of Humanity," Dr. N. Gordon Munro.
March 14th, 1912.—"Some Oxford Memories," Rev. H. B. Walton.
March 28th, 1912.—"With Two English Hymnists" (W. W. Jacobs and Jerome K. Jerome), Mr. Harold Bell, Mr. S. H. Somerton.
April 11th, 1912.—"John Bright," Mr. H. E. Metcalf.
April 25th, 1912.—"Alpine Climbing," (Illustrated), Rev. Walter Weston, M.A.

APPRECIATION.—To the ladies and gentlemen who so generously assisted in the above syllabus, as well as to those members and friends who so kindly contributed to the musical programmes, the Committee tender their hearty thanks.

LANTERN.—This was used on three occasions, and the thanks of the Committee are tendered to Mr. Karl Lewis for his efficient help in this connection.

RUSSIA'S FAR EASTERN POLICY.

STATEMENT BY THE RUSSIAN MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

(SPECIAL TRANSLATION FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

In his recent speech in the Duma, a short telegraphic report of which has already appeared, M. Sazanoff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a full outline of the Russian Far Eastern policy. According to him the St. Petersburg Government is working strictly in accord with the foreign powers in its China policy. At the beginning of the revolutionary movement the Russian Government decided to observe neutrality, because Russian interests in China were not endangered. Therefore when the Note from the United States, concerning a possible common intervention in Chinese affairs in case of the necessity of protecting foreign interests was received at St. Petersburg, the Russian Government answered that it had no reason to change its policy, but in case of any emergency it was ready to agree with the other Powers about the measures necessary to protect their common interests. Among these interests is, undoubtedly, the question as to the indebtedness of China to foreign countries. The disturbance in the Middle Kingdom has ruined Chinese finances, and the regular payment on foreign loans has stopped. An acute want of money has compelled the Chinese Government to borrow wherever it could. Since the beginning of the revolution there has been felt a necessity for putting foreign loan affairs in China under the control of the foreign Powers interested, and for that reason the Russian Government has decided to participate with the four Powers Syndicate in financing China. At the same time it has been decided to place the Chinese loan affairs under the control of six interested powers, that is, England, Germany, Russia, France, Japan and the United States.

The Russian Government agreed to participate in financing China on the condition that the Russian special interests in Outer China, Mongolia and North Manchuria would be recognized by the Powers concerned. In Outer China and Mongolia the Russian privileges were guaranteed by the St. Petersburg treaty of 1881, in which the Russian Government stipulated for exceptional rights, which are quite different from those of foreigners in China. As to North Manchuria, it may be said that the Russian rights there were established and fixed by the Railway which was constructed by Russia. The Russian privileges in that country rest on special treaties. For that reason any question as to the protection of these rights refers only to Russia. All measures necessary to protect these rights, Russia must take alone and independently.

As a result of the Chinese revolution, North Mongolia, or Khalha, has declared its independence from China, and has asked the Russian Government for support. The question has been and is being warmly discussed in Russia by public men and the Press, some of whom urge that Mongolia be brought under Russian protection, while others object and declare that such a policy would be a new adventure. Undoubtedly, China will be able to quell the Mongols as soon as order is restored in that country, and then Russia being mixed up in Mongolian affairs, will be compelled to defend the Mongolian cause or to keep aloof from this sanguinary and unequal struggle, leaving the Mongols to the mercy of the Chinese. On careful consideration of the question, it is necessary to point out that the constituent parts of Mongolia are very different from each other from geographical and administrative points of view. The Mongolian districts contiguous to China Proper, that is Inner Mongolia, are almost absorbed by the Chinese and assimilated to that country. For that reason this part of Mongolia undoubtedly is in the sphere of influence of the railways of South Manchuria and under the administration of the latter. There are now in Inner Mongolia also many Japanese interests. This section of Mongolia is undoubtedly

regarded by the other foreign powers as an integral part of South Manchuria. All endeavours to unite Inner and Outer Mongolia will end probably in failure, as they have been living for a long time under quite different conditions.

In North Mongolia, or Khalha, which is separated from China Proper by the Gobi or Shamo desert, all the old Mongolian traditions and customs have been preserved, and the Mongols of Khalha are still nomads and are ruled by their hereditary princes. There are very few Chinese residents in this country, and the number of them is always changing. All endeavours on the part of the Peking Government to quarter Chinese troops in the principal Mongolian centres and thus occupy them, to colonize the lands of Khalha with Chinese farmers, and to introduce Chinese administration in that country, provoked only a protest on the part of the Mongolians and led to a declaration of their independence. The Mongols, under the lead of Huduhta, severed their relations with China almost without a struggle and expelled all the Chinese officials from their centres, that is from Urga and Uliastutai, without any resistance on the part of the Chinese. From this it can be seen how weak is the Chinese influence in Mongolia.

As to Khalha, she is not yet prepared to lead an independent life. The nomads, who are accustomed to render implicit obedience to the Peking Government, have neither troops, nor financial organization, nor men who are prepared to lead them. To sever their relations with China under present conditions and to organize an independent State, is by no means an easy thing, since it would require much money and painstaking work, while Khalha would be always in danger of being invaded and re-occupied by the Chinese, which would compel Russia to defend her with arms. A complete rupture between China and Khalha would place Russia in a dilemma whether to occupy Khalha or to permit the Chinese to quell Mongolia and to introduce their administration again. The Russian Government has decided to avoid such a policy and to participate in the negotiations between the two countries in order to bring them to an agreement, according to which Khalha might preserve her autonomy and China might restore her suzerainty in Mongolia.

Knowing that the Mongols lack confidence in the Chinese promises and that peace, which is necessary for the Russian commercial interests, can be restored only when the Mongols know that their two strong neighbours (Russia and China) are agreed about the fate of Mongolia, the Russian Government has offered its friendly offices to participate in the negotiations between the two countries, in order to establish between them such relations, as are necessary for the Mongolian welfare. Before these negotiations, the Russian Government drew the attention of Peking to the fact that the Mongolians are unwilling to accept the reforms introduced in Mongolia by China and that the maintenance of the *status quo* in the sense of administrative and military affairs in that country is necessary for Russia also, as the latter borders on the Mongolian territory for a distance of several thousand versts. The Peking Government did not deny the Russian right to demand this and promised to always inform the St. Petersburg Government as to the reforms which China proposed to introduce in Mongolia.

The Peking Government is evidently suspicious of the intentions of the Russian Government and hopes to restore independently its authority in Mongolia. It thus avoids accepting the condition of direct participation in the negotiations and is trying to win the Mongols over to the New Chinese Republic, promising them equality and freedom regardless of nationality and religion. The Russian Government, however, has no reasons to change its policy, which is as advantageous for Russia as for Mongolia.

The Huduhta forwarded to the Russian government his answer to Yuan Shih-kai, in which the Mongolian Potentate says that he regards Russian participation in the negotiations as necessary to conclude an agreement with China. At the same

time the St. Petersburg Government informed the Chinese Government that Russia regards the following three conditions as those on which the new agreement between China and Mongolia may be concluded:—(1) The Chinese Government must abandon the idea of stationing its garrisons in Mongolia; (2) of introducing the Chinese administration in that country, and (3) of colonizing Outer Mongolia with Chinese emigrants.

Russia has no reason to extend her territorial possessions in Asia, as this would remove the Russian political and historical centre to the East, which is not desirable. For that reason any territorial acquisition in Asia can be justified from the point of view of Russian interests only when it is necessary and valuable. There are no reasons for Russia at present occupying Outer Mongolia, because it is only necessary now to prevent a strong military State from occupying and fortifying the Mongolian districts contiguous to the Russian possessions. Thanks to Mongolia, the Russian frontier is now guarded better than it would be if Russia constructed many fortresses on that frontier and stationed there strong garrisons. To preserve this situation must be the aim of Russian diplomacy. And this can be achieved not by the occupation of Khalha, but by maintaining Mongolian interests, as the Mongols want only to preserve their traditions and rights without any intention of infringing the friendly relations between Russia and China, which are necessary for both countries.

Having in view this state of affairs, the Russian Government must insist that no agreement between China and Mongolia can be concluded without Russia participating in the negotiations, and at the same time it is necessary to support Khalha and to help her to organize an autonomous Government, that is, before all, to organize the Mongolian finances and some armed forces which could maintain order in Mongolia.

As to the relations existing between Russia and Japan, the Minister declared that they fully justify the optimistic views of his predecessor. These relations are based on the Commercial Treaty and the Conventions concluded in 1907, 1908 and 1910, which defined the sphere of activity of both parties and established solidarity between them in Far Eastern affairs. These relations of mutual understanding were strengthened yet more last year during the Chinese Revolution. From the beginning of this revolution, the Russian and Japanese Governments have exchanged their views and have been acting in accord, because the similarity of the Russian and Japanese interests in Manchuria is so great that they must support one another to preserve their respective privileges in that country. Recognising this fact, Russia cannot be denied the right to defend her special interests in China with her own forces. Japan does not object to the measures which Russia takes to protect her interests in the districts where her influence is prevailing, and the same is the feeling of Russia concerning Japan in the regions where Japanese interests prevail.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIVING IN
JAPAN.(SPECIAL TRANSLATION FOR THE "JAPAN
MAIL" FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

I.

The difficulty of living—or of securing employment! Certainly this is a new question,—new not necessarily in its nature, but obviously in its magnitude. The more the world's material civilization advances, the louder grows the appealing cry of the unemployed. On the other hand, notices are constantly affixed to the doors of every occupation,—"Wanted a man." Which then is the real trouble of the present day,—the absence of employment, or the absence of skilled workers? This is a problem, indeed, that claims thorough study, more from the standpoint of practical facts than from that of empty theories.

One of the striking phenomena inevitably

attendant on the development of the world's civilization, is the unproportionate expansion of the urban population. The indisputable fact is that of late the distribution of population between cities and villages has lost its equilibrium. While the population in the urban districts is increasing every year, the people in the agricultural districts show a tendency towards a gradual decrease, as is clear from the following table showing the percentage of distribution of population:—

Year.	Cities. Per cent.	Villages. Per cent.
1898	13.2	86.8
1903	15.6	84.4
1908	17.6	82.4

Then again, by no means less remarkable is the growth of the density of population in the cities. At the end of 1898 the population of Tokyo numbered something like 1,440,000, whereas the number increased in 1908 up to over 2,180,000, which means an increase of almost fifty-two per cent. in a period of ten years, as against only fourteen per cent. by which the country's population as a whole increased in the same period. This is eloquent proof of the marked increase of the urban population every year. The dimensions of the city of Tokyo being four square *ri*, or 22,748,810 *tsubo*, the density of the population is one person for every ten *tsubo*, or 115 persons per acre, as against 142 in the case of Paris, 130 for Berlin, 60 for London and 20 for New York. Tokyo thus ranks the third in this respect among the world's great cities. The expansion of the urban population means a corresponding decrease of the agricultural population, which again signifies decline to a corresponding degree in agriculture. The decrease in the number of producers of food supplies gives rise in turn to an increase in the number of consumers. The area of wheat fields in England decreased from 3,670,253 acres in 1873 to 1,664,860 acres in 1908, while the agricultural population decreased from 3,350,000 in 1851 to something like 2,650,000 in 1901. Thus the result is that although England could some fifty years ago support about ninety per cent. of her population with her domestic products, she can support now no more than eleven per cent. How about Japan? In the absence of any statistics showing the condition of the growth of the agricultural population in this country, it is difficult to arrive at any conclusions in this respect. Yet this much is observable, that the annual output of rice increased by twenty per cent. in the twenty years from 1887 to 1908, whereas the population showed an increase of twenty-eight per cent. in the same period. In consequence Japan has to import foreign products to the annual amount of from twenty to thirty million *yen*. This state of things must certainly be one of the chief factors giving rise to the appreciation in the price of rice. It is little wonder that in these circumstances people should now begin to suffer from the difficulty of obtaining a livelihood. In fact, a growing increase in the number of the unemployed and the destitute now constitutes a feature of every city in the world. General Booth, of the Salvation Army, says that some thirty per cent. of the population of London are indigent. The same might certainly be said about Tokyo. The people of the city have increased by thirty per cent. in the past ten years, whereas the number of those taken into the poorhouse has more than trebled in the same period, not to speak of a marked increase in the number of consumption patients, and in infantile mortality. With a view to remedying this situation, encouragement is constantly given in European countries to emigration to the colonies. In Japan also these social questions have of late come to attract public attention and various organisations for relief are beginning to be brought into existence. Still, as there is no limit yet placed upon the growth of the urban population, so long will there be an increase in the number of those who go to settle in cities, putting aside the spade and the hoe, and so long will there be an increase

of those dreadful social evils attendant on the abnormal density of the urban population.

The centralization of the people in the urban districts; the steady decrease of the agricultural population; the abnormal increase in the number of the destitute and the unemployed,—these are the problems which now tax the brains of the world's scientists and statesmen. Some attribute the above deplorable state of things to the monotony of rural life, due to the gradual disappearance of the old traditional festivals, such as the *bon-odori*. Others point to the present defective agricultural methods or the imperfect educational system. Specialists regard the phenomenon as the inevitable result of the progress of the times, as well as the development of means of locomotion. Certainly the causes may be various, but whatever they be, that they produce most pernicious results is beyond dispute. The people from the provinces now flow into the urban districts in quest of employment like so many moths flocking towards the light on a summer's evening. In consequence, the difficulty of securing a position in the cities is far greater than in the provinces. How is it then that people leave the quiet, wholesome atmosphere of rural life, as well as the callings of their fathers, and come up to the cities, where the struggle for existence is most intense, and the percentage of successes is much lower? In the investigation of the causes and the means to be taken to remedy this state of affairs, we must depend a great deal on experts and specialists. For the present it must suffice, before entering into particulars, to observe the difficulties experienced in obtaining employment in the metropolis of this Empire.

Those who come up to the cities, in particular to Tokyo, in quest of work may be generally divided into two classes, namely those who work with their brains and those who work with their hands. It is among the former class, rather than the latter, that the difficulty is felt in securing employment. To begin with, what makes the labouring classes, in which may be included servants, shopmen, and the like, who have nothing to depend upon but their physical strength, leave their native provinces, where living is less difficult, to settle in Tokyo, where earning a livelihood is one of the hardest experiences that man can imagine? Can it be because they are driven out of the provinces by lack of bread that they come up to Tokyo to settle? Are they the defeated in the struggle for existence in the provincial districts? Not at all. Most of them quit their native villages prompted either by the temptation arising out of their little knowledge of the conditions in the Capital, or to satisfy the vanity of themselves or their families. In this respect the same may be said of the intellectual classes also, excluding those who live on the interest accruing from money advanced, those occupying high offices in the Government service, or in companies, etc., or those equipped with special ability and knowledge. As for the rest, everybody, educated or otherwise, has to suffer, though of course in a varying degree, from the difficulties of obtaining a livelihood, be it in the country or in the urban districts. Paradoxical as it may sound, it is those possessing more or less education or capital rather than those who possess none, that have to suffer most, because their ambition drives them into desperate and constant efforts to emerge from their present condition of life. Their efforts might be crowned with success with less difficulty were it not for their vanity. If, when leaving their native place, they were advised to settle in, say, Chosen, Hokkaido, Formosa or Saghalien, they would as a rule shrink from the idea and plead that they would rather remain in the provinces to perish from hunger than live in such corners of the country. They regard life in Saghalien and other colonies as something little better than prison life, while on the other hand they feel life in Tokyo or other central cities as almost an inspiration. They imagine that there always lies a brilliant future ahead of the person who goes to Tokyo. It is with this delusion that their friends,

families and relatives congratulate them when they are setting out for the Capital. When we consider that such is the case not only with the rural population of Japan, but with that of every other foreign country as well, we cannot but feel with a sigh the truth of the ancient poet's dictum, that Man is a vain animal.

THE COLBRAN CASE.

It appears that the report recently published by the *Seoul Press*, that an agreement had been reached by the parties concerned to settle the Prince Toksu *versus* Collbran case privately, was erroneous, for as reported a few days ago the third hearing of the case in the Seoul Local Court, which was to take place this month, has been again postponed till the 3rd prox. The legal agent of the defendant has lately filed a document at the Local Court. The document, the *Seoul Press* understands, begins with a statement that the case will expose some secrets of the former Korean Government and therefore that it is impossible to give details before the next public hearing. It then points out that the capital invested by Prince Toksu in the American Korean Electric Company was money belonging to the former Korean Government, but not funds from the private coffers of the then Emperor himself. And as the property of the Korean Government was distinctly separated from the private property of the sovereign while the peninsula was under the protection of Japan, profits derived from the investment in the said Electric Company belonged to the former Korean Government. On annexation this right was transferred, as a matter of course, to the Government of Japan, and in consequence the contract between Prince Toksu and the defendant lost force. Supposing, for argument's sake, that the money invested in the above enterprise was defrayed from the private purse, the right to its recovery must be said to have passed to Prince Yi Junior, because Prince Toksu abdicated from the throne and was succeeded by the former some years ago. This is the first reason for which the defendant refuses the plaintiff's right of claim. Secondly, the stock of the above Company purchased by Prince Toksu had been mortgaged to Yi Pong-nai and the late Kim Sih-yon who were then subjects of Korea, and the transaction was void (*sic*). Thirdly, the management of the American-Korean Electric Company was carried on by a limited partnership formed by Mr. Collbran and three others on the strength of American law, so Mr. Collbran, selected as defendant, is not the proper representative of the company. The statement, it is said, is a long one and accompanied by various documents intended for evidence.

A PRETTY WEDDING.

After the civil ceremony had been performed at the German Consulate General before the Consul-General, Herr von Syburg, the religious ceremony of the marriage of Mr. Herman Hoene of Hanover, and Miss Ellen Ringsted of Copenhagen, took place at the Deutsche Haus on Wednesday afternoon; the Reverend E. Schroeder of Tokyo uniting the happy couple in the bonds of holy matrimony. The Deutsche Haus was tastefully decorated with bamboos and flowers and presented a charming spectacle. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. C. M. Clausen and was attended by Miss K. Clausen as bridesmaid; whilst Mr. H. Audrae took care of the bridegroom in his capacity of best man.

Messrs. Klinton Koenig, Franz, Trahn, Belfrage and Schafer acted as ushers.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at No. 2 Bluff, where many happy speeches of congratulation were made, and the many handsome wedding presents greatly admired.

The Reichstag has passed a resolution urging the passing of a Bill to render valid the marriages of whites and natives in all German protectorates.

A TRIP THROUGH MANCHURIA.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Rising far up in the tangled mountain masses of Manchuria, the Taitzu river winds westward for some eighty miles, before the hills on either side begin to fall away, the valley broadens, and the green waters sweep out into the vast plain that renders Manchuria fruitful. At the point where the hills seem to make a final effort for recognition and rear themselves violently and steeply out of the plain, stands the ancient stronghold of Liao-yang.

Were the history of the town to be put on paper, it should prove an engrossing story. From the building of the massive walls and the picturesque "Lama Tower," said locally to be 3,000 years old, to the digging and entrenching of the Russian field redoubts eight years ago, many a rich caravan, many a horde of robbers, many a rabble of savage warriors has passed through its sixty foot-deep gateways. It was on the wall of this town of ancient associations I found myself a while since on a gloriously sunny spring afternoon. To the East and South the mountains rose steeply in blue masses, changing with the distance to a faint veiled green, far away to South-east the ridge of the "Thousand peaks," tearing the horizon like the teeth of an inverted saw. Away on the other hand stretched the vast brown plain, flat as the waters of an ocean, thickly sprinkled with villages, here and there hazily indistinct, where a puff of wind raised a column of dust from the dry ploughed soil: the dust that, at the battle of Mukden, had so plastered the faces of the sweating combatants as to make them resemble nothing but two eyes and a mouth in a disc of unbaked clay. The river wound its way into the West.

But when man has mountain, plain, and river before him, he turns involuntarily to the mountains. Their loneliness, their endurance, their patience, beyond his comprehension, suggest mystery and companionship and draw him away from the bustling, labouring centres that cluster on the rivers and low lands.

What lay in those far off green mountains? Eight years ago Kuroki's victorious army had threaded the passes between them from the very direction in which my eyes were turned.

What had he found there? What traces had he left? The fascination was too great; I determined to go and see.

Returning to the inn, I called up an acquaintance, a Japanese well versed in local conditions and the language. I asked him to find for me a man of his own nationality with a knowledge of Chinese to act as interpreter on my walk. Unlike many of his compatriots he went straight to the point, promised to do so and to bring his man that evening to the inn for a talk. In due course he came; a retired soldier, his knowledge of Chinese was sufficient and he was eager of the chance of practising it. A Chinese carter was called and after some wrangling agreed to be ready at seven the following morning to carry my goods for a price. Before leaving, my friend queried about arms. Had I a revolver? The journey, he said, was not without danger. I laughed; we were only going a short way, between two well-patrolled lines of railway; but I put my revolver in a more convenient place.

The following morning dawned splendidly and we got off well up to time. My scant baggage and a few provisions destined to supplement local fare, scarcely covered the bottom of the quaint little Chinese cart with its blue hood and heavy, metal-studded wheels: the two mules in tandem were at least hard and well up to the weight. True the driver gave me a qualm at first sight: big and strong even for a Manchu, beside my Japanese guide he looked a veritable giant. His pig-tail was tucked up under a blue cotton wrapper: his face, the very picture of devilry, was not improved by a long scar down the length of one cheek, nor by a great tumour that enlarged the other jaw. His eyes, however, were well placed,

his mouth big and strong, and I came to the conclusion he would play the game.

We set out, our faces towards the early sun, and passed close under the ancient tower, whose quaint little bells, hung at every corner and composed of an alloy unknown to modern chemists, jangled peacefully in the morning air. Under the arch of the great walls, walls along the top of which a cart can easily be driven, through the swarming native town, and out on to the great plain again, occupied perhaps half an hour. We paused to fill our lungs with the fresh open air and as we did so there rose from a dry river-bed on our right, a great cry, a discordant wail, so pent with human misery as to deprive one momentarily of all power of action. For a second we stood paralysed and then together raced for the top of the bank. Below us among the shingle and rubbish of the river-bed, squatted a native woman, moaning piteously. Now and then her fingers would tear at the rough stones in a kind of frenzy, while her low keening rose to the agonized scream that had first startled us. Was it a lunatic? I asked my companion; he in turn asked a peasant who had joined us. No, no mad woman this we were told, but a mother who had lost her child in the night and was mourning. My companion laughed. It was, he said, amusing to be amongst a people whose women could not control their feelings. This woman was actually weeping in public and noisily! He turned away in open disdain. Soon we passed one of the forts built by the Russians for the defence of Liao-yang. Long, shapless mounds of earth whose original plan could only with difficulty be traced: the place had lost human association and was cold and uninviting: we pushed on.

Our route lay close along the South bank of the Tai-tzu and a couple of hours' walking brought us to the foot-hills, where the lowest spurs of the great mountains sweep out to be swallowed up by the wide plain. A mile or two more and we were well among the hills and, turning Southward, we set our faces up-stream of the Tang-ho. The country teemed with historical associations of the war. Away to the North-east could just be discerned Manju-yama; the low, round hill whose slopes eight years ago were piled with the corpses of men; the scene of General Kuroki's magnificent piece of bluff which led the Russian general to estimate his two weakened divisions at five, and, in consequence, staved off an annihilating attack by vastly superior forces, thereby carrying the Japanese army out of an essentially dangerous position to victory. On both sides and in front of us rose the hills whose echoes then so rudely awakened have gone to sleep again, hills treeless and bare, brown and boulder-strewn; brightened only by an occasional splash of purple azalea near the summit; or by the blossoming pear and peach orchards round the villages, from which long, dwindling tendrils of colour wound their sinuous way into the heart of the hills.

By evening we reached Anping, a village of some two hundred inhabitants, with a police-station, at which we craved a night's lodging. This was readily granted and after a stroll and some supper we settled down for a chat before turning in. The chief of police took not a little interest in us, and with our permission, sent out to ask a local celebrity to call.

He came: wild in appearance, with a quick eye and flashing teeth. We were told his history. At one time most famous of all the local bandits and widely known as "He who speaks with the bullet," he had recently repented of his lawlessness, taken some vow or other (he knew no better than we did, what) and was enrolled as a general of the Chinese forces. After scrutinizing us closely for a while and asking a pointed question or two, he retired and we were not sorry of the opportunity of spreading our blankets.

The Manchu sleeps on a raised platform of stone and clay under which he lights a fire, the warmth being drawn along the length of this primitive steading by a flue. On to this platform we climbed and in spite of the hardness, were soon asleep.

Next morning we were early afoot, the prospect

of a long day's march, the hard clay beneath our hips, the crowded faces of the curious villagers, being not conducive to a late morning in bed. Evening should see us East of the Yang-tzu-ling, the cleft in the great mountain-barrier where the Russians had made their last real effort to stem Kuroki's march on Liao-yang. We pressed steadily on, now clambering into the cart to ford a river, now pausing to identify places of interest by the map. Dogs and pigs, the most numerous inhabitants of the villages, barked or grunted as we passed through; and round-faced Manchu girls, their hair raised high over their heads on heavy wire frames, stopped to stare at the now unusual sight of a foreigner in their midst. At noon it clouded over, by three it was raining; but away in front of us was the great gash in the mountains that marked the pass, and we decided to get on. It was not till four o'clock we entered the gorge. On either hand the mountains rose steeply, their boulder-strewn sides rearing themselves at last in vertical cliffs that towered to meet the lowering clouds. Here again azaleas, peach and pear lent their brilliance to relieve the sombre browns and greys of the misty landscape. The gorge was some three miles long and, as we topped the pass, the lateness of the hour and the cloudy sky made it plain we could not reach our intended destination before dark. A couple of miles below us stood the quaint little tower of Ta-wan, much the same in appearance and probably age as that at Liao-yang, but smaller and perched on the precipitous point of a spur overlooking the tiny hamlet. There was nothing for it but to make this village our headquarters for the night. We arrived to find a group of twelve or fifteen houses, squalid and filthy, the so-called inn being no more than a barn covering one of the long sleeping-platforms mentioned above. Mine host, with one eye and nails an inch long, was the picture of rascality, and my own misgivings only less profound than those of my Japanese friend. There was nothing for it, however, so holding our breath we walked in, kicked the pigs and a solitary but dirty wayfarer out of a quarter of the room shielded from the rest by a paper screen, and made ready for the night.

Having partaken generously of kao-liang, not unlike barley boiled with the husk on, but tasteless, we lay down. My guide's nerves were on edge; he described the situation as dangerous; there were no police and the inhabitants had not impressed him favourably. He was quite certain an attempt would be made on our goods that night, and he complained that the local procedure was to remove the possibility of interference by the owner with the aid of a short sword, and then rifle his goods at leisure. I answered lightly at first in disbelief, and later, wearying of his alarms, curtly bade him let me sleep.

We may have been asleep a couple of hours, when we awoke simultaneously to the sound of a crash. The upper half of the window was on the floor; the hinges having long gone, the window was deprived of support when opened, and on being pushed from outside had fallen noisily at our feet. In the aperture were silhouetted the head and shoulders of a burly Chinaman. A hoarse shout and a blow from a walking stick caused him to beat a retreat, and we turned to replace the window and discuss the situation. If the guide's nerves were shaken before, they were broken now. He did not believe the man was alone, and after giving us time to settle down, they would return. His alarm was more infectious now, and I slipped some rounds into a revolver and laid it to hand. I was too tired out to pretend to keep awake, but I could and would sleep lightly, and had little fear of being caught entirely unawares. My guide, however, loyal fellow, protested that under no circumstances would he sleep again that night; but that I, his master, might do so in perfect security, conscious of his faithful watch. I took him at his word and slept.

It might have been five minutes, it was in fact two hours later, that I awoke to find myself sitting up back to the wall, revolver in hand and every

nerve tingling. I was conscious of an appalling screech, followed by a scuffle and then silence. I had just gathered my wits and was mentally locating an electric torch to avoid clumsy fumbling, when the noise began again, a blood-curdling yell, accompanied by the sounds of a struggle and the squealing of the pigs that had found their way back into the room. My muscles relaxed. I gave what would have been by daylight a sickly grin, laid down my revolver and audibly confined to damnation the whole race of cats. At this moment the landlord, also aroused, thrust his face through the screen and shouted lustily at the disturber of his rest. This was the last straw for my faithful, guardian friend. With a yell that drowned the landlord's he leapt from his blanket, calling on me to shoot. Had I managed to sleep up to that moment and he succeeded in waking me as was his intention, his situation would have been precarious. When one awakes suddenly from deep sleep with nerves previously shaken and only the conviction that something must be shot, one is liable to fire at the object most immediately conspicuous. His cry was so loud, his voice so warlike, his actions indicative of such violent motion, that I should undoubtedly have selected him as my objective, and might just as easily have pulled the trigger as not. It was as well, therefore, that at this moment I had exchanged revolver for torch and was able to throw a beam into the room which showed him the still struggling cats and the figure of our host, easily identified by the missing eye. This episode over, we completed, without further interruption, a somewhat restless night.

The morning broke wet and with no hope of clearing, and we set out stiff and despondent to see what we could of the great positions on the Yang-tzu and Motien-ling and strike the Antung railway in time for the evening train. A long trudge through the mire brought us to the old temple on the Motienling, and a little further the new temple, both scenes of bloody fighting. Soon we topped the pass and began the seven mile descent to Lien-shan kuan. Masses of ice still blocked the torrent beds and a biting wind drove up the long wedge of the valley. The cart was axle deep and the ponies floundered in every direction, but we reached the station in time, paid off our driver, booked our seats, and an interesting and not unadventurous trip was at an end.

THE BANKERS' CONFERENCE.

In the Six Powers bankers' conference in London on the 15th instant the representatives of Great Britain, France, Germany and America, reports the *Jiji Shimpo*, brought forward a proposition that in the event of China raising a loan on the foreign market in future, the flotation should be undertaken by the Four Powers bankers to the exclusion of other countries. The representative of the Russian Bank raised a strong opposition to the proposal and argued against the monopolization of Chinese loans by the Four Powers bankers. The Four Powers bankers assumed an unyielding attitude and the Russian bankers withdrew from the conference. The representatives of the Japanese bankers remained in the conference throughout and set forth Japan's views on the question. The Four Powers bankers insisted on the proposal, however, and the conference thus came to a close, it having been agreed to submit to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank the views of the bankers of the various Powers in question. Should the matter be compromised Russia and Japan will of course take part in the advances to be made to China. Austrian and Belgian participation in the Chinese loan is left still undecided, though such participation is evidently desired by Germany. Moreover, Russian and Japanese claims for the recognition of their special rights and interests in Manchuria and Mongolia will give rise to some discussion between the Governments of the Six Powers, as the question is chiefly a diplomatic one. The Chinese loan was originally a so-

called political loan, but it has of late begun to wear the colour of an economic loan, and an agreement seems to have been concluded with China for its conversion to a readjustment loan, whereby the Six Powers reserve to themselves the right of working mines, constructing railways and other economic enterprises in China. It is in a sense a transformation of the Manchuria Railway neutralization scheme advanced by the United States, and special attention is paid to Manchuria and Mongolia. It remains doubtful whether the Four Powers will discard their original scheme and consent to the exclusion of Manchuria and Mongolia from the realm of the application of the loan.

The delay in signing the agreement relating to the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank is said to be due to the Chinese loan. The investment of French capital in China through this medium is rendered almost impossible owing to the strong opposition raised by the Indo-China Bank, so that the sphere of operations of the Bank will have to be limited to the introduction of French capital into domestic enterprises in Japan. Telegraphic communications are now being exchanged between Dr. Soyeda and the home Government concerning the matter.

NAVAL REFORMS.

Paymaster Inspector Katagiri, in a lengthy letter contributed to the *Tokyo Asahi*, again discusses naval affairs. He says briefly that in his previous letter he cited naval statistics to show that the personnel of the Japanese navy was double or treble the number of the officers and men listed in the British navy in support of his argument that it is possible to curtail the Naval Estimates by some 15,250,000 yen by readjustment. In the House of Representatives last session the naval authorities criticized the statistics as inaccurate and based on Brassey's Naval Annual. While the tonnage of the British warships was taken from that book, the complements were based on the British Naval Estimates. Although asked, the naval authorities failed to show their own statistics to prove their statements. The Government authorities held the reservist system to be impracticable, but he held that inasmuch as the reservists were put on the home services in case of emergencies, they could have ample time to renew their naval exercises and qualify themselves for active service. The argument that reservists were unfit for war was untenable. The Naval authorities regard his naval readjustment proposals with displeasure, because they desire to have their own way, especially as the Government attaches prime importance to the Navy. While he endorsed this policy, he was inclined to think that Japan's Navy was too large as compared with the British Navy, in proportion to their respective national resources and the area of their dominions. In the British navy the reserve system was adopted, but it was discarded in Japan's navy, where an unduly large number of officers and men were kept on active service without the least regard to economy. The Naval Estimates occupied about 35 per cent. of the total expenditure, and the burden on the nation was about twenty times the amount of the burden on the British nation. In the army a conscript service system was also maintained, and an enormous standing army was kept under the colours even in times of peace, in injudicious imitation of the army system in vogue on the European Continent. In his opinion it was possible to curtail 37 million yen if the army and navy were thoroughly readjusted. Armament expansion was always desirable, but prime consideration must be paid to make the two services conform with the national finances. The army and navy without financial resources were more than useless. The wound caused by the Russo-Japanese war was not yet quite healed and Japan's finances stood on an insecure basis. It was a mistaken policy therefore to attempt armament expansion at the present juncture.

JAPAN'S CHINA TRADE.

The trade with China, which suffered a heavy blow in the early stages of the Revolutionary disturbance, is now steadily recovering as the situation gradually develops, the export for the last ten days of April, for instance, showing a significant increase as compared with the corresponding period in the preceding year. This reassuring tendency is more perceptible in the returns obtained for the first ten days of the current month, which show an increase by 30 per cent. over the figures recorded for the corresponding period, as detailed in the following table:—

EXPORT.			
First Ten days of May.			
	1912.	1911.	
	Yen.	Yen.	
Manchuria.....	318,999	304,017	
North China	1,084,872	854,722	
Central China	1,755,629	976,661	
South China	13,657	7,823	
Total	3,173,157	2,143,223	
Since January.			
	1912.	1911.	
	Yen.	Yen.	
Manchuria.....	2,474,978	2,098,840	
North China	7,440,154	9,655,733	
Central China	17,198,966	19,651,784	
South China	254,575	22,295	
Total	26,968,674	28,532,692	

The import trade also shows signs of recovery, though in a lesser degree, as will be seen by the following table:—

IMPORTS.			
First Ten Days of May.			
	1912.	1911.	
	Yen.	Yen.	
Manchuria	377,861	921,752	
North China	356,172	398,760	
Central China	902,924	863,610	
South China	36,723	48,118	
Total	1,672,880	1,222,240	
Since January.			
	1912.	1911.	
	Yen.	Yen.	
Manchuria	1,882,168	2,228,102	
North China	2,364,58	3,012,178	
Central China	8,159,637	15,986,132	
South China	646,245	824,221	
Total	12,986,048	22,948,633	

RUSSO-JAPANESE RAILWAY SERVICES.

The Russo-Japanese trans continental railway connective services, which was to come into operation on the 1st instant, has been postponed until July 1st next in deference to the desire of the Russian railway authorities.

The issue of the round-the-world tickets resolved upon at the Continental Railway Conference, held in London last year, came into practice from the 15th instant, but the inauguration of excursion services starting to and from the principal cities in Europe, via the Siberian railway, Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the Suez Canal, will come into operation simultaneously with the commencement of the trans-continental railway connective service in July next. The excursions will connect with steamship services at Vladivostok or Dairen, to which the Chosen railway is to be added. The Railway Board is making preparations to attach superior passenger cars to the Shimbashi-Shimonoseki through trains on and after the 15th of next month, while the International Sleeping Car Company's cars will be placed on the service on the Chosen railway for the accommodation of round-the-world tourists.

The Government will submit to the Continental Railway Conference to be held in Berlin in July next, a proposal for including the Antung-Mukden line in the round-the-world excursion route,

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT.

The variety entertainment given by a number of ladies and gentlemen at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday evening last, in aid of the Charity Club, was a great success, the house being crowded in all parts, and the applause enthusiastic.

In the first part of the programme the stage was prettily arranged as a scene in the Pagoda Garden in Ceylon, the "guests" being picturesquely grouped on the stage or passing to and fro while the performance was being given. Three choruses opened the programme, one for the "globe-trotters," one for the Cingalee tea girls, consisting of Miss Mendelson, Miss Cain and Mesdames Brady, B. M. Ward, F. W. R. Ward, and Solomon and Misses Fenton, Booth, McIvor and Tipple; and one for the men apprentices. These were all well rendered and greatly appreciated. Mrs. E. W. Maitland received a warm reception for her rendering of "Rhoda and her Pagoda" and sang the last verse again in response to an encore. Mrs. Maitland also took part in a quartette with Miss Mendelson, Mr. Maitland and Mr. O. Strome. Madame Lloyd, of the Hughes Musical Comedy Co., who kindly assisted in the programme, was very warmly applauded and recalled three times before the audience was satisfied. The first part of the programme concluded with a rendering of "Pearl of Sweet Ceylon" by Mr. A. E. Cooper, and a Cingalee Cymbal Dance arranged by Mrs. F. Kaufmann and Mrs. F. W. R. Ward, in which Misses H. Moss, Harris, H. McIvor, Hill, Brockhurst, Favre-Brandt and Strome took part. This last was a charming performance which greatly delighted the audience.

The second part of the programme was mainly devoted to tableaux, of which there were four. All were excellently arranged and it would be difficult to say which was the best. The Eastern scene in "Ruth and Naomi" was very finely depicted and contrasted strongly with the Elizabethan beauty of "O Mistress Mine, where are you roaming?" The eighteenth century "Robin Adair" was perhaps the daintiest of the four tableaux, although "When did you last see your Father?" with Maurice Metcalf as the Royalist son and heir under examination by the Puritans, was very high art.

Numerous musical features were introduced between the tableaux. Messrs. Fenton, Windett, Pollard and Strome gave an amusing rendering of a nursery rhyme; Mrs. E. W. Maitland sang very prettily "I knew that he looked at me," and Messrs. Paul Stanhope and La Blanc, of the Hughes Musical Comedy Co., who also kindly gave their services, kept the house in roars of laughter with some extracts from the comic operas the Company is now presenting in Yokohama with such success.

The concluding item of the programme was a graceful dance by Misses Moss, Harris, Goodier, Fearon, McIvor, Eagling, Favre-Brandt and Box, for which they were recalled.

Under the stage management of Mr. G. E. Brady, with Mr. Ch. Bastin to look after the scenery and properties, all the arrangements were perfect. The Bijou Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. C. H. Thorn, showed its usual excellence, and with Mrs. McIvor as accompanist, the vocalists were ensured of sympathetic treatment.

Altogether Yokohama is to be congratulated that it has so many talented amateurs among the community, able to present such an able entertainment.

The following is the programme:—

PART I.

- Scene: Pagoda Garden in Ceylon.
- 1.—Opening Chorus of Globe Trotters.
Mesdames R. S. Cole, Cumming; Misses Weinberger, McWilliams, Goodier, Box, D. Hill, Graham, Eagling, Fearon and Kilby. Messrs. Leith, Windett, J. Moss, Leigh-Bennett, O. Strome, Keith-Sim, B. M. Ward, E. W. Maitland, Fenton, Austin, Gould and Eaton.
 - 2.—Chorus of Cingalee Tea Girls.
First Tea Girl: Miss Mendelson. Second

Tea Girl: Miss Cain. Mesdames Brady, B. M. Ward, F. W. R. Ward, Solomon, and Misses Fenton, Booth, McIvor and Tipple.

- 3.—Chorus of Men Apprentices
- 4.—Solo....."Rhoda and Her Pagoda."
Mrs. E. W. Maitland.
- 5.—Quartette....."True Love."
Mrs. Maitland, Miss Mendelson, Mr. Maitland and Mr. O. Strome.
- 6.—Sole (Selected).
Mme. Lloyd,
Soprano of the Hughes Musical Comedy Co.
- 7.—Solo....."Pearl of Sweet Ceylon."
Mr. A. E. Cooper.
- 8.—Cingalee Cymbal Dance,
(Arranged by Mrs. F. Kaufmann and
Mr. F. W. R. Ward).
Misses H. Moss, Harris, H. McIvor, Hill,
Brockhurst, Favre-Brandt and Strome.

PART II.

- 1.—Tableau .."Ruth and Naomi."
Misses Connie Brockhurst and Helen McIvor.
Solo by Miss Mendelson.
- 2.—Quartette.....
Messrs. Fenton, Windett, Pollard, and Strome.
- 3.—Tableau.....
"O Mistress Mine, where are you roaming?"
Miss Booth, Miss N. Tipple and Mr.
E. O. Waterlow.
- 4.—Messrs. Paul Stanhope & Bert Le Blanc.....
Comedians of the Hughes Musical Comedy Co.
in Nonsense.
- 5.—Tableau....."Robin Adair."
Misses H. McIvor, W. Hill, and M. Fearon,
Messrs. Keith-Sim and S. G. Fenton.
Solo by Miss Mendelson.
- 6.—Song....."I knew that he looked at me."
Mrs. E. W. Maitland.
- 7.—Tableau....."When did you last see your Father?"
Misses M. Kilby, E. Mendelson, and E.
Fearon, Messrs. Waterlow, Singlehurst, Keith-Sim, P. F. Lloyd, P. Leigh-Bennett, Bowden,
C. J. Lloyd and Master Maurice Metcalf.
Solo by Mr. A. E. V. Cooper.
- 8.—Dance.....
Misses Moss, Harris, Goodier, Fearon, McIvor,
Eagling, Favre-Brandt and Box.

The members of the Charity Club wish to express their best thanks to all those who so kindly assisted them in the Variety Entertainment on Saturday, the 18th, and especially to the following, whose help was most gratefully appreciated:—
Mrs. McIvor, Miss Adele Favre-Brandt, Mrs. Borthwick, Mrs. A. Kaufmann, Messrs Thorn, Bastin, Brady, Anderson, Cooper, the Bijou Orchestra, and Misses E. Showler, B. Fearon, H. Borthwick, E. Cain, R. Cain, R. Tipple, M. Strabler, and C. Read.

Y.C. & A.C. SPORTS

Under the most brilliant weather conditions the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club held their first athletic meeting for some years on Saturday afternoon last on the Negishi Race Course, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by the Nippon Race Club.

A very lengthy and attractive programme had been arranged by the Committee and it was commenced promptly on time and was carried through without a hitch. During the early stages of the programme the attendance was very sparse, but as the afternoon wore on the ground was well filled with a blaze of colour from the varied toilettes of the lady friends of the contestants, and a large detachment of men from the British fleet in port.

A local band rendered a well selected programme of music during the afternoon and was later replaced by the band of the flagship *Defence*.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Isaacs presented the prizes to the successful competitors and in turn was handed a beautiful bouquet of flowers by S. A. Vincent, who called for three cheers for the ladies.

A special prize presented to the competitors who secured the greatest number of points through the programme was won by S. R. Vincent with a score of 23 points.

The following were the results:

I.—HIGH JUMP.

G. A. Neville (5' 7")	1
V. A. Hearne (5' 3" + 4")	2
O. Tachibana (5' 3")	3

II.—LONG JUMP.

V. A. Hearne (19' 5")	1
J. da Costa	2

III.—50 YARDS.

S. A. Vincent	1
R. H. Box	2

IV.—HALF MILE.

K. Tresize	1
R. Franz	2

V.—BOYS' RACE. 100 YARDS.

F. Schaeffer	1
C. Stewart	2

VI.—100 YARDS.

R. H. Box	1
S. A. Vincent	2
V. A. Hearne	3

VII.—TUG OF WAR (BOY SCOUTS).

E. Russell's team	1
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VIII.—220 YARDS.

S. A. Vincent	1
O. A. Warrock	2
G. L. James	3

IX.—TUG OF WAR (1ST HEAT).

*H.M.S. "Kent" v. H.M.S. "Defence II"	
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X.—440 YARDS.

S. A. Vincent	1
H. Pors	2
G. L. James	3

XI.—GIRLS' RACE.

Kathleen Showler	1
Suzanne Souza	2
Patsie Crowe	3

XII.—120 YARD HURDLES.

S. A. Vincent	1
V. A. Hearne	2

XIII.—TUG OF WAR (2ND HEAT).

*H.M.S. "Defence I" v. H.M.S. "Monmouth"	
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XIV.—LEAP FROG RACE (BOY SCOUTS).

Won by B. Thwaites' team.	
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XV.—ONE MILE.

R. J. Anwyl	1
T. A. Levack	2
K. Tresize	3

XVI.—TUG OF WAR (FINAL).

*H.M.S. "Kent" v. H.M.S. "Defence I."	
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XVII.—440 YARDS (NO HANDICAP).

G. L. James	1
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XVIII.—SAILORS' RACE.

L. Hellyer	1
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XIX.—STEEPLECHASE.

S. A. Vincent	1
W. Russell	2

THE STATE RAILWAYS.

The Budget for the present fiscal year includes various public works which are to be executed by raising loans of over sixty million yen. A large portion of the loans refers to the railway account, for which the Government has already issued 25 million yen worth of railway bonds, so that the Government is evidently optimistic as to the successful issue of the loan for the balance. At present the maximum of railway construction is limited to 55 million yen a year, and therefore a portion of the annual appropriation is always carried over to the next fiscal year. Moreover the actual railway revenue this year is expected to exceed the budget by about five million yen, and as the profit is available for the railway work, the actual loan will necessarily be decreased considerably. The Railway Board has to deposit with the Nippon Ginko by the 25th instant the sum of 12,300,000 yen, which is payable as interest on the existing railway bonds due on June 1st next, and the proceeds of the recent issue of railway bonds is to be appropriated for this purpose.

BOOKSHELF.

Climate and Weather; by PROF. H. N. DICKSON, D.Sc.

Peoples and Problem of India; by SIR T. W. HOLDERNESSE, K.C.S.I.

The School; by PROF. J. J. FINDLAY, Ph.D., Manchester Univ.

History of England; by PROF. A. F. POLLARD, M.A., Univ. of London.

Canada; by A. G. BRADLEY.

Anthropology; by R. R. MARETT, M.A., Reader in Anthropology, Univ. of Oxford.

Architecture; by W. R. LETHABY.

THESE volumes form part of a new series of handbooks published by Williams and Norgate, and called the Home University Library of Modern Knowledge. If one may judge from these particular books, covering as they do a very wide range of topics, they form about as useful a series as any which has been put forth in recent times. Certainly they give you a good big shilling's worth.

No one but a master of the subject could have given so clear a statement of the course of development which has made England what it is, as appears in the 247 pages of text which Professor Pollard gives us in his report on the meaning of English history.

Mr. Marett treats of the somewhat gruesome science of Anthropology in a very racy manner; he almost makes it a bit of gay diversion. But do not mistake him! His manner is jaunty, but his mind is quite serious, for he really believes that Anthropology is a science and he does his best to convince the reader also.

Professor Lethaby gives us a capital guide to a knowledge of architecture. He traces it from its origins through all the various national forms. We are especially charmed with his chapter on French Gothic. He shows, what so few of us realise, that the noblest and most glorious of all forms of Gothic was brought to its culmination in France, the native home of pointed architecture; Critics have all along known this; artists and architects too; but the modern English or American Philistine has fancied that because Germany has a great army now, and a great fleet, that it is the home of "Gothic" architecture. I have even heard of a man crossing France to see the spindly thin Cathedral of Strasbourg, ignoring Amiens and Rheims and Chartres! Lethaby thinks that English Gothic springs out of French; very likely it does—for Gothic work reached its greatest perfection in France, and there are palpable imitations of French principles in numerous English churches, —Westminster Abbey for example.

A. G. Bradley, who has made Canadian history a specialty, has written a very good handbook on Canada, surveying the scene geographically, and then historically. The mere story in outline makes one's heart beat faster, even as the keen biting winter breeze of "our Lady of the Snows" makes the blood tingle. The whole history is thrilling with romance and heroism, and although the grace and charm of its earlier days seem to have passed away, the Canadian land is still a scene for human hopes and dreams and imaginings to thrive upon. In fact a new nation, as truly a nation as any independent country on earth, is even now coming into being. Bradley shows us the why and the wherefore of this new power. A capital book.

Dr. Findlay in his book on "The School" endeavours to discuss every vital question in Education, giving, at best, the lines of argument on all the various sides. His special point is that the treatment of boys and girls in the period of adolescence is determinative of their life. And, accordingly, he urges upon educationists the need of much fuller and accurate knowledge of the laws (if laws there are) that govern the psychological development of boys and girls at that period. Of course he deals also with the organization of schools, types of schools, pursuits of schools, the Teacher, and the Corporate Life of the School. Sir T. W. Holderness, K. C. S. I., in discussing

India and Its Peoples, deals with one of the most anxious problems of the hour. England is now a great democracy, and since the fate of the British Empire is inextricably sealed up with the fate of India, and, further, since every Briton has something to say by his vote if he will about how India shall be governed, needs must be that all be learned that can be taught in books about India. The author sketches the physical features of the country with a rapid hand, and then takes up the history of the peoples, dividing it into these main divisions; the Hindu period, the Mohammadan period, and the period of the establishment of European dominion. Then he treats of the people, according to race, castes, and religions. The government is then discussed, the administrative problems described, the present political and social movements studied, and certain conclusions delicately intimated. A better way to introduce a learner to a vast field could not be found.

The last book of our series is on climate and weather, by Dr. Dickson, who is Professor of Geography in University College, Reading.

We are all more or less "weatherwise," but Dr. Dickson's illuminating pages show clearly enough that the elements of the future science which will guide men to a sure application of natural forces to the welfare of mankind are certainly being ascertained.

American Japanese Relations; an Inside View of Japan's Policies and Purposes. By KIWOSHU KAWAKAMI, New York, Fleming H. Revell Co., 1912, Price \$2.00 net.

WE do not know that Mr. Kawakami was given a brief by the Japanese Government to present to the world this inside view, and inasmuch as it is most unusual for such an appointment to be made, we can say nothing more than that he seems to have performed his self-imposed task very well. The Japanese title which appears on the cover, (日米問題) *Nichi-Bei Mondai*, transposes the order followed in the English text, but probably this will not carry with it any marked degree of precedence; it is doubtless a little compliment to his Japanese readers, of whom, we are sure, there will be a great many.

In his introduction, the author gives us to understand that he has practically expatriated himself, for he tells us that his "absorbing interest is in the furtherance of friendship and good-will between my native country and the country which I have virtually adopted and for which I cherish affection and respect, even through its laws compel me to live here as a pilgrim and an alien." From which statement, it is not unreasonable to assume that Mr. Kawakami would, if he could, become an American citizen by naturalisation, in order to share more fully than he now can the privileges and responsibilities of his daughter, Yuri Alberta, and his son, Hiroshi Clarke, to whom he dedicates this book "in the hope that they will, in their maturity, contribute their quota to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and America."

If Mr. Kawakami really and sincerely does entertain such feelings as are expressed, it cannot contribute greatly towards the furtherance of friendship for him to attach so much importance to the unwise efforts of too many alarmists to stir up trouble between the United States and Japan. Surely there has been sufficient evidence from Government officials, industrialists, and other individuals to satisfy any reasonable person, that all the "idle and harmful talk of an American-Japanese war" has passed away, and therefore we are compelled to ask: What is the use of so much in this book that assumes a determination on the part of the masses in the United States to misconstrue Japan's motives and to resent all the efforts of the Government and people of this land to carry out their own peaceful plans in their own way? And why should Mr. Kawakami seem to intimate a disposition to read into the actions and expressions of the people of the land of his "virtual adoption" a readiness to see in the most trivial act of Japan a menace to themselves and their institutions?

As a matter of fact, we unhesitatingly contradict a good many of Mr. Kawakami's state-

ments, and we differ widely with him in some of his conclusions. For example, while we doubt very much the correctness of his statement, "for a while China conspired to estrange Great Britain from Japan, but the mandarins failed to remember that the Anglo-Japanese alliance was established upon too solid a foundation to be affected by their transparent manoeuvres," we deny unhesitatingly what follows immediately: "Her (China's) first designs having proved abortive, China has cast her coquettish eyes towards America. Woe betide those good, credulous Americans who really believe that China is wooing their country with all her heart and soul." We would remind Mr. Kawakami that a "conspiracy" is a combination of two or more persons to accomplish some evil result, and we would ask; with what other Power or Powers was China "conspiring" to estrange Japan and Great Britain?

The kind of writing which has just been quoted, is not calculated to improve the feeling in the United States for Japan (if it really requires great improvement, all things considered and all opinions duly weighed, which we doubt), because the evidence is conclusive that American sentiment is strongly with the Chinese efforts to re-create their country and to establish its new government on somewhat the same lines as that of the United States of America. Although there are a great many other just such imputations upon China's integrity and slurs at American sympathy for China in this book, it is not worth while to dwell longer upon them: they are in doubtful taste, and with that statement we leave them.

The earnest advocate always deserves commendation, no matter if the cause for which he is labouring does not appeal favourably to us; we would not be understood as condemning the cause this self-appointed advocate is championing; far from it. Mr. Kawakami has worked hard to make out his case, and he has been remarkably successful. The volume he has prepared is divided into three Books; I. The Manchurian Question; II. The Korean Question; III. The Immigration Question. Now, it requires no special prescience to guess correctly just how a Japanese will treat these subjects; and it is not unkind to say that all of them had been thoroughly well threshed out long before this writer could have begun his task, and that the work was done quite as well and as satisfactorily as he has done it. Still it is never actually bad to do a good thing often; it never results, in literature at all events, in repetition that is tiresome, and there in all students of these problems which Mr. Kawakami has undertaken to discuss, will welcome the extremely lucid exposition which he gives to them.

Personally, we had rather not have read from the person who asserts so boldly his desire to promote friendly relations, the many imputations upon America's motives in her Far Eastern enterprises. Mr. Kawakami ignores completely the method of acquiring the Philippine Islands—by purchase for a sum in ready gold far beyond their real worth; he contends that there was not a semblance of altruism in Mr. Secretary of State Hay's action at the outbreak of war between Japan and Russia, or in his proposal for the "open door," and, generally, he writes as if he had in mind to address some (a few only, we confidently believe) of his own native countrymen who are disposed to read into every act of the American Government and people, hostility towards the most legitimate and praiseworthy efforts to promote Japan's welfare.

It is probably true, as was declared in the advertisement of the book, that it "contains the first authoritative statement, addressed by a Japanese author to Occidental readers, of Japan's policies and purposes concerning the American, Manchurian, Korean, and immigration questions," and for that reason, if for no other, it is deservedly receiving a warm welcome in the land where it is published. Mr. Kawakami has treated his major subjects with much courage, clearness, and with the conviction that he is in the right. Furthermore, he displays a remarkable degree of

literary skill in his use of English; although this will not surprise those who know him, for his contributions to sundry magazines and journals in America have indicated his ability; while for his literary success in the Press of his native country we need say nothing. His method of handling the minor items which go to round out the chapters, indicates the utmost care in studying original treaties, conventions, documents, books, and all sources of information from which he might glean useful information.

Just how much there is in the acknowledgment of assistance rendered by Mr. Frank Putnam, of the Houston, Texas, *Chronicle*, in having read the manuscript, we do not know. If it means that the author's work was carefully edited, then a measure of praise is due; but we are inclined to think that Mr. Putnam's services were less than that and that to Mr. Kawakami himself belongs practically all the credit and he must shoulder all responsibility; because there are several slips which a trained English writer could hardly have overlooked.

The book is one that possesses great interest for all, and we have no hesitation in recommending those who have the opportunity to do so to read it carefully. One of its greatest values is that it will be found a most useful reference work, because the matter, relating to topics that must continue to hold our interest for a long time to come, is presented in a careful and systematic way, and the copious index enables one to find readily the particular matter concerning which information is desired. Mechanically, the volume is a proof of what the publishers can do and a great compliment to the author, because it is admirably printed and attractively bound. J. K. G.

INSURANCE COMPANIES IN JAPAN.

It is reported that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce has under consideration the issue of an Imperial Ordinance relating to the control of the foreign insurance companies. Under the present ordinance the foreign insurance companies doing business in the country are required to deposit with the Government 100,000 yen as security, but the Government now proposes to increase the amount of security to 300,000 yen in order to ensure the protection of their clients and also to restrict the establishment of further foreign insurance companies in Japan. The new ordinance will be promulgated simultaneously with the enforcement of the revised Insurance Law.

Insurance stock has continued to show a steady rise since the early part of the year, 100 yen paid-up shares in some cases being quoted at nearly 2,000 yen. The actual rate of interest on these shares does not exceed 5 or 8 per cent, and the reason of the increase remains unexplained.

Mr. Abe, of the Meiji Life Insurance Company, states that he cannot account for the rise in insurance shares. The large shareholders could make an enormous profit if they sold out their holdings at the current price, but none of them seem so disposed. If the insurance business be nationalized and the reserve fund and other assets of the companies be apportioned to the shareholders, they may receive about 2,000 yen per share, but nationalization is not even dreamt of. It was impossible to dissolve the companies through other means, and the recent rise of insurance shares is therefore unaccountable.

An unnamed stock-broker also confessed his inability to account for the abnormal increase, but ventured to suggest that the public had begun to invest their capital in insurance shares owing to the lack of other safe investments. There was a prospect of the reserve funds of well established insurance companies being used for the payment of instalments of subscription. The nationalization of the insurance business was nothing but an idle rumour of speculators in stocks.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS IN CHOSSEN.

Mr. Komatsu, Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Chosen Government, is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as saying that although Chosen has not yet attained such prosperity as is witnessed in Formosa, in the matter of area and population the peninsular far surpasses the other colonies and there is ample room for future development. The administration of Chosen can by no means be compared with that of the other colonies, since it formed an independent Empire before its annexation, instead of being a fragment of the dominion of a foreign country as the other colonies were. Through the recent administrative reforms both the executive and judicial machinery have been adjusted as far as circumstances permit. The local courts have been abolished and one judge now presides over the District Courts except in the hearing of important cases, and thus over forty judges and a large number of clerks have been dispensed with. In the central Government, the Department of General Affairs has been abolished, while other bureaux have been readjusted and reduced. The Investigation Bureau has also been abolished and the Monopoly and Printing Bureaux reduced to one Section. By those readjustments about 478,000 yen has been saved in the administrative expenditure. At the same time the staffs of the local governments have been increased to facilitate the transaction of business relating to the encouragement of local industries. The fund obtained from the administrative reforms has been appropriated to fill the deficit in the revenue arising from the abolition of the export duties, which came into force from April 1st last. A rumour is current that the foreign Powers have lodged a protest against the abolition of the export duties, on the ground that it constitutes a breach of the solemn pledge given by the Japanese Government at the time of the annexation, that the Customs tariff should remain intact for ten years. Mr. Komatsu does not attach any credence to the rumour. The declaration had for its prime object a restraint on any increase of the Customs tariff and the abolition or reduction of the Customs tariff is in perfect consonance with the spirit of the declaration, and confers a boon on foreign and domestic traders alike. The Chosen Government abolished the export duties at the sacrifice of its revenue, and this act ought to receive approbation, rather than condemnation, by the foreign Powers.

THE JAPAN PEACE ASSOCIATION.

As already briefly reported, the Japan Peace Association held a public meeting on Sunday afternoon last at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, in Kanda, in commemoration of the organization of the International Peace Forum. After an opening address from Mr. Ebara, President of the Association, Baron Shibusawa spoke upon "Peace viewed from the standpoint of the business man." In the course of his remarks the Baron observed that in view of the marked development attained as the sequel of the Japan-China and Russo-Japanese wars, some people seemed to believe that warfare is a necessary condition for a country's expansion. No idea, however, could be more removed from the truth, for a close investigation of the possible effects of war would readily convince them that what may be gained from hostilities on the one hand will never atone for the material and spiritual loss sustained on the other. "It is also to be noted," continued the Baron, "that commerce is based upon the idea of peace, that is to say, commercial peace recognizes no difference of nationality. Unless people at large bow to this conviction it is out of the question to realize real peace in the business world, and no peace will be a true, beneficial peace that is not founded on commercial peace. However bright a country's future may loom after a victorious war, this brightness is as transi-

tory as a rainbow, and can scarcely be regarded as a *de facto* expansion of the national power."

Dr. Terao spoke next and dwelt upon the causes and development of the recent Chinese revolutionary movement. He concluded by emphatically condemning the detrimental nature of a policy aiming at the partition of China.

Baron Sakatani, Vice-President of the Association, spoke on the "Work of Peace," observing that war was as a rule due to a mutual misunderstanding arising out of an inadequate knowledge of the other country's conditions, that state economies suffered for several tens of years from the pernicious effects of hostilities, and that the international peace movement was one of the most worthy and beneficial works that man could ever aspire to accomplish.

A brief address from the President of the Association brought the meeting to a close.

THE SUGAR CONSUMPTION TAX.

The development of the sugar industry in Formosa is bringing to the Formosan Government an increase in its revenue, while the reverse is the case with the same industry in the mother country, where there is an annual decrease in the revenue from the consumption tax. This phenomenon is wholly attributable to the protection accorded to the sugar industry in Formosa. A controversy has long raged as to the effect which the protective policy has on the national revenue. When the second Ka-sura Ministry was in power a difference arose between it and the Formosan Government on the matter, so much so that the resignation of Governor-General Sakuma was rumoured. The Central Government afterwards came to an agreement with the Formosan Government, whereby the latter was to make over to the Central Government any sum received from the sugar tax in excess of 10,230,000 yen a year, when the revenue of the Central Government from the same source did not come up to 15,951,357 yen, in order to fill any deficit, and also to divide any surplus remaining after such a deficit had been filled. According to this arrangement 515,928 yen was to be made over to the Central Government in the 44th fiscal year, but the Formosa sugar industry suffered such extensive damage from floods and storms last autumn that the Formosan Government found it impossible to make over this sum, so that the Budget for the present fiscal year estimates the revenue from the sugar tax at 14,477,923 yen for Japan and 8,133,000 yen for Formosa. The Central Government has no prospect of receiving any sum from Formosa, not only this year but in the next fiscal year also. In the circumstances it is thought there is sufficient reason to warrant the transfer of the revenue of the sugar tax in Formosa to the Central Government and this matter is being closely studied by the Readjustment Committee. A belief obtains of the possibility of the resuscitation of the old controversy between the Central and the Formosan Governments.

THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

Public announcement has now been made of the withdrawal of the Blue Funnel line from the Trans-Pacific Shipping Conference.

The following notice, signed by the Bank Line, Limited, Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s Royal Mail Steamship Line, Great Northern Steamship Company, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, Pacific Mail Steamship Company and Toyo Kisen Kaisha, has been issued:—

"Notice is hereby given that from this date any Shippers or Exporters forwarding cargo of any description to Pacific Coast Ports or Overland Points in the United States and Canada by the Ocean Steamship Company, Limited, and China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, Limited (Blue Funnel Line), will invalidate all claim to participate in the Deferred Rebates payable by the undersigned."

JAPANESE TRADE WITH THE STATES.

Commenting upon the condition of Japan's trade with San Francisco, the *Yokohama Specie* observes:—

The foreign trade with San Francisco amounted in 1911 to \$36,540,000, as against \$29,500,000 for the preceding year, an increase of some four million dollars in both imports and exports. This marked increase of the trade is mainly due to the import of raw cotton and petroleum, and to the export of raw silk. The table given below shows the conditions of trade with the American port during the past two years:—

SAN FRANCISCO'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE.

	1910.	1911.
Exports.	(Thou. Dol.)	(Thou. Dol.)
American Products.....	35,828	43,283
Foreign Products.....	640	822
Imports.....	56,464	61,416
Total.....	92,932	105,522

SAN FRANCISCO'S TRADE WITH JAPAN.

	1910.	1911.
Exports.	(Thou. Dol.)	(Thou. Dol.)
American Products.....	8,709	12,382
Foreign Products.....	58	62
Imports.....	20,515	24,055
Total.....	29,500	36,541

As shown by the above tables, the exports to Japan from San Francisco amounted in 1911 to \$12,400,000, or a quarter of the total export, while the imports from Japan in the same year aggregated \$24,055, or well nigh half of the total imports of the port. Japan may thus be safely regarded as occupying the first rank in the foreign trade of San Francisco. It may be further observed that among the chief exports to this country from the American port are raw cotton, petroleum, raw hide, leather, iron, steel and rubber manufactures, of which raw cotton witnessed a decisive increase last year, due to the poor crop in India.

As for imports from Japan, raw silk and tea head the list in amount, followed by sulphur, canned crabs, peanuts, porcelain, fancy matting, silk manufactures, rice, saké and beans. Of these, fancy matting, peanuts and porcelain showed a decrease as compared with the results in the preceding year. The deficiency, however, was more than covered by the marked increase in all the other items. It is nevertheless regrettable that the export of fancy matting should show a downward tendency. In view of the fact that this is due to the appearance on the American market of a powerful rival, and also to loss of confidence in the Japanese product in consequence of deterioration of quality, it should not be a matter of impossibility to recover the market, if the efforts of Japanese manufacturers are properly directed for the purpose. The same may also be said of porcelain. At the same time it is to be noted that the downward tendency of Japan's export trade is partly due to the disappearance of some of the Japanese products which appealed to the American people as strange and curious. In short they have ceased, or are beginning to cease, to attract the attention of customers. In these circumstances, while we are not unaware that it is no easy task to effect any visible improvement in designs and finish of the chief second-class articles, it is highly advisable and even necessary that the producers in Japan should at least pay a little more attention to the general tendency of the public demand for Japanese products in the markets abroad, and endeavour to turn out such goods as may best suit the tastes of foreign customers. As regards porcelain, its decrease may partly be ascribed to the brisk demand that Chinese products have recently come to enjoy in the American market, presumably owing to the considerable interest and attention drawn to China and things Chinese since the outbreak of the Revolutionary disturbance. The decrease in the export of peanuts is due to the rich crops in America last year in contradistinction to the poor harvest in Japan. In the year

before last, when the case was reversed, the export of peanuts from Japan witnessed a marvellous increase. Inasmuch as Japanese peanuts are by no means inferior to the American product, and of a rather lower price, there is every reason to believe that there is a good future ahead for this commodity on the American market. Among the exports to San Francisco which witnessed a marked increase last year, were canned crabs and beans. These now bid fair to head the list of imports in view of the steady increase lately marking the American demand.

From these observations it is not difficult to conclude that a very bright future still lies in store for the Japanese trade at San Francisco.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SINKING FUND.

While it remains doubtful whether the administrative and financial readjustment now under investigation at the hands of a special committee, will or will not result in a modification of the national loan bonds redemption programme, the question is being vigorously discussed by publicists. From the practical point of view, the abolition or reduction of the sinking fund is advocated on the grounds that the system is of no practical use if the Government goes on raising railway and other loans, on the one hand, while redeeming annually 50 million yen worth of outstanding bonds on the other. Moreover, as the rate of interest on the new loans is generally higher than on those annually redeemed, the difference must cause a loss to the National Treasury. An opinion nevertheless obtains in official circles that the merits or demerits of the Sinking Fund cannot be decided by any such simple arguments. Although it would ostensibly appear that the system is valueless if the national loans go on increasing by the issue of a larger amount of new bonds than those redeemed, yet the basis of the country's finance will be improved if bonds of an unproductive nature be redeemed and their place taken by productive loans. The system further has the effect of maintaining the market value of national loan bonds, not so much on account of the amount redeemed, as by reason of the confidence it inspires in the public. Moreover the major part of the new loans issued from time to time by the Government appertain to the special railway account. Under the present system of the railway account recourse must be had to loans to raise the necessary railway funds, since otherwise a radical change would be required in the railway policy. The difference in the rate of interest depends on the condition of the market and does not always obtain. The abolition or decrease of the Sinking Fund can only be urged so that the proceeds may be appropriated for the reduction of taxes. But inasmuch as the Government is disposed to readjust the administrative system and to appropriate the fund so obtainable to the reduction of taxes and naval increment, it is unthinkable that it would lay its hands on the Sinking Fund.

THE RISE IN PRICES.

BARON SHIBUSAWA'S VIEWS.

Commenting on the recent increase in the prices of commodities, more especially the unprecedented rise in the price of rice, Baron Shibusawa points out that although rice is no doubt the staple food of the nation, yet there are many people who do without rice all their lives. There are many articles no less necessary to life than rice, and one of these is salt. Would not an increase in the price of salt give the people much discomfort as an increase in the price of rice? He is rather inclined to think that an increase in the price of salt would affect the livelihood of the lower classes more than an increase in the price of rice. The fact is that the increase in prices is general and in

some cases the ratio of increase is greater than for rice. It is therefore rather strange that publicists should be silent as to the abnormal increase in the price of salt, while making such a fuss about the increase in the price of rice. The increase in the price of rice furnished a subject for public comment last year also, when the Government was induced to lower the import duty on foreign rice in order to regulate its price, but the policy failed to produce the desired effect owing to the brief period the ordinance remained in force. The Government is apparently indifferent to the rise in prices this year. The Metropolitan Police Bureau adopted a drastic measure in order to put a stop to corner operations, but the measure is open to criticism. Corners in daily necessities should not, of course, be tolerated, but does not the Government policy tend to facilitate corner operations? The Government raised the import tariff on rice to render the importation of foreign rice difficult, which naturally gave an inducement to corner operations on the home rice market. The most effective measure to check the operations lies in the reduction or abolition of the import duty on rice and other cereals. It is argued in some quarters that the abolition or reduction of the import duty on rice would tend to lower the price of rice, which would in turn deal a hard blow to the farmers. This is very probable, and hence the necessity of a reduction of taxes and abolition of the salt monopoly by the Government. The futility of attempts to check corner operations by legislation has been clearly proved, and there is no effective measure other than arousing public opinion against the evil, to bring pressure to bear upon unscrupulous speculators. It must also be remembered that there exists a certain class of influential people who are reaping great profits at the expense of the general public. These people are, on the one hand, undertaking some charitable work in order to divert the public attention from their proceedings, while, on the other, they are living on the public. It behoves the Press to take the matter up in order to bring them to a consciousness of the inequity of their conduct.

FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS.

The foreign trade returns for the second ten days of the current month show an excess of imports over exports by some four million yen, bringing the total since January up to something like ninety-nine million yen, as detailed in the following table:—

	Second Ten Days Since of May.	January.	Increase or Decrease.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Exports	14,337,000	174,653,000	+17,875,000
Imports	18,708,000	274,098,000	+47,226,000

Excess or Imp. 4,371,000 99,845,000

It may be added that the exports for the last four months show an increase of 0.5 per cent. and the imports a decrease of 12.8 per cent., as compared with the figures recorded for the corresponding period of the preceding year. Among the exports which show an increase during the period under notice, are raw silk, cotton thread, and copper, while in imports, among others raw cotton witnessed a decisive decline, although beans, woollen tissues, phosphates, indigo, petroleum, iron nails and a few others showed more or less increase.

As for specie, the export during the second ten days of the current month amounted to about six hundred thousand yen and the import to well nigh twenty thousand yen, thereby causing an excess of the former over the latter by something like five hundred thousand yen. The details are as shown in the following table:—

	First Ten Days Since of May.	January.	Increase or Decrease.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Export.....	587,630	9,920,000	-735,000
Import.....	20,036	760,000	+307,000

Excess of Exp. 567,594 8,860,000

THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of members of the Yokohama General Cemetery was held in the British Commercial Attaché's room at the British Consulate-General on Thursday afternoon, Mr. J. Carey-Hall, I.S.O. presiding. Among those present were Messrs. Edison, Brady, Bent, McIvor, Hodge, Dewette, Williamson, Patterson, Retz, etc., etc.

In declaring the meeting open, the chairman called upon the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. B. Gillett, to read the Report. This was duly done, after which the chairman formally moved its adoption and also the acceptance of the accounts. He referred to the fact that the report and accounts were unfortunately overdue in being placed in the hands of the members but this was caused by the regrettable indisposition of their old friend, Mr. Gillett, whom he was sure all would be pleased to see now back in their midst and in renewed health.

There being no remarks, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then called on Mr. McIvor to move a special resolution.

Mr. McIvor said that he did not intend to dilate upon the resolution he was about to propose. He put it forward because in his opinion it was a good one and that being so, it would speak for itself. He therefore moved:—

That the Committee be, and are hereby authorised and instructed, out of the monies now at the credit of the Cemetery funds, to set apart a further sum of 5,000 yen to be added to the sum of 15,000 yen already invested in the hands of Trustees, under a Trust Deed dated 21st April, 1899, making in all 20,000 yen. The interest thereon alone shall be available for the maintenance and preservation of the grounds, heretofore and now set apart and used, and known as the "Yokohama General Cemetery," and may from time to time, at the discretion of the Committee, be applied for that purpose, and that a copy of this resolution shall be endorsed on the above-named original Trust Deed for the guidance of future Trustees.

The resolution was duly seconded by Mr. G. Reiffinger in a few words; and their being no discussion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The next business was the election of officers, the late Committee retiring in accordance with custom. Having, however, expressed their willingness to serve again, the Chairman moved their re-election *en bloc*. This was seconded and carried *nem. con.*

A very hearty vote of thanks was then passed to the late Committee and particularly to Mr. B. Gillett, with the wish that there might be specially recorded in the minutes the appreciation of the members of the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer's unceasing services.

This was formally conveyed to Mr. Gillett by the Chairman, who added that the vote of thanks could be interpreted as coming not only from those present, but also from the entire foreign community.

After a few more remarks by Mr. Hall, the business of the meeting concluded.

The following is the report and statement of accounts:—

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee of the Yokohama General Cemetery beg to place before the members of the Foreign community of Yokohama the usual Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditures in connection with the Cemetery for the year which ended on the 31st December, 1911:—

During the storm of the 19th June last most of the fences enclosing the Cemetery grounds were blown down, and the Committee availed themselves of the opportunity for carrying out a suggestion brought forward at several Annual meetings, viz, the desirability of lowering that portion of the fence bordering on the Bluff road in order to open up the view of the harbour, and the surrounding country. The damage caused to the fences by the storm

resulted in the necessary outlay of about a couple of hundred yen for repairs, &c. Referring to the paragraph in the last Annual Report (1910) anent replacing the late superintendent's lodge by a caretaker's residence built in Japanese style, this has been carried out at a cost of 363.60 yen, and seeing the improvement it has made in the approach to the Cemetery from the lower gate close to Moto-machi and the saving of cost for repairs which had to be incurred year by year with the old building, the Committee look upon this outlay as a satisfactory investment.

The total outlay on the general working of the Cemetery for the past year, owing to the above-named extraordinary expenses, amounted to about 1,009 yen, or say about 1000 yen, in excess of the previous year.

The Committee have again to thank the Trustees of the "Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund" for the receipt of 750 yen, being one year's interest at five per cent. on 15,000 yen, which sum is held by the said Trustees on behalf of the Foreign community of Yokohama, the interest alone on which amount has to be paid over to the Cemetery Committee year by year, to be availed of by them for the preservation and general upkeep of the present Cemetery grounds. Whilst on the subject of the Trust fund, and seeing that at the end of the past year there was a balance standing in the credit of the Cemetery account of 6,497.57 yen, the Committee would suggest, with the consent of the members of the Foreign community present at the next general meeting, to set apart a further sum of five thousand yen from the above-named balance, and place it to the credit of the Trust fund, thus bringing the total amount of the Trust fund up to twenty thousand yen. A copy of the Resolution, authorising the said transfer, will be endorsed on the original Trust deed dated 21st April, 1899, for the guidance of the Trustees in years to come. The interments made in the present Cemetery during the year 1911 numbered 31 as against 28 in 1910—that is to say, 12 were of American nationality, 9 British, 4 French, 1 Austrian, 1 Italian, 1 Swiss, 1 Belgian, 1 Portuguese, 1 Turk, making in all a total of 31. Besides these, there have been several Foreigners buried in the new Cemetery at Negishi, of which the Committee have no particulars, the Cemetery at Negishi being solely under the management of the Japanese authorities.

In accordance with the custom prevailing for many years past, the present Cemetery Committee, consisting of Messrs. N. F. Smith, P. S. Bent, Fr. Retz, J. de Cuers de Cogolin and B. Gillett tender their resignations, and it remains for the Foreign community of Yokohama, as represented at the annual meeting, to elect their successors, who will take charge of matters in connection with the cemetery during the ensuing year.

The Yokohama General Cemetery in account with B. Gillett, Honorary Treasurer, for the Year ending 31st December, 1911.

	Yen.	Yen.
DR.		
To Labour account, 12 months ...		394.53
To Repairs to Fences after storm, 19th June	191.20	
To Repairs to Fences after storm 19th June, for wire to fence on Bluff road	17.20	2 8.40
To Stone-mason for Stone-Wall and Steps		18.00
To Cost of Tools		6.23
To Books, Stationery, Advertisements, &c.		10.07
To Fire Insurance Premium on Y.1,050, covering buildings in Cemetery Grounds		8.50
To Cost of new Lodge for caretaker at the bottom gate, close to Moto-machi		363.60
		1,009.33

To Amount placed on Fixed Deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at 5 per cent.	5,556.25	
To Balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer on the 31st December, 1911	941.43	6,497.57
		7,505.82
CR.	Yen.	Yen.
By Amount brought forward from previous account, 31st December, 1910		5,489.65
By Fees for Interments, 12 months	420.00	
By Fees for erecting Headstones and enclosing Graves	483.00	
By Fees for Exhuming	100.00	
By Fees for Certificates	3.00	1,006.00

By Amount received from the Trustees of the "Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund" Interest on Y.15,000 for 1 year at 5 per cent.	750.00	
By Amount received from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for one year's interest on Y.5,225—Fixed Deposit at 5 per cent.	261.25	1,011.25
		7,505.80

1911, December 31st.—By balance brought forward 6,497.57
Yokohama, 12th January, 1912.

B. GILLETT,
Hon. Treasurer.

I have examined the accounts herewith, with the vouchers relating thereto, and certify to the same being correct.
E. CURJEL.

TRUSTEES' REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA GENERAL CEMETERY FUND FOR THE YEAR 1911.

In accordance with the conditions of a Deed of Trust, dated 21st April, 1899, which for safe keeping is deposited with the "Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation" in Yokohama, the Trustees of the Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund have collected, and have paid over to the Yokohama General Cemetery Committee, on the 22nd April, 1911, the sum of Y.750, being the amount of one year's interest at five per cent on Y.15,000, held by them on behalf of the Foreign Community of Yokohama, to be applied by said Committee to keeping in order the grounds forming the present Yokohama General Cemetery.

N. F. SMITH
P. S. BENT
J. DE CUERS DE COGOLIN
FR. RETZ
B. GILLETT
Trustees of the Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund.

The Foreign Community of Yokohama in account with the Trustees of the "Yokohama General Cemetery Trust fund" for the Year 1911 inclusive.

	DR.	Yen.
To Amount paid to "Yokohama General Cemetery Committee" for one year's interest on Y.15,000 at 5 per cent.		750
To Amount carried down to new account placed with the "Hongkong and Shanghai Bank" on Fixed Deposit at 5 per cent.		15,000
		15,750

CR.
By Amount brought forward from previous account dated 31st December 1911..... 15,000
By Amount received from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for one year's interest on Yen 15,000 at 5 per cent. 750

1911, December 31st.—By balance brought forward 15,750
Yokohama, 12th January, 1912.

B. GILLETT,

Hon. Secretary to the Trustees.

I hereby certify to having seen the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Fixed Deposit receipt No. 47/7 for 15,000 yen representing the account standing to the credit of the above amount.

E. CURJEL.

VIOLATIONS OF ELECTION LAW.

According to the authorities of the Home Department, the cases of violation of the Election Law brought to light up to the 15th instant number 68 in all, involving 657 persons, which means an increase of 19 cases (188 persons) over the figures recorded at the time of the last election. The details are as shown in the following table:—

	Corruption.	Bribery.	Others.	Total.
Seiyukai { No. of Cases ... 12	17	2		31
Koku { No. of Persons ... 170	185	2		357
Minto { No. of Cases ... 4	6	3		13
Chuo { No. of Persons ... 71	35	4		110
Club { No. of Cases ... 3	1	1		5
Indpendents { No. of Persons ... 56	5	1		62
Indpendents { No. of Cases ... 7	10	2		19
Indpendents { No. of Persons ... 95	33	2		128
Total { No. of Cases ... 36	34	11		68
Total { No. of Persons ... 390	258	9		657

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The general meeting of the Japan Red Cross Society was held on Thursday morning at half past ten in Hibiya Park. H.M. the Empress honoured the occasion with her presence. After the rain of the preceding day, the weather was quite mild and the function was attended by almost 35,000 members. The opening of the meeting was announced by Marquis Matsukata, President of the Association, who subsequently delivered the annual report. Her Majesty then rose and personally read a gracious message expressing her pleasure at meeting the members present and her hopes for their further efforts for the development of the organization.

In response, Prince Kanin, Director-General of the Society, read a speech, expressing on behalf of the members their thanks for Her Majesty's personal attendance and gracious instructions, and at the same time assuring her of their redoubled diligence in discharging their duties as members of the Association, for the attainment of the objects for which the Society was organized.

The meeting came to a close about eleven o'clock. Among the dignitaries present were Prince and Princess Kanin, Prince Fushimi, Jr., Marchioness Nabeshima, Marquis Matsukata, Viscount Hanabusa, Baron Saito, Count Watanabe, and Governor Abe.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to learn that the organization is now enjoying a growing prosperity with a membership numbering over 1,561,400 including 5,929 foreigners. This is an increase of almost five thousand members over the figures recorded for the preceding month.

The Head Office of the Japan Red Cross Association has been collecting public contributions for a fund of 15,000,000 yen, the sum necessary for the pursuance of the so-called ten-year scheme. These efforts have been crowned with success, and the various undertakings for the organization's work, both in time of peace and war, are making fair progress. The branches of the Society number more than forty, each of which has laid down an eight-year scheme and is endeavouring to collect public contributions towards the foundation funds.

Among the works undertaken by the Society are the Rescue Corps and Red Cross Hospitals. The latter are established now to the number of twelve throughout the country. Of these, three are placed under the direct control of the Head Office, namely the Tokyo Red Cross Hospital, the Kwantung Red Cross, and the Mukden Red Cross Hospitals; the rest being attached to local associations, one each in Wakayama, Nagano, Miye, Shiga, Toyama, Hyogo, Osaka, and Kagawa prefectures and Formosa. In each of those hospitals, except in Kwantung and Mukden, there is established a Nurses Training Home. The students of the institutes number 1,257 in all, of which 1,153 are females and 104 males.

As regards Rescue Corps, those formed by female nurses aggregate 99 and those by male nurses 15. The former will shortly be increased by 37 and the latter by 24, owing to the expansion of the Association's work. The total number of the nurses constituting the Rescue Corps now in existence, number 3,962, who in time of peace will engage in every sort of rescue work in response to calls arising from disasters, etc. There are three permanent Rescue Halls in Tokyo established for the purpose by the Red Cross Society. It may be added that in view of the satisfactory results attending the services of the hospital-vessels, the *Hakui Maru* and the *Kosai Maru*, the Organization has also in contemplation the construction of hospital-trains in order to further facilitate the work of the Rescue Corps.

DR. OLSEN IN JAPAN.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Dr. Ole Theodor Olsen, the well known authority on marine products, who is now on a visit to this country, arrived at Tokyo on Monday evening. The Doctor will stay in the capital for four days, from the 21st till the 25th instant, and pay a visit to the Foreign Office, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Agricultural College of the Imperial University, the Ueno Imperial Museum, Asakusa Park, etc., and will give lectures at the Marine Products Association, the Marine Products School, etc. He will also be the guest of honour at a banquet given by Dr. Kishigami, Mr. Matsueda, Chief of the Marine Products Section and the Marine Products Association. He will spend the 24th and 25th at Nikko, the 28th at Odawara and Hakone, and the following day at Kamakura and Enoshima. The Doctor is expected to leave for home *via* Canada after sojourning some three weeks in Japan.

Dr. Olsen was born in Norway in 1838, and became a naturalised Englishman in 1857. After spending eight years at sea he settled at Grimsby, where he is engaged in the manufacture of fishing implements, and in the production of compasses and other instruments for the use of navigators. In this work he has been very successful, having won quite a number of medals at different Exhibitions. He is also the author of several works on marine products, his fisheries Almanac, first published in 1877, having now in its thirty-sixth edition. Other works of his which have won the approval of those interested in fisheries, are "Navigation for Fishermen," "Guide to Navigation," etc.

In 1901 Dr. Olsen was decorated with the First Order of Vasa by the King of Sweden, and at the International Convention of the Marine Products Association, held in the United States in 1908, he was elected Vice-President, and given an honorary degree.

Dr. Olsen has always been ready to place his knowledge of marine products at the service of Japanese officials visiting England to study the subject and in many ways has contributed to the development of Japan's fisheries, so that he is regarded in this country with great esteem. In 1907 he was presented with a set of flower vases by the Marine Products Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, as a token of the Bureau's gratitude, and in 1910 he was decorated with the Fourth Order of the Rising Sun. Only recently Dr. Olsen was elected an honorary member of the Japan Fisheries Society.

Dr. Olsen will be received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor on Friday morning at half past ten. On the same day he will also be a guest of honour at a dinner to be given by Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, at his official residence at Fujimicho, Kojimachi.

THE REDEMPTION OF NATIONAL BONDS.

In connexion with the redemption of national loan bonds in the course of the present fiscal year, a responsible authority is quoted as saying that during the 44th fiscal year the Government redeemed about 122 million yen worth of outstanding bonds, either by purchase or by lottery. Since the commencement of the present fiscal year about 64 million yen has been paid for the purchase of tramways, in addition to 20 million yen worth of national bonds redeemed, and thus an enormous amount of capital has found its way on to the market. A portion of this money has no doubt been invested in the promotion of various enterprises, but there still remains a large portion of the money unemployed. There is therefore no immediate need for affecting a further redemption. This remark, however, applies solely to redemption by lottery. The Government is inclined to continue from time to time the redemption of domestic bonds by purchase in the open market.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE RAILWAY AGREEMENT.

Mr. Kinoshita, chief of the Business Section of the Railway Board, who recently returned from the Russo-Japanese railway conferences held in Vladivostok and Harbin, is credited with having stated that at the Vladivostok conference views were exchanged principally on the method of direct transportation of Japanese raw silk to the European markets, the salient point considered being the provisions for the opening of direct transportation of raw silk under a special arrangement, prior to the establishment of the connective services for the general traffic. The matter was settled as a whole, but as final decision is left to further negotiations between Tokyo and St. Petersburg, he was not at liberty to declare the result. It was found necessary to make a further reduction of freight over and above the special freight rates charged by the Siberian railway on this commodity, in order to induce the transportation of larger quantities by this route. The Japanese delegate accordingly introduced a proposal to the conference, and although no final decision was reached, the suggestion was generally admitted. At the Harbin conference the connection of the passenger services and improvement of passenger cars, etc., were discussed, and the delegates of the two countries came to an agreement to run special express-trains between Harbin and Chungchun to connect with express-trains on the main line, and also to run special express-trains between Shimabashi and Tsuruga. The new arrangement will come into operation from next autumn, when the railway time tables are to be revised.

The *Tokyo Asahi* learns in this context that the conventional freight for transportation of raw silk between Yokohama and Moscow per 27 *kin* is about 1.20 yen higher than the steamship rates. Whereas the latter are at the rate of 3.75 yen per 27 *kin* the conventional freight amounts to about 6.45 yen, the difference being some 2.70 yen per 27 *kin*. While the transportation by the sea route takes some 80 days, it only takes about twenty days to transport the goods by railway, thus saving some 1.50 yen in interest, etc. Even if this be deducted, however, the charge is still higher by about 1.20 yen. This calculation is based on the freights charged on goods transported by passenger cars. It is stated that goods trains will be run, which will take about thirty days to make the distance, and for which a cheaper rate is provided. On the inauguration of the connective services all goods requiring quick transportation will naturally go by the railway, but all others will continue to be transported by sea on account of the cheaper rates. The raw silk now transported to Moscow annually is said to reach about five or six million yen in value.

KYUSHU DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

On the initiative of Mr. Asano and many other promoters, a scheme is mooted to organize the Kyushu Development Company (Kyushu Kogyo Kaisha) with a capital of two million yen for the construction of a harbour at Okubo in Moji. The scheme was first mooted by Mr. Looneu and the work was commenced with a capital of one million yen, but had to be abandoned. Mr. Asano and other promoters have succeeded to the rights of the original promoter and decided to push the scheme to completion. It comprises the reclamation of the foreshore of Okubo and Tanoura in Moji covering about 110,600 *taubo*, and dredging to the depth of from 12 to 35 feet, to make a suitable harbour. Piers are also to be built, in addition to a dockyard, iron works, warehouses and other harbour accommodation. The promoters confidently believe that the company will be able to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. in the second year, 6 per cent. in the third year and 10 per cent. in the fourth and subsequent years, after the work is commenced.

"EMPIRE DAY" IN YOKOHAMA.

LOYAL CELEBRATIONS BY BRITISH COMMUNITY.

"Empire Day,"—the day which is now celebrated throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Dominions beyond the Seas,—is the birthday of the Great Queen Victoria. Her late Majesty was born on May 24th, 1819; and coming to the Throne of the British Empire in 1837, reigned for the long period of sixty-five years, her death at Osborne, Isle of Wight, occurring in 1902. It was during Her Majesty's great reign that the British Empire increased by leaps and bounds and also that she became the proud and first possessor of the title, *Empress of India*. The Victorian era stands out to-day as an era which produced some of the brilliant—if not the most brilliant—men and women of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Britain. Above all, it was responsible for the final and colossal development of the British Colonies. Nothing therefore was more natural than that the people who loved her should wish to perpetuate her memory throughout the whole of the lands over which she ruled.

Two years after her death, an Empire League was organised, and within a few weeks, it was agreed, with the warm approval of His Majesty King Edward VII., that the birthday of Queen Victoria should be called "Empire Day," when men, women and children under the British rule, should remember their country, its power, its prestige, and the great Lady who had passed away.

That is the reason of last Friday's celebrations by Britishers in Yokohama.

THE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH.

At 11 o'clock on Friday morning last, a special service was held at Christ Church in honour of the day. It was conducted by the Rev. Walter Weston and was chiefly choral. The hymns had been most appropriately chosen and were sung with a fervour and a heartiness that was good to hear. The congregation was a large one, whilst amongst those present were a contingent of officers, sailors and marines from the two British warships now in port. Half way through the service the Rev. Walter Weston delivered a most impressive address on the Empire. Taking his text from the Psalms, viz. the growth of the vine and the spreading of its roots, he compared the British Empire to the same plant, for it had been solidly planted, had thrown its branches far and wide, and at the same time, its roots had spread like the great vines of the Scriptures.

The Service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and the pronouncing of the Benediction.

THE CHILDREN'S FETE AND GARDEN PARTY.

In sunny weather, but with rather a high wind blowing, the children with their parents and friends assembled in the British Consulate grounds at 3 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of having a good time; and what is more, they had it, especially the youngsters. After the preliminary marches of the boys and girls, gallantly led by the Boy Scouts, the saluting of the Flag, and the singing of "Rule Britannia," H. B. M.'s Consul-General, Mr. John Carey Hall, I.S.O., addressed the children as follows:—

My Dear Girls and Boys,—In the beginning of your history-books you read of a time long ago when England was not one country, as it is now, but a number of small countries, each having its own separate king, and often at war with one another. Then, after much trouble and hard fighting, England became one single nation, under Alfred, the first King of all England. I think that all of you who are old enough to go to school know something from your lesson-books about this great and good king. Much later, in the time of King Edward I, after some fighting and disputes, the people of Wales agreed to have their country joined to England, and ever since then the eldest son of the King of England has been given the title of Prince of Wales. Later on in your histories you learn how and when Scotland and Ireland

were joined to England to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and you know that for a long time now, the British Isles, that began by being a collection of small nations, have been one great nation, at peace within itself.

The British people, as you know, have always been fond of going to sea and traveling, and since the time of Queen Elizabeth, many of them have gone to live and work in different parts of the world. Some of them went to America, and there they have formed a new nation, called the United States of America. There were others who went to other far-off places, who, while they were quite content to stay in the fine new countries they had found, still liked to think of England as their old home.

Queen Victoria, the grandmother of our present King, was the first British Sovereign to be proclaimed Empress of India. In olden times, India, like England before Alfred, had been a collection of separate countries, often fighting with one another. With Queen Victoria as its Empress, it became one large Empire. Then, in the later years of Queen Victoria's long reign, the name of the British Empire was first used to mean the British Isles, India, and all the countries connected with Britain, or England. This is why we have a holiday on the 24th of May, which was the birthday of Queen Victoria, and call it Empire Day. This day is kept to remind us that we are all citizens of this British Empire, this Union of Nations. We are all proud and glad to belong to it. Many, many men and women in the past times and up till now have done their share in making it by discovering far-off islands, by making wild places into fields and gardens, by building villages and towns, by making good laws and in many other ways. Some of these are well known or remembered by everybody. You have all heard of King Alfred, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, King Edward VII. and King George V., who reigns to-day. Even children know something about the men who made voyages of discovery to the North Pole and the South Pole and know who it was that invented the first railway engine and who founded the order of Boy Scouts.

But there are, besides the well-known people, thousands and thousands of others who have each wished well to their fellow-citizens and who have each done some small part towards the peace, happiness and freedom of the British Empire and helped to make it as great as it is now. This is what I want you specially to remember—that our large Empire is made up of ever so many people, men and women, girls and boys, and that it is not enough for us to be proud of being British; we must all try to be ourselves a credit to the British name and learn how to work together for the good of all. It is not enough for us to admire what others have done, each new day brings its own new work and we must all do our share in it. I hope that as you children grow up you will make it your duty to learn how best to serve the Empire as good citizens. Meanwhile I call upon you to do something altogether, to give three hearty cheers for the Head of our great Empire, King George V. Three Cheers for the King!

Three cheers and a "tiger" were lustily given, and the children and the large company of parents and friends joined in singing "God save the King!"

As for the rest of the afternoon, one can only say that it was devoted to the kiddies. There was the May-pole dance and exceedingly pretty it was; the dainty little girls in white and coloured sashes flitting round and round on equally dainty toes making a picture that will be remembered for a long time. Then was also a kind of life-saving apparatus, which the gallant sailors had rigged up in the grounds. The cable started from the base of two trees and went up to the middle of the Consulate flag staff. A basket chair was attached, and youngster after youngster got into the chair, was strapped in, and hauled up above the trees and then lowered to the ground. Undoubtedly this was the most popular feature of the afternoon, barring the tea and cakes upon

which the kiddies made a goodly raid. Besides these, there were the electric fish pond, the shooting gallery and the "Aunt Sallies" where a gallant sailor—most fearfully disguised—popped his head in and out of a tub for the children to throw sticks at, which they did with a vengeance.

One cannot praise too highly the work of the Committee, and the really splendid assistance rendered by the Officers and men of the *Monmouth* and *Kent*. The sailors worked like Trojans, and best of all, seemed to enjoy it quite as much as did the kiddies. In fact, the afternoon may be safely and truly described as a complete success in every way and shape.

THE FISHERIES ON THE COAST PROVINCE.

In reference to the fishery trouble on the Coast Province, a representative of the Japan-Russian Marine Products Union is quoted by the *Fiji Shimpō* as observing that the extension of the limits of Russian territorial waters and the restriction of the fishing grounds on the Coast Province are still outstanding diplomatic questions. The restriction of the fishing grounds will not in any serious way affect the Japanese, who are engaged chiefly in the coast fisheries, inasmuch as the Russian authorities declare that they will not be very particular as to Japanese fishing boats sailing a mile or so outside the limit. But it means a great deal of loss to those fishermen working far out at sea. In this context it may be noted that Japanese fishermen possess at present 214 fishing grounds on the Russian coast as detailed in the following table:—

Period.	Fishing Grounds.	No.
1910-12	Long terms	62
1911-13	"	48
1912-14	"	86
1912	Short terms	18
Total		214

In view of the fact that the fees for leasing the above grounds aggregate as much as 337,000 roubles, the Union feels itself called upon to make every possible effort for the protection and maintenance of the rights and interests already acquired in the above Russian territorial water. Now is the season for the herring fishery, while the fishing season for trout is also fast drawing near. A day's delay in the solution of the problem, therefore, means a corresponding loss on the part of the Japanese fishermen. Accordingly the Union some time ago filed a petition with the Russian authorities requesting the cancellation of the restriction, and there is every reason to believe that the application will be dealt with shortly.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA AND THE LOAN.

A Peking telegram to the *Chuwo* reports that according to what is alleged in Peking to be the opinion of the bankers conference in London, Russia and Japan will have nothing to do with the short term loans (75 million *taels*) to be advanced to China before October next, which will be adjusted by the Four Powers primarily interested. Russia and Japan will of course participate in the large loan as a matter of principle, but inasmuch as the proceeds thereof will most probably be used for economical purposes over and above the readjustment of the administration of the State, it will be necessary for those countries, since they have special political and economic interests in China, to specify the use of the proceeds beforehand, instead of having the loan contract based on the agreement made between the Four Powers Syndicate and the Chinese Government concerning the currency loan. The Four Powers are disposed to issue the Chinese loan through their own banks, to which Russia and Japan strongly object. The conference thus has to face a difficult problem and the short term loan may also not be so easily proceeded with as at first imagined.

Y.A. & R.C. REGATTA.

LAST FRIDAY'S EVENTS.

Beneath a brilliant sky, but with wind and wave running high, the committee of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club decided that if the "Interports" would agree, the opening day of the Interport regatta would take place. An early decision arrived at, the programme was adhered to with the exclusion of the Interport sculls—although each and all were prepared to meet every event. This race will be rowed to-day.

During the early afternoon the wind ran very high and the balcony of the Club, which had been thrown open to the Yokohama ladies, gradually filled despite the damage to coiffures and hats, and at the finish of the senior pairs the Club house was a galaxy of colour.

Only one untoward event occurred during the afternoon, and that was in the Senior pairs, when boat No. 2 and laying in that position, stroked by J. D. Graham, met with an accident due to a faulty rowlock, causing their eventual withdrawal from the race. This race being really a "try out" for the port representatives to-day, it would have been well to re-row it, as the consensus of opinion among judges, timekeepers, etc., was that they were the likely winners, but in fairness to the other crews, Mr. Tresize will represent Yokohama and it is to be hoped will stroke them home.

The Naval race was extremely good and when, owing to the light shells, it had been decided to alter the mark boats and reduce the distance, the gallant seamen wished to lengthen theirs. The rivalry was extremely keen as these same men hope to meet each other at Wei-hai-wei in the Fleet regatta at the conclusion of manoeuvres and target practice.

The arrangements made by the Committee for the reception of their guests were perfect and with the lesser counter attractions of yesterday and the Interport fixtures, to-day their efforts will doubtless be well attended.

Race No. 1. CLUB V. COMMITTEE. 1/4 Mile.	
II.—Boat No. 4.	
Club.	lbs.
Bow. R. H. Box	140
2. W. G. Crockam	142
3. H. J. Hearne	156
Stroke. G. A. Neville	154
Cox. G. Charlesworth	137

I.—Boat No. 3.	
Committee.	lbs.
Bow. W. Graham	132
2. B. Deveson	128
3. V. G. Bowden	140
Stroke. T. H. G. Kenderdine	140
Cox. Rev. Walter Weston	154

With little difficulty this race was started with the Club cutting the water first. Their initial lead was small and but due to the fact that the "padre," who was coxing the Committee boat, hugged the breakwater too much, a finer finish might have been expected, as, despite this, barely two lengths separated the two boats. Time 7m. 5 sec.

Race No. 2. JUNIOR PAIRS. 1/4 Mile.	
II.—White Boat.	
	lbs.
Bow. P. Hornstein	150
Stroke. G. N. Brockhurst	135
Cox. W. Russell	116
I.—Black Boat.	
	lbs.
Bow. M. Apcar	135
Stroke. L. Andreis	113
Cox. Deveson	128

This race was a run away from start to finish, Brockhurst stroking well and winning by many lengths. The usual delay consequently trying out juniors was noticeable in this event. The coxes could not or would not hold back or assist their crews, and much time was lost in starting. The White boat won by many lengths in 7m. 5 1/2 secs.

Race No. 3. SENIOR PAIRS.	
II.—Boat No. 3.	
	lbs.
Bow. J. E. Laffin	135
Stroke. K. M. M. Tresize	153
Cox. W. Shields	120

I.—Boat No. 1.	
	lbs.
Bow. W. James	154
Stroke. L. Stornebrink	142
Cox. L. Andreis	113
III.—Boat No. 2.	
	lbs.
Bow. S. A. Vincent	155
Stroke. J. L. Graham	156
Cox. D. L. Abbey	120

Tresize caught the first water and thus secured a lead on Graham who was pulling on the outside. Rowing well, Graham got into difficulties through a faulty rowlock, the springer jumping from place causing him to catch a crab. Nothing daunted he reshipped his oar and although many lengths ahead rapidly pulled up and displaced Stornebrink, when the faulty catch again gave way, precipitating the crew into the water. The crew and boat were promptly rescued allowing the other boats to finish. Time 6 min. 50 secs.

Race No. 4. MEN OF WAR CUTTERS RACE.	
H.M.S. "Kent" II.	
H.M.S. "Monmouth" II.	1
H.M.S. "I."	3
H.M.S. "Kent" I.	4

A brilliant race rowed amidst much rivalry.

Race No. 5. INTERPORT DOUBLE SCULLS. 1 Mile.	
I.—Boat No. 2.	
Yokohama.	lbs.
Bow. W. Graham	132
Stroke. J. L. Graham	156
II.—Boat No. 1.	
Kobe.	lbs.
Bow. J. Helm	157
Stroke. C. L. Timm	171

With such a brilliant example of fearlessness on the part of the juniors, the Interport men nothing daunted braved the roughened seas in light boats. Kobe got away well but were early displaced by the local pair who won in 6 min. and 3 sec. with nearly 3/4 of a length separating them.

SWEEPING VICTORY FOR YOKOHAMA.

On Saturday afternoon last the Interport Regatta, held under the auspices of the Yokohama Amateur Rowing Club, was successfully concluded. Successful in every way from the Yokohamaites point of view, as in addition to an ideal day, and a good programme, there was a large attendance of enthusiastic supporters, and the local representatives were able to carry off all the Interport events for the first time in several years.

The high wind which did a lot to mar the first days' fixtures, and was responsible for the postponement of one Interport event, had greatly moderated and the water behind the breakwater was considerably smoother when the hour for commencing the programme was reached. The water beyond the breakwater however was crested with white horses and it was early seen that as on the previous day the races would have to be held inside the Club Captain, Mr. G. C. Allcock, as starter and umpire, went over the course early in the afternoon and gave his decision that with the exception of the single sculls and the Interport pairs, the water at the mouth of the breakwater was rideable by the heavier boats and the distances for the other two events would be reduced to 3/4 of a mile.

The main interest of course centred around the Interport races and excitement ran high among the supporters of the two ports and generally it was thought that Kobe were slightly the better favoured team for the fours. There was no need for pessimism however as Yokohama walked away from Kobe in each race, winning by an ample margin in very good times. As each of the crews returned to the boat house they were warmly applauded by the spectators, every member of them being taken from the boat and carried shoulder high to the verandah where they were further ovated.

As the afternoon advanced the Verandah of the boat house was a scene of animation and beauty. The lady supporters of the different crews, many of them wearing the colours of their champions, turning up in force and loudly applauding the successful boat team on its return to the Club house. During the afternoon, tea was served under the presidency of Mrs. E. W. Frazar who

later distributed the prizes to the fortunate winners.

The following is a description of the events as they occurred. The figures before the names of the boats indicate their position at the start of the race, station No. 1 being close to the breakwater.

Race No. 1. SENIOR FOURS. 1 Mile.	
IV.—Boat No. 1.	
	lbs.
Bow. S. Stephens	154
2. G. L. James	150
3. A. R. Hall	148
Stroke. W. G. Crockam	137
Cox. L. Motu	140
III.—Boat No. 4.	
	lbs.
Bow. G. M. Brockhurst	135
2. R. H. Box	140
3. H. J. Hearne	156
Stroke. W. P. James	154
Cox. J. F. James	120

II.—Boat No. 2.	
	lbs.
Bow. F. Stone	145
2. G. Charlesworth	137
3. F. M. Flanagan	150
Stroke. W. G. Crockam	142
Cox. D. L. Abbey	120

I.—Boat No. 3.	
	lbs.
Bow. R. Wallace	128
2. B. Deveson	128
3. G. A. Neville	154
Stroke. W. G. Nicolle	145
Cox. L. Andreis	113

There was no delay in getting these four boats away. Crockam caught first water but his boat came back to the others, giving Nicolle a slight lead. As the boats pulled over the entrance to the breakwater, where a steady swell was coming in, Crockam and James were stroking in equal time and were slightly in the lead. Getting into quieter water again Graham opened out his stroke and rapidly overhauled the leaders and a very spirited race followed. Nicolle's boat however soon began to die away and Graham stroked his across the line by one and a half lengths from James in 8 min. 42 1/2 secs.

Race No. 2. INTERPORT FOURS. 1 1/4 Mile.	
II.—Yokohama.	
	lbs.
Bow. K. M. M. Tresize	153
2. J. L. Graham	150
3. J. E. Laffin	155
Stroke. L. Stornebrink	142
Cox. D. L. Abbey	120

I.—Kobe.	
	lbs.
Bow. J. Helm	157
2. H. E. Reynell	171
3. R. C. Bowden	161
Stroke. C. L. Timm	171
Cox. B. Ornstein	115

This, the main race for the day, caused considerable excitement and the relative positions of the two boats were signalled during the race from the Umpires launch to those ashore. Kobe who had the position nearest the breakwater was first away and secured a small lead which, however, they were not able to maintain, as Stornebrink gradually brought his boat up level and had a slight advantage as the swell at the entrance to the breakwater was negotiated. The lead was gradually increased and at a point about half way over the course he had a lead of several lengths from Kobe. The race was then practically over, as it could be seen that Kobe was experiencing some difficulty in keeping together and their boat was rolling badly. Amid much excitement from the boat house Yokohama crossed the line in 9 min. 3 3/5 secs. some fifteen lengths from Kobe who passed the stake boat in 9 min. 36 secs. for the distance. On reaching the boat-house the Yokohama crew were given a rousing reception and chaired from the boat to the pavilion.

Race No. 3. JUNIOR FOURS. 1/4 Mile.	
II.—Green Boat.	
	lbs.
Bow. W. Blundell	135
2. M. Apcar	150
3. P. Hornstein	113
Stroke. L. Andreis	113
Cox. W. Russell	116

I.—Blue Boat.	
	lbs.
Bow. G. Komor	123
2. G. R. Bardens	145
3. J. da Costa	155
Stroke. G. N. Brockhurst	135
Cox. G. Charlesworth	137

Colours—Navy Blue.

III.—Black Boat.		lbs.
Bow. E. W. Esdale	115	
2. H. E. Gilbert	155	
3. F. E. Bunting	155	
Stroke. O. F. Moccook	135	
Cox. D. L. Abbey	130	

Colours—Black and Gold.

The juniors were got away after little difficulty. Andreis cut first water and assumed the lead followed by Moccook who, however, early gave way to Brockhurst and the same order was maintained throughout the race. Andreis bringing his crew home two lengths ahead of Brockhurst in 7 min. 20 1/3 secs.

Race No. 4. INTERPORT PAIRS.		1/4 Mile.
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II.—Boat No. 2.		lbs.
Bow. J. E. Laffin	155	
Stroke. K. M. M. Treize	153	
Cox. W. Shields	120	

I.—Boat No. 3.		lbs.
Bow. J. Helm	157	
Stroke. C. L. Timm	171	
Cox. B. Orstein	115	

This, the second in importance, of the interport events brought out as much enthusiasm as the four and despite the criticism which had been made as to the respective merits of the crews to represent Yokohama. Laffin and Treize were able to show that they were well fitted to defend Yokohama's honour. Kobe again had drawn the inside position and on the crack of the gun made the same flying start giving them a slight advantage. Treize and Laffin however, rowing very steadily, soon overhauled Timm and when half the course was covered had a substantial lead which they gradually increased despite Kobe's efforts to keep up. Yokohama winning the third of the interport events amid much applause by four lengths from Kobe in 7 min. 5 1/4 secs. Kobe's time was 7 min. 16 1/2 secs.

Race No. 5. SCRATCH FOURS.		lbs.
V.—White Boat.		
Bow. L. Andreis	113	
2. Bardens	156	
3. Hearne	171	
Stroke. Reynell	159	
Cox. Flanagan	159	

IV.—Red Boat.		
Stroke. J. Helm	12	
III.—Black Boat.		
Stroke. W. Graham	11	
II.—Green Boat.		
Stroke. Weed	0	
I.—Blue Boat.		
Stroke. James	11	

This race caused considerable surprise as it brought out five crews. The course rowed was under half a mile and both the boats which were placed were stroked by Kobe visitors who deserved this smile from Dame Fortune. Reynell brought his crew over the line in 2.17 1/2 secs. from Helm, who following closely caught the Judge's eye 5 seconds later.

INTERPORT SINGLE SCULLS.		1/4 Mile.
Race No. 6. II.—Boat No.		
Yokohama.		lbs.
S. A. Vincent	155	
I.—Boat No.		lbs.
Kobe.		
C. L. Timm	171	

After some delay it was agreed to row this race as the Kobe representative after getting into the water, decided that the water was not too rough for the shells. Kobe again had the inside position and both men got away well together. Vincent however promptly took the lead and was soon many lengths away from Timm who when half the course was covered gave up the contest allowing Vincent to paddle home in 6 min. 42 1/2 secs.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

Immediately on the conclusion of the Interport single sculls, the friends of the prize winners assembled in the main Club room for the distribution. The prizes were extremely handsome and consisted of silver cups of a variety of designs bearing beneath a handsomely enamelled copy of the Club house flag, an appropriately en-

graved title setting forth the event for which it was awarded. The prizes for the Interport events consisted of suitably designed and engraved gold medallions neatly slung on a silver gateway.

Mr. V. R. Bowden, the Club President, in introducing Mrs. Frazar, referred to the success of the meeting and said that Yokohama should be doubly pleased at their success as they had carried off all the honours and, that last year Kobe had wiped them out, this year they had been able to return the compliment. However, he was sure they (Kobe) would take it in good part.

Mrs. Frazar was then asked to distribute the prizes which she did in appropriate terms to each winner. In presenting the prizes to the Interport "four" crew she said had something to say to the assembly generally. She wished to point out with considerable pride that it was the first time in four years that Yokohama had won this event and that it was an interesting fact that the whole crew had been born in Japan. Each winner as he stepped forward down an alleyway kept by the Boy Scouts with crossed staves, to receive his prize, received an ovation from his friends.

At the conclusion of the distribution Mrs. Frazar called for three cheers and a tiger for Yokohama which was enthusiastically given.

Before the assemblage broke up, Mr. Bowden said he had the usual pleasing duty of thanking Mrs. Frazar for having presided over the tea table and in presenting the prizes. In presenting her with a magnificent basket of flowers he called upon those present to give three cheers for Mrs. Frazar and in which he hoped that Mrs. Frazar's lady helpers would consider themselves most heartily included.

THE INTERPORT DINNER.

In the evening, the competitors and their many friends, numbering sixty-three in all, assembled at the Hotel Belmont for the Interport dinner and a right merry evening it proved to be. Mr. G. V. Bowden, the President, occupied the Chair and was most ably supported. Cheered by an excellent repast, good wines, and the knowledge of having participated in or witnessed good sport, there was a bonhomie and good humour about the gathering that was irresistible. The speeches were also excellent and not too long. There was unmistakably a note of triumph in those that came from the Yokohama side but that was only natural seeing that last year, Kobe practically wiped the home crews out; therefore a little exultation was fully pardonable; at the same time there was no crowing over a fallen foe, but on the contrary, every praise was given to the visitors for their good struggles and sportsmanlike attributes.

At the conclusion of the dinner, the tables were cleared and a capital concert was held which lasted until midnight. Those who kindly contributed to the enjoyment of the evening were Messrs. Windett, Cooper, Gooch, Brady, and Stanley.

THE INCREASE IN PRICES.

While the abnormal increase in the price of rice now forms a burning question, the increase in the prices of other commodities is no less remarkable, as the following comparative statistics indicate:—

	Price obtaining in May 1902.	Price obtaining in May 1912.	Increase.
Soy (per cask)	1.49	1.78	.29
Miso (per ten kwamme)	2.77	3.33	.56
Salt (per 100 kin)	.57	2.53	1.96
Sugar (per 100 kin)	9.60	16.35	6.75
Tea (per kwamme)	4.20	6.06	1.86
Dried bonito (per k'me.)	41.00	62.00	21.00
Saké (per carload)	32.00	46.00	14.20
Eggs (per 10 kwamme)	13.20	15.00	1.80
Firewood (per 100 b'dies)	2.30	3.57	1.07
Charcoal (per bag)	.40	.62	.22
Iwaki coal (per 10,000 kin)	28.00	36.00	8.00
Kerosene oil (per case)	2.90	4.27	1.37

The prices cited above are wholesale prices, the retail prices, of course, being higher. On the

other hand the ratio of increase in wages is not so remarkable, ranging between 30 to 60 sen. The hardships of the working classes are further increased by higher rents which they have to pay, these having risen by about 50 per cent. during the past decade.

In view of the cry now being raised as to the hardships in living in consequence of the radical increase in the prices of rice and other daily necessities of life, the Metropolitan Police Bureau has caused inquiries to be made as to the effect of the enhancement. The Bureau has, it is said, arrived at the conclusion that the increase bears more hardly on the class of people who live on an income of about 40 yen a month, rather than on the labouring classes. It is nevertheless, undeniable that cases of theft have greatly increased through the difficulty in living, as the following criminal statistics indicate:—

	March.	April.
Number cases. Number cases.		
1910	1,697	1,699
1911	1,424	1,233
1912	1,520	1,659

THE SALT MONOPOLY.

Mr. Hamaguchi, Director of the Monopoly Bureau, is quoted as saying that a reduction in the price of salt, which has shown a great increase since the establishment of the monopoly, is now generally desired. Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, announced in the Diet the intention of the authorities to reduce the price, but the Monopoly Bureau has so far received no instruction concerning a reduction. Prior to the monopolization salt was quoted at an average of 3 1/2 sen per sho for the three years 1901 to 1903, but the price rose to 8 1/2 sen on enforcement of the monopolization in 1904. Subsequently the price began to fall gradually, until it was quoted at 7.4 sen in 1910 and at 6.3 sen this year. As compared with the average price obtaining prior to the monopolization this is an increase of 3 sen per sho. The annual consumption of salt is about 10 sho per capita, and therefore, the burden of the salt tax does not exceed 20 or 30 sen per capita a year. The national revenue arising from this source reaches a total of some 11 million yen, occupying a large percentage of the total revenue. Moreover, the quality of the salt has been greatly improved since the monopolization. The proportion of pure salt was 69 per cent. prior to the monopolization, but it now reaches 80 per cent., and thus the people are being supplied with a purer article. The Government has made an effort to equalize the price of salt on the market, and also to reduce it. It bore 10 per cent. of the cost of transportation during the six years ended 1910, but it now bears 75 per cent. of the cost, that is 15 sen out of 20 sen per 100 kin. An effective method for reducing the price lies in lowering the wholesale price, which now stands at 2.35 yen per 100 kin. The matter needs further study, however, as it greatly affects the net profits of the monopoly.

THE TELEPHONE SERVICE.

With reference to the accelerated telephone scheme, Mr. Munal, Director of the Tokyo Telegraph Administration Bureau, is quoted as saying that the Central Telephone Office will accept applications for ten days commencing from the 1st proximo. The applications are expected to reach a large number, and discretion will be exercised by the authorities in their acceptance, so as to ensure a fair distribution of the prescribed number of apparatus. The procedure in making applications is to file an application for ordinary subscription in addition to an application for the accelerated installation. Precedence in applications will not be considered in granting the apparatus, so that intending applicants need not show a special hurry in filing their applications, which may be sent through the registered mail, within the specified dates. If the application for installation is rejected, the application for ordinary subscription will still remain valid.

ARMY REFORM.

READJUSTMENT OF ARMY EXPENDITURE.

A certain well-informed publicist discusses in the columns of the *Fiji Shimpō* the readjustment of army expenditure. He points out that while public opinion is unanimous as to the necessity of curtailment of the army expenditure, there is a difference as to the amount it is possible to curtail. Some publicists think it possible to reduce the expenditure by one-third, but this is no easy task without radically overhauling the present army system. It is equally impossible under the present conditions of national finance to attempt any army extension that would satisfy the demands of the war authorities. The army organization stands on a war basis, that is to say, the size of the standing army is fixed on the force the Empire must place in the field in war time for national defence, and it is impossible to retrench the expenditure by the abolition of a few bureaux as is the case with other departments. The curtailment of the army expenditure must therefore be approached from two different points of view, viz. the reduction of armaments and administrative readjustment, any confusion of which is liable to lead to error.

In considering what curtailment is practicable under the present army system, it must be noted that the item which provides the largest outlay in the army budget is the salary account, which involves an expenditure of 22,700,000 yen. This sum is distributed as under:—

	Number.	Ratio per general.
Generals.....	144	—
Senior and Junior officers...	12,474	86.6
Senin rank officials.....	339	2.2
Highest non-commissioned officers.....	1,893	13.1
Non-commissioned officers..	2,436	148.8
Hanin rank officials.....	1,819	12.6
Privates.....	194,874	1,353.9

Thus there are 68 senior and junior officers, 13 higher non-commissioned officers, 148 non-commissioned officers and 1,353 privates to every general. Now, 1,358 privates constitute about two infantry battalions in time of peace, and it must be confessed that the number of officers is too many in proportion to the number of privates. As a matter of fact, modern military ideas tend to a belief that a large number of officers is beneficial for the training of soldiers, great importance being attached to trivial formalities. The officers have therefore been increased and extra officers on active service are kept for duties which are properly assigned to reservists in time of war. It may be true that the reservists are not so efficient on those on active service, but since a vast number of reservists are kept in the army organization and a large number of army corps are organized with reservists for special field services in war time, it is self-contradictory to keep and train officers alone both in peace and war. If the reservists are inefficient, adequate measures should be taken to maintain their efficiency, instead of relying on the so called one-year reserve conscripts for the supply of trained officers. The number of junior officers can be curtailed by twenty per cent. without affecting the efficiency, not only in the regiments, but also in the army offices, Tokyo Military Governor General's office, Military schools, Army Headquarters in Chosen, Manchuria and Formosa, and also in gendarmerie stations, where about thirty officials of the rank of general can be eliminated without serious inconvenience. It is also possible to reduce the number of senior officers by twenty or thirty per cent. in regiments, army offices, schools, arsenals, garrison hospitals, General Staff office, Army Paymasters Bureaux, Saghalien garrison, etc. A similar curtailment can also be effected among the civil officials attached to courts martial, garrison prisons, and on the army offices in Chosen, Manchuria and Formosa. Through this curtailment it is possible to decrease the salary account

in the Budget by about twenty per cent. as under:—

	Budget Account. Yen.	Decrease.	Per cent.
Generals.....	700,351	140,070	20
Senior and Junior Officers.....	11,265,573	2,253,114	20
Senin rank officials..	49,883	81,976	20
Hanin rank officials	996,369	149,455	15
Total.....	13,372,176	2,624,615	20

The proposed decrease of 2,624,615 yen is nearly one half of the increase in officers' salaries voted in the 25th session of the Imperial Diet, and the curtailment may be considered appropriate. The readjustment of office expenses also demands attention. There are no offices whose expenses are more lavish than the military offices in Chosen, Manchuria and Formosa. The telegraph and post account of the Headquarters of the Formosan Garrison is greater than that of the War Office. Owing to formalities, the dispatches of this office are allowed to wait to the last moment, when it is found too late to send them by mail, and they have therefore to be wired at large expense. By the introduction of more businesslike methods it is possible to cut down the account, which stands at 1,407,571 yen in the Budget, by 281,514 yen, or nearly twenty per cent.

THE SILK TRADE IN CHINA.

Mr. Minami, Commercial Commissioner in Shanghai, wires to the Foreign Office under the date of the 23rd instant that the sale of cocoons in Shaohseng, Chenghsien, and Hingchang is about equal to the figures recorded for last year, the dried cocoons purchased amounting to about 9,000 tons, while the quality is far better than those dealt in last year. The purchase price in Chenghsien is 40 dollars per 100 *kin* of raw cocoons, while the farmers are selling them at some ten dollars cheaper. It is expected that 100 *kin* of raw silk will fetch about 617 *taels* in the Shanghai market. In Suhsien the cocoons this year are estimated at about 4,000 tons or 1,000 tons in excess of last year's supply. Raw cocoons are quoted at 32 dollars for 100 *kin* or 10 dollars cheaper than last year. The production of re-reels last year was two thirds of the total production, but it will reach to about one-half this year. In Hangchow some 1,000 tons of dried cocoons are offered at 32 dollars per 100 *kin*. Remittances in silver are now fairly safe and 80 per cent. of the purchases in Shaohseng are paid for in silver and the remaining 20 per cent. in paper money. The farmers are anxious to dispose of their goods owing to the increase in the price of rice. The production of re-reels will be smaller than last year owing to local conditions. The market at Wushi was opened from the 23rd instant. The official quotation is put at 31 dollars, but the cocoons are changing hands at from 30 to 35 dollars. In view of the low price the sellers are holding back their goods. The production of cocoons in the district is exceptionally good, showing 10 or 20 per cent. increase over last year.

CONTRAVENTION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

According to the investigations of the Police Bureau of the Home Office, the cases of contravention of the Election Law pending in the law courts throughout the country up to the 25th instant numbered 384. The persons implicated totalling 2,733. When classified according to the political parties, the number and nature of the offences are as under:—

	Corruption.		Bribery.		Threats.	
	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.
Seiyu-kai.....	35	412	116	867	15	36
Popular party.	14	203	75	528	8	11
Central party.	4	91	22	195	5	5
Independent..	62	89	37	317	7	15
Total.....	114	1,495	280	1,907	35	67

CHOSEN FINANCES.

A rumour is current that as it is impossible to obtain from the Bank of Chosen an accommodation of 25 million yen for the Chosen works fund, and there is no prospect of issuing the loan successfully on the home market, the Government has under contemplation raising it abroad. The authorities, however, repudiate the rumour as a pure fabrication. It is stated that the specie reserve of the Bank of Chosen amounts to about 8 million, while the issue of convertible notes totals 24 million yen, that is about three times the amount of the specie reserve. It is therefore evident that the Bank has no power to make a further issue. The Government loan from the Bank last year amounted to 10 million yen, and the balance of 2,500,000 yen is to be raised in the course of the present fiscal year, together with 15 million yen for the works allotted to the present fiscal year. As the 10 million yen advance is to be redeemed shortly, the Government will have to raise 25 million yen by the issue of works bonds. Towards the beginning of the year the authorities were confident of the possibility of the issue of the works bonds in the home market, but the depreciation of the market price of Government securities and the rise in the loan rate have rendered a successful issue rather uncertain. The authorities are of the opinion that the 10 million yen loan contracted for last year can be left unredeemed and five million yen out of the 15 million yen—the portion of the works fund for the present fiscal year—can be dispensed with; but that it is essential to raise 10 million yen towards the end of the year. Inasmuch as fifteen million yen was recently deposited with the Bank of Chosen by the Oriental Development Company, the Bank is able to carry this sum to the specie reserve and to issue 15 million yen worth of convertible notes, and as the fund needed by the Oriental Development Company in the course of the present fiscal year does not exceed 4 million yen, the Bank is in a position to appropriate 11 million yen for the accommodation of the Chosen Government. Moreover, as it is considered inadvisable to seek accommodation on the foreign market for such a small sum as 25 million yen, the authorities will not resort to a foreign loan but will devise adequate measures to meet necessities after a fair estimate has been made of the capital to be introduced through the medium of the Franco-Japanese Bank to meet Japan's portion of the Chinese political loan.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT CHARGES.

The Tokyo Electric Light Company has published an official announcement on the reduction of the lighting charges which is to come into operation on and after July 1st next. According to the revised schedule the rates are as under:—

Candlepower.	Sen.
5	50
10	80
16	1.10
24	1.50
32	1.90
50	2.90
80 (Tungsten)	2.30
100	5.00

A special 10 per cent. allowance will be granted to subscribers paying over 50 yen, 15 per cent. to those paying over 200 yen, and 20 per cent. to those paying over 500 yen a month.

The charges for electric current are fixed as under:—

Under 30 kilowatts.....	18 sen per kilowatt.
Over 3 kilowatts.....	14 sen per each additional kilowatt.
Over 5 kilowatts.....	10 sen per each additional kilowatt.

The charges for the use of metres is fixed at 15 sen for every 10 lamps; with 2 sen extra per additional lamp, up to 20 lamps, after which one sen extra will be charged per lamp up to 50 lamps and one yen per 50 lamps and over.

CHINA'S FINANCES.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE.

The *Tokyo Asahi's* Shanghai correspondent wires that in a telegram dispatched to the provincial authorities Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, explains his position *vis-à-vis* the foreign bankers, who claim the right of supervision over China's finances on the conclusion of the loan, thus arousing the indignation of the public and causing vehement attacks to be made on the Minister in the Press. Hsiung does not attempt to vindicate himself, but devotes himself to the facts. When the portfolio of Finance was first assigned him, he declined five times to accept it, knowing well the difficult nature of the duties, but was eventually compelled to accept it. The national coffer was then almost empty, there being about 30,000 *taels* left at Nanking and about 60,000 *taels* in Peking. When he got to Peking, Tang Shao-i was in negotiation with the foreign bankers, who persistently demanded the disbandment of the troops under supervision of the Military Attachés to the foreign Legations, and also the right of supervision over the financial reforms and the revenue and expenditure of China. Both sides showed an unyielding attitude and the negotiations came to a deadlock. The public also began to assume a disquieting attitude and various wild rumours were circulated. In this situation he succeeded Tang Shao-i in the conduct of the negotiations, and on subsequent *pourparlers* he succeeded in obtaining the withdrawal of the supervisory right over the disbandment of the Chinese troops; but in the matter of the war expenditure the foreign bankers demanded that the Customs revenue should be entrusted to the management of the representatives of the Four Powers syndicate, and also that foreign auditors should be appointed in the Finance Department to supervise the use of the proceeds of the advances then payable to China. He opposed the demand as to the appointment of foreign auditors, since it would place China on the level of Chosen under the Japanese regime. The foreign bankers refused to yield, on the strength of the precedent that under the Manchurian regime foreign auditors had been appointed to audit the accounts concerning the railway loan. He then brought forward a proposition that a Special Board should be created in the Finance Department, composed of Chinese and foreign auditors, the latter being nominated by the foreign bankers, their duties being to sign their names to accounts for the disbursement of the proceeds of the advances paid to China. The Board would be dissolved when the advances had been wholly paid out by October next. He was compelled to advance this proposal under sheer necessity. He explained it to the State Council and obtained its approval. Thus he in no way acted on his own discretion in the matter. He was aware of his incompetency in diplomatic affairs, but he valued his honour most. The public were no doubt aware that he opposed the foreign loan and also the joint enterprises by the Chinese and foreign capitalists in industrial undertakings in China. When he joined the Ministry he saw the crisis in State Affairs if the negotiations with the foreign bankers were suspended. Both the northern and southern armies were in urgent need of funds, this being especially the case at Nanking. Telegrams continued to reach him that the soldiers there were subsisting on rice-gruel, and that the officers and men of the northern army were in cotton uniforms. The telegrams received between the 1st and the 5th April reported that the soldiers threatened to rise in mutiny if 800,000 *taels* were not promptly paid. Hwang Hsing also repeatedly telegraphed him that great disturbances might arise if funds were not forthcoming within two days, and disclaimed all responsibility for any occurrence arising in default of an immediate remittance. The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce also demanded that the Shanghai Magistracy should refund the loan of 3,500,000 *taels* made by it.

Demands also came simultaneously from the Magistrates in Shansi, Chengsi, Kansu, Hsin-kiang, Anhui, Shensi, Hupeh, Fukien and other provinces for immediate remittances. The Government was therefore compelled to raise a loan on the land and buildings of the Bank of China to fill these demands. What could he do under these circumstances? When he met the United States Minister last, the Minister advised him to minimize the expenditure, but not to contract foreign loans. The British Minister also advised him that in view of the popular opposition to a foreign loan, it was advisable for China to try and raise a domestic loan. Foreigners being also in favour of a domestic loan, he earnestly desired to raise the fund on the home market. The foreign bankers had already paid China 3,000,000 *taels* in advance, the proceeds of which were used for urgent needs. The seven articles of the loan terms were contained in an official note, but not in the memorandum of the loan agreement. If an arrangement be made by the provinces within the next few days, whereby 7,000,000 *taels* can be paid to the central Government monthly, he would be ready to cancel the foreign loan. The measure would be conducive to the welfare of the State. Inasmuch, however, as the fund required by the Peking and Nanking Governments, as well as other provinces, is large, it is desirable that each province should send a representative to Peking to inspect the actual conditions of the State finances, in order to share with him the responsibility for financial administration, and save the country from the impending crisis. He is not attempting to shrink from responsibility, but he desires to administer the finances in conformity with public opinion. Any suggestions in this direction will be gladly received.

NAVAL AND MILITARY REFORMS.

Paymaster Inspector Katagiri is continuing his series of letters to the *Tokyo Asahi* on naval and military reforms, more especially in regard to the readjustment of the budget, which he holds can be reduced considerably.

In his latest contribution he discusses how the expenditure can be further reduced. The account for travelling expenses, he notes, aggregates 1,689,050 *yen*, and is subdivided into five items, viz. allowances for officers proceeding to new ports, for official tours, for conscripts joining the colours, for transportation of prisoners, and for invalids. The appropriation made under the second item is especially large and admits of curtailment by at least 20 per cent., as most of the business can well be transacted by letter, telegram and telephone. The other items also admit of a reduction by 5 to 10 per cent. all round, and thus 199,691 *yen* might be saved as under:—

	Budget estimate.	Reduction.	Percentage.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
First item	456,145	45,614	10
Second item	584,601	116,916	20
Third item	553,615	29,680	5
Fourth item	47,411	4,741	10
Fifth item	47,188	4,718	10
Total	1,689,050	199,691	11

The miscellaneous expenses provide an outlay of 1,497,813 *yen*, which also admits of a reduction by some 20 per cent. as under:—

	Budget estimate.	Reduction.	Percentage.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Allowance to instructors	80,082	28,024	30
Allowance to employers	43,308	8,660	20
Wages to labourers	1,054,082	143,072	45
Clothing, etc.	72,299	2,163	3
House and land rent	112,979	22,595	20
Reception expenses	74,143	37,071	50
Carriage hire, etc.	20,133	4,026	20
Drainage, etc.	157,177	47,153	30
Total	1,490,813	256,085	17

The ration account also admits of readjustment.

The chief rations of the soldiers consists of barley and rice. Now the difference of price between rice and barley amounts to 4 or 4.50 *yen* per *koku* on an average, but no distinction is made in the Budget. The rations in Chosen and Manchuria are put at 18 *sen* per *capita*, and at 24 *sen* in Karafuto. This is too high and admits of 25 per cent. reduction when calculated on the price obtaining in the market. Moreover, the officers and non-commissioned officers living outside the barracks in those place are allowed to draw extra pay for their food, in addition to extra pay allowed to those serving there. The extra allowance for food reaches a total of 589,000 *yen*. This also admits of a radical readjustment, and at least twenty per cent. can be written off by revising the allowances made to the highest non commissioned officers and above. This remark also applies to the provision for war horses, which is always estimated above the maximum price ruling in the market. The reduction admissible in these accounts totals about 1,153,023 *yen*, as shown under:—

	Budget estimate.	Reduction.	Percentage.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Rice and barley	6,566,296	525,303	30
Extra rations allowed for troops stationed abroad	508,017	129,004	25
Revision of the rations allowed to officers stationed in Chosen, Manchuria, etc.	—	50,000	—
Provisions for horses	948,719	234,615	30
Hay for home use	1,352,298	135,329	10
Straw " "	443,055	22,152	5
Cost of transportation of provisions at home	86,207	8,620	10
Total	9,584,992	1,153,023	18

The old uniforms are given to the reservists called out for two or three weeks' drill every year, for which 2.4 *sen* is included in the Budget for repairs, the sum amounting to 113,400 *yen*. This appropriation is excessive for the use for such a brief period. The cost of transportation of uniforms is also put at 165,571 *yen*, the total weight being 1,324,000 *kwamine*, that is 7.3 *kwamine* per *capita*. This is also evidently excessive and admits of curtailment. The same remark also applies to the cost of transportation of arms and munitions, which is estimated at 56 *yen* per ton at home. It is possible to obtain 98,530 *yen* from these sources by effecting some 20 per cent. reduction on the estimates.

KOBE AND TOKYO TENNIS.

The following is the score in the Lawn Tennis Match between Tokyo and Kobe played on the 27th ultimo:—

SINGLES.	
Yamazaki bt. Roper	4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 0-6, 6-2.
Condit bt. Wright	6-2, 6-2.
Brinkley bt. McPherson	6-3, 6-0.
Azabuki bt. Crane	6-2, 8-6.
Kuroda drew Stephens	7-5, 9-9 unfinished.
Butt bt. Atkinson	4-6, 6-3, 6-0.
Piggott lost Lucas	7-5, 0-6, 6-3.
Kindersley lost Crane	6-2, 6-2.
DOUBLES.	
Roper and Stephens	Tokyo.
Brinkley and Condit	7-5, 6-4.
McPherson and Wright	Tokyo.
Azabuki and Yamazaki	6-1, 5-1.
Atkinson and Lucas	Tokyo.
Kuroda and Butt	6-3, 3-6, 6-2.
Crane and Crane	Kobe.
Kindersley and Piggott	3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Roper and Stephens	Tokyo.
Azabuki and Yamazaki	6-3, 7-5.
McP. and Wright	Tokyo.
Brinkley and Condit	6-0, 6-3.
Atkinson and Lucas	Kobe.
Kindersley and Piggott	2-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Crane and Crane	Tokyo.
Kuroda and Butt	5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

THE LATE DR. KNOX.

The following minute has been entered in the proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Japan:—

Once more the Society loses from its rolls an honoured name. The Reverend George William Knox, D.D., LL.D., whose lamented death at Seoul, on the eve of a contemplated visit to Japan, on April 25th, has just been announced, first came to this country in 1877 as a missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

Dr. Knox from the outset of his career was greatly interested in Japanese studies, which he prosecuted with unusual success and soon became one of the most effective speakers of his day.

Aside from his missionary work, in which he showed deep thoughtfulness and indefatigable industry, he occupied for a time the chair of Philosophy and Ethics in the Imperial University of Tokyo, with conspicuous success.

He early joined this Society and throughout his residence in Japan he was most active in promoting its interests, serving it for several years as Councillor. He was twice elected a Vice-President. His essay entitled "A Japanese Philosopher" was one of the first serious attempts on the part of Western scholars to set forth the philosophy associated with the life of Old Japan and elicited a most interesting discussion.

Dr. Knox returned to America in 1892 and after some years of pastoral service he joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary, first in 1897 as lecturer on Apologetics and two years later as Professor of Philosophy and the History of Religion. While giving himself with marked assiduity and success to his duties as a theological teacher he maintained his interest in Japan and in this Society, as the appended bibliography will show.

Dr. Knox was a man of wide influence both as an author and as a lecturer, but not less, one may well say, as a man, through his social intercourse. He lived a fruitful life and gave promise of still more years of fruitful service in the field which he had chosen.

Bibliography: In the Japanese language:—*A Brief System of Theology*; *Outline of Homiletics*; *The Mystery of Life*; *The Basis of Ethics*. In English:—*A Japanese Philosopher*, Transactions of the Asiatic Society, 1893; *Autobiography of Arai Hakuseki*, Transactions of Asiatic Society, 1902; *The Christian Point of View* (in cooperation with Francis Brown and A. C. McGiffert), 1902; *The Direct and Fundamental Proofs of the Christian Religion*, 1903; *Japanese Life in Town and Country*, 1904; *The Spirit of the Orient*, 1906; *The Development of Religion in Japan*, 1907; *The Religion of Jesus*, 1909.

INTERPORT TENNIS.

The following were the results of the Kobe v. Yokohama Tennis matches played in the Bluff Gardens on the 25th ult.:—

SINGLES.

Kobe	v.	Yokohama.	Best of Five Sets.
Roper	"	Chapman, won by Chapman,	6-0; 6-2; 6-4.
Wright	"	Van R. Smith, won by Van R. Smith,	4-6; 6-1; 7-5; 6-2.
Lucas	"	Bastin, won by Bastin,	6-2; 6-4; 7-9; 7-9; 6-3.
J. E. Crane	"	Stuart, won by Crane,	5-7; 5-0; 2-6; 6-4; 6-4.
Rice	"	Carr, won by Carr,	6-1; 6-3; 6-3.
McPherson	"	Hannaford, won by Hannaford,	3-6; 12-10; 6-1; 6-2.
Atkinson	"	Goold, won by Goold,	6-2; 8-6; 4-6; 6-2.
R. G. Crane	"	Cox, won by Crane,	6-0; 6-1; 6-1.
DOUBLES.			
Roper and Stephens	v.	Carr and Van R. Smith,	won by Carr and Smith 4-6; 6-1; 6-4; 6-4.
Wright and McPherson	v.	Chapman and Hannaford,	won by Chapman and Hannaford 6-1; 7-5; 6-1.
Lucas and Atkinson	v.	Cox and Stuart,	won by Cox and Stuart 7-5; 6-3; 6-3.
R. G. and C. E. Crane	v.	Goold and Bastin	Unfinished on account of light.
At finish, Kobe 2 Sets, Yokohama 1 Set.			

THE JAPAN-CHINA TRADE.

The foreign trade returns with China for the second ten days of the current month show a marked increase over the figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year. This is especially so in the case of Central China, the foreign trade with which, valued at 840,000 yen last year, has increased to 2,630,000 yen this year. Taking the total from the beginning of the year, however, the trade with Central China shows a slight decrease as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year, the former amounting to 19,820,000 yen while the latter aggregates over 20,490,000 yen. This shows that the trade with Central China has only recently begun to recover.

As for the import trade, it has increased by 60 per cent. in Manchuria, but decreased by 60 per cent. in Central China, the returns up to the current month since January amounting to 14,000,000 yen as against 24,000,000 yen recorded for the preceding corresponding period. To speak generally, the trade with China, which suffered a severe blow as a result of the revolutionary disturbance, is now steadily recovering, as peace and order are being gradually restored. The following table shows the details:—

EXPORTS.					
		First Ten Days of May.		Since January.	
		1912	1911	1912	1911
		(Thou. yen)	(Thou. yen)	(Thou. yen)	(Thou. yen)
Manchuria	.....	291	347	2,366	2,466
North China	.....	985	769	8,426	7,423
Central China	.....	2,629	841	19,828	20,493
South China	.....	25	21	280	250
Total	.....	3,932	1,980	30,900	30,612
IMPORTS.					
Manchuria	.....	841	233	2,723	246
North China	.....	333	214	2,537	4,124
Central China	.....	618	925	8,777	16,911
South China	.....	62	95	702	919
Total	.....	1,756	1,469	14,742	24,417

THE JAPAN HYGIENIC ASSOCIATION.

As already reported the Japan Hygienic Association held its 30th annual general meeting on the 26th ult. at its office near Kanda bridge, Tokyo.

After Count Hijikata, President of the Association, had announced the opening of the meeting, and Dr. Kanazumi, Director General, had laid before the assemblage the report and accounts, Dr. Miyake delivered an address upon the increase of tuberculosis.

Dr. Kitajima, reporting on the progress in hygienics abroad, referred to the satisfactory results of the Infant Protection Law, as well as the Labour Classes Relief Law as enforced in Germany, and concluded that the recent tendency for a gradual decrease in the consumption of alcoholic beverages in that country should be attributed not to the high rate of the Customs tariff alone, but to the dissemination of hygienic knowledge among the people at large.

After a series of congratulatory speeches from Mr. Hara, Minister of Home Affairs, and others, read by their respective representatives, Dr. Kusakabe delivered a lecture on the "Disposal of Drainwater."

Dr. Kitasato, Vice-President of the organization, gave some interesting statistics as to the cases of tuberculosis, from which it appears that out of 147,516 teachers in elementary schools throughout this country, as many as 453 succumbed to tuberculosis. This, he thought, was a phenomenon by no means to be passed over unnoticed, since, under such circumstances, it was not to be gainsaid that not a few of the school children would become easily infected.

The meeting came to a close about five o'clock.

THE CHERRY-TREES FOR WASHINGTON.

Some time ago the Tokyo Municipality sent to Mrs. Taft 3,000 young cherry trees. A letter of thanks has now been received, which reads:—

"We beg to acknowledge, with great thanks, the receipt of the three thousand young cherry trees which the Tokyo Municipality was kind enough to present to Mrs. Taft. They arrived in perfect order and have been found by the experts of our Agricultural Department, to whose close examination they were submitted, to be quite sound and in very excellent condition. Accordingly they were at once planted in Potomac Park.

"Mrs. Taft personally planted the first of the trees, while the second was planted by Lady Chinda, who was present on the occasion at the invitation of Mrs. Taft.

"Under separate cover we are sending you a plan of Potomac Park. The red lines you will find in the diagram indicate the location of the cherry-trees, and the big red cross, the tree personally planted by Mrs. Taft.

"The flowers of these cherry-trees, when in bloom in spring, will certainly add a great deal to the beauty of the Park, and thus make it in future one of the most noted places of which Washington may boast.

"It may also be noted in addition that part of the cherry-trees have been planted in the public fields as a reserve, and another part in other parks within the city, while some twenty trees will in a few days be planted in the garden of the White House.

"It is our sincere desire that you would kindly convey to your people and citizens our most heartfelt thanks for their precious present, which will forever remain in our memory as a souvenir of their good will and hearty cordiality."

CONDITIONS AT NANKING.

Mr. Sudzuki, ex-Consul at Nanking, who arrived at Nagasaki on the 23rd ultimo, en route for Tokyo, has been interviewed by a Press representative. He stated that the cause of the recent disturbances started by the Kiangsi army in Nanking remains unknown, some attributing them to the instigation of the Royalists, while others credit them to disaffection among the soldiers owing to non-receipt of their pay. It seems that the disturbances had for their object general plunder. The majority of the soldiers in Nanking have already been disbanded and there now remain about 20,000 men. Tranquility has begun to prevail and the farmers are busy with the barley harvest. Business is not yet wholly revived, however. The currency in circulation is limited to Mexican dollars and the bank notes issued by the Chinese Communications Bank and foreign banks, while all others are accepted only at 60 or 70 per cent. discount. It would be difficult for the paper money of the new Government to meet ready acceptance, if it were issued at present. Some war notes are in circulation in Shanghai, but the amount is limited.

JAPAN PAINT MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Japan Paint Manufacturing Company held its semi-annual general meeting on the 22nd ultimo at its office. After general reports had been laid before the gathering, the following profit and loss account was taken up for discussion and was passed unanimously:—

	Yen.
Profit for Current term	81,558,749
Brought over from last account	27,730,628
Total Profit	109,289,377
Legal Reserve	40,708,000
Fittings	20,000,000
Special Reserve	10,000,000
Bonus and Social Expenditure	8,155,000
Dividend (10 per cent.)	41,250,000
Carried Forward	25,866,377

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

A Peking special to the *Chuwu* reports that all the Ministers of State have decided to remain in office. Tang Shao-i the Prime Minister, will attend the State Council to answer the interpellation on the Mongolian Bill.

Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, will not proceed with the negotiations on the short term loans with the syndicate until the public agitation has subsided.

A Peking journal reports that the State Council is severely criticized for having acceded to the demand for supervisory rights over the use of the proceeds of the short term loan.

The wholesale resignations tendered by the Ministers of State savours of a pre arrangement. The *Corps Diplomatique* has from the start coolly passed it unnoticed, contrary to the expectation of Yuan Shih kai and Tang Shao-i. It must be denounced as a clumsy piece of diplomacy, if China really intended to induce the syndicate to withdraw its claim for supervisory rights by such dramatic tactics; because such a Ministerial change would naturally bring the Powers concerned to a consciousness of a need for strict supervision over China's finances. The Chinese Government would probably repeat the drama pending the conclusion of the loan. The consensus of opinion in diplomatic circles is that the Powers concerned would surely not sympathize with the Chinese statesmen in the matter of supervisory rights, even if any government actually ceased to exist in China.

The Four Powers Syndicate insisted on the inspection of the number of the soldiers to be disbanded, which evoked a strong opposition from military circles in China. The Syndicate has good reason to advance the claim. It is a recognized evil in the Chinese army that the commanders present to the Government a false report on the number of soldiers to be disbanded in order to enrich themselves. The Central Government is also conscious of the existing evil, but regard it as a reward to the commanders. The soldiers to be disbanded are represented to number some 800,000 men, but in part the actual number may be much less. Taking the allowance to each soldier at 30 taels, the total expenditure amounts to some 24 million taels, but an over estimate is made by the Department of Finance in the expenditure. Estimating the soldiers to be disbanded at 300,000, the total cost will be 9 million taels. Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, estimates the cost of disbandment at 120 or 130 million taels. It is to the interests of the creditor Powers to exercise strict supervision over the disbandment and the attempt on the part of the Chinese Government to reject the proposal as an unnecessary interference, amounts to the endeavour to cover up its own evils.

MRS. KOCH.

Mrs. Koch, widow of the late celebrated Dr. Koch, arrived in Tokyo on the 25th ultimo, and is now staying at the Imperial Hotel. When interviewed by a Press representative, Mrs. Koch stated that after the death of her husband she made up her mind to start on a tour around the world. Leaving her home in October last, she extended her trip to Cambodia *via* Indo-China, where she inspected the Braman Cathedral. Thence she proceeded to Canton and stayed there nearly a month, prior to her arrival in Japan. She thought there was no country like Japan in all the world, through she regretted to note the Europeanization that had taken place during the four years intervening between her present and last visit. Foreign tourists come to Japan to break the monotony of their lives at home so it was not desirable that Japan should imitate the manners of western countries. In Kyoto she saw some purely Japanese theatrical performances, and she was to attend the Girls Technical School on the 28th instant when Madame Kumechachi was to give a dance.

THE PANAMA CANAL BILL.

The *Jiji Shimpō* quotes the remarks of an unnamed diplomat in connexion with the passage through the U.S. House of Representatives of the Panama Canal Bill on the 23rd ultimo. The original Bill provided immunity from tolls for public vessels of the United States and Cuban Republic, together with vessels of the Panama Railway Company which is under one and the same management as the Panama Canal Company, and the imposition of tolls on all other vessels at the rate of \$1.20 per ton. The House introduced an amendment exempting all the public and private vessels of the United States from tolls. It is quite natural that the Americans should desire to grant to American vessels some privileges which are withheld from foreign countries, but the discrimination is a palpable breach of the Anglo-American Treaty and some dispute will inevitably arise between the two countries on its enforcement. Public opinion in the United States is also against the amendment which will probably be overhauled in the Senate. Although public opinion is evidently against the amendment, a section of publicists hold that vessels on coast service should at least be exempted from tolls, and the opinion seems to be gaining ground. Although this is a milder proposal than that passed by the Lower House, and extenuating circumstance seem to exist in its favour, there can be no doubt that it will also constitute a breach of the Anglo-American treaty. In the event of the Senate not rejecting this sentimental demand, opposition will be raised not only in England but all over the world, and the Washington Government must be prepared to face a troublesome problem. The prohibition of the passage of the vessels, directly or indirectly owned by railway companies is an attempt to prevent the monopolization of traffic by the trans-continental railway companies. The special provision applicable to war time need no discussion, the main point at issue being the question of tolls.

JAPAN'S CHINA TRADE.

GOODS NOT UP TO SAMPLE.

Mr. Minami, Commercial Commissioner in Shanghai, reports that Japanese goods are very unpopular in the Chinese market, and no deal in porcelain, glassware, printed cottons, knitted goods, etc. can be concluded on samples. A few large Chinese houses have refused to continue transactions in Japanese goods, because of the great disparity alleged to exist between the samples and the goods actually delivered. The Commissioner warns manufacturers and traders of the serious effect this will have on Japan's China trade, if it be allowed to continue.

A Shanghai telegram to the *Chuwu* reports that, excepting cotton yarns, the importation of Japanese summer goods ceased toward the beginning of this month and Chinese merchants who made extensive purchases in anticipation of the early conclusion of the Chinese loan seem to be rather disappointed. Optimistic report were wired to Japan by some one regarding the recovery of business in the Yangtze valley, but the trade there is not altogether promising. The price of rice has risen abnormally and paper money is not being accepted. Great destitution is being felt in the cocoon and tea trade. The cocoon merchants in Shaohing and Wuhai are unloading at reduced prices, and Japanese sericulturists are in the field buying the cocoons. On the conclusion of the Chinese loan about 75,000 soldiers are to be disbanded in Nanking, Chinkiang, Suchow, Shanghai and elsewhere. The Chinese merchants are anxiously awaiting the conclusion of the loan in the hope to sell their stock to the disbanded soldiers to take home as souvenirs. In the event of the rice crop proving good this year and the loan being brought to a successful conclusion, business in the Yangtze Valley will begin to pick up.

THE POPULAR PARTY.

Commenting on the future of the Popular Party, the *Chuwu* writes that contrary to the confident expectations that the bureaucratic element of the party would be swept away in the General Election, those members who are recognized as purely popularists failed and the bureaucratic elements now predominate. Messrs. Fukumoto, Hattori, Fujii, Kubota, Morita, Hino, Sasaki, Seki, Sudzuki and other right-hand men of Mr. Inukai either retired or failed to secure election. It is unimaginable that the 55 new popular members returned to the House will join the colours of Mr. Inukai; on the contrary, they threaten to join in the anti-Inukai movement. Mr. Inukai's attitude on the Chinese question in the last session of the Diet evoked criticism amongst intelligent people, and betrayed his weakness. His other actions were also open to suspicion and confidence in him among the bureaucratic elements was thereby shaken. While Mr. Inukai was concentrating his attention on the Chinese question, the party's business fell into the hands of his opponents. Owing to pecuniary assistance given to the candidates in the General Election, the bureaucratic elements began to predominate in the party. Mr. Kataoka set up a financial view, radically opposed to that of Mr. Taketomi and the discussion of financial questions in the coming canvassing movement. Mr. Kataoka's views will be taken as a guide. The future of the party therefore must be regarded with some doubt.

METHYL-ALCOHOL CONTROL REGULATIONS.

Tuesday's issue of the *Official Gazette* publishes the Methyl-Alcohol Control Regulations. The salient points of the regulations are as under:—

(1) The manufacture, sale, exhibition and storing of comestibles and beverages containing methyl-alcohol is prohibited. (2) Bottles and other vessels containing methyl-alcohol and mixtures of methyl-alcohol shall be clearly labelled, with the ideographs "Methyl" or "Methyl mixture." (3) The manufacturers, importers and dealers in methyl-alcohol shall keep a book and enter therein the amount manufactured, imported, sold or otherwise used, together with the name of the consignee, the object for which it is to be used, etc., with dates against each item. (4) Contravention of the foregoing clauses Nos. 1 and 2 shall subject the delinquents to imprisonment not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding 100 yen. (5) The authorities may order the destruction of the comestibles and beverages coming under the purview of foregoing clause No. 1. (6) Contravention of Clause No. 3 shall subject the offenders to a fine not exceeding 50 yen.

It is stated that the word "containing" used in Clause No. 1 is to be interpreted on an analytical test, and that Japanese sake will not be subjected to the regulation, since on a test it was found free from adulteration.

FOREIGN TOURISTS IN JAPAN.

According to an investigation of the Department of Finance, the foreign tourists who visited Japan during the month of April, numbered 2,130 in all. This is an increase of 436 over the figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year. The details are as shown in the following table:—

English.....	398	American.....	597
German.....	133	French.....	68
Russian.....	161	Chinese.....	716
Italian.....	6	Austrian.....	9
Dutch.....	2	Belgian.....	4
Spanish.....	5	Norwegian.....	7
Swiss.....	2	Portuguese.....	1
Danish.....	2	Turkish.....	2
Siamese.....	1	Grecian.....	4
Persian.....	3	Others.....	11

THE DIFFICULTIES OF LIVING
IN JAPAN.(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL"
FROM THE "JIJI SHIMPO.")

II.

In regard to the migration to the urban districts, it may be noted that the vanity of the country youths is fostered by the temptations that people from Tokyo unconsciously offer them. Whenever Tokyo people go into the country, they as a rule talk of Tokyo,—Tokyo on its bright side only. They paint their city in such brilliant, resplendent colours, that it appears to the uninformed country people as if it were a Paradise in every sense of the word, where they can easily secure whatever position they choose; where they can gain access to whatever luxury their hearts may wish; and where they can become rich or learned in a short space of time without experiencing the least hardship. Thus the young students in the country districts nightly dream of life in Tokyo and finally rush to the metropolis, often even without their parents' permission. This is not because there are no Middle schools, nor High schools, nor even Universities in or near their native provinces, but because they believe that in Tokyo only are the educational institutions in a perfect condition. Certainly there are quite a number of high-sounding schools and institutions, calling themselves Dai Nippon this or Teikoku that. But the majority of these are, as the country people find upon arrival in the City, grand and imposing only in form, or, to be more precise, only in name. Many students studying in the City must surely have been surprised, in the early days of their Tokyo life, to find these high sounding institutions no better than small, dirty and ill-ordered tenement houses, which in fact are schools in nothing but name. Yet, to the eyes of the local people, even these Dai Nippon so-and-so schools, which are worse than a village primary school, or Teikoku so-and-so institutions, which are equipped with a capital not half that of a local private merchant, seem splendid only by the magic of the charming word "Tokyo." It is doubtful whether there is one person in every thousand coming up from the provinces, who is not disappointed on his arrival in the Capital, not to find positions lying about the streets, so to speak, waiting for them.

However bright a future you may imagine to be lying ahead of you, once you step into a central city, not necessarily Tokyo, out of the pure, calm atmosphere of your dear native province, the first things that will arouse a sense of repulsion in your mind will be the noise of the traffic, the gaudy signboards and advertisements above the streets, and the impure, heavy atmosphere, amidst which you feel as if plunged down beneath deep water in a diver's dress. This is the so-called "Pressure of Urban Atmosphere," which everybody from the country experiences the moment he sets his foot in the cities. Do not for a moment imagine that because you are a student coming up to the capital equipped with proper resources for school expenses, or because you are a well-to-do tourist, come up to Tokyo to seek pleasure rather than work, you will not feel this pressure the same as others. In fact the pressure is so strong that country people flocking to the metropolis, burdened with the "difficulty of living" and the "difficulty of securing employment," begin to perceive it while in the train before they arrive at Shinjimbashi or Ueno. The moment they get out of the train into the broad jostling streets of the City, like men come from another world, they find their hearts completely shrouded with a gray veil of anxiety and helplessness. Be that as it may, the first thing that they have to do upon their arrival, is to seek an hotel or relatives or friends in whose houses they may stop. While at home in the provinces, ten to one they fancy their relatives' or friends' residences in such a splendid city as Tokyo, must be spacious and of grand appearance. Upon their arrival

however, they often find their friends' houses in Tokyo not the grand, imposing mansions which their friends, when back among them, used to talk about, but no better than tenement-cottages in back streets. This is the first disappointment they feel. What a pity that they do not know at that time that it is only the first of a series of disappointments that they are apparently destined to experience in future in their new sphere of life. The first two or three days they may spend in doing the sights in a dreamy mood of mind, but they will soon find themselves confronted by the bare necessity of seeking some or other employment, for which purpose they have come up to the city. They go to their friends or acquaintances to seek advice as well as help, stating what they have come up to the city for,—and they are confident that those "friends" and "acquaintances" will readily accede to their requests, saying, "That is a good idea. I will see what I can do for you. At any rate you may stay in my house till you get some position." This, however, as they soon find for themselves, is the last thing that their "friends" in Tokyo propose. On the contrary they, as a rule, say in a manner somewhat reproachful: "In Tokyo the struggle for existence is so hard that it is almost out of the question nowadays to obtain employment here. I would advise you to do your best for yourself, although I will also try and look for some work for you." They go round visiting all their friends and acquaintances with the same request and receiving from each a similar answer. They then wait for letters that may inform them of the discovery of some position for them. Day after day passes, but no replies come. They begin to feel impatient, pay a visit to their friends for a second time, only to hear that it is not so easy to obtain employment in Tokyo as in the country, and that, besides, their friends are very busy themselves. They thus persuade themselves that there is no way but to wait patiently. Another week passes, yet no reply comes. They naturally grow impatient and make bold to pay frequent visits to their friends, only to find that they are gradually getting estranged. At the first visit, they find themselves received most cordially and warmly and may probably be entertained at dinner. On their second visit, they may be served with tea and cake; on their third visit, with tea only; and on their fourth call, they may have to leave their friends' houses with a complaint in their hearts that their friends might at least give them a cup of tea. Finally they will come to find their friends "absent" whenever they call. Hereupon, for the first time, they will begin to feel the barbed arrow of disappointment. They must, indeed, never have thought when they left their homes, that such would be their experience in Tokyo. Poor country people! Do you not know that you are thus beginning to enter the first gate of the "Difficulty of obtaining employment" in this central arena of the struggle for existence?

MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN CHINA.

A Peking special to the *Chunwa* reports that rumours are rife as to a Ministerial crisis. According to a Chinese source, Tang Shao-i, the Prime-Minister, announced to his colleagues on the 23rd ultimo his intention of resigning, taking the financial responsibility upon himself, when Wang, Minister of Justice, contended that the Prime-Minister was not responsible for the financial difficulty, and that the Belgian loan was raised with the consent of the State Council to meet immediate needs. If the Prime Minister decided to resign on that score, the Ministry ought to resign *en bloc*. Hsung, Minister of Finance, endorsed this view, while Chao, Minister of Home Affairs, and Tsun, Minister of War, remarked that the Prime Minister should announce his intention in the presence of President Yuan Shih-kai, as the discussion of the subject there might give rise to some misunderstanding. Finally it was decided to discuss the matter in the presence of Yuan Shih-kai on the 24th ultimo. In view of

the internal trouble the Prime-Minister will ultimately resign and assume the leadership of a political party. Wang, Minister of Justice, and other, Cantonese Ministers will also resign. It seems clear that Tang is resolved to resign but it remains doubtful whether Yuan Shih-kai will allow such an ambitious man as Tang Shao-i to go out of office.

A Peking special to the *Chunwa* reports that the dispute between the political parties has been settled through Yuan Shih-kai's intervention, and the vote of censure introduced to the State Council against Prime-Minister Tang Shao-i withdrawn. Yuan Shih-kai has refused to accept the resignations tendered by the Ministers of State. It is thought that all the Ministers will remain in office, excepting Tang Shao-i.

TOKYO MUNICIPALITY AND THE
GOVERNMENT.

The Tokyo Municipality received 70,000 yen State subsidy for the repairs of the roads in the 43rd fiscal year (April 1910 to March 1911) and has since been executing the repairs in the belief that the subsidy would be continued. The Home Office, however, has now abruptly stopped the subsidy. The Municipal authorities are keeping the matter secret for the present and are endeavouring to get the subsidy renewed, even at a reduced figure.

The Home Office, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, decided to withdraw the subsidy because it was dissatisfied with the negligence shown by the Municipality in the execution of the work, and the rather poor results so far obtained in the road repairs. A graver charge, however, is that when it was found impossible to get the proposal for the purchase of an automobile for the use of the Mayor passed through the Council, the Municipal authorities made the false statement that the purchase was approved by the Home Office, and appropriated 10,000 yen out of the subsidy for its purchase. This procedure incensed the Home authorities, and resulted in the withdrawal of the subsidy. The *Asahi* thinks this is the last straw that the credit of the Municipality can stand, in view of the veto of the one million light programme and the big curtailment in the drainage and tramway extension programmes.

A CHARGE OF BLACKMAIL.

The public trial was resumed in the Tokyo Appeal Court on the 27th ultimo of the criminal case in which Mr. Noyori, proprietor of the magazine, *The Business World*, and three other journalists, who are indicted with attempted extortion through intimidation. It will be remembered that the accused were found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment by the Court of First Instance, against which the accused appealed.

Mr. Sakata, President of the Tokyo Electric Light Company, examined as a witness, deposed that the accused Noyori first published in his magazine an attack on the Electric Light Company and then interviewed the witness and Mr. Mochidzuki, a director of the company, but without result. Subsequently the accused sent to him and to Mr. Mochidzuki, a kitchen knife with a threatening letter. He did not thereby feel any personal danger but it made him nervous.

Mr. Makayama, a director of the Tokyo Agricultural and Industrial Bank, another witness, who was asked by the Court whether he was asked to subscribe 50,000 yen to charitable works in the name of the *Business World* Office, for the suspension of articles attacking the Bank, then being published in the magazine, made rather a vague deposition, although it was unfavourable to the accused as a whole. At the instance of the counsel for the accused, Messrs. Fukushima, Matsumura and Fukui are to be summoned as witnesses at the next hearing which was appointed to take place on June 24th next.

THE BOOKSHELF.

An Eirenic Itinerary: by SILAS MCBEE. Longmans, Green & Co. New York, London &c. 1911.

THE writer of this book of 224 pages is the editor of *The Churchman*, a broad-church weekly published in New York, and the book itself is made up from letters that came out in the paper, with an introduction and concluding chapters.

Early in 1911 Mr. McBee, in the interests of Christianity, made a tour over Europe, including Russia and Constantinople, going also to Palestine and Egypt, the whole culminating in his visit to Pius. It was to representatives of the ancient churches that he addressed himself, from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Metropolitan in Russia, and to the Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches, the Coptic Patriarch in Egypt, and, as has been said, the Holy Father in Rome.

It is a cleverly written book, and the purpose of the writer makes it notable. Strange to say, the writer really aimed at his Protestant associates rather than at the prelates to whom he spoke. In other words he did not so much undertake to convert them to Protestantism or Undenominationalism, as to try to show them that a movement has actually begun among Protestants which will sooner or later result in their grasping the Catholic idea of the Church. When this is once done the rest is comparatively easy. Just now, as has been the fact for three hundred years, Protestants have no more idea of the Church than they have about what is on the dark side of the moon. Mr. McBee, of course, addresses his Anglican friends, and particularly his "evangelical" friends. It is interesting to note what he says, for it cuts straight into the custom of Episcopalians, which is to make the Morning and Evening Prayer of the "Prayer Book" their form of worship. This convinced broad Churchman says, "it is impossible that an elaborate form of worship, such as Morning and Evening Prayer, could ever be catholic in its appeal to all sorts and conditions of men. Such a liturgy, which gives the sacraments of life a secondary and incidental place, can never make a universal appeal. . . . Our system has no general conciliar sanction, nor can its arrangement and derangement appeal to catholic practice. It is often not only modern, but protestant and negative. The Roman Communion holds its masterful place in the lives of peoples and men throughout the world by reason of the position it gives in its liturgy and worship to the Eucharist. The sacramental life, the community and corporate life, the social and family life is so essential in God's mind that man made in His image responds, universally responds, when this call from God comes as the answer to his inmost need."

The ritualists in Mr. McBee's own Church are the only people in it who are trying to live up to the teaching here given, and they find in their Prayer Book a setting forth of this same fine ideal in the English Eucharistic choice. It is pretty clear that Mr. McBee is seeking to convert Protestants to Catholic belief.

The Teachings of Islam; by MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD. London, Luzac & Co., 46, Great Russell Street, 1910.

This thin book attempts to justify the religion of Islam, which, the author thinks, has been very often vilified by some sorts of Christian writers. It has already appeared in the *Review of Religions*. It discusses five subjects from a Muslim's point of view. These are related to (1) the physical, moral, and spiritual conditions of man, (2) the state of man in the after-life, (3) the real object of the existence of man and the means of its attainment, (4) the effect of actions in the present life and the life to come, and (5) the sources of Divine knowledge. All of which make up a rather extensive field to traverse.

The book is cleverly written, and, while necessarily slight and sketchy, gives a pretty clear view of Muslim morality and belief. It is of interest to note that Muhammadan belief starts with

a strong statement about original sin. We are told that the physical, moral and spiritual conditions of man come from three springs or sources. The first of these is *nafs-i-ammara*, which means the spirit prone to evil. Its characteristic is that it inclines man to evil, tends to lead him into iniquitous and immoral paths, and stands in the way of his attainment of perfection. "In short man's nature is prone to evil."

The other day we were told by Professor Anesaki in his lecture before the Asiatic Society of Japan that Buddhism has no story of Adam's fall and of man's sin. Buddhism ascribed (as we recall the words) sin to the *thirsts* or lusts of our condition. It is plain enough, then, that in this elementary point all three religions, Christian, Buddhist and Muhammadan, make substantially the same assumption, viz. that by birth man is inclined to evil. What "salvation" consists in differs in all three, as well as the method by which it is attained. It is true also, and the fact should not be overlooked, that Muhammad took some parts of his system from the teachings of Judaism and Christianity, not exactly as understood by him but, rather, as misunderstood by him!

The book in question is well worthy of a place in the library of students of religion and social subjects. The religion of Islam marks a certain phase of civilization or of social progress. It may have been of use once in dealing with the race of barbarians for whom the Kuran was written. In the words of the book we are now reviewing, "utter darkness and barbarism at this time prevailed over the whole of Arabia." No social laws were observed. An unlimited number of wives was taken. Rapine and incest raged supreme, and not infrequently mothers were taken for wives. Like beasts they did not hesitate to devour carcasses, and cannibalism also was not unknown. Not a few of them were Atheists. Infanticide prevailed, and they mercilessly butchered orphans to rob them of their properties. They were totally devoid of modesty, rationality, and other many qualities. Then thirst for wine was excessive, and fornication was committed unscrupulously. Ignorance prevailed so widely that the neighbouring people called them *Ummis*, "the Ignorant."

Unquestionably the law of Islam was instrumental in lifting these barbarous people out of their degradation. The book makes the best case possible for the teachings of Islam. It is a barbarous religion, but it is better than barbarism. At its best there is the noble conception of one only God and human brotherhood. What it lacks is spiritual energy and life. At its worst it condones lapses into barbarism and justifies moral weakness.

Laboratory Guide to Bacteriology: by PAUL HEINEMANN, Ph. D., University of Chicago. Chicago University Press. 2nd edition.

BACTERIOLOGY has become a science of very widespread practical use, with applications not only to medicine and sanitation, but also to agriculture. At is a necessary part of the equipment of all who have to deal with the problems of urban water-supply.

In this book, whose usefulness is attested by its having reached a second edition, Dr. Heinemann, devotes especially attention to precision. His definitions, his explanations, his methods, are all marked by exactness and perfect clearness. A science which deals with microscopic entities literally teeming with vitality and reproductiveness must, if it is to be capable of being tested and applied, be built upon accurate data. Students who are guided by this book will be able to test every step, verify every conclusion based upon experiment, and clear the way for advance.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The following is the Forty-Fourth Report of the N.Y.K. (Japan Mail Steamship Co., Ltd.) presented to the shareholders at the Half Yearly Ordinary General Meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

Gentlemen:—The Directors submit to you the annexed Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of

the Company, and the Profit and Loss Account for the Half-Year, ended March 31st, 1912.

The Gross Profits of the Company for the past Half-Year amount to yen 4,116,640.857, out of which there has been paid:

Depreciation of the Company's fleet and property	Yen. 927,828.256
Insurance Fund	453,001.430
Ships' Structural Repair Fund	575,490.090
	1,956,319.776

leaving a balance of 2,919,965.407 yen, including 759,644.326 yen brought forward from the last Account.

The Directors now propose that 108,016.050 yen be added to the Reserve Fund, raising it to 3,308,686.949 yen, 258,879.925 yen to the Reserve for the Annual Reduction of Subsidies, bringing it to 2,286,229.445 yen, and 500,000.000 yen to the Fund for the Extension of Services and Improvement of the Fleet, making that amount to a total of 5,000,000.000 yen; also that 70,425.000 yen be allowed as Directors' and Auditors' fees. From the remainder the Directors recommend a Dividend at the rate of Ten per cent. per annum, which will absorb 1,100,000.000 yen.

The Balance, 882,944.432 yen, will be carried forward to the next Account.

Baron REMPEI KONDŌ, Chairman.

Head Office, Tokyo, 28th May, 1912.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(Japan Mail Steamship Company, Limited.)
Balance Sheet, 31, March, 1912.

Liabilities.	Yen.
Share Capital	22,000,000.000
Insurance Fund	7,449,269.159
Ships' Structural Repair Fund	9,050,986.397
Reserve Fund	3,308,670.899
Reserve for Annual Reduction of Subsidies	2,027,649.520
Dividend Equalization Fund	3,300,000.000
Fund for the Extension of Services and Improvement of the Fleet	4,500,000.000
Pension Fund for Employees	2,532,636.110
Sundry Creditors	2,377,104.000
Amount brought forward from last account	759,644.226
Net Profit for the Half-year	2,160,321.681
	59,358,281.999

Assets.	Yen.
Reduced Book Value of Fleet	26,108,740.753
Reduced Book Value of Launches, Barges, &c.	207,925.051
Payment on account of new ships	2,410,205.780
Buildings and Land	5,423,196.963
Ships' Stores in Stock	398,390.070
Tokyo-Yokohama Lighters Department, &c.	176,404.341
Public Loans and other Securities	9,786,512.390
Cash at Bankers and in hand	12,451,688.996
Sundry Debtors	2,394,969.556
	59,358,281.999

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	Yen.
To Depreciation of fleet and property	927,828.256
To Insurance Fund	453,001.430
To Ships' Structural Repair Fund	575,490.090
To Reserve Fund	108,016.050
To Reserve for Annual Reduction of Subsidies	258,879.925
To Fund for the Extension of Services and Improvement of the Fleet	500,000.000
To Directors' and Auditors' fees	70,425.000
To Dividend (10 per cent.)	1,100,000.000
To Balance carried forward to next account	882,944.432
	4,876,285.183

By Balance brought forward 30th September, 1911	759,644.326
By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half-Year, ended 31st March, 1912	4,116,640.857
	4,876,285.183

We have examined the above Accounts, with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and find them to be correct.

TAKESHI ARISHIMA, } Auditors.
TATSUMI HIDA, }
Tokyo, 28th May, 1912.

BUSINESS REPORT.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's liners on service during the business period ending March 31st last numbered 70, with an aggregate tonnage of

287,000, in addition to seven steamers held in trust of an aggregated tonnage of 26,000. The number of passengers booked totalled over 79,000, while the cargo carried aggregated about 1,640,000 tons. The mileage covered by these liners totalled 1,600,000 miles.

Coastwise traffic was so brisk that chartered steamers had to be brought into requisition and the goods transported showed a remarkable increase. Passenger booking for Formosa and elsewhere also showed an increase. The result of the service on the Far Eastern and near sea routes was, nevertheless, far from satisfactory. The cargo booked on the Shanghai line fell considerably during the period owing to the outbreak of the revolutionary disturbance in Central China in October last, while that booked to and from Newchwang and Dairen on the North China service also showed a decrease for the same reason. On the other hand the cargo booked to and from Tientsin, and on the Chosen and Vladivostok services somewhat increased, while the passengers booked to and from Shanghai rose in number considerably.

As to the European route, two extra liners were placed on the service in addition to eleven regular liners. Outward cargo from Japan were practically the same as that for the previous period, and this also applied to cargo from Hongkong, the Strait Settlements and Colombo. That from Shanghai markedly decreased owing to the Chinese civil commotion. The import of machinery and other articles for industrial purposes booked on the homeward voyages witnessed some increase. In March last the export trade from England was dull for a time, owing to the coal miners' strike, and one or two liners had to carry bunker coal in the holds on the return voyage. The passengers generally increased, especially the steerage passengers booked to Singapore.

In regard to the American route it may be noted that in addition to three liners on the Hongkong-Seattle service, three liners were used on the Kobe-Seattle service and the route was extended to Hongkong. Thus a fortnightly regular service was maintained between Hongkong and Seattle. On the outward voyage rice and other grain booked to the Pacific coast of the United States showed an increase, while a large quantity of wheat and flour was also booked on the homeward voyage. In short the traffic on the route showed signs of recovery from the depression that prevailed in recent years.

The traffic on the Australian route scored satisfactory results, the cargo booked to Australian ports from Japan and Hongkong and that booked for Japan and Manila on the homeward voyages both markedly increasing. A large number of Russian emigrants to Australia and Japanese emigrants to Manila were booked.

On the Bombay route the cargo booked from Japan, Hongkong and Singapore somewhat decreased, and the same was the case with the cotton shipped to China from India. The Indian cotton shipped to Japan, however, radically increased, so much so that the cargo had to be transported by steamers chartered by the Shipping Conference at a loss.

The Calcutta route was inaugurated towards the close of the previous business period, with four steamers. An additional liner was afterwards put on the route, so that a liner started from Kobe and Calcutta once in two weeks. Fair cargoes were booked from Japan and Hongkong on the outward voyages and a fair quantity of Rangoon rice was also booked on the homeward voyages, but a certain amount of patience is needed owing to the keen competition in shipping circles.

The Government contracts expired by the end of March on the Shanghai, North China, Chosen-North China, Vladivostok, Hokkaido, and Kobe-Keelung services. The Chosen-North China service was abolished, but the contracts were renewed on all the other lines for a period of three years, ending March 31st, 1915, subject to practically the same condition as before, though the number of voyages was increased

and the amount of subsidy decreased on some lines. In brief both passenger and goods traffic were brisk throughout all the lines, so that despite the world-wide increase in the price of commodities and consequent increase in working expenses, the Company was able to secure fairly good business results.

THE IMPORT DUTY ON RICE.

As already reported the Government issued on Tuesday last an Imperial Ordinance lowering the import duty on rice to the minimum rate of 40 *sen* per 100 *hin*, the Ordinance remaining in force up to October 31st next. A responsible Government authority is quoted in this context as explaining that during nearly five months, ending May 20th, the import of foreign rice (Chosen rice inclusive) totalled 1,003,165 *piculs*, valued at between six and seven million *yen*. The rice in the bonded warehouses on the 20th instant, aggregated 927,781 *piculs*. During the past three years the imports of foreign rice were as under:—

	Quantity. Piculs.	Value. Yen.	Average value. Yen.
1909	3,313,107	18,585,819	4.10
1910	2,846,425	11,212,542	3.94
1911	9,866,953	20,568,004	4.23

The product of French India headed the list with 44 per cent., followed by the product of British India with 32 per cent., while Chosen and Siam did not supply more than 12 or 13 per cent. of the local import. Saigon rice occupies a large percentage of the import of foreign rice this year, and as the rice closely resembles Japanese rice in shape and quality, it is in good demand. The season of the import of Saigon rice is between February and June, so that the season has now nearly come to a close. In the event of the abnormal price of rice continuing to obtain, the import of foreign rice must naturally tend to increase. The foreign rice in the bonded warehouses at present aggregates 1,000,000 *koku*, which shows a difference of about 3,000,000 *koku* as compared with the total imports for last year. The Government anticipates a further increase of import up to October next, when the new rice will appear on the market.

CLAIM AGAINST INSURANCE COMPANY.

In the Civil Division of the Tokyo District Court the hearing was resumed on the 28th ult. of a suit in which the Iida Gomei Kaisha, better known under the firm name of Takashimaya, sued the Yokohama Marine, Transport and Fidelity Insurance Company, claiming 120,000 *yen*, as damage arising from loss of goods in transit under circumstances already reported.

Mr. Kagami, manager of the Tokyo Marine Insurance Company, who was examined as an expert witness, deposed that in cases where no route was specified in the marine insurance policy, the goods insured could be transported by any line. When the parties concerned designate a specified route, a special clause is usually inserted, disclaiming the responsibility of the insurance company for any risks arising from deviation. There were two steamship routes between New York and Yokohama, viz. *via* the Suez Canal and around the Cape of Good Hope. Both were common routes. In the case where the clause "*via* Suez" was simply inserted in the policy, without being followed by another clause denying responsibility for the risks arising from a deviation, the Company of which the witness was the manager had met the claim, though it could not be said to be an established usage.

At the instance of the defendant's counsel, the Court decided to examine Dr. Murase, a well-known authority on marine insurance, on the point at issue. The hearing was adjourned until June 25th next.

ACCIDENT TO MR. ATWATER.

AVIATOR SLIGHTLY INJURED.

An unfortunate accident occurred to Mr. Atwater in his Curtiss hydro-aeroplane on Saturday morning last on his way to Tokyo to carry out his programme of flying from Tokyo to Yokohama with a hundred pounds of mail. Fortunately, the aviator only received a slight injury to one of his legs whilst the damage done to the machine is not of a serious nature.

It appears that early on Saturday morning, Mr. Atwater left the Pacific Mail coal depot to take his machine to Shibaura, Tokyo. Rising well from the water, he had flown for about ten minutes and was about 400 feet high when he ran into some exceptionally strong gusts of wind, and in the midst of these, his motor suddenly went wrong in some minor detail causing the propeller to cease working. He at once came down in a slanting dive but struck the water safely and skinned along for some distance. All might have ended well, had he not have collided with a small steamer, severely damaging one of the planes. The *Fukagawa Maru*, however, which was close to the scene, promptly came to his rescue and successfully took him in tow.

As was to be expected, his non-arrival at Shibaura caused considerable anxiety and after some time, a police launch was sent out to search for him and successfully located him on the *Fukagawa Maru*.

Should everything be satisfactory, Mr. Atwater promises to make another attempt next Saturday and Sunday.

MESSRS. ABENHEIM BROS.

The first meeting of creditors was held at Bankruptcy-buildings, London, on the 6th ult., under the receiving order made on April 24th against Richard Abenheim and Co., of Hopetoun House, Lloyd's-avenue, E.C., import and export merchants. Mr. W. P. Bowyer, Assistant Official Receiver, who presided, said that the receiving order followed an interim order made on March 15th, and Mr. Maurice Jenks, chartered accountant, had been appointed as special manager to carry on the business of the debtors. No statement of affairs had been filed in the proceedings, but according to some figures recently submitted to a private meeting of creditors the total unsecured liabilities of the firm amounted to £51,786, and the assets were valued at £22,486, including an estimated surplus of £12,000 in assets over liabilities in Japan. At the present moment the firm's business in Japan was not in bankruptcy, but it was thought that, primarily, the assets in that country would go to the Japanese creditors. Mr. Richard Abenheim had stated that when the receiving order was made, the firm of Richard Abenheim and Co. consisted of himself, Mr. F. B. Abenheim, and Mr. E. S. Abenheim. The firm also carried on business at Yokohama, under the style of Abenheim Brothers, and its insolvency was attributed to the loss of £25,000, extending over a number of years in connection with the Japanese export business to Europe, to bad trade, and the heavy expenses of the business in Japan. Mr. Hill (Rehder and Higgs), who appeared for the debtors, said that several schemes for the arrangement of the firm's affairs had been submitted to a committee of the creditors, but had been rejected. The possibility of bringing in a satisfactory scheme was still under consideration. The creditors resolved that an application should be made for an order of adjudication in bankruptcy, and appointed Mr. Maurice Jenks as trustee of the estate, with a committee of inspection.

C. V. T. RICHESON, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Boston, who pleaded guilty to a charge of murdering Miss Linnell, to whom he was engaged to be married, has been executed.

THE CHINESE MINISTRY AND THE LOAN.

A Peking special to the *Chuwo* reports that Tang Shao-i again tendered his resignation on the 30th ult., on the ground of internal discord in the Ministry. The matter is kept secret.

Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance, has been advised by Yuan Shih-kai to reconsider his resignation, but Hsiung is persistent in view of the attack made on him by the public.

According to a Nanking report, Hwang Hsing has rejected the advice given him from all sides and transferred his official business to Chen Cho-chuan on the 31st ult. He is expected to raise strong opposition against the concession to the Six Powers Syndicate of the rights of supervision over China's finances. Some commotion is anticipated amongst the troops in Nanking.

The Bankers' Conference in London, which is now suspended, will be resumed shortly to confirm the agreement between themselves, prior to the re-opening of official negotiations with the Chinese Government. Both Russia and Japan do not participate in the short-term loans, so that China may raise a further loan over and above the advances already made. In view, however, of the hitch in the London conference and the strong opposition raised in China, the payment of the advances will have to be suspended for the time being, although the Chinese Government has not yet received any official notice of the failure of the loan negotiations. China has to pay 6 or 7 million taels for administrative expenditure, but has no means of raising the money. The national coffers are almost empty and the cash in hand does not exceed some sixty or seventy thousand taels. The financial outlook is thus very gloomy.

The magistrates of all the provinces, excepting Honan and Shantung, have telegraphed to Yuan Shih-kai their opposition to the supervisory rights contained in the loan terms, regarding them as leading to the ultimate destruction of China.

A well-informed party is quoted by the *Nichi Nichi* as saying that Hsiung Chi-ling, the Minister of Finance, has been compelled to tender his resignation owing to the anti-loan agitation started by the Southerners, but his resignation can hardly have any serious effect on the loan problem. The negotiations will possibly show no further progress, irrespective of whoever may undertake them, until the question as to the terms has received an amicable solution.

A belief obtains among a section of publicists that the agitation has been started to gain a concession from the foreign Powers concerned, and also to tide over the difficulty experienced in the disbandment of the troops. Experience clearly shows the impracticability of raising a domestic loan in China. Yuan Shih-kai is said to have refused to entertain Hsiung's resignation, and he is presumably desirous of continuing the loan negotiations through the Finance Minister, whose installation in the Financial portfolio was welcomed by the six Powers. Yet there exists between the negotiators a wide difference of views as to the supervisory rights over China's finances. The six Powers' bankers will have to raise a fund from the public to meet the loan and will therefore have to issue a prospectus indicating the nature of the security offered for the loan, since otherwise it would be impossible to raise subscriptions to cover it. It is therefore unreasonable for China to reject the loan terms without the least consideration for the present conditions of the country. The new Government exists in name only, and especially the old financial machinery remains unchanged. In the circumstance foreign supervision over China's finance is inevitable, if she desires to raise a foreign loan, as no country in the world is likely to risk investment of its capital without gaining some control over the finances. If the

Chinese people really desire to relieve the national calamity and maintain order, they must be prepared to submit themselves to humiliation. So long as the fundamental question be left unsolved so long will the loan negotiations remain unsettled.

COMMUNICATION ON THE WEST COAST.

OPENING OF THE SANIN LINE.

The opening ceremony of the Sanin line took place in the town of Tottori on the 31st ult. as arranged. The fine weather prevailing contributed to the brilliant success of the occasion, and over two thousand school children paraded the streets in procession. The ceremony was held in the presence of some 1,500 people, Mr. Hara Director of the Railway Board, delivering a congratulatory address, and being followed by many others. Afterwards refreshments were served. In the evening a banquet was given by the local Governor, to which a large number of people were invited. Over 100 people arrived in the town from the various parts of the district, to participate in the celebration.

Work on the Sanin line was first commenced in May, 1900, to connect it with the Sanyo line at Himeji, *via* Yonoshi and Tottori, the line starting from the frontier of Hoki province. While the work was in progress the scheme was altered in June, 1903, to make it a trans-Sanin line, the point of connection being changed to westward. The work had to be suspended during the Russo-Japanese war, but was resumed after the restoration of peace. In March 1906 the construction of the line between Wadayama and Fukuchiyama, and also between Yonago and Amaichi, was decided upon, and work was commenced accordingly on these sections. For the purpose of the work the line was divided into two sections—Eastern and Western, with Kadzumi as a point of demarcation. The first line was completed and opened to traffic in October 1911, while the latter was not completed until February this year. The line has thus taken some twelve years for its construction. The mountainous nature of the country traversed greatly delayed the progress of the work. The line extends for 195 miles, and has 70 tunnels, 230 large bridges and 352 small ones, and 48 stations. The total cost of construction was about 26,357,786 yen, that is, about 135,168 yen per mile.

Dr. Hirai, Vice-President of the Railway Board, is quoted as saying that although there has been a marvellous development of railway enterprise on the Pacific Coast of Japan, the same cannot be said of the coast on the Sea of Japan, to the great regret of both the Government and the public. The On line, however, has now been opened to traffic, and the Toyama-Naoetsu line is nearing completion, so that means of communication on the northern-coast will be shortly available. The difficulties of the work between Kinoshiki and Iwami on the Sanin line have also at last been over-come and thus the northern districts have been brought into closer touch with the Sanyo and Keihin districts. The picturesque scenery in the Sanin district is familiar to the public, and the growth of the Yamatorace in ancient times in the district occupies a large portion of the ancient history of Japan. The district is also closely connected with many historical events in medieval Japan. Hitherto it has rarely been visited by tourists owing to the lack of easy communication, but the completion of the Sanin line will throw the district open. Not only is the scenery beautiful along the Sanin line, but the number of hot springs makes a visit very enjoyable. The economic value of the line is very great, as it will enable the rice, fish, charcoal, and other staple products of the district to have easy access to the southern markets. The people in the Sanin district will do well to make good use of the railway in developing their economic and industrial interests.

THE ANTI-LOAN MOVEMENT IN CHINA.

The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes an authority as saying that the anti-loan movement in China seems to be accentuated by diverse causes, amongst which may be mentioned the fact that the agitators are acting on the conviction that such a movement might prove beneficial to China in the matter of loan terms. There is also a feeling in military circles that the suspension of the loan would curtail the army disbandment expenditure, as the majority of the privates, who expect a large allowance out of the proceeds of the loan, would then grow impatient and would consent to disbandment on a smaller allowance. Hwang Hsing and others are believed to be actuated by this belief in advocating an anti-loan policy. There exists also a section of conservative politicians who oppose the loan in the hope of working the downfall of Yuan Shih-kai, Tang Shao-i and other progressive members. The issue of the patriotic loan, the national subscription and the inconvertible notes advocated by the anti-loan agitators do not seem very practicable, especially as the people are generally suffering from the effects of the recent civil commotion. How long the financial manipulations practised by the Peking Government will last is doubtful, but it seems clear that there is no other means to meet the fund required for administration and disbandment of the troops than by raising a foreign loan. It will be no easy matter to suppress the anti-loan agitation, but when people come to a consciousness of the impossibility of raising a domestic loan the anti-loan fever will no doubt subside. Hsiung Chi-ling might have had this in mind when he telegraphed to the Magistracies that the Government would suspend the foreign loan if there were good prospects of a loan being successfully raised at home. When the people come to a consciousness of the difficulty of raising a domestic loan, Yuan Shih-kai will not find it very difficult to persuade the nation as to the inevitable necessity of a foreign loan.

ADMINISTRATIVE READJUSTMENT.

The special committee of the Administrative Readjustment Commission has now concluded the necessary investigation into the readjustment of the War Department, and General Tanaka, Director of the War Affairs Bureau, is now in Seoul consulting General Count Terachi as to the proposed readjustment. It remains doubtful whether any big curtailment can be effected. It is reported that when the naval programme was rejected in the Budget Council last autumn, both the War and Naval authorities insisted on the necessity of an extension of armaments so strongly that the Prime-Minister consented to the expansion, with the help of the expenditure curtailed through the readjustment. It seems almost certain therefore that military and naval increment bills will be introduced into the next session of the Diet and also that both the War and Naval authorities are racking their brains to effect all possible curtailment in the expenditure in order to increase the armament expansion. It is reported that the Government is determined to create two Chosen Army Divisions prior to the completion of the double track of the Chinese Eastern railway in 1918, and as the organization of the two Divisions is to be completed in six consecutive years, the work must be commenced from next fiscal year. The rumoured curtailment of 5,000,000 yen in the war administration expenditure is therefore impossible, the curtailment actually effected not exceeding 3,000,000 yen. The work of the restoration of the army, involving the outlay of 64,821,220 already voted, will thus be postponed to facilitate the organization of the two Army Divisions in Chosen.

THE COMMAND OF THE AIR.

MR. ATWATER'S FLIGHT FROM YOKOHAMA TO TOKYO AND BACK.

The long awaited flight of a Curtiss hydro-aeroplane with a mail bag across Tokyo Bay was accomplished on Saturday afternoon last with perfect success by Mr. W. B. Atwater, the aviator, who has already distinguished himself by his previous successful flights over Yokohama harbour. The entire extent of the waterfront within and without Lot No. 2 on Shibaura reclaimed ground, which was specially prepared for spectators with entrance tickets, was crowded with thousands of people, whom the day's unprecedented programme, coupled with the bright weather, had attracted. Among the spectators within the ground were Captain Yamaji, Captain Kawada, Commander Yamanoichi, Lieutenant Umekita, Drs. Tanakadate, Yokota and Nakamura, and Mayor Ozaki. About half past four the hydroplane was brought out of the shed on to a sampan ready to make its flight.

On the report of the firework sent up as a signal for the start, the hydro-aeroplane carrying Mr. Atwater glided off the sampan down on to the water amidst the cheers of the crowds. The biplane, after travelling about thirty metres upon the water, rose into the air, and, after a circuit over the reclaimed ground at an altitude of thirty metres in one minute twenty seconds, took her course for the direction between the forts No. 3 and No. 4, away towards Yokohama, at a speed of 65 miles per hour. Minute by minute the air craft rose, and in thirteen minutes it dwindled into a speck in the sky, completely disappearing from sight in another minute towards Kawasaki. As previously announced, Mr. Atwater carried in his aeroplane a mail-bag containing some 10,000 picture postcards and a letter addressed to Mayor Arakawa, of Yokohama from Mayor Ozaki, of Tokyo.

The hydro-aeroplane was the object of much attention and anxiety in Yokohama as in Tokyo. About two o'clock in the afternoon, the harbour was already crowded with yachts, boats, steam-launches and sailing vessels, practically packed with spectators; while on shore spectators had already begun to collect along the water-front of Yamashita-cho some hours before the time set for the arrival of the biplane. Among the spectators was a body of some three hundred naval officers.

About forty three minutes past four telephone messages from Tokyo announced the start of the aviator. The report was at once announced throughout the city by means of fire-works specially prepared for the occasion. Thousands of spectators watched for the appearance of the hydro-aeroplane. Time slipped by minute after minute until ten minutes to five, when something like a speck in the clouds came in sight high up in the sky over Haneda. Those who were looking through field-glasses at once identified it as the expected hydroplane. At this time the *Mongolia*, which brought Mr. Atwater to Japan, was clearing out of the port about five miles off. The aviator directly made for the vessel to bid her *bon voyage*, and flying low, twice made a circuit of the ship. The passengers and crew on board the liner assembled on the upper deck and greeted Mr. Atwater with cheers. The aviator thence made for the inner harbour, flying lower and lower, and, after a glide on the water for a couple of minutes he safely landed at just twelve minutes past five amid deafening cheers.

Spending some thirty minutes in preparing the machine for the return flight, Mr. Atwater left Yokohama for Tokyo about six o'clock with a mail bag containing six hundred picture postcards. The aviator flew away over the harbour towards the starting point at Shibaura, after a ten minutes' preliminary glide on the water. Soon, however, something seemed to go wrong with the propeller, as the aircraft was seen to gradually

descend and finally disappear out of sight towards Shinagawa, skimming along the water.

Meanwhile the spectators at Shibaura were anxiously waiting for the return of the airman, and as he did not appear in due time, it caused great anxiety to all. About half past six the biplane under its appearance far out on the water near No. 3 fort, and safely reached the sampan about a quarter to seven. The mail bag was then immediately sent by the aviator to Edo-bashi Post Office. It appears that something went wrong with the stays on the return journey and Mr. Atwater was compelled to fly low over the water.

On Sunday morning Mr. Atwater was to make a second flight across Tokyo Bay. The aviator's unqualified success on the preceding day, together with the bright weather, attracted a large number of spectators, but owing to the somewhat variable wind the programme was postponed until the 4th instant.

LAST FRIDAY MORNING'S EARTHQUAKE.

SEVERE SHOCK IN YOKOHAMA.

A severe earthquake shock was experienced on Friday morning last in the Kwanto districts, apparently with Tokyo and Yokohama as centre. According to the report of the Central Meteorological Observatory, the earthquake started about half past twelve, lasting for six minutes. The first shocks were horizontal and lasted for thirty nine seconds, afterwards changing into the distinctly dangerous vertical movement—rising and descending—for close on three minutes. The direction was from North-West to South-East and the width of oscillation reached 57 millimetres. The shock is regarded as the most severe in the past few years; in many houses, clocks were stopped. The centre of the earthquake appears to have lain near Tokyo Bay. According to local reports, in Yokohama, Yokosuka, Ashio, and Mito, the shock was alarmingly severe, the duration having been especially long in Yokohama. The shock was also felt, though less severely, in Kofu, Kumagaya, Numazu, Matsumoto, Choshi, Maebashi and Utsunomiya.

Similar earthquake shocks were experienced in Tokyo in the small hours of Friday morning last. The vibration commenced at 31 minutes after midnight and lasted some four minutes. The shocks were so violent that many clocks were stopped and people rushed out from their houses.

Another slight shock was experienced in Yokohama at 9.30 on Friday evening last, but was of a mild description.

THE TEACHING OF ROMAJI IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Many years ago Dr. Inoue Tetsujiro, in an article he published on the subject, strongly advocated the advisability of including the mastery of the Roman letters and the art of reading Romanized Japanese in the Primary School course throughout Japan. But the proposal fell flat and no steps have been taken to carry out the project till about a month ago, when the Imperial Education Society brought up the subject for discussion. At meetings held on the 3rd and 4th of May, this question was discussed. The Directors of Primary Schools, assembled in Tokyo, and some 85 in number, voted in favour of the teaching of Romaji in all Ordinary Primary Schools, with a view of enabling boys and girls to read Romanized Japanese with ease. Since the proposal has received the support of so important a body as the Imperial Education Society, it is sincerely to be hoped that the Department of Education will give it favourable consideration. It is said that Marquis Saionji is in favour of the measure recommended by the Teikoku Kyōikukai.

ELECTRIC LIGHT CHARGES IN TOKYO.

Commenting on the recent revision of the electric light charges of the Tokyo Electric Light Company, the *Fiji Shimpō* writes that the revision shows a big reduction all round, not to speak of the many improvements made in some other minor points. The reduction is no doubt a great effort on the part of the company, for the present rate is abnormally high as compared with that charged by the Tokyo Municipal Electric Bureau, as shown under:—

	Light Electric Company.	Electric Bureau.
	Yen.	Yen.
5 Candle-power	.55	.45
10 "	1.00	.81
16 "	1.40	1.00
24 "	1.90	1.13
32 "	2.40	1.935

As to the charge by metre, a comparison shows the following result:—

	Electric Light Company.	Electric Bureau.
	Yen.	Yen.
Under 3 Kilowatts	.20	.18
Over 3 "	.19	.175
" 4 "	.18	.17
" 5 "	.17	.165
" 6 "	.16	.16
" 8 "	.15	.155
" 10 "	.14	.15

Inasmuch as the Electric Bureau allows a 10 per cent. reduction on the scheduled tariff, the rates charged by the Electric Light Company are higher than those of the Electric Bureau, for although the Electric Light Company grants to subscribers a special reduction in places where it has to compete with the Electric Bureau, the full rates are charged in places where there exists no competition. The reduction is thus nothing more nor less than a lowering of its rates to the level of those of the Electric Bureau. It also remains doubtful whether the reduction in the tariff is not merely nominal, especially in the charges under the meter system. The Electric Light Company at present charges 10 *sen* per light for the use of the meter, and this has been altered to 50 *sen* for a minimum of 10 lights, with a graduated scale for 20 and 50 lights; but the Electric Bureau does not make any charge for the use of the meter. It is highly improper for electric light companies to charge for the use of the meter by which it sells the electric current. But even conceding this point, it is incomprehensible how the charge of 50 *sen* per month for the use of the meter is calculated. The cost of the meter used by the electric light companies is 22 *yen*, in addition to 4 *yen* charged thereon as a fee for an official test. The life of a meter is about 10 years, and it is subjected to an official test once every five years, which means an addition of 4 *yen* to the cost of the meter. Calculated on the present rate charged for the use of the meter, the Company is making a profit ranging between 60 *sen* to 1.84 *yen* a year on the meter alone. In conclusion our contemporary advises the company to reconsider the matter and introduce some amendment to the revised tariff before it goes into operation on and after July 1st next.

CHINESE SILK TRADE.

The Japanese Consul at Suchow wires to the Foreign Office that the cocoons in Wushih market are officially quoted at 32 dollars in the north-western districts and 30 dollars in the south-eastern districts, but actual transactions are being made at prices ranging between 30 to 38 dollars. Owing to the scarcity of silver in circulation, due to the civil disturbances, there are fewer buyers in the market than in an average year, and the goods are also quoted slightly lower than last year.

The stock in the market is calculated to amount altogether to about 50,000 *piculs*. The market was closed on the 30th ult.

TRANSLATIONS FROM HIRATA.

PAPER READ BEFORE THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

The following paper was read by Mr. R. J. Kirby before the Asiatic Society of Japan, about a year ago at the American Embassy, but was not published among its transactions. Hirata, its author, lived about one hundred years ago and was a native of Akita in the extreme north-west of the mainland of Japan. Until about nineteen, he studied as a doctor, and then ran away from home and came to Yeddo. While carrying on his studies there, he suffered much hardship, and tried in all manner of ways to earn a living, at times even doing the work of a coolie.

Though called a disciple of the great Motori, Hirata never actually met him, for he found this great scholar dead, when he journeyed to Ise to see him. Hirata is always spoken of by foreigners as the great reviver of modern Shintoism, a title which would make him turn in his grave, for he always spoke with the greatest contempt of Shintoism and held it responsible for the worship of Fox Shinses and Demons and such like superstitions. Hirata called what he taught "The Old Way," "The Learning of the Country," etc. His belief was that all good originated in Japan, the country of the Gods, and he had little patience with those who ascribed every good thing to China.

As Hirata's lectures and writings gave so much offence to the Tokugawa Government, he was forbidden to publish anything further and was banished from Yeddo and returned to Akita.

The following literal translations are taken from the first and third volumes of Hirata's "Shitsuo Jo Sho Go." The terms "Shitsuo Jo" means "to go out." There is a Buddhist term reading "niu jo"; "niu" being "to enter." "Niu jo" is given by Japanese dictionaries as a Buddhist term for death. I think the term might properly be expressed "Entering into Rest" or "Peaceful Contemplation." "Shitsuo Jo" is therefore the reverse of this, and means to come out of that state. "Sho go" simply means funny sayings. My translations cover about one quarter of each of the two volumes.

In India the people are divided into four lines of descent. This must be remembered. They agree somewhat with what in our language, we call Samurai, Agriculturalists, Artisans and Merchants. The first is that of the Satteri (Kohatriya); this is the line from which for generations the kings have been descended. That is to say the kings of the over 7,000 kingdoms of the five Indias. The second is the caste of Baramon. The meaning of this word is Pure Deeds, that is to say it is written in the same way as when deeds of pureness are performed. It is the teaching which has come from generation to generation with this line. The third is the Bisha, these are the merchants. The fourth is the Shuda, these are the persons who become agriculturalists, or in other words the farmers. The Satteri, Baramon, Bisha and Shuda are the four castes in India and these four must be well remembered. To begin with, the origin of the Satteri line is as follows. In the Choagan scripture we find the old legend of India given roughly as follows. At the beginning of the world, when heaven and earth were created, the earth was covered with water. Then a wind blew and the waters were brought together, and this world was made, life began, and men like unto the bubbling up of insects were formed in large numbers. At this time their bodies had beams of light and they could fly at will. There was neither male or female, and no difference existed in rank, love and hate. Their food was happiness. They ate gladness and joy.

This is really very amusing, but this queer account is in the Buddhist scriptures. But how could people eat gladness? It is just the same as the Chinese story of the animal called Baku (according to Williams, the Malacca Tapir) eating the dreams of men. Men were originally created at one time, as already mentioned, bubbling up like insects in one place, and

therefore they are called the Multitude of Life. This is the general Buddhist term for mankind. And while this multitude of life had gladness for its food, something of the nature of honey seethed up from the earth. This was called "Taste of the Earth." Then those of this multitude of life took their hands and tasted it. Though they did not like the sensation they must have put their hands into it and tried and found it very good. They found they had made a great mistake in eating only gladness until that time and as this multitude of life originally bubbled up like maggots, some were huddled together cheek to cheek and tasted, others took their hands and scooped it up, and licked it, so that some got more than others, and there was a great deal of strife amongst them, and they said "While I was eating one mouthful you ate two," just as when the leavings of the soup are thrown to a pack of dogs, they bite each other; so the evil of the whole thing was that after they had eaten, their bodies lost their beams of light and their power to fly at will, and more than this their minds became debased, and the more they ate the more coarse and dull became their complexions. And while this was happening the honey was finished, and they all reproached each other and cried out in their weakness. This was natural.

After this there were substances formed first like the hide and then like the skin of the earth. And it is said that they contended amongst each other for these, as they had done before.

But let us pass by this stage as these things also disappeared.

Then it is said a natural rice appeared and the multitude of life was much pleased and ate. At this time male and female were first formed . . . and from that time began pregnancy and the bearing of children. And in those days the natural wild rice was cut in the morning and ripened at sunset, and cut at sunset and ripened in the morning.

But the strong ones of the multitude of life cut enough for four or five days, at one time, so that in the end the rice ceased to grow. Then began the practice of each having separate plots of ground fenced off, and the fields cultivated. Then there came some wicked fellows, who putting their own rice into barns, stole that of the others. And as they had all bubbled up like maggots and all lived in one place and were a multitude of life, and were all equal, there was none to pass judgment.

Then they all conferred with each other and chose of themselves, one, their superior and greater than the rest of them who was held in fear and virtuous, and made him their lord to reward the good and punish the wicked. Thus was strife reduced, and this Lord was called Satteri. This word Satteri means chief of the people and the beginning of the chiefs of India. This was the beginning of the Satteri line which is the first of the four lines of India. There were a great many descendants, from whom all of the chiefs of India have come. The Boshu Shakka is a descendant of Satteri, son of Jo-bon-o of the country of Kabiraye. Shakka has five names, Kudon, Kansho, Nishu, Shai and Shakka.

On a certain night on seeing the people were fast asleep, taking with him one person called Shanoku, and riding the horse Kencho, Shakka circumspectly started on his journey. As he left it is reported he said, "If I do not put an end to birth, old age, sickness, death, pain and sorrow, I shall finish by not returning to the palace. If love and pity are not endless I shall never return, and I shall not see my wife Yayuara."

He thereupon went to the mountain where the sage called Bakka practised the religion of Baramon. Dismounting from his horse he took off all the ornaments from his clothing, and the clothing he was wearing and handed them to Shanoku, and praising him for what he had so far done, told him to return. But that person said, "If I leave my lord here, and only I return, I shall surely be accused by your father the king, therefore I would like to be left here."

But Shita said, "Return and explain to my

father the king and say I am not doing this to be born to the pleasures of heaven, and not because of unfilial behaviour towards my father and mother, but only because of the fear of birth, old age, sickness and death. Say to him that I have come here to get rid of them. Again should my father the king say it is too early for me to become a priest (leave home) say that I said,—In what way is time relative to old age, sickness and death, and if a person be young, how can he escape these?" Shita thus minutely explained to Shanoku how he should reply to the king, and desired to send him back. But Shanoku, because of his love for Shita, found it difficult to return and so remained.

Then Shita raised his voice and said, "It is natural for those who meet to part. See, seven days after I was born my mother's life was finished. If mother and child are parted by life and death, how much more must ordinary people part." Then speaking harshly to him he said, "Return at once with the horse."

Shita then shaved his hair and beard, and just then a hunter came by and he changed with him the remaining clothes he had on for his dirty things, and taking no notice of Shanoku's falling down in tears, but throwing back his sleeves, he went up into the depths of the mountain. He was twenty-five years old at this time; this is called the 25th leaving of home (becoming a priest). Buddhist books differ, some say nineteen years, and again some seven years, but these perversions about Shaka are all false sayings of the later Buddhists, trying to make things agree. There is no doubt that the truth is he left home when he was twenty-five.

There being no help for it Shanoku departed crying and leading away the horse. Thereupon Shita went into the depths of the mountains and saw the religious rites of the sage Bakka, finding that all birds and beasts were tamed and accustomed to live there, and did not fly away. In looking at the acts of these sages he saw some had on clothing made of grass, and some of bark and leaves of trees. Some ate only grass, trees, flowers, and fruit. Some ate once a day, some ate once in two days, and some in three, each fasting according to his fancy. Some practised fire and water magic; some worshipped the sun and moon; some were raised on one leg; some lay in the dust, and some lay upon thorns. Again some lay near the fire, and others near the water. Shita asked the sage Bakka what recompense those who did these deeds expected and the sage replied that their reason for doing this was their wish to be born in heaven. Thereupon Shita closely plied him with questions and said, "Heaven is happiness, but when it ends there are finally the cycles of the six roads which end in pain. Why therefore do you suffer pain and seek through it the heaven which ends in pain?" As they were thus arguing it became dark, and Shita stopped the night there, and pondering until the morning he decided that though all of these sages performed deeds of pain they were not on the true road of release, and that this place was not the one for him to remain in. He departed thence and went beyond to the north of this mountain where the sage Ararautara was said to do the deeds of a great sage.

The woman named Yayuara who was left in Shita's house, and the other women, when they awoke and found Shita was absent, began at once to cry and they informed King Jobon and Shita's stepmother. Whereupon both were much moved and fell crying on the ground. Jobon the father, on discovery of this act of Shita's, lost his senses, and became unconscious. Just then Shanoku returned crying and leading the horse, and he fully explained the position of affairs. The step-mother Makabasabatei crying said, "Though Shita grew up in my care, he has not remembered what I did for him, and he has abandoned and left me and is hiding." Yayuara crying said, "We lived lovingly together for many years, and were not parted in sleeping, but now he has thrown me over. Since ancient times when the kings went to the mountains to study the teachings, they all

took their wives and children, and were not parted from them even for a short time. People who meet but once and are not even acquainted, do not forget each other. The love of husband and wife is deep and not shallow like this of Shita."

Just then Jobon returned to his senses and he scolded Shanoku, just as he had expected. And when Shanoku had explained matters as they were told to him by Shita, Jobon was convinced and ceased scolding him.

As he could not stop loving his beloved child, he was about to search for Shita, but on the advice of others he sent one known as the king's teacher, who was the teacher of King Jobon, with a number of others to the place where the sage Bakka lived. Bakka the sage said, "I do not know if it was the prince of the King Jobon, but a short while ago a young priest came and reasoned with me for one night and then went to the north to the place of the sage Arara." Thereupon the messengers of the king followed and on the road they found Shita sitting in contemplation under a tree in the very midst of the mountains. The king's teacher stood before him and spoke of the grief of his father the king, and asked him to return, but Shita replied giving reason upon reason: "How is it possible that I do not know of the depth of the love of my father the king? But I fear the sorrows of birth, old age, sickness and death, therefore have I come here to overthrow them. If my father the king will deign to rid us of these sorrows I shall return, otherwise I will surely never return." The king's teacher then argued very fully. Shita replied very cleverly and said, "I shall now make Arara, the sage, my teacher of the way, and seek the means of release from birth and death." Saying this he threw back his sleeves and plunged into the mountain depths. As the king's teacher did not wish to return empty handed he decided to leave of those who were with him, Kyojinjo and four others, in the mountains to see what were the deeds of Shita. Thus the king's messenger returned. Then Shita without tiring went from province to province, over mountains and rivers to where the sage Arara dwelt. On the way he met the kings of the different provinces, such as Biohasara, the king keeper of the castle, and the king of the province of Makatsu called Heisha, all of whom originally came from the Satteri (the family or clan from which all kings came) being of the same descent as Shita. They came and advised Shita but he would not listen. Finally he reached the place of the sage Arara. Meeting him face to face he inquired of him the way.

The learning of Baramon is, as already explained, carried on by those of the house of Baramon from generation to generation. Their mode of study is that until they are seven years of age they are taught at their own homes, and after fifteen they leave these and walk to different places, in different directions and study until they are forty, and then being afraid they will die childless they return home, and for the first time take wives to themselves. If they beget a child then, again, when they are fifty years old, they go into the mountains and practise the acts of the way. Now if one asks the objects of the deeds it is to govern the heart, to perform acts which entirely govern the heart. Even in that country it is just as I always say; that is that Amatsu no kami first created heaven and earth, and all things in the world were made through his soul. In India he is called Bon ten o. In the Buddhist Scriptures we find that Bon-o is given as the lord of Shaba, or that Bon-o lived in the Daisen (Universe) and was the chief lord there, governing it. Ag-in we find that Dai bon-o said, "I created the world." Again Bon ten-o is called the ancestor of all mankind, and is said repeatedly to be the creator of all living and unliving things. These old sayings were made the base of the teachings of the way. Therefore the performance of these religious deeds was called deeds of Bon. The script used in writing was said to have been taught by Bon-ten, and they were called Bon letters. This record of Bon-ten-o is in other words no other than that of Mimushi no kami. This is the reason that the people of that land honour him. Again in the Great Argu-

ment of the Bosatsu named Riojun we find: "Mankind knows Bon-ten and regards him as the ancestor of the world, therefore Bon-ten is taught." Then there is our version of hell. This place is called in the Indian language Naraku. It is the prison below the earth. It is different from Japan's true account of it. By this belief all who are good while they are alive are, after death, born in the halls of heaven, that is to say in the abode of Bon-ten-taishaku, but those who do evil go to Naraku and are punished by the ten evil god kings. This is an ancient saying of India and is certainly not a fabrication and should not be despised, for it is an ancient teaching which has been taught as the foundation of that religion of the descent of Baramon. The first Baramon to teach was called Yeiseishi who appeared eight hundred years before Shaka. After this Yeiseishi other more eminent Baramon appeared who spread the teaching of the way and who all taught of the birth in heaven through deeds, but some of whom had slightly different doctrines, so that in all there were about 95 sects, or from the Buddhist point of view 65. The difference in these different sects was at first nothing very great. There was the heaven of the world of Wishes, and this was the abode of Bon-ten-taishaku, and it was taught that through good deeds, birth in this heaven was the reward. After him came another Baramon and it became necessary to make him a little higher, and thus there was a heaven a little higher than the world of Wishes called the world of Colour, and the followers of this sect were taught they would be born in this heaven, and thus was the teaching spread. The next Baramon was raised one higher and the heaven earned was not the same as the world of Colour, but was higher than it and was the place of Void, and the teaching was spread that it was there that one would be born. Thus gradually were the heavens raised until they reached the 28th heaven. But they were all imaginary and had no real existence and were just taught to please. As already stated heaven was made the principal object. When Shita first met the sage Bakka he asked him, "What fruits do you wish to receive." The sage replied, "We wish to be born in heaven." The sage Arara whom Shita then sought with love, taught that over the 28th heaven there was the heaven of No thought and Not no thought. This is one heaven higher than that of the teaching spread by his predecessor, the Baramon sage Utsuda, who said there was a heaven of Void. All of this is most childish. India is a country, however, which is very fond of mystery and magic. In teaching there, as otherwise the people would not believe, they performed all of these mysteries and had these communications with the gods, and from generation to generation the Baramon made their disciples perform such acts, and to call them messages of the gods was, indeed, a piece of cleverness, but really they were magic. Magic is deception just as people are deceived by foxes or badgers which pretend to show things as existing, which have no existence. If one examines the thing closely it is really a kind of conjuring of a superior nature. Really it is the same kind of thing as is written of in the Hokei as "Myogen." The magician of the four cross roads by magic created elephants, horses and persons covered with jewels. By magic things appear and disappear according to the cycle of the six roads. There is really nothing, there is no foundation in itself, it is the work of is and is not. Again in the commentary of the Engaku Buddhist scriptures we find: "There is magic in this world, men and animals are made of trees and grass and they appear to be going to and fro, they appear for a moment and again disappear by the law of magic, and return to their original form. Magical teaching is universal in the Buddhist scriptures and in the fifth heaven there is a great deal of this art, and showing this art makes the teaching easy." This ought to be carefully considered. Before the advent of Shaka the original religion of India was that of Baramon, on the above lines.

When Shita met the sage Arara he asked for the

law for escaping from birth, old age, sickness and death. Arara replied and said, "Mankind was created to the dūta beginning, then came pride, and after pride came folly, then came self love, and greed, and angry looks and such like inflamed feelings; after these flowed in birth, old age, sickness, death, and longings." Shita then said, "Hearing your explanation I understand the origin of birth and death, but how about escaping from them?" The sage replied, "If the sage wishes to escape from them he becomes a priest, and reforms, becoming humble and charitable; he lives in a deserted place and learns resignation, and severs himself from lust and evil; leaving all kinds of appearances, he enters where there is no thought, and not no thought, and reaches the place of extreme limits and severance from the body. This is the Further Cliff (of the Buddhist sea of life) of the scholars. If you wish to escape from birth, old age, sickness and death, you must learn to perform these deeds." Shita upon hearing this speech said, "In the place of No thought and Not no thought is there self? Or is there no self? If there is no self then I cannot speak of the place of No thought and Not no thought. If there is self, then, has self knowledge? Or has self no knowledge? If self has no knowledge, then are men like wood and stones. If self has knowledge, then has it sense? If it has sense then can there be no severance from the body. To throw all of these things on one side, this is called the true severance from the body." It is said that the sage Arara was nonplussed and made no reply. But if we consider carefully it was simply Shita's skill in argument, and what he said was more unreasonable than Arara's saying. If we question why this is so it is because Arara's doctrine was to fully separate from all that was not good, such as lust and passion, and to return to the original sinlessness of the heart, and he does not tell you to stop with only good intentions. Thus "Not to think" is not to think of just. "To not to not think" is not to not think of good things for the people of the earth. Those that thus think have learnt the law of the heavens of Not to think and Not to not think, and have reached the further shore of learning. This is the meaning of severance from the body. It is on the whole a reasonable, and yet amusing doctrine. The reason I say Shita's doctrine is unreasonable is because he asks if there is self or no self in the place of Not to think and Not to not think. If there is no self then does it not agree with the place of Not to think and Not to not think. This is a matter of course, and Shita's explanation is not necessary. The reason being already explained, Not to think and Not to not think means do not think of evil and lust, but think of righteousness, so there is no reason in asking, has it self, or does it not have self. If it has self does self have knowledge, or has self no knowledge. If it has no knowledge then can we understand its being called the same as wood and stone. When we speak of Not to not think, there is no doubt about the existence of self. If there is self, then is there without doubt, knowledge. Of course if it is as Shita says, all of this talk about being the same as wood and stone is unnecessary. Then again if there is knowledge then there are the senses. If there are the senses then there is no severance from the body. This is the pith of what Shita said, and there is nothing very special in it. Though Arara spoke of Not not thinking, that does not mean that he said he thought there were no good things. He spoke of it because Shita did not accept his line of thought. Shita in saying he wished to flee from birth, old age, sickness and death, thought not of his parents, wife and children. He did no evil; on the other hand he did not in the least think of good deeds, but said these things of a crooked heart trying to upset Arara's argument. He said to cast away all that is agreeable is the true severance from the body, and to throw off all thinking. This may be as Shita said and be a true severing from the body, but this cannot be attained to while people are born, and certainly cannot be done after they are dead. This man, though he abandoned parents, wife and child and

went into mountains and made such fine statements, said to Arara, "Unless you have understanding you are the same as wood and stone." It is because Shita could not cast off all thought but had thought, that he did not accept Arara's teachings. For instance he thought of birth, old age, sickness and death as fearful things. When Shita left Arara's place and was doing deeds of renouncement and subjecting himself to trial he became hungry beyond bearing and was about to die when he was given milk by a woman herd, which he drank with relish and his life was saved. Thus he was unable to do away with the thought of hunger. After he became an old and wrinkled priest, and no doubt when about to die, he sighed and moaned in pain without thought of appearances. Can this be said to be casting out all thought of birth, old age, sickness and death? How can thought be cast out? It cannot. The reason he could not cast off thought and forget, was because having been born to this earth through the creative power of the soul of Amatsu no kami, no matter how much he strove, he could not throw away the four states of birth, old age, sickness and death. Ah, Shita was a big rascal with wrong ideas. A stinking fool! Shita even died in fear! On careful consideration, this is just how the proverb of the common people puts it, where one Sanibyohei of the town went the round of the four provinces, but never out of the four provinces, simply going round and round and finally turned into a monkey (in other words a man of narrow experience). Shita has simply said things which are the seeds to deceive the fools of the world. We shall gradually understand this.

Shita after silencing the sage Arara entered the forest of the deeds of suffering in the mount Sharan, and rested in meditation, and performed deeds of suffering, near to the river Nirenzen. He ate but one grain of hemp seed a day, or perhaps one grain of rice, or in two or seven days eating but one grain of hemp or rice. Of those left by the king's teacher, such as Kyojinjo and others they also performed acts of suffering, and messengers were sent to the king's teacher and the chief retainer to tell them minutely of Shita's doings. Then the king's teacher and the chief retainer returned home and told King Jobon what Shita said and the sufferings he bore. On hearing this Jobon's body shook, and his hair stood on end and his voice sank in grief so that he could not speak, but after some time he said, "Shita, he is my life, and you have not brought him back. How can I continue to live?" Then the king's teacher said, "Shita's strength of purpose is like unto a big mountain, he cannot lightly be moved." King Jobon facing the inevitable had all kinds of wearing apparel, food and the necessities of life put on a large number of carts and said to Shanoku, "Give these to Shita and nourish him, see that he does not want; when these are finished, ask for more," and so sent him. Shanoku went to the place where Shita was doing these deeds of pain, and saw what his state was. He found him so thin that he was but bones and skin, with the blood and pulse visible. Shanoku full of tears told him of the king's grief night and day, and how he could not forget, and how he had sent these things. Thereupon Shita energetically said, "I have opposed my father and mother and have abandoned my country and come to this distance. How then can I receive these things?" Shanoku saw he would not receive them and sent all of them back to King Jobon. It is said that Shanoku, Kyojinjo and others remained for some time at the base of the mountain and witnessed Shita's sufferings. Shita must have been a man without a heart, to return these things and make nought of his father's kindness. The right way for a son of man would have been, if he did not eat them, to have at least received them and keeping them have made his father's heart glad. As he had thus shrunk to nothing, no doubt in his heart he wished the things had been left and he had eaten them, but having once decided he did not want to eat, then no doubt he was guided by the evil pride of his heart. Shita quickly overthrew the Baramon

teaching. Yet why did he in meditation give pain to the body? It was because his chief thought was to rid the body of birth, old age, sickness and death and thus and by important messages from the gods, overthrow the Baramon. We find this in the great argument, "Unless deeds of pain are performed it is useless for one to ridicule a false religion, for unless one exceeds others in deeds of pain one will not obtain the belief of men." Again in the Saikuki we find, "The prince thought of ultimate right, so that he could overthrow other religions, and with this purpose in view he supported life on very little rice and hemp for six years." If we ask why he wished to overthrow other religions it was because these other religions were universally believed all over the country and he had to first overthrow them before he could spread his own. Again if we ask what were those messages from the gods with which he wished to cause this overthrow, the answer is, these so called communications with the gods were really magic. Magic is treated in the commentary of Yengakikyo as follows: "There is a great deal of magic taught in the different Buddhist scriptures. Truly in the five Indies this art is very prevalent. The principles of Buddhism are easily expounded and understood through magic. In the five Indies this art is very prevalent and the people are accustomed to hear and see it, and are astonished by its wonders, and their hearts deceived, and thus they are induced to believe and understand."

Before Shaka's time the Baramon all used to perform magic and make converts, and Shaka had to pay great attention to this, otherwise he could not have carried out his teaching, and he therefore in his six years of labour gave great attention to it. It is just as that Bosatsu Riojun shews in his Great Argument: "Birds cannot fly high without wings, and Buddhist saints without messages from the gods cannot attain to their wish of changing mankind by their teaching." In pondering on this we can understand why Shaka worked through messages from the gods. Then as to the means of obtaining these messages from the gods we find also in the Great Argument: "The Buddhist saints obtained for the good of mankind, messages from heaven. The rare and the wonderful were shewn, and the hearts of mankind were purified. Why was it thus? It was because without miracles they could not cause the salvation of mankind. The Buddhist saints possessing such ideas hung the bodies and souls of men in the air, destroying the coarse heavy substance of the body and giving it an airlike form with a pure and energetic soul, weighing by intelligence whether it were possible to lift the body by the power of the mind. They argued that knowing themselves, that by the full power of the mind one can lift one's body, just as in the same way one can learn to step over something. On general principles by destroying the coarse visible body and creating airlike appearances, flying is made easy. In the second place to easily change different kinds of matter, to make earth into water, and to make water into earth, to make wind into fire and fire into wind, all these great things are done by transmutation and such things as causing gold to be turned into gravel, and gravel into gold. To change earth into water one has but to think always that things are water, and not think of earth. At this stage of thought, the earth comes to be water. To make all these above changes is possible." This is simply a superior kind of jugglery.

The account given by Hirata of the introduction of Buddhism into Japan is nearly word for word the same as Murdoch gives in his history, so I do not repeat it. Hirata however does say that thirty years before the recognized advent of this religion, in the 16th year of the reign of the Emperor Keitai (507-531), there was one named Shiba Tatso who crossed over from China and placed an image of Buddha in a hut in Sakata no hara, Takaichi gori, Yamato. He found no believers and all laughed at him because he worshipped foreign gods.

In speaking about the miracles which occurred

on the introduction of Buddhism, Hirata says,—"As regards the finding of the Buddhist gems and their floating and sinking as willed, these were all juggler's tricks performed by the priests. Umako either thought they were true, or he schemed with the priests and concocted these wonders and had the story spread abroad that they had found this gem (a bone of the throat found after cremation) for the purpose of spreading Buddhism. It must have been one of these two. For what object Tone in his official history has recorded this doubtful story is more than I can tell. In the second month of the following year Umako fell ill and he caused a diviner to divine, who said that this illness was a curse from the Buddhist gods whom his father Inamei had worshipped. Umako informed the Emperor of this divination and the Emperor ordered him to obey it. Umako worshipped the stone image and prayed for long life. But this no doubt was a crafty scheme of Umako's who only pretended to be ill and caused the diviner to say it was the curse of Buddha, and informing the Emperor, was thus able to obtain permission to worship in public the gods he had up to that time only worshipped in private. If you ask why I think so, it is because the Buddha worshipped by Inamei was cast out by the Emperor, at the request of the Omuraji Monobei no Okoshi and the Muraji Nakatomi Kanako, and there was no reason for the gods cursing Umako, the son of Inamei, who had worshipped the Buddha most devoutly. Moriya Omuraji the son of Okoshi was the one who ought to have been cursed. Yet without reason Umako the son of the Buddha loving Inamei, who ought not to have been cursed, was cursed, which was certainly a case of cross cutting at the wrong person. This is clear proof that Umako only pretended to be ill and concocted with the diviner to make this statement, as he wished to worship Buddha. Anyhow in later times the Buddhists were guilty of several crafty tricks of a similar nature, in their endeavours to spread their religion."

I will now give extracts from the lectures where Hirata gives an account of the introduction of the various Buddhist sects.

The first sect in Japan was the Sanron. It is based on the Great Argument of the Bosatsu Riojun. It was brought to Japan in the first month of the 33rd year of the Empress Suiko (593-628) by the priest Ekioan from Korea. The chief temple of the sect is the Igamiji of Kawachi.

Then came the Yuishiki sect. This was established by the Indian priest called Seishin. Gensoboshi of the To dynasty went to India and brought it to China. It came to this country in the fourth year of Hakuchi, in the time of the Emperor Kotoku (644-65). When the priest Dosho of Tachibi no gori, in Kawachi went to China he met Genso Sanso (this name of Sanso, which comes from the three Buddhist scriptures Kyo, Ritsu and Ron, was given to him by the Emperor Taisho), and from him he received instruction and returned to Japan. This priest Dosho was the first to practise cremation in Japan. The temple on the right hand side of the capital Nara was built by him.

The next sect to come over was the Rishiu. This is the Kairitsu, or Warning Sect of Buddhism. In the first month of the 6th year of Tempyo Shoho in the reign of the Emperor Shomu (724-748) the priest called Kanshin came over from China and brought this sect. The temple Shodai was erected by this priest.

The next sect to come was the Kego. This is based upon the Kego scripture. In the reign of the Empress Koken (749-756) the priest named Jikun went to China and met the Kokushi named Kenshiu, received this sect and returned to Japan. It is said that the Daiji and Daijani (temples) in the southern capital (Nara) are of this sect. The next to come was the Tendai sect. This sect makes the Gonjitsu (Temporary and True) of the Hokkei scripture its foundation, and is based upon the Great Argument of Ryojiu. The priest Chigai of the dynasty of Chin was the first to open out Mount Tendai; he is therefore also called Tendai Daishi, and thus the sect was called the Tendai

Sect. In the time of the Emperor Kammu in the 21st year of Yenryaku, the priest Saisho of Shigo gori of the province of Omi crossed over to China, and went to the temple Kokuse, Mount Tendai, and put himself under Dosuiboshi, who was of the seventh generation from the sage (Chigai). He was under several famous priests of that time, and received the secret truths of Buddha, and investigated into the innermost heart of things of that religion, and then returned to Japan in the 24th year of Yenryaku. It was this priest who founded the Yenryaku temple of Hiyeizan. It was he that was given the posthumous name of Dengyo Daishi.

The next to come was the Secret Sect. This is what is known as the Shingon Sect. This sect is based upon the secret teachings of Shakka, and these teachings were not made known universally. Shakka gave them to the Bosatsu Kongoshu, and he placed them in an iron tower in the south of India, and they were guarded by the gods, and remained in that condition for several hundred years. When it came to the time that they ought to be given to the world the Bosatsu threw the fruit of the poppy at the lock and opened it. It is said that he took out the present three volumes of the Secret Scriptures (Dainichikyo, Kongochokyo, and Soshichikyo). But this story is a fabrication. The truth is that no doubt these books were forgeries made at a much later time than when Rioju lived. In the 7th year of Kaigen of Genzo of the To dynasty they were brought to China by the Indian Sanzo called Fukudaikoichi. As regards their introduction to this country they were brought first by Denkyo already mentioned, but the full development of the sect was owing to its introduction by the priest Kukai, who in the 23rd year of Yenryaku in the reign of the Emperor Kwammu, went to China in the To dynasty of the 20th year of Tokusoteigen, and met the famous Agari Eikwa, disciple of the Sanzo Fukudaiko, and learnt all about the sect and returned in the 1st year of the Emperor Heijo. This priest spread the secret sect widely and founded Koyasan. He died in the 2nd year of Showa in the reign of the Emperor Nimmyo (834-850). He was later, in the 21st year of Yenkai, given the posthumous name of Kobo Daishi.

The next to come was the Zen Sect. This I have already mentioned as taking the Ryoka Scriptures as its foundation and making perfect innocence of the heart its object, also the examination of the heart with the heart; teaching, other than by the written scriptures, natural apprehension of the truth without written matter, direct teaching by the natural heart, and examining the heart and gaining knowledge. The time this was taught in China was in the year Futsu in the reign of the Emperor Bu of Ryo. The priest was the famous Daruma. The Emperor Bu was said to be famous for his love of Buddhism, and he caused rebellion in his country for this religion, but Daruma said the king was really not one who had apprehended Buddhism to that extent. For this reason Daruma went to the country of Ki and turning towards the wall of the temple Shorin died after nine years. This sect was brought early into Japan by the already mentioned Denkyo Daishi, but as it disappeared soon afterwards, it was introduced again by a priest of the house of Kaya of Kibitsumiya in the province of Bichu, who had studied all of the teachings of the sects in Japan. In the 3rd year of Jinnan of the Emperor Rokujo (1166-1168), in the 4th year of the Emperor Koso of the south, he crossed over to China and ascended Mount Tendai and did good works and obtained most of the Buddhist books and returned, and again later in the third year of Bunchi of the Emperor Gotoba (1184-1198) he crossed over to China, intending later to go on to India and search out relics of Shakka, but as he heard that, in the land of the origin of Buddhism, it had been overthrown, he lost heart and put himself under Sozenji of the Kyoan and studied the Zen Sect for three years, and in the autumn of the 2nd year of Shoki of that country, when he was about to return to Japan, the teacher Sozenji gave him the true teaching as it had come down from Daruma and

his successors. The year he returned was the 2nd of Kenkyu in the reign of the Emperor Gotoba and he spread its doctrines. This Veisai was of course very clever at explanations and one much above the average, so the priests of that time were all made to obey him, and the sect was spread just as he taught. It is quite proper that this Veisai should be looked upon by the members of the Zen sect as its founder in Japan. This sect is divided into Rinza, Sodo and Obaku and it has 24 lower branches. After this rose the Nembutsu sect which is also called the Jodo sect. This was originated and spread by the priest Genku of Mimazaka province. This, as every one knows, has for the purpose of enticing people to it, the saying that if only the name of Mida is repeated by all, whether they are sinners or sinless, they are born to the delightful country of paradise. The Scripture that this is based upon is the Amidakyo. This Genku was formerly a priest of the Tendai sect and when old read the Ojoyoshu written by Yenshisogu, and he threw over all that he had up till that time learnt, and went over to the Nembutsu sect. The years that this priest spread this sect was from the time of the Emperor Gotoba till the time of Tsuchi Mikado (1196-1210), and he was afterwards given the name of Honen Shoin.

After this there came a priest named Shinran who made the object of his sect that of Genku, that is to repeat with one heart and object the name of Mida. This Shinran, knowing what was hard for the heart of man to give up, formed a sect so that the priests could eat flesh and marry. The reason he gave, being that on a certain day in a dream the Goddess of Mercy appeared to him and said, "I inform you, the pilgrim, that according to a promise made by me in a former existence, if you have connection with a woman, I will take the body of a beautiful woman and will be your wife during life, and be everything that is proper and in the end lead you to be born in paradise." Shinran gave this out as the message he had received. It would seem as if this were the same kind of falsehood as the spells given in the scripture of Kwanselon Darani, which release from sin those who lust after women, and the eating of the five strong tasting things, such as garlic. This is the sect of Looking in One Direction. This sect was spread from the time of the Emperor Juntoku (1211-1221). Shinran was first a disciple of Jichin Kasho of the Tendai sect, but later became a disciple of Genku and was called Shaku Zenshin of the cell, which name was afterwards changed to Shinran.

The sect which was next founded was that of Nichiren. This was founded by a priest called Nichiren. The object of this sect was to take the Hokei scripture of the Tendai sect as its foundation, and it adopted "The thought of one thought for 3000 uses," and "The Ultimate Reflection." It is the sect which adapting itself to the Shinto teaching of the Yoshida family was the most bombastic and the least learned of all sects. In the writings left by this priest he says he was born in the first year of Teio (1222-1223) in the province of Awa Nagasaki Gori at Tojoso, and that he was born of lowly poor parents of pariah descent, and apparently he could not have been the child of any one more defiled. There are many books written against him and what he has said, such as the Kindan Nichirengi, Zanichiren, Hajakenshoki, and Shidoshuronki, the bulk of which are true. These have all been replied to by the members of the sect, but only by loud talk, and there is none which gives a satisfactory reply. Those who understand these things say it is only a parasite of the Tendai sect; that the sect of Looking in one Direction is only a parasite of the Jodo sect, and the Yamabushi are but parasites (nibbling insects) of the Shingon. There is no mistake about this view. Specially did these three sects degrade the gods (of Japan) and made them servants of Buddha. They were truly sects which behaved wrongly. I would like to go into more details about this matter, but will leave it at present and take it up later.

The reason for so much division into sects, is

because, as I have already mentioned, the different scriptures are not all the true works of Shakka, but are fabrications of persons who came after him, generation after generation of falsehood. This the people at large do not perceive, and the heads of the sects have accepted them as truth. In some cases the falsehood has been seen, but these people have not cared to acknowledge they were wrong, and have hidden the falsehood, just as the vulgar say, "They have covered over stinking things," and tried to hide the shortcomings. These scriptures teach that "Matter Exists"; "Because there is existence, there is law"; and "There are sacred things." The founders of the different sects took of the scriptures such things as agreed with their opinions and this is how the different sects were founded. But there is this queer thing (that though the different sects are divided and though the reason for their foundation appears very different, yet it is only a difference as from leaf and branch. If one goes to the pith of things all of the sects come back to one principle. With regard to the principle of the Ryoka scripture already mentioned we find there is only one dogma, which is, "The true heart with only one good thought and no bad thoughts." This is Buddha (perception). This is that upon which the Zen Sect is founded by Daruma, who taught that teaching is through the heart and not through books, and through the conscience becoming Buddha (perception), and governing the heart through the conscience. It is not necessary to speak of each sect separately, so we take those which are most numerous and the principles of which are well understood. These are the three sects, Shingon, Tendai and Jodo. Their foundation is upon the "True words" and "Secret teachings" of Buddha. The "Shining Truth" is expressed in these words "On Abogiya Beirokushano Makabotara Mani Pantoma Shimbara Harabaritaya Un." These are the very word of the secret text (Darani) through which, if repeated, all knowledge can be obtained. These are just in the original Indian language without any translation. These sects do not explain the meaning of these True Words but keep the secret and will not on any account explain it. Therefore these sects are called the Sects of the Secret True Words, also the Secret Sects. The priests on no account explain the secret to men. Though it is a secret and hid, as I have eyes and it is in the Indian language, there is no reason why I should not understand it, and though I am sorry for the priests I will roughly give the meaning. On, means to obey orders; Abogiya, not useless; Beirokushano, the same as Birushinato, the universal shining of the beams of light, or the great sun; Makabotara, decision; Mani, according to the wishes; Pantoma, lotus flower; Shimbara, beams of light; Harabaritaya, to change; Un, the heart of a Bodai. These are the equivalent meanings of each Indian word, and if put into Chinese it reads thus: "If the orders of the universally shining great sun (Buddha) are obeyed, there will be a sign which will not be useless, things will come as wished for, and seated on the calyx of the lotus, give forth beams of light and be changed into the heart of a Bodai (true believer)." It is thus that it is translated. There is nothing special in this meaning; it simply means in ordinary Japanese, "If you believe only in Buddha, the great sun, there will truly be a sign, which will not be useless, and every thing you wish for will come to pass, and sitting on the calyx of the lotus flower, sending forth beams of light, you will be changed into the heart of a Bodai." To be changed into the heart of a Bodai is to have perception, and to have the body changed at once into a Buddha.

REPLYING to suggestions from various quarters that the *entente* between Great Britain and France should be converted into an alliance, the *Manchester Guardian* in a significant statement declares that there is no ground for such a perilous change in British policy, which would render the international system unstable and would greatly increase the prospect of a European war.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF HANKOW.

AMERICAN LOAN NEGOTIATED.

A rumour was at one time current that the Hankow Municipal Reconstruction Loan would fall into the hands of Japanese capitalists, but a belief subsequently obtained that the loan would be financed by Chinese merchants in the South Sea. A report now comes from Hankow, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, that the loan has been accepted by Mr. Robert Dollar, an American capitalist. Mr. Dollar is a well known authority on China, and is a timber merchant who is doing extensive business in that country. He was the Vice-President of the American Commercial Commissioners who visited Japan and China last year, when he made speeches in various places in China which brought him to the front. He strongly attacked Japan on the question of placing the Hanyu-Ping Corporation under joint-enterprise of Chinese and Japanese capitalists, and thus won the hearts of the Chinese officials and people. He has no connection with the American capitalists participating in the Six Powers Syndicate.

The contents of the loan contract are not yet divulged, but according to authoritative information the amount is £3,500,000 sterling, at 5 per cent. interest, the issue price being 94. The contract for rebuilding the city will also be secured by Mr. Dollar, who has presumably also obtained the privilege for constructing the electric tramway at Hankow, as it seems improbable that he should have agreed to advance 3½ millions pounds sterling at 5 per cent. interest without securing some more advantageous conditions other than the contract for the reconstruction of the city. An electric traction enterprise has time and again been mooted in Hankow and when the loan was negotiated with the Chinese Merchants in the South Sea, a concession for this was claimed. The tramway enterprise is so promising that it has long been coveted by capitalists. Hankow is the commercial centre of the Yangtze valley and its value is so great that the Japanese influence in trade in the Yangtze valley is entirely due to her acquisition of a base in that city. The East Asia Development Company invested 1,325,000 yen of Japanese capital in the Hankow Hydro-Electric Company, and Japanese merchants enjoy high popularity amongst the Chinese, their trade showing an annual increase. Now that an American capitalist has obtained a contract for rebuilding the city and also for laying electric tramways, it is not difficult to foresee that American influence will predominate and the Americans will assume command of the trade in the Yangtze valley. It is one of the ironies of fate that after the Japanese loan has repeatedly failed and Japan been made a target of attack for her supposed ambition by Chinese and foreigners alike, Hankow should have now fallen into the hands of Mr. Dollar, an American capitalist.

There is good reason to believe that the Six Powers Syndicate is preparing to lodge with the Chinese Government a strong protest against the loan. Mr. Dollar can by no means advance such an enormous sum single-handed, and information has it that he is backed by American, British and French capitalists, who are not parties to the Six Powers Syndicate. The Syndicate, which before objected to the Belgian loan, will not tolerate any other Chinese loan than its own, and is strongly determined not to recognize any such loans, since they would make the security for the Chinese loan extremely insecure. The Syndicate will of course not interfere with any private loans after the conclusion of its six hundred million taels loan, but it is clear that it will not pass the semi-official Hankow loan unchallenged.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

In reference to the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank, the negotiations as to which have been at a deadlock owing to some objections raised by the Indo-China Bank, coupled with its relation to the six Powers China loan, it is now reported that the difficulty has been tidied over through the intervention of the Société Générale, the sphere of business operations of the Bank having been amicably defined and also an arrangement made to push on with the negotiations independent of the China loan. The main points have already been settled and side issues are now being considered, so that the matter will be brought to a successful conclusion in the near future.

As regards the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank, the proposals set forth by Mr. Soeda, President of the Japan Industrial Bank, are said to be, firstly, that the Franco-Japanese Bank shall refrain from competing with the Indo-China Bank in investments in China; secondly, that the Franco-Japanese Bank shall act conjointly with the Indo-China Bank in cases where the former has obtained rights for investment in enterprises in which the latter is not interested; and thirdly, that when the Indo-China Bank makes any investments in enterprises as to which it possesses exclusive rights, the Bank shall act conjointly with the Franco-Japanese Bank. These proposals, however, are not likely to meet with ready acceptance, since it was under the impression that the Franco-Japanese Bank had for its sole object investment in Japan, that the Indo-China Bank joined in its promotion, and that the French Foreign Office of France advocated its establishment. In these circumstances, when the Representatives of the French syndicate were called to London regarding the Six Powers' China loan, the solution of the Franco-Japanese Bank question was naturally delayed. It is the general opinion, however, that if the Franco-Japanese Bank is to be established it can only be by effecting a compromise and striking out the last of the above proposals in order to keep intact the interests of the Indo-China Bank.

Mr. Hashimoto, Vice-Minister of Finance, explaining the progress of the negotiations pending in Paris on the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank, said that the negotiations have made rather tardy progress in view of their bearing on the Six Powers loan, the bankers interested in the promotion having all gone to London to attend the conference.

Difficulties had also been raised in the matter of the sphere of business of the Indo-China Bank, with which the new Bank, it was feared, would clash. Inasmuch, however, as there are now good prospects of tidying over the difficulty, the negotiations will be brought to a successful conclusion and the contract will be duly signed between the parties concerned in the near future.

THE HANKOW LOAN AGREEMENT.

According to a telegram reaching a reliable quarter, the Hankow loan agreement was concluded on the 30th last between Li Yuan-hung and Mr. How, the manager of Messrs. Dollar & Co. The salient feature of the loan is as under. Amount of loan, £3,500,000 sterling; period of redemption 25 years, after being left unredeemed for first five years; rate of interest 5 per cent; issue-price 94; no security. The agreement contains clauses referring to rights of priority; viz the creditor shall have rights of priority in the matter of the employment of foreign experts and supply of building and other materials. The proceeds of the loan are to be used for the reconstruction of the public roads in Hankow and also for the Merchant Marine Bureau's fund.

It is stated in this context that Messrs. Dollar and Company are a small American corporation incapable of handling such a large loan single-handed, and that the loan will fall through unless the Company is backed by some large American capitalists.

THE IMPORT DUTY ON RICE.

With reference to the reduction of the import duty on rice, the *Tokyo Asahi* observes that while it is out of the question to predict precisely what decrease of the Customs revenue the reduction may cause this year, it is not very difficult, from the results of the import of foreign rice during the past five years, to make a rough estimate of the amount.

According to investigations made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the amount of the foreign rice imported from June to October in 1911 stood at 2,174,000 piculs; in 1910 at 1,104,000 piculs; in 1909 at 1,322,000 piculs; in 1908 at 1,533,000 piculs; and in 1907 at 1,912,000 piculs, as detailed in the following table:—

	(Thou. Pic.)	(Thou. Pic.)	(Thou. Pic.)	(Thou. Pic.)	(Thou. Pic.)
June	455	318	395	182	822
July	373	498	398	114	882
Aug.	166	250	194	99	220
Sept. ...	546	313	169	264	128
Oct.	370	151	164	443	44
Total..	1,912	1,533	1,322	1,104	2,174

As can be seen from the above figures, the annual import of foreign rice during the above five months amounts on an average to 1,600,900 piculs. According to the revised tariff rate, the import duty on rice is to be reduced by 60 sen per picul. Calculating on that basis, and also assuming that the same average amount of foreign rice will be imported during the corresponding period this year, the Customs revenue must decrease by well nigh 965,400 yen. There are, however, it seems, more than one reason to believe that the import of foreign rice for the latter half of the current year will in a great measure exceed the amount recorded for the corresponding period of any of the above mentioned five years. It will be safe, therefore, to conclude that the Customs Revenue for the period under notice, will show this year a decrease of not more than a million yen.

EXPLORATION IN CENTRAL ASIA.

Tachibana Dzuicho, the Buddhist priest who has been exploring Central Asia for the past five years, in obedience to instructions from the Honganji, is now on his way home, having left Antung on the 31st ult. When interviewed by the Manchuria correspondent of the *Yokichi Nichi*, the priest gave some information as to Hsinking, which he visited on two different occasions at an interval of about five years. After exploring Kalga he proceeded southward via Ulystai and Kobdo, and entered Hsinking by crossing the Altai range. His mission was mainly connected with religious research. Hsinking signified a new territory lately incorporated with the Chinese dominions, the region being formerly a desert waste known as Chinese Turkestan. Buddhism was transmitted to Japan from this region, as it flourished there in ancient times but was swept away under the sway of Mahomedanism. During his explorations he succeeded in unearthing many relics which form a valuable addition to the history of the religion. He also extended his journey to the north-western part of Thibet and entered a region which was not reached by the famous Sven Hedin. There he found the mountains covered with unmelting snow, so that travelling in that part of the country was extremely difficult and perilous. Rain is extremely rare in Hsinking, so that records of the past are preserved practically intact for centuries. Among the records discovered were many Buddhist writings in Sanskrit, on paper, leaves or stone, which furnish valuable evidence in scientific research into the history of Buddhism. Special agents had now been sent to fetch them to Japan.

Mr. Tachibana is only a young priest of twenty-two years of age, who studied Buddhism under Abbot Otani Kozui.

REVISED TIME-TABLE ON THE TOKAIDO AND SANYO.

The Railway Board made public on the 30th instant a revised time-table for the Tokaido and Sanyo lines, which is to go into operation on and after the 15th instant. The salient points of the revision comprise the following:—

SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAINS.	
Dep. from Shimbashi	8.30 a.m.
Arr. at Shimonoseki (on following day)	9.38 a.m.
Dep. from Shimonoseki	7.10 p.m.
Arr. at Shimbashi	8.25 a.m.

To this train 1st and 2nd class cars only will be attached and an extra fare charged at the following rates:—

	1st class.	2nd cl. ss.
	Yen.	Yen.
Under 400 miles	3.00	2.00
Over 400 miles	5.00	3.00

ORDINARY EXPRESS TRAINS.	
Dep. from Shimbashi	1.50 p.m.
Arr. at Shimonoseki	8.24 a.m.
Dep. from Shimonoseki	9.50 a.m.
Arr. at Shimbashi	1.50 p.m.

To this train 1st, 2nd and 3rd class cars are attached and an extra express ticket is needed over and above the regular fare.

Dep. Shimbashi	7.00 p.m.
Arr. Kobe	9.00 a.m.
Dep. Kobe	6.30 p.m.
Arr. Shimbashi	9.00 a.m.

This train is for 1st and 2nd class only, and extra express tickets are needed between Shimbashi and Kyoto.

Dep. Shimbashi	7.30 p.m.
Arr. Kobe	9.40 a.m.
Dep. Kobe	7.10 p.m.
Arr. Shimbashi	9.40 a.m.

This train is run at irregular intervals and is for 1st and 2nd class only, extra express tickets being needed on the Shimbashi and Kyoto section.

Dep. Shimbashi	9.00 p.m.
Arr. Kobe	12.05 p.m.
Dep. Kobe	9.00 p.m.
Arr. Shimbashi	12.05 p.m.

This train is for 3rd class passengers and an extra express ticket is needed for the Shimbashi-Kyoto section only.

Dep. Shimbashi	9.00 p.m.
Arr. Kobe	12.05 p.m.
Dep. Kobe	9.00 p.m.
Arr. Shimbashi	12.05 p.m.

This train is for 2nd and 3rd class only. An extra express ticket is needed for the Shimbashi-Kyoto section only.

Dep. Shimbashi for Tomari	12.15 p.m.
Dep. Tomari for Shimbashi	—
Arr. Shimbashi	4.45 p.m.

This train is for all classes and an extra express ticket is needed for the Shimbashi-Nagoya section only.

The fare for express tickets has up to now been charged according to the distance to be travelled, but this system is to be discontinued, a uniform fare being charged at the rate of 1.50 yen for 1st class, 1.00 yen for second class and 50 sen for third class, irrespective of distance.

THE USE OF PORK IN JAPAN.

Pork is becoming a favourite staple of Japanese diet, and the demand has of late shown a marked increase. The official statistics compiled by the Metropolitan Police Bureau give the following number of cows, horses and pigs slaughtered to meet the demand in Tokyo prefecture:—

	Cows.	Horses.	Pigs.	Total.
1908	21,996	12,673	37,358	72,027
1909	18,321	10,328	48,261	76,910
1910	22,188	8,835	38,661	69,734
1911	30,262	10,211	41,431	81,914
1912	37,018	10,776	58,289	102,583

During the first four months of this year the animals slaughtered for food numbered 38,121, of which the pigs totalled 22,468. The growing popularity of pork is due to economic reasons, coupled with the increased taste for meat.

PACIFIC SHIPPING CONFERENCE AND TEA FREIGHT.

Representatives of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and a few foreign shipping companies in the Pacific Shipping Conference paid a visit to Shidzuoka to ascertain the feelings of the tea traders regarding the tea freight question, and after completing their inquiries returned to Yokohama on the 1st instant. Although the result of the inquiries is withheld from the public, it seems, says the *Nichi Nichi*, that the opinion of the tea traders is divided on the rebate system. One section upholds it, while the others advocate its abolition. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha and two other companies are inclined to abolish the rebate system, if it be absolutely necessary. The Shipping Conference can not absolutely reject the demand of the consignors, more especially as it does not stand on so strong a basis as the similar conference on the European route. Should it decide in favour of the demand of the consignees, however, there is a possibility of internal rupture, which might lead to free competition in freight, as was the case prior to the Conference being formed in September last. Even if the demand of the consignors be acceded to and a reduction in freight effected for the continuance of the rebate system, the shipping companies will practically find it impossible to exercise control over consignors, and the goods will come to be shipped at the lowest rates.

THE CHINA-JAPAN TRADE.

The trade with China for the last ten days of the month of May resulted in an excess of imports over exports by some 7,577,000 yen, making a total since January of 107,423,000 yen as detailed in the following table:—

	Last Ten Days of May.	Since January.	Inc. or Dec. as compared with corresponding period.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Exports	14,435,000	189,088,000	+18,210,000
Imports	22,012,000	296,510,000	+50,607,000
Excess of Imp.	7,577,000	107,422,000	

It may be added that as compared with the preceding ten days of the same month, the exports showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in value, chiefly in raw silk and habutae, while the imports increased by 17.7 per cent., chiefly in woollen tissues, oil cake, iron, and petroleum. As regards specie, the returns are as below:—

	Last Ten Days of May.	Since January.	Inc. or Dec.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
Export	992,583	10,612,000	— 7,000
Import	3,014,270	3,774,000	+3,321,000
Excess of Export	2,022,187	6,832,000	

SPINNING COMPANIES.

The comparative low price of cotton and the enhancement of the market price of cotton yarn this year have enabled the Spinning Companies to secure very satisfactory results in business. The majority of the Spinning Companies have decided to increase the rate of their dividends, as shown below:—

	Dividends for current period.	Rate of increase.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Kanegafuchi	14	2
Fuji	12	2
Nishin	7	1.8
Fukushima	20	4
Kishida	30	—
Nippon	12	2
Osaka	15	3
Settsu	20	—
Amagasaki	20	—

The companies maintaining the old rate of dividend would also have made an increase had it not been for the increase of capital effected during the current business period. It is stated the Tokyo Spinning Company, which is not scheduled above, is able to declare an 8 per cent. dividend.

REVISION OF THE ELECTION LAW.

With a view to collecting material for the proposed revision of the Election Law, the Home Office has issued to the Prefectural Governors an instruction to investigate and report before the end of July next their views on the desirability or otherwise of the adoption of the small electorate system, on the method of voting, the effect of keeping electors' lists in the district and village offices, and the penalties prescribed under the present Election Law, the answers to these questions being based on practical results obtained in the recent General Election. The Government intends to revise the law on the strength of the reports presented by the Prefectural Governors.

According to the investigation of the Police Bureau of the Home Office, of nearly 4,000 persons indicted for contravention of the Election Law in the recent election, over 3,000 stand charged with bribery, and 900 with corruption. Those charged with intimidation do not exceed 100. This clearly proves that the selections are now influenced by monetary considerations. It has also disclosed that in some cases the Communal Councilors, or a few influential persons, make it a practice to sell their votes at a fixed price, and to devote the proceeds to communal purposes. General Elections are thus having a bad effect on the local self-governing bodies. The Government will direct its close attention to the rectification of such evils through the enforcement of stricter control over the elections.

NEW N.Y.K. CARGO BOAT.

The *Yokohama Maru*, the latest addition to the N.Y.K. fleet, was thrown open for inspection on Tuesday afternoon on her berth at the Customs quay. The vessel was built at the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard and is a fine example of the progress made in shipbuilding in this country. The gross tonnage of the vessel is 6,525 tons, her length over all being 406 feet and her breadth 49 feet. She is registered as 100 A. 1. at Lloyd's and has a cargo capacity of 7,666 tons. With 4 cylindrical boilers and two triple-expansion engines, with an indicated horse-power of 5,500, she has a speed of 15 knots.

Although built as a cargo-boat she has a limited passenger accommodation for 28 1st class and 260 3rd. The 1st class accommodation is excellent of its kind, being roomy and comfortable, while the saloon and the smoking room are all that can be desired. Electric lights and fans are provided throughout. On her trip from Nagasaki the *Yokohama Maru* proved a very steady boat, so that those who prefer steadiness to extra speed will probably give her good patronage. It may be added that the *Yokohama Maru* has a wireless telegraph installation and ample boat accommodation for all her passengers and crew,—accommodation which we hope, however, will never be required.

The *Yokohama Maru* has been put on the American line and leaves on Wednesday for Seattle on her maiden voyage.

FOREIGN RICE IN JAPAN.

According to the latest investigations of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the foreign rice now in the home market totals 880,000 bags, being distributed as under:—

Kobe, 200,000 bags; the Tokaido, 110,000 bag; Tokyo and Yokohama, 340,000 bags; the Hokuriku, 90,000 bags; the Tohoku, 50,000 bags; Tsuzuki, 8,000 bags; and Kyushu, 25,000 bags, making a total of 840,000 bags. Shipments of 940,000 bags, or about 630,000 *koku*, consigned to Okura and other firms, are expected to arrive shortly.

THE GAIETY THEATRE.

THE YOKOHAMA LIBRARY BENEFIT.

Success in every way and shape crowned the effort of our local amateurs under the able direction of Mr. G. G. Brady in their production of two one-act plays at the Gaiety Theatre on Thursday evening last. The performance was in aid of the Yokohama Subscription Library and judging by the splendid attendance at the theatre, we should gather that the Library has financially benefited considerably.

The first play of the evening was a one act drama by Norman McKinnel entitled "The Bishop's Candlesticks" and is founded upon an episode that occurs in Victor Hugo's great novel *Les Miserables*. The two chief characters, Monseigneur the Bishop, and Jean Valjean the convict, were brilliantly acted by Mr. Harold Bell and Mr. G. G. Brady respectively, the latter being particularly fine. The play itself, however, is as near perfect as it could be and the two parts just mentioned, though difficult of portrayal, are so vividly and accurately drawn, that when entrusted to two good actors, they hold the audience enthralled.

The play opens in the kitchen of the Bishop's cottage near Paris at the beginning of the last century. The Bishop, made poor in the extreme by his benevolence, has had to dispose of his silver salt cellars to find money to pay his rent, and his sister Personé not only loudly laments their loss but also roundly lectures her brother for his benevolent extravagances and lack of thought for himself. She warns him that the next things that will go will be his silver candlesticks. This charge, however, the good Bishop vehemently refutes. The candlesticks were his mother's and are the last things of hers that he possesses. Personé finally gets him his supper and having seen him finish, wishes him good night and returns to her room. Monseigneur takes up a book for a quiet read before retiring to rest, and while reading, his door is quietly opened by the convict who enters softly and gliding across the room with a naked knife, hoarsely demands food and money from the Bishop, as he is starving. Urbane, dignified, and gentle as ever, the Bishop calls the convict "my son" and gets him food. Like a ravenous beast the man eats and afterwards grows out his story. He describes himself as a thief, as one who for the past ten years has been in hell, and who will always be there. As his sufferings in prison and at the galleys come back to his mind, the hot passionate words leap from him like the snarls of a wild beast. He damns the Bishop, religion, everything, and then drops exhausted into a chair. Gently and with great tenderness, the Bishop persuades him to stay the night and sleep on the sofa in the kitchen. After bringing him blankets, Monseigneur wishes the convict good night. The moment the Bishop has retired, Jean Valjean is on his feet, still the thief, the decadent, the man who has been in hell. Suddenly he notices the two candlesticks on the mantelpiece. He is across to them at a bound. "Silver! and heavy!" he mumbles. Then they go under his coat and in a few moments he is out of the house into the cold grey night, cursing priests, religion, and humanity in general. His departure, however, disturbs Personé, who rushing into the kitchen, awakens her brother. The Bishop at once marks the absence of the convict, whilst his sister quickly notes the disappearance of the candlesticks. A few minutes later, the door is opened, and four men enter. The Sergeant of Gendarmes and his two men have caught Jean Valjean in the country lane close by and finding the two candlesticks in his possession and recognising them, have brought him back to the Bishop. Then Monseigneur tells, we think, the only lie of his life. He says that he gave the candlesticks to the man and that the man is his friend and had supped with him. Hesitating, and only half believing

the gendarmes retire, leaving their prisoner behind. The convict is now no longer the fiend incarnate that he was before. Humbled to the dust by the wonderful tenderness and mercy of the Bishop, he begs forgiveness and craves his blessing. With a tender smile playing about his mouth, the Bishop takes his two candlesticks from the table and placing them into the hands of the convict, tells him of a way by which he can escape, bids him be of good cheer and sin no more, and then bestows upon him his blessing. Jean Valjean goes out quietly, and as the curtain falls, Monseigneur is seen kneeling before the white cross at the window, murmuring a silent prayer for the man who had erred.

A simple little play, is it not? Just made up of a pair of silver candlesticks, a man who has lived in hell, and Monseigneur of the Church. But the texture was woven by that great French genius, Victor Hugo, whose name will live as long as literature exists. Mr. Norman McKinnel has written a fine one act play, but with such materials as he found in the pages of "*Les Miserables*," no man with any literary capacity could have done less.

It is difficult to praise Mr. Brady and Mr. Bell too highly for the rendering of their respective characters. Mr. Brady's delineation of the convict, Jean Valjean, was masterly. His words came from him in jerks and snarls. His curses and expressions of bitter hatred rang true in every particular; whilst his make-up was extraordinarily powerful. We doubt if Mr. Brady has ever done anything better on the amateur stage in Yokohama than in this performance. Almost equal praise is due to Mr. Harold Bell for his representation of the Bishop. Gentle, dignified, urbane, rich-voiced, never once flurried, and moving with a stateliness that one associates with a Prince of the Church, he fully rose to the occasion. The other characters were very well rendered by Mrs. Harold Bell, Miss Edith Hall and Mr. P. F. Anderson; but it is essentially a two man play and but little opportunity is afforded to the other members of the cast.

The latter half of the evening was given up to the rollicking old English farce "Chiselling" and afforded great enjoyment to the audience. It also gave Mr. Brady an opportunity of showing his versatility, for as Trotter, the sculptor's servant, and later on as the classic statue Alexander the Great, he was immensely funny.

Mr. Stearns as Larkspur the sculptor, and Mr. C. A. Fraser as Doctor Stonecrop the art expert, were also very good, whilst minor parts were well rendered by Mrs. G. G. Brady and Mrs. Harold Bell.

The Filipino orchestra from the Grand Hotel, under the direction of Mr. Charles Thorn, played excellently and especially so in the incidental music in the first play.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY."

PERFORMANCE IN AID OF DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

A very pretty little performance was given at the Gaiety on Saturday afternoon last in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, when a number of young ladies presented a new version of the fairy tale of the Sleeping Beauty before a large audience, composed mostly of young people. The stage was set to represent the garden of the King's Castle, and formed a pleasant background for the pretty dresses of the performers and the dances with which the piece was interspersed.

Miss Marjorie Fearon took the part of the Sleeping Beauty and played it very nicely, while Miss Doris Fearon as Prince Rupert was a very dashing and handsome wooer. Miss Connie Hall, as the Court Jester, was full of fun and kept the audience amused. The parts of the King and Queen were suitably played by Miss Edith Suzor and Miss Edith Hall. Instead of the usual good fairies, a number of wood and sea nymphs were created, while the Queen of the

Poppy Fields was portrayed as the author of the curse. The latter part was played by Miss Helen Wilson, who, clad in brilliant scarlet, acted with great spirit. Miss Elsie Esdale, clad in green as a sea-nymph, also formed a charming picture. Miss Barbara Fearon played the part of Bramble, a fairy disguised as a jester, who is in love with the Princess, and Miss Paule Suzor was a funny little Brown Bat. Miss Esther Fearon, as Squit, an attendant sprite, was remarkably good, and her song, in which a number of topical allusions were made, was sung so remarkably well that it is no wonder it brought down the house.

Numerous graceful dances were introduced during the performance, these having been arranged by Misses Fearon, Box and Bell, and among the songs, mention must also be made of Miss Connie Hall's rendering of "O mistress mine, where are you roaming?" The costumes were arranged by Miss Carey Hall and showed some very beautiful designs. Miss Irene Ball and Miss Mendelson acted as accompanists.

At the fall of the curtain all the performers were summoned on the stage, and, in response to persistent calls, also Mr. Ch. Bastin, who acted as the very efficient Stage Manager.

The following was the cast:—

CAST.	
Prince Rupert	Miss Doris Fearon.
King Roderick	Miss Edith Suzor.
Charles, the Court Jester	Miss Connie Hall.
Bramble, a Fairy come to the Court as a Jester	Miss Barbara Fearon.
Griselda, a Wood Nymph ..	Miss Majorie Box.
Squit, Attendant Sprite to Griselda	Miss Esther Fearon.
Limpit, a See Nymph	Miss Elsie Esdale.
Brown Bat	Miss Paule Suzor.
Shirley, the Queen of the Poppy Fields	Miss Helen Wilson.
Queen Priscilla	Miss Edith Hall.
Rebecca, the Nurse	Miss Vera Graham.
Gwyneth, Sleeping Beauty ..	Miss Majorie Fearon.

THE SIX POWERS BANKERS' CONFERENCE.

The Six Powers Bankers' Conference held in London rose without arriving at an agreement as to the details of the loan terms. It is to be resumed in Paris on the 7th instant, through the mediation of the French bankers. The main point of disagreement in the previous conference was, according to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the limitations as to the issuing banks: Whereas the Four Powers' bankers insisted that the loan should be issued through the Four Powers' banks or their syndicate, Russia argued that the issue of the loan should be left to the discretion of the participatory Powers. A hitch was thus created in the conference. The French Government acted as mediator and tried to induce Russia to accept the view of the Four Powers' bankers, subject to the condition that the Four Powers shall give their implied acquiescence to a sub-contract being given to any bankers or syndicate for the issue of the loan. The proposal was not accepted either by the Four Powers' bankers or by Russia up to the evening of the 6th instant. Inasmuch, however, as both parties are anxious to come to terms, the matter was to have been amicably settled at the conference held on the 7th instant. In view of the new hitch created in the loan negotiations in Peking, it is thought that there is no necessity for the conference coming to terms with undue haste, so that no definite arrangement may yet have been made.

The same journal reports in this context that Hsiung Chi-ling, Minister of Finance of the Peking Government, has demanded of the Four Powers' bankers the cancellation of the clause relating to rights of supervision over China's finance, but the Four Powers' bankers resolutely refused to waive their supervisory rights in the present circumstances of China. Russia and Japan also endorsed this view. It is considered that the loan negotiations will ultimately end in failure, if the State Council concede the demand.

THE READJUSTMENT OF LOCAL TAXATION.

Commenting upon the growing increase in local expenditure, the *Chuo* concludes that there is an imperative necessity for the readjustment of local taxes. Our contemporary says:—

While the local expenditure now aggregates as much as 160,000,000 yen, covering a quarter of the State expenses, investigations as to the financial resources therefor appear to have hitherto been rather neglected, presumably owing to the exigencies of the central finance. This is not a matter to be passed over unnoticed, for, viewed from the standpoint of the ratepayer, every tax is alike a burden, be it rational or local. If we are correctly informed the Department of Home Affairs is said to be contemplating the readjustment of local taxes, and in view of the abnormal expansion of local expenditure, it is not only wise and timely, but in fact imperative that the authorities should take this step.

As hardly needs pointing out, the chief items of taxes contained in the budgets of the local bodies are additional State taxes and independent or special taxes. To the former, however, there is a legal maximum limit, and the latter must be solely depended upon to supply the growing deficiency in local finance. Hence it is that the budget of every local body is conspicuous for the increase in the so called "special taxes," their number reaching already as many as 86. The sum total of the revenue accruing from these miscellaneous taxes amounts annually to something like 9,648,965 yen. This is certainly a temptation to local governments to resort to the imposition of special taxes whenever they find a deficiency in the revenue. According to an investigation of the Home Department, the amount of local taxes thus levied beyond the ordinary limit, under the name of "miscellaneous" or "special" taxes, reached in the 43rd fiscal year approximately 6,793,374 yen for the prefectures and 315,812 yen for the lower local bodies. To further expand the local budgets, the flotation of loan bonds is resorted to, which up to the end of the preceding fiscal year aggregated well nigh 175,412,215 yen—an increase of 16,000,000 yen as compared with the preceding period. In addition there are local loans floated without the sanction of the superior bodies. These are roughly estimated at 47,000 yen for prefecture, 24,007 yen for municipalities, and 3,164,910 yen for towns and villages, bringing up the sum total to 498,210 yen. Should such a state of things continue, it will by no means be an overestimation to put the total at over 200,000,000 yen at the end of the present fiscal year.

While the local budgets shows as steady an increase every year as the State expenditure, the productive power of the people remains but little increased. This is the point that claims a greater share of attention from those who have at heart the future of the country's finance. Assuming—and that this assumption can not be far removed from the truth there is every reason to believe—that each of the 12,566 cities, towns, and villages, contains 2,000 farming families, each consisting of five members, of whom two are old enough for work, the yearly income of a family must be from 180 to 200 yen. Whereas the burden falling upon the people's shoulders in direct taxes alone is as shown in the following table:—

REVENUE FROM DIRECT TAXES IN 1909.

	Amount of Taxes.	Per Family.	Per Capita.
	yen.	yen.	yen.
State taxes	145,747,085	15.772	2.825
Prefectural taxes...	52,039,828	5.634	1.009
Municipal, town and village taxes.....	82,820,104	9.612	1.722

Total..... 280,607,017 31.170 5.556

As can be seen from the above table, the people are burdened now to an excessive amount, which certainly accounts for the growing increase of those who fail to pay their taxes when due. Ac-

cording to the authorities concerned such insolvent people numbered last year 1,783,999 in all, of whom 2,607,660 were those who failed to pay municipal, town and village taxes, among them being even some high officials of local governments. Under these circumstances, the local taxes must by all means be adjusted as a step for the readjustment not only of local administration but also of the central finances.

CRICKET IN YOKOHAMA.

FIRST MATCH OF THE SEASON.

EDWARDS' XI. V. SQUIRE'S XI.

Mainly due to the untiring efforts of the committee and a few members, this match was played on the grounds of the Yokohama Public Gardens on Saturday afternoon last. The efforts, however, were not attended with that degree of success they warranted. The attendance was very meagre and several members who were down to play did not do so for various reasons, so the opening innings had to be brought to a close on the fall of the eighth wicket. Possibly the absence of spectators was not in disappreciation of the game, but to the dislike of viewing the fine old game to its detriment through a haze of wire netting 18 feet in height erected for the protection of whom and from what, nobody knows. Even baseball screens are only necessary in front of the stands at the back of the plate and along the bleachers for "flies" and not in front of the Club House which is 'out of danger, even from a stiff throw from third to first. The scorer is particularly unfortunate in having to cover the game from a double row of this netting as it distorts his vision and entails upon him a great strain.

Mr. Squire winning the toss, decided to send his team in to bat first; Messrs. Hardman and Malcolm taking the field to face the bowling of Syme Thompson and Edwards.

Eight wickets fell in the first hour's play and on the failure of the remaining members of the side to put in an appearance, the innings was closed for the total of 76, of which Hardman contributed the good total of 37. His score included three fours. S. Stephens (12) and C. Martyr (10) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures. The bowling honours were evenly divided, but Syme Thompson, who bowled throughout the game, was probably the best.

After a short interval, Scott and Syme Thompson were sent out by Capt. Edwards to face the bowling of Squire and Stephens. Free play ensued throughout the innings, five of the first men to go to the wickets reaching double figures of which the most notable contribution came from the Captain, W.D.S. Edwards, who compiled 37 runs in fine style, hitting 4 fours and 1 six; while A. P. Scott made 26. The bowling honours were carried off by Squire and Stephens who captured all the wickets. Gripper was responsible for one wide. The innings closed for a total of 123 runs which gave Edwards' team the victory by an ample margin.

The fielding on the whole was decidedly poor and shows room for enormous improvement. The brothers Martyr were behind the sticks for each team; both were extremely smart, and in the recent arrival of C. Martyr, Yokohama has secured an acquisition.

The scores and analysis are as follows:—

MR. EDWARDS' XI.

A. P. Scott, b. Stephens.....	26
F. Syme-Thompson, m. Da Costa, b. Stephens ..	12
W. Martyr, c. Hardman, b. Squire	18
H. C. Macnaughton, c. Stephens, b. Squire	20
W. D. S. Edwards, c. Da Costa, b. Stephens.....	37
J. Barnes, b. Stephens	1
B. Deveson, run out	0
H. G. Bell, b. Squire	0
G. W. Gutridge, b. Stephens	1
J. Esdale, b. Squire.....	1
B. G. Walker not out.....	0
Extras	7

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Squire.....	75	0	44	4
Stephens	13	1	34	5
Hardman	1	0	10	0
Gripper	3	0	19	0
Malcolm.....	3	0	13	0

Gripper bowled 1 wide.

MR. SQUIRE'S XI.

K. Hardman, c. Barnes, b. Scott	37
H. W. Malcolm, b. Edwards	0
S. Stephens, b. Syme Thompson	12
V. A. Hearne, b. Edwards	2
G. S. Squire, b. Syme Thompson.....	0
H. A. Tipper, b. Syme Thompson	10
C. Martyr, b. Scott	1
J. P. Da Costa, not out	0
A. O. Warrack, c. Bell, b. Scott	9
Extras	5

Total (for 8 wickets-declared) 76

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Syme Thompson.....	9	0	32	3
Edwards	5	0	25	2
Scott	4	0	16	3

THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS.

VISITS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

H.H. the Crown Prince paid a visit on Saturday last to the Kindergarten attached to the Peers' School, at Naka-cho, Yotsuya, leaving the Palace at 7.30. His Highness, who was accompanied by the Lord Chamberlain, Prince Ichijō, his Military Attaché, Capt. Ochi, Dr. Tsuchiya and others, was received at the entrance by General Nogi, President of the School, the teachers and students. His Highness after a short recess, was ushered into the classrooms of the elementary course, where he witnessed the instruction of the children, among whom were the Imperial Grandsons. His Highness left the institute at ten, and driving direct to the Imperial Palace, was received in audience by H.M. the Emperor.

The same morning at half past nine, H.H. the Crown Princess also honoured the Women's University at Meiji-dai, Shiba, with a visit. Her Highness was received at the gate by Premier Saionji, Mr. Haseba, Minister of Education, Count Okuma, Baron Shibusawa, Drs. Nagai, Miyake, and Watarase, Mr. Naruse, President of the Institute, and hundreds of other dignitaries interested in or connected with women's higher education, besides the instructors and the students of the school. The morning was devoted to the inspection of the interior of the edifice. After a repast in the Education Hall, Her Highness was pleased to listen to a series of recitations and other exercises of the students, and drove back at half past three in the afternoon. Her Highness graciously donated a sum of 500 yen towards the School fund.

WIRELESS TELEPHONY.

Commenting on the *Tokyo Asahi's Times* message, reporting the discovery of a new wireless telephonic receiver, Dr. Asano, of the Department of Communications, states that many reports have been made of the invention of wireless telephonic apparatus, but none of them has so far been proved a great success. The *Times'* dispatch is so vague that it is difficult to pass any judgment, but he is inclined to think that the results are exaggerated. The telegram simply states that the national anthem played at Algiers was heard in Toulon, which signifies that the sound of the music, but not the words, was heard at that distance. Now the national anthem and other music can easily be understood without a slight error being detected, but it is not so with words. If words had been heard through the receiver then there was no necessity to make a special reference to the national anthem. This might be as a too hasty judgment, but he felt convinced that it cannot be very far from the truth.

THE MONGOLIAN PROBLEM.

(WRITTEN FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Since the declaration of her independence, Mongolia has occupied quite a new position, not only towards China, but towards her other neighbours as well. Having entirely severed her previous relations with China and being unable to maintain her independence alone, she has asked Russia for support. The Russian Government, as can be seen from the speech which was recently delivered by the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Duma, being unwilling to impair friendly relations with China but still wishing to avail itself of the opportunity, has evidently decided to make a compromise and create from Mongolia a buffer state without infringing Chinese Sovereignty in that country. According to the Russian demands, the Peking Government will be prohibited from stationing troops in Mongolia, introducing administrative reforms, or sending Chinese emigrants.

From the point of view of State defence and the maintenance of peace between Russia and China, the fulfilment of the two first demands would certainly be very advantageous to Russia and would not infringe the economical interests of the Chinese. On the other hand, they would hurt the vanity of the high Peking officials. The absolute restriction of Chinese immigration into Mongolia is a more serious question as it would be detrimental to the vital interests of the Chinese people and might lead in time to trouble between Russia and China. For that reason, it seems that if the Russian Government sincerely desires to keep the peace with China, it must insist on the fulfilment of the two first demands only and must allow China the same economical interests in Mongolia as are enjoyed by the other interested Powers. The Mongols have the same rights of independent existence as other nations, and are undoubtedly deserving of support in their present policy; the more so that their independence is advantageous to their neighbours in the sense of preserving the peace between Russia and China.

Mongolia, as an independent State and neutral zone between the two great countries cannot become dangerous from the military point of view to either of these countries and the economical interests of each can be equally protected, whereas if Chinese sovereignty in Mongolia is restored nominally and Chinese economical emigration restricted according to Russian demands, there will always be sources of contention and division, because the vital interests of the Chinese people, especially in the Mongolian districts contiguous to China Proper, will be infringed by the restriction. In this part of Mongolia the Chinese interests are undoubtedly great. The chief Mongolian commercial centres in Inner Mongolia, that is Kalgan, Dolon-Nor and others, are thickly peopled with Chinese. The region immediately North of the Great Wall, occupied by the Tsakhars, is already included in the extended boundaries of the province of Chihli and that occupied by the Tumets is included in Shansi. The Mongolian tribes of Inner Mongolia are ruled by their hereditary princes, who belong to the same stock as the Manchu dynasty, and between them there has always been common interests and relationship, as some of the princes are married to princesses of the Imperial House and the latter granted them many favours. For that reason these princes were faithful to the Manchu dynasty and supported the latter to the last moment in the struggle against the revolution. Only after the complete failure of the Dynasty did they turn their back on Peking and address themselves to the Kudahta, the new ruler of Khalha, whose policy they did not share at the beginning of the movement, but only after the Manchu dynasty was dethroned. The people of Inner Mongolia are greatly assimilated among the Chinese, and have remained comparatively quiet until the present time. If the new Chinese Government according to its promises, grants them

equality and freedom, regardless of nationality or religion, and frees them from the tribute which has been exacted from them though their princes, they may continue to remain quiet. As to Outer Mongolia, or Khalha, however the state of affairs is quite different. Khalha being separated from Inner Mongolia by the Gobi or Shamo desert, was under the rule of the Manchu satraps and their numerous officials at Urga, who treated the Mongols cruelly. These so-called Manchu Resident-Generals, or ambans, and their officials, exacted arbitrarily from the Mongols dues which were not fixed by any laws and depended in each case exclusively on the discretion of the officials. The Chinese residents in North Mongolia, except a small number of artisans, were merchants, from whom the petty Mongolian princes borrowed money at an extremely high rate of interest. In consequence of this the princes were always over head and ears in debt, and were often unable to pay the interest on their debts, in spite of the high dues they exacted from the Mongols of their respective "Hoshun." As a result of this the princes were greatly dependent on the Chinese merchants and were compelled to patronize the latter in their trade with the Mongols. This state of affairs aroused the ire of both the Mongols and their princes against the Chinese. Finally, the political colonization which was started by the Peking Government several years ago in North Mongolia, provoked the Mongols and they began to offer open resistance to the Chinese authorities. In many cases they surprised the Chinese settlers in the Eastern part of Khalha and destroyed their property after having expelled them and their officials. In this section of North Mongolia the Chinese colonization was conducted very actively, in spite of all the protests which were lodged by the Mongols. Thus many new Chinese settlements were established and the town of Taonanfu, located on the bank of the Tor river, an affluent of the Honi, became the centre of Chinese activity. Under such condition there was nothing left for the Mongols except to throw themselves into the arms of Russia, and accordingly they began to manifest their sympathy towards Russia, sending one delegation after another to St. Petersburg.

The Russian Government, after the experience of its thoughtless and ill-fated adventure in South Manchuria, now, after some consideration, has decided, as may be seen from M. Sazanoff's speech, to intervene in China-Mongolian affairs, but being anxious about the possible results of this intervention, they have taken means to avoid an armed conflict. In the present troublesome conditions in Russia, the St. Petersburg Government could not arrive at any other decision. Russian interests are considerable only in the Mongolian districts contiguous to Russian possessions, and these interests have until recently been represented chiefly by Russian traders and the Russian frontier inhabitants, who availed themselves of the rice pasture lands of neighbouring Mongolia for their cattle. For that reason the most essential point for Russia in the Mongolian problem is, undoubtedly, the question of the neutralization of Mongolia in a military sense, since, being free from any strong outside military influence, the country can be no danger to her two strongly armed neighbours, whom she separates from each other by a vast tract of land. Besides, as the Mongolians cannot themselves maintain their independence under their own arms, and must depend on their neighbours, their military forces may be limited to that of police, necessary to maintain order in their country. The two Russian demands, according to which China must abandon the idea of stationing her troops in Mongolia and of introducing her administration into that country, thus have a purely political character; while the third according to which the Chinese emigration to Outer Mongolia must be prohibited, may assume in time a purely economic aspect.

If the Russian Government will insist on the fulfilment of its two first demands, and maintain Mongolian independence, it will not injure the

economic interests of the Chinese people, and the Peking Government can not offer any great resistance to the common Russo-Mongolian demands, because the true lovers of peace in China will probably not share the views of their adventure-seeking countrymen. Any insistence on the part of Russia on the fulfilment of the third demand, however, may result in more serious complications between the two countries, if Chinese economic interests be seriously infringed in Mongolia. Such complications would not be solved by any concession which China, under the pressure of internal disorders, might grant; since she would certainly not forget the infringement of her national vital interests, which must be generally respected in internal relations more than the mere vanity of adventure-seeking jugoes.

In his speech, M. Sazanoff did not outline fully this question as to Chinese emigration, and for that reason it can not be said at present what is the true import of this Russian demand. The Russian public has had an ill-fated experience in the Far East through its blind confidence in Russian diplomacy, and has now good reason to be on its guard lest the Mongolian question, which has been brought by the force of recent events to the very forefront of political life, may lead Russia into new adventures, if not at once, then certainly in the near future. It is only a question of one or two decennaries for old China to be rebuilt on a new basis. To help the Mongolians to support their independence is, of course, a deed worthy of any great nation, but to expel the Chinese only in order to occupy their places in Mongolia may entail deserved but untoward results.

As to Chinese sovereignty being restored in Mongolia, according to M. Sazanoff's declaration, it can be said that this sovereignty will be only nominal, as the real power will belong to the autonomous Mongolian Government, established and backed by Russia. All this will really mean that Mongolia will be in fact under the protectorship and rule of Russia, while her international relations, as those of a constituent part of the Chinese Republic, will be under the control of the latter. Such a state of affairs in Mongolia would of course be anomalous and would lead to perpetual misunderstandings and collisions between Russia and China. Nominal Chinese sovereignty in Mongolia without economical rights would only entail extra expenditure on China, as she would be compelled to establish a superfluous Bureau at the Foreign Ministry and maintain numerous extra officials. Thus China has much to lose, but nothing to gain, by such a policy. For that reason the more sober-minded Chinese regard M. Sazanoff's proposal as mere trifling. Moreover they may see that Russia wants to drive out of Mongolia not only the political Chinese interests, but the economical as well, and wishes to capture Mongolia for herself, not only to guarantee her safety and peace, as M. Sazanoff asserted in his speech. Of course, it is hardly necessary to say that Mongolian independence from China in an administrative and military sense, is the very thing which every Russian, except the Chauvinists, desires under present conditions. This can be attained without any infringement of the vital interests of a great friendly nation and would coincide with the desire of the Mongolian people, while not being very much against the spirit of the Chinese Republic and the new Government, as the Mongols cannot be denied the rights of independence. As may be gathered from M. Sazanoff's assertions, Russia does not want to interfere in Mongolian affairs with an armed force, only to extend her territorial possessions in Asia at the expense of Mongolia. This statement may be regarded as just and as the more popular view of the Russian public.

Under present conditions the most necessary thing for Russia, undoubtedly, is to maintain Mongolian independence so as to create a Mongolian neutral zone in a political and military sense without infringement of the economical Chinese interests in that country. This can be

attained by the equality of the economical rights of all the Powers interested in Mongolian affairs.

The assertions of Russian diplomats that Mongolia has neither means nor ability to maintain her independence, that is, to exist independently, cannot be regarded otherwise but as baseless. Mongolia has not sufficient population to defend her independence against her strong military neighbours, it is true; but if these neighbours would leave her alone, she would be able in time to organize her finances and to prepare men to lead her. This could only be a question of a few years, as the Mongolians are an able people by nature and their country has great natural resources. At the present moment, it is true, Mongolia has neither a financial system, nor experienced men. This is the result of the fact that the Mongols have been oppressed by the Peking Government during several centuries; their state and public life ruined, and their education neglected. But as soon as the Mongols are independent, they will be able to regain in a short time what they have lost under the sway of the old Peking Government.

V. SILINSKY.

NEW COMPANIES.

According to investigations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the companies established during May number 642, with a gross capital of 12,314,877 yen, thereby bringing the total since January to 1,662 for the former and 47,116,765 yen for the latter. This is an increase of 318 in the number of companies, and of 15,920,744 yen in the amount of capital, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year. The details are as shown below:—

	No. of Comp.	Amount of Capital. Yen.
Agriculture	10	230,999
Marine Products	3	17,900
Forestry	1	26,000
Brewing	20	197,550
Provisions	21	161,550
Fibre industry	46	6,057,000
Chemical industry	25	576,850
China ware	3	33,750
Metallurgical	12	277,800
Wheels and ship building	3	133,000
Machinery and Implements	19	161,820
Gas and Electricity	30	934,500
Sundry	1	695,700
Mining	4	94,500
Merchandise	168	2,194,428
Warehousing	3	25,000
Credits mobile	44	520,900
Insurance	1	125,000
Transport and Traffic	38	1,437,175
Miscellaneous	129	2,513,905
Total	642	12,314,877

NEW CAPITALISATION.

According to an investigation of the Japan Industrial Bank, the capital invested during the preceding month in the expansion of industries was 10,800,000 yen and in new enterprises 36,950,000 yen, or 47,750,000 yen in all, thereby bringing the total since January up to 344,700,000 yen. This is a decrease by some 24,801,000 yen as compared with the figures recorded for the month of April, the details being as shown in the following table:—

	Invested in Expansion Thou. Yen.	Invested in New Enterprises Thou. Yen.	Total Thou. Yen.
Industries	15,300	1,500	16,800
Gas	500	—	500
Electricity	300	2,000	2,300
Commerce & others	17,080	—	17,080
Banking	—	5,305	5,305
Rails	3,020	—	3,020
Fishery	250	—	250
Agriculture	500	2,000	2,500
Total	36,950	10,805	47,755

THE URIANHAI QUESTION.

(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Long articles have appeared in the *Novoe Vremya* and some other Russian papers discussing the Urianhai question in connection with Mongolian affairs. According to the *Novoe Vremya* a dispute as to the ownership of the Urianhai region arose between Russia and China several years ago. Urianhai is located south of Krasnoyarsk, beyond the Laiansk mountain chain and is bounded on the South by the Tannu Ula mountains and on the East and West by ranges of the Laiansk mountains. It occupies an area of 142,220 square versts and is drained by the upper reaches of the Enissei river. Its soil is fertile and wheat, millet, barley, and other cereals can be raised there. There is also much rich pasture land, wooded fields and auriferous sands in the many valleys of the numerous mountain-streams. The pasture lands are very favourable for cattle and horse raising, the heads of cattle amounting to many hundreds of thousands. Besides there are many rich hunting grounds. The native population numbers about from 50,000 to 60,000. They all lead nomad lives and belong to the same religion as the Mongols. There are also about 6,000 Russian settlers, who live in its small villages, 14 mines worked by Russians and 8 Russian farms. The first Russian settlers came to the country and settled down there in the 18th century. According to the *Novoe Vremya* there were no Chinese settlers among the Urianhai until 1900, when the Peking Government seeing that its influence was getting weaker, decided to colonize the country. Soon after this, some 25 Chinese firms and different enterprises appeared in the region. Until that time Urianhai although a constituent part of the Chinese Empire, had remained quite isolated and free from Chinese influence.

From the 18th century, when the first Russians came to Urianhai, the natives paid tribute in kind both to the Russian and Chinese Governments. This double subjection always led to misunderstanding between the Chinese and Russian frontier authorities, and when the Chinese colonization scheme was started the Urianhai question was again brought to the front. One Russian diplomat interviewed by a representative of the *Golos Moskvi*, said that the Russian influence in Urianhai is growing peacefully and quietly, there being at present about 15,000 Russians living among the Urianhaians with whom their relations are friendly. On the other hand the natives do not permit the Chinese new-comers to enter Urianhai and Chinese influence has greatly decreased, in spite of the fact that the country is a possession belonging to the middle Kingdom. The Russian frontier line goes *via* the Laiansk mountain chain, which is a good natural barrier between Russia and China, and under these conditions there is no necessity to seize Urianhai, since the annexation of this country will come about peacefully and quietly. This is the view of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Information has been received at St. Petersburg, however, from which it appears that the local Russian authorities in Siberia have removed the frontier marks about 500 versts into the interior of Urianhai. According to other information the Urianhaians are willing to be annexed by Russia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, is decidedly against the action of the local Russian authorities in removing the frontier marks, since in this case the Russian frontier would be open and would require to be guarded. Apart from this there is a great probability that the Urianhaians would avail themselves of the present disorder in China, to declare their independence of the Peking Government. This declaration would be better for Russia than annexation, because in that case Urianhai would occupy just the same position towards China, as Khalha does at present.

TOKYO'S POPULATION.

What proportion of the population of Tokyo, those who were born in the City represent, there has been no means of ascertaining hitherto in the absence of statistics. The Municipality has now published the results of its investigations bearing on the subject, however, according to which, out of a population numbering 1,626,000 in 1908, only 711,837 or 43.78 per cent. were born in the Capital, the rest coming from the provinces. The following table shows the distribution according to prefectures:—

Tokyo	793,016	Kyoto	11,018
Osaka	12,402	Kanagawa	49,498
Hyogo	8,079	Nagasaki	2,666
Niigata	62,972	Saitama	95,610
Yamanashi	14,885	Shiga	10,352
Gifu	15,737	Nagano	34,846
Miyagi	12,898	Fukushima	18,650
Iwate	4,871	Aomori	5,130
Yamagata	8,949	Akita	5,120
Kagawa	3,341	Ehime	3,933
Kochi	3,602	Fukuoka	5,497
Oita	3,390	Saga	3,555
Kumamoto	3,744	Mayazaki	1,605
Gumma	29,895	Chiba	106,320
Ibaraki	58,354	Tochigi	37,603
Nara	2,470	Mie	21,518
Aichi	44,695	Shizuoka	28,636
Fukui	19,092	Ishikawa	17,351
Toyama	26,670	Tottori	3,126
Shimane	3,065	Okayama	5,575
Hiroshima	6,560	Yamaguchi	6,283
Wakayama	4,239	Tokushima	3,582
Kagoshima	5,835	Okinawa	251
Hokkaido	4,973	Formosa	332
Saghalien	—	Foreign	5,709
Unknown	1,705		

As will be seen by the above table, Chiba prefecture heads the list with 106,000, followed by Saitama with 95,600, Niigata with 62,900, Ibaraki with 58,000, Kanagawa with 49,000, and Tochigi with 37,000. These prefectures are those lying near to Tokyo. It is to be noted, however, that Shizuoka, Aichi, Nagano and Toyama occupy conspicuous positions in the above list, in spite of their comparatively great distance from Tokyo. From this it can easily be seen in what close relations they stand to Tokyo. The fact may also be noted that those from Yamaguchi, Kagoshima, Saga, Kumamoto, Kochi and Fukuoka, who occupy influential positions in political and military circles, stand low down in the list.

BRIBERY OR EMBEZZLEMENT.

In the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court the hearing took place on the 6th instant of the appeal lodged by Messrs. Isomura and Akiyama against the judgment pronounced by the Nagoya Appeal Court in connection with the case popularly known as the Sugar scandal. The accused counsel enumerated over forty points, demanding that the judgment of the Nagoya court should be quashed. The salient points raised by counsel were that it was not illegal for a company, to return or cause to be returned, to the House of Representatives any of its directors to promote the interests of that company, and that the members so elected were not responsible for any other crime than bribery when they used the company's money to buy their fellow members to obtain their support to a Bill touching the vital interests of the company.

The Public Prosecutor refuted the argument on the ground that it was not necessary to enquire into the cause of an act constituting criminal embezzlement, it being sufficient to prove that the accused had spent the company's money without authorization. The use of the company's money for bribery and some other illegal purposes was clearly beyond the power vested in the directors of the company and constituted embezzlement.

Judgment was reserved.

The opening ceremony of the electric railway line between Tasaki and Narasaki in Kumamoto, took place on Sunday morning.

THE GLORIFICATION OF ASSASSINATION.

(COMMUNICATED) *

About two years ago an article appeared in these columns entitled *Reason and Sentiment in this Country* which attracted a good deal of attention at the time and was favourably commented on by nearly all the foreign newspapers in Japan. The main contention of the writer was that the Japanese people, educated and uneducated, are swayed by sentiment rather than by reason and not infrequently by unwholesome, rather than by wholesome, sentiment. Many illustrations of this were cited. Among them the attitude of leading public men to assassination. Since, as will be seen directly, there is a special reason for bringing up this subject afresh at the present time, as an introduction to what we have to say thereon we will quote a short passage from the article referred to above, which appeared in the *Japan Weekly Mail* of June 25th, 1910. "I must say I have always been astonished by the way in which assassination is condoned in this country; not by ignorant people only, but by scholars. Many years ago Fukuzawa wrote very strongly on this subject, pointing out the dangers attached to the sentiment that the assassin is a hero and arguing that certain Japanese writers are responsible for the manufacture of assassins. Only last April, the 50th anniversary of the killing of the Regent Ii Kamon-no kami was celebrated in a way that must have surprised foreign onlookers. Count Hijikata, formerly Minister of the Imperial Household, was the Chairman of the Committee which superintended the arrangements, General Baron Miyoshi was Vice-Chairman and Mr. Haseba Junkō, President of the House of Representatives (now Minister of Education) was prominent among the members of the Committee. Thus did public men openly lend their names to the glorification of assassination. The Regent was denounced as a rebel, though he had the misfortune to live at a time when the political power that is now exercised by the Emperor was wielded by a Tokugawa Shōgun. The deed perpetrated on the 24th of March half a century ago on a man whose only crime it was that he persuaded the Shōgun to sign treaties with foreign Powers, when all the circumstances connected with it be considered, deserves to be denounced as a political crime of the deepest dye."

It was so denounced at the time by Sir Rutherford Alcock in one of his dispatches to his own Government. But the glorification of assassination is still going on. Count Hijikata, encouraged by the strong support he received two years ago, has recently published a book entitled *Sakurada Gikyōroku* (A Record of the Loyal Act of Justice at Sakurada). Now if Count Hijikata had been content to simply make use of the ordinary methods of circulating books in the case of this treatise of his in praise of the lawless deed of Mito rōnin, seeing that the official censors had nothing to say against the work, little notice would have been taken of his action. But, instead of this, he utilized his position as a Court Official for applying to the Department of Education with a view of insuring a favourable reception for his book in all State Schools.

According to a note on this subject which appeared in a recent issue of the *Asahi Shimbun*, Mr. Fukuzawa, the Vice-Minister of Education, has made the following statements bearing on the case. "A little time ago, Count Hijikata, Count Tanaka, Count Kagawa and Baron Shibusawa, together with Messrs. Murai Kichibei, Takata Shinzō, Kubara Fusaozuke and Kawasaki Kinshirō, jointly applied to the Department of Education, asking that copies of the book in question should be distributed among schools, etc. in all parts of the country. The authorities casually examined the contents of the book and came to the conclusion that it might be circulated as requested without harm being done. They consequently took steps for distributing the books. Copies were sent to the

various local authorities, with a message stating that Count Hijikata having applied to the Department for the circulation of the book, these copies were being forwarded by the donors with the Department's permission. . . . Opinions differ even among learned men in regard to the contents of the book. The Department of Education did not pass judgment on the rights or wrongs of the case as set forth. It had not the slightest idea of absolutely recommending the book. It regarded its contents as harmless and hence took the steps above-mentioned."

When one remembers what a fuss the Department has made over the circulation of other books that to most judges of literature were far less calculated to put "dangerous thoughts" into the minds of students than this glorification of an attack on an officer of state, one can not but feel surprised that such a weak explanation of the Department's action should have been given to the public by the Vice-Minister. Certainly outside Japan it would be hard to find an Education Department circulating among schools a book that justifies assassination.

The *Yorossu Chōhō* in an article on the subject points out that if the assassination of Ii Kamon-no kami by Mito rōnin is worthy of all praise because the motives of the assassins were good motives, regarded from their own special point of view, then An Ju-Kon's attack on Prince Itō can hardly be condemned. In this case the assassin and those who backed him believed that loyalty to the dethroned King of Korea required the removal of the man who had planned and carried out the measures that led to his removal from office. Then there is the attempt on the life of General Terauchi which was to have been made in Korea. How can this be condemned if the motives of assassins are to be allowed to constitute a lawful plea for the perpetration of what the whole civilised world regards as murder?

In a leading article on this subject the *Yorossu* asks, "Does the Education Department encourage assassination?" In modern legal phraseology the Sakurada incident was a case of premeditated murder, and in the language of historians it was a case of assassination. Nor can it be denied that the victim was a great administrator of his time. Yet the Mombushō has made itself responsible for a book praising this action, and has sent it for distribution among Normal and Middle Schools and even among Girls' High Schools."

Some months ago, in deference to the protests of Court Officials, historical Readers that had been compiled by acknowledged authorities on Japanese history had to be altered by the Department, and one of the leading compilers, Dr. Kida, had to be dismissed from Government service. The Readers compiled under the direction of Dr. Kida did nothing but relate historical facts as they are found recorded in Japanese standard histories, according to his testimony and that of others acquainted with their contents, but these Readers had all to be revised to please certain persons in authority. The general opinion is that they would have done no harm to any student's mind had they been left as they were. But by a large amount of misrepresentation and the constantly used implication of disloyalty to the Throne—which of course was never dreamt of by the compilers—a strong sentiment against the Readers was worked up and the Education Department was obliged to bow to the storm. Now we have a case in which the conditions are entirely reversed. An extremely injurious book is compiled by an ex-Minister of the Imperial Household Department and the Department of Education is practically directed to see that it is circulated among the rising generation. For the Department to say:—"We only acted as the medium of the influential persons who wished to see the book circulated" does not free it from responsibility. Thoughtful Japanese have said to us that if a thoroughly anti-moral book of this kind is recommended to students, lectures on right conduct may as well be discontinued. The idea that any student would be acting nobly if he were to take the life of any man whom he, the student,

considered to have shown disrespect to the Emperor is surely a very dangerous one to propagate. To say that the loyal act of justice at Sakurada is not dwelt on with the object of encouraging assassination to-day, only shows great ignorance of the way in which hot-headed men are turned into assassins. A deed that was noble 50 years ago would be considered by the readers of this book to be equally noble if committed to-day.

Nobody for a moment supposes that had the book in question been compiled by a less distinguished personage than Count Hijikata, and that had no pressure from Court Officials been brought to bear on the Department, it would have consented to be the medium of introducing so dangerous a work into State schools throughout the country. The attitude of the Japanese mind to assassination is one that has often been discussed in these columns. The way in which the lawless deeds of the 47 rōnin is praised to-day in so many quarters is no good omen. There are a few voices raised against the general sentiment, but even high-class scholars and philosophers occasionally pander to the public taste in this matter. For instance, a few years ago, Dr. Miyake Setsurei devoted the whole of a big extra number of his organ, the *Nippon oyobi Nipponjin*, to articles written in praise of the vendetta carried out by the Ako rōnin. This and much more that we could cite serves to show to what dangerous lengths the sentimentalism prevailing in Japan to-day may lead. That under the pretence of showing loyalty to the Throne the violent acts of assassins should be held up to admiration in the principal schools of the land is deeply to be regretted, and we sincerely hope that a re-consideration of the whole question will convince the Mombushō that the step it has taken was a wrong one and calls for rectification.

Japanese officials seem to be guided by no definite standard of right and wrong when dealing with assassins and assassination. A short time ago the *Seoul Press* stated that the authorities allowed the Korean friends of the late Mr. Okamoto Ryunosuke to hold a memorial service in honour of him. Now, Okamoto was convicted of "arranging and conspiring to assassinate the Queen of Korea." He deserves only to be remembered as the chief instigator of a crime of the deepest dye. Yet the Japanese Government in Korea, while hunting down the would-be assassins of General Terauchi by the hundred, allows this shameless fellow to be publicly praised and honoured. Is the actual murder of a Korean Queen a lighter offence than the attempted murder of a Japanese General? One might think so if guided only by the action of the Japanese authorities in this matter.

[We give publicity to the above article merely as a contribution to ethical discussion, not in token of agreement with the writer's views.—Ed. J.W.M.]

THE BARLEY CROP.

Investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce show that the estimated crop of barley this year amounts to 22,030,036 koku, which is an increase of some 0.6 per cent., or 121,606 koku, over the figures for the preceding year, and an increase by 0.4 per cent. or 85,853 koku as compared with the production of the ordinary year. In this connexion the following table showing the comparative production per annum during the past ten years is of interest:—

	Koku.
1902	18,415,625
1903	13,545,105
1904	19,642,248
1905	18,735,859
1906	20,365,260
1907	22,128,484
1908	21,434,966
1909	21,518,016
1910	20,611,245
1911	21,901,430
Average	21,166,183
1912	22,030,036

THE RUSSIAN CHOIR.

PINK CONCERT AT "THE GAIETY."

Seldom have travelling companies visiting Yokohama drawn a larger house or been received with warmer applause than Princess Slaviansky's Russian choir at the Gaiety on Monday evening. The house was literally packed, extra chairs being taken in, and every item was received with an applause which must have been very gratifying to the performers.

The programme was in three parts, the first and last being devoted to the rendering of various choruses and popular songs, and the second to orchestral renderings on Russian musical instruments.

Princess Slaviansky, who has herself a pleasing, well trained voice, led the choir, who, in their national costumes, formed a very picturesque group on the stage. "The Waves of the Volga" was perhaps the most popular of the pieces given in the first part, although "Darkness of Night is falling upon the Earth" was very beautiful. In the third part the Siberian Convicts' Song, with a fine solo by one of the choir, whose name was not mentioned on the programme, was very enthusiastically received, although the Princess would not allow an encore to be given. "Ei oohem"—the song of the workmen on the Volga barges—with the gradual dying away of the sound as the barges pass, was a very picturesque piece of work. The quaint Russian popular songs were also extremely successful.

In the second part the choir turned itself into an orchestra and played numerous Russian songs on many stringed instruments, which appeared to combine the qualities of the mandoline and the guitar. One of the performers, whose name is again not recorded, was exceedingly clever, and responded to an encore by a marvellous exhibition of skill. Some clog dancing by two of the troops was introduced at the second part.

At the conclusion of the performance the choir gave a rendering of the Japanese National Anthem such as has probably never been heard in this country before, following this by the Russian National Anthem.

The following was the programme:—

PART I.

1. A Legend of "Dobrynia Nikitich"
(An old tale of XI. Century)
Princess M. D. Agreneff Slaviansky and Choir.
2. a "The Native Country" } (Old popular songs)
b "Come forth, cabbage" } D. A. Slaviansky
3. "Demovini"
The Male Choir.
4. "Darkness of Night is falling upon the Earth"
The Male Choir.
5. "The Waves of the Volga" D. A. Slaviansky
The Choir.
6. a "Man beats his wife" } (Russian popular song)
b "Birch in the field" } D. A. Slaviansky
Princess M. D. Agreneff Slaviansky and Choir.

PART II.

Orchestra of Russian Popular instruments: Balalaika, Domra, Tamburitsa, etc.

1. A Russian March..... D. A. Slaviansky
2. a "All is quiet in the field" } Russian songs
b "I am going, little girl" } D. A. Slaviansky

PART III.

1. "Farewell to Shrove-tide"
(Chorus from the Opera "Snegoorochka")
The Choir, ...P. Chaitovsky
2. "The White Swan"—a Novgorod Tale.....
The Choir, ...Ippolitoff-Ivanoff
3. a "Hops on the River"..... Russian Songs
b "Father's Gate-way"
The Choir.
4. "Ab, my lot!"—Siberian Convicts' Song
The Male Choir.

5. "Ei, oohem!"—A Song of the Workmen on the Volga barges
The Male Choir.
6. "Dragon-fly and Ant"—A Fable.
Princess M. D. Agreneff Slaviansky and little Vania.
Organist: M. N. Ivanoff

The above notice was our opinion of the brilliant concert rendered by the Russian choir on Monday evening. On Tuesday afternoon an equally excellent performance was delivered by the choir. The programme was changed, with two exceptions; viz—two numbers that were repeated from Monday evening's rendering by request.

One can only say with the utmost sincerity that the matinee was a brilliant success. The purity of tone of the singers, the brilliance of attack, the swift glides into *pianissimo* and the sudden burst into the *crescendo* were remarkably effective, true, and exquisite.

Writing only about an hour or so after the matinee, the intoxication of the music obsessed one; and it requires "time" to write with the cold-bloodedness of the austere critic. Suffice, that every member of the audience was enthusiastic; that the Princess allowed several encores; that everybody was charmed; and that everybody also realised that they had listened to a combination of the most beautiful voices that had visited Yokohama, and also seen most a picturesque barbaric feast of colour in costumes.

CULTIVATION OF WASTE LANDS.

Speaking at the conference held on Wednesday concerning the utilisation of waste land, Baron Makino, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, said:—

The capital thus far advanced to the different farming bodies at a low rate of interest for bringing waste or sterile lands under cultivation amounts to a little over 6,200,100 yen. While this may by no means be regarded as sufficient for the purpose, there is no doubt that, together with the special services offered by the Japan Industrial and the Japan Hypothec Banks, it affords a great convenience to agricultural enterprise. It seems to be a fact, however, that the capital which was advanced with the above aim in view, has often been either appropriated for different purposes, or invested in such enterprises as do not lie within the range of immediate necessity, thereby making an unnecessary addition to the burdens of the farming population. This certainly is a matter claiming the particular attention of the authorities who are in direct charge of the operation.

One of the most regrettable drawbacks in the way of the encouragement and progress of the work is the failure of the farmers to obtain the benefits which ought to accrue. The work of bringing land under cultivation is no light burden on the farmers, since it costs at least 15 yen per tan. Should the work, therefore, prove fruitless under these circumstances, the peasants will naturally hesitate to continue it. In view of the unsatisfactory results effected in the early days, when the law for bringing land under cultivation was first promulgated and when the knowledge requisite for such work was still in an infantile stage of development, the Government's particular efforts are now devoted to the production of well trained engineers through the Agricultural College and other similar educational institutions, and at the same time to enable the engineers in the services of the local governments to obtain modern advanced knowledge by means of lectures. All these efforts alone will accomplish little, however, unless those directly responsible for the work in each locality discharge their duties with the conviction that their own interests are bound up with those of the landowners.

The calculation of the profits obtainable from the work should also be done as accurately as possible, since otherwise the consequences will be not only to expose the engineers to undeserved attacks from the public, but also to discourage future operations. As hardly requires pointing

out, the completion of the work is not always a guarantee of profits being obtained from it, unless it is accompanied by proper utilization of the land. Brief and simple as the above suggestions may be, it is sincerely to be hoped that the local authorities will, with these considerations in view, devote their efforts unsparingly to the attainment of the purpose for which the work is undertaken.

FREIGHT RATES ON TEA.

With regard to the transport duties on tea across the Pacific, it will be remembered, says the *Fiji Shimpō*, that some time ago Mr. Otani, President of the Japan Central Tea-traders Guild, met in conference the Representatives of the Nippon Yusen, Osaka Shosen and Toyo Kisen Kaisha, at the Department of Communications, as a result of which new freight rates were drafted. The Yokohama Shipping Conference, however, insisted that it was necessary for them to ascertain if the revision of the freight rates was the desire of all the tea traders, and dispatched representatives to Shizuoka to conduct the necessary investigations. In consequence the fact was revealed that seventy per cent. of the shippers were foreigners, those belonging to the Tea-traders' Guild, of which Mr. Otani is the President, occupying only thirty per cent., and that as the foreigners engaged in the trade were of opinion that constant fluctuations in freight rates are very objectionable, they would prefer to maintain the present rates. On these grounds the Shipping Conference is unwilling to accept the proposal of the Guild. The latter, however, still insists on a decrease in the freight by one dollar, and declares that it is prepared to do whatever possible for the attainment of its object. Negotiations with the Shipping Conference concerning the matter are expected to be shortly opened by the three steamship companies, which now stand as it were between two fires. It may be noted, however, our contemporary observes, that it is incomprehensible why the Shipping Conference should stand against the decision of the Tea traders' Guild, inasmuch as the revision of the present freight rates will by no possibility cause any further fluctuation in freightage, but, on the contrary, will ensure its stability by decreasing the rate by one dollar.

JAPANESE EMIGRANTS TO PERU.

A batch of one hundred Japanese emigrants are to start for Peru on the 22nd instant on board the *Hongkong Maru*, under a contract with the British Sugar Manufacturing Company. They are to work at San Nicholas for a term of one year for daily wages of 1 yen 20 sen, with an additional remuneration for overtime, the daily working hours being 12 in the factories, and 10 in the fields. The monthly expenditure for food is reckoned at about 15 yen, houses, bedding, furniture, etc. being all provided. Physicians will also be attached to the emigrants in the proportion of one for every ten workers. The emigrants are all farmers, hailing for the most part from Kumamoto, Kagoshima, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima, Ehime, Oita, Miyagi, Fukushima and Saga prefectures.

In this context attention may be drawn to reports of the Japanese settlers in Tahiti. The island is a very small one, about two ri in length and one ri in breadth. In March, 1910, the Oriental Emigration Company despatched about thirty artisans to the island, and the results were so satisfactory that almost 350 mechanics and carpenters were later sent in response to the repeated demands for Japanese labour from French capitalists. Most of these men are engaged in mining phosphoric acid and are said to be living a very easy life, there being no temptations for wasting money. The bulk of the emigrants are from Fukushima prefecture and the money sent home by them every month amounts to something like 13,000 yen, which in view of their fewness is very satisfactory. To satisfy the wishes of those settlers, Mr. Horii, a medical practitioner, is going to establish himself on the island.

THE FRANCO-JAPANESE BANK.

The *Kokumin* writes that since Japan's participation in the Chinese loan, a belief obtains that the Franco-Japanese Bank was mooted for the purpose of introducing foreign capital to meet Japan's portion of the loan, and that Dr. Soyeda's visit to Paris was to make the necessary arrangements. This belief, says our contemporary, is entirely erroneous. Although it is, of course, difficult to raise the necessary funds on the domestic market and a portion at least is to be raised abroad, it is too hasty to jump at the conclusion that Japan desires to raise all the fund through the medium of the Franco-Japanese Bank. In the event of Japan floating a loan in France, the Bank may subscribe, but this by no means signifies that the Bank is accommodating Japan with a fund to cover her portion of the China loan. The Franco-Japanese Bank may come into actual existence in the near future, but it will most decidedly not be connected with the China loan.

An official dispatch reaching the Department of Finance from Dr. Soyeda, now in London, states that all the impediments have now been removed. An official announcement of the organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank will be made shortly.

There can now be almost no doubt as to the successful organization of the Franco-Japanese Bank, writes the *Nichi Nichi*, and there can also be hardly any doubt that some special significance is attached to its formation beyond the ostensible grounds of its use as a financial medium, since otherwise the Government would not have given so much support, both directly and indirectly, to the establishment of what is in fact a private corporation. The special reason actuating the Government appears to be the replenishment of the specie reserve kept abroad. In the 28th session of the Imperial Diet Mr. Yamamoto, Minister of Finance, officially announced that the specie reserve standing to Japan's credit on December 23rd last amounted to 367 million yen, which would reach a total of 450 million when the Tokyo Municipal loan was issued. The annual exodus of specie in the form of interest due on foreign loans amounts to about 80 million yen, exclusive of the settlement of the balance of trade, while the influx from the remittances of Japanese emigrants, etc. totals about 20 million yen the outflow thus exceeding the influx by some 60 million yen. In the event of the balance of trade being maintained, no dearth will be felt in the specie reserve for five or six years to come. The specie reserve represented by the Minister of Finance as standing to Japan's credit, however, is the sum total of the specie owned abroad by the Nippon Ginko and the Government, but while the Nippon Ginko's specie amounts to 251 million yen, the specie reserve of the Government does not exceed 114 million yen. The specie reserve of the Nippon Ginko is the reserve for the issue of convertible notes and does not suffer any diminution, and the specie reserve kept by the Government is only available for the payment of interest due on existing loans, etc., and as it is limited to only 110 million yen the optimistic views expressed by the Minister of Finance hardly seem warranted. Since December last the payments made out of the specie reserve have been 3,990,000 yen for interest due to December last, 5,000,000 yen for purchase of English currency bonds in April last for redemption, 30,312,000 yen for payment of interest on foreign loans during the past five months, and 107,420,000 yen for the balance of trade during the past five months, altogether aggregating some 146 million yen. When this sum is deducted from the 110 million yen plus the proceeds of the Tokyo Municipal loan there remains only 54 million yen. Moreover, as the interest on domestic bonds held abroad is payable from this source, the actual amount of the Government specie reserve at present is calculated not to exceed some 50 million yen. Although the excess of

export usually amounts to tens of millions of yen in the latter half of the year the influx of specie will be set off by some 40 million yen payable for interest on loans in the same period, so that the specie reserve is calculated to dwindle to some 30 or 40 million yen towards the end of the current year. In the circumstances, Mr. Yamamoto has become conscious of the urgent necessity of replenishing the specie reserve kept abroad by raising a foreign loan. Further, the Chosen Works fund, amounting to 12,500,000 yen, is to be raised by the issue of a loan, and 55 million yen worth of short-term railway bonds are also to be converted into long-term bonds, since otherwise they will have to be redeemed by the end of the year. Inasmuch as the economic conditions in this country do not permit of the issue of the loan in the home market, a foreign loan will have to be raised. The specie reserve thus stands in need of replenishment, but since Mr. Yamamoto has repeatedly announced himself, from the time of his installation to the portfolio of Finance, as opposed to foreign loans, he has decided to support the Franco-Japanese Bank scheme in order to introduce a large amount of foreign capital through that medium to replenish the specie reserve and also otherwise facilitate financial operations. It is stated that Dr. Soyeda has instructions to negotiate for a loan of 100 million yen simultaneously with the conclusion of the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank. Although the introduction of such a large amount at one time seems improbable, there can be no doubt that the time will come when it will be realized. It can, therefore, be safely said that the formation of the Franco-Japanese Bank has for its object the replenishment of the specie reserve.

THE RICE MARKET.

SUSPENSION OF ALL NEW TRANSACTIONS.

The brokers committee of the Tokyo Rice Exchange sat in conference on the 7th instant to consider a practical method of regulating the movements of the price of rice, when it was resolved that the Exchange, on its own initiative, should suspend all new transactions for June and July delivery. An extraordinary general meeting of the brokers was convened the same afternoon, to which the proposal was submitted. No objection being raised, the proposal was confirmed by a unanimous vote and the meeting rose half an hour later, it having been decided to enforce the resolution on and after the 8th instant.

Commenting on the resolution of the brokers, a responsible authority of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce states that the step is most opportune. The substitution of Chosen and Formosan rice for standard rice is to come into force for August delivery, and the reduction of the import tariff on foreign rice will only prove effective one or two months hence. The operators have therefore been manipulating the market in bargains for June and July forwards, thereby raising the price to above 21 yen. The Department chiefly feels apprehension over the movement in price of cleaned rice, as to which it is important to check the abnormal tone on the Exchange. The Department was therefore determined to exercise its right of supervision and order the suspension of bargains for June and July forwards, when the brokers, on their own initiative, took steps to veto forward transactions. The Department has no hesitation in approving the measure as most opportune. The veto on new transactions of course differs from the suspension of dealings, in that the former does not in any way prejudice the buying in and selling out of existing bargains. It is therefore erroneous to speak of the measure taken by the brokers as a suspension of all transactions. There can be no doubt, however, that the measure will prove effective in checking the abnormal enhancement in the price of rice, as it cannot fail to render corner operations impossible. Similar measures have already been adopted by Niigata and four other Exchanges, but the im-

portant position which the Tokyo Exchange occupies will render the measures more effective there than anywhere else.

It is stated in this context that while the price of rice is showing an abnormal increase in Japan, it shows a radical fall in China, and importers are now planning to bring a quantity of rice from that country. The quotations of Chinese rice differ according to localities. In the Shanghai market, rice which was quoted between 7 and 8 yen per *koku*, has now fallen to 5 yen, while inferior rice is quoted as low as 3.50 yen. The veto on the exportation of rice ordered by the Chinese Government is no doubt responsible for the depreciation to a certain extent, but the arrival of an enormous quantity on the market after the restoration of peace is the most potential factor in bringing down quotations. It would seem as if the Government order makes exportation absolutely impossible, but there exist many precedents for the export of large quantities of rice during the time of prohibition. The scheme for the importation of Chinese rice is therefore considered not absolutely impracticable. When the scheme is realized, it will prove most effective in regulating the price of domestic rice, as the price of the Chinese rice is estimated not to exceed 5.30 yen per *koku* on its arrival at Yokohama.

DR. ELIOT'S VISIT.

Dr. Eliot, Professor of Harvard University, is expected to arrive in Tokyo on the 24th instant. In regard to his reception, Viscount Kaneko, Barons Megata and Yoshikawa and Mr. Sakai Tokutaro, members of the Harvard Club, acting as committee, met in conference a few days ago and decided the itinerary, according to which Dr. Eliot, Mrs. Eliot and their party, will land at Shimonoseki early on the 14th instant, and go on to Miyajima, where they will arrive at two the same afternoon, passing the night at Itsukushima. On the 15th at 10.30 p.m. they will reach Kobe, and stop the night, arriving at Kyoto the following morning. Thence they will pay a visit to Osaka, Nara and other noted places and cities of Central Japan. On the 23rd they will reach Kofu about 7 p.m. and pass the night at Miyunoshita, arriving at Shimbashi on the following day mid Kamakura.

The party is expected to leave Japan for home on the 6th proximo, by the T.K.K. steamer *Shunyo Maru*, which is to weigh anchor at Yokohama at 3 p.m. the same day. During the twelve days of his sojourn in Tokyo, Dr. Eliot will inspect the Women's University, the First High School and the Higher Normal School, besides the Imperial, Keio and Waseda Universities. Dr. Eliot will deliver lectures at several places on the peace question.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The foreign trade for the first ten days of the month of June shows a slight decline in both imports and exports as compared with the preceding ten days, the former decreasing by 26 per cent., chiefly in cotton, woollens, petroleum, bar and rod iron, iron nails, and machinery, and the latter by 6 per cent., chiefly in raw silk, waste silk, *habutae* and coal. In consequence the imports exceeded the exports by only 2,700,000 yen, as detailed in the following table:—

	First Ten Days of June.	Since January.	Comparison with preceding year.
	Thou. Yen.	Thou. Yen.	Thou. Yen.
Exports	14,568	202,656	+20,324
Imports	16,344	312,854	+43,695
Excess of Imp.	2,776	110,198	

The specie returns were as follow:—

	First Ten Days of June.	Since January.	Comparison with preceding year.
	Thou. Yen.	Thou. Yen.	Thou. Yen.
Export	939	11,552	+ 771
Import	3,021	6,795	+6,443
Excess of Export	2,082	4,757	

THE BOOKSHELF.

The House of Pride and other Tales of Hawaii.

By JACK LONDON, New York. The Macmillan Company, 1912. Price \$1.20 and postage.

MR. JACK LONDON'S reputation is now so firmly established that all readers, who at any time indulge in the misdemeanour of reading something light and good enough only to pass away time, accept without hesitation whatever bears his name on the title-page. Speaking in glittering generalities, the present volume will not prove their confidence to have been misplaced; although, speaking frankly, we must admit that the contents of this book are not quite up to the standard he has established by the skilful workmanship displayed in some of his others. Possibly the slight disappointment felt after reading these stories was due to the fact that the topics have been familiar to the writer of this notice for many years. Some of these very stories were told as long ago as forty odd years since, when this present writer was passing the Hawaiian Islands on a sailing vessel bound from San Francisco to Hongkong. The captain was rather more bitter in speaking of the missionaries than is Mr. London, but he had stories that seem now to have been first editions of what this author tells. Yet far be it from us to say that no one shall dare to tell a story over again and, if he can—as Jack London certainly has done—improve it in the telling. Such a rule of non-trespass, if rigidly enforced, would have deprived us of some of our very best stories, of which the Twice-told Tales survive, while the originals would be difficult—perhaps impossible—to find.

It is indisputably true that all of Mr. London's stories have improved in the telling. The initial story, the one that gives the title to the book, brings us into the company of a character with whom all of us are but too well acquainted—the Sanctimonious Pharisee, for such is Percival Ford. He is overwhelmingly proud of his goodness; but it is just that negative kind of virtue which never inspires respect, and rarely confidence in others. Goodness of the negative kind that cannot err, because of lacking vitality, because there is no possibility of fermentation in the blood to well up and spill over in error, does not command the respect of anybody.

Percival Ford was the son of a missionary, one of the earliest to go to the islands and one of those who availed themselves wisely of the tempting opportunities presented to amass a fortune which he left to his son Percival; his only son, as Percival assumes, but this is not true as almost everybody knows. This pug, Percival, adds to his inherited wealth and is purse-proud as well as being inordinately proud of his goodness. One evening, an acquaintance takes this goody-goody man to task for his heartless persecution of one Joe Garland, a happy-go-lucky half-caste whom Ford has dismissed from his own employ simply because he will sing and dance and enjoy life in his own "dissolute and idle" way. Not stopping at this Ford follows up his persecution by seeing to it that Garland gets "the sack" wherever he goes. The acquaintance, Dr. Kennedy, impatient with Ford's disgusting Pharisaical pretence, blurts out the truth which everybody except Ford himself seems to know; namely, that Joe Garland is Percival Ford's half brother. The missionary, Isaac Ford, the father whom Percival has always considered the very epitome of all virtues, had been more human than his extraordinary son, for he had loved illicitly and had gone wrong at one time.

There had been, after all, something more human about Isaac Ford than there is in his icy son. Even Dr. Kennedy's revelation does not break down Percival's self-satisfaction, nothing under Heaven could do that. But he listens to the doctor's plea, and consents to "let up" on Joe Garland. He even agrees to give the latter two hundred dollars a month if he will leave the islands

and never come back. This offer Garland declines, although he does declare that he is going to "the States." That is a cold synopsis of the story, but to get at the merits of the yarn as a character study, London's tale must be read, and it is worth reading.

So, too, are the others in this book, *Koolau the Leper* and *Good-bye, Jack*. These two deal with those unfortunates who have been attacked by the "Chinese sickness." In the first, there is drawn a vivid picture of the resentment which all Kanakas feel at the White Man's Government's plan for isolating all lepers. They feel—and who shall dare say there is no reason in their resentment?—that it is unjust for the whites to punish them because they are afflicted with a loathsome disease that was unknown to them until the white men brought in Chinese coolies to help them increase the output of sugar. The Kanakas had been contented with what was being done before the Chinese or even before the whites came, but the white men wished more and more, and because the contented Kanakas would not work themselves to death in order that strangers might amass fortunes, those Chinese were brought in, and with them came the curse, leprosy. It is small wonder that so many of the natives fight against the isolation at the leper settlement on Molokai, for to their minds it means punishment, undeserved and unjust punishment that is worse than death. "Good-bye, Jack," is the most touching and pathetic tale of all.

Then there is the next story, *Aloha Oe*, that musical phrase of the Hawaiians which is both greeting and good-bye. In this, a high-born American girl, the daughter of a prominent United States Senator, realises, as "Steve" Knight says to her, *Aloha Oe*, "my love be with you till we meet again," on the departure of the steamer which carries to San Francisco the Senatorial Commission to investigate conditions in the islands, of which her father is chairman, that she is leaving her heart in Steve's care, and he is only *hapa-haole*, "half-caste." Such strange, such nice distinctions are drawn! Stephen is not precisely *hapa-haole*, only a quarter-strain of tropic sunshine streams in his veins, but that is enough to put him outside the marriage-pole. "No one had disapproved of his teaching her to ride a surf-board, nor of his leading her by the hand through the perilous places of the crater of Kilauea. He could have dinner with her and her father, and he was a member of the entertainment committee; but because there was tropic sunshine in his veins he could not marry her." Ah, it is a strange world!

The theme of the next story, *Chun Ah Chun*, is so well known to every American and European from Honolulu westward to Canton, and the story is so related to people of some official and social prominence, for it is founded on fact, that we are rather surprised at London's carelessness in giving it a place in his collection. Frankly, we think it bad taste. There is, to be sure, nothing wrong about the Chinese becoming naturalised as a Hawaiian (it was many years before annexation) in order to marry the charming half-caste Stella Allendale. It is rather to his credit that the offspring were so attractive, the daughters, that is to say, as—when accompanied by a dowry running into six figures of dollars—to win husbands of the pure blood. Only, the story comes so near being a recital of facts, as many of us well know them, that it rather startles us. It is not told in a way to indicate a desire on the teller's part to do away with senseless race prejudice.

The last story in the book, *The Sheriff of Kona*, is the best of all. It, too, has to do with the curse of leprosy; for the hero, a god-like American, who tells about the sheriff having been exposed to infection and feeling that he is in danger for seven years, breaks his engagement and lives almost as a hermit. The story is, however, relieved of some of its gloom by the picture of life in one of the many spots in the Hawaiian Islands that are as near being earthly Paradises as we have a right to look for in this mortal life.

Surely, the hints that have been given of the

contents of this little volume are sufficient to lead many to wish to read all the tales in full.

Julia France and Her Times, a Novel. By GERTRUDE ATHERTON, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1912. Price \$1.25, plus postage.

We like a novel that is written with a definite purpose, even if we may not always be in perfect sympathy with that purpose or willing to lend so much as the weight of a little finger to help bring about the fulfilment of the purpose. Mrs. Atherton has put some of her ability into this effort to advance the cause of Woman's Suffrage, in England especially and throughout Anglo-Saxondom generally. She is a pleasing exception to the usual rule that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country, because the majority of Americans are now quite prepared to concur in the statement which has been made in England, that Mrs. Atherton is now the leading American novel writer.

This particular story gives the author still another opportunity to show her familiarity with many different regions of the earth; and no one can truthfully say that Mrs. Atherton has not travelled extensively and with such credentials as have given her every chance to see the most varying phases of Society, from Courts to slums. The story opens with an introduction to Mrs. Edis of "Great House," on the island of Nevix, Lesser Antilles. This widowed lady, whose husband and children do not appear to have done her much credit, with the possible exception of Julia, of whom more anon, has been suspected for more than thirty years of dabbling in the black arts, incited originally by an old creole from Martinique, grandson of the woman who so accurately cast the horoscope of Josephine. "For the last eighteen of these years it had been whispered among the birds in the high trees that a not unfamiliar destiny awaited Julia Edis."

The entrance of a British cruiser into the harbour of St. Kitts was always followed by a ball in Government House, in the little capital of Basse Terre. On this occasion there was a squadron of three at anchor; therefore the entertainment offered was even more tempting than common. Miss Julia "comes out" on this occasion and meets Harold France. This man, a thoroughly disreputable lieutenant in the British navy, is the kind of creature who, but for family and political influence, would have been kicked out the service for any one of a dozen reasons. He is manifestly smitten with the young girl and devotes himself most assiduously to her. On her part, she looks upon him simply as a dancing partner, not in any way different from the rest of the crowd of hot, perspiring, uncomfortable looking officers who are not enured to the heat of the tropics.

Mrs. Edis has implicit confidence in the correctness of Julia's horoscope, drawn by herself as soon as possible after the child's birth and confirmed by experts in various parts of the world. The horoscope has pointed to Julia's marriage at just this time with a member of the nobility and one who is much older than herself. Harold France, heir prospective to the Duke of Kingsborough, is over forty years of age, yet in Mother Edis' opinion he is the man of destiny.

Mrs. Atherton's skilful hand makes the picture of Mrs. Edis' run-down financial condition, her dilapidated home, and all her unattractive surroundings, one that we can all see clearly; and she makes us, too, indignant at the mother who will thus deliberately sacrifice her daughter. The captain of France's ship, knowing his man well, tries unsuccessfully to prevent the marriage, and it takes place immediately. Then the ship sails away to South America, and by the next mail steamer the younger bride is shipped off to London to be coached by her aunt, a much younger sister of Mrs. Edis, for her presentation at Court and for her, possibly, future position.

The duke takes kindly to his young connection by marriage; so do many other nice people, and altogether Julia France has a pleasant time until her husband gets home; then trouble

begins and flows in a heavy stream. One of Julia's chance acquaintances is a young Californian, Daniel Jay, two or three years her junior in age, but one of those boys who quickly develop into advanced maturity, and when he reappears, towards the end of the book, we find the disparity in ages counting for nothing.

Harold's brutality and bestiality make it impossible for his wife to live with him, and she tries to earn her own support by joining one of her friends in a small millinery establishment. This plan is working out well, until her husband thwarts it in a most contemptible manner; we wonder how and where Mrs. Atherton ever got the material to describe that scene in the Bond Street shop. Two dissolute women, sent by France just at the moment when Royalty appears to bestow its patronage, behave as only such creatures can, and they threaten a continuance of such visits, unless Julia returns to her husband. She gives in; but Harold's collapse into lunacy, an inherited tendency, aggravated by his life, and rendered acute by the duke's marriage and the birth of an heir, in a measure sets her free, and she becomes a fervid suffragette. Her speeches are one of the events of the day; they are cabled all over the world; and her picture is seen everywhere.

In time Daniel Jay reappears; now a man of importance who looks and acts as if he were the senior; his masterfulness—yet always it is with absolute gentleness—quite completes the conquest of Julia's heart. If we measure by prudish standards, the love-making between Daniel and Julia is not exactly conventional, and certainly it is not proper in a young married woman whose husband is living and from whom she is not divorced for cause. Perhaps another purpose was in Mrs. Atherton's mind when she wrote this book; and that was to join certain Britons in asking for what they call "better, more reasonable divorce laws."

But Harold dies just at the right time, and we are left to assume that Julia and Daniel "take no more chances" and that all goes well. It is strong and it is well told—although that last statement is really superfluous when one is discussing a novel written by Mrs. Atherton. The descriptions of places and episodes are manifestly accurate and evince the clear judgment of actual personal experience. The conversations are never tedious and at times are decidedly sprightly. Some readers may object to the mental whirl caused by being carried from the West Indies into Mayfair, and then into India, or to Munich, Parkenkirchen, San Francisco, and perhaps a score of other places; but it is all in the game; and those who are most familiar with all these spots cannot take exception to the descriptions.

We are disposed to think that Americans will not be altogether pleased with Mrs. Atherton's criticisms of manners and customs in their and her own country, and we must say that, at times, she does show a little bad taste in this particular matter. It is somewhat startling, too, and quite opposed to tradition, to note the promptness with which the remarkably unsophisticated Julia Edia develops into the self-possessed Julia France, and then into the militant suffragette; but it is not impossible.

There are so many important characters, each requiring careful treatment to avoid confusion, that the consummate skill displayed in making us acquainted with all of them, and sparing us from the sensation of being bored by any of them, is something that calls forth high praise.

We are not in the least surprised that Mrs. Atherton takes kindly to the very assertive suffragette; it is something that we should quite expect of her. She does not depict the offensive ones in quite the same way that some newspapers have described them; and yet she does not hesitate to show them up as rushing into places where they must expect rough handling and, indeed, court it. On the other hand, it will be somewhat surprising to most of her readers to have the charming Mrs. France—who might have become the Duchess of Kingsborough, and her almost

equally attractive chums Bridgit Maundrell and Isabel (Lady) Dark, shown as champions of the most advanced views of the Woman's Suffrage movement. Yet, such is human perverseness we suppose, it is probable that a majority of the readers of this entertaining volume will linger longer over the winter's week in Munich, when Julia and Daniel, under the chaperonage of Lord and Lady Dark give themselves up to the delights of outdoor freedom "love's young dream," than to the fights in provincial towns of England between Julia and her women associates and those who are equally strenuous in opposing their demands. J.K.G.

THE RUSSIAN CHOIR.

AN IMPRESSION.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

Something had prevented me from going to the "Gaiety," in Yokohama on Monday evening when the Russian Choir under the direction of Princess Slavianaky, held their audience in thrall. Consequently, I went along to the theatre on Tuesday afternoon. The weather about half past four was rather gloomy. It was not calculated to raise one's spirits; but I had been assured by my musical friends who had heard the choir on Monday evening that a great treat awaited me, and thinking of the pleasure I was promised, I gently climbed Camp Hill and wandered into the theatre. Being early, I obtained a seat without difficulty and settled down for what I felt certain would be a revelation. After having perused my programme, I idly turned round in my seat and surveyed the House. It was rapidly filling with pretty women and well-groomed men; whilst about all, there was a look of great expectation that promised well. Realising that fully ten minutes had to elapse before the concert opened, I settled myself comfortably in my chair and let my memory travel back to those frozen steppes and lands and sister countries from where those came who were going to entertain me. I had known lands like those. Not the identical places from where the *artistes* had come, but others that were adjacent and where Ice and Frost reigned equally supreme. I also remembered the vivid vein of melancholy that ever exists where reigns the rule of tyranny and suppression.

The curtains parted. A feast of barbaric colour suffused one's eyes. The modernity of to-day had disappeared. Here were men and women who had stepped from the pictures of the past, or from lands that few men here knew wot of. Wild flashing eyes, stalwart figures, picturesque garments, sweet dignified women, happy youngsters spoiling with immature intensity,—all were there. And dominating all, stood a *grande dame* of the past; cold, dignified, regal, majestic. For fully half a minute the choir were as mute as statues, then *Madame* lifted her right hand and from those assembled behind her swelled forth a note of such purity and tenderness that one caught their breath involuntarily. On and on swept the glorious notes, now swelling into volume like the force of a great organ, now sinking softly like the murmurs of the winds, then rolling on like the march of a mighty army, then softening again with an exquisite pathos. The song was an ancient ballad—"The Song of the Warrior"—and it told triumphantly of his victories and his losses; of his loves and his hates; but through all, the dominant note was melancholy, and such melancholy that it hurt.

So commenced the afternoon and on to the end it was a revelation. We went from comedy to tragedy, from light to darkness; yet it was more often tragedy than comedy, for it is with Russian music and that from the mountains, that the coldness of the countries seems to have entered the hearts of their composers and has made them write melodies that are exquisite, but which tear the heart to shreds.

Looking back upon this wonderful afternoon, I could not say that I liked one selection more than

another. My brain cells are still filled with fragments of haunting melodies, tender and sad in the extreme. My eyes see glimpses of unusual figures in brilliant glittering costumes. I am reminded of Bokhara, Tartary and Poland. Of Finland, Roumania and Bulgaria. Color riots throughout the stage, and yet, strange to say, it does not appear to one as theatrical. And it is not; on the contrary, it is splendidly realistic; whilst with all this beautiful feast of colour, there beats upon my ears and heart those wonderful pathetic melodies and those almost perfect voices. Never before has such exquisite singing been heard in this country and I think, unless the Princess and her splendid company honour us with a return visit some day, it will be a very long time before its equal is heard here again.

One other picture lingers in my memory. It is the Princess Agreneff Slavianaky. Stately and of majestic proportions, very handsome, and wearing a robe of superb richness, her head surmounted by the old Russian head-dress and her neck encircled by two ropes of pearls, she was a figure that will long be remembered. But it was not one individual that fascinated. It was the great combination of those wonderful voices.

SALT MONOPOLY REGULATIONS.

The revised salt monopoly regulations will come into force on and after the 15th instant. According to the latest investigations the wholesale dealers number 2,737 and the retail dealers 130,177. The following are the chief points in the revision:—

Wholesale or retail dealers may be succeeded at death by whoever inherits their property instead of by their heirs alone, as has been the case hitherto.

Those who have been subject to any form of legal punishment, above a fine, for violation of either the Monopoly Law or the Tax Law, are disqualified from holding the position of wholesale or retail dealers for the period of two years according to the old regulations. The new regulations, however, provide that those who have violated the Monopoly Law above will not be disqualified if there are any extenuating circumstances.

Retail dealers have hitherto only had to notify the authorities of the removal of their residences, but henceforth formal sanction must be obtained, as in the case of wholesale dealers. Retailers must also, like wholesale dealers, obtain official permission when they abandon the business, instead, as hitherto, of merely notifying the authorities.

BARON GOTO'S TOUR.

Baron Goto, interviewed by a representative of the *Hochi*, on his way back from a tour of inspection in Chosen and Manchuria, is credited with having stated that among other things his attention was specially attracted by the visibly improved discipline of the Government officials in Manchuria and Chosen. This led to the belief that should the future policy be properly formulated and followed, it would not be difficult to attain as satisfactory results in the administration of these colonies as had been done in the case of Formosa.

His interview with the Governor-General, Count Terauchi, had for its object the discussion of the future development of the Russo-Japanese Association. It was true, however, that the discussion was partially connected with his contemplated tour abroad with Prince Katsura.

As compared with the Chosen railways, the Antung-Mukden line certainly left much to be desired. Still there was every reason to believe that the line would be able to make both ends meet very shortly. Besides, it would not do full justice to the line to criticise it from the standpoint of the traffic alone, since it is peculiarly connected with diplomatic affairs.

THE RUSSIAN PRESS AND THE MONGOLIAN QUESTION.

(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

The Russian papers are very busily engaged with the Mongolian question. Some Siberian papers criticise the policy of the Russian Government in this direction at a time when, according to them, the state of affairs in the Far East is very favourable for a decision not only on the Mongolian question, but also on the Manchurian, since China now can offer slight resistance. Some of the papers even go so far as to say that Russia is now not alone in the Far East because her interests coincide with those of Japan and the latter shares the Russian policy not only in Manchuria, but in Mongolia as well. The apprehensions which have been and are entertained by the Russians concerning the fate of the Maritime province, can be dispelled only when Russia has strengthened her position in North Manchuria. As to Mongolia, the attitude of Russia should be fixed and not ambiguous.

The Mongols ask constantly for a decided answer from the Russian Government, and this answer is awaited also by the Peking Government. The present moment must thus not be lost by the Russian Government since it may pass for ever and the results may be very disastrous. When the Chinese power is restored and State Affairs rebuilt on a new basis, the hostility of the Peking Government towards Russia, may lead to a sanguinary struggle. To avoid this struggle it is necessary to isolate Russia from China, and this can be attained by ascertaining and fixing the Russian and Chinese spheres of influence in West Mongolia and by the neutralization of that country. With the same purpose North Manchuria must be put under Russian protection and South Manchuria under Japanese and thus Russia and China will be isolated from each other by neutral Powers.

On the other hand, the restoration of Chinese power may prove to be very detrimental to Russian influence in Eastern and Central Asia if good relations between Russia and China are not established and it is very probable that these relations will be strained in future, as the Chinese are suspicious concerning Russian policy in Manchuria and Mongolia in spite of the fact that Russia observed strict neutrality during recent events in the Middle Kingdom. This suspicious attitude has not been changed by the new Chinese Republican Government.

Not long ago M. Djan Suluan, one of the assistants of the Governor-General of Manchuria, went to Peking in order to report to Yuan Shih-kai about the Russian aggressive policy in Manchuria and about the steps which must be taken by the Peking government against this policy. As a result of this report a communique was sent by Yuan Shih-kai to the Huihui, in which the former requested the latter to refuse the demand for Mongolian independence and threatened, in case of a refusal, to quell Khalha by arms. Moreover, the Peking Government offered recently to Russia quite new conditions for the conclusion of the new commercial treaty between the two countries. These conditions, according to one of the Russian journals, are so different from those on which the draft of the new treaty was drawn up recently by the Russo-Chinese conference at St. Petersburg, that they cannot be accepted absolutely. Further the paper asserts that China is evidently not willing to be on friendly terms with Russia and is preparing for a conflict.

SIBERIAN FREE TRADE.

In the columns of the Siberian newspapers there recently appeared a report read by Mr. Pitade at a meeting of the members of the Board of Trade at Khabarovsk. According to the lecturer free trade within 60 versts of the frontier, established by the St. Petersburg treaty of 1881, is detrimental to Russian commercial in-

terests. According to this Treaty only goods of Chinese origin can be brought into the free trade zone and dealt in without any duty, but, as a matter of fact, under the name of Chinese goods all foreign goods are pouring into the zone, whence they are transported into the interior of Siberia.

Mr. Pitade insisted in his lecture that the free trade zone must be abolished so as to give facilities to Russian merchants to bring goods from European Russia under more favourable conditions than those now existing in Siberia. It will be remembered that during the late war between Russia and Japan the Siberian market was opened for foreign goods in order to make the life of the local population easier. After the war the Russian Government, on the requisition of the Moscow manufacturers, hastened to abolish free trade in East Siberia and Vladivostok was also closed as a free port. Only the frontier zone of 50 versts remained open for Chinese goods in virtue of the St. Petersburg Treaty.

THE TOKYO MAYORALTY.

RESIGNATION OF MR. OKAZAKI.

It is reported that Mayor Ozaki sat in private conference with the Deputy-Mayors on the 6th instant and afterward met Mr. Ema, President of the Municipal Council, and Alderman Maruyama and Nakajima, to whom the Mayor submitted a memorandum and with whom he conferred for over an hour. In the memorandum Mayor Ozaki expressed his intention of resigning the Mayoralty in order to devote himself exclusively to political affairs. He also submitted the following conditions: That he be admitted to take part in the choice of his successor; that the services of the Deputy-Mayors and other municipal clerks shall be retained intact; and that a resolution should be speedily adopted in favour of the Drainage Bill and all other important bills now laid before the Municipal Council. A general meeting of the various factions in the Municipal Council will be held not later than the 8th instant, to decide their attitude on the question, and then the Mayor is to officially tender his resignation. It is stated that Deputy-Mayor Tagawa will retire from office with Mayor Ozaki, but the other Deputy Mayors, Messrs. Harada and Miyagawa, will remain in office. Various rumours are already published as to the probable candidates for the Mayoralty.

A PATENT DISPUTE.

A dispute has of late arisen in the weaving trade over a patent taken out by a Kyoto merchant for a process of weaving printed cotton, claimed to be his own invention. The letters patent were granted in 1902. Prior to that time this description of printed cotton had gone out of fashion and the demand had ceased, but subsequently the cheapness of the goods called forth a renewed demand, so that the annual production now reaches about two million pieces. The patentee formed a sort of trust to monopolize the market and commenced to exercise the patent rights against the weavers of similar goods. Over 200 weavers in Tokyo have started a movement to obtain a cancellation of the patent, on the ground that the process has been known in this country for over seventy years and is therefore unpatentable,—in fact goods manufactured by the same process were publicly exhibited in the Domestic Industrial Exhibition held in Kyoto in 1885. Keen attention is being paid to the development of the dispute.

THE NEW WATERWORKS RESERVOIR.

The inauguration ceremony of the construction of a new waterworks reservoir for Yokohama was held on Tuesday morning at Nishiya-mura, in the presence of Mr. Arakawa, Mayor of Yokohama,

Mr. Asada, Chief of the Municipal Waterworks Bureau, and a large number of other officials. The first step has thus been made in the expansion scheme which the Municipal authorities laid down some time ago in view of the inadequate capacity of the present reservoir at Noge.

The new reservoir is situated on high ground, about 240 feet above the sea level—higher than Noge by some 80 feet—at Nishiya-mura, a few miles distant from Yokohama. The ground is of very large dimensions, with eight filter beds, each covering 889 *tsubo*, capable of filtering 405,000 *koku* per day. Consequently the capacity of the new reservoir will be something like 3,200,000 cubic feet—as against the present 870,000 cubic feet—sufficient to meet the needs of some 800,000 residents, or about double the present population of Yokohama.

The construction is estimated to cost some 7,000,000 *yen*, and is expected to be completed by March 1915.

THE HANKOW RECONSTRUCTION LOAN.

A Shanghai dispatch to the *Chungwa* report that Li Chun-huan, Director of Finance of the Wuchang Government, who was dispatched by Li Yuan-hung to negotiate with the State Council concerning the Hankow Municipal Reconstruction loan, is now staying in Peking. The loan is not yet fixed. A separate agreement stipulates that the ratification of the President shall be obtained to make the loan agreement valid; that the agreement shall become null and void if public opinion opposes it and that if the loan clashes with the interests of the Four Powers Syndicate the agreement shall become valid only after the dispute has been amicably settled by the Wuchang Government. It is, therefore, doubtful if the agreement will take practical shape. The Four Powers Syndicate is watching developments.

THE POPULATION OF OSAKA.

According to the latest census of Osaka, the population of the city at the end of last year was 1,272,489. This is an increase of 33,116 compared with the figures recorded for 1910. This expansion of the population, however, is due to emigration from the country districts, as the number of those actually born in Osaka shows a decrease of 138,377. Classified according to sexes, the population of the city consists of 700,474 males and 572,015 females, the former thus showing a majority of 128,459 over the latter. The details are as shown under:—

	No. of Families	Population.
West Ward	62,449	325,163
East "	68,830	258,385
South "	107,998	401,368
North "	54,758	287,273
Total.....	294,035	1,272,489

THE PATRIOTIC SUBSCRIPTION ASSOCIATION.

A Peking dispatch to the *Chungwa* reports that the Patriotic Subscription Association in Kiangsu has announced that a mass meeting will be held in Shanghai shortly, when its expected to raise about 5,000,000 dollars in Shanghai alone.

The Suchow army is being gradually disbanded, the War authorities paying them off in silver notes. As the notes are only accepted by the merchants at a big discount, the soldiers greatly resent this, and have preferred to Magistrate Chen Tei-huan a petition that the merchants should be ordered to lower the prices of commodities. Although the soldiers have not yet resorted to any violence, disaffection is increasing amongst them and they are not likely to return to their native homes peacefully.

KOREA'S PATRIOTISM.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT)

To those who have come for the first time into the transition stage of this part of the Far East, and have heard of Korea's patriotism and the love of country that characterizes the Hermit people, it would seem as though no part of the world had ever suffered more in the matter of national pride than the subjects of this peninsula when the fiat of annexation was pronounced. But so often the spectre that haunts one's dreams is the fabrication of an ill-adjusted mind, that it behoves every one who would deal with a question of this nature, to see to it that their conclusions are well probed and well cross-questioned ere they be finally fixed.

Twenty years ago the word *ai-huk chi-sim* (愛國之心) did not exist, and Korea had really no national flag that the man in the street knew anything about. He was told that this was his flag, that it had just been made, and that there was such a thing as love of country. He heard what was said but understood not; there was no meaning in the words. It was like an algebraic formula x plus y , and x minus y .

There were no national sentiments in the Korean's soul as to his individual country, not the shadow of one. The only country that he recognized was China. From his earliest childhood, if he were a son of the literati, he was put through a course of study that bound him heart and soul to the Middle Kingdom. He studied the history that pertained to that great empire, and that only. He knew nothing of his own country and did not care to know it. He could tell you of all the kings and dynasties from the ghostly Yellow Emperor to the fall of the Mings, but he could not give a date and scarcely a fact concerning the past history of the land of his ancestors. He could not even tell what dynasties had been. Histories of Korea were not sold in any of the book shops. Famous books had, indeed, been written, like Kim Pu-sik's "Three Kingdoms," written in splendid Chinese Wen-lee. "The History of Koryo" by Cheung In-ji, the Prime Minister of Se-jong, who invented the national script. A host of other great literary writers there are, now being unearthed and published through the influence of the Japanese, but Koreans knew nothing of them and cared nothing. The literati man could quote all the weary round of the Confucian Classics but he knew nothing of Cheung Mong-ju or of Yi Saik-i. He does not know of them to-day and does not care to know.

All the dead summoned forth as models for the living were Chinamen, men of Han, men of Song, men of the Mings, a host of them, soldiers, statesmen, rhymesters, and profligates, famous men, their names written across the Korean sky; but Chinamen every one of them. Songs of the coolie were loaded with references to the Chinaman, sayings of the street were all Chinese sayings, mottoes for the door-posts were all imported from China.

The writer wearied his soul for many years trying to urge on an indifferent group of Korean friends and acquaintances some pride in the great men of their peninsula. He laboured, too, through two decades and more to get in their literature, which was never for sale, but was hidden away in all sorts of holes and corners. Little by little he possessed himself of valuable books which he tried to introduce to his circle of friends. "This is Korea" said he. "Let's drop China and dwell on these great men." But it was in vain; an idle admonition, for little or no enthusiasm was ever manifested. He selected some of the best examples and had them printed in a little book, but who cared? All their national treasures were laid up in China and there were their hearts. The great generals of Korea, and there have been great generals, were not given a passing nod or smile, while an endless world of

palavar was poured over Che-kal-yang (諸葛亮) or some other Chinese god of War.

Korea had no knowledge of its own literature and cared for none; she never studied her own writings, or sought a Korean book in a Korean book-store. The only place where Korean literature was to be found was in the private homes of the kinsmen of the writers. Not an atom of literary or national patriotism was to be found in a Korean's soul, till a few progressive young men who had been educated abroad, in 1894 or thereabouts, began an agitation in favour of independence, with an Independence Arch to mark it. They risked their lives at the hands of their fellow-countrymen, and finally found themselves locked up in jail, where they remained, those who were not beheaded, till the boom of the big guns off Chemulpo in February 1904 frightened the old king into letting them out.

Independence was a word that never won any place except in the minds of those educated in the West.

Ever since the ages of the past, Korea has rested on some one, on China principally, gratefully through the period of the Hans, the Songs, the Mings, and because there was no help for it, during the rule of the Mongo's and the Manchus. Deep and long has she drunk of the waters of China, but never of her own fountains. She is still to-day, largely a Chinese product, "dyed in the wool," and talk of love of country is but the vision of some young man trained in the West, or the mistake of a foreigner who is ignorant alike of Korean history and Korean sentiment.

In his proclivities too, the Korean is a problem. Theoretically he dislikes the Japanese, has been taught from childhood to do so; and theoretically he loves the Chinamen. When thrown in contact, however, with either or both he learns to be an ardent admirer of the Japanese, while he looks with contempt on the Chinaman and turns up his nose at him.

"What about that Japanese whom you know?" I ask. "Do you like him?"

"Why yes," my friend answered, "he's really not a Japanese at all, but a very nice fellow." That means that he is not the Japanese whom he dislikes theoretically, but the Japanese whom he meets in actual experience, and vice versa, so with the Chinaman.

"What a dirty man he is," says my friend the Korean.

"But he is your great model is he not?"

"Well really he is not a true Chinaman, that fellow, but an unwashed Mongol of some stripe or other."

Thus it is with the Korean, we might say not exceptionally, but universally.

In a Korean school recently the question of teaching Japanese came up, and it was suggested that a Japanese be secured to teach his own language. The Korean friend, however, opposed it for two reasons, one was this: "The students will object, they do not wish it."

"But never mind the students, it is for those in authority to say what is best," was suggested.

"Then," said the Korean, "I'll tell you what will happen: He'll come in and be so attractive that he will win all the boys (the same boys who voted against and theoretically would not have him), and so the mind of the school will pass from its present control over to him."

Here is the matter in a nutshell. Japan has to-day what the Korean lacks and what the Korean needs, and the Korean knows it. When they come into contact and get acquainted with each other they get along beautifully in spite of all the theories and reports to the contrary. Korea has always been a dependent, never an independent people, and Japan is the only one to-day who can give her the necessary light for national advance.

All talk of patriotism and loss of independence deals with questions entirely foreign to Korean history, Korean life and Korean thought.

SPECTATOR.

PRINCE KATSURA'S TOUR.

On the 16th inst. a farewell dinner was given at the residence of Prince Mori to Prince Katsura, on the eve of his departure on a tour in Europe. In the course of an after-dinner speech, the Prince made some remarks on the objects of his trip, disclaiming the rumour that it was of a political character. During the past twenty years he had made three attempts to go abroad, but had to abandon his intention each time. The present opportunity was therefore a very welcome one.

As to his itinerary, Prince Katsura explained that he was travelling by the Siberian Railway and would therefore first visit St. Petersburg, where he expected to exchange opinions with several Russian statesmen who took part in the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese Agreement. He would then proceed to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Switzerland, in which last country he intended to study the provisions made for the accommodation, comfort and amusement of tourists, so as to increase his knowledge on the subject. He would leave Switzerland about the end of the summer for England, where he expected to meet the many distinguished politicians and statesmen who were connected with the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

In regard to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, Prince Katsura said that although doubts were expressed on the proposal first being put forward as to its practicability, the Alliance was formed without any difficulty and had been maintained ever since. This was a matter of congratulation. Some doubts had recently been expressed as to the merits of the Alliance, but he ventured to think such doubts were quite unwarranted. The Alliance had for its object the maintenance of peace in the Far East, in addition to the territorial integrity of the Powers and the principle of equal opportunity. The Alliance had borne fruit in the Russo-Japanese Agreement, the annexation of Korea and the strengthening of the military equipment of India, all of which made for peace. The China loan question was one in which both Japan and Great Britain were profoundly interested, yet, thanks to the Alliance, there had been no conflict of opinion between the two Powers. The Alliance was still as stable and effective as ever.

Prince Katsura also mentioned that he would later visit France and Germany, but his visit to the United States would be deferred owing to the Presidential campaign.

THE JAPAN FILM COMPANY.

One Company that has recently attracted the general attention of industrial circles in this country is the Japan Film Company, started with the large capital of ten million yen, says the *Jiji Shimpō*. The applications for its shares closed on the 12th inst., and although the exact figures are still unknown, the safest estimates put the number applied for at twice or even three times the 15,000 available for subscription, the rest having been taken up by its promoters. Such is the popularity of cinematograph shows at present. The Company proposes buying up all other concerns in the field. M. Pathé and Yoshizawa of Tokyo and the Yokota of Kyoto have already accepted the terms offered them; but the Fukuhodo, whose claims are reported to be far beyond all possibilities of acceptance, will continue to hold its own. Rumour puts the prices of the other three firms at 600,000 yen, 750,000 yen and 400,000 yen, figures which testify to the bold move of the new enterprise. Failing coalition with the Fukuhodo, which has so far identified itself with every innovation in the line of show business in question, the Japan Film Company will have to exercise great care to ensure success.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

LAST FRIDAY'S SPECIAL MEETING.

The members of the above club held an extraordinary general meeting at the Board of Trade Rooms on Friday afternoon last for special business, viz.—*Proposed Alteration of Name, Alteration of Rules of the Club, and other business.*

Fully fifty members were present when at 5.15 the chairman, Mr. S. Isaacs, declared the meeting open. The notice convening the meeting being read, it was proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be taken as read. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Isaacs (the President) then rose and made a very effective, business-like speech. He stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of dissolving the old Y.C. & A.C., to form the new club into a juridical person, so as to be in strict accordance with Japanese law. This, under the new conditions of the club, was compulsory. He would therefore move:—

That the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club be dissolved;

That the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club donate all monies, properties, effects, etc. belonging to them to the new Club to be formed hereafter, the name of which is to be decided on at this meeting, on condition that the new Club grants membership to all old members of the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club, without any election or imposition of entrance fees and charges or subscription until after 31st July, 1912, and on further condition that the new Club will undertake and pay any outstanding debts due by the old Club to third parties.

This was seconded by Mr. Eddison in a few words, and there being no discussion, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then stated that the old Club did not now exist, it was necessary for those present to elect a committee to carry on affairs during the transformation. He therefore asked for nominations.

Mr. Stewart proposed briefly that the late Committee and officers should be elected *en bloc* for that purpose. They had worked so hard and so successfully in the recent negotiations that he was sure they could not be improved upon.

Mr. F. M. Ward heartily seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The next business before the meeting was the selection of a name for the new club. In bringing the question before the meeting, the Chairman stated that as a body, the Committee had no choice. The following titles for the Club had been submitted, and he would ask members present to take them down, and then vote by ballot for the title they preferred. The names were as follows:

Yokohama Recreation Club.
Yokohama Recreation & Athletic Club.
Yokohama Athletic Club.
Yokohama Country Club.
Yokohama Country & Athletic Club.
Yokohama Sports Club.
Yokohama Sporting & Athletic Club.
Yokohama Gymkhana Club.

Mr. Stewart stated that while as an old member he regretted the change in the name of the club, he realized that under the circumstances, it was unavoidable. He therefore strongly favoured the title, "Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, as it preserved their old lettering,—"Y.C. & A.C."

Mr. Stewart's remarks were evidently effective, for on the balloting papers being counted, it was announced that the members present had declared for the title—"The Yokohama Country and Athletic Club" by an overwhelming majority.

The next business was the Alteration of Rules.

A certain amount of preliminary discussion took place dealing with the fact that the amended rules had only been in the hands of those present for a few minutes and that they had therefore not had time to study them; consequently, it would be better to adjourn this section for a few days so that members might go through them carefully and submit suggestions.

The Chairman pointed out the compulsory regulations for Government registration of their land in connexion with the expiration of their option, and that time was of absolute importance.

It was finally agreed that all suggestions of members must be sent in not later than Tuesday next. Any member not having a copy of the proposed amended rules, can obtain the same on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Bugbird then moved the following resolutions:—

That the present Committee remain in office until the old Club is wound up and the new one is started and that it shall be empowered to deal with all matters relating to the liquidation and dissolution of the Club.

That the present Committee be empowered to draw up the scheme for starting the new Club and that it is authorized to draft the Rules and Regulations therefor, such Rules and Regulations to be based on the rough draft Rules now before the meeting, together with any suggested alterations and improvements which may be made at the next Extraordinary Meeting, which will have to be called to confirm the Resolutions passed at this meeting.

Further that for the purpose of drawing up the said Rules and Regulations the Committee shall have power to add to their number or form a Special sub-Committee if necessary, and that when the Rules have been drawn up they shall be empowered to form the Club as a juridical person under the Civil Code, and that they shall be entitled to take all steps necessary to obtain the permission of the Authorities for the formation and registration of the Club, and that for this purpose the present Committee be considered as Promoters of the new Club with power to add to their number.

This was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then dealt with the appeal which had been made to the heads of firms and the community for subscriptions and donations, and stated that, even up to now, the results had been splendid. He was certain that when the complete list was published, people would be surprised. He added that neither himself nor anyone else had approached anybody outside the Foreign community for donations, etc. They could therefore imagine his pleasure in receiving the following letter that day from His Excellency, Governor K. Oshima, of this province. His Excellency wrote as follows:—

June 14th, 1912.

DEAR MR. ISAACS.—I have perused with great interest the appeal made by you and the other officials of the Y.C. & A.C. for the purchase of a new ground.

I quite agree with the purports expressed in the said appeal and have pleasure in contributing the sum of yen 1,000 (one thousand yen), which I hope, will be of help to you in realizing your plan.

I wish you a great success, and I remain, dear Mr. Isaacs,

Yours very sincerely,

K. OSHIMA.

The announcement of His Excellency's spontaneous and generous gift was received with loud applause by those present and was deeply appreciated.

After a few more remarks in connexion with the new ground, and his fears that it would not be possible to make use of it this year, the Chairman expressed his hearty thanks, and also those of the members, to Mr. de Becker, the Press for their assistance, and several others for their ability in collecting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

THE WILL ADAMS MEMORIAL.

SUNDAY'S UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The ceremony of unveiling the Anjin-Hi, or "Pilot's Monument" erected in memory of Will Adams on Tsukayama (Tomb Hill) at Hemi, Yokosuka, took place on the 16th inst. at 11 a.m. Mr. Suzuki Fukumatsu, ex-Mayor of the town, and other members of the Committee of Preparation, had previously completed all the details for this interesting event. Japanese and English flags were crossed in front of the tomb and the ground was surrounded with tents or *maku* of purple, the colour characteristic of ceremonial displays. Artificial flowers in profusion were offered to the monument and the whole was crowned with flags of various nationalities hoisted over the scene of the ceremony. A short reference was made by His Excellency Baron Sufu, ex-Governor of Kanagawa, and Court Councillor, to the fact that the new monument was erected, as the original tomb was by the will of Adams, facing north-east toward Tokyo, the seat of the old Shogun's government.

This was followed by an address by Sir Claude Macdonald. Sir Claude spoke as follows:

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen,—It gives me very great and sincere pleasure to be present on this memorable and interesting occasion. As you are aware, we are assembled here to-day to unveil a monument erected to commemorate the restoration of the tomb of Will Adams, the first Englishman who ever visited the hospitable shores of Japan.

He was a native of Gillingham in Kent, and was the pilot of a Dutch ship which, coming here to trade, was wrecked on the Western shores of the Bungo Channel in April 1600. Adams was taken before the Shogun, the great Iyeyasu, and the Shogun, recognizing that in Adams he had to deal with a capable, honest and upright man, took him into his confidence, and in course of time this simple Englishman, with no claims to consideration beyond his honesty and talent, became an esteemed councillor of this powerful and wise ruler, and on more than one occasion appeared as the negotiator between the sovereign of his own country and the Shogun, being the means of obtaining, in that capacity, many commercial privileges and advantages for his own countrymen and his friends the Dutch. A few of Will Adams letters—too few—to his wife and friends in England have been fortunately preserved, and with your permission I venture to read a passage which I think appropriate to this occasion. It runs as follows, and is dated October 22, 1611:—"Now for my service which I have done and which I daily do (amongst those services, he instructed his master in 'some points of geometry and understanding of the art of mathematics) the Shogun has given me a living like unto a lordship in England, with eightie or ninetie husbandmen, that be as my slaves or servants, which or the like precedent was never here before given to a stranger." Gentlemen, the 'living like unto a lordship' is where we now stand, and this gift from a powerful Japanese ruler to his trusted English councillor, is now, through the generosity of the Mayor and townspeople of Yokosuka, about to be put to a use which, I am sure, would be entirely approved of by both were they now in the land of the living.

I should like very briefly to mention the story of the movement of which to-day's ceremony is a fitting end. When I first came to Japan, my old and valued friend the late Mr. James Walter told me the story of Will Adams, and showed me this grave, then almost in ruins and covered with jungle, which, he felt certain, was the last resting place of the English master pilot, or, if not his actual grave (for he died in Hirado), at any rate a monument put up to him and his Japanese wife, under which some relics of the departed must at the time have been deposited. Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of Mr. Walter and of some other members of the then Yokohama community, and also to the willing and generous support of the

Japanese authorities and people—Baron Sufu, Marquis Inouye, Admiral Inouye and numerous other distinguished men—the tombstones of husband and wife, the stone lanterns presented in 1798 by the dwellers in Anjin-cho, Nihonbashi, have been carefully and reverently preserved, this handsome park has been laid out and presented to the public by the townsmen of Yokosuka, and a monument erected to point out the abode in life and death of the Englishman who, 300 years ago, opened with Japan those friendly relations which have now culminated in an alliance of friendship and amity, engendering feelings of mutual esteem and respect which I trust may endure for many hundreds of years to come.

The Ambassador's speech was interpreted into Japanese by Mr. Sanson.

Marquis Inouye, who had specially come from Tokyo for the purpose, then unveiled the stone and made a short speech in which he pointed out the strange workings of destiny as manifested by the fact that more than 300 years after the arrival of this solitary Englishman in Japan (who, besides being the originator of the happy relations between the two Powers was also in a sense the founder of the Japanese navy), representatives of the two states, now not only friends but Allies, should meet by his tomb and do honour to his name in a spot overlooking the bay where ships of the Japanese fleet lay at anchor.

The company then ascended to the tomb, where Baron Sufu, representing the founders of the movement, read an address to the spirit of the long dead Englishman. Buddhist prayers were recited by priests, and incense burned by all those taking part in the ceremony, which thus came to an end. Refreshments were then served in the open air, overlooking the Bay, a naval band meanwhile playing selections.

At the foot of Anjin-dzuka (Pilot Mound) is the monument. It stands about twelve feet high and on its surface are a number of *kana* and Chinese characters stating that the graves of Will Adams and his wife are on the summit of the mound. At the back is another inscription setting forth the fact that the memorial was erected in 1910 by sympathizers of the old pilot, the names of Baron Sufu and Sir Claude Macdonald being mentioned on the stone as representatives of the subscribers.

The grave is situated on a piece of land about one thousand *tsubo* in extent which has been converted into a landscape garden. Gradually, further plots of land adjoining will be added, making an area of ten thousand *tsubo*. This will then be made a public park and will be called "Anjin Kōyōn."

ADMINISTRATIVE READJUSTMENT.

VIEW OF A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS.

Speaking upon the subject of the administrative readjustment a certain member of the House of Peers is credited by the *Fiji Shimpō* with observing that it is not yet time to pass any criticisms upon the readjustment of the State administration which is now under investigation by the Government, nor would it be just to the authorities to expect too much of them in the way of readjustment under present circumstances. The House of Peers, therefore, has only to see that the promises the Government made in the last session of the Diet concerning administrative readjustment are carried out.

It will be remembered that, in response to an interpellation of the Budget Committee in the House of Peers, Marquis Saionji explicitly pledged himself to reduce the taxes, curtail the State expenditure and carry out naval expansion. He stated that in effecting the tax readjustment the Government would aim, as a general principle, at a decrease, although in some cases more or less increase might be effected in order to maintain a proper equilibrium between the tax items. Again, as regards the readjustment of the administration, the Premier stated that it had for

its object the curtailment of State expenditure. He further promised that the Government would carry out the scheme of naval expansion from 1913 unless the execution of the plan should prove detrimental to the national interests. Further, the Premier declared that while he was sure to be able to find in the administrative readjustment a financial source sufficient to cover the expenditure required for the naval implement, he would try and obtain the necessary funds, if the above alone was insufficient, by resorting to increase of taxes or other proper means. These three public promises made in Parliament will presumably be embodied in the Budget for the fiscal year 1913. As things stand now, however, it is not likely that the promises will be fulfilled to the public satisfaction. To begin with a decrease of taxes will prove by no means an easy task in view of the present financial conditions, that is if the Government's promised reduction means a *bona fide* decrease. It cannot be denied that the people are now overburdened with taxes and therefore that to relieve them of their burdens is desirable and advisable, but the fact should not be lost sight of that any indiscreet diminution of the State revenue by a reduction of taxes would jeopardize the very basis of the State finance. Viewed in this light we cannot but feel that the Government should have known better than commit itself, as it did, to a pledge to reduce the taxes without properly considering the actual resources available, and the numerous schemes the completion of which is absolutely necessary. It is true that the Government, in promising a reduction of taxes, hinted that if necessary, for the maintenance of an equilibrium, an increase might be effected in some cases. While this may save the Government from the accusation of "having promised an impossibility," it nevertheless brings the sincerity of the authorities into question. What good can be done, for instance, by increasing the price of tobacco in order to lower that of salt? There is some talk about raising the rates of postage as a means of increasing the State revenue. That this would do more harm than good, even the man in the street can easily see. The House of Peers would be the last to support such a short-sighted measure nor would the Government be so blind as to adopt it. In short the fact remains that the present financial conditions are such that any reduction of taxes can only be made at the expense of the scheme of naval expansion and other urgent projects directly affecting the national existence and development. Under such circumstances it is a matter of great doubt if any *de facto* decrease of taxes can be effected.

As regards the readjustment of the administration, which the Government promised to carry out by curtailing the State expenditure, the scheme seems to be attended with rather less difficulty. As this readjustment has for its chief object, the raising of the fund required for naval expansion, the Naval Department seems to be very assiduous in carrying out the investigations necessary, and in view of the present internal conditions of the Department it appears that it will not be very difficult to curtail the expenditure by some six million *yen*. In the case of the Department of War, also, there are reasons to believe that a readjustment, if properly effected, will save a sum of money sufficient to meet the expenditure requisite for the establishment in Chosen of two Army Divisions. The General and Special Accounts also admit of readjustment, not to mention the room left for renovation in the organic systems of various bureaux and sections.

As to naval expansion, the execution of the scheme, as promised by the Authorities, may not be so easy as the readjustment of administration, if it is not so difficult as a reduction in taxes. The difficulty lies not so much in obtaining the funds as in placing a proper limit on the programme formulated by the naval authorities. While their theories and principles concerning naval expansion may be worthy of respect, the execution of their proposals should be limited to

what the financial conditions permit. Hence it will require great moral courage for the Premier and the Finance Minister to place a proper restriction on the Naval authorities' programme.

MR. OZAKI'S RESIGNATION.

As generally expected, Mr. Ozaki Yukio, Mayor of Tokyo, submitted to the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. Harada, a letter of resignation on Thursday morning last, together with that of the Deputy-Mayor Mr. Tagawa, which had been sent to the Mayor some time before. Accordingly Mr. Harada called a meeting on Friday afternoon of Messrs. Morikubo, Ando, Ema, Nakajima, Mizobuchi and other leaders of both the Seiwakai and Tokiwakai factions, to confer about the matter, when it was decided that the letters of resignation should be duly submitted to the Department of Home Affairs. It is generally believed, however, that the resignations will be pigeon-holed by the Home Department, at least until a proper successor is obtained.

As to the selection of a successor there seems to be some difficulty. Some members of the Tokiwakai faction hold that the selection of a successor must depend upon what is required of him, that is whether he is to be a man of ability rather than popularity, or a man of distinguished reputation, who will be responsible for his duties only nominally, as is the case in most Western cities. General opinion appears to favour Baron Sakatani as the successor of Mr. Ozaki, but it would be premature to make any prediction at present, when even the standard of selection is not decided.

As for the resignation of Deputy-Mayor Tagawa, the general belief is that, while he is aware he is not bound to resign, inasmuch as the Mayor's resignation is solely personal, he wishes to throw in his lot with Mr. Ozaki in view of the spirit of union with which the two have co-operated for many years past. The other two Deputy-Mayors, Messrs. Harada and Miyagawa, will remain in office, it is believed, at least until the appointment of the new Mayor.

THE COLONIAL NURSES ASSOCIATION.

THE JAPAN BRANCH.

Man, when healthy, is essentially a selfish animal. He cannot understand the foolishness of someone else being ill, and when he realises that such is inevitable, he usually finds himself literally helpless. It may be that owing to the fact that the majority of foreigners in Japan enjoy on the whole excellent health, that they have forgotten—or never heard of—that excellent British Association known as "The Colonial Nurses Association," who are at the service of the minority whom sickness overtakes. The Association has four fully certificated trained English Hospital nurses in Tokyo and Yokohama. Three of these ladies are resident in Tokyo at 10, Funamatsucho, Kyobashi, their telephone number being "2,370, Kyobashi;" and the fourth lady at 88 a, Bluff, Yokohama. These gentle sisters of mercy are always ready for any cases that they may be called upon to attend. The nurses come to Japan on a three years' agreement and the association pays them their salaries, their passage money, and their board and residence. The President of the Association is the British Ambassador, Sir Claude Macdonald, and the Vice-President, Lady Macdonald; whilst the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, are Mrs. Hobart Hampden and Mrs. Eddison respectively; the ladies being almost indefatigable in their efforts. Although the Association has been in existence here fourteen years, the community appears to know comparatively little about it; and it is with a view to repairing the ignorance of many of us, that we call the attention of our readers to the existence of the association, the hard work of the honorary officials, and the readiness of the gentle nursing sisters to take care of those who require attention.

CRICKET.

SCOTT'S XIII. v. EDWARDS' XII.

On Saturday afternoon last a cricket match between two teams, captained by Messrs. A. P. Scott and W. D. S. Edwards, respectively, from the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, was played on the new ground at the Public Park.

The weather was ideal and the ground in excellent condition and, much more interest was taken by both players and spectators than in the opening game last week. As evidence of the keenness of the players it was decided as sufficient had put in an appearance to make the teams of thirteen and twelve a side. Several ladies watched the game at different periods during the afternoon, but doubtless owing to the lack of accommodation, did not remain for any length of time.

The play in every way showed a marked improvement on that of the previous Saturday, the fielding especially, and although two very easy chances were missed, it was at times brilliant.

In F. West, who has just arrived in Yokohama, the Club has gained a player of Shanghai-Hong-kong interport standing. While essentially a bat he can also trundle the ball as a change bowler and has been known to secure many wickets. His batting is of the quiet style; he seldom lifts a ball and thus gives few chances, and as an opener of the innings is extremely useful in wearing down the bowlers.

Edward's team were the first to go to the wickets and were all disposed of for 111 runs. The latter half of their innings was tedious, it taking almost three quarters of an hour to secure the last three wickets; during which time, only nine runs were added to the score. Edwards, as on the previous Saturday, made top score for his team in identical figures, 37. It was made by free and easy cricket and included five fours. The only other men to reach double figures were Squire (12) Barnes (17) and good "Mr. Extras" (15).

S. Stephens who made top score of the day, 53, was also the most successful trundler, securing four wickets at a total cost of 22 runs. Capt. Piggott during the innings was "no balled" three times.

Scott's team following on, won the match before the fall of the fifth wicket. The main contributors to the score being L. B. Hannaford, 27, by most careful cricket, S. Stephens, 53, who gave an easy chance at thirteen, and H. W. Malcolm, 43, who gave an easy chance in the early thirties. Stephens' score included 1 six and 6 fours. Squire secured the bowling honours by obtaining four wickets for 61 runs. Syme Thomson was a very consistent bowler and bowled 20 overs, securing three wickets for 66 runs before being relieved.

Scott's team, on the closure being made by the umpires, had won the match by six wickets and fifty seven runs.

The following are the scores and analysis:—

EDWARDS' TEAM.

F. Syme-Thomson, c. Martyr, b. Piggott	0
W. Martyr, b. Stephens	8
E. L. Squire, b. Piggott	12
W. D. S. Edwards, c. Hannaford, b. Mac-Naughton	37
J. Barnes, b. West	17
H. E. Gipper, b. Stephens	9
P. F. Lloyd, run out	3
V. A. Hearne, lb.w. b. Piggott	0
R. E. Daver, not out	2
J. Esdaile, run out	1
J. P. da Costa b. Stephens	0
W. Blundell, c. and b. Stephens	0
Extras	15

Total

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Piggott	15	1	37	2
Stephens	14	4	22	4
West	8	0	23	1
Malcolm	3	0	12	0
MacNaughton	3	1	2	1

SCOTT'S TEAM.

L. B. Hannaford, c. and b. Squires	27
A. P. Scott, c. Squire, b. Syme Thomson	4
H. C. MacNaughton, b. Squire	10
Capt. Piggott, c. Blundell, b. Squire	2
S. Stephens, b. Syme Thomson	53
H. W. Malcolm, c. Lloyd, b. Syme Thomson	43
F. West, c. Lloyd, b. Edwards	9
C. Martyr, b. Squire	0
H. Daveson, not out	11
G. W. Guttridge, not out	2
Extras	7

Total (for 8 wickets)

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Syme Thomson	20	2	66	3
Squire	13	1	61	4
Edwards	9	1	36	1

THE BOOKSHELF.

The Goodly Fellowship. By RACHEL CAPEN SCHAUFFLER. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1912. Price \$1.25 nett.

It is not only in America that the interest taken in matters relating to Persia, will make the appearance of this novel an event of some importance; because all the world is almost equally interested in what is to be the fate of that country. Miss Schaufler has chosen to set her stage in a missionary community, and a very advanced outpost of the society under which it works, at the little town of Muramna, Persia. Whether or not the gazetteers recognise such a place is of little importance to any of us; although we are led to suppose that it is not very far from the Kurdistan frontier, because one of the Kurds plays a somewhat conspicuous part towards the end of the story, if the villain who figures throughout the whole plot is not himself a Kurd.

The book opens with Miss Jean Stuart, twenty-eight years of age, of New York and Bar Harbour (Mount Desert Island, Maine), a young woman possessed of large means, quite alone and stranded in the guesthouse at Kazu (again, Persia, presumably), and at the mercy of her unscrupulous Moslem courier, Hadji Husain, the villain. Just how such an important personage socially has got into this plight would be unfair to tell; but it is something worth finding out by reading the book. She is rescued by Thorley Prescott, the hero, of course, who effectually cures Hadji Husain, carries Miss Stuart off to Muramna, and gives her into the safekeeping of the Rev. and Mrs. Laurence. Miss Stuart would have insisted upon going to another "guest-house" and thence making her way alone across the mountains back into civilisation; but once shut in by the snow, she is compelled to stay the winter in Muramna. In order that she may not be absolutely dependent upon the charity of the kind missionaries—something from which her natural instinct and her breeding revolts fiercely—she joins the mission as teacher for the half dozen or more American children. Her first official act is to present the mission with the sum of "One thousand dollars in French gold," which money is to be used in carrying on a certain important relief work that is to give employment to a large number of refugees from Turkish cruelty. Incidentally, this relief work is to furnish the mission compound and the whole town with an abundant supply of pure water, as well as to produce stone-ware drain pipes for all purposes.

The association with Thorley Prescott is the Goodly Fellowship that eventually induces this wealthy Miss Stuart to join the mission permanently as his wife; although this pleasing consummation is not reached without overcoming certain rather serious obstacles. Thorley Prescott, because of his inherent gallantry and tender heart, has got himself into "a tangling alliance" with another young, unattached member of the mission, who evinced such pitiful loneliness and homesickness on being ordered away to some forlorn out-station that "the first thing I knew, we were engaged," as he tells his old father. His sense of honour hinders him for some time in putting off the old love (only, on his part, there was not any of the right kind of love) that he may be on with the

real new. But all comes out right in the end. Curiously enough the book closes as it began, with a rescue, only the tables are turned, for it is rather Jean who does a rescuing act for Thorley.

Miss Schaufler has said that this story has been in the moulding for eight years, and we are convinced that it was much more carefully worked over, and touched and re-touched, than is the usual first effort. Any writer who can describe two people of differing characteristics and ways of looking at things, as being like those who approach the consideration of a given topic "from opposite ends of parallel lines," shows clearly that hasty jotting down of thoughts, without any careful revision and polishing, is not likely to be a fair charge against her. The book holds the attention remarkably; and if the promise which this first effort bears, is fulfilled in anything like a measureable degree, it is safe to say that another writer of fiction with a motive has been added to the American coterie. Her purpose, it seems to us, may be described somewhat thus; while there is nothing in Miss Schaufler's way of writing that can offend the most sensitive, earnest, thoroughly sincere missionary, it must be admitted that she treats her characters with a freedom that is just a little surprising at times. They are, to her, as they are to all outsiders as, well as to many insiders too, just human beings, influenced by the same passions as those which sway all mortals; and not always are those passions under absolute control within the mission compound. Miss Schaufler draws the portrait of the over-confident missionary who would not use one cent of the "thousand dollars in French gold" for the relief of a single outsider who had not professed Christianity and been baptised; but devote it all to active evangelisation, and let the "heathen" look to the local government for relief from their hunger and nakedness. She also depicts the man who feels that, by virtue of his ordination and because he has given himself to Christian propaganda, he confers such an honour upon Miss Stuart in asking her to accept his hand and to assume the care and responsibility of his motherless children, as should make the young woman fall at his feet in gratitude. And she tells of another man in the same mission who is so thoroughly virile that, when Hadji Husain's contemptible villainy has driven him to exasperation, explodes with a very big "D." But she also describes the death of Lawrence at Hadji's murderous hand, just when that Christian missionary is on an errand of mercy and kindness to the villain's own people. Let it be noted that Hadji means his just reward at the hand of a faithful Persian.

Thus the author tells the truth in many ways and always writes in a thoroughly human spirit; so that as we read we come to lose our wonder that Miss Stuart's indifference is changed into sympathy and finally transmitted into enthusiasm for Christian missionary work. There are a number of chapters in which the story is told in letters written by Miss Stuart to her aunt in New York City, and if these are anything of an index, Miss Schaufler must be a most delightful correspondent.

"Fourteen Years of Diplomatic Life in Japan." Leaves from the Diary of Baroness Albert d'Anethan. (London, Stanley Paul & Co.)

A FEELING of regret and a wish that it might have been otherwise comes to the reader when he realizes that it is by the earnest desire of the late Baron d'Anethan, expressed in his last illness, that this interesting chronicle of a happy life spent in a much loved and progressive land is given to the world. The history of Society in Tokyo from 1898-1906 is worth writing, and no one is better qualified for the task than the gifted author of "It Happened in Japan"—Mme. la doyenne of the Corps Diplomatique for so long. Professor Chamberlain's "Things Japanese" mentions no book at the close of the article "Society" so let us add,—"Book recommended. 14 Years of Diplomatic Life."

Truly, few books have been penned which can awaken such a host of memories in the minds of

those who have lived in the charmed circle of good society in Tokyo and Yokohama; memories of joy and pain, places and people. Every week seems to have its entry. The disastrous fires and earthquakes of the 90's, the silver wedding of the Emperor and Empress, the China-Japanese War and Prince Arisugawa's funeral, Treaty Revision, the year of the Boxer Troubles, an audience with the Pope, the sudden death of Col. Buck, the Russian War and Admiral Togo's triumphal return, and the recent visit of Prince Arthur of Connaught are the more important incidents which stand out more boldly in the narrative. Much of value is preserved in this book from the limbo of newspaper oblivion, for example, Baron d'Anethan's speeches addressed to the Emperor, true masterpieces of diplomatic tact, and more than one of Baroness d'Anethan's poems, which were once the delight of the readers of this newspaper. Nor can the 116 illustrations in half tone be dismissed without notice, for they include portraits of almost all the Imperial family, and many other members of the court circle.

It is often said that in modern times, diplomatic representatives can only play an insignificant part on behalf of their respective countries. Baroness d'Anethan, under the date of July 17th, 1905, reports an event which goes to prove that this is merely a shallow and unjust platitude. "A. and I dined last night with Mr. Laughlin, the Secretary of the American Legation. It was a *partie carrée*—Sir Claude Macdonald making the fourth. He was extremely interesting, and gave us many details of the siege of Peking. He said one thing, talking of the rescue, which pleased me more than I can say, namely, 'I have always considered we owed our lives to Baroness d'Anethan's poem 'Make Haste!'" A. looked so pleased, and I flushed up and replied, "Oh, Sir Claude, it does make me happy to hear you say that, but indeed I cannot dare to think it for one moment." He answered, "Yes, for the Japanese sent their troops immediately after its publication. They had many women and children there, and your poem made a very great impression on them." I was all the more astonished at his words, as neither Sir Claude nor Lady Macdonald had ever mentioned the subject of these verses to me before, and I have often wondered what effect they made on them at the time. The leading article on my poem "Rescue" in the official organ, the *Japan Times*, certainly hinted at the time that the poem "Make Haste!" had had the effect of stirring up the Japanese Government, while they were still hesitating and wavering about taking the initiative. But though I hastily penned and despatched the lines with that fervent and secret hope, I have never for a moment flattered myself that my verses, however much they were written from the depths of my heart, had biased the determination of the Japanese. Consequently these most kind words of the British Ambassador caused A. and me all the deeper pleasure and heartfelt satisfaction."

W.L.S.

Elements of Socialism. By JOHN SPARGO and GEORGE LOUIS ARNER. Price \$1.50 nett.

Essentials of Socialism. By IRA B. CROSS. Price \$1.00, nett. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1912.

BOTH of these publications are intended to be used as text-books in classes that will correspond with the upper forms in the Higher Schools and the Universities of Japan; but they are also most useful to general readers. They differ widely from the more pretentious and comprehensive work of Prof. Vedder, "Socialism and the Ethics of Jesus," recently considered in these columns. It seems to us that Spargo and Arner are defensive, while Cross is aggressive. The former define Socialism as being a criticism of existing society which attributes most of the poverty, vice, crime, and other social evils of to-day to the fact that, through the private or class ownership of the social forces of production and exchange, the actual producers of wealth are exploited by a class of non-producers; a theory of social evolution according to

which the rate and direction of social evolution are mainly determined by the development of the economic factors of production, distribution, and exchange; a social forecast that the next epoch in the evolution of society will be distinguished by the social ownership and control of the principal agencies of production and exchange, and by an equalisation of opportunity as a result of this socialisation; a movement, primarily consisting of members of the wealth-producing class, which seeks to control all the powers of the State and to bring about the collective ownership and control of the principal means of production and exchange, in order that poverty, class antagonisms, vice, and ill results of the existing social system may be abolished, and that a new and better social system may be attained.

These authors very properly controvert the statement, sometimes made, that Socialism means the social ownership and control of all means of production and exchange. The actual absurdity of this proposition becomes clear as soon as it is distinctly stated: every simple tool would have to be made collective property. Socialists throughout the world are not trying to bring about the public ownership of hand-saws, spades, market-baskets, and wheelbarrows!

Cross admits frankly his difficulty in defining Socialism. He contents himself with declaring what it is *not*, and agreeing with all other recent writers on the subject, indignantly denies that Socialism is government ownership, or to be confused with the Co-operative Movement, or that it is Profit sharing, or Anarchy, or Communism. But he also declares that Socialism is not Social Reform and this, so it seems to us, is a very curious contradiction; for just how the admirable features of Socialism are to be made generally effective without a radical change in Social institutions is somewhat difficult to comprehend. In denying that Socialism is identified with, or comparable with, the theory of a Single Tax—levied upon the land exclusive of improvements—Cross goes so far as to declare that the advocates of this single source of revenue accept the doctrines of *laissez-faire*, and consequently believe in Individualism, Competition, and Free Trade. It will be difficult to make good this position, we think.

These are both handy volumes for all who wish to give attention to a subject dealing with the opinions and aims of a great international party of nearly ten million voters and having fully forty million sympathisers. The *Elements of Socialism* is the larger volume of the two, running to 381 pages as against 152 in *Essentials of Socialism*. The former has a Summary at the end of each chapter, and there are also a few questions pertaining directly to the subject matter of the chapters. Many educators of long and wide experience, doubt the wisdom of this plan. They think, and not unadvisedly, that such questions tend to lead the student to "cram" for the answers and neglect the rest of the text.

We particularly recommend all readers to give close attention to Spargo and Arner's chapters on Poverty, Leisure and Luxury, the Ideals of Modern Socialism, and the National Socialist Movements; Cross's Chapters, the Socialist Indictment of Capitalism, the Inevitability of Socialism, and Socialism and Trade-Unionism, will repay careful reading.

We must take exception to the careless construction of sentences in these books. It is evident to all grammarians and rhetoricians that the sentence, "the second criticism is only valid when directed against exaggeration of the theory," should read, "is valid only when." Again, "it may also be admitted" should read "it may be admitted also." There are too many other evidences of a careless style which will be noted by all precisionists.

Spargo and Arner's plan of giving a condensed, pertinent bibliography at the end of each chapter, is very much better than that of Cross, who gives nineteen pages of general bibliography, arranged alphabetically according to authors, at the end of the book. The former method tends wonderfully to "the economy of attention on the part of the

reader," which Herbert Spencer ("Essay on Style") so justly contends for. It would be of material assistance to students had the Table of Contents been expanded into synopses of the different chapters or had the Index been made more exhaustive. This comment applies equally to both books. As has been already intimated in these columns, there is absolutely nothing to cause apprehension on the part of the most nervous, staunchest champion of established Governments in the study of Modern Socialism. There is nothing destructive about it.

Democratic England. By PERCY ALDEN, M.P., with an Introduction by Charles F. G. Masterman. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1912. Price \$1.50 nett.

It is but natural to expect that this book would have been published in England, and the explanation of its appearance from an American press, although a branch of the great London house of Macmillan & Co., Limited, is probably found in the fact that a greater part of the contents had appeared in a series of articles written for *The Chantrelle*, the organ of the Chantrelle Literary and Scientific Circle, an American association for the purpose of promoting home reading and study. The author states, in his Foreword, that the title of the book would seem to limit the treatment of his subject to England, or at any rate to the United Kingdom; but it was felt that it would be as well to make some mention—in a few cases extended reference—to similar questions in the British colonies.

The book is designed for those who wish to get in a short, compact form, a general idea of the recent developments in social legislation. Mr. Masterman opens his Introduction with this most incontrovertible statement: "The House of Commons may claim to have specialists and experts in almost every department of legislative work, but it can never have too many enthusiasts in the cause of social reform." Those who have kept in touch with Parliament's actions will also concur in Mr. Masterman's next statement: "My friend, Mr. Alden, is an enthusiast with intimate knowledge of the hard, tangible realities of working-class life." Mr. Alden gained his equipment as a specialist during twelve years experience in East London, conducting the University Settlement at Canning Town, and in the work of administration on the Council of West Ham. His six years in the House of Commons, as Member for a huge East End industrial constituency, have revealed him as a powerful, sane, consistent advocate of the people's welfare. Would that there were more in the world like him than there are! Then would there be a Socialism that could alarm nobody, for it would be like unto the goodness of Him who taught the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Mr. Alden opens his discussion with this declaration. "It is extremely difficult for any one, not fully conversant with English politics, to comprehend the situation in which the democracy of the United Kingdom has been placed as a result of the spirit of aggrandizement recently manifested by the House of Lords." This, of course, carries his date back a short time, and from him we must expect a severe arraignment of the Upper House of the British Parliament, nor are we disappointed or, personally, displeased.

A few more short quotations carry out this suggestion to demonstration. "Without claiming too much for the new programme which the Liberal party has put forward, this, at least, may be asserted with confidence, that it implies a desertion of the old individualistic standard and the adoption of a new principle—a principle which the Unionists call Socialistic. If it be true that a positive policy of social reconstruction savors of socialism, then, of course, this contention can be justified." After alleging that the State avowedly claims the right to interfere with industrial liberty and to modify the old economic view of the disposal of private property; while Liberalism recognises that it is no longer possible to accept the view that all men have an equal chance, and

that there is nothing more to be done than merely to hold evenly the scales of Government, Mr. Alden declares: "But the Liberal of to day goes further. He asks that such economic changes shall be introduced as will make it possible for every man to possess a minimum of security and comfort. Property is no longer to have an undue claim; wealth must be prepared to bear burdens in the interests of the whole country. Our whole social system must have an ethical basis." Which is, after all, precisely what true Socialism demands. This author adds much to the conviction of others as to the unimportance of the socialistic movement in the United Kingdom when he says—"The weakness of the Socialistic movement in England is the lack of harmony in the various sections which make up that movement. The Fabian Society is too well known to need any description. It represents chiefly the young people of the middle classes and is not comparable in number (2500) with the other socialistic bodies. None the less, it has greatly influenced all other advanced movements. It has supplied, to a large extent, the literature which is circulated amongst the working classes; it is the Fabian Society which has prepared the way for many changes in administration and many new legislative measures." At another place: "At the present moment the membership of those Unions that are affiliated to the Trade Union Congress, is estimated at 2,378,248, while 1155 Trade Unions are enumerated in the directory of Industrial Trade Unions published by the Board of Trade. On the whole, it may fairly be said that those great labour organizations have used their enormous powers for wise ends and purposes; the outbreaks of violence during the recent labour upheaval were due in most cases to men outside the ranks of Trade Unions."

Discussing State Ownership, Mr. Alden says: "In Australia, on the other hand, colonial governments have extended the area of State activity and spent large sums of money on railways, telegraphs, telephones, tramways, waterworks, harbours, and land purchase. Criticism has, of course, been levied [levelled] at their governments as a result, and it must be admitted that in some cases, as for example that of State railways, there has been a waste of money in somewhat reckless experiments; but generally speaking, our colonies have received a fair return for the large sums expended on the public services, in the rapid development of trade and industry, and the rather high standard of living which the people enjoy. Not only are they free from the power of the aristocracy and old established landed gentry, but they are also free, as we must all admit, from the hopeless and demoralized poverty so often seen in the large cities of Great Britain. . . . All the same it must be admitted that as a result of more even distribution of wealth and the economic arrangement for providing a minimum standard of living, it is not possible for many men to make large fortunes, certainly not in New Zealand. . . . New Zealand has been called 'the experiment station of advanced legislation.' These extracts give a fairly satisfactory idea of what Mr. Alden contends for in his first chapter, "The General Situation."

We must content ourselves with just a few short quotations from the second chapter, "The Child and the State." On page 31 is this awful truth: At the time of the accession of Queen Victoria, not one single act of Parliament represented the parental interest which the State ought to take in the welfare of the young. The child was a chattel; it had no rights and liberties. The most brutal cruelty and the most distressing ignorance were manifested in the treatment of both boys and girls, and every effort on the part of a few large-hearted reformers to bring about a change, was met by unflinching opposition. The last thirty or forty years, however, have witnessed a great improvement both in theory and practice. The actual number of infants who die in England and Wales every year is still, nevertheless, about 120,000. A quarter of all the deaths in any one year are those of infants. The improvements that

have been brought about by democratic legislation are indicated by the fact that in 1901 the deaths of children under one year of age to each one thousand of births, were 151; while in 1910 they were 106. To have cut down this infant mortality by 33 1/2 per cent. speaks well for efforts in the interests of the poor. Everyone who can, should read this whole chapter carefully.

But the Child Question cannot be treated apart from other and larger legislative questions of social reform. The reader will find Mr. Alden giving full attention to the Problem of Sweating; to the Problem of the Unemployed, and careful recognition is made of the "unemployable;" to the Problem of Housing the Poor; to Municipal Ownership; to the Labour Movement in England; to the Land and the Landless. The book is one of the most powerful appeals ever written to those who admit and would put into practice their responsibility to God for the welfare of all those who are unfortunately in not such comfortable circumstances as themselves. It is written in such a plain, strong manner as holds the attention. There is a ring of absolute honesty about Mr. Alden's statements and conclusions which must find interested readers in every country of the world. Here in Japan there are problems facing the people which form a singular parallel with some to which careful attention has been given in England, but which are not yet solved in that country to the satisfaction of those who realise their altruistic duty. It is not too much to say that the Labour problems in Japan are trending towards the acute stage and that the high cost of living is something which gives many others than the absolutely suffering poor much serious thought. Whatever sheds even one ray of light on these problems is welcomed; and Mr. Alden's book is very much more than a single ray, it is a veritable searchlight.

Free Will and Human Responsibility. By HERMAN HARRELL HORNE; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1912. Price \$1.50 nett. BEFORE proceeding to discuss this interesting book, we must take exception to one statement contained therein. On p. 10 the author says: "In church history an 'established church' receives state patronage and is subject to a degree to state control, while a 'free church' is independent of both state patronage and control." Had Professor Horne not made this declaration an inclusive one; had he been specific, citing—for example—the Orthodox Greek Church of Russia and some other State Churches, there would be nothing (or little) to which exception can properly be taken. But since the statement is given as a general one, it makes the Established Church of England one of those which receive State patronage. This is not correct. The Encyclopædia Britannica makes it quite clear that that Church receives no State patronage, and in the *Times* (London) for Dec. 5, 1892, is this definite statement: "The Church of England receives no assistance whatever from public funds." Mr. Gladstone's Secretary, on Feb. 18, 1885, wrote:—"Sir:—Mr. Gladstone, in reply to your letter, desires me to inform you that clergy of the Church of England are not State-paid." Again, on March 5, 1885, Mr. Gladstone himself wrote: "No clergy of the Church of England, other than government chaplains, are paid salaries out of public funds." Nor does the fact that the Sovereign is head of the Church of England, make that Church "subject to a degree to State control," in the sense in which Prof. Horne makes his charge. On p. 35, there is a reference to Deut. 3:30. It may be possible that in the Revised Version (which is not at our hand) there are 30 verses in the 3rd chapter of Deuteronomy; but there are not in the King James version. Such a mistake should not have escaped detection by someone before the book was put on sale. If we were to judge the whole volume by these palpable carelessnesses, it would be necessary to condemn it outright; but there is too much other evidence of care to justify such disapproval.

The book is, however, manifestly written for

the purpose of showing that the author is himself on the side of Free Will. Prof. Horne now fills the chair of History of Education and the History of Philosophy in the New York University (New York City); but he was for some years connected with Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., a non-sectarian institution having a strong tendency towards affiliation with the Congregational Church, yet not altogether free from the charge, by some very zealous people, of leaning towards Unitarianism. The monograph which we are now considering grew out of class exercises during the author's courses in Philosophy during the years spent at Dartmouth.

After discussing Man's Original Dependence, the Rise of Freedom, and Various Analogous Issues, Prof. Horne gives an Historical Sketch of the Issue. He then professes to give the arguments—nine of them, ranging from Physics to Theology—for Determinism. While personally we are quite in agreement with the author's apparent conviction that man is a creature of Free Will, we cannot but admit that a strongly equipped champion of Determinism, one who firmly believes in Predestination, would have little difficulty in making out a better case for his side of the argument than Prof. Horne has shown. Then, when Rebuttal of these Arguments for Determinism and the Arguments for Free Will—twelve of them, "four of them drawn briefly from the preceding pages, and the others being newly presented, with their difficulties suggested at the same time," come, in chapters V. and VI., that same champion of Determinism would be pretty sure to have a different story to tell. In brief, the book is an *ex-parle* statement, not an argument *pro* and *con* at all. It evinces a great deal of reading and much scholarship; but that it is likely to demolish any of the works of those whose views differ from that of the learned professor, or lend material assistance to those who have before him taken the same side, we can hardly declare.

A few points of interest should be noted. We must all agree with Prof. Horne that the question as to whether the fate of man rests with himself or not, is one of perennial freshness and interest, to which the newest movements of thought always contribute additional data; but without thereby finally solving the issue. This author comments upon the Determinism of the East, and he disapproves of its Fatalism, as do most Europeans. He seems to feel that he has demolished it when he says: "Such a doctrine would not have filled California and Alaska gold fields with fortune-seekers. It has helped to keep the Oriental nations inactive and rearward in the march of the world's progress." Inasmuch as the peoples of the East, quite as much as those of the West, like to know what is said of themselves, whether it is favourable or disapproval, it is probable that this quotation and sundry other parallel remarks, will lead many of our readers to secure the opportunity to look over this book. It really is worthy of careful attention. J.K.G.

CAPITALISATION OF NEW AND OLD INDUSTRIES.

According to investigations made by the authorities, the capital invested in both the expansion of undertakings and new enterprises during the month of May amounted to 59,940,000 yen, bringing the total since January up to 251,790,000 yen, which, distributed according to the kinds of enterprise, stands as follows:—

	May.	Since January.
Banking	7,437,000	41,000,500
Spinning	4,700,000	13,915,000
Electric	1,160,000	19,005,000
Mining	2,500,000	11,150,000
Marine	250,000	2,750,000
Railway	1,245,000	14,895,000
Manufacturing	10,975,000	67,895,000
Marine transport	100,000	1,000,000
Insurance	—	3,000,000
Commercial	26,580,000	76,490,000
Total	59,940,000	251,790,000

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

VIEWS OF THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The brief speech made by Prince Katsura at the farewell dinner given in his honour by Prince Mori on Sunday last, already reported, seems to have attracted the attention of the public to the importance of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Taking advantage of this opportunity, both the *Chuo* and the *Fiji* dwell on the imperative necessity of maintaining the Alliance. Of late some people have expressed doubts, says the *Chuo*, as to the merits of the Alliance, holding that now that both England and Japan have entered upon an *entente* with Russia concerning Eastern problems, there is little necessity for its further maintenance, since it came into existence primarily with a view to protecting their mutual interests against Russia. While it is true that England and Japan are now on good terms with the Northern Empire, says our contemporary, it is a gross mistake to consider that the Alliance, simply on account of that fact, has lost its *raison d'être*. It is easy to see that Russia seeks to approach England and Japan because she attaches great importance to the actions of the two Powers, simply because they are in alliance. It is, in fact, merely through the Alliance that Britain and Japan are an influence in the Far East in the estimation not only of Russia but of the world at large. Once this bond of the alliance is loosened, the position of Japan in the Far East and the influence of Britain over Persia and Afghanistan would be shaken. Japan and Great Britain stood and are standing in circumstances necessitating the conclusion and the maintenance of the Alliance, and upon the basis of this Alliance it was that both of them effected a *rapprochement* with Russia.

The fact should also be placed on record, that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was concluded not so much against any actual enemy, as for ensuring peace in the East. Thus the fact that the two Powers have no immediate enemies can by no means be made a ground for declaring the Alliance unnecessary, inasmuch as the absence of enemies is to be attributed to the existence of the Alliance itself. To put it flatly, the peaceful relation between the Powers are now being barely maintained by means of alliances and agreements, the conditions being very unstable. In these circumstances we should not be much surprised if any loss of the balance of power caused a disturbance. It is as absurd to think that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance can be dispensed with because of the existence of cordial relations with Russia, as to argue that military equipment is not required in time of peace.

Writing on the same subject the *Fiji Shimpō* goes still further, and dwells upon the merits of the Alliance both in times of peace and war, which render it imperatively necessary to maintain the Alliance. Our contemporary first calls attention to the fact that those who deride the necessity of the Alliance are overlooking its merits in time of peace, for while the ultimate object of alliances lies in the mutual assistance rendered in time of war, they have been more utilized in time of peace than in time of war as past history proves. Therefore the real merits of an alliance display themselves in times of peace.

Proceeding the *Fiji* refers briefly to the necessity of an alliance for Japan and also to the reason why the Ally should be Great Britain. As scarcely needs pointing out, says our contemporary, in these days of complicated international relations it is necessary for any country not only to endeavour to maintain the balance of power, but also to conclude, if circumstances are favourable, an alliance with a foreign Power in order to supply the deficiencies of its own military equipment in time of war, and then follow a common foreign policy in time of peace to ensure full protection of its interests. It must have been with this conviction that Great Britain, who once took a pride in her "glorious isolation," saw fit to enter into alliance with this country. Not only Britain,

but every other first-rate Power admits the importance of alliances; and in view of this tendency it was advisable for Japan, also, to conclude an alliance with a foreign country. It must be noted that, differing from the other Powers in race and religions, Japan is liable to invite misunderstanding and to suffer from their combined pressure in case her interests clash with theirs. The most efficacious method of removing this disadvantage was for her to enter into an alliance with a Western Power. In selecting an ally it was necessary for Japan to consider whether that Power was in possession of strength sufficient for the full discharge of the duties specified in the treaty; whether its interests in the Far East concurred with those of this Empire; whether it is a nation of a reliable character; and whether its national policy is peaceful. It can be readily seen that no other European Power but Great Britain could satisfy those conditions. It was from these considerations that Japan selected Britain for her honourable Ally, and therefore there is no reason why the Alliance should not be maintained into the far future.

RUSSIA AND FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

(SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

According to the *Novoe Vremya*, the members of the National Party held a meeting recently in the Russian capital, during which the present political state of affairs in the Far East was discussed. At this meeting many prominent officials and some public men, were present. Among the latter there were Mr. Merkuloff and Mr. Arkadii Petroff, who are well known in Siberia.

A report on the present situation in the Far East was read by Count Benningssen, after which a resolution concerning Mongolian and Manchurian affairs was passed. It was decided to memorialize the Government about the present Russian position in the Far East and the measures which must be taken in that region. According to the resolution these measures are the following:—

Annexation of North Manchuria.—If this annexation cannot be carried out at present, then the following rights must be stipulated for Russia at the time of the conclusion of the new treaty between Russia and China, in order to guarantee Russian economical interests:—

- (1) Navigation on the Argun, Amur, Ussuri, and Sungari rivers must be prohibited to Chinese and foreign steamers.
- (2) China must abandon the idea of constructing railways between the Eastern Chinese railway in Manchuria and the Russian frontier and between the latter and the gulf of Liadun.
- (3) The Russian possessions on the right bank of the Amur river, which were acquired during the time from 1900 to 1906, must be restored.

- (4) Full extraterritorial rights must be established in the leased territory of the Russian railways in Manchuria for the whole treaty period.
- (5) The number of the Chinese troops in North Manchuria must be restricted.
- (6) China must abandon the construction of fortifications on the Russo-Manchurian frontier.

Independence of Mongolia.—As to Mongolia the following steps must be taken:

- (1) To recognise and sanction full Mongolian independence from China.
- (2) The Russo-Mongolian frontier must be corrected so as to insure the safety of Siberia and her communications with European Russia from a military point of view. The China-Mongolian frontier must be also ascertained and fixed according to the decree issued by Di-Fan-Yuan.
- (3) To conclude a commercial treaty directly with Mongolia.
- (4) To maintain the Mongolians in the development of their political destiny.
- (5) To strengthen the Russian influence in Mongolia by opening Russo-Mongolian schools, establishing post and telegraphic communications, and publishing newspapers and books.

THE HOARD OF RICE IN THE INTERIOR.

The *Tokyo Asahi* states on the authority of an expert who has just returned from a tour through Kiushu and Shikoku that the farmers still show unwillingness to part with their rice.

In Kiushu, Japan's granary, especially, the amount of rice held from last year is such as has never been seen during more than ten years past. The time must come when the farmers will be obliged to sell out their stock. Why the farming classes have come to show such tenacity in holding back the product of their hard labour is best explained by the fact that, unlike the North-eastern districts, the Southern provinces of Japan have been favoured by plentiful harvests for successive years past which renders them extremely well-off. Another potential cause is the circulation of the "low-interest capital" supplied them by the central government through the Hypothec bank and other financial channels. The large contracts registered on the books of the Rice Exchanges have also tended to hold in check the movements of rice, which otherwise would have found its way to the large centres of consumption. If, therefore, the Government, or the brokers themselves, should suspend transactions for delivery at the present time or next month at more exchanges than have hitherto experienced a similar fate, there is little doubt that the owners of rice will come out with their stores of rice, eager to sell at any price. There are visible signs of the farmers having been affected by the suspension of the Rice Exchanges at Shimonoseki, Hyogo, Okayama and other places.

The Japanese papers publish nearly every day graphic accounts of families and individuals reduced to straitened circumstances by the increased price of rice. The *Chuo* of the 17th mentioned the case of a family of six members living at Ishibachō, Fukagawa, Tokyo, having been without a morsel of rice during the three days preceding. The constable who discovered the poor family reported the matter to his Chief, who is now considering means of help in conjunction with the local ward officials. From Ichinomiya, Nagoya, comes the news that over 500 children of the district have stopped going to school, the reason adduced being the high price of their daily food. The authorities of the town, according to a telegram in the *Asahi*, are taking steps to enforce the continued attendance of the juvenile students.

This occurs to us as being cruel; for little children cannot learn, when their stomachs are nearly empty.

THE FORMOSAN EXPEDITION.

The subjugation of the Formosan head-hunters, which was taken in hand last year as a five-year scheme at a cost of 1,500,000 yen, is making rapid progress. The Gaogan and other tribes in Giran, Shinchiku, and Kagi provinces, are now all subjugated, the Government force now laying siege to the Maleppa and Hakku tribes in Nanto province. The attacks upon these two tribes commenced in April and it was expected would be finished in May, but on account of the desperate resistance they are offering, the work has not progressed so rapidly as anticipated, though there is every reason to believe that it will soon be completed. The authorities are at the same time preparing for the attack from next year on the remaining two tribes, the fiercest of the natives, known as the Tarco and Naio. The subjugation of these two tribes will facilitate the completion of the work, but it is expected that it will require not a little sacrifice on the part of the Government force. As regard the tribes already subjugated, the authorities are guiding and protecting them in all possible ways, encouraging them to engage in sericulture and agriculture with very satisfactory results.

RANGOON RICE.

TRIAL BY CONNOISSEURS IN TOKYO.

An interesting little dinner took place at the Tsukiji Seiyoken on Tuesday evening, when a number of members of the Tokyo Rice Merchants Guild met to consider whether it was possible to popularise Rangoon rice as a substitute for the native rice of the country. Rangoon rice, it may be stated, is retailed at 1.80 yen per *koku*, and is thus considerably cheaper than Japanese rice.

According to the *Hochi Shimbu* the first dish tried consisted of a mixture of two parts *mochi-gome*, priced at 22 sen per *sho*, and eight parts Rangoon rice. This was pronounced dry, but palatable even to the epicures of Tokyo. It was thought that if a little tea were poured over it and a pinch of salt added it would even be found preferable to pure Japanese rice. The glutinous qualities were found well developed on mastication, and there was an absence of that peculiar odour which the Japanese find so objectionable in foreign rice. It was estimated that the cost would be 18.8 sen per *sho*, or 6.2 sen lower than third-class native rice, which is retailed at 25 sen per *sho*.

The next culinary feat was a combination of four parts Japanese third-class rice at 25 sen per *sho*, four parts Rangoon rice, and two parts crushed barley, at 15 sen per *sho*. This was pronounced an improvement on the former dish, being thought to have a peculiarly "light" flavour, while its digestibility left nothing to be desired. A pinch of salt, it was decided, would make it still more delicious. One *sho* of this mixture, it was estimated, would cost only 20.2 sen.

Last on the list came *sushi* (rice sprinkled with vinegar), made of equal proportions of Japanese and Rangoon rice. From the point of view of the Japanese taste this was the most successful dish of all, perhaps owing to the salt, vinegar, *kamayo* (a kind of pickle) and *nori* (edible seaweed) which accompanied it, though connoisseurs decided it could not be compared with *sushi* made from Japanese rice only.

On the whole it was decided that foreign rice, if properly mixed with the native article, and well prepared, was palatable even to the pampered taste of the Edokko. In point of "lightness," it was agreed that Rangoon rice is far ahead of Japanese.

THE FRANCO JAPANESE BANK.

As it was at the instance of France that the negotiations for the establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank were first opened, writes the *Tokyo Asahi*, the public were naturally led to believe that the Bank would be established without much trouble. Contrary to general expectation, however, more than once the negotiations have come to a deadlock, on account of the opposition not only of the Indo-China Bank, but also of the French Government itself,—the former, which is a medium for investments in the Orient, fearing the creation of severe competition, and the latter, influenced by a rumour circulated to the effect that Japan intended to obtain her share of the Powers' China loan from France through the Bank. These difficulties have now been removed, but not before Japan repeatedly explained that she intended to raise at home the fund required for her share in the China loan, and that even if she should find it necessary to raise the fund in France, she would do so through the Indo-China Bank, and not through the Franco-Japanese Bank.

As regards the sphere of business of the Franco-Japanese Bank, several rumours are being circulated, some even alleging that the Bank will undertake only general banking business in Japan, Chosen and Manchuria. This is a gross mistake. There are no boundaries to capital. According to the most reliable information, the Bank will

not only undertake loans, discounting and other business conducted by the general banks in France, but even the acceptance of debentures of companies, harbour construction and such like special banking business in the Orient, including China proper.

Judging from the telegrams from Mr. Soeda, President of the Industrial Bank, who is now at Paris in charge of Japanese interests, it appears that the negotiations are making fair progress and that we may rest assured of the successful establishment of the Franco-Japanese Bank in the no distant future.

POPULATION AND FOOD SUPPLY.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES.

According to statistical investigations recently conducted by the authorities, says the *Asahi Shimbu*, the population of this country is increasing at the rate of between four and five hundred thousand a year. The annual harvest of rice is between 49,000,000 and 50,000,000 *koku* (one *koku* is equal to 5.13 bushels) and foreign rice is imported to the amount of from two to three million *koku* a year. At the present rate of increase the Japanese population will reach seventy million within the next thirty years, and to meet the demand for rice (the average consumption being one *koku* per head) Japan will be able to produce between sixty and sixty-five million *koku* by improving the existing methods of cultivation and increasing the area under tillage. Moreover, the production of rice in Korea and Formosa shows ample scope for future improvement. There is therefore no reason to apprehend that the supply of rice will fall short of the demand within the next thirty years. Barley is the next staple food in this country and is produced to the amount of twenty million *koku* a year. Should two harvests be raised a year as is now done in only a few provinces, there is no doubt that the total growth will be trebled within the same length of time. The increase of population in this country is therefore no cause for alarm. Another factor that goes to mitigate fears of dearth, if there be any, is the possibility of emigration being encouraged.

THE STORMY WEATHER.

The Meteorological Observatory reports that the depression which swept over the main island, Kiushiu, Shikoku and Formosa, started from beyond the Yangtze Valley, crossed the Chosen peninsula on the morning of the 16th inst., and on the following morning was slowly travelling in a N.N.E.ly direction. At the same time another depression formed towards the south of the Kii channel, apparently moving in the direction of Totomi. All provinces east of Osaka have experienced heavy rain, and a severe storm passed over the shores of the Japan Sea, causing many rivers to overflow their banks. Wakayama as usual recorded the heaviest downpour of rain during the preceding 24 hours, 78 millimetres being registered as against 25 for Tokyo, where, however, the figures rose to 67 millimetres between 6 and 11 on the morning of the 17th.

Telegrams from Kagoshima and Hiroshima show that the rain in those districts since the 15th instant has done considerable damage to local property, over three hundred houses being submerged in the former city. The police and troops were taxed to the extreme in fighting the spread of the inundations.

In Yokohama many streets in the lower part of the town were flooded.

Reports received up to 2 o'clock on the 17th show that many streets in Tokyo were under water, more especially in Asakusa and Shitaya. At Koishikawa the Edo river rose four *shaku* and nearly one hundred houses were flooded. Even Azabu and Shiba were no exceptions, houses at Hiroo being also flooded.

THE TOKYO ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the Tokyo Electric Light Company was held on the 17th inst. at the rooms of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, when Mr. Satake, who occupied the Chair, referring to the state of the Company's business during the past term, said that there was nothing of importance to report, unless it were that the Company's working was extremely satisfactory. The rate for electric light was to be reduced from the 1st of next month, when the second hydraulic power works would be completed. This naturally gave rise to a fear that the Company's earnings for the latter half of the current year would decrease, as indeed they must even under ordinary circumstances compared with the first half, but in an intensified degree for the reason stated. Mr. Satake, however, had hopes that he might be able to declare the same rate of dividend for the next term, viz. 10 per cent., as he could confidently count on a corresponding increase in the demand for electric light, even failing which they had sufficient carried over or reserved to draw upon. The total earnings for the period under review amounted to 1,678,749 yen.

THE VISIT OF THE PEERS TO CHINA.

The Japanese residents in Peking gave a grand reception on Saturday last to the party of Members of the House of Peers now visiting China. Invitations were also extended to all the Members of the Chinese National Assembly. In response to speeches from the Chinese guests, to the effect that China would appreciate whatever help Japan might render, Count Yanazawa, head of the Party, Mr. Kamada and a few others, spoke briefly, to the effect that Japan was ready to give whatever assistance the neighbouring Republic required, that benevolent administration was one of the essential factors for the consolidation of the new Republican Government, and that a policy of peace always ensured a final victory. A speech from Wang Yin-pao, emphasizing the necessity of a spirit of union between Japan and China for the maintenance of the peace policy, brought the meeting to a close.

On Sunday evening President Yuan Shih-kai gave a grand reception to the Peers, when the spirit of friendliness which prevailed was very noticeable. A large number of the leading members of the National Assembly were present, and as most of these had studied in Japan, there was little need for interpreters. This rendered the intercourse very cordial.

TAXES IN YOKOHAMA.

SOME HEAVY ARREARS.

The slackness that characterizes the payment of municipal taxes in the settlement of Yokohama, states the *Kokumin Shimbu*, shows no sign of improvement, and the authorities cannot plan any measure of correction. The arrears for 1911 reach nearly 80,000 yen. The Municipal rates for the entire city still remaining unpaid amount to 150,000 yen. Certain discrepancies in the census of the city make it difficult to arrive at a correct apprehension of the local burdens, the Census Office declaring the total population at the end of last year to be 444,039, while the police returns show only 282,105.

Taking the mean to be 360,000, the rates per head amount to 2.344 yen, against 2.37 yen for Nagoya; 2.576 yen of Kyoto, and 1.908 yen for Kobe. There exists at any rate a pressing need for instituting a thorough enquiry into the matter.

The Katsuragawa Electric Power Company has obtained permission to carry on its surveying work for one year commencing with the present month.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Mexico: the Wonderland of the South. By W. E. CARSON. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1909. Price \$1.50 nett.

This is only a reprint of a book that was first published in 1909. That it was reprinted the following year and that there seems to be inducement for another edition now, are indications of popularity; these marks of approval are justly and deservedly bestowed. Unfortunately, however, this new edition is simply that, and there is nothing added to bring the record up to date. The stirring events in Mexico of the last three years are not discussed at all; and this fact must carry as a penalty a slight sense of disappointment on the reader's part.

The author gives a record of his wanderings up and down through the central, southern, and eastern parts of Mexico, and his route is shown on the small map that faces page 1. Into the interesting north-western States he did not go, nor did he visit the west coast save at one unimportant point; although these sections are not entirely neglected by him in his text. Guadalajara, in the State of Jalisco, was as far west of the median line as he went; and this excursion appears to have been made principally for the purpose of visiting Lago de Chapala, of which, really, but few people have so much as even heard, although it is one of the largest fresh water lakes in the world. "It is seventy miles long, east and west, and twenty miles across at some points, covering a superficial area of a thousand square miles." It is, therefore, quite twice the size of Lake Biwa. It is five thousand feet above sea level and is surrounded by mountains, some of which are more than ten thousand feet high. These mountains are covered with scrubby trees and vegetation of various hues and that adds much to the beauty of the scenery. Naturally, therefore, Lake Chapala is yearly gaining in popularity as a resort and large numbers of tourists join their Mexican friends in patronising the place.

Mr. Carson's purpose in visiting Mexico was clearly to study the places, the antiquities, the scenery, and the civilisation in the broadest acceptance of that word. Bearing in mind what has been done in the last three years in railway construction, municipal improvements and equipment, the development which had been achieved four years ago will surprise most readers. The author has a great deal to say about the industries, both native and those created or fostered by foreign enterprise, as a phase of that fourth purpose we have assigned to him; but it was solely as an observer, we take it, because his frequent comments upon the schemer or promoter—often his remarks are stinging severe but always just—who has secured control, of something with "millions in it; positively the richest thing in this world!" provided some tender lambs can be induced to provide the cash needed to exploit it, indicate that he himself has little personal interest in such enterprises.

As one follows Mr. Carson in his wanderings, one is struck by the fact that there seems to have been no definite itinerary mapped out in his mind, either before he began his tour or at any other time; and really that is the only true way to enjoy Mexico thoroughly: let each day as it comes arrange the plans for the following one. Mr. Carson landed at Vera Cruz, which place is not to-day at all what it was four years ago, and thence, of course, he made his way to Mexico City. After that he went, apparently, wherever the spirit of the moment moved him. At one time he did reach the Pacific shores, when he crossed the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; but then we hardly think of that as being Mexico proper. Into the peninsula of Lower California, he did not go at all, and we cannot justly declare that omission to have been unpardonable neglect.

Having kept his eyes open and his notebook always in hand, and being the fortunate possessor of a pleasing, chatty, conversational style which appeals promptly to the reader, he has given us a

book that—in its way—can hardly be imitated and is not likely to be supplanted. Anyone who wishes to know just a little of the ancient civilisation of Mexico and yet does not care to take the time to study Prescott, Kingsborough, or Bancroft, will find here quite as much as he needs. It happens that the writer of this critique is able, from personal observation and direct acquaintance, to confirm almost all that Mr. Carson says of the attractions of Mexico,—its central climate, its health resorts, spas, and earthly paradises, its mountains and lakes. But, and this brings up the consideration of events of the past year or so, there must be a radical change in the methods of Government before there can come that continuing advance for which Mexico is fitted. Under the firm administration of President Diaz—who was still in authority when Mr. Carson closed his book—foreign capitalists were invited to make large investments upon assurance of entire equality of rights and privileges and guarantee of absolute protection. Since Diaz's downfall, there has been too much of chaos, and the present moment shows the investments of foreigners—made in good faith—to be in grave danger. While commending as admirable all that Mr. Carson has told us in his book, we think it a pity that a little was not cut out to be supplanted by material bringing the record to date. Joining in the laugh at the nervousness which lately possessed some of the American statesmen as to Japan's designs upon Magdalena Bay and the mainland of Mexico, we may, nevertheless, say in all sincerity that it is a country which must have great attraction for the Japanese, provided always that protection of life and property is secured. So much being admitted, there are many who will welcome this new and cheaper edition of a book that gives a description which is so reliable and entertaining.

J.R.G.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS IN MONGOLIA.

(SPECIAL TRANSLATION FOR THE "JAPAN MAIL.")

Since the declaration of Mongolian independence, Russian commercial circles have been greatly interested in the affairs of the new independent State and are striving to regain their former position, which was latterly considerably shaken by the measures during the time from the late war to the Chinese revolution, in the monopolization of certain branches of trade. As may be seen by reference to Russian commercial statistics, during the last few years Russian trade in Mongolia decreased greatly. Now that they have been given a free hand in Mongolia, however, the Russians are recovering their position and acquiring new concessions.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Dailokay Ochraina*, published at Vladivostok, writes that a Russo-Mongolian company, with a capital of 5,000,000 roubles, has been organised, for the purpose of developing Russian trade in Mongolia. With this idea it is proposed to establish Russian factories in the chief commercial centres of Mongolia, that is Kiakhta, Urga, Uliasutai and Kobdo. The company also hopes to develop the export as well as the import trade.

According to the promoters the chief articles of export from Mongolia will be wool, hides, fat and cattle, while the imports into Mongolia will consist chiefly of fabrics, jewelry, hardware and utensils. The company hopes that the annual demand on the Mongolian market will amount to about 200,000,000 roubles. The correspondent also says that the company has secured the right to establish in Mongolia, manufactures, mills and other enterprises, in view of which many already existing undertakings in Mongolia will be amalgamated with the company.

Among the promoters there are many prominent Siberian business men and Mongols of high station, including the Mongolian Minister of Home Affairs, Prince Handavan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Pirshetovan, Minister of Finance, Prince Namsgan and Baron Haissan,

YOKOHAMA COUNTRY AND ATHLETIC CLUB.

WEDNESDAY'S EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Club was held at the Board of Trade Rooms on Wednesday afternoon, the President, Mr. S. Isaacs, occupying the chair. The purpose of the meeting was to confirm the resolutions passed at the last extraordinary general meeting and other business. A fair number of members were present.

After the notice convening the meeting was read by the Hon. Secretary, the official business was commenced.

The resolutions passed at the previous meeting on June 14, for the dissolution of the old Club and the formation of a new one, also that the old Committee should remain in office so as to wind up the old Club and carry on affairs until the new Club was in working order, and also the change of name from the "Yokohama Cricket and Athletic Club" to "Yokohama Country and Athletic Club," were proposed and seconded in due order and confirmed unanimously.

In reference to the amended rules, no suggestion had come forward from any of the members; consequently the subject was left over.

In the course of some remarks, the Chairman stated that the application for registration of the ground would be lodged with the Government to-day and that he was pleased to say that His Excellency Governor Oshima was doing everything in his power to render the club assistance. He had even promised to take up the matter in Tokyo so that the registration could be effected this month. He (the chairman) was glad to state that an adjacent piece of ground had been offered them and that sixteen or seventeen of the special committee had inspected it and were in favour of it eventually being taken up. Coming to the subscriptions collected, they had now advanced to the sum of 36,500 yen; and they had yet to wait to hear from some of the firms at Home to learn what more would be contributed. At the same time it must be remembered that 50,000 yen was required. Regarding new members, there had been a considerable influx during this month and the membership of the club now totalled 315, which was far beyond their expectations. They proposed to build an entirely new pavilion which they intended to make as up-to-date as possible. This would be at the narrow end of the ground. The wide end overlooked the Bay, upon which would be tennis courts, whilst the cricket pitch would be about 140 yards long by about 117 yards wide. They also hoped to start the levelling and draining of the ground in the course of next week.

There being no further discussion, the chairman thanked the members for their attendance, and the meeting dissolved.

THE SOUTH POLE EXPLORATION PARTY.

The South Pole exploration ship *Kainan Maru* put into Shinagawa on the 20th inst. at 4 p.m., twenty months after her departure from the same place, and her crew were most enthusiastically welcomed back by a crowd of fifty thousand people who had assembled at Shibaura. These and scores of welcoming parties showed themselves both on land and on the offing, photographers of the M. Pathe show being no exception. The ceremony of reception which was presided over by Count Okuma, was successfully carried out amid the enthusiasm of the surging spectators who repeatedly cheered the leaders of the exploration party and the ship's Captain as they came down the platform. Speech making formed no special feature of the ceremony, only Professor Miyake expressed his belief that the grand achievement effected by the party was more than could be adequately recognized by the grant of an insignia of merit or a rank of peerage. The two Ainu who had joined the party were observed landing with six surviving dogs in their train.

THE KOREAN WOMAN.

(FROM OUR SEOUL CORRESPONDENT.)

The subject is a wide one and we cannot deal with it here. Is she, for example, going to hold her own with her Oriental sisters of China and Japan? Has she in her, qualities that will overcome in face of the thousand odds against her? Will she take a larger share than her husband or brothers at the long pull in bring her people to the fore-front in the movements of the East?

In the first place she has never been free like the women of Japan, to go and come as she pleases. A prison life has been hers and her ancestors. Freedom denoted social inferiority, and a tanned face was like a mark of sin. In her tight little quarters, over the kang floor, she has borne and brought up her race; has worked her nimble fingers over distaff and needle; has prepared her rice and condiments for her lord and master; and has pulled through, till to day she appears, perhaps, the better and more hopeful sex of the two.

Now that the world has opened, she comes forth to greet the public, but unfortunately her dress and general outfit are against her. The baggy trousers, the loosely bundled skirt, the unfastened socks, the short jacket, loose from the skirt and gaping front and rear, her head garnished with cap and sleeveless mantle, all make her an oddity as she steps out on to the stage of the world's doings. A smile or a question naturally follows in her wake. To adjust herself to this world, and find her place is the task for the day.

The writer recalls a very poor Korean widow woman of years ago. She had no husband and no son, and four daughters were the special mark of her humiliation; four meaningless units to be fed, and clothed, and sorrowed over.

Theirs was a little mud hut called Home, of one cheerless room six by six by twelve, plastered inside with mud, and with no white paper or other relief to hide the monotony of the wall.

As the oldest of the children was able to look after the others, the mother went out to washing. Day by day she toiled. How she managed to find sufficient for these hungry chicks of hers, it would be hard to tell. Those bony hands wielded the ironing sticks with a continuity of motion that would have done credit to the wife of Goliath of Gath. To one who tries for the first time to do Korean ironing and to keep it up, it is like holding out five pounds at the horizontal and continuing so for half a day. The arms simply die under the agony of it. She had graduated through all the stages of weariness and pain, till the radius joint-bone of each wrist stood out like a bursa bunion.

She became a Christian, this woman. Why not? Might just as well you know, nothing could be worse than her lot now and Christianity talked of comfort and peace. She would try.

The writer still recalls her cheery smile through the tanned and scarred and crinkled features. There was always a wholesome set of activities accompanying her presence, that more and more made amends for the place of humility in the social world that her lot called for. The four daughters were unschooled. When did Korean girls ever go to school in those days? More unreasonable that would be than to have a modern suffragette for a member of the Cabinet. They were bright, strong girls, however, and would, doubtless, pick up the washing and ironing sticks in due time, and give their poor old faithful mother a rest.

Twenty years later the writer visited the old washerwoman. To a clean, neat, cosy Korean house he wended his way. She greeted him with the same kindly smile of twenty years before, with a thinner and more spareful expression, however, such as age takes on. She had retired now from hard labour and the pressing burdens of life. In return these daughters of hers fed and cared for her.

The oldest was the matron of the home, with her own children about, a strong honest-faced Korean

woman; such — gives one hope for the whole peninsula. She had once befriended a little foreign child in dire distress in days gone by, and her grateful name was ever afterwards cherished and remarked upon.

The second, a woman, once seen, not to be forgotten, head of one of the best Middle Schools in the Capital; a perfect host in herself. Is it good order that is hoped for out of chaos? This number two will bring it. Is it wise counsel needed that will prevail? She will do. Is it a question of talking to 500 women of various degrees of arrested intelligence, and having them see and learn, and know? She is the one. Passers by who meet and see her have but one word, and that of grateful surprise and delight. She would be marked and used in any land where intelligence and efficiency were the requisites.

The third daughter is in charge of a large medical practice. How she got across the wide ocean, learned English, reached Philadelphia and graduated from the School of Medicine and Surgery, I do not know. But this she did, and here she, who was number three nobody in the train of a submerged family, has brought healing and joy to many thousands.

The fourth, a jolly little girl with round face, who played at mud pies and built castles in the air, is head of a Training School for Nursing, accomplished, a good English scholar, trained in music, and one of the best factors in the hopes of the city.

These are samples of the possibility of the Korean woman.

SPECTATOR.

SEAMEN'S PAY IN JAPAN.

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The investigations as to seamen's pay now being conducted by the Seamen's Institute Investigation Society, which was established by the Communications Department as a result of the recent stokers' strike, is said to be making steady progress. The authorities hold that in order to avert future troubles among the seamen, the revision of the present regulations governing seamen and shipowners is an imperative necessity. As things are now, it seems that both sides simply stand in the relation of employers and employees. There is thus a lack of sympathy with each other, with the result that trouble occurs. It is advisable, therefore, to establish between the two parties some relation warmer than that of employer and employee. As one of the means of attaining that object, it is suggested that the employers should grant special remuneration or dividends in addition to the regular pay, according to the business returns. At the same time, all possible measures should be taken to ensure the employees' comfort, physical and mental development, and establishment of character, and also the consummation of relief organizations for themselves as well as their families. With all these considerations in view, the authorities are making the required investigations with much diligence, but the scope of the work is so broad that a considerable time must elapse before it is finished.

As regards the investigations of the standard of the seamen's pay, which have been in progress at the hands of the Japan Seamen's Protection Association, they are expected to be concluded by the end of next month so far as the collection of materials at home is concerned. But investigation are to be extended into the conditions of seamen's lives abroad in order to make the enquiries complete. Accordingly it will not be before the end of this year that the necessary investigations will be finished. Upon their completion, the long discussed question of seamen's pay, etc., will be solved, it is hoped permanently, thus setting an example which will certainly be followed by the rest of the labour world. The result will mean an advance towards the solution of the labour question which has of late come to attract so much attention.

THE JAPANESE SPINNING INDUSTRY.

Our spinning industry, says the *Niroku*, when viewed by the light of its past history, owes its improvement to the increase in the general business relations with China coming as the sequel of each war. The conditions obtaining since the close of last year and the general expectation of a boom coming after the Revolutionary movement, have given considerable impetus to the establishment of new factories and the enlargement of old ones, and it may be said without exaggeration that quite a new era has been created in the industry. Eleven new factories have been started or promoted with an aggregate capital of 15,600,000 yen. The number of spindles to be used by the new companies is 208,000, of which the Okayama Spinning Factory shares the largest portion, 40,000, while the number to be added to those already in use is 279,200, distributed among the Godo, 40,000, the Fukushima, 30,000, and other established concerns. The increase of capital decided upon is 1,765,000 yen for the Settsu Spinning Co., coming down to 600,000 yen for the Kurashiki, the total being 5,400,000 yen, which added to the expenditure required for the new enterprises mentioned, necessitates an outlay of nearly twenty million yen.

A noteworthy fact in connection with the Japanese spinning industry, says the *Hochi*, is that the kind of yarn supplied to China is gradually changing from coarse sorts of less than 20 strands, to finer sorts of more than 40 strands, thus showing a tendency to encroach upon the spheres where hitherto the English product has reigned supreme. As for the future of the industry, there is no doubt that the demand for Japanese yarn from Chinese sources will continue brisk for at least two years more. In the interior of Japan the enhanced price of rice is daily adding to the purchasing power of the agricultural classes, and should there be no abnormal change in the state of this year's crop, the existing conditions will continue. Moreover the price of cotton which has nearly always stopped at above 40 yen since 1908, is this year from 25 to 30 per cent lower. That the established factories should try to extend their works in these circumstances is natural enough, but it is hardly so satisfactory to learn that several new factories are to be started by men having no experience in the manufacture, who are simply induced to embark on their new enterprises by the successes of their predecessors. These factories will not be able to get into full working order till four years after foundation, according to the past experience of the spinning trade, and they will try, among other things, to entice away the able engineers and workmen from the older factories, thus crippling the latter, while they themselves will have to labour under the difficulty of making both ends meet.

NAVAL READJUSTMENT.

In regard of the administrative readjustment of the Naval Department, a certain Naval officer is quoted by the *Fiji* as observing that the Naval Authorities are specially bound to endeavour to bring about a successful readjustment, inasmuch as the present administrative readjustment work has for its object the expansion of the Naval equipment. It appears to be no easy task, however, for the Department to achieve any visible readjustment for the present, since some 2,350,000 yen has already been curtailed in the naval budget for the current fiscal year. Furthermore, as the various naval provisions gradually make progress, their attendant work and establishment naturally necessitate special expenditure, to meet which the authorities will be obliged to seek other financial sources. In these circumstances the sum total of the naval readjustment will not be very great, since what may be spared on the one hand by the readjustment will be absorbed on the other hand by further necessary enterprises.

WAKAMATSU STEEL FOUNDRY.

In view of the criticisms directed against the monopolization by the Government of popular undertakings, it has been rumoured for some time past that the authorities have decided to abandon all the state monopoly enterprises, and that as a first step the Wakamatsu Steel Foundry would be sold. The allegation, however, is now explicitly denied by Baron Makino, Minister, of Agriculture and Commerce. The Minister after noting the difficulties attendant on the abolition of the State Steel Foundry, points out that those who advocate the principle of popular undertakings at the expense of Government monopolies, are apt to overlook the advantages arising from the latter. Putting aside theoretical considerations, and granting that the Steel Foundry was to be sold, the difficulty was first the decision as to its price. If the Foundry were to be sold at all, while the authorities need not sell it on any profitable terms, they could not part with it at a loss. The fact, was that as it was impossible to calculate all the money invested in the works, the authorities would have to be prepared to suffer a loss of no less than ten million yen on the machinery and fittings alone. Some people advocated the conversion of the Foundry into a semi-official undertaking, but this, too, was a superficial view, inasmuch as there was every reason to believe that the conversion would only cause a further increase in the expenditure, and by no possibility a decrease. For instance nobody would be inclined to accept the position of head of the Foundry for such a small salary as at present, in the event of the conversion, and the salaries of the Directors would be much larger according to the general custom in private enterprises.

On the other hand, while there was much difficulty in converting the foundry into a private undertaking, its maintenance by the Government was by no means impossible, since as progress was gradually attained in the art of production the annual deficiency showed a corresponding decrease, a deficit of over 800,000 yen in 1909 having been reduced to only 50,000 yen in 1910, while the year 1911 even showed a profit of something like 1,500,000 yen. In these circumstances the annual loss which the Foundry had shown for some time past could not be regarded as discouraging nor be made a sound ground for urging its abandonment.

Public opinion seems to be divided on the question. The *Tokyo Asahi* quotes a certain General as observing that in order to develop national industries and to promote the people's economic capacity, it is imperatively necessary to transfer as far as possible all the State's industrial undertakings to the hands of the people. A State monopoly, having for its object an increase of the State revenue, is liable to prove oppressive to private undertakings and detrimental to the development of industries. Some oppose the abandonment of the Steel Foundry on the strength of their belief that the transfer would entail inconvenience in maintaining that secrecy concerning the construction of arms and ammunition which military strategem absolutely requires. This, however, appears to be a superficial view. In such European countries as England and Germany, the production of armaments is entirely entrusted to the Krupp, Vickers, Armstrongs and other private companies without the least inconvenience being experienced. Why should not Japan follow this example with the same satisfactory results?

It must on the other hand be noted that some inconvenience is experienced in obtaining the necessary material for construction within the appointed period owing to the Government's monopoly of the Steel Foundry. As an example, some time ago the Naval Department ordered from the Foundry the materials required for building a torpedo factory at Kure Naval port, but failing to obtain the materials at the appointed date, the Naval authorities were obliged to secure them through foreign agents. This lack of promptness in attending to

orders must be regarded as a common defect characterizing state undertakings. The abolition of the Steel Foundry, as a Government undertaking, is moreover highly necessary as a first step towards administrative readjustment.

KIANGSI RAILWAY LOAN.

In regard to Chinese local loans, it is rather noticeable that despite their failure in most cases, the Kiangsi railway loan is reported to have been successfully concluded on the 23rd ultimo, between the representatives of the Toa Industrial Company and the Nanchang Railway Company. The contents of the contract are that the amount of the loan shall be 5,000,000 yen, of which 3,500,000 yen has already been transferred, the remaining 1,500,000 yen to be paid up within fourteen months by supplying railway materials; that the issue value shall be 95 with interest at 6.5 per cent., redeemable in fifteen years; that the rolling stock, accessory buildings, fittings and railway revenue shall all be offered as security; that the Railway Company shall give a preference to the Toa Industrial Company in purchasing materials; that the loan in question shall be appropriated for no other purpose than the construction of the Kiukiang-Nanchang railways; and also that the Toa Industrial Company shall be entitled to make any required inspection or investigation for the above purposes at any time.

In this context it may be observed that the line in question was at first intended to connect Kiukiang and Nanchang, but owing to insufficient funds, the construction work stopped. The provincial government then proposed to purchase the line. The Company being not inclined to dispose of the railway, felt obliged to carry out its first programme and extend the line as far as Nanchang in order to avoid the Government's proposal. This extension necessitated recourse to a foreign loan, and hence the company's negotiations with the Toa Industrial Company, inasmuch as some 1,000,000 taels had previously been invested in the construction of the line by the latter company.

THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Subjoined is the statement of accounts for the first half of this year of the South Manchurian Railway Company. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the gross profits show an increase of 1,300,000 yen, due principally to the increase of 878,770 yen under the head of passenger fares and 212,325 yen for freight. A net profit of 3,411,500 yen has not yet been often recorded in the history of the Company, and this sum, coupled with the amount brought forward, shows 5,240,000 yen. A dividend of 6 per cent. is to be declared (except on the shares possessed by the Government). After deducting one twentieth of the gross earnings for the legal and special reserves, awards to officers and entertaining expenses, there remains more than enough still to declare for the Government shares a two million yen dividend, leaving as much to carry over as at the end of the previous half year.

	Gross Profits	Expenditure.
	Yen	Yen
	16,791,912	13,292,373
Railways	11,202,163	3,585,051
Ships	217,068	261,420
Mining	3,492,756	2,265,365
Harbours	716,581	619,140
Local	230,102	564,327
Hotel	112,112	140,268
Electricity	469,400	321,734
Gas	81,764	46,730
Sundries	62,175	1,610,461
Interest	177,787	2,782,455
General Expenses		923,385
Deficit on Loan		170,023

EXPLORATION IN CHINA.

Alluding to the exploration of Hsinking by Mr. Tachibana Zuichō, a priest of the East Hongwanji Temple, particulars of which have already appeared in these columns, the *Jiji* calls attention to the importance of exploring the interior of China. Mr. Tachibana started on his Hsinking expedition some five years ago when he was but a boy of eighteen years of age. While he had undoubtedly in view the study of Buddhism, its results have been such as to help in the study of history, geology, anthropology, etc., as can be seen by the series of lectures he has been giving at various places since his return.

The exploration of Hsinking, Tsinhai, Thibet and other parts of West China has been attempted during the past century by a number of Westerners, such as Captains Hamilton Bower, Montagu Welby, Colonel Younghusband, Sven Hedin and Woodville Rockhill. There is still room for further exploration, however. It has always been a matter of great regret that the Japanese people, despite the advantages they possess over Western travellers, are often forestalled by the latter in the exploration of the very hemisphere in which they live. Besides Kawaguchi Ekai, Watanabe Tesshiu, Hori Kenyu, Lieutenant Colonel Hino, and Mr. Narita Yusuteru, very few Japanese have ever attempted the exploration of these districts. While it may not be objectionable to pursue Antarctic Exploration, the fact should not be lost sight of that, at least for the Japanese, there are objects of exploration nearer home. In fact it is necessary for the Yamato people to explore not only Hsinking, Thibet and Tsinhai, but China as a whole as well, in quest of information relative to the development of science, commerce and industry. In this context we cannot but hope our capitalists will follow the examples of their Western fellow millionaires as far as possible in contributing towards funds for such a purpose. It is well for those of the richer classes to be ever aware that much is expected of those to whom much is given, as the Wise Teacher remarked, and that the progress and prosperity of the people as a nation depends as much upon their spirit of sacrifice as upon statesmanship. It is true that of late most of our wealthy men have come to show some public spirit, but while this is a matter for congratulation, thus far little has been achieved by them. Let us hope that our men of fortune will awaken to the weighty responsibilities devolving upon their shoulders in this respect, and will devote their efforts for the encouragement of public spirited enterprises, such as the expeditions to West China above referred to.

DISTURBANCES IN CHINA.

A Peking special to the *Chuo* reports that the mutineers at Mukden beat a retreat to Hsinmintun on the 20th inst., and joined the force of the 20th Division. The branch of the Chartered bank suffered most, some 50,000 yen deposited in the bank, belonging to Generals Chang Tso-lin and Teng Lin-kuo, having been all taken away. The troops in Chefoo also show signs of unrest, and the Magistrate has applied by wire to the Department of War for a prompt remittance of 20,000 taels, to avert a crisis.

The 20th Division at Hsinmintun is also beginning to show signs of unrest. General Chang Tso-lin has been ordered to the scene of the trouble but he refuses to go, declaring that the rioters of Mukden must be regarded as licensed burglars inasmuch as they committed looting to obtain the pay due to them.

A despatch from Shanghai also reports a rising. Early on the morning of the 20th, the troops of Hunan rose in mutiny due to internal dissension concerning the renovation of their barracks. The army of Chekiang promptly appeared on the scene of the disturbance and a hard battle ensued, in the course of which the Toa Dōbun School stood in danger. The rioters were however finally suppressed.

FOREIGN TRADE AND THE SPECIE RESERVE.

The actual amount of specie reserves which are kept abroad by the Japanese Government, says the *Niroku*, is not usually made public; but it is incorrect, according to the Finance Department, that the reserves have suffered a considerable diminution owing to the excess of imports over exports amounting to one hundred and ten million yen. In the first place, not only is the excess of imports not liquidated out of the foreign reserves, but the twenty million yen of exports to Chosen from January to May must be deducted, leaving the actual difference at somewhere near ninety million yen. The excess of exports over imports which is the characteristic feature of Japan's foreign trade for the latter half of every year, usually amounting to between forty and fifty million yen, must also go a long way to counterbalance the excess of imports. The recent developments of the carrying trade must also be taken into consideration. About half the total quantities of goods entering and leaving Japan are transported in Japanese vessels, so that ten per cent. (on an average) of half the total amount of imports and exports viz. fifty million yen, must find its way to Japan in the shape of freight. The price of coal and food stuffs sold to foreign ships calling at Japanese ports reaches nearly ten million yen, and this is certainly an important item in Japan's receipts. Remittances from abroad by the Japanese settlers and the money spent by foreign tourists verge on twenty million yen. All these things taken together, there is no gainsaying that specie to the amount of nearly eighty million yen is yearly paid to Japan outside of the items mentioned in the trade return of the country. To base one's argument on the figures in the trade reports is therefore futile.

On the other hand a financial authority is quoted by the *Niroku* as expressing views diametrically opposite to those stated above. First of all the prices of imports must be allowed a certain premium upon the rates entered at the Custom House. Secondly, the commodities requisitioned by the Government, the Imperial Household Department, and the implements purchased by the two services, which are not included in the trade returns, amount to tens of millions of yen. Thirdly, the principal and interest of the loans raised abroad by the Government and various local self-governing bodies have to be repaid. Fourthly, the money spent abroad by Japanese travellers and especially students, must constitute no insignificant item among Japanese payments. When all these things are taken into consideration, the disparity between the imports and exports must be regarded as being below the actual amount of Japan's indebtedness. Should this state of things continue for any length of time, says this authority, Japan's specie reserves kept abroad must be reduced to nil.

THE QUARANTINE OF THE "PERSIA."

The P.M. S.S. Co's steamer *Persia*, plying between Manila and Hongkong, which was ordered into quarantine at Nagahama immediately on her arrival at Yokohama from Hongkong on the 19th instant, was released on the following afternoon, after thorough disinfection. There were over one hundred passengers on board and nearly 4,000 tons of goods in her hold, so the delay caused by the precautionary measure caused considerable inconvenience to local merchants. It appears that two of her Chinese passengers died soon after her arrival at Hongkong from what was presumed to be lung pest. The health officers of Yokohama, who were previously apprised, detained her outside the breakwater, and, although investigations conducted with the doctor attached to the American Consulate showed that the cause of the Chinamen's death was pulmonary inflammation, the authorities decided to subject her to disinfection as a matter of precaution.

JAPAN'S IMPORT TRADE.

The excess of imports 297,000,000 yen over exports (189,000,000 yen) for the first five months of this year has reached the unprecedented amount of 108,000,000 yen, being an excess of 32,000,000 yen compared with the corresponding period of last year. When moreover, large quantities of foreign goods were imported in anticipation of the increased tariff. A close scrutiny of the figures shows, however, that the increase of the imports has taken place mostly in raw materials or half-manufactured articles while the decrease has occurred in finished articles and food stuffs, as will be seen from the following table:

	From Jan. to May 1912. (Thousand yen)	From Jan. to May 1911. (Thousand yen)	Decrease. (Thousand yen)
Food stuffs.....	20,340	—	6,502
Raw materials.....	110,585	57,844	—
Half-manufactured articles.....	49,929	9,644	—
Finished articles...	45,430	—	9,630,000
Miscellaneous.....	1,110	86	—

The principal articles imported were:—

RAW MATERIALS AND HALF-MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

	Imports. (Thousand yen)	Increased compared with 1911. (Thousand yen)
Cotton.....	134,326	50,250
Wool.....	345	2,703
Hemp, &c.....	1,306	404
Phosphates.....	3,554	636
Oil-cakes.....	15,856	514
Pig iron.....	3,815	1,974
From bars and plates...	15,731	6,118
From rails.....	2,137	424
From tubes and pipes...	2,219	803

FINISHED ARTICLES.

	Imports. (Thousand yen)	Increased compared with 1911. (Thousand yen)
Calico and sheetings...	711	3,537
Cotton satin.....	1,005	1,306
Wollens and serges...	1,255	3,937
Muslin.....	52	469
Paper.....	2,946	453

The above clearly proves, says the *Hochi Shimbun*, that the protective policy adopted in regard to woven goods and iron manufactures is gradually telling upon our foreign trade. It also shows to what degree the appreciation of rice, that has benefited the farming classes, and the rise in silver and copper have affected our spinning industry.

The authorities, however, according to the paper we are quoting from, warn industrial circles against taking an excessive stock and thus suffering from the effects of any sanction that may set in.

JAPAN'S FOREIGN TRADE.

The trade returns for the second ten days of June are as follow:—

	Second ten days of June. Yen.	Total since Jan. Yen.
Exports.....	13,859,000	216,878,000
Imports.....	20,133,000	334,398,000
Excess of imports.	6,274,000	117,520,000

Compared with the corresponding period of last year this is an increase of 23,971 yen in exports and 46,464 yen in imports.

Compared with the previous ten days the exports show an increase of a per cent., due to an increase in waste silk, yarn, tea, and copper, which offset the decrease in silk. The imports increased by 21 per cent. under the heads of cotton, wool, rice, sugar, artificial manner, kerosene, and machinery.

The following shows the gold and silver imported and exported during the same period:—

	Second ten days of June. Yen.	Total since Jan. Yen.
Export.....	670,000	12,222
Import.....	2,015,000	8,816

THE PAPER TRADE.

In sympathy with the general expansion of the industrial world, says the *Chuwa*, the manufacture of paper is in a prosperous condition, although prices all round show an upward tendency owing to the rise in the cost of pulp by 15 to 20 per cent. Paper manufacturers some time ago obtained the consent of the Tobacco Monopoly Bureau and the Department of Education to raising their price by 2 rin per pound for superior paper, and are now obliged to ask for a further advance of 3 or 4 rin for all varieties. Since the revision of the Import Tariff, German and Austrian paper has been comparatively neglected by Japanese merchants, and this fact, coupled with the very large demand coming from China since the Revolution, has contributed to enhance the price of paper in general.

It would thus appear that the protective tariff has benefited the paper manufacturers, who can now obtain a higher price for their goods than when they were subject to freer competition. Whether this is a matter of congratulation is doubtful, more especially as from another report it would appear that Japanese paper has to undergo severe competition in China.

In this context we may note that Mr. Robertson, President of the Board of Trade, recently stated in the House of Commons that the exports from Britain to Japan during January and February last were valued at £3,500,000, showing an increase compared with the corresponding period of last year, which proves that the Japanese new tariff has not had a bad effect upon British trade with this country.

TREASURY BILLS.

The Administrative Readjustment Bureau is said to have in contemplation the utilization of the interest due on Treasury Bills for the purpose of carrying forward the term of tax payments. The authorities are quoted by a Tokyo paper as observing that in principle the revenue of the State ought to concur with its expenditure. But under present conditions the above rule is seldom observed, the issue of Treasury Bills being constantly necessitated, chiefly because tax payments are spread over several terms, and the income from postage stamps, Government undertakings and property is insufficient to meet requirements. The removal of these causes will naturally decrease the issue of Treasury Bills.

It may be noted that the interest due on Treasury Bills and the temporary advances in 1907 amounted to 6,630,000 yen, to 3,030,000 yen in 1908, to 2,270,000 yen in 1909, to 1,850,000 yen in 1908, to 1,460,000 yen in 1910, and to 2,980,000 yen in 1911, the average reaching 3,030,000 yen for annum. This is the amount of loss the State has to suffer every year on account of the absence of a balance between the income and the expenditure.

THE URGA-KIAKHTA RAILWAY.

The *Harbinski Vestnik*, published at Harbin, states that negotiations are now being conducted at Urga by the representatives of the Mongolian and Russian Government as to the construction of a railway between the Mongolian capital and Kiakhta. The Urga Government desires 1,000,000 roubles for the railway concession, conditions being similar to those under which the East Chinese railway in Manchuria was constructed according to the contract of 1896. The concessionaire of the Mongolia line will be the Russo-Asiatic Bank as in the case of the Manchurian railway. Further, the paper says that if the question will be settled positively the construction of the railway may be started simultaneously with that of the line from the Transbaikalian railway to Kiakhta, the plans of which will be drawn up by a surveying party which will be sent during the summer.

